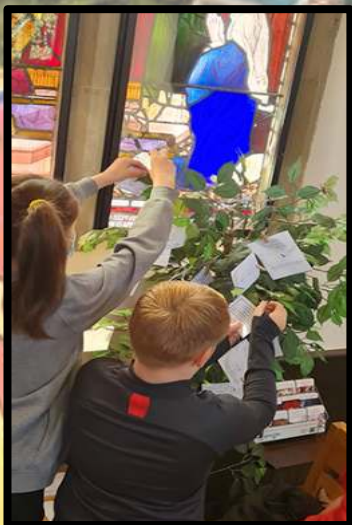


*Parish of Pontefract
St Giles with St Mary*



October 2022



Pupils representing Carleton Park, Halfpenny Lane and Larks Hill schools, visiting St Giles' to sign the 'Book of Condolences' and to add their prayers to the prayer tree.



The Vicar writes....

*In times when nothing stood
But worsened, or grew strange,
There was one constant good:
She did not change.*

Words from the English poet and librarian from Hull, Philip Larkin, in the year of her Late Majesty's Silver Jubilee (1977).

September 8th brought news of her Majesty's death; we all knew that the day would one day come, but when it did the shock was no less felt. Looking for an image of her Majesty on the palace website, I was suddenly faced with a black computer screen and the announcement of her death. For a moment time just stood still. And so September has been a month when sadness and grief has entered hearts and minds on a collective scale. A ten day period of national mourning impacted us all. The multiple divisions and challenges facing the country were set to one side to allow for a united honouring of the incredible service and utter dedication given over so many years by her late Majesty. When many 'talk the talk' of public service, she has 'walked the walk.'

Philip Larkin captured someone very powerful in the final line of his poem: 'she did not change.' Of course, the Queen changed, historians can tell the story of how the monarchy evolved over the 70 years of her reign, but Elizabeth II Queen of our country remained at the heart of our national life. Sir Keir Starmer speaking in parliament captured something very true: 'her death robs this country of its stillest point, its greatest comfort, at precisely the time we need those things most.'

'To all of us as a family, as to this kingdom and the wider family of nations of which it is a part, my mother gave an example of lifelong love and of selfless service.'

My mother's reign was unequalled in its duration, its dedication and its devotion. Even as we grieve, we give thanks for this most faithful life.

(King Charles III)

The grief of this day – felt not only by the late Queen's family but all round the nation, Commonwealth and the world – arises from her abundant life and loving service, now gone from us.

(Archbishop Justin Welby)

Personally, I have known nothing other than the Queen as monarch. She has always been there. In the midst of the economic challenges facing our nation, the political instability at home and in Europe, global concerns about the environment, and with covid's legacy still keenly felt, then perhaps we hoped for some things to stay constant. I guess life rarely gives us that luxury. >>>

But when one monarch dies then another is swiftly proclaimed, bringing hope and the possibility for something new. Charles III will inhabit the role in his own way, allowing for continuity and also bringing change. I loved a little cartoon that I came across which featured a Corgi and a King Charles cavalier spaniel stood outside Buckingham palace. The following words were placed into the confident and smug looking cavalier's mouth: 'You're history, pal- make way for the King Charles spaniel.' (I've got one I can loan for royal duties!).

King Charles, rooted in his own faith and devotion to Christian practice, will take on the role of 'Defender of the Faith and supreme governor of the Church of England' as his mother did. Like her late Majesty, King Charles understands the importance of the state church providing a space for people of all faiths to practice their faith in freedom and to be heard, respected and valued in their contributions to national life. King Charles especially needs our prayers as he begins his role as Monarch of the United Kingdom, Head of the Commonwealth of Nations and takes his place with other monarchs, presidents and leaders on the world's stage.

His Proclamation speech contained heartfelt words of trust in God's grace and help. *'And in carrying out the heavy task that has been laid upon me, and to which I now dedicate what remains to me of my life, I pray for the guidance and help of Almighty God'.*

May we respond in the same spirit that St Paul writes to Timothy ... 'First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings should be made for everyone, ²for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. ³This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour, ⁴who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.'

ALL SOULS' DAY - REMEMBERING LOVED ONES

An Evening Service for All Souls will be held on **Wednesday, 2nd November at 7.00pm**, which will involve the lighting of candles and remembering loved ones by name. Further details will follow in due course.

This month's cover photo shows artwork done by Junior Church and Tiddlywinks, displayed in front of the altar in the Lady Chapel. Well done to them!

'Floral Tribute,' a poem by Simon Armitage, written through the metaphor of the lily of the valley - one of the late Queen's favourite flowers, which appeared in her coronation bouquet. The first letter of each line spells out "Elizabeth" when taken together.

Floral Tribute by Simon Armitage

*Evening will come, however determined the late afternoon,
Limes and oaks in their last green flush, pearled in September mist.
I have conjured a lily to light these hours, a token of thanks,
Zones and auras of soft glare framing the brilliant globes.
A promise made and kept for life - that was your gift -
Because of which, here is a gift in return, glovewort to some,
Each shining bonnet guarded by stern lance-like leaves.
The country loaded its whole self into your slender hands,
Hands that can rest, now, relieved of a century's weight.*

*Evening has come. Rain on the black lochs and dark Munros.
Lily of the Valley, a namesake almost, a favourite flower
Interlaced with your famous bouquets, the restrained
Zeal and forceful grace of its lanterns, each inflorescence
A silent bell disguising a singular voice. A blurred new day
Breaks uncrowned on remote peaks and public parks, and
Everything turns on these luminous petals and deep roots,
This lily that thrives between spire and tree, whose brightness
Holds and glows beyond the life and border of its bloom.*



A Harvest Festival



An All-Age Celebration for Harvest



St Mary's Church, Chequerfield



Sunday 9th October, 4pm
in St Mary's Community Centre

Together, we celebrate all the wonderful gifts that God has given us in nature, and how we can provide for one another.

Children very welcome (please bring a grown up)!
An informal service with storytelling, crafts and other activities. Tea, coffee and snacks will be provided.

**If you would like to come, please email
stgileschurchpontefract@gmail.com,
or text Revd Sam Fletcher on 07938517350**

On Sunday 18th once again the sound of fully muffled bells was heard prior to morning service, it still sounded weird and unusual within the ringing room. This ringing was repeated the same day prior to the commemoration service at 4.30pm.

On Monday 20th we performed our last ringing as per protocol, this was to toll for one hour prior to the queen's funeral between 10am and 11am. It was a formidable and difficult session as ringer's arms were beginning to ache and much concentration was required. Canon June joined us in the ringing room to provide welcome support, however we did not allow her to escape without joining in! I am pleased to report that Canon June "chimed" the last five minutes of the hour.



We have all been challenged in so many different ways, all the ringers have enhanced their tolling skills, some have used them for the first time. We have all had the opportunity to ring fully muffled bells which is not something that every ringer can achieve. Our tower captain Adrian has been in and out of the bell chamber several times putting muffles on and off, this is most definitely not a job for the faint hearted! Whilst our half muffles are professionally manufactured, the full muffles were a "Heath Robinson" affair. This is due to the fact that most towers do not possess a set of full muffles due to the rare occasions when they are required.

Throughout this rather unusual schedule of ringing we have all been challenged in so many different ways. However, we have worked as a team to practice that most ancient of arts, the ringing of church bells.

Karen Glynn
September 2022



INVITATION
TO JILL CLAPHAM'S LICENSING SERVICE
AS A
LICENSED LAY MINISTER
(FORMER TITLE READER)

All members of the congregation are warmly invited to the Episcopal Area Lay Minister (Reader) licensing service to be held at St Giles' on Sunday 6th November at 3.30pm.

Please hold Jill in your prayers as she prepares for the service and come to support her if you are able.

Cath Fox, who was on placement with us earlier this year is also to be licensed in the service.

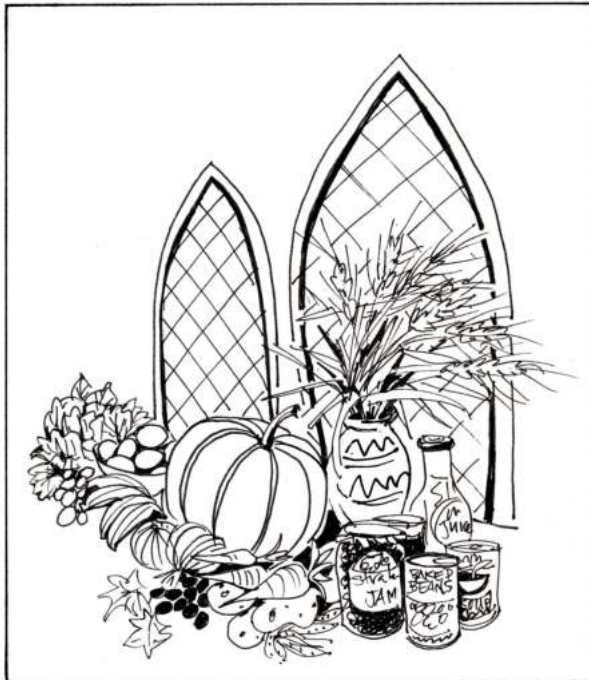
Bishop Tony Robinson and the new Archdeacon of Halifax (also warden of Readers), Bill Braviner, will be leading the service.

Refreshments will follow the service.

Dates to remember

(All events at St Giles', unless otherwise noted.)

- Saturday 1st October: **Harvest Supper:** 6:30 at the Masonic Lodge
- Sunday 2nd October: **Harvest Thanksgiving Service & Collection:**10:15
Choral Evensong: 4pm
- Monday 3rd October: **Mothers' Union meeting:** 1:30pm
- Sunday 9th October: **All-Age Celebration for Harvest:** 4pm (St Mary's)
- Wednesday 26th October: **Bric-à-Brac stall:** from 9am
- Sunday 30th October: **CLOCKS GO BACK 1 HOUR!**
-
- Wednesday 2nd November: **Evening Service for All Souls:** 7pm
- Sunday 6th November: **Episcopal Area Lay Minister Licensing:** 3:30pm



QUEEN ELIZABETH II

1926 - 2022



GOD SAVE THE KING

On Thursday 8th September 2022 the many people who were gathered outside Buckingham Palace sang, 'God Save the King' for the new King Charles III. These words were unfamiliar, having not been sung for a sovereign within our shores since 1952, when they were last sung for King George VI. Many of you, like me, will never have sung this latest version with the word 'King' in it.

The author of the anthem is unknown. It has been suggested that it may originate in plainchant. Sometimes an attribution to John Bull is made, although several other candidates have been mentioned.

God Save the King was first performed in London in 1745 and became known as the national anthem at the start of the 19th century. In September 1745, when news of the battle of Prestonpans, near Edinburgh, reached London, the bandleader at the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, played an arrangement after the performance which we now recognise as God Save the King. It was so well received that it was repeated every night at the end of the performance. This practice rapidly spread to other theatres and very soon the custom of greeting the monarch with this song was established.

Within the United Kingdom the first verse is often sung alone, even on some official occasions. Our national anthem is not enshrined in law, so its words may be changed, as they were on the 8th September when the word 'Queen' was changed to 'King'.

God save our gracious King,
Long live our noble King,
God save the King,
Send him victorious,
Happy and glorious,
Long to reign over us,
God save the King.

Karen Glynn

BRIC-A-BRAC

We are planning to have a Bric-a-Brac stall on **Wednesday, 26th October**, from 9.00am to raise money for church funds.

If anyone has anything to donate, please leave in church from Saturday, 15th October. Thank you. Pat and Marjorie.



MOTHERS' UNION—MONDAY 3rd October

We meet in Church at 1.30pm on Monday, 3rd October and our guest speaker on this occasion is Lara from the Carers charity. Refreshments will follow the talk. Everyone is always welcome to join us.

APPEAL FOR SUPERMARKET EGG BOXES

St Giles Food Share would be really grateful for card or plastic supermarket egg boxes, either dozen or half-dozen size, to pack egg donations arriving in trays at No. 6. Please could any donated egg boxes be left at St Giles for collection or brought to No. 6 on Monday or Friday mornings. Thank you.

Harvest Gifts: an Update from No 6

For the last month or so, No 6 has had weekly visits from a local couple with a plot on the Rookhill Road allotment site bringing potatoes and onions for our Friday fresh veg and fruit distribution. This couple have taken on an extra plot for another plot-holder who for health reasons is temporarily unable to garden and No 6 is being given the extra produce generated. We have also received a quantity of Bramley apples from by a Church member.

Anyone who grows their own fruit and veg knows how much time, effort and knowledge is needed to produce the end product. So we offer this brief update with our thanks for the generosity which has produced these extra gifts so welcome to the local people served by No 6.

Paul and Ann



FUNDRAISING

Given St Giles' current finances, it is imperative that attention be given to raising much needed funds.

I am aware individuals and small groups continue to 'battle on' raising money.

As a congregation, giving is part of our Christian service, but we need to tap into the community and around us and encourage their participation in forthcoming initiatives.

Therefore, I ask you thoughtfully to consider joining a proposed fundraising group to develop ideas and bring them to fruition.

I wish this to be a positive, forward looking group!

Please contact myself (Fr Rod) or Pam Mercer for further details, either in person or via email or telephone. My details are on the front cover. For Pam, please email or phone via the parish office (stgileschurchpontefract@gmail.com)

Yours prayerfully

Fr Rod



HARVEST COLLECTION—CHRISTIAN AID COLLECTION FOR EMERGENCY EAST AFRICA HUNGER APPEAL

The Harvest collection this year will be split between Christian Aid and Lunch with Us. Envelopes will be available for the collection taken at the **10.15am Harvest Thanksgiving Service on 2nd October** for the Christian Aid East Africa Emergency Appeal. Please complete the gift aid slip if you are able.

FOOD DONATIONS FOR HARVEST SUNDAY, 2 OCTOBER

This year, food donations made at the Harvest Thanksgiving service will be shared between Lunch with Us and Food Share at No 6.

The main needs for Lunch with Us are tins of tuna and baked beans.

No 6's needs continue to be for basic foodstuffs including soup, tinned meat/meals, cook-in sauces, 500g or 1kg packets of rice, tinned fruit and vegetables, sandwich spreads and, as always, teabags.

Thank you for your continued support for both parish projects.

Paul, Ann and Barbara



Please note that the Harvest Supper will now be held in the **Masonic Hall, Ackworth Road** on **Saturday, 1 October 2022, 6.30pm for 7.00pm.**

Pie and pea supper or Vegetarian option on request, apple crumble and bar open. Tickets can be purchased from Sunday, 11 September at a cost of £11 per head. Children (under 16) free!



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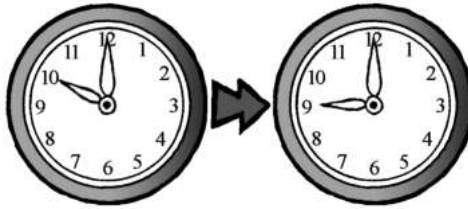
www.stgilescentrepontefract.org.uk



Carleton Theatre Group

If anyone wishes to join us, with a view to considering acting or helping backstage, etc, please phone

Ruth Connor on 01977 792100, or
Brenda Smith (01977 700052).



SUNDAY 30TH OCTOBER

If you would like something posted on our social media platforms, please email: stgmsocialmedia@gmail.com

To keep in touch with the latest news from the Parish, please visit our websites:

www.stgilespontefract.org.uk and www.stgilescentrepontefract.org.uk



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District

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Christian Aid East Africa Hunger Crisis Appeal



Christian Aid launched an emergency appeal a few weeks ago for East Africa. Field reports suggest that Ethiopia, South Sudan and Kenya are facing their worst drought in 40 years. Conflict, the climate crisis and COVID mean that millions are now facing the threat of famine. A quote from the Christian Aid website gives an indication of the severity of the present situation: "We have never seen a drought like the current one in our entire lives".

As a Christian Aid Emergency Church, St Giles has been contacted asking for the parish to support the efforts of local community organisations in the affected areas. If you can, please could you make a donation through an Emergency Appeal collection envelope available at our parish Harvest Thanksgiving service. Alternatively, online donations can be made at www.christianaid.org.uk or a cheque can be posted to Christian Aid 35 Lower Marsh Waterloo London SE1 7RL. In either case, your donation can be augmented, at no extra cost to yourself, if you complete a gift aid declaration.

Christian Aid have also published the following prayer.

Prayer for East Africa

Loving and compassionate God,
When Famine stalks the land, nothing grows.
Plants cannot, people cannot, ideas and dreams cannot
everything withers and dies.
It is a violent aberration of your will for the world
and it is multiplied now
by conflict, climate change and covid.
God of the flourishing field, there is enough to feed us all.
Call us to that sacred sharing
neighbour to global neighbour
Your gifts of food, water,
a chance to live the life so delicately crafted
by your divine spirit.
We will not turn away but turn towards each other
with generosity and a justice-driven compassion
that searches for solutions.
Famine stalks the land, so may our outrage grow,
may our determination steel itself,
may our solidarity spur us into action.
God of the flourishing field,
help us feed each other.
Amen

Priory Gardens

Nestled in the popular town of Pontefract in West Yorkshire, Priory Gardens is a lovely, purpose-built care home offering residential, nursing and residential memory care for those living with dementia.

Our welcoming care home offers a home-from-home where older people receive the care they need and the support they want to continue to live their life with dignity and choice.

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- 9.6 carehome.co.uk user rating
- Beauty salon
- Little break – Short term care
- Home from home – Long term care
- Overall 'Good' CQC rating

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E careline@hc-one.co.uk
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Organ Recitals in St Giles'
Market Place
Pontefract WF8 1AT

2022/2023 Series
Fridays at 1.00pm
(unless otherwise stated)

October 7 th	Paul Dewhurst
November 4 th	Chris Newton
December 2 nd	Ivan Linford
December 16 th	NCP
January 6 th 2023	Sean Montgomery
February 3 rd	Marc Murray
March 3 rd	Paul Dewhurst
April 14 th	David Baker
April 21 st	NCP
May 5 th	John Dunford
June 2 nd	Scott Senogles
July 7 th	Sean Montgomery

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Owner

sarahsbright1996@gmail.com

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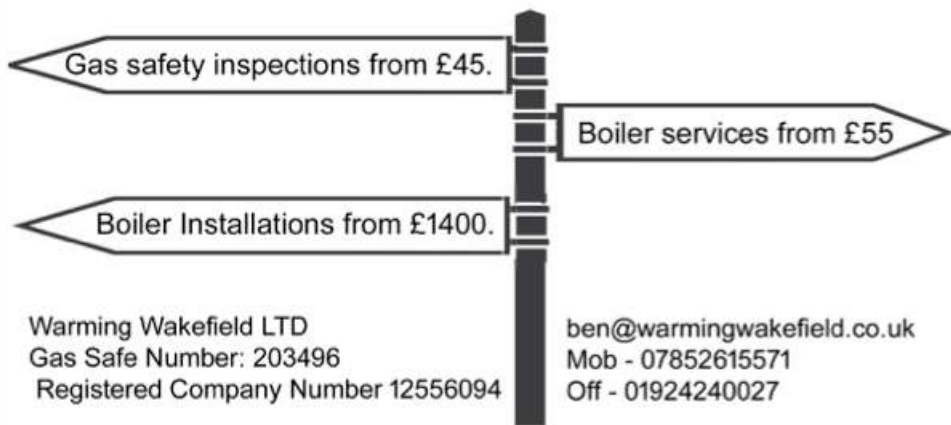




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**Wakefield
District**

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We can help with benefits claims including advice and support on setting up claims for Universal Credit; we can help you deal with debts and give advice if your employment has been affected.

We are free, confidential, independent and impartial

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(Universal Credit – Help to Claim)

Telephone 0800 144 8 444

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Email us via

www.wakefielddistrictcab.co.uk

Web chat with us at

www.citizensadvice.org.uk/about-us/contact-us/contact-us/contact-us/

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St Mary's Church, The Circle, Chequerfield

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Canon June Lawson
Fr Sam Fletcher
Fr Michael Taylor (Honorary Priest)
Fr Rod Walker
Jill Clapham Licensed Lay Minister (Reader)
Tony Williams Pastoral Minister

Tel: 01977 706803
Tel: 07938 517350
Tel: 01977 702824
Tel: 07746 980727
Tel: 07740869346
Tel: 07919412797

Sunday Services

For service times please visit our website and view the latest Newsletter

<http://www.stgilespontefract.org/weekly-notices-2/>

Baptisms, Weddings, Banns: Please telephone or email the Parish Office for further details.
Please check the calendar on St Giles' website or the Order of Service for any alterations.

Reader (Hon)

David Brooks 798599

St Giles Good Share, No.6 The Circle

Paul and Ann Harris 07808 808977

PCC Vice Chairman

Barbara Sessford 699058

Mothers' Union Leader/Secretary

Janet Colvill/Marjorie Laidlaw 704864/795748

Churchwardens

Bruce Dalgleish 07809 760993

Barbara Sessford 699058

Peter Lavine 07910 377989

Pam Mercer 780804

Children's Society Box Secretary

Angela Bradley 613643

Missions Committee Secretary

Edith Barber 277226

PCC Secretary/Parish Administrator

Vivienne Smales 790448

stgileschurchpontefract@gmail.com

Pro-Wardens at St Mary's

Frank Ward

PCC Treasurer

David Leigh 706526

St Mary's Church Treasurer

Delia Perrett 796223

David Leigh 706526

Organist and Choir Director

James MacDonald 790448

St Mary's Church Meeting Chair

Fr Michael Taylor 702824

Tower Captain

Adrian Garner 690154

St Mary's Community Centre

Manager: Denise Pallett 705341

Parish Magazine Editor

Bruce Dalgleish 690216

St Giles' Church School (aided)

Head teacher: Richard Grace 794175

St Giles' Altar Flowers

Barbara Chessman 700559

St Giles' Pantomime Society Chair

Andy Weston 07791 656820

A photograph of a horse race in progress, showing several jockeys on horses galloping across a green track. The background shows a blurred landscape with trees and hills under a clear sky.

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