

*Parish of Pontefract
St Giles with St Mary*



November 2022



Some of our best evenings are spent reminiscing with old friends, perhaps with a drink in hand, laughing over our shared memories, and wondering at how much and yet how little life has changed. There is something comforting and transforming about looking back at the past: what was once a stressful predicament has now become a hilarious pickle that you somehow made it out of; what was once an embarrassing moment has now become a prized anecdote. Remembering casts a light on our past, and so helps us to make sense of who we are in the present.

November is a month for remembering. It begins with All Saints' Day, when we remember past heroes of our faith, and All Souls', where we remember the lives of all who have died. We 'remember, remember' the fifth of November with fireworks and toffee apples. Then comes Armistice Day and Remembrance Sunday, when we remember the lives lost in war and the horrors of conflict.

People of faith are especially accustomed to remembering. Each Sunday we gather to call to mind Jesus' death and resurrection, breaking bread and sharing wine in fulfilment of Jesus' commandment to 'do this in remembrance of me'. This practice of recollecting what God has done is rooted in the Jewish tradition. When, in the book of Exodus, God institutes the festival of Passover, it is given as a 'day of remembrance' for the people of Israel, forever reminding them of their liberation from Egypt. To this day, when Jews gather for the Passover Seder, the story is recounted again, passed down to the next generation. By holding onto our history, the people of God find our identity.

Our acts of remembrance – All Saints' Day, Remembrance Sunday, the Eucharist – are not simply times to recall past events, in the way we might recall what the weather was like last week. Such occasions can, at their best, allow us not only to enter into the experiences of the past, but to see how they can speak to us in the present and beckon us towards a better future. How do the lives of the saints inspire us to lead faithful lives in the modern world? How should our recollection of past conflicts on Remembrance Sunday inform our response to the war in Ukraine? How does our memorial of God's generosity through Jesus, who shares himself in bread and wine, call us to show generosity to those suffering in the cost-of-living crisis?

But if people of faith are especially accustomed to remembering, we are also especially vulnerable to its dangers. It is all too easy to become nostalgic and 'stuck in the past'. This happens whenever the Church imagines we can look back to a (mythical) golden age before we faced any challenges. It happens whenever we construct an image of 'how things have always been done' and allow this to limit our imagination. Our past should guide us, but we cannot let it control us.

When we take time to remember all that God has done, we are reminded that the God who has been 'our help in ages past', is also 'our hope for years to come'. The Spirit is alive, and speaks afresh in every age. May this November, with all of its mixed emotions – a time of both sorrow and thankfulness – be for us a time of healing and transformation, as we look into the future with hope.

Fr Sam

Harvest All-age worship at St Mary's

About 17 of us met up for worship on Sunday 9th October, led by Father Mark with a theme of thanking God for His Creation.

We started with some breathtaking power point slides displayed on a large screen to accompany the Genesis account of Creation. Father Mark led us in prayers, a song with guitar accompaniment and a talk about what the story of Creation has to say to us today. Thanks to St Mary's for their generous provision of fruit, vegetables and other food which was well-received. And also some dough-craft activities. We completed our session with pizza provided by our Kitchen Team and some good conversation in the cafe.

Thanks to everyone for coming and all the contributions which made this so enjoyable.

A good end to the weekend and an encouraging start to the week ahead. We look forward to meeting again on Sunday 4th December.

(Photographs on the inside front cover. See the poster on page 19.)

NEW CONTACTLESS GIVING DEVICE



Our new contactless giving device (similar to the above but with personalised images) will be arriving in church from early November. We are delighted to say that the church was awarded a grant from the Church of England to cover the cost of purchase (over £1,000).

Please see the poster on the inside back cover for information about how to use this new device.

Ode to an iPad

This iPad was given to me by a pupil's mum, 'twas a leaver's gift.
I hadn't a clue what to do with it, if you get my drift.
I gazed into the shiny screen which reflected my doleful face,
What mysteries were hidden there, in that blank black space?
'I'm much too old to use this toy,' I moaned to my daughter Gilly.
'You're not too old, I'll help. Now don't you be so silly.'
With the voice she reserves for children not too bright
'Click that in here, plug that in there, and leave it overnight.'
Next day Grandaughter rang, to see how I'd got on.
'I need an instruction manual' I sighed, 'To show where I've gone wrong.'
'No probs Grandma,' she trilled, 'Just Google it, or find the Amazon app.'
'If I could do that, you muppet, I wouldn't need a book,' I snarled with a snap.
Later they both came, unveiled the magic that's in WiFi.
'There you are Grandma, now you're ready to fly!
Alone, at all those little puzzling squares I looked,
Tentatively I clicked on Solitaire and Bingo! I was hooked.
Years later I can't imagine how I ever filled each day,
First I message Gilly to tell her I'm okay.
Then it's on to Facebook to get the family news,
There's Nephew, showing off all his holiday view
There's the greatgrandkids in new uniforms off to school,
Next I check my Emails there's News from St. Giles
Niece has sent a photo, see those beaming smiles
I often Facetime Jonny in America, that is really cool!
I Wordle and I Quordle, I play Scrabble, but never Suduko.
Every evening I play Bridge with folk I'll never know
I can google and browse an International Shop,
Get hints on how to airfry onions with a lamb chop.
My grandkids call me TechnoGran, I claim this name with pride
I am forever grateful to that mum who opened up the world so wide.

This poem by Joyce Bellamy will be familiar to all who attended the Harvest Supper at the beginning of October. Joyce's reading, in her own inimitable style, was a highlight of the evening, which also included a quiz, a pie and peas supper, songs and recitations; two of the poems having been written by our own Fr Sam. If you weren't there, you missed a treat!

RESCHEDULED HERITAGE OPEN DAYS AT

ST GILES' CHURCH, PONTEFRACT – HERITAGE EVENT 2022

Saturday, 5th November 2022

10.00am – Visit St Giles' church, it's full of history and much more
2.30pm right here in the centre of Pontefract.

1. A general tour of the church.
 2. Learn about the wonderful ceiling bosses, a fascinating feature, but too often overlooked due to their location.
 3. Browse the world map highlighting the many areas of conflict, which the soldiers in Pontefract were part of.
- View the Pontefract Roll of Honour and the flag of the Burma Star Association in St Oswald's chapel.

Saturday, 12th November 2022

10.00am – Visit the tower and ringing chamber, this is a part of the
12.00pm church which is rarely open to the public so do take advantage and explore. The bell ringers will be available to tell you about the ancient art of bell ringing. Learn the history of the tower and some historical moments that it has been part of.



**Refreshments will be available
on both days in the church café**



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.)

- Wednesday 2nd November: **Evening Service for All Souls:** 7pm
- Friday 4th November: **Organ Recital:** 1pm
- Saturday 5th November: **Heritage Open Day:** 10am - 2:30pm
- Sunday 6th November: **Episcopal Area Lay Minister Licensing:** 3:30pm
- Monday 7th November: **The Railway King:** (Town Hall) 7pm (See p18)
- Friday 11th November: **Remembrance Day** (no service at St Giles')
- Saturday 12th November: **Heritage Open Day:** 10am - 12pm
- Sunday 13th November: **Sung Eucharist:** 9:30am
- Civic Service of Remembrance:** 11:15am
- Sunday 20th November: **Songs of Praise:** 4pm (See p9)
- Monday 21st November: **Barnbow in WWII:** (Town Hall) 7pm (See p18)
- Sunday 27th November: **Advent Sunday: Sheep Trail** (See p8)
- Wednesday 30th November: **Advent in Narnia:** 10:15 - 11am (See p21)
- Thursday 1st December: **Advent in Narnia** (All Saints):6:45-7:45pm
- Friday 2nd December: **Organ Recital:** 1pm
- Saturday 10th December: **Christmas Draw!**



Artwork by Deborah Noble

I have been asked to write a couple of sentences for your parish magazine about the proposed Churches Together in Pontefract Advent / Christmas initiative.

Why me? My name is Paula Ridley and I am a lay employee within the local Methodist Circuit (Aire and Calder). I currently work alongside Rev. Ruth Gilson-Webb at Pontefract Methodist Church. In September 2022 the two churches within Pontefract (Micklegate and Central) became one church (Pontefract Methodist Church) on two sites. I was asked by the last CTiP meeting to look at a Where's Woolly idea with several other people from the group.

Hopefully, by now, you will have had an outline of what is proposed. If not, I'm happy to let you know all the details.

In brief it is ...

1. A sheep trail throughout the town of Pontefract – launched at the town's lights switch on which will be on Advent Sunday. The trail will be pictured in a leaflet which will also include a simple telling of the Christmas story. Pictures of the nativity story with Woolly will be displayed in the shops / buildings on the trail.
2. Visits to schools of a big Woolly - giving a chance for leaflets to be handed out and conversations to be had with parents / carers about the trail.
3. 100s of sheep (picture attached) left in the town on the morning of the lights switch on for people to take home and hang on their tree. Sheep will have a tag on which will include the CTiP logo, #whereswoolly and a Bible verse
4. Social media activity on a CTiP facebook page? This will encourage engagement in the 'Where's Woolly' idea and allow stories to be told.

It is hoped, we can encourage many people within our different church fellowships to be involved in supporting the project in a variety of ways. How? We, firstly, ask people to pray that the project will do the right thing in an appropriate way – bringing the Christmas message of hope and love to the people living in and visiting Pontefract. Secondly, we can encourage people to help make the sheep – the bigger the flock, the better. We have broken the sheep making down into a number of simple tasks so anyone can participate. Three, four and five will, no doubt, develop. Ann Harris or myself can help with sheep making.

So, with apologies for the long email, perhaps the following could be put in your parish magazine. Feel free to adapt as you see fit.

'Where's Woolly?' Churches Together in Pontefract are planning an exciting 'Advent'ure – covering the town with sheep and sharing the Christmas message in pictures and words with residents and visitors. Please find out about the project and, where you can, in just a small way, offer some help. Wouldn't it be great to see the town flocking together this Advent time.

Many thanks for reading. Please don't hesitate to get in touch. I'm happy for my phone number (below) and email address to be passed on or included in your magazine.

God Bless

Paula

Mission Activities Coordinator (Pontefract Methodist Church)

07477 906567





The Benefice of Pontefract
Parish of St Giles with St Mary's



SONGS OF PRAISE

FOR

CHRIST THE KING

at St Giles' Church

Sunday, 20th November 2022, 4.00pm



All are warmly invited to join us at this service to sing some well loved hymns.

Tea/coffee and cakes will be available after the service.

SYNOD HEARS HOW THE LIBERATING POWER OF GOD GIVES SUPPORT IN TURBULENT TIMES

The liberating power of God was the overarching message at the diocese's 23rd synod. The Rt Revd Nick Baines, Bishop of Leeds used his Presidential Address to concentrate thoughts on the "big vision" of the diocese, sound in the knowledge of God's strong and encouraging presence.

'Almighty God, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless till they find their rest in you: pour your love into our hearts and draw us to yourself, and so bring us at the last to your heavenly city where we shall see you face to face; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

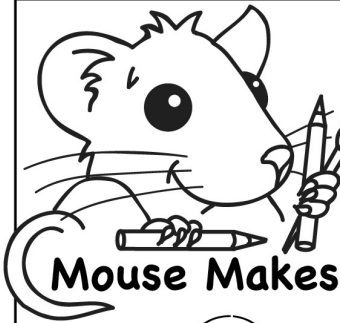
'.....This prayer constructs a lens through which we might see the business before us, establishing a perspective that puts in context (relativises, perhaps) the particularities of our discussions. Our big vision will shape how we pay attention to the details and pragmatics of our business.

'...This world faces some enormous challenges right now (although when hasn't it?) ... which makes it all the more essential that we hone our theological vision and allow the lens behind our eyes (by which we 'see' reality) to be re-ground - re-shaped - as we go. (The biblical word is 'repentance' ...)

'Today we meet amid political turmoil at home, a cost of living crisis already hitting more than the poorest in our society, power-plays over energy supplies around the globe, a brutal war on European soil again, corruption in high places, and Liverpool tenth in the Premier League. Precarious times and lots of fear and uncertainty around. And a time for Christians to find out what we truly believe about God, the world and us. But, as I wrote a number of times to clergy during the pandemic, you can't argue with reality. Every generation faces its crises and challenges; we are called to be faithful in this generation - courageous, obedient, reflective and confident in God and one another.'

The full text of the Bishops' address can be read at

<https://www.leeds.anglican.org/news/synod-hears-how-liberating-power-god-gives-support-turbulent-times>



THE COMING OF A KING

The birth of Jesus is fortold



God sent a messenger to Mary
What was the angel's name?

Luke 1:26-28

Mary was frightened,
what did the angel say?

Luke 1:30

What was Mary to
name her child?

Luke 1:31



What is her son
going to be?

Luke 1:32-33



READ
the story
in Luke
1:26-55



What does the angel
say about God?

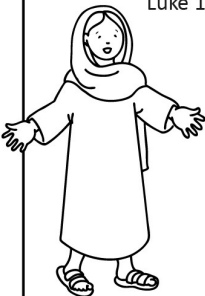
Luke 1:37
(LEARN this verse)

Mary praises God, what does
she say God has done?

Luke 1:46-55

What happened
to Elizabeth
when Mary
went to
visit her?

Luke 1:41



Find the words
in the word
search and
the ____
words too.

E T H O L Y S P I R I T O J S K S
M B H C B I G T W L B Z L O R D A
E L O H P R A I S E O J E S U S V
S E L I Z A B E T H R O N E P D I
S S Y L K W R E I G N E T P M E O
A S C D I K I N G D O M P H A B U
G E S O N R E J O I C E W O R D R
E D A N G E L Z D O A B A B Y L U

ANGEL • MESSAGE • GOD • JOSEPH • MARY • BABY • SON • BORN
CHILD • THRONE • KING • REIGN • KINGDOM • HOLY SPIRIT • LORD
HOLY • WORD • ELIZABETH • BLESSED • SAVIOUR • REJOICE • PRAISE

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



Fundraising for St Giles Church

Over £42m has been raised for good causes through the UK's biggest charity shopping fundraising site <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk>. The site helps good causes across the UK to raise FREE funds through online shopping. Over 2 million supporters are raising money for 180,000 charities and good causes.

One of the good causes registered on the site is the **St Giles Community Project** which was established at the time of the start of the internal alterations carried out in 2011 – 13 since when it has raised £594.71 by just 17 members of the congregation who have used the site occasionally when online shopping. From now on all the funds raised will be transferred to the St Giles PCC account to help its current fundraising programme.

If you are shopping on line for Christmas presents or indeed anything at all, please remember to initially use the following website to raise donations for the church.

To register go to <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stgilescp/> which will take you to St Giles Community Project Pontefract.

- Click on **Sign up** and support this cause which will take you to the next page.
- Click **Continue with Email** where you can enter your name, address and email address and a password.
- Click **Create** my account.
- The next page gives you the choice to **Add the Donation Reminder** (recommended). If you close to click this you go onto the **easyfundraising** Donation Reminder page.
- Click [easyfundraising](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) which you will find immediately below this heading and you are now all set up to go shopping.

Easyfundraising partners with over 7,000 brands who will donate part of what you spend to St Giles church. It won't cost you any extra. The cost is covered by the brand.

REMEMBER - Firstly go to the easyfundraising website <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stgilescp/> whenever you shop online and St Giles will receive a % of your spend as a free donation, at no cost to you or the church.

Happy Shopping!



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St Giles' Centre



One Church, One Community

A room for all occasions.

For more information about charges and availability contact
Bill Bradley
Tel 01977 613643 Mob. 07759 524979
W.R.T.Bradley@btinternet.com

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).

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



Wakefield
District

**A WEEKLY DROP-IN ADVICE SESSION AT
ST GILES' CHURCH, MARKET PLACE, PONTEFRACT.**

EVERY WEDNESDAY, 10.00am—12.00pm

Telephone: **0800 144 8848** or visit wakefelddistrictcab.co.uk



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in your time of need!*

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YMCA Charity Shop, Horsefair,
Pontefract.

Large white goods, menswear and
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Please ring 01977 792679 for free
collection.

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people in your area by donating your
unwanted goods.



Organ Recitals in St Giles'
Market Place
Pontefract WF8 1AT

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

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

Friday Admission £5 per recital

(includes tea/coffee served from 12.30pm before the recital)



**Monday 7th
November 2022
7pm prompt**
Pontefract Town Hall

Admission
Members FREE
Non-members £3 on the door
or via www.eventbrite.com

Light refreshment
available afterwards

Should notifications be imposed
on in-person meetings, we will
post updates on social media.

Created by freshinc.co.uk

The Railway King

by Chris Cade

The Rise and Fall of George Hudson of York
farmer's son, silk mercer, entrepreneur, Lord
Mayor and Member of Parliament.

Come and be informed and entertained by Chris
Cade MA (Educational Theatre), actor & storyteller.



**PONTEFRACT
CIVIC SOCIETY**

www.pontefractcivicsociety.org.uk
info@pontefractcivicsociety.org.uk



**Monday
21st November 2022
7pm prompt**
Pontefract Town Hall

Admission
Members FREE
Non-members £3 on the door
or via www.eventbrite.com

Light refreshment
available afterwards

Should notifications be imposed
on in-person meetings, we will
post updates on social media.

Created by freshinc.co.uk

**Barnbow in the Second
World War, its people
and its history.**

An entertaining and illustrative talk by Carole
Smithies MBE, former Barnbow worker,
academic and local historian.

After a brief review of the Great War Barnbow, we will
examine why a new Barnbow was needed, how it was built
and its contribution to the war effort.

Most importantly, we will hear from some of WW1
Barnbow lasses and lads themselves.



**PONTEFRACT
CIVIC SOCIETY**

www.pontefractcivicsociety.org.uk
info@pontefractcivicsociety.org.uk

‘The Greatest Gift’: An Advent Celebration



St Mary’s Church, Chequerfield



Sunday 4th December, 4pm
in St Mary’s Community Centre

An event for people of all ages, exploring the Christmas story.
We all love getting presents on Christmas morning – in this celebration we discover the greatest gift of all, the gift of the baby Jesus.

Children very welcome (please bring a grown up)!

An informal service with storytelling, singing, crafts and other activities, followed by free shared food (pizza!).

Doors open at 4pm, with a service from 4:15pm

**If you would like to come, please email
stgileschurchpontefract@gmail.com,
or contact Revd Sam Fletcher on 07938 517350**



Pontefract Benefice Advent Course



Advent in Narnia

**Wednesday Mornings at
St Giles'**

10:15am-11am

and

**Thursday Evenings at
All Saints**

6:45pm – 8pm



St Giles': 30 November, 7, 14, 21 December

All Saints: 1, 8, 15, 22 December

Advent in Narnia

Advent, the season of reflection will soon be here, and we invite you to put some dates in your diaries to take some time out; to stop, reflect and refresh yourselves in scripture and prayer.

This year our short study course **Advent in Narnia** will run across the Benefice, with four sessions on Wednesday mornings from 10:15 to 11am at St Giles' and four Thursday evenings from 6:45pm to 7:45pm at All Saints.

You will all be familiar with C.S. Lewis' book *The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe*, which the course is based on. If you would like to refresh your memory before the start of the course, you are invited to come and watch the film at All Saints. The film will be shown the week before Advent on Thursday 24 November. Please arrive for coffee and tea at 6:45pm for a 7pm start. There might even be Turkish Delight!

Dates for your diaries are as follows:

St Giles.: Wednesday (mornings) 30 November, 7 December, 14 December, 21 December.

All Saints: Thursday (evenings) 1 December, 8 December, 15 December, 22 December.

Sign-up sheets will be placed in All Saints and St Giles' at the end of October.

We do hope you will be able to join us.



NOTES FROM THE PCC MEETING 20TH SEPTEMBER 2022

15 members of the PCC were **present** at the meeting and 4 apologies were received.

Minutes of the last Meeting held on Tuesday, 17th July 2022 were agreed and accepted. There were several **Matters Arising** from the minutes. 1. The grant application submitted to the Bishop's Development Fund has been successful with an award of c. £4,500. £2491.60 is awarded for the purchase of a mobile projector, heavy duty trolley and wireless presenter for use around the benefice. The balance of the grant will help fund All Age services to the end of 2023. 2. Heritage Week events were cancelled due to the death of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, however, it is hoped to hold these events later in the year. The Civic Society will help advertise these events. 3. Thanks were expressed for the Confirmation service and the Queen's Commemoration service arranged at short notice. 4. The Reader Licensing Service was postponed from 18 September to 6 November at 3.30pm. 5. Although it had been agreed to reduce St Mary's parish share contribution to 6% in the meeting held on 17 July, it was not formally agreed when this would come into effect. It was proposed and agreed that the new contribution amount of 6% come into effect from January 2023.

Correspondence - The Warm Spaces initiative has been launched in a partnership between Wakefield MDC and NOVA. St Giles has signed up to find out more information and Pam Mercer will be taking part in a webinar to find out more. It would almost be an extension of Open Church.

The draft minutes of the **St Giles' Centre Management Committee** held on Thursday, 15th September were tabled at the meeting. Items of note were the Food Bank requesting to hire room space. Due to a restricted budget, it was agreed by the Committee to hire out St Aidan's in addition to allowing them to use the café area free of charge on the understanding that they leave the premises as they find them. The Yorkshire Imperial Band are also interested in holding a concert and offered a partnership arrangement with a 50:50 split of the takings.

The Minutes of the **Standing Committee** Meeting held on Tuesday, 26th July and the draft Minutes of the meeting held on 5th September were received and accepted. The Minutes of the meeting held at **St Mary's** on 28th July were received and accepted.

Following a roll out of cashless giving machines throughout the Diocese, St Giles has been awarded a Skinny GWD **Digital Giving Device**, which would normally have cost over £1k. Although there is a monthly charge payable to the merchant for running the machine and a small transaction cost it was felt this was reasonable and, on this basis, the machine has been accepted and will be arriving on 2 November.

Fr Rod and Pam Mercer are now looking for others to join a group to bring more focus and structure to fundraising. Fr Rod will write a piece for the notices encouraging people to join. Following information received at the recent Clergy Conference, an item will be included in a future parish magazine encouraging people to think of the church in their will.

The **PCC accounts** show a loss to the end of August of approximately £20k and is likely to be £32,600 by the end of the year, which is close to what had been budgeted for. Parish Share is currently paid at £3k per month and a decision will be taken at November's PCC as to the final amount able to be paid. No contributions have yet been received from St Mary's.

The **St Giles' Centre Accounts** are likely to be £0 by the end of the year due to falling income levels and increased contributions to the PCC due to rising utility costs. The money included for Lunch with Us will be ring-fenced when the Centre account becomes a designated account within overall church funds.

No.6 St Giles' Food Share currently have a very healthy account. Additionally, a local company called Complete ASAP, will be awarding a grant of £500 per month for the foreseeable future split between No. 6, Lunch with Us, the Food Kitchen and the Foodbank.

A **Financial Reserves Policy** was discussed and agreed.

The No.6 St Giles Food Share bank card currently has a low spending limit, which be increased to £500. The Treasurer read aloud the Amendments Form from Virgin Money and this was subsequently accepted and the form signed by the Incumbent, the Treasurer and a Church Warden.

An **Review of Policies** was undertaken and the Lunch With Us Disturbance Policy, Disability Policy and the Environmental Policy were all reviewed and accepted.

The **Safeguarding Action Plan** was circulated and all 'action required' is currently under review. The Risk Assessments have all been reviewed and updated and the review of DBS checks is now underway. DBS checks are now only valid for 3 years and not 5.

A full **Fabric Health & Safety Report** was received. There is a problem with the main aisle lights with two of the main lights being unsatisfactory, which also require new emergency light units. Contrary to information given at the time of installation, the lights are not LED and cannot be converted. The Architect has confirmed they do need replacing and he is currently looking for contractors to come and change the lights to LED units. Potential grant aid to cover the cost is also being sought. The question of installing solar panels was also revisited and grants to help with the cost of these is also being sought. All agreed to further explorations about costs, grants and feasibility.

A list of **committee dates** was circulated for 2023.

Chair's Notes: The Harvest Supper takes place on Saturday, 1 October with the Harvest Service on Sunday, 2 October; The date for the Readers Licensing service has now been rearranged for Sunday, 6th November at 3.30pm; All Souls will take place on Wednesday, 2 November with Mass at 9.30am and an Evening Service at 7.00pm; Remembrance Civic Service after 9.30am Parish Mass; Christmas Day falls on Sunday this year and the Crib Service will be held at 4.30pm. Midnight Mass at 11.00pm.

The **date of next meeting** was set as Tuesday, 22 November 2022

The meeting closed with a prayer from Fr Sam.

Hope in the Hope Valley

The photos on the front and back pages of this month's edition were taken in the beautiful Hope Valley in Derbyshire. To echo Fr Sam's words in this month's letter:-

'When we take time to remember all that God has done, we are reminded that the God who has been 'our help in ages past', is also 'our hope for years to come'. The Spirit is alive, and speaks afresh in every age. May this November, with all of its mixed emotions – a time of both sorrow and thankfulness – be for us a time of healing and transformation, as we look into the future with hope.'

A Stitch in Time



Alterations for all occasions

Sarah Brightmore
Owner

sarahsbright1996@gmail.com

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Citizens Advice Wakefield District continue to offer a full range of advice and help during the lockdown period.

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Telephone 0800 144 8 444

(Consumer goods, services, digital, events, travel etc.)

Telephone 0808 223 1133

Email us via

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Web chat with us at

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St Mary's Church, The Circle, Chequerfield

Tel: 01977 790448

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

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