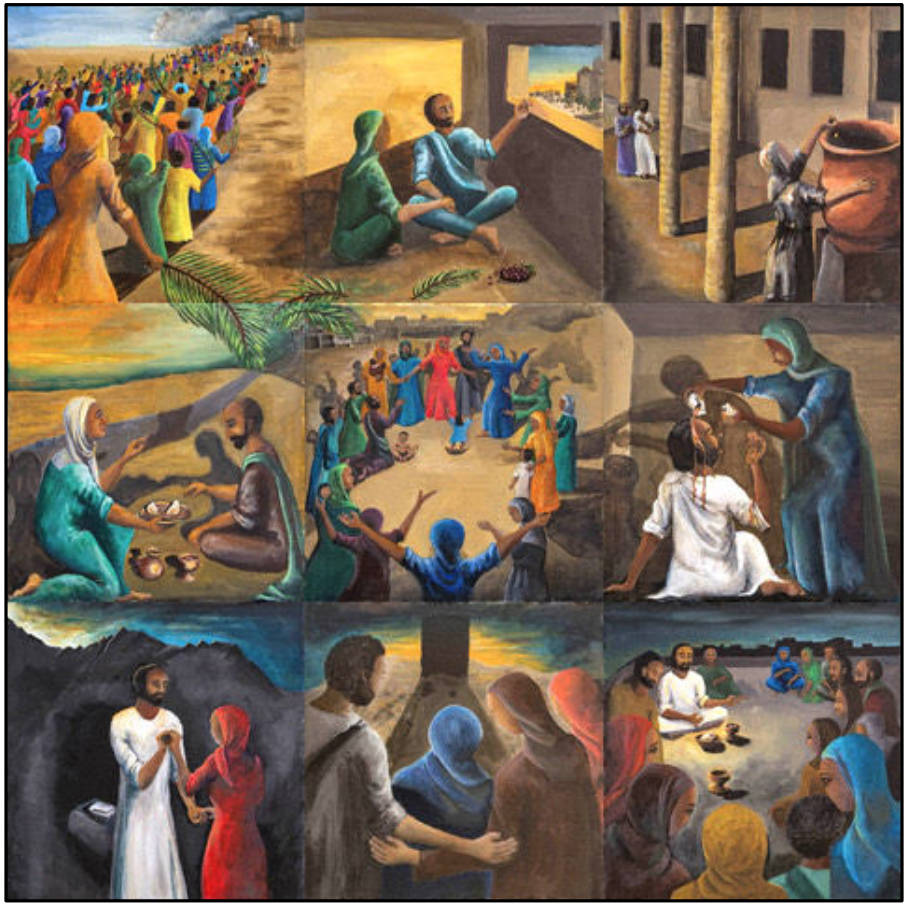


Parish of Pontefract St Giles with St Mary



April 2023



How did the Passion Flower get its name?

Learn about the fascinating story on page 10, in an article by our new contributor, Margaret Cowley.

The Vicar writes..

*God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom
And God's weakness is stronger than human strength*
1 Corinthians 1:25

The start of April this year marks the beginning of Holy Week. Palm Sunday follows April Fool's Day, a secular holiday. The language used might not have been the same, but many who watched Jesus ride into Jerusalem on a donkey, seated on a humble beast (in contrast to the power and authority inherent in the emperor's fine stallions), might have muttered under their breath an Aramaic or Greek version of 'You Fool!'

Days later, after Jesus' arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane and the subsequent trials before religious and secular leaders; after the placing of the crown of crowns upon his wearied head, and then the nails driven into his hands and feet, the wooden cross no longer lain on his shoulders but bearing his bodies full weight; after the sign above his head mocked him as 'King of the Jews', then the words 'You Fool!' must have been again muttered once again on the lips of those who passed by and those who watched from a distance. 'You fool!'

The Hebrews of Jesus' day couldn't accept a Saviour that didn't conform to their image of a conquering Messiah that would liberate them from Roman occupation. The Greeks couldn't accept a God that was too weak to save Himself from being nailed to a cross.

In Paul's first letter to the Corinthians, he writes, on the one hand, that 'the way of the cross is foolishness' to those who ridicule its message of reconciliation with God. But on the other hand, 'it is the power of God' to those who find 'salvation' in the loving embrace of the open and outstretched hands of the Saviour of the world. The cross has saving power.

Holy Week invites us to be 'fools for Christ' in the sense that in making the journey where we intentionally trace Jesus' footsteps, we lay ourselves open to ridicule and mocking, to the pity of those who think the ways of Christians are strange. It's more comfortable to be there for Palm Sunday singing the 'hallelujahs and then returning to 'rejoice' on Easter Sunday, missing out the humility and watching of Maundy Thursday and the agony of Good Friday.

Each Holy Week we are invited onto holy ground to contemplate afresh the 'folly of the cross.' Let us not pass by with our usual busyness, but take time to be there in company with each other, even if some think us foolish. >>>>

1. O dearest Lord, thy sacred head
with thorns was pierced for me;
O pour thy blessing on my head
that I may think for thee.

2. O dearest Lord, thy sacred hands
with nails were pierced for me;
O shed thy blessing on my hands
that they may work for thee.

3. O dearest Lord, thy sacred feet
with nails were pierced for me;
O pour thy blessing on my feet
that they may follow thee.

4. O dearest Lord, thy sacred heart
with spear was pierced for me;
O pour thy Spirit in my heart
that I may live for thee.

Fr Andrew. S.D.C 1869-1946

May you experience afresh the Blessings of Easter Joy
at the end of the journey.

Mothers' UNION

Monday 3rd April

We meet in Church at 1.30pm.

Our speaker is Lynne, who will give her
talk on 'Godly Play'

Tea and biscuits to follow

Everyone is always welcome.

Dates to remember

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

For all **Services in Holy Week**: please see page 5.

Women of Holy Week: see p4 for details.

- Monday 3rd April: **Mothers' Union**: Godly Play 1.30pm
- Wednesday 5th April: **Chocolate Tombola**: 9.30 - 12 noon
- Friday 14th April: **Organ Recital**: 1pm
- Thursday 27th April: **Fashion Show**: see p11 for details
- Saturday 22nd April: **The Childrens' Society Collection Day**
see p6 for details
- Friday 5th May: **Organ Recital**: 1pm
- Saturday 6th May: **Coronation of HM the King**
and HM the Queen Consort
-  St Giles' Bellringers: **Ring for the King** TBA
- Sunday 7th May: A **special service** commemorating the
Coronation of King Charles III: 4pm
Refreshments after the service.

The deadline for submissions to the May/June magazine is
Sunday 23rd April.

During Holy Week, across the benefice, during our services, we will incorporate reflective readings from Paula Gooder's book **'Women of Holy Week'** (CHP, 2022). The following is taken from the opening of the book to introduce the reflections that follow. They were first read as part of services of Compline Holy Week 2021 in Southwark Cathedral.

'As we journey together through the passion of our Lord, we gather together as companions on the way with strangers and with friends with those we have known for many years and those we haven't yet met in person. And as we travel together in reflection and in prayer, our focus is on Jesus- the one whose suffering and death, whose resurrection and new life draws us together and makes us one. It is together as God's people that we accompany Jesus in this last week of his life and as we do so we join countless others who have trod this way before us.

This weeks, meditations and reflection focus on people, particularly on the people who accompany Jesus in the last week of his life. A few years ago, I was reflecting on this task of imagination, of placing ourselves in our minds into the story of Jesus, and the early church. When I imagined Jesus and his disciples, the early church and the earliest followers, nearly everyone was a man. There was hardly a woman in sight. You may be thinking to yourself that there is a reason for this. The New Testament encourages us in this direction. The stories and discussions, the Gospels and Epistles have what you might call a strongly male cast. There are not many roles for women. And yet they were there: sometimes named, sometimes not; sometimes speaking, often silent.

You may be familiar with the Bechdel test in fiction and film. To pass the test two female characters need to have a conversation of a reasonable length about a subject other than a man. Even today, only 50% of films would normally pass the test. We can, I'm sure, all agree that the Bible as a whole, let alone the Gospels, would not fare well under this scrutiny. Over the course of the past few years, however, I've tried in writing and in sermons and in other ways to re-populate my own biblical imagination with women. Women who were there, but whom we often miss, or simply forget. In these stories I have tried to draw attention to the women who were there, lurking in the background of the stories, key characters but often overlooked.

Over the course of the stories, I have imagined what it might have been like to accompany Jesus in this final week of his life from the perspective of women. Some of whom we know with certainty were there because the gospels tell us they were there: the widow with two coins, the woman with the ointment of pure nard, Mary wife of Clopas, Mary Magdalene, Mary mother of Jesus. Some were not mentioned at all, but someone like them was probably present: a woman journeying to Jerusalem for the Passover, the wife of a scribe, and a female disciple at the Last Supper. I have also aimed to travel from the outside in: from people who had the most fleeting encounters with Jesus at the start of the week to his most devoted followers at the end'.

Palm Sunday evening at All Saints- Miriam's story

Monday of Holy Week at St Mary's- Sarah's story

Tuesday of Holy Week at All Saints- Anna's story

Wednesday of Holy Week at St Giles- Susannah's story

St Giles:

Maundy Thursday- Joanna's story/Good Friday- Salome's story/Easter Sunday- Mary Magdalene's story

Accompanying art © Ally Barrett (www.reverendally.org) used by permission.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES 2023

(all at St Giles unless otherwise indicated)

Sunday 2nd April (Palm Sunday)

St Mary's: 9.00am Morning Worship on Palm Sunday

10.15am Parish Eucharist (includes reading of the Passion Story)

All Saints: 6.30pm Sung Evening Prayer inc 'Women of Holy Week' reading: Miriam

Monday in Holy Week

8.45am Morning Prayer

St Mary's: 7.00pm Compline inc 'Women of Holy Week' reading: Sarah



HOLY WEEK

Tuesday in Holy Week

8.45am Morning Prayer

All Saints: 7.00pm Compline inc 'Women of Holy Week' reading: Anna

Wednesday in Holy Week

8.45am Morning Prayer

9.30am Mass

7.00pm Sung Compline inc 'Women of Holy Week' reading: Susannah

Maundy Thursday

8.45am Morning Prayer

(11.00am Chrism Mass at Wakefield Cathedral)

7.00pm Eucharist of the Lord's Supper inc Women of Holy Week reading: Joanna

Vigil until 9.00pm

Good Friday

8.45am Morning Prayer

10.00 - 11.00am Children's Stations of the Cross inc refreshments

12.00pm procession then 12.15pm Ecumenical Service around the Buttercross

2.00pm Liturgy of Good Friday inc Women of Holy Week reading: Salome

Easter Day 9th April

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) inc Women of Holy Week reading: Mary Magdalene

St Mary's: 9.00am Said Holy Communion

10.15am Sung Parish Eucharist

Sunday after Easter (16th April)

10.15am Parish Eucharist

St Mary's: 4.00pm Messy Church

THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

The annual street collection/flag day will be held on Saturday 22nd April in Pontefract town centre. If you can help for half-hour or more during the day please contact Bill Bradley tel. 01977 613643 and/or sign your name on the list in reception.
Many thanks.



Pontefract Appeals Committee

THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY HOME BOXES

"Bringing-in Day" is being held on Saturday 22nd April between 9.00am and 12.00noon.

Alternatively please bring boxes to church anytime during April. Please contact me if you do not currently have a Children's Society Box and would like to have one in your home or workplace.

Angela Bradley – Tel. 01977 613643.

Every young person deserves a good childhood

The
Children's
Society

That's why we fight for the hope and happiness of young people when it's threatened by abuse, exploitation and neglect. We see the hope and courage in young people every day, and it inspires us to support them through their most serious life challenges.

Now we're stepping up the fight for hope and happiness at a time when it's under threat like never before. Together we can
#ProtectEveryChildhood
and achieve long-lasting change for this generation and the ones to come.

Easter morning, the ‘Other’ Mary

As the traditional Easter story is rehearsed again this month, you may notice that there is one name that frequently occurs. It is that of the ‘other’ Mary – not the mother of Jesus, but Mary of Magdalene, who stood by her at the cross and became the first person actually to meet the risen Christ.

That’s quite a record for a woman who, the Gospels tell us, had been delivered by Jesus from ‘seven devils’ – New Testament language for some dark and horrible affliction of body, mind or spirit. As a result, her devotion to Him was total and her grief at His death overwhelming.

In church history Mary Magdalene became the ‘fallen woman’ a harlot who was rescued and forgiven by Jesus. There is no evidence to prove she was a ‘fallen woman’ but the contrast is sublime: Mary the virgin mother, the symbol of purity; Mary Magdalene, the scarlet woman who was saved and forgiven, the symbol of redemption. Surely, we all fall somewhere between those two extremes.

The dark cloud from which she was delivered may have been sexual, we are not told. What we do know is that the two Marys stood together at the cross, the Blessed Virgin and the woman rescued from who knows what darkness and despair.

The second great moment for her was as unexpected as it was momentous. She had gone with other women to the tomb of Jesus and found it empty. An angelic figure told them that Jesus was not there, He had risen. The others drifted off, but Mary stayed, reluctant to leave it like that. She became aware of a man nearby, whom she took to be the gardener. She explained to him that the body of ‘her Lord’ had been taken away and she didn’t know where to find Him.

The man simply said her name ‘Mary’ and she instantly realised it *was* Jesus. She made to hug Him, but He told her not to touch Him because His resurrection was not yet complete. She was, however, to go to the disciples and tell them she had met Him. She did – but they wouldn’t believe her.

Her words – ‘I have seen the Lord’ – echo down the centuries, the very beating heart of the Christian gospel.

The Parish Pump: Editorial, April 2023

Hi everyone. We at St Mary's church would like to celebrate Easter by sharing a poem about Lent, written by Gerard Manley Hopkins and entitled Barnfloor and Winepress.

And he said, If the Lord do not help thee, whence shall I help thee? out of the barnfloor, or out of the winepress?

Thou that on sin's wages starvest,
Behold we have the joy in harvest:
For us was gather'd the first fruits,
For us was lifted from the roots,
Sheaved in cruel bands, bruised sore,
Scourged upon the threshing-floor;
Where the upper mill-stone roof'd His head,
At morn we found the heavenly Bread,
And, on a thousand altars laid,
Christ our Sacrifice is made!

Thou whose dry plot for moisture gapes,
We shout with them that tread the grapes:
For us the Vine was fenced with thorn,
Five ways the precious branches torn;
Terrible fruit was on the tree
In the acre of Gethsemane;
For us by Calvary's distress
The wine was racked from the press;
Now in our altar-vessels stored
Is the sweet Vintage of our Lord.

In Joseph's garden they threw by
The riv'n Vine, leafless, lifeless, dry:
On Easter morn the Tree was forth,
In forty days reach'd heaven from earth;
Soon the whole world is overspread;
Ye weary, come into the shade.

The field where He has planted us
Shall shake her fruit as Libanus,
When He has sheaved us in His sheaf,
When He has made us bear his leaf. -
We scarcely call that banquet food,
But even our Saviour's and our blood,
We are so grafted on His wood.

Gerard Manley Hopkins

A special **Book of Daily Prayers** has been produced by Church House Publishing. As the King and Queen Consort prepare to solemnise the promises and commitments they make to the nations and people they represent, the Church will begin 28 days of prayer and spiritual preparation alongside the King – praying with and for the King from Easter Sunday to the Coronation.

Copies of the booklet are available in church for you to take away and use. If you would like to make a donation of £1.00 per copy that would be gratefully received.



CARING FOR EACH OTHER....

If you haven't seen someone for a while, please either try and find out how they are or let us know and we will try and make contact. Please also ask the person if they would like to go on the service prayer list (using their full name or just first name). A note to us giving a contact number or address of the person concerned often helps.

The Passion Flower

Passiflora caerulea

It is nearly Easter time and my thoughts turn to the Passion Flower and the meanings attached to the specific parts of this plant.

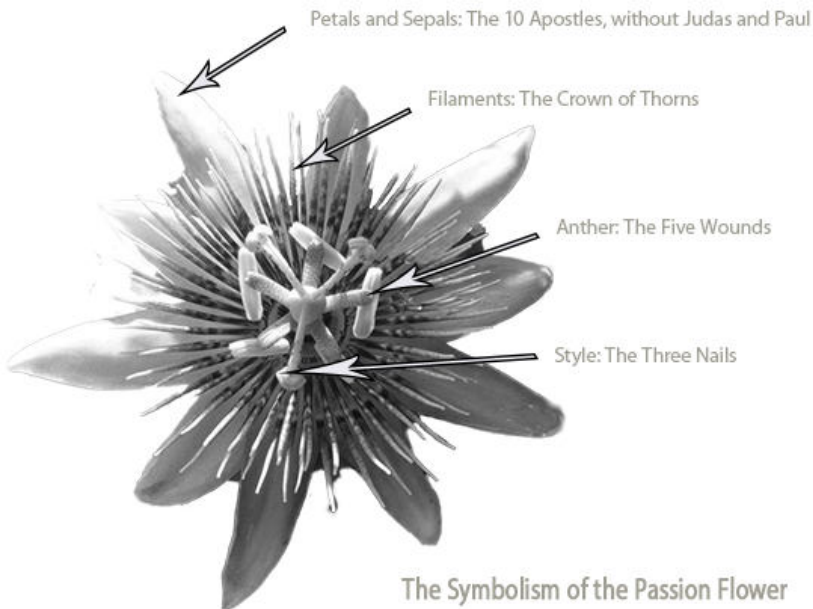
There is a legend that early Spanish missionaries in South America looked around for the presence of Christ in the strange and exotic landscape. They found it in a curious flower which grew on one of the vines which clambered up the trees. There, clearly laid out, were the signs of Christ's Passion. Leaving legend and turning to history, it is recorded that Roman Catholic priests used the Passion Flower to illustrate the story of the Crucifixion to the Indian tribes they converted to Christianity.

The Passion Flower which grows quite happily in our garden has white flowers which are flushed pink, with blue and purple banded crowns. The fruit is like a small orange plum, but we have never dared to taste it. Even though some types have red flowers or pink or purple, they all seem to have blue and purple banded crowns.

Some varieties, of course, need to be grown indoors, as they are not hardy enough for the British climate. In Mauritius we found Passion Flower plants growing as a weed, covering an area of waste land.

There are some 550 species of the genus Passiflora, found mostly in Mexico, Central America, the USA and South America. (Ed.)

Margaret Cowley



MISSIONS COMMITTEE



Missions will once again be holding our **annual Chocolate Tombola stall** outside church
on **Wednesday 5th April 2023**
starting at 9.30 a.m. and finishing at noon.



Donations of chocolate products and Easter eggs would be greatly appreciated and can be handed to Missions Committee members.
(Sheila Roydhouse, Barbara Lavine, Hilary Plumbley and Edie Barber)

Fashion Show

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COMPLETE
CLOTHING
COMPANY

7.00pm, Thursday, 27th April 2023

at St Giles' Church, Pontefract

In aid of St Giles' Church and
St Giles' Mothers' Union charities.

Admission £7.00

Refreshments and Raffle available

PARISH MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions for a printed copy of the magazine are now due at a cost of £10 for the next year - we hope you will continue to support the church through this publication. Please let David Leigh have your subscriptions as soon as possible, preferably in cash, by bank transfer or even by scanning the QR code—just let David know.



If you receive a digital copy of the magazine by email, a donation would also be very welcome.

It's been lovely to have an influx of little ones into St Giles 3:16 in March.

As we entered Lent we spoke about the temptations of Jesus and we tempted them with some new toys they weren't allowed to play with until they were told they could.



We asked the children to think about what they liked to do on Sundays and draw some pictures. They came up with ideas like having Sunday

dinner, going to Nostell with Grandma & Grandpa, riding on roller skates, playing with Olaf, going to church, serving in church and going out in the car. Lynne spoke about the difference for Jesus on the Sabbath: growing up in a Jewish household his family weren't allowed to do anything considered as work from Friday evening to Saturday evening.

We told the story of Jairus' daughter who was very sick and her daddy ran to Jesus who agreed to come at once. In those days they didn't have ambulances so he had to go by foot. If Jesus didn't get there soon it would be too late. But everyone was hustling and bustling, squishing and squashing. Suddenly Jesus stopped; what was he doing? 'Who touched me?' Jesus asked. 'Me' said a frail lady. She had been sick for 12 years. She knew if she could just touch Jesus' coat she would be healed. He looked into her eyes and smiled 'You



'You

believed and now you are well'.

Just then Jairus' servant rushed over to them and said it was too late, the little girl was dead. 'It's not too late' Jesus said 'Trust me.' Jesus said to the little girl, 'It's time to get up.' The girl woke up, rubbed her eyes as if she had been asleep



and leapt out of bed. Jesus was mending God's broken world. We asked the children how they thought the lady felt who had been healed, how the daddy felt when he thought it was too late and then his daughter was alive. We asked how the news about Jesus would spread as there were no phones, newspapers or tv.

Steph



(See the lovely pictures in full colour on the inside back page.)

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



When did the custom of giving chocolate eggs at Easter first begin?



Could it be from the mid 1900s when the Easter Bunny first hopped on to the scene?

In the 1800s egg shaped presents were being made from many materials: porcelain, wax and precious metals. Fabergé made jewelled eggs for the Russian czars, which are now worth millions.*

Chocolate eggs were first made in 1873 by J.S.Fry & Sons, followed in 1875 by Cadbury's, who in the run up to Easter now make one and a half million Crème Eggs every day.

In 1307, King Edward I gave 18 pence for 450 eggs to be boiled and then covered in gold leaf for his friends.

In earlier times, eggs were given as Springtime presents. A decorated egg, five thousand years old, was found in an Egyptian tomb, but an engraved ostrich egg has been found in Africa that is sixty thousand years old.

An Anglo-Saxon legend tells how the goddess Eostre found a wounded bird and transformed it into a hare so that it could survive the winter. In the spring, the hare found it could lay eggs, so it left decorated eggs as an offering to Eostre. So it is only a short hop to the Easter Bunny!

Long, long ago, the Phoenicians and Hindus believed the world began as an enormous egg, this becoming a symbol of new life.

It is not sure when Springtime egg gifts were adopted by Christians. In the Middle Ages eggs were a forbidden food during Lent, so the appearance of them on Easter Sunday would have been very welcome.

One belief is that the egg represents the cave in which Jesus was cocooned; another thought is that the egg is like the stone blocking his tomb. It is rolled away to reveal the truth of Christ's resurrection.

There is a legend that Mary Magdalene went to the Roman emperor with a basket of eggs. She said, "Christ is risen." The emperor replied, "That is no more true than that those eggs are red." Immediately, all the eggs turned as red as the blood of Christ.

In 2023 you can buy an egg from Claridges for £55, or one from Fortnum & Mason for £95. A platinum egg from Menē would set you back £1671.97 (+tax!)

Joyce Ballamy

**An unknown private collector owns the most expensive Fabergé egg, the Third Imperial Easter Egg, valued at \$33 million. (Ed.)*

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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



Pontefract Probus Club

If you want to make new friends, enjoy a chat at a regular coffee morning twice a month then consider Pontefract Probus Club, which was started over 50 years ago. Members reside in Pontefract, Castleford and surrounding area.

Pontefract Probus Club hold two meetings per month on the second and fourth Tuesdays at the Carleton Grange Community Centre. Starts 10.00a.m. for coffee, and 10.30 a.m. for a meeting which is mainly consists of interesting talks given by professional speakers on a wide variety of subjects like local history, geography, industry and many other events and people. All for the price of a coffee.

Probus Clubs are clubs for male and female retired or semi-retired people from all walks of life. We are a non-political, non-sectarian and non-profit, autonomous club.

CONTACT US for more information

Kebir Berry 01977 793982 Treasurer

David Hogg 07910564141 President

Norman Dale 01977 703443 Vice President

John Colvill 01977 704864 Past President



The Parish of St Giles' with St Mary's
Market Place, Pontefract WF8 1AT

Organ Recitals 2023
Fridays at 1.00pm
(unless otherwise stated)

Come and join us on the following dates:

April 14 th	David Baker
April 21 st	NCP
May 5 th	John <u>Dunford</u>
June 2 nd	Scott <u>Senogles</u>
July 7 th	Sean Montgomery

Friday Admission £5 per recital
(includes tea/coffee served from 12.30pm before
the recital)



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Chris McTigue & Sarah McTigue

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people in your area by donating your
unwanted goods.



CITIZENS ADVICE, WAKEFIELD DISTRICT ST. GILES' ADVICE OUTREACH SERVICE

The National Lottery grant has enabled us to continue to offer a service that has been in operation for a number of years but which was expanded in 2020 in response to the needs of residents during the pandemic and which is now being increasingly used due to the consequences of the cost of living crisis.

The service is offered to local residents of the Pontefract area in a partnership between St. Giles' and Citizens Advice Wakefield District (CAWD). The service offers a weekly presence of a fully qualified Adviser of CAWD who is able to deliver a morning 'drop in' where no appointment is necessary. The adviser is then available to deliver booked full appointment advice in one-to-one's on the premises with clients covering a wide variety of issues. In the past year direct recorded financial benefits for residents achieved via this service are £25,827. There is a rising trend of demand and recent increases in all costs of living will lead to increased demand in the next year.

The main issues dealt with by the outreach Adviser at St. Giles include: benefits (especially PIPs and UC), housing, employment, legal and help in accessing charitable support or food parcels. In the past 12-months the service has seen 142 new clients in addition to existing service users and dealt with 226 issues, including 50 PIPs issues. The service especially benefits elderly or disabled residents. 50% of the clients are aged over 60 and 47% report a disability or long-term health issue. The service is advertised by both partner organisations via social media, leaflets, on our websites and via third sector information sharing. There is also a close working relationship with the local food banks and other services such as the local social prescribing service which all result in referrals directly to the advice service.

By being established and by having an open door 'drop in', all members of the community are able to access help. This may be direct advice from CAWD or via the adviser it could be access to other vital services such as food bank parcels, the St Giles' Food Pantry Club or local welfare vouchers. The links CAWD has with the social prescribing service enable referral into services to help cope with isolation, mental health problems or physical health issues. We are able to learn from the case records of the service what issues are most impacting on local residents and to help (via such bodies as the local Residents Recovery Board) shape other local services to better address needs of local people and to provide holistic wrap round support.

The St. Giles' and Citizens Advice Wakefield District partnership wish to thank National Lottery players for enabling this vital service to continue.



NOTES FROM THE PCC MEETING, HELD 7TH MARCH 2023

Fourteen members of the PCC attended the meeting and apologies were received from two.

The Minutes of the last Meeting held on Tuesday, 31 January 2023 were agreed and accepted. It was noted that the Pontefract Community Showcase at the Town Hall on Saturday, 18th March will now be attended by Messy Church as well as No. 6.

Correspondence has been received from Christian Aid in the form of a 'thank you' for the donation of £465 submitted towards the Turkey/Syrian Earthquake Appeal. A letter has been received from the Bishop of Leeds and Jonathan Wood thanking parishes for their payment of parish share in 2022. Following a meeting of the General Synod in January, it was decided to lower the statutory fees charged for weddings and funerals and new figures have now been received.

The draft Minutes of the **Standing Committee Meeting** held on Tuesday, 7th February were received and accepted. The draft Minutes of the **Centre Management Meeting** held on 9th February were received and accepted. The Minutes of the meeting held at **St Mary's** on 5th February were received and accepted.

The **Fundraising** team have done some brainstorming and a number of events are now in the pipeline, which include: a Fashion Show at St Giles on 27th April at 7.00pm; Strawberry Tea in the summer in Canon June's garden; a Race Night at Kings Croft in the autumn; Harvest Supper in church with outside caterers; Monthly Bric-A-Brac stall; Christmas Draw.

The **APCM** booklet, including the accounts for 2022, required approval and a copy was circulated to all members.

Finance reports were received, which included the summary of receipts and payments to December 2022. This was signed off and will go into the APCM booklet. The new electricity Smart meter requires an engineer to visit before the account can be rectified and bills produced. Donations through the skinny cashless giving device have not been very high. The best location for it is still trying to be found but is limited due to requiring an electrical socket. Ideally a second machine would be beneficial.

Christine Brown is retiring as the Pastoral Manager at St Giles' School and has agreed to take on the role of **Safeguarding** Officer across the benefice. She will be formally appointed at the APCM. The Safeguarding dashboard will be updated with a few more review dates and the requirements for Messy Church are underway.

A **Fabric, Health & Safety** report was received. The North aisle has now been redecorated and the stained-glass windows cleaned. There is just one window remaining to be cleaned which will be done after Easter. Two reports have now been received for the installation of solar panels on the south aisle roof. A third company, who has installed panels on Chester Cathedral, will also be visiting to carry out a survey and produce a report. The faculty process has begun, and a planning application will be submitted. As previously mentioned, an engineer is required to visit the smart meter. A request will be made to move this from under the organ to the cupboard by the toilets. This will allow quick isolation in the event of the emergency services being called.

A report was received from the **Deanery Synod** meeting which highlighted the new Barnabas Project. Maureen Gummerson has further details on this if anyone requires them.

Chair's Notes: The Coronation takes place on Saturday, 6th May. The church will be closed on this day as well as on Monday, 8th May. The Church of England has produced guidance and liturgy for services. Evensong would normally take place on the 7th, which would be an ideal opportunity to invite people to the service and provide refreshments afterwards. Ring for the King is also to take place and

the bell ringers have already started practising. An Anthem has been produced for the coronation and details have been sent to the DOM with the hope that the choir might be able to sing it. The Church of England has produced a book of Daily Prayers for the Coronation of King Charles III, covering Easter through to 6 May. It was agreed to purchase 50 of these for members of the congregation.

Date of next meeting is scheduled as Tuesday, 9th May although a brief meeting will be held after the APCM to appoint officers.

The meeting closed with Compline, led by Fr Sam Fletcher.

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

Even as Jesus ate that last Passover meal with His disciples, He warned them He was about to be betrayed. He took the bread, blessed it, broke it and gave it to them; He took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them to drink. The Old Covenant, based on Law, was ticking away its final hours; the New Covenant, based on Christ's body and His blood, was about to be ushered in. Jesus prayed in Gethsemane that this fearful cup of suffering might be removed from Him, but even more, that God's will might be done. And it was. Because of Easter we can approach God through his Son, Jesus Christ. He has opened the gates to heaven for us!

A Stitch in Time



Alterations for all occasions

Sarah Brightmore
Owner

sarahsbright1996@gmail.com

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The doctor and the ill person



JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS



ON ONE OCCASION JESUS CALLED MATTHEW - A TAX COLLECTOR TO BE HIS FOLLOWER.

JESUS EVEN WENT TO MATTHEW'S HOME.



THIS SET PEOPLE'S TONGUES WAGGING. THEY THOUGHT JESUS WAS LETTING THE SIDE DOWN!

BUT JESUS EXPLAINED THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT TO TALK TO EVERYONE!

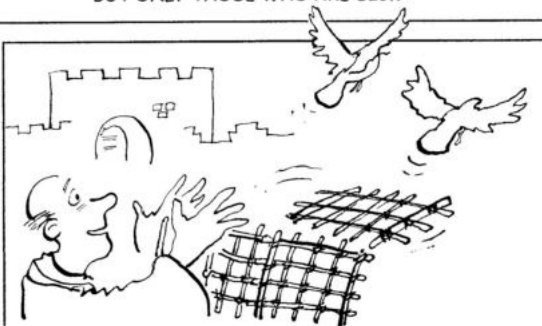
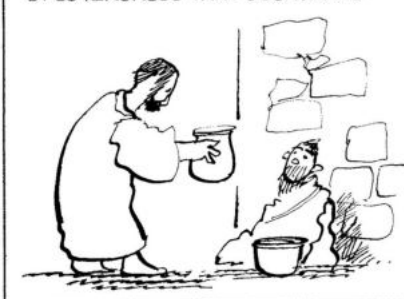


"PEOPLE WHO ARE WELL DO NOT NEED A DOCTOR"



"BUT ONLY THOSE WHO ARE SICK"

"IT IS KINDNESS THAT GOD WANTS"



"NOT ANIMAL SACRIFICES!" see Matthew Ch. 9 v.9-13



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

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.

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Telephone 0808 223 1133

Email us via

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Web chat with us at

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Canon June Lawson
Fr Sam Fletcher
Fr Michael Taylor (Honorary Priest)
Fr Rod Walker

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

Jill Clapham Licensed Lay Minister (Reader)
Tony Williams Pastoral Minister

Tel: 07740869346
Tel: 07919412797

Sunday Services

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

<http://www.stgilespontefract.org/weekly-notice-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.

PCC Vice Chairman

Barbara Sessford 699058

St Giles Good Share, No.6 The Circle

Paul and Ann Harris 07808 808977

Churchwardens

Bruce Dagleish 07809 760993

Barbara Sessford 699058

Peter Lavine 07910 377989

Pam Mercer 07999 807344

Mothers' Union Leader/Secretary

Marjorie Laidlaw 795748

Children's Society Box Secretary

Angela Bradley 613643

PCC Secretary/Parish Administrator

Vivienne Smales 790448

stgileschurchpontefract@gmail.com

Missions Committee Secretary

Edith Barber 277226

PCC Treasurer

David Leigh 706526

Pro-Wardens at St Mary's

Frank Ward

Organist and Choir Director

James MacDonald 790448

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Delia Perrett 796223

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Adrian Garner 690154

St Mary's Church Meeting Chair

Fr Michael Taylor 702824

Parish Magazine Editor

Bruce Dagleish 690216

St Mary's Community Centre

Manager: Denise Pallett 705341

St Giles' Altar Flowers

Barbara Chessman 700559

St Giles' Church School (aided)

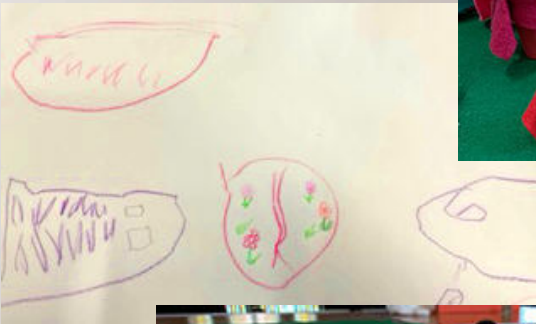
Head teacher: Richard Grace 794175

St Giles' Pantomime Society Chair

Andy Weston 07791 656820

Photograph on back cover: Razzie the border terrier investigates the violets, growing wild in the woods between Fairburn Ings Nature Reserve and the village of Ledsham.

Giles 3"16



With thanks to Steph for the article on pp 12-13 and the photos....

... and to the kids for their lovely artwork.

