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*Parish of Pontefract  
St Giles with St Mary*



*July/August 2023*



Diocese of Rochester  
called together

## ANNOUNCING THE NEW CHAPLAIN TO THE BISHOP OF ROCHESTER

"I am very pleased to be offered the opportunity to join the bishop's staff as chaplain and will enjoy getting to know and to work with clergy, laity, diocesan and cathedral staff within the diocese."

*The Rev Canon June Lawson*



## *Hello and Goodbye*

*So we'll stand together and sing a joyous tune.  
Welcome, thrice welcome to our own Canon June.*

*Unbelievably, it's not yet five years since writing that welcome rhyme.  
So much has happened during that topsy-turvy time.  
Canon June led the services, sometimes sermons from Canon John  
Then in the blink of an eyelid all of it had gone.  
Evil Covid had struck a blow, at home we all must stay,  
In lonely isolation to worship, praise and pray.  
But Good Shepherd Canon June would not desert her flock;  
Rising every morning she donned her ecclesiastical frock.  
In empty church, wrestling with camera, microphone and cable  
So that by the magic of television we could join her at God's table.  
Eventually we could get back, apart, masked and sanitised:  
It felt so good to be back together in a building sanctified.  
Now Canon June is on the move, she will be sorely missed:  
Friend, comforter, adviser, teacher and campanologist.  
We hope she will remember us with laughter and with smiles  
As she will always be remembered by all of us at St Giles'.*

Joyce Bellamy

## FORMAL NOTICE OF CANON JUNE'S MOVE TO ROCHESTER DIOCESE AS CHAPLAIN TO THE BISHOP OF ROCHESTER.

On Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> June, the announcement was made in St Giles, St Mary's and All Saints and more widely in the Diocese of Leeds and Rochester (in Kent) that I have been appointed as Chaplain to the Bishop of Rochester starting in September working with his staff team at Bishops court. John will be taking early retirement, but will have opportunity to explore exercising ministry in ways that fit a greatly reduced workload.

This feels the hardest decision that we have made, but going closer to our family is key to the decision. Our son's family will be 6 miles away (in Maidstone) and our daughter's family an hour (near Twickenham). I have loved our time in Pontefract and the privilege of parish ministry amongst you all, but know that it is now important to make it possible to enjoy being much closer to our family, including grandchildren.

As hard as it is to leave Pontefract, I count it an honour to be invited to take on the role of Bishop's Chaplain in Rochester Diocese with the opportunity to serve the Bishop and wider church in this way for what will be the final part of my ministry (ahead of retirement in coming years!). However, for both of us saying goodbye to you all will not be easy.

**My last Sunday and formal ending of ministry in the parish will be August 13<sup>th</sup>. We will have a joint morning service for all the benefice churches at St Giles.**

I will leave behind wonderful colleagues who will continue ministry amongst you, not least Fr Sam continuing his curacy still very much full time amongst you into summer of next year.

But until the formal farewell, it is business as usual!!

My blessings to you all,

Canon June



The Vicar writes...

I sometimes wonder whether novelists, when they begin crafting a story have a complete picture of where the story will end and what might happen along the way. How much of their storytelling emerges on route rather than being completely thought out at the start? Clearly, they will have characters in mind, a setting and a plot (many plots!). Possibly they will have numerous endings, even for novels. We are often told in the newspapers how the writers of soap operas often have a variety of resolutions to a crisis and nobody knows which ending will be chosen until the screening! Such is the stuff of fiction in books and on screen.

But if you and I track back through our lives we perhaps see something similar, we can remember our well laid out plans for family and work life, underpinned by our hopes, our dreams, our intentions. And then the realities of life shape things differently and where we end up and the experiences along the way might not be what was in our thinking when we set out. The changes encountered might feel like a mixture of 'I'm so glad that life shaped up differently' or 'I really wish that hadn't happened along the way it's now changed everything.' In the whole scheme of things, our lives can then feel all the richer or all the poorer, and many shades in-between, dependent on how we integrate what life has put before us for good or ill.

When I listen to people pondering their lives' journey, with all the privilege that entails, you get a sense of whether people see their story as being held within the greater story of God's loving purposes that gives meaning to the vicissitudes of life. To do so is not quite the *Que sera, sera* of 'whatever will be, will be, the future's not ours to see' with its fatalistic spin that life is out of our hands and we are powerless to change the story. To see our lives as held within the bigger story of God's creating, sustaining and redeeming of his world is a response of faith not a submission to the realities of fate at work in our lives for good or bad.

As we read our Bibles and pray, as we share in the holy sacrament of Christ's body and blood, as we share in fellowship together as part of God's family, as we encounter God's good creation, walking along life's way, alone or in company with others, we will encounter the invitation to hold who we are and all that matters to us within all that God is. 'Your story indwells God's' writes Max Lucado, the author of 'God's story, your story'.

Since 2019, it has been my privilege and joy to live out another chapter of my story (held within God's greater story) as parish priest in Pontefract. God's grace and goodness brought me here as your vicar. I am hugely thankful that my life and ministry have been enriched in so many different ways through being here amongst you all. John and I know that the beginnings and endings of ministry as rooted in Christian churches are never in our hands alone. We trust that God will continue to guide us in this next chapter of our lives as we move to Rochester to be closer to family and that under a new vicar, he will enable the flourishing of the Christian communities we have come to love, in this town of Pontefract.

Canon June Lawson

# **DEANERY "QUIET DAY"**

**at Archbishop Holgate Hospital**

**(Robin Lane, Hemsworth, WF9 4EG)**

**Saturday, 1st July 2023**

**Theme: 'Faith in times of doubt'**

The pattern of the day:

10.00am Arrival with tea and coffee in Ebor Hall

10.30am Introduction, housekeeping and first address in the Chapel. Quiet begins.

12.00pm Eucharist and second address

12:30pm Lunch (bring own, T&C available)

2:30pm Prayers in the chapel

3.00pm Tea and depart

To book a place, please contact Jo Byrne—  
Secretary.Pontefract@leeds.anglican.org



# Dates to remember

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

Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> July: **Deanery 'Quiet Day'** see poster opposite

Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> July: **Choral Evensong** 4pm

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> July: **Mothers' Union: Afternoon Tea**

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> July: **Organ Recital**

Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> July: **The Childrens' Society Collection Day**  
see p8 for details

Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> July: **Confirmation Service** 10.15

Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> July: **Messy Church** at St Mary's 4.00pm

Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> August: **Canon June's last Sunday:** A joint morning service for  
all the churches in the benefice of Pontefract 10.15am

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> August: **Messy Church** at St Mary's 4.00pm

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> September: **Patronal Festival** 10.15

**Songs of Praise Hymn Fest** 4.00

The deadline for submissions to the September magazine is  
**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> August**

## YEARS' MIND FOR JULY & AUGUST 2023

### JULY

- 3 Janet Cutting
- 9 Frederick Legay Murray  
Elsie May Thompson
- 10 Gladys Walker
- 14 Margaret Illidge  
Anne Taylor
- 19 Stan Mann
- 20 Violet Crosland
- 21 Brian Johnson Lawson  
Doreen Shorthouse
- 25 Bob Grice
- 28 Gayle Ablethorpe  
Clifford Bratt  
Elsie Milnes

### AUGUST

- 4 Marina Schorah
- 5 John Malcolm Darling  
Norman Tetlow
- 6 Lillian Ipson  
James (LJ) Lawley  
Dennis Lavin

### AUGUST (cont'd)

- 10 Hilda Haigh
- 11 Patrick Brennan
- 12 Iris Lavin
- 13 Ernest Tetlow
- 14 Kathleen Beaumont  
Eric Dagleish  
Harper Williams
- 16 Geraldine Rushton
- 18 Judith Lawrance
- 19 Ella Vivian Howarth  
Eric Rushton
- 21 Michael Whitcombe (Priest)  
Norman Hemstock
- 25 Isabella Jackson  
John Sanderson
- 26 Alice Ainslie
- 28 Peter Hemstock
- 29 Alan Cutting
- 30 Annie Hayward
- 31 Gerry Davis



## CONFIRMATION

On **Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> July at 10.15am**, Bishop Mark Sowerby is coming to St Giles' for a service of **Confirmation**. You can still be confirmed, just speak with us.

We pray for those to be confirmed: Ewan MacDonald, Amelia MacDonald, Andrew Siddons, Joshua Siddons and Caitlin Siddons.



## Mothers' UNION

Our next meeting is **MONDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> JULY**. This will be our summer Afternoon Tea. We hope you can all make it.

Last Wednesday's bric-à-brac stall raised £66.00 with a further £50 made on the woolly stall.

Thanks to all who donated or bought!



**Outside St Giles Church, Pontefract**

**Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2023**

**Tombola ★ Bric-a-Brac ★ Plants**

**Cakes and Preserves ★ Books ★ CD's and DVD's**

**Children's Toys. ★ Jigsaws**

*The Children's Society, driven by the belief that every child deserves a good childhood, provides vital help and understanding for children who face danger, discrimination or disadvantage in their daily lives.*

**Help us give children back their childhood  
by providing any of the above items, which should be  
handed in prior to the day if possible clearly marked  
"The Children's Society"  
or handed to Angela, Bill or Barbara at any time.**

**Thank You**

Pontefract & District Appeals Committee

## **Pontefract Foodbank**

It's now 8 months since the Foodbank started to hold its weekly food collection and advice sessions at St Giles on Thursdays. Having been closed since the lockdown of March 2020 relying from September 2020 on driver deliveries instead of inviting people to the Foodbank for their food parcels and a chat, this was a huge step for the Foodbank to take and one which would have been even more daunting without the support of St Giles. So everyone at St Giles please accept our thanks for helping us to get started again and to keep going.

Recently, we have been especially grateful to St Giles for the practical support given to families juggling with multiple problems – support which could not be obtained from the statutory services. We have received very many thanks from local people and these thanks should also be extended to St Giles'. We started our sessions at St Giles last October with a new venture partnering with Wakefield Citizens Advice to help people tackle the underlying factors triggering foodbank use. Thanks to the input of a dedicated team of advisers who meet folk on Thursday mornings during our sessions and provide a telephone “ring-back” service to people unable to come to St Giles, Citizens Advice have calculated that the partnership has secured nearly £80 000 for foodbank users with support provided to claim the benefits to which they are entitled in the 8 months since it was started. Again, we want to thank St Giles for the support provided to make this possible.

The Foodbank would now like to further develop its services to tackle local poverty by piloting a money advice service at St Giles. These money advice sessions targeted at people who are struggling to afford the essentials (a drop-in on Wednesdays 12 – 2 and an appointment session on Thursdays) will mean that in addition to the existing benefits advice service provided at Foodbank sessions, confidential qualified financial advice including debt advice will be available without people needing to travel into Wakefield.

Thank you again, St Giles, for making all this possible.

Pontefract Foodbank



HI! ITZ ME AGEN, RAZZIE.

THERS A PICKCHA OF ME ON  
THE BAK KUPER OF WEN ME AN  
HOODAD WEN TO  
NORFUMBULAND AN VIS IS A  
POME WOT I ROTED:-

Empty\* Adrian bilt a worl

An it woz veree torl.

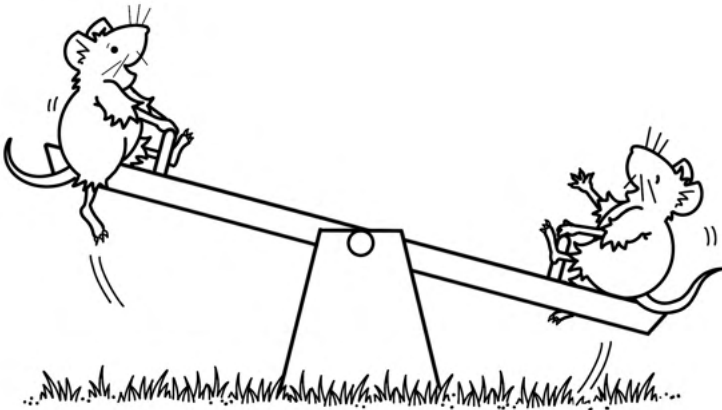
It kepted out ve Scotz an ve Pikts

An urned me sum ekstra treety bix -

An a karut.

*Not quite up to Joyce's standard (see p1) but he's just 3 in August and at least he's given it a go. Full translation available on request. If anybody's pet is able to contribute a poem of their own it would be gratefully received.*

*\* (Razzie does not recognise the authority of invading Romans, or even sometimes that of his hoomum and dad #hoodoveyfinkveyar. Follow him on Twitter at #btposse Sir Rasmus of Longshanks. Ed.)*

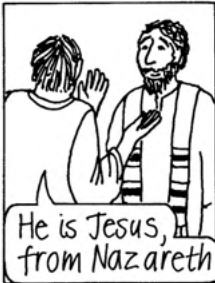
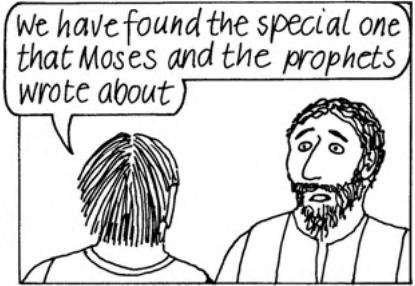


# Bible Bite

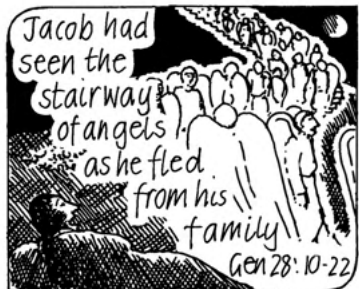
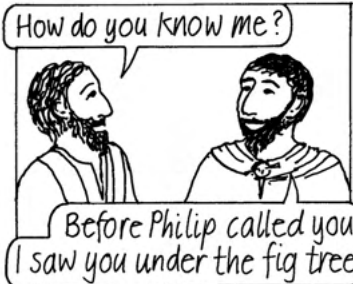
A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in John chapter 1 verses 35 - 51

After Jesus had called Peter and Andrew to be his disciples, he went to find their friend Philip...



Background: the ancestor of the Israelites was Jacob, whose name meant 'Grasper' or 'Cheat', and who cheated his father and brother. God gave him a new start and a new name - Israel - 'Prince of God'. Gen 25, 27, 32



# GOD'S GARDEN

Plant three rows of peas:

Peas of mind  
Peas of heart  
Peas of soul

Plant three rows of squash:

Squash gossip  
Squash grumbling  
Squash selfishness

Plant three rows of lettuce:

Lettuce be faithful  
Lettuce be obedient  
Lettuce love one another

Plant three rows of turnips:

Turnip for services  
Turnip for meetings  
Turnip to help one another

Plant three rows of thyme:

Thyme for God  
Thyme for Bible study  
Thyme for prayer.

And finally –

Water freely with patience,  
Cultivate with love,  
And remember – you will  
only reap what you sow.

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

## Organ Recitals 2023

Fridays at 1.00pm

(unless otherwise stated)

**July 7<sup>th</sup> : Sean Montgomery**

**Friday Admission £5 per recital**

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

Weekly organ concerts are advertised at [www.organrecitals.com](http://www.organrecitals.com)

## **General Synod dates and update on 'Living in Love and Faith' groups**

The next meeting of General Synod will take place in York from Friday 7<sup>th</sup> to Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> July.

The July meeting will include a substantial item on the proposals, which emerged from the Living in Love and Faith process, to enable same-sex couples who have marked a significant stage of their relationship such as a civil marriage or civil partnership to come to church to give thanks, offer prayers of dedication to God and to receive God's blessing.

Following a landmark debate at Synod in February, a series of implementation groups have been set up to take the proposals forward. These include refining a set of draft texts known as 'Prayers of Love and Faith', as well as working on new pastoral guidance for the Church of England and examining what pastoral reassurance will be required to ensure freedom of conscience for clergy and laity.

The Bishop of London, Sarah Mullally, and the Bishop of Truro, Philip Mounstephen, the co-chairs of the steering group overseeing the implementation groups, said: "The working groups set up by the College of Bishops to take forward the decision of General Synod on a way forward for the Church of England on identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage have been working at pace and are making good progress.

"We hope that work to refine the texts of Prayers of Love and Faith, together with aspects of the work of the Pastoral Guidance and Pastoral Reassurance groups, will be in place before the meeting of Synod in York in July.

"We will be bringing a report to Synod updating in more detail on the progress that has been made.

It is anticipated that time could be made available at the November meeting of Synod for any further work required. The next group of sessions will be held in London from Monday 13<sup>th</sup> to Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November.

The Parish Pump: Editorial



## Life-changing Audio Bibles for people with sight loss

At the end of 2021, Torch took “a leap of faith” and ordered 1,000 Pathway audio Bible players containing the New Testament and Psalms read by the actor David Suchet.

Knowing the power of Scripture to change lives, they planned to “give these Bibles for free to anyone in the UK losing their sight. 16 months later, all of these Bible players have been sent out and the stories coming back are so amazing that Torch has ordered 1,000 more.”

Gayle-Ann told us “It is my friend...with me wherever, it is just so convenient. I have read the New Testament, but the way this is read is just easily understood”.

Kenneth wouldn't have called himself a Christian, and hasn't enjoyed audio books, but 'I like listening to the Pathway. I'm really listening to the New Testament now, not just odd verses. I'm realising what it all means.'

Losing sight can be a time of real questioning and searching, so what better gift can a newly blind person receive than the Word of God?

Torch is encouraging anyone who is living with sight loss to contact them for a free audio Bible at [www.torchtrust.org/pathway](http://www.torchtrust.org/pathway) , or by calling 01858 438260.

Most of the first 1,000 players were sponsored by individuals, churches or trusts. Torch is also seeking people to donate £20 to cover the cost of sending out one of the new audio Bibles.

### Church School Test

**For a church school exam, young children were asked questions about the Old and New Testaments. These were some of the (real) results...**

1. In the first book of the Bible, Guinness, God got tired of creating the world, so He took the Sabbath off.
2. Adam and Eve were created from an apple tree. Noah's wife was called Joan of Ark. Noah built an ark and the animals came on in pears.
3. Lot's wife was a pillar of salt during the day, but a ball of fire during the night.
4. The Jews were a proud people and throughout history they had trouble with unsympathetic Genitals.
5. Sampson was a strong man who let himself be led astray by a Jezebel like Delilah.
6. Samson slayed the Philistines with the axe of the Apostles.
7. Moses led the Jews to the Red Sea where they made unleavened bread which is bread without any ingredients.
8. The Egyptians were all drowned in the dessert. Afterwards, Moses went up to Mount Cyanide to get the ten amendments.
9. The first commandment was when Eve told Adam to eat the apple.
10. The seventh Commandment is thou shalt not admit adultery.



# CHORAL EVENSONG

with music sung by the excellent  
St Giles' Church Choir

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**Sunday 2nd July, 4pm**

at St Giles Church, Pontefract

**Admission Free** (Donations Welcome)

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

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

[www.stgilespontefract.org.uk](http://www.stgilespontefract.org.uk) and [www.stgilescentrepontefract.org.uk](http://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](http://wakefelddistrictcab.co.uk)

# A Stitch in Time



*Alterations for all occasions*

*Sarah Brightmore*  
Owner

sarahsbright1996@gmail.com

16 Gillygate  
Pontefract  
WF8 1PQ  
07449501045

# Perfect 10

## Nail Studio

Gillygate, Pontefract

01977 704003

CND Acrylic nail extensions, Glitter and artwork available.

Shellac, Vinylux manicure.

Minx and deluxe Pedicure.

The perfect tan: LA spray tanning now available at *Perfect 10*.

Gift vouchers available

# Tiddlywinks

Service and Fun for the

'Under 5s'

+ their Parent, Grandparent or Carer

## Thursdays

(during term time)

At St Giles' Church

10.30 a.m. till 11.45a.m.

Refreshments available - small donation

COME AND JOIN US



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**Can you find the words in the grid?**

On 3 July the Church remembers St Thomas, also called Doubting Thomas, because he would not believe his fellow disciples' news of the Resurrection. But 'doubt' did not mean that Thomas did not love Jesus! Only a few weeks before, Thomas had urged his fellow disciples to follow Jesus to see

Lazarus in Bethany, despite danger from the Jews. "Let us also go, that we may die with him." (John 11:16) Instead, Jesus had brought Lazarus back to life. Thomas was sometimes very confused about just where Jesus was headed. But in John 14:5 Jesus untangled his confused commitment: "I am going to my Father", and "No one comes unto the Father but by me." Finally, after the Resurrection, Jesus appeared to Thomas, showing him the wounds of His crucifixion. Thomas was electrified, and his response immediate: "My Lord and my God" (John 20.26ff). Thus Doubting Thomas' honest doubts, turned to honest faith, have become a reassurance for thousands of people down the centuries.

## **The process of dissolution** – (6-7 weeks from announcement to the monks leaving)

It was much the same in every case,

The chief commissioners paid two official visits to the scene of operations during the progress of the work.

- On the first day they assembled the superior and his subjects in the Chapter House, and announced the closure/accepted the surrender.
- They called for and defaced the convent seal, the symbol of corporate existence, without which no business could be transacted
- They desecrated the church
- They took possession of the best plate and vestments "unto the King's use"
- They measured the lead upon the roof and calculated its value when melted
- They counted the bells (to work out their worth/make sure the monks couldn't sell/melt them first)
- They appraised the goods and chattels of the community.

They then moved on to the next monastery leaving behind them subordinate officers and workmen to carry out the designed destruction by;

- Stripping the lead from the roofs and pulling down the lead gutters and rain pipes
- Melting the lead into pigs and fadders (types of moulds the lead was poured into)
- Threw down the bells, broke them with sledge-hammers, and packed the metal into barrels ready to be sold on to a dealer.
- Collecting the furniture and selling it, together with the window frames, shutters, and doors by public auction or private tender.
- When all this had been done, the commissioners returned to audit the accounts and to satisfy themselves generally that the work of devastation had been completed.

Teachers' Notes: <https://historicensland.org.uk>

## **ST JOHN'S PRIORY, PONTEFRACT**

The valuation of the house in 1535 was £472 16s. 10½d., the outgoings £137 4s., leaving a clear remainder of £335 12s. 10½d., and this ensured the maintenance of the priory when the smaller houses were dissolved. The commissioners arrived at the priory in November 1538, and their report was very complacent: 'quietly takine the surrenders and dissolvved the monasterie of Pountfrette, wher we perceyved no murmure ore gruge in any behalfe bot wer thankefully receyvede.'

[british-history.ac.uk](http://british-history.ac.uk)

## SO THAT'S WHERE THEY WENT!

The photograph inside the back cover of this month's edition is of the beautiful ruin of Rievaulx Abbey, near Helmsley, North Yorkshire. It stands as a reminder of the devastation wrought by Henry VIII and Thomas Cromwell during the dissolution of the monasteries between 1536 and 1540; not just the monasteries but abbeys, nunneries and friaries too.

St John's Priory and St Richard's Friary were subjected to the same exhaustive procedure as Rievaulx at the hands of the commissioners, eager to extract as much money as possible for the king's purse; yet Rievaulx is still standing. It seems that once the two Pontefract buildings had been reduced to ruins, much of the stone, at least from the priory, was used to build New Hall, which was demolished in its turn in 1965.

### ST RICHARD'S FRIARY, PONTEFRACT

The royal commissioners, Sir George Lawson, Richard Bellasis and two others, received the surrender of the house 26 November 1538; they were 'thankfully received.' The act of surrender was signed by the prior, Robert Dae, Richard Lorde, D.D., five other priests and one novice. The goods of the house were sold by the commissioners for £5 10s. 4d.; among them were a suit of blood worsted sold to the mayor for 16s.; an old suit of velvet vestments of a mulberry colour, 13s. 4d.; two surplises and three altar cloths 3s. 4d.; utensils of kitchen, brewhouse, pantry; two feather beds, two bolsters, two coverlets, &c., of the strangers' chamber, 8s. 8d.; out of the cells, 8s.; a cartload of hay 1s. 8d. Out of the proceeds the prior received 13s. 4d., and each of the friars 5s. The house had no debts. The land (about 10 acres) and buildings, worth £3 14s. 4d. a year (net) with two bells, four fother\* of lead on the roof, a lead conduit and a brass 'holy water vat,' were left in the keeping of Richard Welbore, the mayor. The plate and jewels consisted of one chalice weighing 9 oz.

The Blackfriars of Pontefract: <https://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/yorks/vol3/pp271-273>

\* A fother, (also fozer, fodre, fudder, foulder, fodder) is a quantity of lead, equal to 19.5cwt. 20cwt (hundredweight) = 1 ton; 19.5cwt ≈ 1 metric tonne



NOTES FROM THE PCC MEETING HELD 9 th May 2023 Twelve members of the PCC were present at the meeting with apologies received from 3 people. Fr Sam opened the meeting with a prayer.

The Minutes of the last Meeting held on Tuesday, 7th March were agreed and accepted. Minutes of the special meeting held on Sunday, 26th March were agreed and accepted with one small correction. There were two Matters Arising. The APCM booklet had a sheet added subsequently that was missing in the version circulated for approval, but all had been previously approved by the PCC and spoken about in the APCM meeting. The electricity meter is still not working correctly. The company have agreed to send an engineer although an appointment is yet to be made. The bill for the current year is expected to be in the region of £7k. it is hoped that prices might fall in the early autumn.

Correspondence received included a letter from Tony Williams advising that he will be standing down from his role as Pastoral Minister with effect from the end of July. Notification had also been received regarding Heritage Week 2023, which was discussed later in the meeting. Post APCM Matters included the re-election of sides-people and these were approved as: Maureen Milnes, Margaret Hopwood, Janet Colvill, Linda Atkins, Geoff Walsh, Barbara Lavine, Peter Spurr, Ian Knox, Ian Wood, John Barber, Barbara Chessman, Bill Bradley and Margaret Coverdale. All PCC members present were given a copy of the Trustee Eligibility Declaration and HMRC Fit and Proper Persons Declaration forms to sign. The draft Minutes of the Standing Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, 28th March were received and accepted. It is proving difficult to find a replacement for David Leigh, Treasurer. In order to lighten his work, Ian Knox is now counting and banking monies received. The draft Minutes of the Centre Management Meeting held on 4th May 2023 were received and accepted. The invoice relating to the lift repair is still under dispute. It was agreed to increase room hire charges by 5% across the board with immediate effect.

The Finances There is still a healthy balance of about £17.5k in the No.6 bank account and Complete ASAP continue to donate £500 per month. The St Giles Centre Account has a balance of £7,173, of which £1,438 is ring fenced for Lunch with Us. A contribution of £700 per month from the CA grant is transferred to the PCC account to cover costs. The PCC Account has £15k in the current account with Virgin Money. The Yorkshire Bank investment of £75,719 is due to mature in June 2023 and needs to be reinvested. A Proposal was made by the Treasurer and agreed by the PCC to reinvest monies currently in the YBS investment account, on maturity in June 2023, into a new investment account with YBS. A further proposal was made by the Treasurer and agreed by the PCC that from the start of 2023, a 'restricted fund' would be established in the church general account for No.6 funds, including transfer of any contingency funds.

A number of Policy Reviews took place including: Hardship Fund where it was suggested that the criteria should be changed to "families in schools within the Parish of St Giles and St Mary's" and not just St Giles' School. The Safeguarding Policy was amended to reflect the change of Parish Safeguarding Officer from Karen MacDonald to Christine Brown. The Counting, Recording and Banking of Monies policy was agreed with no changes. The Policy on Recruitment and DBS Criminal Records Checks was a newly introduced policy which shows that we adopt guidelines for the recruitment of staff, including volunteers. The Recruitment of Ex-



Offenders was agreed with no changes. The Reporting of Serious Incidents to the Charity Commission is a required policy.

The Fabric, Health & Safety Report showed the Quinquennial Inspection had now been undertaken with little of note and the report should be received in the next month. Work progresses on gaining quotations for the installation of Solar Panels on the South Aisle roof. Two quotes have been received to date with another one due any time from a company called Carbon Control who have completed an installation on Chester Cathedral. The Solar Panel Working Party will consider all 3 quotes and when the preferred bidder has been identified, the information will be disseminated to the PCC for approval to seek relevant permissions and funding. Some Emergency lighting has been replaced with new batteries and LED bulbs, but other lights are now failing. Whilst there is still a cost implication for this, donations from the Sunday morning coffee are helping to offset this. An approach has been made by a radio company (Rhubarb Radio) to put an aerial, approximately six feet high, on the roof of the church to cover the 5 towns area. The signal coverage needs to be checked before they can make a formal approach. The company is a not-for-profit organisation and will pay for electricity used but will give us free advertising for anything that we do. This will require a faculty if it goes ahead. All agreed to pursue further.

Christine Brown will shortly receive access to the Safeguarding Dashboard so that items can be updated. Christine will also be undertaking the Safeguarding Officer training course. A meeting of the Fundraising Committee is to take place later in the week to plan the summer event and Race Night; the Bric-A-Brac stalls are ongoing; The Missions Committee and church fundraising group have been asked to take into account other planned fundraising events when considering their own. Notes from a meeting held last week were circulated at the meeting and showed that in 2022 they had collected funds of £2373 which would be shared equally between the charities. A review of the charities was also undertaken with future funding going to two international charities (Link Parish in Mara, The Leprosy Mission plus Christian Aid Disaster funds when requested), one UK charity (The Church of England Children's Society) and a local charity (Lunch with Us, Foodbank and No.6) depending on need.

This year the Heritage Open Week will be running from Friday, 8th September to Sunday, 17th September 2023. It was agreed to opt for events at St Giles to run on the first weekend with a re-issue of the video made by Bruce Dalgleish a few years ago, the stained-glass windows video/booklet, ceiling bosses and tours.

Chair's Notes: The Benefice Ascension Day Service takes place next Thursday, 18th May at 7.00pm. Pentecost Sunday is on 28th May and there is an invitation to attend a picnic followed by a walk to Wakefield Cathedral. Posters are up and the item has been in the notices asking for people to sign up if wishing to attend. The Feast of St Barnabas is on Sunday, 11th June and a Church Army representative will be attending and speaking. Confirmation Service with Bishop Mark Sowerby on Sunday, 9th July. Fr Mark is currently off sick for at least one month following recent surgery.

There was no Other Business, and the Date of the next meeting was scheduled as Tuesday, 11th July.

The meeting closed with a prayer led by Fr Sam.



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## St. Giles' with St. Mary

St Giles' Church, Market Place, Pontefract  
St Mary's Church, The Circle, Chequerfield

Tel: 01977 790448

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

#### St Mary's Church Treasurer

Delia Perrett 796223  
David Leigh 706526

#### Tower Captain

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







