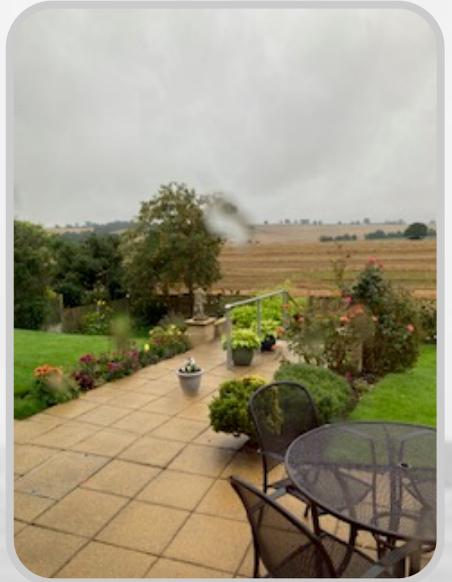


£1

*Parish of Pontefract  
St Giles with St Mary*



*September 2023*



Match the photo to the article!



Fr Michael writes ...

When I lead a service, I do have a propensity to inform the congregation of, "What I have seen from the kitchen window."

In the garden this can range from the flocks of goldfinches, which appear to be very prevalent; pheasants, indeed with their chicks; hedgehogs; and so the list goes on.

Beyond the garden, and into the fields, sparrowhawks hunting their prey; rabbits, hares and occasionally dogs disturbing the peace and serenity.

Beyond the garden, the fields: watching them grow from the sowing of the seeds; the harvest, which I have just witnessed over the last 24 hours.

I have attached a photo, and you may be able to see the pheasants on the fence; my apologies if you can't!

Let me remind you...Genesis 1 v 24;-

*God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.*

It is good, for which we must thank God for and we must be good stewards of our inheritance.

Another reminder:-

*All things bright and beautiful,  
all creatures great and small,  
all things wise and wonderful,  
the Lord God made them all.*

*1 Each little flower that opens,  
each little bird that sings,  
He made their glowing colors,  
He made their tiny wings.*

*2 The purple-headed mountain,  
the river running by,  
the sunset and the morning  
that brightens up the sky.*

*3 The cold wind in the winter,  
the pleasant summer sun,  
the ripe fruits in the garden:  
He made them every one.*

*4 He gave us eyes to see them,  
and lips that we might tell  
how great is God Almighty  
who has made all things well.*

...such a well known Hymn which encompasses my thoughts.

Before I finish, I have to mention Canon June and Canon John. I am sorry, I was unable to attend the farewell service. I wish them every blessing and good wish in their new roles.

Thank you for reading my "ramblings."

God Bless you all

Fr Michael

## Sunrise, sunset ...

There are moments when the beauty of our natural world simply takes your breath away. This month's cover photos capture two such moments, when the world was still except for the almost imperceptible movement of the sun.

Two very special places. Pingvellir (Thingvellir) in Iceland and Iona in Scotland.

Thingvellir lies in a rift valley, formed where the North American and Eurasian tectonic plates meet. The lake is 114 metres deep, (374 feet), and so clear that once a skuba diver entered the water and immediately suffered from vertigo: he had a fear of heights! It was also the original site of the Alþingi (the Althing) the world's oldest parliament, which was founded in AD 930 and continues to this day.

The tiny island of Iona, off the coast of the Isle of Mull in the Inner Hebrides, is one of the oldest Christian religious centres in Western Europe. It has been a vibrant place of Christian worship ever since St Columba arrived there in AD 563 and it played a key role in the spread of Christianity throughout Scotland and beyond. It is said that the island of Iona is a thin place, where the veil between the physical and the spiritual, the mortal and the immortal, is almost transparent.



We probably see the sunset far more often than we do the sunrise. Watching the sun go down can be almost hypnotic, even to a border terrier puppy, who sat as if spellbound as the sun set over the Isle of Arran. It must be the most peaceful time of the day.

Sunrises are more dynamic, more hopeful. The light appears long before we actually see the sun: there's a promise of things to come. Waiting at Thingvellir for the right moment to take the photo was easy, despite the freezing cold of an early Icelandic morning. I had a great sense of something new, of hope for the future. Standing on the quayside at Ffionphort, having just got off the ferry from Iona, was very different. I was experiencing a deep sense of loss. (I was also suffering from flu, yet, despite the biting wind that was sending the clouds scudding across the sky, I stood for the best part of half an hour, waiting to capture the right moment.) And then...

Emotional things, farewells, new beginnings.

# Dates to remember

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

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> September:     **Patronal Festival** 10.15am  
                                      **Scones of Praise Hymn Fest** 4.00pm

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September:    **Mothers' Union:** (see p14 for details.)

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> September:     **Organ Recital: 1pm** (see p9 for details.)

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> September:   **Heritage Day** (see p14 for details.)

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> September: **The Mark of Zorro 7.00pm** (see p13 for details.)

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> September:   **Messy Church** at St Mary's 4.00pm

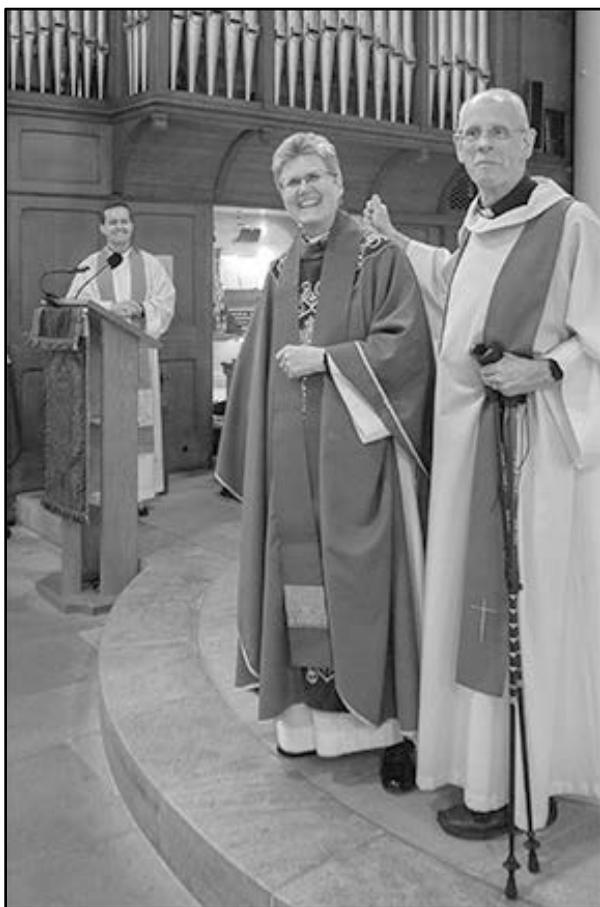
Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> September: **Places of Enchantment:**  
**Meeting God in Landscapes** (see p17 for details.)

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October:         **Harvest Festival:** 10.15am  
                                      **Choral Evensong:** 4.00pm

***Watch this space for news of the***

***Harvest Supper!***

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



## THANK YOU

Canons June and John would like to thank you for all the lovely gifts and cards that they received both before, and at their farewell service last Sunday. It was wonderful to have members of all the congregations present and to share in a lovely buffet together. Thank you to all who made the service so extra special to us.

We will miss you all! Please pray for us as we will pray for you all.

Canon June

## PATRONAL FESTIVAL

On **Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> September** (St Giles' Patronal Festival) we will be joined by Archdeacon Peter Townley to lead our 10:15 Parish Eucharist, and to say our goodbye to him before he moves on later in the month. This will be a service for the whole United Benefice, and we welcome those from St Mary's and All Saints' churches.

During the service, we will be presenting Archdeacon Peter with a card and a gift from our congregation. If you would like to contribute towards this gift, please give any contributions to Pam Mercer or any of the churchwardens.

## Scones of Praise

Join us as we sing a selection of well-loved traditional hymns. Tea, coffee and scones will be served afterwards.

**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> September, 4pm**

at St Giles' Church, Pontefract

**All Welcome**

We could receive **£1,000** with your help

Nominate us today

 BENEFACT GROUP

£10 is the minimum. Terms & conditions apply. Closing date 31.03.2023



With your help we could be in with a chance to win £1000. The more nominations we receive, the more chances we have, so click on the yellow box above or follow this link to nominate us.

<https://movementforgood.com/index.php?cn=1135106&ct=church>

When the page opens, scroll down a bit to a purple box, click on this and it will open another pre-populated page—just add your details and nominate! Don't forget to spread the word to your friends and family too, the more nominations the more chance we have.

## DIOCESAN SYNOD DISCUSSES SUDAN

At the recent Diocesan Synod on Saturday, 15 July members heard from the Revd Anne Russell, Team Rector of the Parish of Seacroft, and Frederico Vuni, of Sudan, in a debate around an emergency motion about the situation in Sudan. The motion called for information and prayer resources to be sent to parishes in the diocese, as well as encouraging larger churches to hold prayer vigils.

Frederico spoke powerfully about the deteriorating situation in the country, before the Bishop of Bradford, the Rt Revd Toby Howarth, encouraged Synod to keep praying, keep talking about Sudan, and to be advocates.

Please pray for Sudanese people living in our area and anxious for their families in Sudan.

**We bring before you Lord the cries for help,  
the tears and vulnerability of your people.  
We bring before you the feeling of powerlessness,  
the deep fears and suffering of your people.  
Bless our brothers and sisters in Sudan.  
You know our needs and feel our pain:  
hear our cries and heal our wounds,  
in Jesus name.**

## FUNDRAISING FOR ST GILES CHURCH



Thank you to everyone for raising donations for St Giles Church with #easyfundraising!

**£749.91** has been raised to date following the receipt of the latest donation of £38.39 achieved by an anonymous supporter. The number of supporters is now 23.

If you haven't signed up yet, it's easy and completely FREE. 8,100 brands will donate to us when you use easyfundraising to do your everyday online shopping - at no extra cost to you! Every donation you raise makes a difference to us so please sign up & share today. [https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stgilescp/?invite=6USWE4%26referral-campaign=c2s%26utm\\_campaign=admin-trigger%26utm\\_content=srt](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stgilescp/?invite=6USWE4%26referral-campaign=c2s%26utm_campaign=admin-trigger%26utm_content=srt)

## Conflict in Sudan puts Christians at greater risk

Since the fighting broke out in Sudan this April, thousands have been killed and several million have been displaced.

Ceasefire attempts by the warring parties – the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) – have failed, and the conflict has now spread beyond the capital Khartoum to the south. It is affecting the states of South Kordofan and Blue Nile, where there are large Christian communities who are already vulnerable.

“We are deeply concerned,” said bishops from South Sudan, where many are fleeing to. “The conflict is destabilising the region which is already fragile.”

Since fighting broke out, more than 165 churches have closed and at least 15 have been destroyed. Churches have also reported human rights violations such as rape, kidnap and looting. “There are many Christians still present in the war zones today who do not have any means to flee, who are suffering, and we cannot reach them,” says a local partner. “This is very tough for us; they are part of the body in Christ.”

“Christians in Sudan are especially vulnerable and on the receiving end in war times,” adds Fikiru. “We ask that churches worldwide do not grow tired or forget to pray for the situation in Sudan.”

# Squirrel Spotting

A June Visit to the Red Squirrel Viewing Area at Snaizeholme

“Go Nuts for Red Squirrels”, the title of an information leaflet published by the Yorkshire Dales National Park, is exactly how we experienced a magical visit to Snaizeholme Red Squirrel Viewing Area, one of 17 Red Squirrel Refuges in Northern England where woodlands are managed to support safe habitats.

Set up by the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority and local landowners of a conifer plantation, the refuge and the walk to reach it made for an unforgettable highlight of our holiday in Upper Wensleydale. Photographs and childhood memories of Beatrix Potter’s Squirrel Nutkin did not match our trip to see these delightful creatures in action.

Bearing in mind the warning in tourist literature that access was strictly limited, we called in at the National Park Visitors’ Centre in Hawes where we were in luck and able to book one of the 2 afternoon car parking places available. The very helpful staff gave us clear directions to find the reserve: though only 20 minutes’ drive from Hawes on the Ingleton Road, it feels quite remote and a bit off the beaten track. It is also possible to book a seat on The Little White Bus which will take visitors to the entrance to Snaizeholme.

The leaflet guides visitors round a circular trail of some 2 1/2 miles with the viewing area a mile from the start. The walk-in involves a steep descent and the path becomes quite uneven.

The weather had been dry so we had no problem, but parts of the route would be very muddy after rain. And, as the viewing area itself is set in a conifer plantation, not surprisingly there were lots of insects. The leaflet advises visitors to go appropriately prepared.

Although the morning and afternoon booking arrangement allow 2 cars per session, we didn’t see anyone else on our walk except 2 Park Rangers who were working near the viewing area. Otherwise, we had the viewing area to ourselves where there were squirrels aplenty attracted by a feeding station. Some came very close to us, but didn’t hang around, instead putting on lively acrobatic performances and appearing to play their own version of ‘catch me if you can’. Their incessant balancing acts, leaps and bounds made photography quite challenging with many blurred or empty shots, so we were lucky to get the pictures.

(See the inside front cover.)

Paul Harris



# Organ Recitals 2023-2024

## **Fridays at 1.00pm**

(unless otherwise stated)

Come and join us on the following dates:

September 8 <sup>th</sup>	Christopher Newton
September 16 <sup>th</sup> (Saturday at 7.00pm)	Donald MacKenzie - Silent Movie Spectacular
October 6 <sup>th</sup>	David Baker
November 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Marc Murray
December 1 <sup>st</sup>	Sean Montgomery
January 5 <sup>th</sup>	To be announced
February 2 <sup>nd</sup>	John Dunford
March 1 <sup>st</sup>	Phil Higgins
April 5 <sup>th</sup>	Tim Harper
May 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Ivan Linford
June 7 <sup>th</sup>	Scott Senogles
July 5 <sup>th</sup>	Thomas Moore

**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)

## Remembering those whose Year's Mind falls at this time:-

August	September
4 Marina Schorah	1 Bill Worsley
5 John Malcolm Darling Norman Tetlow	4 Joan Godridge Denis Alan Law
6 Lillian Ipson	5 Ellen May Hemstock
7 James (LJ) Lawley	6 Kenneth Cook
8 Dennis Lavin	9 Eliza Longsdale Lemmon
10 Hilda Haigh	14 Jim Faulkner Gary Nelson
11 Patrick Brennan	Margaret Turner
12 Iris Lavin	15 Edith Brentnall
13 Ernest Tetlow	17 Jonathan Andrew Leigh
14 Kathleen Beaumont Eric Dalgleish Harper Williams	21 Gwendoline Whitcombe
16 Geraldine Rushton	23 Sydney Kaye
18 Judith Lawrance	24 Mary Hamilton Edward Kirkwood Matty
19 Ella Vivian Howarth Eric Rushton	28 David James Godridge Shirley Law
21 Michael Whitcombe (Priest)	
22 Norman Hemstock	
25 Isabella Jackson John Sanderson	
26 Alice Ainslie	
28 Peter Hemstock	
29 Alan Cutting	
30 Annie Hayward	
31 Gerry Davis	

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 [wakefielddistrictcab.co.uk](http://wakefielddistrictcab.co.uk)

## Pontefract Christian Aid Group

This group was formed over 30 years ago as a joint initiative by members of local Churches, reporting its activities to Churches Together in Pontefract meetings. It has regularly raised funds for Christian Aid Projects in developing nations aiming always to work respectfully with local communities, using carefully researched assessments of what is needed to build the resilience to tackle extreme poverty and the consequences of poor nutrition and under-developed health services.

The local Christian Aid group has also responded to emergencies caused by natural disasters, with Christian Aid nationally playing a leading part to coordinate voluntary responses to international disasters which led to the formation of DEC.

Following the enforced pause placed on local Christian Aid action by Covid, the Churches Together in Pontefract Group has decided to ask members of local Churches if people would like to become involved in reactivating local support for Christian Aid.

So, responding to this decision, I am asking if anyone at St Giles and St Mary's would like to be involved in this process. I appreciate how busy people are but support or advice about how we can move local Christian Aid forward from our "Covid Pause" would be most welcome.

All ideas or comments gratefully received.

With thanks

Ann Harris

01977 707056





HI! ITZ ME AGEN, RAZZIE.  
Meet my new furrend Cosmo.  
He be absurlootly hyooj!  
Lyke a poler bare!

Cosmo is a Mioritic, a breed of Romanian shepherd dog. He arrived from Romania, as a rescue, just a few weeks ago and is settling in really well with Razzie's Auntie Lynda.

Bred to look after the flocks of sheep in the mountains, they are a mixture of gentle giant and fierce protector, but although they have a reputation for being wary of strangers, Cosmo is making friends wherever he goes.

Just to give you an idea of exactly how big he is ...



He havin to lurn how to pley geymes  
... an how to understan Inglish.



# St Giles' Church, Pontefract

proudly presents ...



## *The Mark of Zorro*

Featuring once again at the organ

**Donald MacKenzie**

from London's Odeon Luxe Leicester Square.



**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> September at 7.00pm.**

**Tickets: £10; accompanied children free.**

AGDugan

**ST GILES' CHURCH, PONTEFRACT –  
HERITAGE EVENT 2023**

**Saturday, 9<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

10.00am – 12.00pm Visit the tower and ringing chamber, this is a part of the 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.

10.00am – 2.00pm Visit St Giles' church, it's full of the history of Pontefract.

1. A general tour of the church.
2. Discover the wonderful ceiling bosses, a fascinating feature, but usually overlooked due to their location.
3. View the Pontefract Roll of Honour and the flag of the Burma Star Association in St Oswald's chapel.



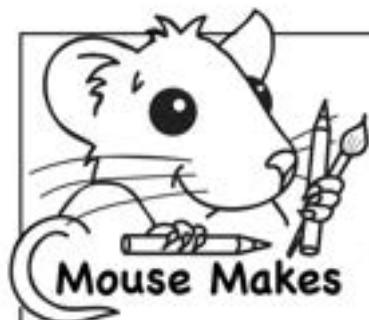
Refreshments will be available in the  
Church Café



**Mothers' UNION**

We meet on in Church on **Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September** at **1.30pm**.  
Our speaker is **Captain Ade** of the **Church Army**.

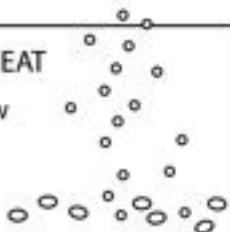
Everyone is always welcome. Refreshments to follow.



### THE WEEDS AND THE WHEAT

What did the enemy sow amongst the wheat?

Matthew 13:25



At harvest time the weeds are gathered, bundled then

Who sows the good seed?

Matthew 13:37

#### READ

the parable in

Matthew 13 v24-30, and v36-43

but the wheat is stored

in the

Matthew 13:30

What does the field represent?

the

and who is the good seed?

The people of the

Matthew 13:38

Who sows the weeds?

The

Who are the harvesters?

The

Matthew 13:39

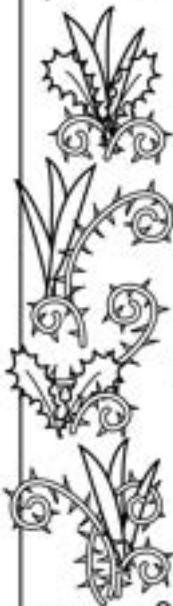
"He who has ears, let him

Matthew 13:43

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

PARABLE • HEAVEN • SOWED • GOOD • SEED • FIELD • ENEMY • WHEAT • GRAIN  
 GROW • TOGETHER • TIME • HARVEST • GATHER • BUNDLE • TIE  
 PEOPLE • DISCIPLES • JESUS • EXPLAIN • EVIL • FIRE • END • AGE • EARS

Find the words from the questions too!



# 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

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CND Acrylic nail extensions, Glitter and artwork available.

Shellac, VinyLux manicure.

Mixx 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

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quotation +

Regular or  
one off jobs



## **LEEDS DIOCESAN ECO BOOK AND FILM GROUP**



### **Starting September 2023**

Autumn 2023—meeting online. Please sign up by Tuesday, September 12th at the latest by following the link at the bottom of the page.

### **Tuesday, September 19th**

Places of Enchantment: Meeting God in Landscapes—Graham B. Usher. Bishop Graham is the lead Bishop for the Environment in the Church of England.

### **Tuesday, October 17**

Striking Out: Poems and Stories from the Camino - Stephen Cottrell. Stephen Cottrell is the Archbishop of York. Canterbury Press.

### **Tuesday, November 21**

Greenfingers : a ' blooming comedy', with Clive Owen, Helen Mirren and David Kelly.

Find out more here: <https://learning.leeds.anglican.org/course/eco-book-group/>

To encourage you to attend, how about if we offered:-

Beds – for those who say Sunday is their day to sleep-in.

Safety helmets – for anyone who fears the roof would fall in if they entered a church door.

Blankets and hot water bottles – for those who find our church too cold.

Fans and ice cream – for those who find our church too hot.

Cushions – for anyone who find our seats too hard.

Bicycles – for those who exercise on Sunday mornings.

Hearing aids – for those who find the minister speaks too softly.

Cotton wool – for those who find the minister speaks too loudly.

Score cards – for all who want to rate the hymns/sermons/coffee.

Ready-meals – for anyone who can't come because they have to cook Sunday lunch.

Some flowers – for those who prefer to seek God in nature.

Christmas poinsettias and Easter palms – for all those who have never seen the church without them.

**See you on Sunday!**

Follow the link for full information.

## Growing Faith Lead

Posted 5 days ago

Expires in 1 month

Leeds

Employee

CC: E32110 to E38338

We are looking for someone to join our Children, Young People and Families team to be our Growing Faith Lead.

(The Diocese of Leeds has been awarded funding for the post by the national church for a period of four years, to Dec 2027)

The Growing Faith Lead will be an integral part of the children, youth and families team.

As part of the team, they will share the responsibility for the overall diocesan offer to parishes in their work with children, young people and families.

They will take primary responsibility for the development of home, school and church links including the national Growing Faith agenda. This includes working alongside early adopter settings and developing hubs of good practice that can multiply the impact of their work.

The successful candidate must be highly motivated, an excellent team player and an advocate for children and young people with experience of children and youth work in a school and church setting.

They must be able to evidence knowledge and appreciation of good working practices between school and church.

A competitive package includes a competitive salary, flexi-time scheme, reimbursement of travelling expenses, an 8% non-contributory pension with an additional 5% matched contributions, hybrid working (50%), and 25 days' annual leave plus bank holidays and four customary days a year (between Christmas and New Year).

Closing Date for Applications: 20th September

<https://pathways.churchofengland.org/job/pathways/4540/growing-faith-lead>

## Mission Support Lead (Part time 17.5 hours)

Posted 5 days ago

Expires in 1 month

Leeds

Employee

CC: E14055 (FTE E32110) to E19169 (FTE E38338)

We are looking for someone to join our Children, Young People and Families team to be our Mission Support Lead

(The Diocese of Leeds has been awarded funding for the post by the national church for a period of four years, to Dec 2027)

Hours: 17.5

The Mission Support Lead will be an integral part of the children, youth and families team.

As part of the team they will share the responsibility for the overall diocesan offer to parishes in their work with children, young people and families.

They will play a key role in supporting parishes in their missional planning to engage, nurture, disciple and grow leaders with children, young people and families.

The successful candidate must be highly motivated, an excellent team player and an advocate for children and young people with the ability to work in both proactively seeking opportunities and responding strategically to requests for support from clergy and laity.

They must be able to evidence knowledge and appreciation of good working practices between school and church.

A competitive package includes a competitive salary, flexi-time scheme, reimbursement of travelling expenses, an 8% non-contributory pension with an additional 5% matched contributions, hybrid working (50%), and 25 days' annual leave (pro rata) plus bank holidays and four customary days a year (between Christmas and New Year).

Closing Date for Applications: 20th September

<https://pathways.churchofengland.org/job/pathways/4541/mission-support-lead-part-time-17-5-hours>

## LUNCH WITH US

Lunch with Us began in September 2015 and has been a constant weekly event, with the exception of the pandemic period. Even then, as soon as we were allowed, a take-away service operated.

Lunch with Us operates out of the café area of St Giles' Church, Pontefract every Wednesday from 12.30 to 14.00hrs. It is an essential component in the mission work of the church. St Giles' is a community orientated church and we are proud to provide for the vulnerable, isolated and lonely members of our community, many of whom are in food poverty. The volunteers are from several churches in the Pontefract area who give freely of their time; we also provide temporary volunteer placement for various projects such as the Duke of Edinburgh Award.

A basic menu allows for choice and includes items such as soup, jacket potatoes with various fillings, several toppings on toast, rice pudding and beverages. Homemade sandwiches are also available and we really appreciate the constant support of Greggs who diligently supply us with sausage rolls, pasties and sweet deserts. Our customers are varied across the age and gender spectrum and it has become an occasional feature during school holidays to accommodate entire families. Nearly every customer is vulnerable in some way or other: poverty, isolation, loneliness. We do try to address all our customers by their name as it affords them a basic element of human dignity. We also try to make time to have a short chat with some but it has become increasingly difficult to do this as we are extremely busy from start to finish.

We do require a certain level of behaviour from our customers. It would be wrong to say that we never have any incidents of bad behaviour but any occurrence is isolated and unusual.

We have a donations tin but in reality very little is deposited in it. Volunteers are always vigilant in seeking out the most economic places for us to shop for supplies. However, of late we have found it necessary to reduce our menu due to escalating food prices.

In cases of extreme hardship, we can provide clothing or footwear but this is not a regular occurrence.

Lunch with Us is a very rewarding volunteer role but absolutely exhausting is becoming the norm, due to the increased demand for this service.

If you feel able to support us in any way, please contact Barbara Sessford on 01977 699058.

Karen Glynn

## Ode to a Tomato

Summer time, in my garden I often liked to potter,  
But creaky bones mean now there's not a lotta  
Gardening.

Not much space for growing any veggies sadly,  
But I bought a tomato plant from Bill and Angela Bradley.  
Fundraising.

Lovingly I settled it in a pretty blue plant pot,  
I didn't have to water it, it rained an awful lot.  
Unceasing.

Yellow flowers, then I couldn't believe what I'd see:  
A tiny green orb! But it was no bigger than a pea.  
Amazing.

Next day there was another, and then another!  
But alas, each was greener than his brother.  
Worrying.

Eventually the sun did shine, it was well overdue  
And, blushing shyly, one tomato changed its hue.  
Ripening.

Now it's ready to pick. Shall I preserve it on a shelf?  
No! I'm going to eat it all by myself.  
Enjoying.

There will be many more to share before the summer's done.  
I'll have a bumper crop. Growing them has been such fun.  
Satisfying.

Joyce Bellamy

*(See Joyce's picture inside the front cover.)*



*Let our family take care of your family  
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*Chris McTigue & Sarah McTigue*

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# THE BENEFICE OF PONTEFRACT

## 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  
Jill Clapham Licensed Lay Minister (Reader)

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

### 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.

#### PCC Vice Chairman

Barbara Sessford 699058

#### St Giles Good Share, No.6 The Circle

Paul and Ann Harris 07808 808977

#### Churchwardens

Bruce Dalgleish 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

stgleschurchpontefract@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 Dalgleish 690216

#### St Mary's Community Centre

Manager: Denise Palett 705341

#### St Giles' Altar Flowers

Barbara Chessman 700559

#### St Giles' Church School (aided)

Head teacher: Richard Grace 794175

#### Tiddlywinks

Barbara Lavine 07780 358306

#### St Giles' Pantomime Society Chair

Andy Weston 07791 656820



