

*Parish of Pontefract  
St Giles with St Mary*



*December/January 2023*

# Everyday Christmas

(Mal 4:2, Mt 1:23)

Light a candle,  
Look into the light,  
Pray.  
Light and life to all he brings,  
Risen with healing in his wings  
As the flame rises,  
Smooth, bright,  
Know the comfort of Christ  
In the carol speaking  
Afresh.  
Bringing Jesus

Into heart and prayer.  
Emmanuel, God with us.  
Light of the world,  
Out of the stable  
Into our situations.  
Because of Jesus  
Christmas is everyday.  
The Lord is here.  
Hallelujah.

By Daphne Kitching



‘If we are to find and feel the Eternal, we must give time and place to it in our lives – a desperate modern need in too busy, hurried lives’

These are the words of the English writer and mystic Evelyn Underhill, and they present a particularly sharp challenge as we enter December. Both Church and world are never busier or more hurried than in the run up to Christmas. Shopping to do, cards to send, plans to make, food to buy. Maybe you’re really organised - you’ve had the Christmas cake maturing since September – or perhaps, more like me, you could find yourself sprinting round the shops on Christmas Eve. Maybe you’re expecting a loud Christmas this year, or a quiet one. Whatever Christmas will hold this year, lots of us will feel under some *pressure* to be ready for it.

On the surface, the world’s busy Christmas preparations seem to fit well with the Church’s season of Advent – after all, isn’t Advent all about getting ready, being properly prepared for the coming of Christ? But the apparent similarity masks a basic difference, a clash in tone between our hurried Christmas shopping and the kind of deeper spiritual readiness recognised by the Christian tradition. Advent is in its essence a reflective, muted, even penitential season – a note easily drowned out by our hectic December.

The readiness we seek during Advent is a readiness of our hearts to meet Jesus, and this demands a different kind of preparation to those we might make for a Christmas extravaganza. It involves giving time and place in our lives for an encounter with God, for prayer and stillness, for self-examination and reflection.

Yet, sometimes, Christians can be too idealistic about what it means to retreat and to contemplate. We imagine that to find real holiness we would need to withdraw to a remote mountainside, or take a vow of silence, or lock ourselves away in a Trappist monastery. This can lead us to think that contemplation is a preserve of a kind of spiritual elite – that is, the those who can afford to drop everything else and retreat into a life of prayer, free of distraction. Meanwhile, the rest of us must carry on with the mundane

realities of ordinary life.

Yet part of the message of Christmas is that God is born into the chaotic busyness of human life, in bustling Bethlehem where there is no room at the inn. “Silent Night” is a beautiful carol, but also a lie. There would have been nothing silent about that night, as travellers crowded into the town for the census – perhaps we might also add to the soundtrack the traditional lowing of cattle and bleating of sheep. As important as silence and stillness can be, God is no less present in noise and activity.

This Advent, may Christ come to you in precious moments of stillness, and amidst the whirlwind of Christmas preparations. And as we repeat again the old, familiar rituals of this season, may these be interrupted once again be the ever-surprising wonder of the Christmas story.

Whether our Decembers are lively or calm, noisy or quiet, may God grant all of us a holy and peaceful Advent Season.

Fr Sam

## **Come let us join ...**

Fr Sam is leading an informal carol service at Stella House Care Home on Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm. If you're able to come along and sing with us, that would be wonderful - the more the merrier.

We're also looking for a group of singers to sing carols at Pontefract Hospital Reception, on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December, 14:30 – 15:30. All welcome.

If you can join in with any of these, please put your name on the sign-up sheet in Reception, or let Fr Sam know.

# *Dates to remember*

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

## **Details of all our Advent, Christmas and New Year Services can be found on page 5**

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December:       **Organ Recital: 1pm** (see **p21** for details.)

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December:       **Food collection**

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December:       **Mothers' Union:** (see **p20** for details.)

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December: **Advent Course: 10.30-11.15am**  
(see **p12** for details)

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December: **Advent Course: 10.30-11.15am**

**Carol Service** at Stella House  
(see panel opposite)

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

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December:   **Carols** at Pontefract Hospital  
(see panel opposite)

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December: **Advent Course: 10.30-11.15am**

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> January:       **Organ Recital: 1pm** (see **p21** for details.)

The deadline for submissions to the **February** magazine is  
**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January**

## OPEN CHURCH VOLUNTEERS

We strive to open our church to the public all week (10.00am—2.00pm) for the lighting of candles and private prayer. Without our regular volunteers to help us with this we could not manage. If you would like to be part of the team and can spare a couple of hours a week, please contact Barbara Sessford or any of the church wardens.

## ALL SAINTS CHURCH, PONTEFRACT—ADVENT COURSE

**Advent Study Course - ‘The Advent Psalms’** We will be holding a short Advent Course in the Vicarage on Thursday evenings during December which everyone is very welcome to come to.

Dates are - **7th, 14th & 21st December @ 6.45pm for a 7.00pm start** and the theme for each meditation will be taken from each Sunday’s Psalm set for the morning services - Psalms 80, 85 & 126.

Our next monthly **food collection** will be on **Sunday, 3rd December.**

Food donations can be made directly at No. 6 The Circle (Mon/Fri mornings) and through St Giles’ Church.

Thank you for your continued support.

Tinned Tuna—Breakfast cereals

Jam—Baked Beans—Soup

Meat pastes—Cook-in sauces

Rice—Pasta— Noodles

Mash—Tinned veg

Tinned meat/pies

Tinned fruit—Rice pudding

Instant custard—Biscuits—Tea bags

Coffee—Long-life milk



## ADVENT, CHRISTMAS AND NEWYEAR SERVICES

Wednesday (9.30am) and Friday Mass (10.30am) see weekly diary.

### Sunday, 26th November (Christ the King)

9.00am—*Holy Communion at St Mary's*

10.15am—Sung Eucharist at St Giles

12.00pm—6.00pm Light Up Pontefract – St Giles Café will be open

### Sunday, 3rd December (Advent Sunday)

9.00am—*Morning Worship at St Mary's*

10.15am—Sung Eucharist at St Giles

4.00pm—Choral Evening Service for Advent at St Giles

### Sunday, 10th December (Second Sunday of Advent)

9.00am—*Holy Communion at St Mary's*

10.15am—Sung Eucharist at St Giles

4.00pm—Masonic Carol Service at St Giles

### Sunday, 17th December (Third Sunday of Advent)

10.15am—Sung Eucharist at St Giles

1.30pm—*Messy Church Christmas party at St Mary's*

4.30pm—A Service of Nine Lessons and Carols at St Giles

### Christmas Eve, Sunday 24th December

10.15am—Sung Eucharist at St Giles

4.30pm—Family Crib Service at St Giles

5.00pm—*Carol Service at St. Mary's*

11.00pm—Midnight Mass and Blessing of the Crib at St Giles

### Christmas Day, Monday 25th December

9.00am—*Holy Communion at St Mary's*

10.15am—Sung Eucharist at St Giles

### Sunday, 31st December (First Sunday of Christmas)

09.00am—*Holy Communion St Mary's*

10.15am—Sung Eucharist at St Giles

### Sunday, 7th January (The Epiphany)

9.00am—*Morning Worship at St Mary's*

10.15am—Sung Eucharist at St Giles



### **Remembering those whose Year's Mind falls in December:-**

02	Roy Malcolm Howarth	16	Constance Hester
02	Anthony Smalley	17	Jonathan Marcus Worsley
03	Eric Clarke	19	John Henry Laidlaw
03	Tom Hopwood	20	Gladys Coverdale
03	Stanley Whitcombe (Priest)	20	Lilian Sanderson
05	Lewis James Swann	21	Frank Mangnall
07	Elsie Ledger	21	Frank Edward Whitaker
07	Janet Taylor	23	Winifred Mary Hodson
08	Brian Flanagan	25	May Wright
08	Gary Tonks	27	Jabez Brooks
09	David Green	28	Derek Davison
09	Harold Vine	30	Clara Walker
12	Doris Davis	31	Roy Jordan

### **Remembering those whose Year's Mind falls in January:-**

01	Patricia Jenkinson	18	Geoff Brodie
01	Evelyn Sarah Leigh	18	Brian Sanderson
03	Gladys Worrell	21	Wallace Jeffery
05	Charles William Chapman	23	Arthur Mercer
06	Francis Leslie Schofield	25	Robert Cooper
10	Olga Kirkwood	26	Stanley Firth
12	Daniel R. Beddis	27	Kathleen Fearnside
12	Dolly Faulkner	27	James Leo Lemmon
12	Desmond Stuart Frankland	27	Ann Veronica Sanderson
16	Mary Dean	29	Peter Barry Haworth Johnson
17	Peter Danby	29	Janet Robinson
17	Tom Sharp		



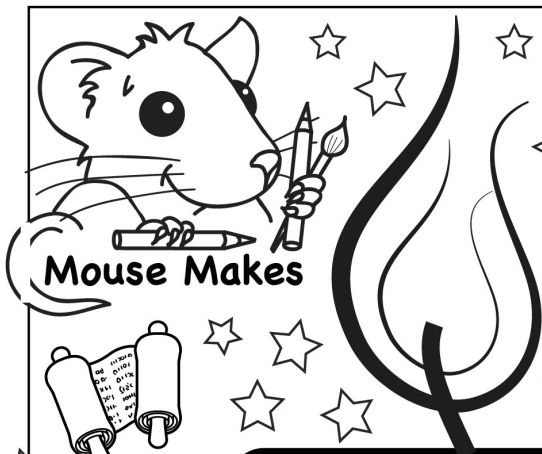
Bishop of Leeds: Hollin House,  
Weetwood Avenue, Leeds LS16 5NG  
Tel: 0113 284 4300  
[www.leeds.anglican.org](http://www.leeds.anglican.org)



## **NOTIFICATION OF APPOINTMENT**

**DETAILS:** The Bishop of Leeds is pleased to announce that The Revd Ian Bullock, currently serving as Vicar of Littleborough in the Diocese of Manchester, has been appointed as Vicar of Pontefract and Priest-in-Charge of Carleton & East Hardwick in the Wakefield Episcopal Area in the Diocese of Leeds.

The Collation will take place at St Giles', Pontefract at 7.30pm on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2024 with the Bishop of Leeds officiating.



**Mouse Makes**



**GOD'S PROMISE**

*Isaiah 9:6-7*

CHILD • BORN • SON  
GIVEN • WONDERFUL  
COUNCELLOR  
MIGHTY • GOD  
EVERLASTING  
FATHER • PRINCE  
PEACE • LORD



**AN ANGEL MESSENGER**

*Luke 1:26-38*

ANGEL • GABRIEL  
JOSEPH • MARY  
FAVOUR • SON  
JESUS • GREAT  
THRONE • REIGN  
FOREVER • HOLY  
SERVANT • WORD

**ADVENT**  
comes from  
the Latin  
'AD VENTO'  
which means  
**ARRIVAL**

In Advent we  
celebrate Jesus' birth  
and look forward to  
the time when Jesus  
will come again.



**A LONG JOURNEY**

*Luke 2:1-20*

BETHLEHEM  
REGISTER • BIRTH  
MANGER • INN  
SHEPHERDS • FLOCK  
ANGELS • JOY  
GOOD NEWS • PRAISE  
SAVIOUR • CHRIST



**THE BEST GIFT OF ALL**

*John 3:16*

GOD • SO • LOVED  
WORLD • HE • GAVE  
ONLY • SON  
WHOEVER • BELIEVES  
ETERNAL • LIFE

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

Colour in one star each day until Christmas

Dec23 © deborah noble • parishpump.co.uk

(We are not responsible for the spelling mistake that appears in this grid. You will have spotted it already! Ed.)

Last month's magazine contained an article about our wonderful Flower Fairies. This month we are revealing the existence of another happy band of helpers, who make our lives that bit safer and more comfortable. Like the flower fairies, they are very rarely seen in action, but we all benefit greatly from what they do. On the face of it they appear to be normal people, but don't be fooled. They have many hidden talents; (unfortunately for our finances not quite the ones we heard about in Fr Mark's sermon last Sunday).

Who are these people? I like to think of them as the FH&S Elves. "FH&S?" you say. I'll leave you to work out the meaning behind the letters. I might even offer a prize for the wittiest interpretation of the acronym, but for now their identity will remain a secret.

What do they do? A report on their recent activities will give you some important clues:-

### **Church boiler and heating system.**

*We have had a water leak on the system in the loft. It became apparent when it appeared on the first floor but fortunately it coincided with the annual service of the gas boilers and our engineer was able to replace the defective part (low pressure header box). We are still awaiting the invoice.*

### **Solar Project**

*Progress is slow but hopefully by the time of the PCC meeting we should have progressed to having a viable set of plans and estimate of costs, which will then allow us to push forward to applying for planning permission with the local authority and also faculty permission with the DAC. Because we haven't had the plans, we have not been able to progress with funding applications. Hopefully we will be able to make progress now.*

### **LED Conversion.**

*We are now working in the rental rooms and whilst we have done the majority of the rooms, St Oswald is still outstanding. This is due mainly to the fact that the room is very busy with rentals. It is hoped that we will be able to access the room for a full day at some point in the near future.*

### **Quinquennial Inspection.**

*Completed but still awaiting the report and invoice.*

### **Five-year electrical inspection.**

*Completed and awaiting invoice.*



We are often told how much the weekly upkeep our lovely church costs. How much higher would that figure be without the efforts of our industrious and dedicated elves? We have so much to be thankful for.

HI! RAZZIE HERE!



*Wishin' yew a Nappy*

*Crisp Mouse an an*

*Appy Nooyeer*

## *Christmas Reflections*

*I like to have the radio on whilst I knit or read,  
The music dispels loneliness, of the lyrics I pay no heed.  
Come Christmas time, come Christmas songs, with  
words I know so well:*

*Mistletoe, reindeer, a pear tree, snow and many a jingle  
bell.*

*But hearing one song, I shed a silent tear, 'tis true:  
The oft repeated, 'All I want for Christmas is you.'  
I hate that song, it tells just how I feel;  
I love that song, the feelings are so real.*

*So, if you're missing loved ones at this festive time of  
year,*

*Remember all the joyous times, wipe away that tear.  
Rejoice in happy memories with both family and friend,  
May you all find Christmas Peace that will never end.*

Joyce Bellamy

## PRAYER LIST

As is our practice, the prayer list is renewed on a regular basis. All names, including those recently added, will be removed from the prayer list for **Sunday 7th December 2023**, and the list will be restarted. If you wish any name to remain on the prayer list then please do so: by emailing St Giles' on [stgileschurchpontefract@gmail.com](mailto:stgileschurchpontefract@gmail.com) or by leaving a message on the church phone (01977 790448). Please note that under GDPR regulations, full names can no longer be used in the 'Prayer List' unless the person concerned has given permission for their name to be used. Could you please indicate if permission has been given.

This does not, in any way, affect the Years Mind list.

St Giles with St Mary's

Advent Course 2023

*A Journey with the Apostles*

Commencing on

Wednesday, 29<sup>th</sup> November

10:30am – 11:15am

At St Giles Church

Further dates:

6<sup>th</sup> December

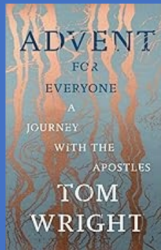
13<sup>th</sup> December

20<sup>th</sup> December

### A JOURNEY WITH THE APOSTLES

Join us here at St Giles for our short  
Advent Course

*A Journey with the Apostles*  
based on a book by Tom Wright.



Sign up on the sheet in Reception or drop in for one or more of the sessions which will take place upstairs in St Bede's meeting room on Wednesday mornings throughout Advent.

## The Tower, the Bells and the Ringers

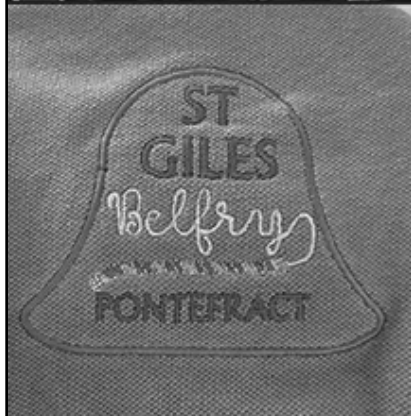
Every Sunday morning, before the congregation begins to arrive, the bell ringers at St Giles' climb the stone steps up to the tower. We are only a small part of the 38,000 ringers who do so every Sunday in the United Kingdom. We welcome you all to church and remind everyone that the church is at the heart of the community.

Each ringer has devoted over 100 hours to master the basics of bell handling and ringing, plus regular practice nights to maintain and enhance their skills. Church bell ringing has existed since at least the 16th century. It is unlike other types of music. We have no musical score, but ring from memory. Each bell takes a path across thousands of different changes and is conducted using a language which has evolved since the 16th century. Ringing is a fusion of physical skill, music, history and mathematics. It is a team-based, absorbing, rewarding and immersive activity. We all come from a diverse range of backgrounds which span the age spectrum.

At St Giles' we have one of the best rings of ten bells in the country. We ring up to ten bells most Sunday mornings, led by the tower captain. We are fortunate that the 'Ring for the King' scheme brought forward several new ringers, who have increased and enhanced the team in so many different ways, and we are lucky at St Giles' that we have our in-house accredited tutor, who enables the team to advance through the skill levels of the Association of Ringing Teachers.

We now have a vibrant team of ringers and should anyone wish to visit the tower you will receive a warm welcome and be met by the team, dressed in the new uniform green polo tops, complete with the St Giles' logo.

Karen Glynn



The Archbishop of Canterbury was recently joined by Muslim and Jewish leaders at Lambeth Palace to condemn the sharp rise in antisemitic incidents since the start of the war in Israel and Hamas. They called for unity between British faith communities, against the backdrop of the war.

Archbishop Justin Welby, Sheikh Ibrahim Mogra and Rabbi Jonathan Wittenberg stood together outside Lambeth Palace and delivered statements calling for solidarity and unity between communities in the UK, and rejecting any form of hatred or discrimination.

Sheikh Ibrahim Mogra is a scholar and imam from Leicester, and a former Assistant Secretary-General of the Muslim Council of Britain. Rabbi Jonathan Wittenberg is the Senior Rabbi of Masorti Judaism UK, and Rabbi of the New North London Synagogue.







## **THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY CHRISTMAS STALL**

*The Christmas stall will be held outside church on **Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> December 9.00am to 12 noon.***

The stall will include a variety of items with a Christmas theme including gifts (jewellery, glassware, toiletries, stationery, etc.), homemade preserves and cakes (mince pies, etc.) and Christmas decorations.

There will also be a tombola of festive and other items. Donations of suitable items or gifts for tombola/stall will be very welcome. Please bring to church at any time clearly marked **“Children’s Society”**. If you can help on the stall at any time during the morning please contact Bill & Angela Bradley (tel. 01977 613643)



**All proceeds for The Children’s Society.**

Pontefract & District Appeals Committee

1. Nazareth 2. Gabriel 3. Carpenter 4. Caesar Augustus 5. To register for the census 6. We are not told in the Bible. 7. There was no room at the inn 8. c) In a manger 9. d) None 10 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will to all people. 11. d) westward 12. A star 13. The Bible doesn't say 14. Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh 15. The shepherds 16. Bethlehem 17. Matthew and Luke 18. a) God with us 19. Eight, according to the law 20. False; we don't know the date.

We're at that time of year again! But is Christmas just about the shopping, tree or presents? At its heart, Christmas is all about a God who has showed up on earth. The Creator of the universe, whose hands flung stars into space, cared enough to come to earth as a tiny baby. 'The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us.' (John 1:14)

Every year we sing carols and retell the same story of the donkey, innkeeper, stable, angels, shepherds, star, wise men, gifts and Mary and Joseph with baby! Why do we do all this? It's to remind us that God deals with the mess of our world by sending His Son to die in our place. This makes it possible for us to have a relationship with Himself:

When the time came, He "did not consider equality with God something to be used to His own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to death – even death on a cross! (Philippians 2:6-8)

Reflecting on Jesus in the manger is a great place to start understanding the heart of the Christmas message. However, it's so much more than simply a cute baby lying in the bed of straw:

- If our greatest need had been information, God would have sent us an educator;
- If our greatest need had been technology, God would have sent us a scientist;
- If our greatest need had been money, God would have sent us an economist;
- If our greatest need had been pleasure, God would have sent us an entertainer;
- But our greatest need was forgiveness, so God sent us a Saviour.



## Nativity Quiz in 20 Questions

1. Where did Mary and Joseph live before Jesus was born?  
a) Nazareth b) Bethlehem c) Jerusalem
2. What was the name of the angel who told Mary she would have a child?
3. What did Joseph do for a living?
4. Who was the Roman ruler when Jesus was born?
5. Why did Mary and Joseph go to Bethlehem?
6. How did Mary and Joseph travel to Bethlehem?
7. Why couldn't Mary and Joseph find a place to stay?
8. Where does the Bible say Jesus was born?  
a) In a stable b) In hay c) In a manger
9. According to the Bible, which animals were specifically mentioned as being present in the stable when Jesus was born?  
a) sheep and a donkey b) cattle and a donkey c) donkey, sheep and cattle d) None
10. What does the angel say to the shepherds when they tell them to go to Bethlehem?
11. The wise men travelled ..... to Jerusalem. a) northward b) southward c) eastward d) westward
12. What did the Wise Men follow to find Jesus?
13. How many Wise Men visited baby Jesus?
14. What gifts did the wise men bring for Jesus?
15. Who spread the news about baby Jesus throughout Bethlehem?
16. What is the City of David also known as in the Bible?
17. Which of the gospels tell the story of the Nativity?
18. What does Jesus' other name, "Immanuel", mean? a) God with us b) Son of God c) He who is God d) Chosen One
19. How many days after the birth of Christ did Joseph and Mary give him the name Jesus?
20. Jesus was born on the 25th of December. True or false?

Answers on opposite page.



# 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



+ Domestic Cleaning +

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📞 H & E cleaning services

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COMMERCIAL  
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+ FREE  
no obligation  
quotation +

Regular or  
one off jobs



# The Big Bash!



JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS

ONE STORY WAS ABOUT A RICH MAN WHO DECIDED TO HAVE A PARTY

HE SENT OUT LOTS OF INVITATIONS

OH! NO!!

BUT PEOPLE STARTED MAKING EXCUSES

ONE MAN SAID HE HAD BOUGHT A FIELD, BUT NEEDED TO MEASURE IT

ANOTHER MAN SAID HE NEEDED TO TEST DRIVE THE OXEN HE HAS JUST PAID FOR

ANOTHER MAN SAID HE HAD JUST GOT MARRIED - AND HIS WIFE WOULDN'T LET HIM OUT!

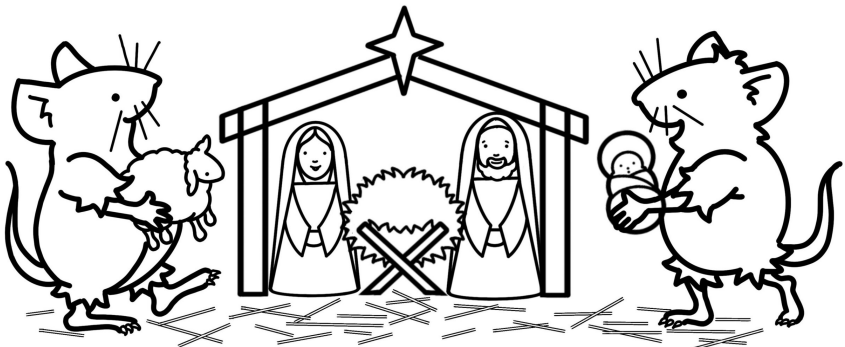
SO THE RICH MAN INVITED ALL THE POOR AND NEEDY INSTEAD.

THE PARABLE MEANS WE SHOULDN'T MAKE EXCUSES FOR NOT FOLLOWING JESUS.

Monday 4th December

We meet in Church at 12  
noon for our ADVENT  
SERVICE.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH WILL  
FOLLOW AT 1pm





THE BENEFICE of PONTEFRACT

**ST GILES'**  
with ST MARY'S

## Organ Recitals 2023-2024

### **Fridays at 1.00pm**

(unless otherwise stated)

Come and join us on the following dates:

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)



*Let our family take care of your family  
in your time of need!*

**Private Chapel of Rest  
Pre-paid funeral plans available  
A CARING PERSONAL SERVICE**

*Caring for families of Normanton, Castleford and Pontefract*

**1 - 9 Saville Road  
CASTLEFORD  
01977 555 733**

**198 Castleford Road  
NORMANTON  
01924 899 998**

*Chris McTigue & Sarah McTigue*

## Y.M.C.A. Charity Shop

YMCA Charity Shop, Horsefair,  
Pontefract.

Large white goods, menswear and  
furniture urgently needed.

Please ring 01977 792679 for free  
collection.

Help us transform the lives of young  
people in your area by donating your  
unwanted goods.





e	f	a	m	i	l	y	o	u	n	g	i	p
l	f	r	z	s	z	d	e	v	b	q	g	n
i	y	j	y	r	i	s	z	y	l	u	f	w
z	e	b	m	a	r	r	i	a	g	e	x	i
a	a	p	r	e	g	n	a	n	t	c	u	m
b	r	f	b	l	s	a	v	e	s	h	k	p
e	a	t	y	j	o	s	e	p	h	i	e	o
t	n	c	o	m	p	l	e	t	e	l	m	s
h	g	s	w	e	d	d	i	n	g	d	a	s
c	e	q	n	o	t	h	i	n	g	r	r	i
e	l	m	g	h	p	e	o	p	l	e	y	b
m	f	h	l	j	d	r	e	a	m	n	r	l
c	m	z	k	b	w	i	e	s	h	a	m	e

impossible  
Elizabeth  
people  
baby  
messenger  
complete  
wrong  
saves

young  
Israel  
pregnant  
wedding  
angel  
nothing  
marriage  
shame

Joseph  
afraid  
dream  
children  
Mary  
family  
God  
year

# 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

#### Churchwardens

Bruce Dagleish 07809 760993  
Barbara Sessford 07485 546035  
Peter Lavine 07910 377989  
Pam Mercer 07999 807344

#### PCC Secretary/Parish Administrator

Vivienne Smales 790448  
stgileschurchpontefract@gmail.com

#### PCC Treasurer

David Leigh 706526

#### Organist and Choir Director

James MacDonald 790448

#### Tower Captain

Adrian Garner 690154

#### Parish Magazine Editor

Bruce Dagleish 690216

#### St Giles' Altar Flowers

Barbara Chessman 700559

#### Tiddlywinks

Barbara Lavine 07780 358306

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

Paul and Ann Harris 07808 808977

#### Mothers' Union Leader/Secretary

Marjorie Laidlaw 795748

#### Children's Society Box Secretary

Angela Bradley 613643

#### Missions Committee Secretary

Edith Barber 277226

#### Pro-Wardens at St Mary's

Frank Ward

#### St Mary's Church Treasurer

Delia Perrett 796223  
David Leigh 706526

#### St Mary's Church Meeting Chair

Fr Michael Taylor 702824

#### St Mary's Community Centre

Manager: Denise Pallett 705341

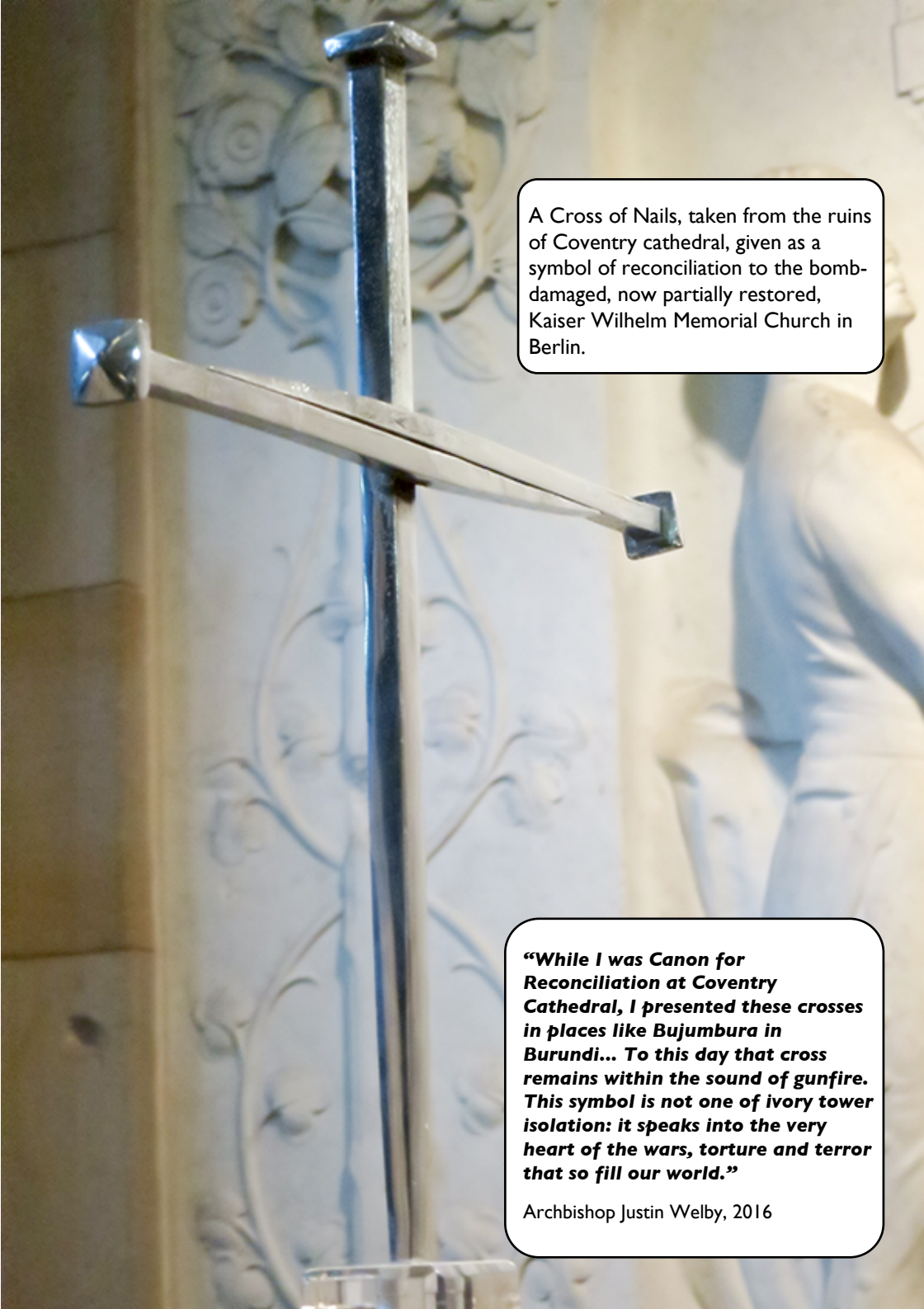
#### St Giles' Church School (aided)

Head teacher: Richard Grace 794175

#### St Giles' Pantomime Society Chair

Andy Weston 07791 656820

This month's cover photographs were taken in the beautiful Polish city of Kraków. The nativity scene, carved from rock salt by the sculptor Mieczysław Kluzek, is in St Kinga's chapel, 101 metres below ground in the Wieliczka salt mine. On the back cover Saint Mary's Basilica watches over the Christmas market in the city's main square.



A Cross of Nails, taken from the ruins of Coventry cathedral, given as a symbol of reconciliation to the bomb-damaged, now partially restored, Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church in Berlin.

***“While I was Canon for Reconciliation at Coventry Cathedral, I presented these crosses in places like Bujumbura in Burundi... To this day that cross remains within the sound of gunfire. This symbol is not one of ivory tower isolation: it speaks into the very heart of the wars, torture and terror that so fill our world.”***

Archbishop Justin Welby, 2016

