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*Parish of Pontefract*  
*St Giles with St Mary*



*November 2023*

ST GILES' CHURCH, PONTEFRACT

**Concert**  
**for**  
**Remembrance Day**

**Yorkshire Imperial Band**

**Musical Director: Garry Hallas**

**Soloists: James MacDonald - Organ**

**Charlie Trucman - Baritone**  
BBC Young Chorister of the Year 2020

Programme to include:

**Mendelssohn: The War March of the Priests**

**Saint-Saëns: Finale from Organ Symphony in C minor**

**Saturday 11th November 2023 at 7.00pm**

Tickets £12, available from St Giles' Church, open most days 10.00am to 2.00pm  
01977 790448 or [stgileschurchpontefract@gmail.com](mailto:stgileschurchpontefract@gmail.com)  
or direct from Pomfret Gallery.

B.G. 2023

It's November, and we are in a season of Remembrance. This year, our act of Remembrance takes place against the backdrop not only of the ongoing conflict in Ukraine, but also a catastrophic war in the Holy Land, which has already become a severe humanitarian crisis. Amid this crisis, how, as Christians, might we remember the past in a way that fosters peace in the present?

The history of Israel and Palestine is the history of two traumatised peoples. The story of the modern state of Israel is entwined with the collective trauma of the Jewish people in Europe—the dark and shameful history of antisemitism, culminating in the horrors of the Holocaust—which motivated a desire for a safe homeland. Meanwhile, the Palestinian people remember the trauma of mass displacement—called in Arabic the 'Nakba', the Catastrophe—when in 1948 Palestinians were forcibly expelled from their homes and land. Their families remain refugees to this day, with many living under Israeli occupation.

When we listen to the ways people are talking about recent atrocities – the slaughter of Israeli civilians by Hamas, and the siege and indiscriminate bombing of the people of Gaza – we can hear how memories of historical trauma shape our perspective on the present. We are witnessing a retraumatisation of Israelis and Palestinians, present in the comparisons of Hamas attacks to antisemitic pogroms, and in Palestinian fears of a 'second Nakba'. Old wounds are being reopened, as new wounds are inflicted.

So, in Israel and Palestine, the act of remembrance is far from a politically neutral act. The way we choose to talk about the past – the things we remember, and the things we forget – shapes our understanding of right and wrong, of justice and injustice. Alongside the conflict over land and borders lies a conflict between two radically different accounts of history. In the Holy Land, remembrance has become a matter of life and death.

I bring all this to our own act of remembrance this November, as we remember the wars in which our own nation has been involved. But we come to Remembrance Sunday not only as British people, but as Christians. What does Christianity have to teach us about remembering? As it turns out, rather a lot. Every time we gather for communion, we are involved in act of remembrance: 'do this in remembrance of me...'. In the Eucharist, we gather to remember the foundational trauma of our people: the crucifixion of Jesus—a persecuted Jewish rabbi, unjustly executed by the Roman occupying force in first-century Palestine, with the participation of the religious and political elite in his society. Yet, in his cry of forgiveness on the cross, Jesus refuses to let his death be an occasion for further violence, >>>>>

another tragic death to be added to a long list of historical grievances. Then, in the resurrection, we are shown a version of justice built not upon revenge and destruction, but upon the triumph of love over oppression, light over darkness.

Jesus Christ is on the side of the victimised and oppressed, wherever we find them. He dies in solidarity with all the traumatised peoples of the world, and opens up the way towards healing and hope. So whenever we remember the death and resurrection of Christ, we stand alongside all those who suffer with him, and cry out for peace. As one of our Eucharistic Prayers puts it, we pray that God would “help us to work together for that day when [God’s] kingdom comes and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.” In this season of Remembrance, may our act of remembrance lead us into a deeper commitment to God’s peaceable Kingdom, as we cry out for justice and mercy in the Holy Land and across the world.

Fr Sam

### **Interregnum update**

The job of new Vicar of Pontefract etc. has now been advertised. Applications close on 3<sup>rd</sup> November and interviews will take place on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup>. You may wish to hold those dates in mind and in your prayers.

Should you be interested, the Job Description and Benefice Brochure are available on line at

<https://pathways.churchofengland.org/job/pathways/4743/vicar-of-pontefract-and-priest-in-charge-of-carleton-and-east-hardwick> .

Your churchwardens have been under unusual pressure in recent weeks. A bit like swans, we've been trying to maintain a calm and serene exterior; apologies if we've been seen frantically paddling from time to time. Our thanks to all of you who have shown us your support. It is much appreciated!



# *Dates to remember*

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

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> November: **Mass for All Souls** at **9.30am**

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November: **Organ Recital: 1pm** (see **p11** for details.)

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> November: **All Souls Choral Evening Service: 4pm**  
(see **p25** for details.)

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November: **Mothers' Union:** (see **p8** for details.)

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> November: **Follow Me** Wakefield Cathedral

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> November: **Remembrance Day Concert: 7pm**

**Big Community Sing:** Wakefield Cathedral  
(see **p18** for details.)

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> November: **Greenfingers - a 'Bloomin' comedy.**  
(see **p17** for details.)

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November: **Race Night** (see **p14** for details.)

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November: **Messy Church** at St Mary's **4.00pm**

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November: **Mothers' Union Bottle Stall**

Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> November: **St Giles' Lent Course** (see **p6** for details)

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December: **Organ Recital: 1pm** (see **p11** for details.)

The deadline for submissions to the **December** magazine is  
**Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November**



## World War I casualties

The historical literature on World War I is still arguing about the number of WWI casualties, with a range between 6 and 13 million. The main reason for the different estimates lies in the term 'loss', which in the military terminology of the time included all those soldiers who were no longer able to fight, and who may have been dead, wounded or captured. Nevertheless, some figures relating to military losses are more accurate, specifically those concerning soldiers who died on the battlefield or as prisoners of war. Of the 60 million soldiers who fought in the First World War, over 9 million were killed — 14% of the combat troops or 6,000 dead soldiers per day. The armies of the Central Powers\* mobilised 25 million soldiers and 3.5 million of them died. The Entente Powers\* deployed 40 million soldiers and lost more than 5 million. The mortality rate ranged between 6% and 30%, with the highest in the armies of Serbia, Montenegro and the Turkish Empire, mainly due to large epidemics of cholera, typhoid and smallpox, against which the armies of other countries vaccinated their troops. Infectious diseases did also spread in other armies, but with a lower mortality rate. In absolute numbers, major battles on all fronts claimed the highest number of casualties, primarily because of the technology of warfare based on explosive artillery shells. The death toll among prisoners of war amounted to between 5 and 10% of prisoners.

The Austro-Hungarian army mobilised around 8 million soldiers, of whom 1,016,000 (12.7%) died, 1,691,000 were missing (21.1%), while 437,000 officers and soldiers were taken captive by the Italians as prisoners of war after the signing of the Armistice; around 478,000 officers and soldiers died in Russian, Serbian and Italian captivity.

Data on civilian casualties from WWI are very limited and uncertain, suggesting an estimated 6 million casualties among the civilian population. The highest death rate was caused by hunger, deprivation and disease, while we should not neglect the civilian casualties suffered during military occupation and retaliation (Belgium, Serbia, Galicia, Isonzo Front), among which the Armenian genocide in Turkey, which claimed between 1 and 2 million dead Armenians, stands out.

Source: [http://www.100letprve.si/en/world\\_war\\_1/casualties/index.html](http://www.100letprve.si/en/world_war_1/casualties/index.html)

\*Central Powers: Germany, Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria, the Ottoman Empire.

\*\*Entente Powers: France, the United Kingdom, Russia, the United States, Italy, Japan.

## **Our bishops pray and call for peace in Israel and Palestine**

First published on 9th October 2023

Following the recent violence in Israel and Palestine, the six bishops of the Diocese of Leeds have made a statement calling for peace and justice. This can be read below.

"As bishops in the Anglican Diocese of Leeds, we are horrified by the devastation that has erupted over the last two days in Israel and Gaza. We fully support the statement made by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York who write: 'We are grieved and deeply concerned at the violence in Israel and Gaza, and we unequivocally condemn the attacks by Hamas. We pray for those who are mourning, those who are injured, and all those fearing for their safety. We pray for restraint on all sides, and renewed efforts towards a just peace for all. The way forward must be for both sides to build confidence in a secure future through which Israel and its people can live in security within its internationally recognised borders, and Palestinians have their own state and live in their lands in security, and with peace and justice.'

"We too utterly condemn any terrorism or violence against civilians and we urge restraint on all sides. We pray for an end to the violence and for a just settlement without which there can be no lasting peace. Every life counts.

"Our concern here in the Diocese of Leeds is also for those in our own neighbourhoods who are directly affected by the violence, particularly our Jewish communities who may be afraid for loved ones in Israel or for a rise in antisemitic attacks here at home. Palestinians and others here in Yorkshire will be worried, too, for loved ones who may be caught up in the violence. We are aware that the attacks in Israel and Gaza will be causing dismay, anger and fear in many here, especially in our schools and colleges. Already there are voices using the war between Hamas and Israel to demonise whole communities and to destabilise the peace that we so value in our cities and towns. We appreciate the efforts of fellow religious and community leaders who are working to de-escalate tensions and to foster respect and dialogue and we commit ourselves, with them, to working and praying for peace."

Rt Revd Nick Baines, Bishop of Leeds

Rt Revd Anna Eltringham, Bishop of Ripon

Rt Revd Arun Arora, Bishop of Kirkstall

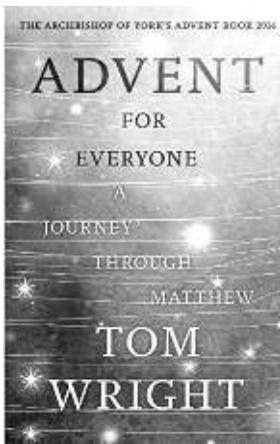
Rt Revd Smitha Prasadam, Bishop of Huddersfield; Rt Revd Toby Howarth, Bishop of Bradford

Rt Revd Tony Robinson, Bishop of Wakefield



## St Giles' Lent Course 2023 : A Journey with the Apostles

As I am writing this it's pouring with rain outside and this coming weekend we will be putting the clocks back: we are racing towards winter, to shorter days and longer nights, we are also racing towards the beginning of Advent.



Fr Sam and I have been considering suitable Advent courses and have decided that this year we will base our Advent course on a book by Tom Wright, *Advent for Everyone - A Journey with the Apostles*. The course will run over four short sessions which will be held in St Giles', commencing on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> November at 10:30am - 11:15am and then 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> December. We will be following the themes of the book which are thanksgiving, patience, humility and joy. Some of you may already be familiar with Tom Wright; for those of you who are not, he is a prolific and accessible Christian writer.

We hope you will be able to join us, to take some time out from the inevitable commercialisation of the season; time to reflect and prepare ourselves to celebrate the coming of Jesus. You do not need a copy of the book, which has daily reflections for Advent, but should you wish to read along it is available to purchase online. You do not need to commit yourself to coming to all the sessions, you can dip in and out as your schedule allows, the sign up sheet is in Reception.

Jill Clapham

LLM\*/Reader

\*LLM = Licensed Lay Minister



You have to be quick to see them. Even if you do come for coffee and cake on a Saturday morning, you may be fooled into thinking they are just ordinary people, sitting quietly at the front of church, having a ~~natter~~ a planning meeting, or sitting innocently amongst the crowd in the café, their work already done. Do you even know who they are, these mysterious creatures?

What you can't miss is the result of their labours: the magnificent floral displays that they conjure up, apparently out of nowhere. It has to be seen to be believed.

They start off with this...



...and a bit of  
flower fairy  
magic produces...  
this...



Of course, it would look so much better in colour. Which is why you need to turn to the back inside cover to see their handiwork in its full technicolor™ glory. And why you need to make yourself known to one of the fairies and put your name down for, not just one calendar for yourself, but at least one other for someone you love. (This is a strictly limited edition.) Please show your appreciation of all the joy the flower fairies bring to our lives and to our worship, and support them in this lovely fundraising initiative. The calendars cost £4.70 each to print; we ask simply for £5 from you and a donation to show how much we value these lovely ladies strange wee folk. All proceeds go to church funds.

We meet in the café on **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November** at **12 noon**  
for our **A.G.M.**

followed by a Pie and Peas lunch.

Please make sure your name is on the list.



We are still collecting  
bottles for our bottle stall  
on 22<sup>nd</sup> November.

**Thank you!**

## BRIC-À-BRAC

The range of items available for sale on the Bric-à-Brac stall is now very limited.

Some of the items even the charity shops aren't interested in.

Please have a sort out and see if there's anything you could bring in to add to the selection. If you don't want it the Bric-à-Brac stall does!

It's all in aid of Saint Giles' !!!!

## God in the Sciences

*This series is written by Dr Ruth M Bancewicz, who is Church Engagement Director at The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion in Cambridge. Ruth writes on the positive relationship between Science and Christian faith.*

### God of the mountains, God of the valleys

*Where were you when I laid the earth's foundation? Tell me, if you understand. Who marked off its dimensions? Surely you know! Who stretched a measuring line across it? On what were its footings set, or who laid its cornerstone ... The earth takes shape like clay under a seal; its features stand out like those of a garment... Have you journeyed to the springs of the sea or walked in the recesses of the deep? (Job 38:4–7, 14, 16)*

These verses from the biblical book of Job focus on the Earth, from the top of the highest mountains to the deepest valleys of the sea floor. Job used to have a very comfortable life, but lost everything: health, children, and much of his property. He can see no obvious reason for this terrible turn of events, so he demands an answer from God, asking “What have I done to You...? Why have You made me your target?”

There is no direct reply to Job's question, but instead a long conversation with his friends who assume (wrongly) that he must be being punished for doing something very bad. When God finally speaks, He draws Job's attention to his surroundings. The sun, moon and stars, the immensity of land and sea, the creatures that inhabit them, and the processes that produce weather are a wonderful display of God's creative power. God is the origin and sustainer of all these things, and they are far beyond anything humankind could produce, fully understand or imagine – even today.

The things we do know about the processes described in Job can help us appreciate how marvellous they are. Mountains are produced by the movement of the Earth's rocky crust over great periods of time. Erosion by weathering or glaciers then grinds down those rocks to produce the mineral component of soil.

Considering the wider perspective of creation can help restore our sense of who we are, who God is, and where we fit into His purposes. God speaks to Job in the midst of his suffering, lifting his eyes to the power and creativity of his Maker. Only after this theology lesson are Job's practical needs addressed. What will life be like for us over the coming months? A constant check on our own thinking – reminding ourselves of the bigger picture of God's plans and purposes – might be just what we need to help us keep going.

*This article drew very directly on the writing of Prof Bob White in [New Daylight](#) (BRF, Sept-Dec 2020), and the input of a Bible study group based in Cambridge.*

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

03	Marjorie Mildred Schofield	10	Mary Walker
03	Roger Sessford	11	Debra Julie Margetson
03	Eric Taylor	13	David Fielder
04	Tony Townsend	15	Lucy Nichol
06	Frank Roberts	17	John Roger Sessford
07	Martyn Heighton	19	Maud Rita Hill
08	Alan Sambrooks	19	Joan Mary Lemmon
08	Ian Sanderson	22	Eric Tonks
08	William Wilson Skeates	26	Gordon Leng Johnson
09	George Eric Burgess	26	Dorothy Sessford
09	Fanny Roydhouse		

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)



THE BENEFICE of PONTEFRAC<sup>T</sup>

**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)

## Taylor's of Loughborough

Now, here's a pub quiz question: What is Loughborough famous for? The answer is Ladybird books and bell founding. It was the latter that awaited a group of 10 of the St Giles' bell ringers one sunny Thursday in September as we set off from Pontefract Morrisons' car park to visit Taylor's Bell Foundry in Loughborough.

But first, a little bit of history. Taylor's Bell Foundry was established in 1839. John Taylor had learnt the craft from his father Robert who had run a foundry in Oxford. Professional bell foundries were only established in Tudor times, with Whitechapel Bell Foundry opening in 1570. Prior to that bells were cast by digging huge pits in churchyards where bells were cast for the church - hence street names like Pit Lane. Taylor's Bell Foundry quickly rose to fame receiving one of the twenty Prize Medals at the Great Exhibition in 1851. The firm eventually outgrew its original site in the 1860s and moved to its present location. Taylor's has the distinction of casting two of the heaviest bells in Britain. 'Great Paul' was cast for St Paul's Cathedral in 1881, weighing in at 16 and a half tons and 'Great Peter' was cast in 1927 for York Minster in 1927, weighing in at just under 11 tons. For comparison, the heaviest bell in the St Giles' tower (The Tenor) weighs about 9 tons. Taylor's cast the St Giles' bells over 100 years ago. They became the last bell foundry in Britain when Whitechapel closed in 2017.

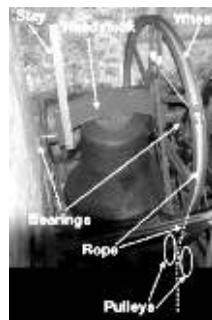
We arrived in Loughborough at about lunchtime and walked through the town centre to find a pub



for lunch, eventually settling on the aptly named Wetherspoons 'Bell and Moon' (now sadly closed). After lunch we walked back through the town centre to the bell foundry ready for our tour at 1pm. Our guides

for the day were Sally Brown (David Atkin's daughter) and Kirsten. We were first taken round the outside of the foundry where work is underway to build a museum which will tell the story of bell founding. Taylor's is overseen by a charity, the Loughborough Bell Foundry Trust, who work to make the site a tourist attraction as well as a working foundry and would step in to keep the foundry going if the business went under.

Our next stop was the main area of the foundry where the bells are stored. There were about 50 bells from all over the country in the room. Some were waiting to be repaired, some were waiting to be melted down to make new bells and some were brand new. It was really interesting to see where the bells had come from and to read the inscriptions on them. Sally was able to tell us where most of the bells had come from and what was going to happen to them.



After that we visited the joinery room. Sally and Conner, the business' only joiner, requested that we didn't touch anything on pain of death (literally)! Conner was able to show us the wheels and stays that he was working on at the moment (see annotated photo) and how they are made. He also told us about a recent commission that the business has just completed for a church in Chicago. A team from Taylor's had gone out to help fit the bell only to have to spend an extra few days there as the local authority hadn't undertaken the necessary assessment to see if the road would take the weight of the crane needed to lift the bell into place!

Our next port of call was the tuning room. The bells are taken there once they have been cast to be

tuned. This involves chipping some of the metal off the inside of the bell until it has the right note and pitch. There were several bells in the room which were in the process of being tuned, including the 'Hope Bell' which has been commissioned by the local council. Once completed it will hang in Loughborough's Queen's Park in memory of the people who lost their lives during the Pandemic and as a thank you to NHS staff and other key workers. Adrian gave some brand-new handbells a rather wistful look as some of the St Giles' handbells are sadly in need of some TLC.

Our final stop on our tour was the casting room where bells are cast. This is done by pouring molten metal into a mould. The mould is then buried in a 15m deep sand pit in the room where it is left to cool for several days. Once the bell has cooled it is dug out of the pit, removed from the mould and the inside of the bell is cleared out. Sadly, casting is usually done on a Wednesday so there wasn't any bell being cast that day, but we could see the tops of a couple of bells which had been cast the previous day sticking out of the pit.



The process of putting inscriptions on the bells was also explained to us. Taylor's have stencils which are used to write the inscription on the bell after it has come out of the mould. They had recently had to do a challenging inscription for a bell which was commissioned for a temple in Sri Lanka. They'd had initially got the inscription wrong due to parts of some of the Tamil letters needing to be below the line! Whilst the bell was being cast it was blessed in a traditional Hindu ceremony.



After we had finished our tour, we spent some time in the shop before ringing the foundry's small peal of bells for half an hour (it was your author's first-time ringing bells away from St Giles') before setting off for home. Our walk back to the car park took us through the housing estate which has been built around Taylor's. Some of the streets had street furniture connected to bells and bell founding.

Our thanks to Sally for an informative tour and for sharing memories of her dad, to Kirsten for making sure that none of us got lost or left behind taking photos and to Conner for taking time away from his work to talk us through what he does. Thanks as well to Adrian and Sharon for being our drivers on the day.

## Jonathan Harris

Annotated photo courtesy of All Saints', Wokingham

Image of a bell in its mould cooling in the sand pit; the Hindu blessing ceremony courtesy of Taylor's Bell Foundry Facebook page



**FUNDRAISING FOR ST GILES' CHURCH, PONTEFRACT**

Join us for a

# **RACE NIGHT**

Horse races on the big screen - All bets £1 - Raffle

**Thursday 16 November  
at King's Croft, Pontefract**

Tickets £15.00 including a pie & pea supper  
Doors open at 6.30pm - First race at 7.00pm

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For tickets please email [stgileschurchpontefract@gmail.com](mailto:stgileschurchpontefract@gmail.com),  
contact Linda Atkins on 07952 146569 or call into St Giles' Church  
on a Wednesday or Saturday 10am - 2.00pm

HI! RAZZIE HERE!

I iz a luky fur. I iz a memba  
of ve #btposse an I haz  
furends orl over ve wurld. At  
ve momen I haz wun fousand,  
free hunderd an fourteefree  
folowurs on X/Twitta.



How meny haz yu gotted?

---



Does yu get tyred sumtimes?  
Me two. MUSS be ve whether!

(It has been brought to our attention that some readers have been critical of Razzie's spelling.

He's three and he's a dog. At least he's trying! Ed.)



The  
Tale of the  
**TWO  
BUILDERS**



JESUS OFTEN TOLD  
STORIES WITH  
HIDDEN MEANINGS



ONE WAS ABOUT TWO MEN WHO  
BUILT THEIR OWN HOUSES

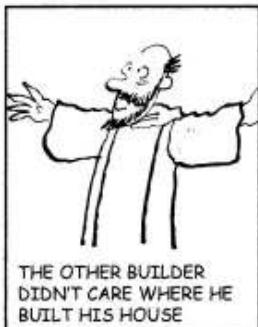


THE FIRST BUILDER SEARCHED HIGH  
AND LOW FOR A GOOD SOLID ROCK ON  
WHICH TO BUILD HIS HOME.

AT LONG, LONG LAST HE  
FOUND THE IDEAL SPOT.



SO HE BEGAN TO BUILD.

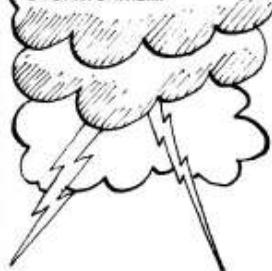


THE OTHER BUILDER  
DIDN'T CARE WHERE HE  
BUILT HIS HOUSE

HE THOUGHT SOME NICE FLAT SAND  
WOULD BE AN EASY PLACE TO BUILD.



BUT ONE DAY THE  
STORM CAME....



...AND THE WIND BLEW...AND  
THE RAIN FELL....



...AND THE HOUSE ON  
THE SAND COLLAPSED!

BUT THE HOUSE ON THE  
ROCK STOOD FIRM.



JESUS EXPLAINED -  
IT'S IMPORTANT OUR LIVES HAVE  
A FIRM FOUNDATION.

## THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY EVENTS AT CHRISTMAS 2023



### SCHOOLS CAROL SINGING

10 local schools have been invited to sing carols in the Market Place and Salter Row on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> November between 9.30am and 3.00pm.

If you can help with the street collection for half-hour or more during the day please see or contact Bill (tel. 01977 613643) and sign your name on the list in reception.



### THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY - HOME BOXES

"Bringing-in Day" is also being held on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> November between 9.00am and 3.00pm.

Angela will be in church to receive your boxes.

Alternatively please bring boxes to church on the Sundays either side of this date – 26<sup>th</sup> November or 3<sup>rd</sup> December.



### 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

# 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 +

Call us anytime ☎ 07469783906

📍 H & E cleaning services

## RELIABLE AND PROFESSIONAL Cleaning Service

DOMESTIC &  
COMMERCIAL  
CLEANING

+ FREE  
no obligation  
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/>



Join us for a one-day immersive workshop at the majestic Wakefield Cathedral.

Experience the joy of learning and performing [Fauré's Requiem](#) alongside fellow enthusiasts, regardless of your age or experience level. Enjoy a complimentary lunch and dive into the world of choral harmony. Sign up now for a day of musical magic!

<https://wakefieldcathedral.churchsuite.com/events/rosx2ik4/>

A blue circular badge containing the text "SAT" at the top, "11" in the center, and "NOV" at the bottom.	Saturday, 11 November 2023
	10:30am - 4:15pm
	Wakefield Cathedral

**FREE!**

## Youth Worker

Posted 8 days ago

Expires in 14 days

Leeds

Employee

£25,321-£33,622



APPLY NOW

Do you want to be part of growing youth congregations in a brand new project in Wakefield?

We are looking for a highly motivated youth worker who will be well supported as they engage with young people through schools, detached and social action work- developing youth congregations and growing young people as Christian leaders.

Focus points in the role will be to build links in local schools, encourage young people in their passions and gifts, and to develop them as leaders through social action.

We offer a competitive salary, up to £33,622 depending on experience. We offer a pension, full expenses, and 25 days of annual leave plus bank holidays. We offer a supportive team and the opportunity to grow a project that will impact a city. The youth worker will be supervised by an experienced project lead, and have project co-ordinator support.

*There is an occupational requirement that the job-holder is a Christian under the Part 1 of Schedule 9 to the Equality Act 2010.*

*An offer of employment is subject to a satisfactory Enhanced DBS check (to be carried out by the PCC at offer stage), completion of safeguarding training level 1 and 2 and suitable references.*

For an informal conversation contact David Gerrard, Project Leader:

David.Gerrard@leeds.anglican.org

Interviews will be held on 22nd November

For the full list of role duties, please see the attached role description.

For full role requirements, please see the attached person specification.

Every Good Work is a new innovative project to grow new young disciples across the city of Wakefield. The Diocese of Leeds is working in partnership with three local churches who have a strong track record of serving their local communities. National funding has been made available for us to work together with other local partners to engage with young people in schools and other settings, to work with them in developing social justice projects, and to develop new worshipping communities that are shaped by and ultimately led by young people. It is intended that over 200 young new disciples will be involved in these new worshipping communities by 2028.

The youth worker will be based at a primary church but will work with the team to develop and deliver the project over five years.

**A huge thank you to everyone for the fantastic donations from Harvest last Sunday. These will help both No 6 and LwU meet the growing demands for our support.**

**Our next monthly food collection will be on Sunday, 5 November. Food donations can be made directly at No. 6 The Circle (Mon/Fri mornings) and through St Giles' Church.**

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

## NOTES FROM THE PCC MEETING

**Tuesday, 19 September 2023 at 7.00pm**

Twelve members of the PCC were present at the meeting with apologies received from 3 people. Barbara Sessford, as Vice Chair, chaired the meeting. Fr Sam opened the meeting with a prayer.

The Minutes of the last meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> July were agreed and accepted. It was reported that the skinny cashless giving device was now back in operation.

**Correspondence received** included a letter from Churches Together in Pontefract asking for the annual subscription fee from member churches, which has been increased to £40. It was proposed and accepted that this money will be paid by the Treasurer. A letter was also received from the Mission and Pastoral Secretary asking for the views of the PCC on the union of the Benefice with Carleton and East Hardwick. The following minute was agreed: The PCC expressed that this move feels inevitable and essential for the survival of the smaller churches. However, they expressed concern about the burden placed on an incoming incumbent, especially as they will be new. They are also concerned that the administration of the Benefice should not fall too heavily on a single administrator. It was agreed that the PCC need not request a meeting with the Pastoral Committee.

The **Minutes of the Standing Committee** held on 25<sup>th</sup> July 2023 were reviewed and it was noted that the intermittent problems with the microphone continue to be addressed through a change in placement of the microphone, and possibly through the production of a sling to hold the microphone across the priest's body.

**The Safeguarding Report and Action Plan** was delivered by the PSO who left the meeting after the point. Chris Brown presented her safeguarding report. 93% of the dashboard is complete. The maximum number we can get to while in vacancy in 98%. A list of non-church activities needs to be put together so it can be reviewed by the PCC at the next meeting.

The Treasurer presented a report on the **parish finances**. Income is roughly as predicted (notwithstanding a discrepancy due to the way Gift Aid is recorded). Our income is holding up as we expected, and we are en-route to a shortfall of £25,000 - £30,000 at the end of the year.

The Scottish Power situation continues to be unresolved and frustrating, with us still not receiving a bill and we expect a large bill at some stage, which will be around £5000 - £6000. The Treasurer will try and make contact with Scottish Power directly to ascertain if we can negotiate a rate at which payments can be made; lodge a formal complaint and, going forward, if a smart meter could be installed.

Whilst the **PCC finances** suggest we are £27k below our expected budget, this is due to

the parish share payments not being paid in full. **No. 6** Food Share finances still remain healthy with a balance of just over £16k. **Centre** booking numbers and income have increased, and we are also negotiating a new booking for every Wednesday that will bring in about £5-£5.5k. David L expressed that there is a conversation to be had about the Centre putting money back into church through contributing to the cost of caretaking and utilities, as has happened in previous years. **LWU** has found that the donations given for meals on Wednesdays are no longer sufficient to meet the rising cost of food and materials. Costs are therefore having to be supplemented with around £500 - £600/year from the LWU reserves fund. LWU are having to restrict how much food they give per person, and to more actively encourage people to make donations and not see the service as simply 'free', but 'pay as you can'. LWU does already take some of the monthly collection (which mostly goes to No. 6).

Two **Policy Reviews** were undertaken for the CCTV and Disability Policies were reviewed and accepted.

The **Fabric, Health and Safety Report** was given verbally. Weekly checks at the vicarage are being carried out and the cost of garden maintenance is being covered by the payment made by Canon June before she left.

The solar panels group visited St Mark's, Harrogate, where solar panels are installed, and were very impressed. They heard church members there express how advantageous the panels had been for the church. A provisional quotation had been received from Energy Oasis for approximately £30k. However, to provide a full quotation they requested a structural engineer's report on the church (at a cost of around £1000). Prior to paying for this, the group are keen to ensure that planning permission from the council is likely to go through, so they are trying to secure a pre-application meeting on this matter with the council. SA is assisting with this, drawing from her experience with the council. Bill Bradley has things ready to start applying for grant funding, and PL has things ready for the faculty process, but neither of these processes can begin in earnest until the planning permission question is settled. It is likely to be a long process.

Electrical installations tests took place, and a trip switch was installed for the organ. The LED project is mostly complete, with one room to go, as well as the café and baptistry. The money for the project is coming from the coffee money given towards environmental improvements. The Centre may make a contribution to the lights in the Centre. The Quinquennial Report, costing £880, will happen in the future. Rhubarb Radio have asked to install an aerial on top of our tower. They will compensate us with £100/month for a minimum of 5 years, and free advertising for our community events up to the value of £200/month. They will pay for the installation work and for the associated utility costs. PL declared a personal interest in the matter because his granddaughter intends to do some work for the radio station. A faculty for the installation will cost £475, but this cost will be covered by the radio station. It will involve a small aerial, which will not be visible from ground level. It was agreed that this was a good idea, and a motion to move ahead with this proposal was proposed and accepted.

A report on **Cashless giving** in church was presented. This detailed the PCCs decision by email to move over to the Parish Giving Scheme in order to save money on the costs of the

administration of the GWD Skinny cashless giving device, and the progress made towards this. The PCC were also given a report detailing profits made by all cashless giving devices and online giving.

Fr Sam told the PCC that the first draft of the new **website** is expected on the 20<sup>th</sup> September, or at least by the end of the week.

An update was given on upcoming fundraising events, including the Race Night on the 16<sup>th</sup> November. There was a discussion around the need for the responsibility of organising the Bric-a-brac stall to be shared more widely. The Light Up event on Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup> November at the start of Advent is drawing closer, where we will have our stall and café open.

It was agreed that the **Heritage Open Day** was a great success all round, with the opening of the tower proving a particular success – with 49 visitors across 2 hours! There are ongoing discussions about extending the opening times of the tower to 4 hours next year, to accommodate more people (as only 6 at a time can go up there, for health and safety reasons). All in all, everything went very well.

**Update on Vacancy** was given and a final draft of the Benefice Brochure should be ready for Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September. A lot about Pontefract as a town was included, as this was missing from the previous profile. Thanks were given to KG, JC and Fr Sam for their work on this, and to BD in particular for his incredibly hard work. In line with guidance from the Bishop, after the service on the 1<sup>st</sup> October, two members of the PCC will be appointed to be involved in the interview process.

The **Harvest Collection** will be on 1<sup>st</sup> October, and shared between Lunch With Us and No. 6. There will not be a Harvest Supper this year, but Fr Sam will keep the church updated on the Harvest event over at East Hardwick, so that people can go to that.

**Chair's Notes:** Deanery Synod will be coming up on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> November.

**Any Other Business** included a proposal from Fr Sam for the PCC to consider putting to Deanery Synod (with the hope that this could then progress to Diocesan Synod and General Synod), following a suggestion by Peter Lavine. The proposal was: *That the Church Commissioners should put in place a national project to make funds available, from their resources, for the installation of PV panels on all suitable church buildings, where the PCC wish to install such panels, in order to help parishes meet the aim of becoming carbon net zero by 2030 and more financially secure in relation to energy costs.* The proposal was unanimously agreed and will be taken to Deanery Synod. A microphone should be passed around at the next meeting, so people could be heard more clearly.

**The Date of the next meeting** was given as 21<sup>st</sup> November 2023 at 7pm. Fr Sam closed the meeting with a prayer.

For the first time in 28 years, there is a new kind of poppy for Remembrance Sunday this year: it is plastic free.

Director of the Poppy Appeal, Andy Taylor-Whyte explains: “We are very proud to introduce the plastic-free poppy. It will not only enable people to support our Armed Forces community but also continues the RBL’s commitment to sustainability.”

The new poppy has been three years in the development and making. The aim was to reduce the use of single-use plastic and to “be economical, sustainable, and less impactful to the environment.”

The new poppy design has a 40% smaller carbon footprint, and it made from “bespoke red and green paper.” The paper comes from a blend of renewable fibres, 50 per cent of which has been recovered from the waste used in the production of coffee cups.

The plastic-free poppy will be available alongside remaining stocks of the current poppy, to reduce any waste of poppies already produced. Poppies containing single-use plastic can be returned to Sainsbury’s stores for recycling.





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*Chris McTigue & Sarah McTigue*

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Please ring 01977 792679 for free  
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**Wakefield  
Cathedral**



**THURSDAY 9TH  
NOVEMBER 2023**

**Bishop Tony  
invites you to**

**Follow Me  
2023**

**at Wakefield  
Cathedral**

the eighth series of evening  
teachings to explore faith and  
discipleship

**Session Running Order:**  
**18:30 Choral Evensong\***  
**19:15 Simple Supper**  
**19:45 Teaching**  
**21:15 Finish**

Feel free to join for the whole evening or a  
selected part.

\*optional

**SPEAKER**

THE REV'D CANON DAVID  
GERRARD – AREA DEAN  
OF WAKEFIELD AND VICAR  
OF ST CATHERINE'S AND ST  
ANDREW'S

In his new book 'Creation to  
New Creation' we are all  
invited to journey through Lent  
by exploring the book of  
Genesis. As we read about  
these ancient people  
(Abraham, Isaac, Jacob,  
Joseph, Sarah, Rebecca,  
Tamar) the more we discover  
the God who calls us to both  
accept our true self's and to  
embark on the adventure of  
broadening our horizons and  
breaking through the chains  
that would hold us back. Each  
day looks at the stories, reflects  
on what they say to us and  
helps us find the freedom of  
owning who we are, both our  
failures and our gifts, and  
growing into the fullness of life  
God has for us.

Please email Caroline Asquith, PA to Area Bishop of Wakefield  
at [caroline.asquith@leeds.anglican.org](mailto:caroline.asquith@leeds.anglican.org) to book your place  
(Including any dietary requirements) or for more information.

 THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND  
Diocese of Leeds

# 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-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

#### Churchwardens

Bruce Dagleish 07809 760993

Barbara Sessford 699058

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 photos: Poppies at Hooton Pagnell; November Morning at Robin Hoods Bay.



This is a strictly limited edition, showcasing some of the the wonderful arrangements created by our very own flower fairies.  
See p5 for full details.



