

Parish of Pontefract

St Giles with St Mary



April 2024



Dear Friends,

***Alleluia! Christ is Risen!!
He is Risen Indeed, Alleluia!!***

This was the cry of our congregations, and indeed all Christians as we welcomed our Risen Saviour on Easter Day in our five churches.

From Palm Sunday to Easter Day, we walked the way of the cross, through the pain and desolation, into darkness and ultimately the new light of Christ was kindled, and will illuminate our Paschal Candles, and burn bright in our churches throughout this year.

Mikki and I have been touched by the wonderful warm welcome that we have received from everyone, and we are both looking forward to what lies ahead.

Easter is a time when we think about new life and renewal, and in just a couple of weeks' time, the consultation period regarding the creation of the new benefice will be complete. I hope that it is being seen as a wonderful opportunity for the future, not only for the church here in Pontefract, but also for the community of Pontefract.

As I have been meeting people, I am excited to see so much potential and enthusiasm for the future. How by working together as one benefice not just in name, but through our shared support and commitment to one another, we can make a real difference.

During the vacancy the churches have been supported by a huge amount of people, and I want to say thank you to everyone who has played a part in this, I know from speaking to people, there is much gratitude for all that has been done, please accept my apologies for not naming you all, as I am sure I will accidentally miss someone off the list!

With the changes that are coming I also appreciate that there may be apprehension, because change is often feared for a variety of reasons.

Inevitably there will be change, not least because we won't be working as five individual churches in four distinct parishes, but instead looking at how we can utilise and harness all the gifts and skills know, and unknown in our congregations.

I am also very interested in knowing if anyone has a thirst to do something, or get involved in a way which perhaps they may never have done before, if that is you, then do come and have a chat with me. We all have to begin somewhere, and there will always be support for anyone who wants to get involved.

That however does not mean that we will become clones of each other, far from it, I hope that the unique nature of each church will remain, whilst being part of the benefice, working together to be the best we can be to the glory of God.

Over the coming month or two, I am going to continue to be spending time asking questions and listening, so that I can grasp a full understanding of where we are, and how best to proceed. I am also going to start to get to know our schools, and other local societies.

As you have probably already noticed, I have a fair limp, and I am waiting for a new hip after causing significant damage while cycling! The good news is that I am due to see the surgeon early in April, and am hopeful that the wait for surgery won't be too long. While this will put me out of action for about six weeks, I have no intention of sitting idle! Even though I will be housebound, it will give me the opportunity to pray, consider and begin to put a skeleton of a plan together through all that I have been told.

Then when I am back, I would like to organise a vision day for all the members of all the churches, so that we can gather and have a great discussion about what our hopes, dreams, and perhaps anxieties about the road ahead hold for us.

If anyone has anything they want to ask me, then please do collar me, ring me or e-mail me (fr.ian@cofe-pontefract.co.uk), as I want to hear from everyone as we forge forward.

I am and will continue to keep you all in my prayers as we seek God's will for the future, and I would ask that you would keep me in yours.

May you have a blessed and joyful Easter time, God Bless.

Fr Ian.

CONFIRMATION COURSE

I have been asked about a confirmation course. So that I can gauge interest, if you are interested in getting confirmed, or would like to know more, please e-mail Fr Ian at fr.ian@cofe-pontefract.co.uk

Thank you.

Dates to remember

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

Friday 5th April: Organ Recital: Tim Harper: 1pm

Sunday 7th April: **Deadline** for registering on the the Electoral Roll
(see p 11)

Monday 8th April: Mothers' Union: (see p8 for details.)

Tuesday 9th April: Churches Together at Willow Park: 10am
(see p12)

Monday 15th April: Closing date for representations re Benefice
(see p16)

Sunday 21st April: Messy Church at St Mary's 4.00pm

Sunday 28th April: **APPC** following 10:15 service.

Friday 3rd May: Organ Recital: Ivan Linford: 1pm

**BRIC-A-BRAC STALL and RAFFLE in support of No 6
SATURDAY, 13TH APRIL 2024, 9.00AM—2.00PM**

Your support will help raise funds for the work of St Giles' Food Share
through the Pantry Club and Holiday Food Share projects.



The deadline for submissions to the **May** magazine is
Sunday 21st April

In a new letter released during Holy Week ahead of Easter, **more than 140 Bishops and executive leaders from churches, denominations, and church-based organizations in the US and around the world call for a permanent ceasefire in Gaza**, urge the US and other world powers to halt additional arms sales to Israel, and make clear that Israel, the US, and all countries must abide by Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. The letters' signers include a US Catholic Bishop, a Catholic Cardinal, the presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the presiding bishop and primate of the Episcopal Church, an Anglican Dean, and many other notable figures from a wide range of churches, including Catholic, Lutheran, Mennonite, Quaker, and Evangelical leaders.

March 26, 2024

As Christians around the world prepare to commemorate the final suffering in the earthly life of Jesus Christ during Holy Week, we stand in solidarity with all in the Holy Land who suffer. During Passion Week, Catholics, Protestants, and Orthodox alike engage in prayer, reflection, and repentance. We repent of the ways we have not stood alongside our Palestinian siblings in faithful witness in the midst of their grief, agony, and sorrow. Christian witness and engagement with the world must be marked by faithfulness to God, love of neighbor, and mercy toward those who are suffering and in need. For the Holy Scriptures teach, "Uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed." (Psalm 82:3).

As the ongoing devastation, bombing, and ground invasion in Gaza continue into their sixth month, Palestinians, including our Palestinian Christian siblings, cry out to the world, asking, "Where are you?" World leaders have responded with empty rhetoric and political volleying about addressing the "humanitarian crisis" in Gaza while ignoring the direct causes of the catastrophe. Those causes are the daily bombing and ground invasion by the Israeli military, in addition to the shutting off of basic life-sustaining services to more than two million people who are suffering the consequences of crimes not their own.

As of **March 25, 2024**, at least 32,333 people in Gaza have been killed, and more than 74,694 have been injured, the vast majority of them women and children. Gaza has been declared one of the most dangerous places in the world to live, where **"no place is safe"** according to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). The World Health Organization (WHO) describes the situation as desperate, as children are dying from hunger and dehydration. The WHO reports that **15 percent** of children under the age of two in northern Gaza show signs of wasting, suggesting a serious and rapid decline over just a few months, which is **unprecedented globally**. The horrific actions Hamas committed on October 7th in no way justify the massive deaths of tens of thousands of civilians in Gaza at the hands of the Israeli military.

The average number of people killed every day in Gaza is just under two hundred people a day, with roughly one person dying every eight minutes. The slaughter continues every day even as more and more men, women, and children are pulled out from underneath the rubble, and more than 1.8 million people remain displaced. As of late January, **reports** indicate more than half of Gaza's buildings have been damaged or destroyed. All of this compounds the devastation that Palestinians have experienced during Israel's 16+ year blockade of Gaza and the occupation of East Jerusalem, the West Bank, and Gaza since 1967.

Palestinians, South Africans, and experts around the world have said what is happening in Gaza is nothing less than a genocide. South Africa asserted that the Israeli government engaged in action with "**genocidal intent**" in its complaint at the International Court of Justice (ICJ). The ICJ's preliminary ruling found it "**plausible that Israel's acts [in Gaza] could amount to genocide**" and issued provisional measures to seek to prevent further deaths. By the end of February, human rights groups around the world asserted Israel had already **violated** the ICJ ruling by intentionally limiting humanitarian assistance to Gaza. The global church—and world—cannot be silent as people continue to die in Gaza by military assault, lack of adequate medical care, hunger, and disease.

The U.S., the U.K., Israel, and other countries must uphold their responsibility as signatories to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. The United States and other nations' further militarization of the conflict makes no one safer and instead prolongs suffering and causes more death and destruction. We call on the United States, United Kingdom, Germany, Australia, and France to join the Netherlands, Belgium, Spain, Italy, and Japan to halt additional military support and arms to Israel and not be complicit in the ongoing military campaign that is having such devastating effects on civilians in Gaza.

We say, "Enough killing!" and together demand a comprehensive and permanent ceasefire.

On October 7th, Hamas attacked southern Israel and killed approximately 1,200 Israelis and internationals, and took more than 240 people hostage in Gaza. We have been clear in our condemnation of these actions of Hamas, which were an atrocious crime. It is believed **100 hostages or more** could still be held captive in Gaza. We have consistently called for the remaining hostages to be returned home to their families.

We, as global Christian leaders, stand with our brothers and sisters in Christ in Palestine and around the world and say the killing must stop, and the violence must be brought to an end. We ask world leaders to exercise strong moral courage to

bring an immediate end to the violence and to open a pathway toward peace and an end to the conflict. We call for a permanent and comprehensive ceasefire where all combatants lay down their weapons and Israeli hostages and Palestinian political prisoners held without the due process of law are released. Immediate and adequate humanitarian assistance must be provided for the more than two million Palestinian people in Gaza who have such desperate needs. We support efforts toward a negotiated settlement that addresses the core causes of the current crisis and brings an end to the decades-long violations of the rights of the Palestinian people in accordance with international law, such solutions must advance security and self-determination for Israelis and Palestinians. As we prepare for Holy Week, we lament and pray for comfort for all who have lost loved ones over the past months in Gaza, East Jerusalem, the West Bank, and Israel. We know that Jesus himself was among those who suffered, and he comforted the brokenhearted. We say, “Enough atrocities in Gaza; enough violence, death, and destruction! May love triumph over hate.” We hold onto the hope that peace is possible even in the midst of this darkest hour.

Sister Rosemarie Abate
Secretary
Sisters, Home Visitors of
Mary

Joyce Ajlouny
General Secretary
American Friends Service
Committee (AFSC)

Christine Allen
Director
Catholic Agency for
Overseas Development
(CAFOD)

Rev. Dr. Alex Awad
Board Member
Palestinian Christian Alliance
for Peace (PCAP)

Archbishop Vicken Aykazian
Ecumenical Director and
Diocesan Legate Diocese
Armenian Church of
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Marvin Barnes
Presiding Clerk
Friends General Conference

Rev. Dr. Bonnie Bates
Conference Minister, Penn
Northeast Conference
United Church of Christ
(UCC)

Bishop Thomas J. Bickerton
President of the Council of
Bishops
The United Methodist
Church

Sister Barbara Brigham
Medical Mission Sisters,
Justice Office

Sr. Danielle Bonetti
Coordinator of Justice
Ministries
Sisters of St. Joseph of
Carondelet Albany

Rev. Bronwen Boswell
Acting Stated Clerk of the
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Adwoa Burnley
Clerk of Britain Yearly
Meeting of the Religious
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The Right Reverend
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Church of England

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Conference Minister
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Christ (UCC)

The Most Rev. Michael B.
Curry
Presiding Bishop and Primate
The Episcopal Church (TEC)

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School Sisters of Notre
Dame, Central Pacific
Province

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Honorable Assistant Bishop
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Executive Secretary-
Treasurer/CEO
Lott Carey Foreign Baptist
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Alister Dutton
Secretary General
Caritas Internationalis

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church
in America (ELCA)

Rev. Paul D. Erickson
Bishop, Greater Milwaukee
Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church
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Pastor and Founding CEO of CommonGrace.org.au
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Former Moderator of the General Assembly
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Bridget Moix
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Rev. Susan P. Wilder
Co-Moderator
Israel/Palestine Mission Network of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

THANK YOU

Fr Ian and Mikaela would like to say thank you to everyone for the warm welcome that we have received, as well as the many cards and greetings of welcome. We are very excited to be back and looking forward to what God has in store for us all as we build this new amazing benefice together.

Please keep us in your prayers, as we will be keeping you in ours for the journey ahead of us. God Bless.



On Monday, 8th April, we meet in Church at 1.30pm. Our guest speaker is Mr David Jones who will give his talk on 'Being a Mayor for a year'. Tea & biscuits will follow.

As always, everyone is very welcome.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING St Giles with St Mary's, Sunday 28th April 2024 following the morning service at St Giles

Notice is hereby given of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting beginning with the Meeting of Parishioners for the election of **four** Churchwardens.

At the APCM we will need to elect **one** new PCC member for St Giles.

Please feel free to talk with Fr. Ian, Fr. Sam or any of the churchwardens about any of the vacancies. Forms will need to be completed and received ahead of the meeting and can be obtained from church or by following the appropriate links below.

Form for the Nomination of election of PCC member, click [here](#).

Form for the Nomination of Churchwarden, click [here](#).



A world longing for peace

As we look at the world around us, we see conflict in many places. So we invite you to join with us in turning to Jesus, the Prince of Peace, through this prayer, and to turn the page for specific prayer requests from areas facing violent conflict.

Loving God,
We believe that you want peace.
We believe that you offer peace.
We believe that you bring peace.
We believe that you call us to find peace in you,
Live in peace with each other,
And pursue peace with those we
think of as our enemies
(but whose face is yours).
For if there is to be peace at all
There must be peace for all.
Please keep showing us the way
And give us the humble boldness to walk in it.
Don't let us give up.
In the name of Jesus the peacemaker we pray.

Amen.



#JesusNeverGivesUp

Remembering those whose Year's Mind falls in April:-

01 Dorothy Goddard

03 John Edward Milnes

Ruby Alexandra Rogers

04 Marion Cook

07 Mabel Hemingway

Alan Netherwood

08 Ronald Godfrey Hodson

Hilda Winifred Mercer

10 Frank Whitney

13 George Campling

14 Eileen Whitney

19 Edwin Illidge

23 Michael William Gummerson

Roy Jones

Frances Lund

Mabel Richards

Alice Roberts

27 Mary Belford

28 Joseph Trevorrow

Are You on the Electoral Roll?

If not, this is your opportunity to become a full voting member of the parish.

The electoral roll is being updated. The formal notice of revision is on the church notice board as required. If you need to check whether you are on the roll please contact the parish administrator Vivienne Smales (stgileschurchpontefract@gmail.com).

If your name is not on the roll, you are aged 16 or over and you would like to be included on the roll, please fill in a form obtainable from Bevil Edwards, Vivienne Smales or a church warden.

Forms must be returned no later than Sunday 7th April 2024. Notes about the use of email addresses and other personal data are included on the application form.

If you are under 16 but your 16th birthday is before 7th April 2025 you can apply now and your name will be entered on the roll when you become 16.

If you have any questions please ask Bevil Edwards.

Caring for each other....

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

Do you have a memory, either happy or sad, that you would like to share with our congregation, a wedding anniversary; a birthday; the passing of a loved one. Please consider sponsoring our service sheet so that we can share this with you. **Write your dedication on a form located in Reception and hand to a church warden or email to stgmnotices@gmx.com or Vivienne at stgileschurchpontefract@gmail.com.** David Leigh will happily receive any sponsorship contributions. Thank you.

CHURCHES TOGETHER AT WILLOW PARK

Paula Ridley, from Pontefract Methodist Church, has shared an invitation to Christians in Pontefract to provide company and conversation for residents of Willow Park care home. Willow Park residents would welcome anyone willing to come and chat and / take part in the various activities available at the time. Simply meet in reception.

Second Tuesday of each month beginning at 10.00am for approximately one hour. If you have any questions, you can email Paula at

pridley@aireandcaldercircuit.org.uk.



FRUIT

Fruit is nature's way of adding a little sweetness in our lives. Visit any supermarket and see a vast array of fruits, many of which I'd never heard of, let alone tasted, in my childhood. Fresh fruit was not a major part of ordinary people's diet. I often had an apple, an orange maybe around Christmas time, and an occasional treat of a banana. Strawberries but in an oh-so-brief appearance in the summer, as did pears in autumn. Grapes were something given to poorly people in hospital. I wonder if anyone else had the joy of sitting on the doorstep with a stick of homegrown rhubarb and a saucer of sugar. Apricots, peaches and pineapple came in tins, one of which might be opened if the aunties came to tea on Sunday.

As the war years dragged on, fruit was even scarcer, so, great was the excitement when we heard grapefruit was for the taking. My teenage brother dashed to the part of the seashore not cordoned off by barbed wire, and staggered home with a black, while sticky football. I was tasked with scraping and scrubbing off the grease and oil that had perfectly preserved the grapefruit, while tossing about in the North Sea. How the whole family enjoyed it, sweetened with a watery syrup made from crushed saccharine tablets!

I have utmost admiration for the Ministry of Food, which endeavoured to ensure that everyone had a fair share of what was available. Ration books were issued: beige covered for adults, green for under nineteens. In 1948 I was 18, teaching in a village school. Word came that all with a green ration book could purchase one banana from the local shop. Needless to say, I hurried along with my pupils, telling them that a banana had to be peeled!

Joyce Bellamy

CHURCH STALL

The stall last Saturday raised a total of **£100** for Church funds with the Bric a bac stall raising £57.00 and Woollies raising £43.00.

As always, thank you to all who donated or bought items, we couldn't do it without you.

Pat & Marjorie

CHOCOLATE TOMBOLA 2024

Due to the amazing generosity of our congregation, the Missions Committee were able to raise **£170.00** on the Chocolate Tombola stall held on Wednesday morning.

Despite a poor weather forecast, the rain held off and the team had an enjoyable time dealing with customers. Once again, a big "Thank you" to our congregation for making this possible. The Missions Team

Hi! RAZZIE HERE!

*I jus luvz comin to Seynt
Jiles. Peeple iz orlweys so
frendly an sumtimes I gets
treats for bein gud.*



*Won uv my feyrvut fings is barkin at pidjuns. Do
you fink Farther Ian wud giv me a job outside
churtch?*

*(I'm finkin I mite joyn ve kwire, but hoodad sez
its probly not a gud idear.)*

Have you ever wondered ...

Have you ever wondered what we do at Messy Church? Well, for our March Messy Church that is exactly what we did: we wondered.

We wondered about the events of Holy Week. To help us in our wondering we went to the desert; not literally of course: we used our recently acquired desert bag. Fr Sam led our wondering in our first Godly Play session which helped us all, children, and adults, to explore the events of that important week in quiet contemplation.

So, if you have ever wondered what we do at Messy Church why not *come and see*.



**Messy Church 4pm on the third Sunday of each month at
St Mary's Centre, Chequerfield.**



**MISSION AND PASTORAL MEASURE 2011
DRAFT PASTORAL SCHEME**

**BENEFICES OF PONTEFRACT; AND CARLETON AND
EAST HARDWICK**

A reminder that the closing date for anyone making representations to the Church Commissioners **for** or **against** all or any part or parts of the draft Scheme (please include the reasons for your views) in writing or by email must reach them no later than **Monday 15 April 2024**. Please send your representation marked for the attention of Joanna Chandler-Clarke, Pastoral Division, Church Commissioners, Church House, Great Smith Street, LONDON SW1P 3AZ (e-mail: Joanna.chandler-clarke@churchofengland.org).

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Form for the Nomination of Churchwarden, click [here](#).

Here For You



Some of us from St Giles', and Pontefract Methodist Church, met with workers from the **Here For You** service recently. We wanted to share what **Here For You** has to offer to Pontefract.

Most of us will be able to recall times when we are feeling a bit low: day after day of bad weather, sad news on the TV, a loss or bereavement. After a sad time, we are likely to pick ourselves up with the support of family, friends and sometimes our GP and somehow carry on. However, for some, this natural recovery will not happen and feelings of despair will overcome, leading to thoughts about self-harm. It is a sad fact that suicide is one of the frequent causes of death amongst younger people. It has happened here in Pontefract.

Here For You, a Touchstone service, has been commissioned by the NHS to provide emotional and practical help for local people who are struggling to cope, feeling down or having thoughts of self-harm or suicide. It is a 7 day a week service, every evening 6pm to midnight, all-year round using a base in central Wakefield to provide skilled listening, hospitality and signposting to help bring people through those dark times. The aim is to provide a gentle, safe alternative to statutory mental health services but at the same time have close links with those services if it is felt these are needed to keep a person and others safe.

No professional referral is needed - just a call to 07776962815. Leave a message and there will be a call-back to the person asking for support. If it is agreed during that phone call that it would be helpful to invite someone to Wakefield to talk things through but the person has no means to get into Wakefield, then **Here For You** may be able to arrange taxi transport.

Thank you St Giles' for allowing speakers from **Here For You** to talk with us about their new service for local people. We wish them well. Please talk about the service to friends, family, neighbours and anyone else who may find this information useful. More information is available in St Giles' Reception.

Ann Harris

A Stitch in Time



Alterations for all occasions

Sarah Brightmore
Owner

sarahsbright1996@gmail.com

16 Gillygate
Pontefract
WF8 1PQ
07449501045

Perfect 10

Nail Studio

Gillygate, Pontefract

01977 704003

CND Acrylic nail extensions, Glitter and artwork available.

Shellac, Vinylux manicure.

Minx and deluxe Pedicure.

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

Gift vouchers available

Tiddlywinks

Service and Fun for the
'Under 5s'

+ their Parent, Grandparent or Carer

Thursdays

(during term time)

At St Giles' Church

10.30 a.m. till 11.45a.m.

Refreshments available - small donation

COME AND JOIN US



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Congratulations to our bell ringers!



Pontefract Civic Society this year have started a Community Group award which will be an annual event. The bellringers were awarded the runner-up position with a certificate and a small financial award. The money will go towards the purchase of new bell ropes, which are urgently needed. (If you can help in any way, please speak to Karen Glynn.)

(In the current climate of images being 'killed' due to manipulation in Photoshop, I should confess to altering the above image to remove an egregious spelling error! Ed}

NOTES FROM THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, 12 MARCH 2024 AT 7.00PM

Present: Fr Sam Fletcher (Chair), Pam Mercer, Peter Lavine, David Belford, Ulric Murray, Sonia Atkin, Bruce Dalgleish, Barbara Sessford, Karen Glynn, David Leigh and Vivienne Smales (Minutes)

Fr Sam **welcomed** all to the meeting, and opened the meeting with a **prayer**. Chris Brown, Parish Safeguarding Officer, was welcomed to the meeting as she wanted to present her report in person. Ten members of the PCC were present. **Apologies for absence** were received from Jill Clapham, Lynne Davis and Joan Taylor.

Chris Brown presented her **Safeguarding** report and informed us that she has now completed all of her training, including the Leadership 2 Training. It is now possible for her to arrange safeguarding training in St Giles for anyone who is unable to access training online. This could also be opened up to other churches within the Benefice. After nearly one year in the role she thanked everyone for their support. Fr Sam expressed that it was good to have someone in the role who had so much experience.

The **Minutes of the last meeting** held on Tuesday, 16 January 2024 were accepted as an accurate record, with all in agreement. **Matters Arising** included the proposed Pantry Project, but after discussion St Mary's Community Centre felt they did not have the capacity to take the project on and therefore the project will not be going forward.

Correspondence has been received from the Diocese advising of the Draft Scheme to join all the benefices together. The full scheme has been displayed in Reception, and a summary version has been put in the weekly Notices. Any objections to the proposal, in part or full, must be received by the Church Commissioners by Monday, 15th April. If no representation is received against the draft scheme, it will go ahead as stated.

Information has been received from Jonathan Wood, Diocesan Secretary, regarding Green Journey Energy Broker who provide a package of energy services for churches run by Green Energy Consulting. They are committed to serving churches and charitable organisations with competitively priced green electricity contracts from carbon free sources and with biogas or carbon offset gas contracts to align with the Church of England's Net Zero Carbon by 2030 initiative. DL agreed to follow up on this to gain more information and if any additional charges are involved. He will also aim to join a webinar on 10 April to hear more about the service. The gas contract is due for renewal in September 2024 and an energy audit is to be carried out in due course.

Information has been received regarding the Bishop's Development Fund as a further round of grants is now being considered. No application will be submitted on this occasion.

The **Minutes** of the **Standing Committee** held on 9th January and the draft minutes of the Standing Committee held on 6th February were accepted. It was noted that the Bell Ringers were runners up in the Pontefract Civic Society's Community Group Award. Thanks were given to Karen Glynn for attending the evening. There were no Minutes of the Centre Management Committee held due to be held on 29th February as the meeting was postponed to 21st March.

The **Finance** summary of the St Giles' Centre accounts, including Lunch With Us, were circulated with nothing major to report. The quarterly summary of the PCC finances will be produced at the end of March.

The Fabric, H&S Report was given verbally. A faculty has now been submitted for the solar panels, however, further information has been requested, which will delay the process. All information has been submitted for Rhubarb Radio and the licence should be ready for signing next week. Once the contract is signed, installation of the aerial can begin. The equipment will not be 'fixed', there is no requirement for any drilling within the building. The replacement of lights with LEDs is almost complete apart from the lights in the baptistry and café. Some new lights are currently being trialled.

The PCC accounts for 2023 were formally accepted and will form part of the annual APCM booklet, the meeting of which takes place on 28 April 2024

Marjorie and Pat continue their **Fundraising** with Bric-A-Brac and woolly stalls. It was announced that the Christmas Draw will resume again this year and more news will follow in due course.

Following the proposal at the last meeting that an approach be made to Yorkshire Association of Change Ringers by the Tower Captain for a grant to help fund replacement **Bell Ropes**, an application was submitted, but the application was rejected on the grounds that bell ropes were not covered by the grants. Another approach is to be made to Yorkshire Historic Churches Trust. The PCC has agreed to cover any costs for the bell ropes that aren't provided by grant funding.

The Service of Collation of Revd. Ian Bullock and Licencing as Priest in Charge of Carlton and East Hardwick will take place on 13th March at 7.30pm. It is estimated that 200 people will be attending from the congregations and community groups.

Holy Week is coming up and will be busy with additional services on Monday through to Wednesday, an evening service on Thursday at 7.30pm with foot washing and vigil until 12.00pm. Services on Good Friday include a Family Stations of the Cross at 10.00am, a procession from 12.00pm with an ecumenical service around the Buttercross at 12.15pm, Watch by the Cross at 2.00pm and Liturgy of Good Friday at 7.00pm. On Easter Day there is an additional service of Holy Communion (BCP) at 8.00am. Bruce Dalgleish will source a banner to advertise the events.

Fr Sam, as Chair, thanked everyone for their help and support during the time of the vacancy.

Any Other Business: A motion, proposed by Fr Sam and passed here at the PCC meeting on 19th September, "*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*" was put to Deanery Synod, where it was amended and refined. It was then decided by Deanery Synod members that it should be reframed as a question before being put to the Diocesan Synod. We await the response to this question from Diocesan Synod, and any further developments.

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday, 7th May 2024 at 7pm. Fr Sam closed the meeting with a prayer.



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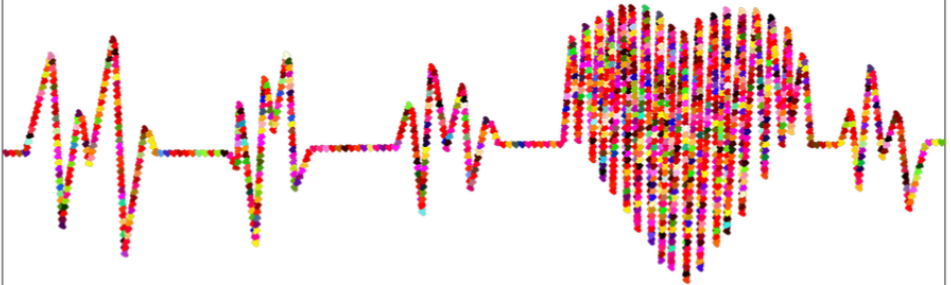
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Daily devotions between Easter and Pentecost to mark diocesan 10th anniversary

First published on: 21st February 2024



As part of marking the 10th anniversary of the Diocese of Leeds, people will be able to receive an email devotion every day between Easter and Pentecost.

During the 50 days from Easter to Pentecost, people in the diocese and beyond can subscribe to receive a daily email with stories, reflections, prayers and more.

Each email will include a reflection written by different people from all across our diocese.

The Revd Canon Andrew Norman, Director of Ministry and Mission for the diocese, said: “As we journey through the Book of Acts, every reflection will be linked to one of the areas of focus in our Rhythm of Life initiative: encourage, share, create, pray, rest, celebrate, reflect.

“There will also be ideas for activities and links to good news stories.”

To sign up, click [here](#).

Inspired by the work of religious communities and a Bible verse from the Gospel of Matthew, the Rhythm of Life initiative offers an opportunity for Christians to re-align and keep Christ at the centre of our daily lives, through practical commitments, opportunities for mutual support and recommended resources.

For more on Rhythm of Life, click [here](#).

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

Fr Ian Bullock The Vicarage, 9 The Mount, Pontefract WF8 1NE

E-Mail: fr.ian@cofe-pontefract.co.uk

Tel: 01977 706803

Fr Sam Fletcher

Tel: 07938 517350

Fr Michael Taylor (Honorary Priest)

Tel: 01977 702824

Fr Rod Walker

Tel: 07746 980727

Jill Clapham Licensed Lay Minister (Reader)

Tel: 07740869346

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

<http://www.stgilespontefract.org/weekly-notice-2/>

Baptisms, Weddings, Banns: Please telephone or email the Parish Office for further details.
Please check the calendar on St Giles' website or the Order of Service for any alterations.

PCC Vice Chairman

Barbara Sessford 699058

St Giles Good Share, No.6 The Circle

Paul and Ann Harris 07808 808977

Churchwardens

Bruce Dagleish 07809 760993

Barbara Sessford 07485 546035

Peter Lavine 07910 377989

Pam Mercer 07999 807344

Mothers' Union Leader/Secretary

Marjorie Laidlaw 795748

Children's Society Box Secretary

Angela Bradley 613643

PCC Secretary/Parish Administrator

Vivienne Smales 790448

stgileschurchpontefract@gmail.com

Missions Committee Secretary

Edith Barber 277226

PCC Treasurer

David Leigh 706526

Pro-Wardens at St Mary's

Frank Ward

Organist and Choir Director

James MacDonald 790448

St Mary's Church Treasurer

Delia Perrett 796223

David Leigh 706526

Tower Captain

Adrian Garner 690154

St Mary's Church Meeting Chair

Fr Michael Taylor 702824

Parish Magazine Editor

Bruce Dagleish 690216

St Mary's Community Centre

Manager: Denise Pallett 705341

St Giles' Altar Flowers

Barbara Chessman 700559

St Giles' Church School (aided)

Head teacher: Richard Grace 794175

Tiddlywinks


Barbara Lavine 07780 358306

St Giles' Pantomime Society Chair

Andy Weston 07791 656820

Back cover photo: A glorious sunrise at Dunwich Heath, with a skein of wild geese flying out of RSPB Minmere.



A vibrant sunset over the ocean. The sun is low on the horizon, partially obscured by large, fluffy clouds. The sun's rays create a bright, shimmering path of light across the water's surface. A long, thin line of birds is flying across the water, their silhouettes visible against the bright reflection of the sun. The sky is a mix of warm orange and yellow tones, with some blue visible in the upper corners.

***Birds flying high, you know how I feel
Sun in the sky, you know how I feel
Breeze driftin' on by, you know how I feel
It's a new dawn
It's a new day
It's a new life for me, ooh
And I'm feeling good.***

Nina Simone