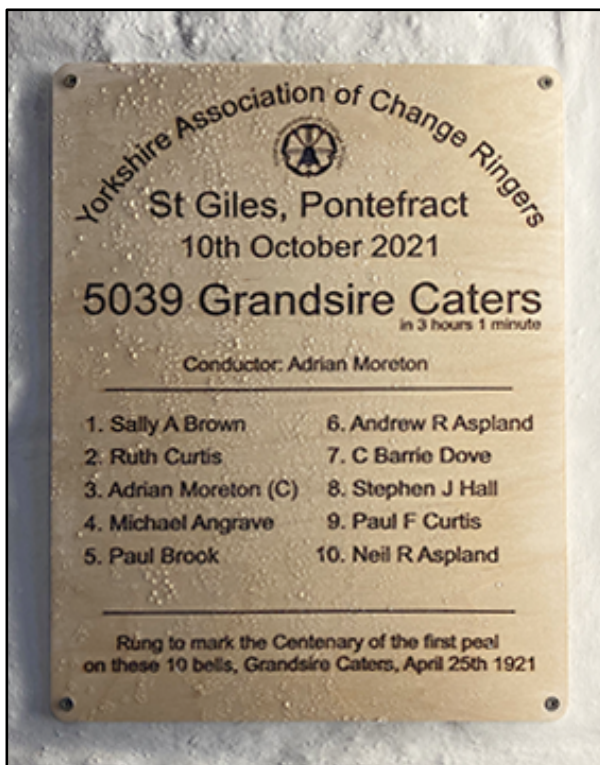


*Parish of Pontefract  
St Giles with St Mary*



*February 2024*



To learn more about the story behind this plaque, see the article on pp12-13. There are more photos on the inside back cover.

This month, Christmas-Epiphany ends, and Lent-Easter begins. On Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> (transferred at our churches to the Sunday prior), the Church celebrates the Feast of Candlemas – the formal end of the Christmas-Epiphany season – while on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup>, we will mark Ash Wednesday. Easter is early this year; in December, Easter eggs were spotted sitting alongside Christmas decorations...

When our celebrations of Jesus' birth have concluded, we have just twelve days before our attention turns to the anticipation of his death and resurrection. This sliver of what we call 'Ordinary Time' might feel like a lull, a kind of no-man's-land which is neither here nor there. Yet, looked at differently, this time is precious.

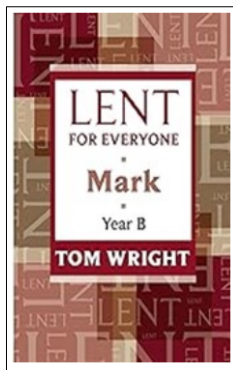
Throughout history, the Church has often underplayed the importance of the life of Jesus, which can get squeezed out by our emphasis on his birth and death. In the Apostles' Creed, we declare that Jesus was 'born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate'. In the comma between those two phrases is contained 33 years of life – 33 years of Jesus learning and growing, laughing and crying, forming friendships, bringing healing, and preaching a message of justice and love. In the first weeks of February, when the crib is packed away and our Lenten devotion have yet to begin, we have an opportunity to celebrate those years.

Jesus was born for us, and died for us. But he also lived for us. His time on earth was not just a prelude to his death and resurrection, the warm-up act we sit through before we get to the main event. Every moment of his life – including all those unrecorded years, lost to history – matters for our salvation. It matters that our God went through ordinary human challenges, that he knew the mundane and unremarkable experiences of everyday life. It means that he shares with us as we go about our daily lives too. Maybe next time you're in the supermarket, remember your Saviour shopping in the bustling marketplaces of Roman Palestine. When you're travelling to Church, remember our Lord making his way to synagogue with his family. When you're having your dinner, remember all those times the Christ sat round with his friends sharing a meal. God is there with us, sharing in all of it.

I wish you all a bright Candlemas and a prayerful Lent, and may this month's Ordinary Time bring you closer to our extraordinary Saviour. Happy February.

Fr Sam

## Benefice of Pontefract: Lent 2024



This year there will be two complementary Lent courses taking place across the Benefice.

One will be taking place at St Giles' each Wednesday morning from Ash Wednesday (14<sup>th</sup> February) through to the Wednesday in Holy Week (20<sup>th</sup> March) at 10:30-11:15am. Fr Sam and Jill will be leading a reflection on a set psalm from Tom Wright's book *Lent for Everyone : Mark*.

Alternatively, Fr Mark will be hosting a Lent course 'Lentern Psalms' each Thursday evening throughout Lent at All Saints' Vicarage, 6:45pm for a 7pm start.

All are welcome and we do hope you will be able to join us at one or more of the sessions.

A gentle reminder to all our lovely readers that annual subs are now due.

£10 to David Leigh please for another year's happy reading!

See p11 for details.





## **Statement from the House of Bishops on the ongoing war in Gaza**

*The following are extracts from the Statement.*

“We are dismayed that the place of our Saviour’s birth is once again wracked by violence, death and destruction.

We grieve that innocent children have been disproportionately affected by this conflict.

Of the 1,300 people killed in the abhorrent terrorist attacks of Hamas on 7<sup>th</sup> October, 33 were children. Of the 250 hostages taken, 34 were children. In Israel’s exercising its right to self-defence, more than 18,000 people have reportedly been killed, over 40 per cent of whom were children. Thousands more have been injured.

We re-affirm our position of last autumn (31<sup>st</sup> October) that there is no equivalence between the atrocities of Hamas against Israeli civilians, and the right and duty of Israel to defend itself. We also want to be clear that we do not believe that the devastating loss of civilian life and humanitarian catastrophe resulting from Israel’s bombardment and siege of Gaza can be morally justified.

The nature and scale of death and destruction we are witnessing across the region is horrific and is inconsistent with the obligations of international humanitarian law as affirmed most recently by United Nations Security Council Resolution 2712. (15<sup>th</sup> November 2023).

“This war has claimed too many lives and destroyed too many homes. We appeal for the bloodshed and destruction to stop. An alternative strategy needs to be found that closes down on attacks on Israel from Gaza and ends the violence and blockade undertaken by Israel.

“Intensified diplomatic efforts should seek to secure the release of all remaining hostages, the protection of civilians and full humanitarian access to Gaza, alongside steps to establish a reinvigorated political track to address the overarching conflict.

“The Israel-Palestine conflict is more than another regional conflict, but one

with both international and domestic resonances. The current war in Gaza risks sowing the seeds of the next several generations of vengeance and violence unless it is

resolved equitably now. For this reason, we call on the British Government to appoint a dedicated Minister or Peace Envoy for the Middle East to work with other nations to focus diplomatic efforts and to signal a long-term commitment to support any future peace process.

“We condemn the fresh growth of antisemitism in Europe, a shameful feature of our Western Christian history that needs to be constantly rebuked. In schools, universities, on streets and in places of work and worship, antisemitism has been the root of so much racism. Once one group is allowed to be attacked, merely for religion, race or heritage it seems to open the gates of hell to all other forms of hatred.

“We condemn all those hateful voices stoking prejudice against anyone, for any reason and call on the church to walk alongside those from different communities. We also warmly encourage support for the Archbishops’ appeal for the Al Ahli Hospital in Gaza.

*Hatred and bitterness can never cure the disease of fear; only love can do that.*

*Hatred paralyses life; love releases it.*

*Hatred confuses life; love harmonises it.*

*Hatred darkens life; love illumines it.*

*Martin Luther King*



# The gardener and the Vine



JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS



ONCE HE TOLD HIS FRIENDS ALL ABOUT A GARDENER.

THE GARDENER'S JOB WAS TO CARE FOR THE VINES



HE WOULD LOOK AT EACH BRANCH CAREFULLY..

... AND IF IT WAS PRODUCING GOOD FRUIT, HE WOULD CARE FOR IT AND NOURISH IT.



IF IT WAS PRODUCING BAD FRUIT...

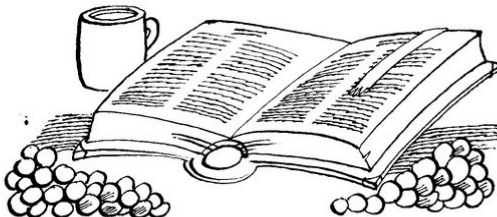


...OR NO FRUIT AT ALL...



...THEN THE GARDENER WOULD CHOP IT OFF, AND BURN IT IN THE FIRE!!

JESUS WANTED HIS FRIENDS TO SHARE THE GOOD NEWS - THAT'S LIKE THE VINE BEARING GOOD FRUIT.



YOU CAN READ THIS SPECIAL PARABLE IN JOHN'S GOSPEL, CHAPTER 15.

# Church Stalls

The total raised in 2023:-

Woolie stall : £772.00

Tombola: £242.00

Bric-à-brac: £767.15

**£1781.15**

*Thank you to everyone who donated prizes, gave bric-à-brac and supported us throughout the year. We will start again when the weather improves.*

*We are now collecting tombola prizes. If you have any suitable items they will be gratefully received.*

*Thanks again,*

*Pat & Marjorie*

And our thanks to you, Pat and Marjorie for all the time and effort you put in to raise such a magnificent sum.

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

01 Joe Slatter	15 Albert Roydhouse
Brian Swindell	17 Derrick Anthony Lemmon
03 Alan Ackling	20 Hu Pickard
John Christopher Couchman	21 Irene Gartland
04 Geoffrey Bullock	22 Bernard Goddard
05 Guildford Walker	Constance Taylor
07 Bea Jordan	25 Dorothy Barnett
08 Sheila Ward	27 Annie Cooksey
10 Hugh Fletcher Cutting	Frances Kemp
14 Diane Lynn Howarth	28 Allan Turner

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

01 Nancy Atkinson	12 Kenneth Wilson Frankland
01 Arthur Haigh	Claire Jennings
Beatrice Hopwood	Alan John Spedding
02 Olive May Hyomes	Terry Taylor
03 Irene Lavine	15 Kath Taylor
Josiah Worrell	17 Robert Haley Milnes
04 Margaret Carter	23 Evelyn Clark
Charles Henry Coverdale	24 Stanley Taylor
05 Ernest Sambrooks	Roger Michael Whitaker
07 Richard Haigh	25 Jonathan Bellamy
08 Hilary Dalglish	Ida Swann
10 Mary Conway	28 Donald Richard Chessman
	31 Junee Coad

## **The Mission of My Life, Cardinal John Henry Newman**

God has created me to do Him some definite service.  
He has committed some work to me which He has not  
committed to another.

I have my mission.

I may never know it in this life, but I shall be told it in the next.  
I am a link in a chain, a bond of connection between persons.  
He has not created me for naught.

I shall do good; I shall do His work.

I shall be an angel of peace, a preacher of truth in my own  
place, while not intending it if I do but keep His commandments.  
Therefore, I will trust Him, whatever I am, I can never be thrown  
away.

If I am in sickness, my sickness may serve Him, in perplexity,  
my perplexity may serve Him.

If I am in sorrow, my sorrow may serve Him.

He does nothing in vain.

He knows what He is about.

He may take away my friends.

He may throw me among strangers.

He may make me feel desolate, make my spirits sink, hide my  
future from me.

Still, He knows what He is about.

Suggested by Paul Harris

# BEETLE DRIVE

Tuesday, 13th February 2024  
at 6.30pm  
in the St Giles' Centre

The Missions Committee would like to invite young and old to them at another light-hearted evening of enjoyment in support of our fundraising efforts for 2024.

No skill required!

Tickets are available from Committee members (Sheila Roydhouse, Barbara Lavine, Hilary Plumbley and Edie Barber) or you can pay at the door.

**£3.00 Adults £1.50 Children**

Wine, soft drinks and assorted nibbles are included.  
A raffle will be held during the interval.  
Hot-dogs are available to order.



OR





## PALM CROSSES

You may have noticed that Easter is very early this year (31st March). As Ash Wednesday falls on 14th February, could we please ask you to bring in your palm crosses by **Sunday, 4th February**, so that they can be made into ash for Ash Wednesday.

Our next monthly **food collection** will be **Sunday, 4th February**. 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

## PARISH MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions for a printed copy of the parish magazine are now due at a cost of £10 - we hope you will continue to support the church through this publication. Please let David Leigh have your subscriptions as soon as possible, preferably in cash, by bank transfer or even by scanning the QR code—just let David know. If you receive a digital copy of the magazine by email, a donation would also be very welcome.

Account: St Giles Parochial Church Council  
Bank: Virgin Money, 81 Carlton Street, Castleford, WF10 1BW  
Sort Code: 05-06-71      Account Number: 16172795

1. Open your phone camera
2. Scan the QR code
3. Click the link displayed
4. Donate



# Peal Board Dedication

Fr Sam blessed a Peal Board hanging in the ringing room on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2024 which commemorates a peal of bells that took place in this church on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2021. This marks one hundred years of dedication by the bell ringers of St Giles' helping in the ministry of the church.

## **But what exactly is a peal of bells?**

A peal is a non-stop sequence of a minimum of 5,000 changes, where each sequence is different and cannot be repeated on seven or more bells. This takes around three hours to ring and is the bell ringers' equivalent of a marathon, requiring concentration and stamina to complete the peal.

## **So what is a change?**

A change is when one or more pairs of bells swap the order in which they ring, but they can only swap with a bell ringing before them or after them. On the next stroke they can swap again with the bells that are now adjacent to them in the ringing order.

## **Why can a bell only swap places with a bell ringing immediately before or after it?**

Bells are heavy. The largest in our tower weighs 975 Kg and has a lot of momentum when it is ringing. To be able to slow down or speed up this bell takes a lot of effort and the energy needed to change it from being the last to ring to being the first to ring on the next stroke would be beyond that of anyone. We have 10 bells in our tower and the last bell can change one place at a time to be the first to ring.

## **How do you change the speed of a bell?**

In the 16<sup>th</sup> Century church bells in England began to be hung in towers attached to a large bell wheel. This allowed the bell to be rung in a full circle [360°] clockwise and back again anticlockwise. With practice the ringer can use this change of direction to control the time at which the bell sounds out. They can slow the speed of the return stroke by allowing the bell to balance upside down for a fraction of a second, or, if they do not allow the bell to reach the balance point, the return stroke is accelerated.

## **Are all peals the same?**

There are hundreds of different permutations, known as methods, that can be rung and the ringer learns the pattern that one bell makes as its position alters in relation to the others row by row. Ringers do not read from music as they ring. They learn the pattern off by heart. Some patterns are fairly simple; others can be amazingly complex – this is part of the challenge. All ringers in one peal will be ringing the same pattern but starting from different places, rather like racing cars going round the same circuit but starting at staged intervals around it.

The first peal rung on our bells in April 1921 was called Grandsire Bob Caters. 'Grandsire Bob' is the name of the method and 'Caters' tells us it was rung on 9 bells. This was repeated 100 years later as a tribute to all the ringers over the years.

## **When was the first ever peal rung?**

The first recognised peal was rung in England on the 2<sup>nd</sup> May 1715 in St Peter Mancroft, Norwich. They rang 5040 changes of Grandsire Bob Trebles in 3 hours and 18 minutes. In this case 'trebles' tells you that it was on 7 bells, but the pattern was the same as we rang in the recent peal at St Giles'.

Our aim as a ringing band is to have fun and ring the bells every Sunday, to call people to the 10:15 service and to mark important life events, such as marriages and deaths for those attending the church. Bells have historically been used to announce events in the wider community, such as the recent death of Queen Elizabeth II and the Coronation of King Charles III and in line with our ambition, we rang on both these occasions.

Undoubtedly, ringing is a great opportunity to make new friends, exercise the body and mind and contribute to the church. The great thing is, nearly anyone can do it. If you have made a New Year's resolution to try something new, why not give it a go!

My contact number is on each copy of the magazine or if you prefer, you can message me on our Facebook group. I would love to hear from you.

Adrian Garner

Tower Captain

Hi! RAZZIE HERE!

Hoodad! Fancee puttin me  
oposit cheeez!

You no l luvz cheeez - an  
biskits, an caruts, an bloobries,  
an bitz uv peetser owt of ve hedj, an ... ve litzt is  
endluss.



But mose uf orl l luvv mi hoomum an givin her lotz  
uv kissets.

To celebrate Heart Week 2024 Linda Atkins is holding an "At Home" on **Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February** between 11am and 5pm. Come along and join us and help raise funds for Tiny Tickers. Tickets are £6 each to include Tea, Coffee and Home Made Cakes. Contact me on [lindaroma2@btinternet.com](mailto:lindaroma2@btinternet.com) or 07952146569 for the address if you don't already know it.

**Go Red for Heart  
Month 2024**

This February, Go Red to raise money for lifesaving research  
and learn CPR for free in 15 minutes with RevivR.



## A fun quiz to give you a cheesy grin!

The answer to every one is a cheese.

1. The favourite of Wallace and Gromit.
2. You may gorge on this.
3. Alice's grinning cat.
4. Red monarch found in this car park.
5. A colourful Viking.
6. Dr. Foster went there twice.
7. Milking parlour in a meadow.
8. A long stick to become tall.
9. MADE in Holland.
10. The history of this U.S. city was made into a film.
11. Strictly judge and the winning dancer?
12. A light wind without the snore.
13. A stone and a castle. (Très bien!)
14. A very smelly churchman.

Answers on p 17

Joyce Bellamy

## Notes from the Parochial Church Council Meeting held Tuesday, 16 January 2024 at 7.00pm

9 Members of the PCC were present with apologies from 5 members.

Fr Sam welcomed everyone to the meeting and opened the meeting with a prayer.

A Proposal was received for St Giles to join a Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) Project coordinated by Wakefield Council. Fr Sam welcomed Conor Williams, UKSPF Community Pantry Coordinator (Eastmoor Community Project), to the meeting. A briefing paper had been circulated to all prior to the meeting by Paul and Ann Harris outlining the project and Conor was attending to answer any questions the PCC might have about the project. Funding is received from central government through local councils. Although the pantry is similar to the foodbank, the set-up is more like a shopping experience. Clients pay £5 per week to access the pantry and membership lasts for 12 weeks. Membership links to other support services and aims to address the root cause of why people need it. The project will also provide wrap around services looking at well-being, cooking etc. No.6 is keen to be involved but would need to do this in partnership with St Mary's Community Centre who could provide the wrap-around services. The limit of how many people we could support may depend on the number of volunteers/staff. The funding could allow the project to buy in tutors to run the courses, but ultimately the goal would be to get the volunteers trained to deliver the courses.

The Centre Management Sub Committee have previously discussed this project. There are some reservations around getting enough volunteers, and where these volunteers would be drawn from. The general feeling of the PCC is that in principle it is a good idea but questions remain about whether a project on this scale would be practicable. Further discussions are required as to how we set it up and whether responsibility for overseeing the project should be taken on by the PCC or by St Mary's Community Centre. Conor suggested that a decision would be needed in advance of the end of March. The next PCC is 12 March. Therefore, it will be necessary to arrange a meeting with Paul and Ann Harris to discuss these issues. Conor Williams was thanked for his time and for speaking with the PCC and left the meeting at this point.

The **Minutes of the PCC** meeting held on Tuesday, 21 November 2023 were accepted as an accurate record and there were no matters arising.

An email has been received from the Diocese advising that the Electoral Roll needs to be revised by the APCM, 28 April 2024. Figures need to be submitted by 1 July 2024. Information has been received regarding the Archdeacon's Visitation, which will take place on Thursday, 13<sup>th</sup> June 2024 at 7.00pm.

A **safeguarding** Report was received together with a copy of the Safeguarding Dashboard, which identified that a review of several risk assessments was required. CB has been informed that these reviews have been carried out.

The **Minutes of the Standing Committee** held on 7<sup>th</sup> November were accepted. The draft minutes of the Standing Committee held on 9<sup>th</sup> January will be presented at the next meeting of the PCC in March. The **Minutes of the Centre Management Committee** held on 7<sup>th</sup> December were accepted.

**Finance** reports were received for the St Giles Centre and Lunch with Us. The Summary of Receipts and Payments for St Giles PCC to the end of December 2023 were received. The budget for 2024 was received with a proposal that: The Parish Share for 2024 is £56,500. It was proposed that as St Mary's paid their share in full in 2023 (6%) and St Giles only paid £29k (52%), St Mary's should not be asked to pay anything in 2024. It was also proposed that St Giles pays £2.5k per month towards Parish Share with a review at the end of November to determine what, if anything, we can afford to supplement our contribution by. The budget for 2024 anticipates a shortfall of £22.5k between Income and Expenditure. This was agreed by all. The **local fees** for 2024 were presented. The statutory fees levied by the Church of England have increased slightly, and it was suggested that we increase our heating charge from £60 to £65, to be charged year round. No other increases were proposed and all agreed to this change.

A verbal **Fabric, Health and Safety** Report was received from Peter Lavine who confirmed that Rhubarb Radio have again been in contact. Their technical team will visit on 26 January and will then submit technical details and a plan to enable us to apply for a faculty. Rental of £1500 per annum will be received along with £200/month of free advertising. The church architect has been involved in this proposal.

Energy usage figures have shown that we are using less energy now than before Covid. However, water usage has increased over the last two months, as the ladies' toilet was continually running. This issue has now been rectified. The last of the LED conversions should be completed in the next two weeks leaving just the café area to be done. The Solar Panel project is progressing and plans and photos should be received by Thursday of this week allowing us to look for funding and submit applications for planning and a faculty.

A short report was received from Fr Michael at **St Mary's** who thanked everyone for their prayers and good wishes during his recent medical problems, which are slowly improving. The Carol Service on Christmas Eve was well attended and meetings at St Mary's will resume in late January/early February. The focus will be on fundraising this year.

With the APCM (28 April) on the horizon, the following dates were agreed. Reports to be requested 24 February with return by 24 March with the booklet to be prepared and sent to PCC by email for approval by 7 April. The booklet will then be given to the congregation on 14 April, two weeks before the APCM.

The Church of England has long been debating same sex relationships and marriage and this has led to Living in Love and Faith (LLF), a church-wide conversation that has taken place at local and national levels. One outcome of LLF has been the publication of '**Prayers of Love and Faith**' which are commended for use during regularly-scheduled services. The choice whether to use these prayers is left to the discretion of individual priests, but priests are encouraged to consult with congregations and PCCs. The Prayers of Love and Faith come in advance of anticipated standalone services for celebrating same-sex partnerships, which have yet to be authorised. These services will not be weddings. If and when such services are authorised, a formal consultation with the PCC will be required to determine whether we will hold such services at our churches. Consultation on both the Prayers of Love and Faith and (if authorised) any standalone services will be undertaken once Revd Ian arrives.

Nothing has happened since the concert in November, but thanks were given to Marjorie Laidlaw and Pat Whittaker for their amazing **fundraising** efforts with the Bric-a-Brac stalls and tombolas held throughout the year.

Karen Glynn presented to the PCC the need for the **bell ropes** in the tower to be renewed as they are becoming unsafe. There are now 17 ringers with 9 or 10 regularly attending on Sundays. The ropes are worn and breaking and several have already been spliced. The bell ringers have half the amount required to replace them but submitted a request to the PCC for the additional amount. It is suggested that the ropes be professionally spliced with man-made fibres which should increase the life span to 20 years. A proposal was made and agreed that an approach to the Yorkshire Association of Change Ringers by the Tower Captain for a grant to help fund this, but if this failed the PCC would again look at the request. With 17 ringers now attending practice on Monday evenings, approval was sought and given to find an additional evening to hold a practice.

Work has been undertaken in the Vicarage kitchen replacing units, along with the installation of a new front door. The heating will be switched on this week and Rev. Ian is due to move in 26/27 February. Fr Sam thanked everyone for their help during the Christmas season.

With no further business Fr Sam closed the meeting with a prayer and Grace.

Answers to cheese quiz on p15:-

1. Wensleydale
2. Cheddar
3. Cheshire
4. Red Leicester
5. Danish Blue
6. Double Gloucester
7. Dairy Lea
8. Stilton
9. Edam
10. Philadelphia
11. Mozzarella
12. Brie
13. Roquefort
14. Stinking Bishop

# 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







**Wakefield  
Cathedral**

**Bishop Tony  
invites you to**

**Follow  
Me  
2024**

**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

**SPEAKERS**



**THURSDAY 25TH JANUARY 2024**

**THE MOST REV'D AND RT. HON. STEPHEN  
COTTRELL – ARCHBISHOP OF YORK**

The Archbishop is an old friend of Wakefield as he was Diocesan Missioner and Bishop's Chaplain for Evangelism in the Diocese of Wakefield and from 1993 until in 2001, he was called south to become Canon Pastor of Peterborough Cathedral and three years later was consecrated as Bishop of Reading. He became Bishop of Chelmsford in 2010 and served there until 2020 when he became the 98th Archbishop of York. Author of more than 20 books including children's books, he enjoys poetry, music and art. In one of his recent books, Dear England, Stephen Cottrell writes a letter to the country on why the Christian narrative still makes sense today.



**SATURDAY 9TH MARCH 2024  
10:00-15:00**

**THE RT. REV'D JOHN PRITCHARD**

Join Bishop John Pritchard for his session named 'Sleeping on the Job', this Quiet Day at the Community of The Resurrection, Mitfield, gives attendees the opportunity to pause and reflect during our often busy schedules (£10 per person, drinks provided, please bring a packed lunch.)

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.

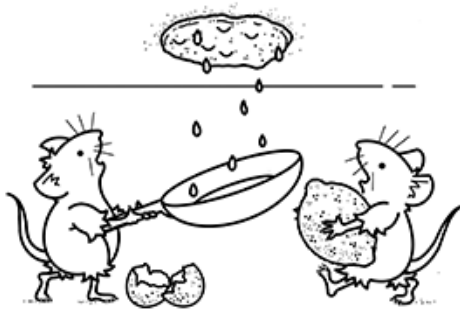
 **THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND**  
Diocese of Leeds

# Mothers' UNION

We meet on in Church on **Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February** at **1.30pm**.

Our speaker is Anita, Lay Reader from  
All Saint's Church

Everyone is always welcome. Refreshments to follow.



## **FLOWER ROTA**

The new flower rota is out for 2024. Please would you check this to ensure dates requested are correct, reporting any errors to the Flower Team.

## **HELP!!**

A request please to anyone who would be able to supply a bit of greenery each week to the Flower ladies. Whilst the flowers are amazing, they are always in need of greenery to boost the displays. If any cuttings could be dropped off on Saturday mornings between 9.00am and 9.30am, it would be most appreciated.



THE BENEFICE of PONTEFRACT  
**ST GILES'**  
with ST MARY'S

## Organ Recitals 2024

### **Fridays at 1.00pm**

(unless otherwise stated)

Come and join us on the following dates:

February 2<sup>nd</sup>

Paul Dewhurst

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

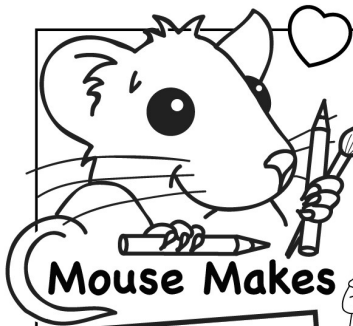
YMCA Charity Shop, Horsefair,  
Pontefract.

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.





# Mouse Makes

Who were the first couple?  
\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

Genesis 2:22-25

Who's wife became a pillar of salt because she disobeyed the angel's warning?

Genesis 19:26



Which of Laban's daughters did Jacob love?

Genesis 29:18

Who was Moses' wife?

Exodus 2:21

Who married Boaz to become King David's great-grandmother and a distant relative of Jesus?

Matthew 1:5



## FIND THE BIBLE VERSE

Change each letter in this bible verse to the letter **before** it in the alphabet.

XIBU HPE IBT  
KPJOFE UPHFUIFS,  
MFU OPU NBO  
TFQBSBUF.

NBSL  
UFO WFSTF  
OJOF

## CONNECT THE BIBLE COUPLES

- ADAM      ELIZABETH
- ABRAHAM      MARY
- ISAAC      HANNAH
- JACOB      PRISCILLA
- BOAZ      EVE
- ZECHARIAH      RUTH
- ELKANAH      REBEKAH
- AQUILA      RACHEL
- JOSEPH      SARAH

Which couple helped the Apostle Paul in his ministry?

and \_\_\_\_\_ Romans 16:3

## DID YOU KNOW?

King Solomon had **700** wives! They were princesses of royal birth and he loved them all, but his wives caused him to turn away from God  
See 1 Kings 11:1-3

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

- ABRAHAM
- ADAM • AQUILA
- BOAZ • ELKANAH
- ELIZABETH
- EVE • HANNAH
- ISAAC • JACOB
- JOSEPH • MARY
- PRISCILLA
- RACHEL
- REBEKAH • RUTH
- SARAH
- ZECHARIAH

# 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 Sam Fletcher  
Fr Michael Taylor (Honorary Priest)  
Fr Rod Walker

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

Jill Clapham Licensed Lay Minister (Reader)

Tel: 07740869346

### Sunday Services

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

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

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

#### PCC Vice Chairman

Barbara Sessford 699058

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

Paul and Ann Harris 07808 808977

#### Churchwardens

Bruce Dalgleish 07809 760993  
Barbara Sessford 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 Dalgleish 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





This is why the plaque pictured on the inside front cover seems to have been left out in the rain. Fr Sam climbed the tower to conduct a special ceremony to bless the new plaque. Below : the happy band of ringers.

Don't miss the very **pealing** article on pp 12 - 13.



