



ST GILES CHURCH HORSTED KEYNES

Rector: The Revd. David Murdoch
Curate: The Revd. Peter Sutton

Saint Peter
The Second Sunday after Trinity
29th June 2025

Welcome to St Giles Church, as we join together to praise God and thank Him for his goodness towards us. There will be no coffee or tea served today.

ENTRANCE HYMN

**Crown him with many crowns,
the Lamb upon his throne.
Hark! How the heavenly anthem drowns
all music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing of him
who died for thee,
and hail him as thy matchless King
through all eternity.**

**Crown him the Virgin's Son,
the God incarnate born,
whose arm those crimson trophies won
which now His brow adorn;
fruit of the mystic rose,
as of that rose the stem;
the root whence mercy ever flows,
the Babe of Bethlehem.**

Crown him the Lord of love,
 behold his hands and side,
 rich wounds, yet visible above,
 in beauty glorified.
 No angel in the sky
 can fully bear that sight,
 but downward bends each burning eye
 at mysteries so bright.

Crown him the Lord of peace,
 whose pow'r a sceptre sways
 From pole to pole, that wars may cease,
 Absorbed in prayer and praise:
 His reign shall know no end,
 And round his pierced feet
 fair flow'rs of paradise extend
 their fragrance ever sweet.

Crown him the Lord of years,
 the Potentate of time,
 Creator of the rolling spheres,
 ineffably sublime.
 all hail, Redeemer, hail!
 For thou has died for me;
 thy praise and glory shall not fail
 throughout eternity.

Please remain standing at the end of the hymn.

Priest: In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

THE GREETING

Priest: Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus
 Christ be with you

All: and also with you.

The priest introduces the celebration and invites everyone to confess their sins.

THIS WEEK AT ST. GILES

MONDAY 30 TH June	10.00a.m. Prayer for the Annex
TUESDAY 1 st July	3.30p.m. HKafe at the Martindale Centre
WEDNESDAY 2 nd	9.30a.m. First Steps at the Martindale Centre
	10.00a.m. Eucharist in Church
THURSDAY 3 rd	2.30p.m. Life and Faith Group at 20, Hamsland
FRIDAY 4 th	9.00a.m. St. Giles School Worship in Church
SUNDAY 6 th July	Trinity 3
	8.00a.m. Holy Communion (Said)
	10.00a.m. Parish Eucharist (Sung)

Father Peter is available to us in the parish for two days a week. Key working times will often be Sunday morning and some part of Wednesdays and Fridays, but it will, of course, be flexible as to what is happening that week. He may also be contacted on dedicated parish phone & email, but please bear in mind he may not be able to respond immediately – His contact details are frpetersutton@outlook.com or 07936 021801

For urgent matters call our warden Barbara Fairweather, 01825 790375 or John Whiting, 01825 791132

FOR OUR PRAYERS:

In our village: All who live and work in Westall House, HKafe leaders, volunteers and all who attend; St. Giles School, its pupils, families, staff and Governors.

The sick: Pam Brimfield, Roger & Kim Chaplin, David Colville, Emmeline, Ann Govas, Clive Hills, Mary Hopper, Jenny Johnson, James Lassie, Esme McNaughton, Pam and John Newman, Richard, Jessie and Jacob Sanderson, Elaine Seear, Ann Statham, Jane Terry. Benjamin True.

Recently departed: Father John Gayford, Susan Kemsley, Dave and Peggy Body, Christopher Wysock-Wright

Anniversary of death: Len and Hilda McGrath

**Still from earth to God eternal
sacrifice of praise be done,
high above all praises praising
for the gift of Christ his Son.
Christ doth call one and all:
ye who follow shall not fall.**

Everyone is welcome to join us for lunch at the Martindale Centre

As we bid farewell to Father David and Christine as he retires as a parish priest, here are some details of his Ministry over the past forty years:

Ordained in Blackburn Cathedral:
Deacon 30 June 1984
Priest 30 June 1985

Blackburn Diocese:
1984 Curate of St Leonard, Penwortham

Derby Diocese:
1987 Curate of Wirksworth with five villages
1989 Rector of Shirland
1997 Priest in Charge, then Vicar of New Mills

St Edmundsbury & Ipswich Diocese:
2005 Team Rector of the Wilford Peninsula

Chichester Diocese:
2019 Priest in Charge, then Rector of Horsted Keynes

Part time, at different times, in conjunction with the above: Derby Diocese
World Development Advisor, Chaplain to a Psycho-geriatric hospital,
Chaplain to New Mills RBL, Rural Dean of Glossop, Chaplain to Ipswich
Hospice; Chaplain to the High Sherriff of West Sussex and (*best of all*) Chaplain to the Bluebell Railway.

PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Priest: Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith.
Lord Jesus, in your love you invite us to be your Lord Jesus,
in your love you invite us to be your friends:
Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, in your joy you choose us to go out and bear fruit:
Christ, have mercy.

All: Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, in your power you send us to be your faithful witnesses:
Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: Almighty God, have mercy on you, forgive you your sins,
and bring you to everlasting life.

All: Amen

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS:

**All: Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to God in the highest,
Glory to God in the highest and peace to his people on earth,
Lord God, Heav'nly King, almighty God and Father, we worship
you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.
Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to God in the highest.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father.
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have
mercy on us.
You are seated at the right hand of the Father, receive our prayer.
Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to God in the highest.
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone
are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in the glory of
God the Father.
Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to God in the highest.**

COLLECT

Priest: Let us pray
Almighty God,
Who inspired your apostle Saint Peter
To confess Jesus as Christ and Son of the living God:
Build up your church upon this rock,
That in unity and peace it may proclaim one truth
And follow one Lord, your Son our Saviour Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All: Amen

Please sit

FIRST READING: Acts 12: 1-11

About that time King Herod laid violent hands upon some who belonged to the church. He had James, the brother of John, killed with the sword. After he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also. (This was during the festival of Unleavened Bread.) When he had seized him, he put him in prison and handed him over to four squads of soldiers to guard him, intending to bring him out to the people after the Passover. While Peter was kept in prison, the church prayed fervently to God for him. The very night before Herod was going to bring him out, Peter, bound with two chains, was sleeping between two soldiers, while guards in front of the door were keeping watch over the prison. Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared and a light shone in the cell. He tapped Peter on the side and woke him, saying, 'Get up quickly.' And the chains fell off his wrists. The angel said to him, 'Fasten your belt and put on your sandals.' He did so. Then he said to him, 'Wrap your cloak around you and follow me.' Peter went out and followed him; he did not realize that what was happening with the angel's help was real; he thought he was seeing a vision. After they had passed the first and the second guard, they came before the iron gate leading into the city. It opened for them of its own accord, and they went outside and walked along a lane, when suddenly the angel left him. Then Peter came to himself and said, 'Now I am sure that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from the hands of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting.'

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God

THE DISMISSAL

BLESSING

God give you grace to share in the inheritance of the saints in glory;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.
Go in the peace of Christ.

All: Thanks be to God.

HYMN: **All my hope on God is founded;**

he doth still my trust renew.

**Me through change and chance he guideth,
only good and only true.**

**God unknown, he alone
calls my heart to be his own.**

**Human pride and earthly glory,
sword and crown betray his trust;
what with care and toil he buildeth,
tower and temple, fall to dust.
But God's power, hour by hour,
is my temple and my tower.**

**God's great goodness aye endureth,
deep his wisdom, passing thought:
splendour, light, and life attend him,
beauty springeth out of naught.
Evermore from his store
new-born worlds rise and adore.**

**Daily doth the Almighty giver
bounteous gifts on us bestow;
his desire our soul delighteth,
pleasure leads us where we go.
Love doth stand at his hand;
joy doth wait on his command.**

And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

God rains down manna for us to eat and gives us grain from heaven.

All: So on earth we share the bread of angels.

AGNUS DEI:

**All: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
Have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
Have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
Grant us peace.**

THE GIVING OF COMMUNION

Priest: I heard the voice of a great multitude crying, Alleluia!
The Lord our God has entered into his Kingdom.

**All: Blessed are those who are called to the supper of the Lamb.
Alleluia!**

*During Communion the Choir will sing 'If ye love me' – Tallis
and 'Soul of my Saviour'*

Silence is kept.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION *Please stand*

Priest: Let us pray

Lord God, the source of truth and love, keep us faithful to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, united in prayer and the breaking of bread, and one in joy and simplicity of heart, in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

NOTICES

The Choir will sing Psalm 150 - Stanford

SECOND READING: *1 Peter 2. 4-10*

Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight. Like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture: 'See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.' To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe, 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner', and 'A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall.' They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Please stand

**HYMN O thou, who camest from above
the fire celestial to impart,
kindle a flame of sacred love
on the mean altar of my heart.
There let it for thy glory burn
with inextinguishable blaze,
and trembling to its source return
in humble prayer and fervent praise.**

**Jesus, confirm my heart's desire
to work and speak and think for thee;
still let me guard the holy fire
and still stir up the gift in me.**

**Ready for all thy perfect will,
my acts of faith and love repeat,
till death thy endless mercies seal,
and make the sacrifice complete.**

Please remain standing and turn towards the Gospel Book

GOSPEL

All: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

Priest: The Lord be with you.

All: and also with you.

Priest: Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Matthew

All: Glory to you, O Lord. *Matthew 16: 13-19*

When Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.' And Jesus answered him, 'Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.'

Priest: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

All: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

SERMON – *followed by a short musical piece to help reflection.*

"What we call the beginning is often the end. And to make an end is to make a beginning. The end is where we start from." — T.S. Eliot

Today and tomorrow are days of endings and beginnings – for me and for you. The end of the wonderful time I have enjoyed here, the beginning of a vacancy. The end of forty years as a parish priest and the beginning of

Please remain standing after the hymn as the priest says the prayer over the gifts.

Pray, my sisters and brothers, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

All: May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands, for our good and the good of all his Holy Church.

Amen

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Priest: The Lord be with you

All: and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give thanks and praise.

The president recalls the Last Supper, followed by the acclamation

**All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, god of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.**

Please kneel or sit.

The priest continues with the Eucharistic prayer until this acclamation:

Great is the mystery of faith:

All: Christ has died: Christ is risen: Christ will come again.

The Prayer continues and leads into the doxology, to which all respond boldly

All Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Uniting our prayers with the whole company of heaven, as our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.**

OFFERTORY HYMN

During the singing of this hymn, a collection is taken. This is the last week of our charitable Collection for May and June in support of Christian Aid. Please put any donations into the orange envelopes and Gift Aid, if appropriate. There is a machine for electronic donations at the back of church. The elements of bread and wine are placed upon the altar.

**How shall I sing that Majesty
which angels do admire?
Let dust in dust and silence lie;
sing, sing, ye heavenly choir.
thousands of thousands stand around
thy throne, O God most high;
ten thousand times ten thousand sound
thy praise; but who am I?**

**Thy brightness unto them appears,
whilst I thy footsteps trace;
a sound of God comes to my ears,
but they behold thy face.
They sing because thou art their Sun;
Lord, send a beam on me;
for where heaven is but once begun
there alleluias be.**

**How great a being, Lord, is thine,
which doth all beings keep!
Thy knowledge is the only line
to sound so vast a deep.
thou art a sea without a shore,
a sun without a sphere;
thy time is now and evermore,
thy place is everywhere.**

retirement. As I wrote in P & P these last few weeks have been a time of much reflection and many memories:

‘I think of all the wonderful variety of people I have encountered in congregations and communities, especially through Baptisms, Marriages and Funerals. I think of the deepest sorrows and greatest joys of people’s lives, which I have been so privileged to share. I think of the greatest privileges of a priest’s life: to pray with and for people, and to lead the Eucharist, the service Jesus gave his followers, the heart of Christian worship and life. I think with sorrow of my many failings and struggles; giving thanks for God’s unfailing forgiveness. Give thanks too for many blessings received; for people I have been able to help, whether knowingly or unknowingly. Give thanks for the love and support I have received, most of all from a loving wife and children, but also from so many people in congregations and communities.’

I cannot remember a time when I did not feel called to be a priest, it was from earliest childhood. Despite my cleft palate and my father’s opposition, God enabled me to answer that call. Like most priests I was ordained at St Peter’s tide, and Peter is one of the saints who means a great deal to me. He was one of the first to be called by Jesus, when he simply said, “Follow me.” As we heard in the Gospel, he was the first to recognize Jesus as ‘the Son of the living God’. He did so in answer to the question Jesus continues to ask you and me: ‘Who do you say that I am?’ Peter, James and John were present at some of the most significant moments of Jesus’ life, like the Transfiguration, where they caught a glimpse of his glory. That strange glory which would be shown as self-giving, suffering love on the cross. Peter, James and John were also with Jesus in his agony in the Garden of Gethsemane and, despite having emphatically said that he would not, Peter denied Jesus three times at his trial.

Yet, in John’s Gospel, Peter has a resurrection appearance almost of his own. Three times, Jesus asks him, ‘Do you love me?’ It is as if there is a sequel to the three denials. Three times Peter answers ‘Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.’ Three times Jesus charges him to feed and tend his sheep. Surely it must have seemed like the end to Peter, when he had denied Jesus and deserted him, with all but one of the other twelve disciples – like the

end when Jesus suffered and died an ignominious death. The resurrection made a new beginning of that apparent end. Peter and future Bishops, Priests and Deacons were called to be, God help us, under shepherds to the Good Shepherd himself, seeking to express something of his love for all his people.

Ancient and beautiful buildings have been one of my inspirations in my journey of faith. I loved this one as soon as I saw it. As I have sat here listening to you reading the lessons from the Old Testament, Psalms and New Testament, I have often pondered the stones opposite my chair. Like us they are of different shapes and sizes, having lighter and darker shades and colours. They have some smooth and some rough edges; contrasts and even cracks. Somewhere (I think) will be a corner stone, supporting them. That reminds me of the calling we all share, about which Peter wrote in his First Letter:

‘Come to him, the living stone which was rejected by men but chosen by God...You also, as living stones, must be built up into a spiritual temple.’ 1 Peter 2. 4 & 5

George Herbert says, in his meditation on his church floor(e):
‘The sweet cement, which in one band ties the whole frame is love.’
‘Love, that moves the sun and the other stars.’ *Dante, The Divine Comedy.*

And yet the love we see in the human God, Jesus, who tells us to ‘Love one another, as I have loved you.’ *John 13. 34* We cannot do it on our own. We need the constant inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Only thus may we continue to be ‘a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a dedicated nation, a people claimed by God for his own, to proclaim the glorious deeds of him who has called you out of darkness into light.’ 1 Peter. 9

In short, as we make new beginnings from endings today, may we never forget that

‘Christ doth call, one and all,
Ye who follow shall not fall.’
Amen.

CREED *(please stand)*

All: We believe in one God, The Father, the Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.
Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION *(please kneel or sit)*

Reader Lord, in your mercy;

All Hear our prayer.

At the end: Merciful Father,

All Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

THE PEACE *(please stand)*

Priest: Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles, ‘Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you’. The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

All: and also with you.

Priest: Let us offer one another a sign of peace.