



NEWSLETTER

Sunday 21 June - Trinity 2

Jeremiah 20.7-13; Matthew 10.24-39



Online Benefice Service this Sunday

A service of worship, with contributions from around the Benefice, will be shared on the **St Nicks YouTube channel** www.youtube.com/channel/UC_10sXmB7N5CKsD60_eRXjg.

Find other worship resources at stnicholasdunnington.org.uk/covid19/worship/



Thoughts on Father's Day - from Judith Hewitt



This Sunday is Father's Day. If we have been out and about no doubt we would have been seeing cards and gifts we could buy for our fathers.

Unlike Mothering Sunday, Father's Day does not have its origins in a church festival: is it just an excuse for card shops to make money or as I discovered is the idea of Sonora Smart. Sonora lived in Washington, USA. Her mother died when she was a little girl and it was her father who brought her up. Sonora felt it was important to have a special day when she could tell her father how much he meant to her, as we would do on Mothering Sunday. She chose June, the month of her father's birth, for the celebration. Since then the third Sunday in June has been used as an opportunity for people all over the world to thank fathers for all they do.

So I ask now, when fathers take a bigger role in the care of their children: should the church take it seriously?

In these days of lockdown I am sure Dads have taken their turn at home schooling, caring for their children, feeding them and generally keeping their children safe and happy. Hopefully this will have been an enjoyable and enriching experience for all, but for some it won't have been.

Fathers are never far from the headlines, from controversies around teenage fathers to reports on how good fathers have such a positive influence on the development of their children. All this coverage shows that we instinctively

recognise the importance of fathers to us individually and to society as a whole. So we shouldn't be surprised that this emphasis on, and the honouring of, good fatherhood is a reflection of the way in which God deals with the human race.

If you are a father, grandfather or great grandfather are you a good role model? Do you offer spiritual growth, support, guidance, stability and love, to those around you? That's a big ask for any parent.

I bought a card some time ago to use as part of a Father's Day talk. It says,

*'On Father's Day I'm so glad we're family.
Couldn't imagine celebrating Father's Day
without thinking of you.....*

*You're someone very special, and though
you don't hear it enough you really do mean
a lot.'*

This card is talking about our earthly Father, but could the words refer to our heavenly Father? Are you glad you are part of his family? Is he someone special to you? Do you tell your heavenly Father how special he is to you?

I have always believed that God, my heavenly Father, loves me unconditionally. I am sure the fathers amongst you have loved, and still do love your children unconditionally, for that is what a parent, a grandparent, and great grandparent does. Jesus shows us that God is not just a good father but a perfect father. Sometimes our fathers get things wrong, but God is a perfect parent – a really good father and mother to all of us. God is always there to love us and support us, whatever we do. As a father, he is someone we can look up to and rely on – he will always care for us, no matter what happens.

In these last weeks I am sure some of you will be turning to your Bible or hymn

book more often. A hymn that came to me when thinking about Father's Day is 'Father I place into your hands'. It has words that remind us we can place all our problems into our heavenly Father's hands. Just as a child we had to turn to our Dad for help so we have to realise we cannot do everything in our own strength, but rely on God to help us when things get tough, as they have been and will continue to be.

Father, I place into your hands
The things I cannot do,
Father, I place into your hands
The things that I've been through.
Father, I place into your hands
The way that I should go,
For I know I always can trust you.

Father, I place into your hands
My friends and family.
Father, I place into your hands
The things that trouble me.
Father, I place into your hands
The person I would be,
For I know I always can trust you.

Father, we love to see your face,
We love to hear your voice.
Father, we love to sing your praise
And in your name rejoice.
Father, we love to walk with you
And in your presence rest,
For we know we always can trust you.

Father, I want to be with you
And do the things you do.
Father, I want to speak the words
That you are speaking too.
Father, I want to love the ones
That you will draw to you,
For I know that I am one with you.

So, let's celebrate Father's Day in our churches, honouring those fathers who have shown us something of God's love, praying for fathers to be given strength in their crucial role and remembering that God, who is our Father in heaven, loves us more than we can grasp.

Benefice churches opening for private prayer

After undertaking full risk assessments, we are planning to re-open the Benefice churches, for private prayer only, during the week commencing 22 June. There will be signs posted to guide people: to encourage social distancing, good hand hygiene, and minimal physical contact with the fabric. Each church will only be open for a limited time, twice a week.

You are encouraged to make use of the open churches, and to let others know that they are available. We shall review the opening times and other provision during July.

Church opening times

from week commencing 22 June 2020

Holtby

Wednesday – 8am to 4pm, Sunday – 12noon to 4pm

Stockton

Wednesday – 1pm to 4pm, Sunday – 1pm to 4pm

Warthill

Thursday 1-4pm, Sunday, 1-4pm

Dunnington

Thursday – 10am to 12pm, Sunday – 3pm to 5pm

Other Church News

Christian meditation group. The group meets monthly in friendship and prayerful silence. Since lockdown the meetings have continued on Zoom. A visit to St Athanasius monastery planned for this month has had to be postponed. The next meeting is on **Wednesday 24 June** at 7:30 pm. Anyone new to the group but wishing to participate should in the first instance contact Rev. Peter Moorhouse (01904 481055).

Sunday Worship. The service on BBC 1 is at 11.45am this Sunday. Radio York continues to offer an act of Christian worship at 8.00am every week. Don't forget, a radio version of the York Mystery Plays is also being broadcasted during June. Listen on BBC sounds, or find out more on the [York Theatre Royal website](#).

A Prayer for Father's Day

Heavenly Father, you entrusted your Son Jesus, the child of Mary, to the care of Joseph, an earthly father.

Bless all fathers as they care for their families.

Give them strength and wisdom, tenderness and patience: support them in the work they have to do, protecting those who look to them,

as we look to you for love and salvation,
through Jesus Christ our rock and defender. Amen.

Dunnington Methodist Church

Many of you will have seen that the government has begun relaxing the lockdown rules to allow churches to open for private prayer. However, at present the Methodist Church's advice is that churches should remain closed. As Chair of the Yorkshire North & East District Rev Leslie Newton has said 'God will hear us where ever we pray'.

All stewards are around for a chat or you need help or advise. Diane on 01904489495, Anne on 01904481656 or Chris on 01904481191. Rev Keith Albans can be contacted on 01904 491761 or Circuit office 07984019995 who will take a message.

The Church on the Circuit prayer rota for 21 June is Stillingfleet. Let us thank God for his work in that place and pray for the church as they consider how best to respond to God's call in this time.

It was good to see Dunnington in bloom team out today (Wednesday 17th). Sorry we were not open to serve coffee at the Church, but thank you for looking after our village.

Redeeming God

Help us to know when to wait, and when to act,
What you are going to do, and what you ask us to do,
Give us wisdom to know what and when,
To trust you for why and how,
Help us to listen to you both in the dark night and the bright day,
And to do what you ask us of us. Amen

Lectionary Corner

22nd June: Alban, First Martyr of Britain c.250

23rd June: Etheldreda, Abbess of Ely c.678

24th June: Birth of John the Baptist

Etheldreda, Abbess of Ely

Eternal God, who bestowed such grace upon your servant Etheldreda that she gave herself wholly to the life of prayer and to the service of your true religion: grant that we, like her, may so live our lives on earth seeking your kingdom that by your guiding we may be joined to the glorious fellowship of your saints; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



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Etheldreda (Audrey) was born in Suffolk in the seventh century, a daughter of the King. She desired to commit her life to prayer and chastity and, after two arranged and unconsummated marriages, founded a religious house at Ely for both men and women, over which she ruled as Abbess. At her death on this day in 678, she was revered as a woman of austerity, prayer and prophecy.

Sourced from 'Exciting Holiness'



Do you need practical support or a friendly chat?

If you need help/support but don't know who your local Community Support Group volunteers are, please email covid19eastyork@gmail.com, or call Rev Nick Bird on 01904 489349 and we will link you up.

Would you like to receive this newsletter by email? Contact Victoria on grapevine.rey@gmail.com. It is also available to download from the St Nicholas Church website at www.stnicholasdunnington.org.uk/news/

Next newsletter on **Sunday 28 June**. Items to grapevine.rey@gmail.com by **9.00 am on Thursday 25 June**