



# NEWSLETTER

## Sunday 22 March : Mothering Sunday



1 Samuel 1.20-end; John 19.25b-27

### IMPORTANT NOTICE

**All church services, groups and meetings have been suspended until further notice**

All public worship has been suspended until further notice, in line with the in line with Government Advice, as a measure to help protect the most vulnerable. However,

### St Nicholas, St Mary and Holy Trinity Stockton are still open!



The churches are opened daily between about 9.00am and 4.30pm. You are welcome to come in, and you will find a growing number of resources inside which you can use there and then, or take home with you.

Whether you want to sit quietly and pray, bring your children to explore, sing a favourite hymn... You are welcome. We only ask that you are considerate of other visitors by washing your hands or using the hand sanitiser provided when you enter, and keeping a sensible distance from others.



[stnicholasdunnington.org.uk/covid19/](https://stnicholasdunnington.org.uk/covid19/)

This link is for a set of dedicated webpages on the St Nicholas Church website which contain up to date information on the local situation, details of the community support groups, and also resources you may find helpful.

### Community Support Groups

In each village, a community support group has been created, so that we can support one another through this difficult time. This is especially for you if you are self-isolating or otherwise in need of help.

Hopefully you will already have received a leaflet through your door with the contact details of your local support volunteers.

If you haven't, please contact us on [covid19east york@gmail.com](mailto:covid19east york@gmail.com), or call Rev Nick Bird on 01904 489349, and we can link you up with the right people.



### Worshipping Together in Spirit

You can pick up a copy of the order of worship for both **Morning Prayer** and **Night Prayer** from any of the open churches, or download them, and other resources, from [stnicholasdunnington.org.uk/covid19/worship/](https://stnicholasdunnington.org.uk/covid19/worship/)

By using the same order of service, but maybe with your own prayers of intercession and Bible readings, we are continuing to worship together as a Church family.

If you would like a copy sending to you, please email [judithmhewitt@btinternet.com](mailto:judithmhewitt@btinternet.com) or ring 488331 (you will need to say who you are when you ring as we have call guardian).

Also, listen out for the church bells! If you hear the 'Angelus' (the church bells ringing three sets of three 'dongs') then know that someone is in your church praying for you and for our community. Do join in wherever you are. And all around your village, the country and the world, know that there are faithful people praying at this time.



John Sentamu is asking people to place a lighted candle in our windows at 7.00pm on Sunday 22 March 'as a sign of solidarity and hope in the light of Christ that can never be extinguished'.



Be joyful in hope,  
patient in affliction,  
faithful in prayer.  
Romans 12:12

Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy.  
Sustain and support the anxious, be with those who care for the  
sick,

And lift up all who are brought low;  
That we may find comfort knowing that nothing can separate us  
from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Amen

*(from the Church of England website)*

Lord Jesus Christ,  
you taught us to love our neighbour,  
and to care for those in need  
as if we were caring for you.  
In this time of anxiety, give us strength  
to comfort the fearful, to tend the sick,  
and to assure the isolated  
of our love, and your love,  
for your name's sake.

Amen

God of compassion,  
be close to those who are ill, afraid or in isolation.  
In their loneliness, be their consolation;  
in their anxiety, be their hope;  
in their darkness, be their light;  
through him who suffered alone on the cross,  
but reigns with you in glory,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

#### **A prayer to use if you are ill or isolated**

O God,  
help me to trust you,  
help me to know that you are with me,  
help me to believe that nothing can separate me  
from your love  
revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

#### **For hospital staff and medical researchers**

Gracious God,  
give skill, sympathy and resilience  
to all who are caring for the sick,  
and your wisdom to those searching for a cure.  
Strengthen them with your Spirit,  
that through their work many will be restored to health;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

#### **A prayer for the Christian community**

*(from Barbara Glasson, President of the Methodist Conference)*

We are not people of fear:  
we are people of courage.  
We are not people who protect our own safety:  
we are people who protect our neighbours' safety.  
We are not people of greed:  
we are people of generosity.  
We are your people God,  
giving and loving,  
wherever we are,  
whatever it costs  
For as long as it takes  
wherever you call us.

#### **A prayer to use with children at bedtime**

Before the ending of the day,  
Creator of the world, we pray  
That you, with steadfast love, would keep  
Your watch around us while we sleep.  
Tonight we pray especially for *(names family or friends who are  
affected by Coronavirus)*  
and the people of *(country or place which is affected by  
Coronavirus)*.  
Please give skill and wisdom to all who are caring for them.  
Amen.



#### **Lectionary Corner at St Nicholas**

22 March: Mothering Sunday  
25 March: Annunciation of Our Lord to the Blessed Virgin Mary

**Would you prefer to receive this newsletter by email?** Contact Victoria on [grapevine.rey@gmail.com](mailto:grapevine.rey@gmail.com). It is also available to download from the St Nicholas Church website at [www.stnicholasdunnington.org.uk/news/](http://www.stnicholasdunnington.org.uk/news/)

**MORE NEWS:** on Methodist Church notice board and [dioceseofyork.org.uk/news-events/](http://dioceseofyork.org.uk/news-events/)

Next newsletter on **Sunday 29 March**. Items to [grapevine.rey@gmail.com](mailto:grapevine.rey@gmail.com) by **9.00 am on Thursday 26 March**.