



NEWSLETTER

Sunday 29 March

Ezekiel 37.1-14; Romans 8.6-11; John 11.1-45



IMPORTANT NOTICE

The churches are now closed until further notice, both for public worship and private prayer.

This follows the Prime Minister's announcement of 23 March, and the Government's national emergency regulations, which include the complete closure of places of worship for at least three weeks.

For more information and guidance, see:



the Church of England's guidance at

www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-churches, and

the Methodist Church's information at

www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/coronavirus/

The Methodist Church



stnicholasdunnington.org.uk/covid19/

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. More about worshipping together overleaf.

Sunday 29th March, Passiontide begins.

This Sunday we enter Passiontide, the last two weeks of Lent. The monks hidden in the desert would return to their monasteries, the fast would intensify, and preparations for Holy Week would begin. We prepare to enter into an experience of fear, desolation and abandonment, alongside Christ and his disciples. It seems impossible to celebrate Easter fully without living through the passion and the incidents of Holy Week.

Tony Campolo, the Christian writer and speaker, once wrote a book titled, *'It's Friday but Sunday's Comin'*, which I remember from my teenage years. It had a powerful message of hope and promise:

It's Friday... Jesus was nailed dead on a cross.

But it's only Friday; Sunday's coming!

It's Friday... Mary's crying her eyes out 'cause her Jesus is dead.

But it's only Friday; Sunday's coming!

It's Friday... The disciples are running around like sheep without a shepherd.

But it's only Friday; Sunday's coming!

But we get ahead of ourselves. Today's gospel reading is about the foreshadowing of Jesus' own death, told in the story of Lazarus, Mary and Martha. Read the story for yourself (John 11.1-45). Jesus wept alongside the sisters, because, although he knew that the week does not end on a Friday, the lived human experience demands a compassionate response. And whilst we know that this trial might feel like the end, the week does not end on a Friday. Lazarus was raised from the dead, but only to die again one day. Today, and this season, might feel like the perpetual Friday with its abandonment, desolation and fear. But we are not Friday people, this is not our day. We are Sunday people, and Sunday is coming. Through the darkest hour, resurrection is the promise. We are Sunday people, and Alleluia is our song!



Revd. Nick Bird



Do you need practical support or a friendly chat?

Each village now has a Community Support Group. You should have received a leaflet through your door with the contact details of your local support volunteers. Make use of them - they want to be of help and comfort to you! If you haven't had a leaflet, please email covid19eastyork@gmail.com, or call Rev Nick Bird on 01904 489349, and we can link you up with the right people.

News and Notices

A message from Dunnington Methodist Church

The stewards at Dunnington Methodist Church are sorry the Church is closed until further notice. If anyone needs to speak to them during the Coronavirus closure, for a chat, update or who needs some help, then we are available anytime. Diane Conway 01904 489495 or Anne Castle 01904 481656.

Rev Keith Albans is still away on sabbatical but Rev Ruth Duck is standing in for him and is also available on 07961 835088.

Dunnington Community Hub

City of York Council has arranged for a Community Hub to be set up in the Dunnington Reading Rooms in from Friday 27 March. It will be run by CYC staff and their recruited volunteers to store and distribute essential food and medical supplies within the community. We'll provide more details on how to use the hub, as they become apparent, on stnicholasdunnington.org.uk/covid19/community-support/

Dunnington Scarecrow Trail has been postponed and is now planned for the VJ weekend **15 & 16 August**. We will have the same theme, celebrating a special event of some kind. You could start creating your scarecrow now, while you have more time at home than usual.



Mental Health Reflections

A number of actions that could help people feeling isolated or worried, as well as those who grieve, are put forward in a new free guide [Supporting Good Mental Health](#), published by the Church of England. It is written by Durham University academic Revd Professor Chris Cook with Ruth Rice Director of the Christian mental health charity Renew Wellbeing.

In addition, the Church has published [Five tips for tackling loneliness and isolation](#):

1. **Pray.** Light a candle, if safe, and pray for hope, faith and strength to keep loving and caring for each other during this time of struggle.
2. **Talk about how you feel.** This may be difficult if you are self-isolating, but do use the telephone, internet, and social media. If you need to contact a counsellor this can be arranged by your GP, or via local agencies, or privately. Samaritans are there 24 hours a day, every day, and it's free to call them on 116 123.
3. **Focus on the things that you can change**, not on the things you can't.
4. **Look after yourself** - physically, emotionally, spiritually. Plan in things that you enjoy at regular intervals during the day – a TV programme, a phone call, a book, a favourite dish, a game.
5. **Look after others.** Even if only in small ways, but do what you can: a smile, a kind word, writing a letter or an email.

Worshipping Together

You can download a copy of the order of worship for both **Morning Prayer** and **Night Prayer** from 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 judithmewitt@btinternet.com or ring 488331 (you will need to say who you are when you ring as we have call guardian).

There are also lots of other resources on the website: links to live-streamed services, suggestions for daily prayer and worship apps you can use on your phone... and much more!

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.



Father,
I abandon myself into your hands;
do with me what you will.
Whatever you may do, I thank you:
I am ready for all, I accept all.
Let only your will be done in me,
and in all your creatures -
I wish no more than this, O Lord.
Into your hands I commend my soul:
I offer it to you with all the love of my heart,
for I love you, Lord, and so need to give myself,
to surrender myself into your hands without reserve,
and with boundless confidence,
for you are my Father.

Prayer of Abandonment - Charles de Foucauld

Lectionary Corner at St Nicholas

There are no major Saints Days or festivals this week, so as we enter Passiontide on Sunday 29 March, let us all pray for each other in these challenging times.

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/

MORE NEWS: on Methodist Church notice board and dioceseofyork.org.uk/news-events/

Next newsletter on **Sunday 5 April**. Items to grapevine.rey@gmail.com by **9.00 am on Thursday 2 April**