



NEWSLETTER

Sunday 5 April

Isaiah 50.4-9a; Matthew 26.14-end of 27



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

Palm Sunday

Today, in churches across the land, the tradition would be for the long reading of the Passion narrative (*this year it is Matthew 26.14 to the end of chapter 27 – give it a go*). In some churches it is dramatized, even with donkeys and giant branches, processions and full audience/congregational participation. This year, we will have to imagine the scene, the gathering, the drama!



Collect for Palm Sunday

Almighty and everlasting God,
who in your tender love towards the human race
sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ
to take upon him our flesh
and to suffer death upon the cross:
grant that we may follow the example of his
patience and humility,
and also be made partakers of his resurrection;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

Start being so dramatic!

Lent, as we all know, leads into Easter, but not just chronologically. Lent builds the tension and sets the scene so that Easter can take its place. Imagine, if you will, walking into the festivities of a family Christmas Day without having done any of the decorating, shopping, preparing, worrying, gathering, wrapping, sending, cooking – nothing! It couldn't possibly feel right. The anticipation that comes with the build up to the season is what makes the celebration so special. We observe the rituals of Christmas as they are inherited in our families, and without observing them, the day, when it comes, is simply not the same.

The same has to be true of Easter, though we eschew the gifting and decorating on the whole, and often the big family gathering. But the day, when it comes, is the product of the preparation. Like the gestation period of pregnancy, the great joy often comes because of great anticipation. So it is with Easter: unless we enter into the experience of Lent, and the rites that go along with it, how can we fully celebrate Easter Sunday? Surprisingly, however, this is the practice of the majority of Christians. To experience the visceral nature of fasting, the drama of Palm Sunday, the intimacy and oddness of Maundy Thursday, the desolation of Good Friday, and the emptiness of Holy Saturday, is to prepare the soul for the Rising Son on Easter morn.

“Don't be so dramatic” is a common parenting edict, put is a poor liturgical rubric. Today is a dramatic day, full of tension, betrayal and abandonment. We feel it in our guts today, so we can feel it in our hearts next Sunday.

Rev'd Nick Bird



Read more about Holy Week and Easter at
stnicholasdunnington.org.uk/about-us/easter/



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 covid19east york@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

If anyone during this isolation period needs to talk, feels lonely or would like to contact a steward please ring Diane Conway 01904 489495 or Anne Castle 01904 481656. Pastoral secretary Jocelyn Auton 01904 488044. If anyone would like a Palm Sunday short service and/or a palm cross please ring Diane and she will get them to you. Take care and be safe.

Be Wary of Scams. Sadly, some people are using this time to take advantage of others. Find official advice on how to avoid scams at stnicholasdunnington.org.uk/covid19/scams/

Reduced No. 10 Bus Service

The revised Monday to Saturday service is based on the Sunday timetable with additional buses in the early morning and in the evening. Thanks to Tony Walmsley for producing this stnicholasdunnington.org.uk/covid19/revised-bus-timetable/



Good Friday Walk

We can't do our usual group walk of witness on Good Friday this year, but you could do it 'virtually' or on your own and on any day of the week, as part of your outing for exercise.

As you set off from outside the church, pray for Nick, Judith, our retired clergy, David, Peter and John, and all who visit St Nicholas Church.

Walk towards the school.

Give thanks for Jesus, the greatest teacher, perhaps think about one of the 'lessons' he taught us.

Pray for the teachers, children and parents who attend Dunnington CE School or who go out of the Village for their education.

Walk towards the shops.

Give thanks for those who are supporting us at this time, for the Community Support group, for those who are keeping our shops open.

Walk to the paper shop.

Pray for all who are suffering, the sick, the lonely, the bereaved.

Sing

Be still and know that I am God.
I am the one that healeth thee
In thee, O Lord, I put my trust

Walk to the surgery corner.

Pray here for the doctors, nurses, and all who are working to keep us well, not forgetting the carers in our Care Homes and those who continue to visit those in their homes.

Walk Home

As you walk home pray for your neighbours and all who live in this Village.

Worshipping Together

Say Compline (Night Prayer) along with Revd Nick Bird using the recording on our worship pages stnicholasdunnington.org.uk/covid19/worship/



You can download a copy of the order of worship for both Morning Prayer and Night Prayer from the same pages, and there are also lots of other new resources there!

What are you finding helpful?

Are there specific prayers, Bible readings, hymns or other resources you are finding particularly helpful at the moment? Please do send them to grapevine.rey@gmail.com so we can share them with others. Thank you!



In The Time Of Quiet

by Phillipa Atkin

No one's told the daffodils about the pause to Spring
And no one's told the birds to roost and asked them not to sing
No one's asked the lazy bee to cease his bumbling round
And no one's stopped the bright green shoots emerging through
the ground

No one's told the sap to rest, deep within the wood
And stop the sleepy trees from waking, wreathed about in bud
No one's told the sky to douse its brightest shades of blue
And stop the scudding clouds from puffing headlong into view
No one's asked the lambs to still the springs beneath their feet,
To stop their rapid rush and quell each joyful bleat
No one's told the stream to halt its gurgle or its flow
And warned the playful breezes, not to gust and blow
No one's asked the raindrops not to fall upon the earth
And fail to quench the soil in the season of rebirth

No one's locked the sun down, or dimmed the shimmer of the
moon
And even in the darkest night, the stars are still immune

Remember what you value, remember who is dear
Close the doors to danger and keep your family near
In the quiet all around us take the time to sit and stare
And wonder at the glory unfurling everywhere
Look towards the future, after the ordeal
And keep faith in Mother Nature's power and will to heal.

Lectionary Corner at St Nicholas

5th April: Palm Sunday
9th April: Maundy Thursday
10th April: Good Friday
11th April: Easter Eve

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 12 April**. Items to grapevine.rey@gmail.com by **9.00 am on Thursday 9 April**