



# NEWSLETTER

Easter Day - Sunday 12 April

Acts 10.34-43; Matthew 28.1-10

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

## Easter Day

Today, in churches across the land, nothing will happen. There will be a quietness, and absence, a separation. Today, many people will be reading those verses from the beginning of Matthew 28 and that great resurrection account, but not hearing them proclaimed from the lectern of explored in the pulpit. Today will be different. But in times of national crisis in years past, or even routinely in our modern age for our key workers, many people are forced to be absent by circumstance, rather than choice. As we celebrate this great climax of the Christian year, what seems exceptional to us, others will be accustomed to. Let us pray that we might identify with our sisters and brothers, dispersed but gathered, as we remember once more the triumph of love over death.

### *Collect for Easter Day*

Lord of all life and power,  
who through the mighty resurrection of your Son  
overcame the old order of sin and death  
to make all things new in him:  
grant that we, being dead to sin  
and alive to you in Jesus Christ,  
may reign with him in glory;  
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit  
be praise and honour, glory and might,  
now and in all eternity.



## Resurrection

In his sermon today, the Archbishop of Canterbury will call for the 'resurrection of our common life'. This is good and helpful in so many ways. It is not a rallying to faith, though faith is involved. It is not a call to the reformation of structures or authority or scriptural compliance or strict orthodox observance. In many ways it is the most authentic of Christian callings – the common life. The solitary Christian is an anathema to our faith, those who plead 'I'm Christian, but don't see the need to go to church'. The primary understanding of the Christian faith is that of a way of life – rather than creedal adherence – and of gathering. One word for this is synagogue, and another is ekklesia. The first familiar to Judaism, and the second, from which the word 'church' comes, is familiar to Christians. Synagogue primarily means 'to gather', and ekklesia (think 'ecclesiastical') is 'to call out' or 'call together'.

To gather as a community is foundational to our way of practising our Christian faith, and not simply because we enjoy it, or even like it, but because it is good and necessary. Being together is how we work out our faith, and if that is not always easy and often challenging, then so much the better!

This Easter, the great challenge is that we are not able to gather. As someone said recently, 'We stay apart for now so that, when we do gather later, everyone is still with us'. It is hard, it is weird, for priest and people alike, it will be most strange, and I pray that we can truly lament this, mourn it and bewail, because only when something truly dies can it experience resurrection. The Archbishop's words are prophetic indeed: this Easter will be the more profound, not for what we can not do, but for what we shall become. Through this whole ordeal, let our common life be brought more truly to life. We are Easter People, and our home is to be together with the one we love; risen, ascended, glorified!!

## Worshipping Together



Did you know that St Nicks has a **YouTube** channel? [www.youtube.com/channel/UC\\_10sXmB7N5CKsD60\\_eRXig](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_10sXmB7N5CKsD60_eRXig)

It currently features daily reflections and a service of Compline (Night Prayer) for Holy Week, recorded by Revd Nick Bird.

Find more **Holy Week and Easter** resources overleaf and at [stnicholasdunnington.org.uk/about-us/easter/](https://stnicholasdunnington.org.uk/about-us/easter/)  
and other worship resources at [stnicholasdunnington.org.uk/covid19/worship/](https://stnicholasdunnington.org.uk/covid19/worship/)

## News and Notices

**Sunday Worship.** BBC local radio are broadcasting a service every Sunday morning at 8.00am. Our local radio station is Radio York 103.7. There is also a service on BBC1 about 11.00, check your tv magazine as the time varies and can start early!

**Easter Egg Hunt.** We are not able to have our Easter Egg hunt at St Nicholas this year so why not put an egg or a symbol of Easter in your window for people to find as they go for their daily walk?

**Live stream services.** The Diocese of York Facebook page, has a list (with links) to services broadcast from around our Diocese. [www.facebook.com/pg/DioceseOfYork/events/](https://www.facebook.com/pg/DioceseOfYork/events/)

**The Grapevine.** There will not be a printed edition of the Grapevine for May, as we don't want to put any of our subscribers or volunteer deliverers at unnecessary risk. However, there will be an online version, so do send any articles/news etc to [grapevine.rev@gmail.com](mailto:grapevine.rev@gmail.com) as usual.

### A message from Dunnington Methodist Church

Our 3rd week in isolation. A different Easter to any we have ever experienced. No Churches open. No Easter bunny hunts, not so many Easter eggs. Although we are all separated we have more time to sit and talk to friends and family close by and around the world by telephone, skype, facetime, twitter and whatsapp. We have time to listen as well as talk and I have enjoyed some really interesting conversations. We can share family birthdays on facetime and give virtual hugs. With the community links we are using technology to keep in touch with neighbours, and give support where we can. Our Churches are able to share services and messages of hope. Our village has set up a help line and a safe network for those most vulnerable. We send thanks to all the caring people in Dunnington.

There are a lot of kind and wonderful caring people in our Country who take risks every day to keep us safe. We send thanks and prayers to our NHS staff, community workers, supermarket staff, delivery drivers and food producers. We must help them by staying isolated to fight the Corona Virus.

We must remember that to talk to God we don't need Technology, no wires, no plugs. We don't have to know how to use a computer. He is always there. He loves every one where ever you are. Our Churches are closed but God is in your home on a walk or in your garden – if we use our time to talk and pray to him he will always listen. Be still for the presence of the Lord is shining all around.

Keep safe and stay kind.

Easter blessings to everyone.

## Easter Intercessions

One of the symbols of new life is an egg and so we offer our Easter prayers in the joy and hope that new life can bring.

**E**ggs are a symbol of new life. We give thanks for the signs we see of new life around us in our gardens. We pray for those who have no gardens or open spaces around them.

We pray to the Father: **hear our prayer.**

**A**round the world. We pray for all those around our world who are not only suffering from coronavirus but also from the lack of water to keep themselves safe.

We pray to the Father: **hear our prayer.**

**S**upport. We pray for the support groups in our villages, for all they are doing to help us. We pray you will keep them safe as they support us. We pray for the support of **all** carers, NHS staff, postpeople, shop assistants, delivery drivers etc (I am sure you can add more!)

We pray to the Father: **hear our prayer.**

**T**ime. We know this is a difficult time for many. We pray for all who are troubled at this time, for those who are worrying about the future, for those who find it hard not seeing their families and loved ones.

We pray for those who we know who are sick, for those undergoing tests, for those who are hungry, or homeless or feel no one cares about them.

We pray to the Father: **hear our prayer.**

**E**veryone. Everyone is special and loved by God. We pray for our families, our friends and all we love and care for.

We pray to the Father: **hear our prayer.**

**R**emember. We remember today the resurrection of Jesus, and that he is now with us wherever we are. We remember also all those we have lived and see no more.

We pray to the Father: **hear our prayer.**

## Easter Prayers

**E** is for Easter, with us again

**A** is for angels, near the tomb

**S** is for the stone, which was rolled away

**T** is for the tomb, found empty that day

**E** is for the early morning, the women were glad

**R** is for the risen Lord, no need to be sad



### 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 [covid19east york@gmail.com](mailto:covid19east york@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.rev@gmail.com](mailto:grapevine.rev@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/)

Next newsletter on **Sunday 19 April**. Items to [grapevine.rev@gmail.com](mailto:grapevine.rev@gmail.com) by **9.00 am on Thursday 16 April**