



# NEWSLETTER

## Sunday 10 May - 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

Acts 7.55-end; 1 Peter 2.2-10; John 14.1-14



### Online Service this Sunday



A service of worship for Sunday 10 May, with musical and visual contributions from around the Benefice, will be shared on the **St Nicks YouTube channel**  
[www.youtube.com/channel/UC\\_10sXmB7N5CKsD60\\_eRXjg](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_10sXmB7N5CKsD60_eRXjg)

Why not subscribe to the channel and be alerted when new material is added!

Find other worship resources at [stnicholasdunnington.org.uk/covid19/worship/](http://stnicholasdunnington.org.uk/covid19/worship/)



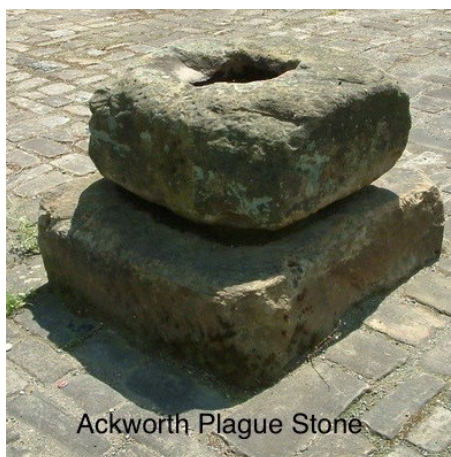
### The Light of Faith - a reflection from Revd Peter Moorhouse

For eleven years I was Rector of St Cuthbert's Church, Ackworth, a large village near Pontefract. At the back of the church there is an oak wall panel into which are carved the names of all the rectors of the parish. The first rector, Henry de Ackworth, was appointed in 1242 and there was my name, dated 1985.

At times I would stand in the church looking at the list of names. It was a potted 750 year history of the parish, from the time of Henry III to the late 20th century. I reflected on the fact that there had been a church on that site for hundreds of years from Norman times, as a church and priest are recorded in Domesday Book. Two things struck me. First, the church, both people and building, has been around continuously for a very long time. Secondly, over time, the village had experienced many traumatic events including the Wars of the Roses and the Civil War, when the Royalist rector was ejected from the parish, later to be reinstated. They had survived the Black Death, with its huge loss of life, and other plagues, as in 1645, marked by a plague stone, still to be seen today.

The villagers were in 'lockdown' until the plague passed, as in Eyam years later. It's recorded that 153 people died, buried in a common grave. They also lived through Spanish Flu, when 228,000 people died in this country alone. The villagers of Dunnington would have lived through all

the same historical events. Looking at this board was a humbling experience. It put my life into perspective. Sadly, now it's our turn to suffer.



Throughout history people have faced terrible disasters, man-made and natural. This pandemic is a part of an ongoing pattern of disturbing and disruptive events in history from which we, even in a modern society, are not immune. Yet in all these disasters the church continues to be a stable presence, exemplified wonderfully by York Minster, which towers majestically over the city of York and its surrounding Vale. St Nicholas Church, established in Norman times, is a beacon of continuity, standing as it does at the top of the hill leading out of the old village centre. As in my former parish, the congregation continues to worship and minister to the people. This continuity of witness is based on faith in

God and in the Risen Christ. The church witnesses to deep truths, especially the power of love, shown in the death and resurrection of Christ, and its ability to bring light to the darkness.

Despite declining church attendance even non-believers sometimes need the church. Janice Turner, a Times columnist, wrote in 2012 about receiving what she called 'grim news' on her phone when shopping on Oxford Street. In her distress she found a church, which to her surprise was open. She wrote 'I threw down my bags and sat for a long while. A lifelong non-believer, a former rowdy teenage atheist, I drank in the peace and left restored.' This experience causes her to reflect on her ambivalent attitude to faith.

The church has had to adapt throughout history and is doing so today. We can now watch a service from Fr. Nick's study via the Internet. A phone line service, Daily Hope, provides hymns and prayers for those without a computer. A pastoral system has been set up so that those living alone can speak to someone by phone and get help if necessary. Even our Meditation Group is meeting online.

Whatever changes come after this pandemic the church will continue to minister to the people of this country. It will change, as it always has done, and will continue to provide the Light of Faith in times of darkness.

*Revd Peter Moorhouse*

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



## Christian Aid Week

10th -16th May

Love never fails. Coronavirus impacts us all. But love unites us.

Under the current circumstance, sadly, house to house and other face to face events cannot go ahead this Christian Aid Week. However, Christian Aid still need our support, and there is a vibrant, virtual [Christian Aid Week](#) to get involved in online!

Christian Aid say 'It's more important than ever that we come together as a community to worship and to share fun and fellowship. That's why during Christian Aid Week we will be live-streaming worship each day, and hosting a fun daily quiz to join and raise funds.'

As this virus spreads across the world, love rises up in response. You've already shown incredible kindness to your neighbours. Now is the time to reach out to your neighbours both near and far.

Your love protects from storms, from drought, and now from coronavirus.

Your love protects our global neighbours battling the spread of this illness.

Your love protects with soap, clean water and medical supplies.

By supporting us this Christian Aid Week, you can reach out and protect more of your neighbours today.

You can [donate on line](#) or by sending a cheque or gift aid voucher to Christian Aid Yorkshire, 188a Woodhouse Lane, Leeds, LS2 9DX. And you can personalise an [e-envelope](#) to send to friends and family to encourage them to donate to.

## News & Notices

### Huge uptake of online Benefice services

Have you tried worshipping using the recorded services from the Benefice? They have proved very popular, with each Sunday service receiving c.200-300 views, and over 500 views of the Easter Sunday service so far. These figures are of views directly through the St Nicks YouTube channel and don't include people accessing the services through the video section of the St Nicks website, so the numbers may be even higher. Do join us for worship this Sunday. Many of us will watch and participate at 10.30am, but you can access it any time from Sunday morning. [www.youtube.com/channel/UC\\_10sXmB7N5CKsD60\\_eRXjg](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_10sXmB7N5CKsD60_eRXjg)

Our huge thanks to Nick Bird and family, David Marles, and everyone else who has contributed to producing these services.

**Sunday Services.** There will be the usual act of Christian Worship at 8.00am on Radio York. There has been worship led by Methodists, Anglicans and last Sunday from the Salvation Army. BBC are advertising Morning Worship at 10.45am.



## Lectionary Corner

14 May: Matthias the Apostle

### Matthias the Apostle

*When all is made new, and the Christ is on his throne of glory you will sit on the twelve thrones to judge the tribes of Israel.*

Almighty God, who in the place of the traitor Judas, chose your faithful servant Matthias to be of the number of the Twelve: preserve your Church from false apostles and, by the ministry of faithful pastors and teachers, keep us steadfast in your truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



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After the betrayal of Jesus by Judas Iscariot, the apostles brought their number back to twelve by choosing Matthias to replace him. He was chosen by lot from amongst the disciples. The author of the Acts of the Apostles sees apostleship differently from Paul's interpretation of the rôle and seems to reflect the understanding of the gospel of Luke. The number had to be restored so that they might 'sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel'. It was conditional that they had to have been with Jesus during his earthly ministry and witnesses to the resurrection. The point of being chosen by lot, rather than by some democratic method, indicated the election or choosing by God, rather than by mortals.

Sourced from 'Exciting Holiness'

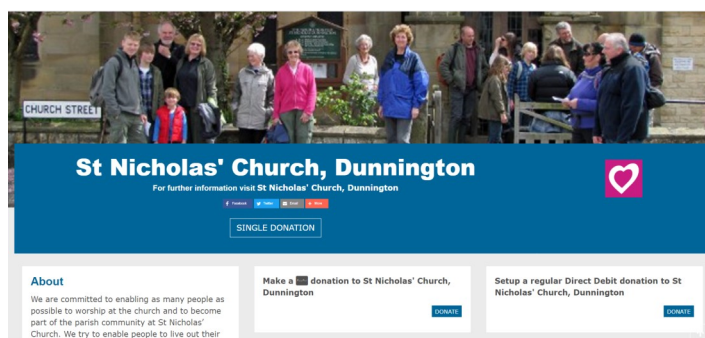
## Online giving to St Nicholas Church

We have now the facility for online giving. If you would like to make a donation to St Nicholas church, whether as a one-off or through setting up a direct debit, please visit [www.goldengiving.com/church/st-nicholas-church-dunnington](http://www.goldengiving.com/church/st-nicholas-church-dunnington)

DONATE USING



One-off donations can be made using Visa, Mastercard or Paypal.



### 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.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/)

Next newsletter on **Sunday 17 May**. Items to [grapevine.rey@gmail.com](mailto:grapevine.rey@gmail.com) by **9.00 am on Thursday 14 May**