



NEWSLETTER

Sunday 17 May - 6th Sunday of Easter



Acts 17.22-31; 1 Peter 3.13-end; John 14.15-21

Online Service this Sunday



A service of worship for Sunday 17 May will be shared on the **St Nicks YouTube channel** www.youtube.com/channel/UC_10sXmB7N5CKsD60_eRXjg. Please subscribe!

Find other worship resources at stnicholasdunnington.org.uk/covid19/worship/



Thoughts on Rogation Days - a reflection from Judith Hewitt

At the beginning of the year PCC members and the ministry team planned events and services for 2020 and many of them are now 'on hold' with the hope they can happen next year as many of them fell on festivals or special days.

This weekend would have seen the 'Dead Good Festival' in York and we had plans to hold a time of reflection and remembrance in two of our Churchyards. There was also a plan to have a walk this Sunday for Rogation Sunday.

Rogation Sunday is the sixth Sunday of Easter, with the following three days known as Rogation Days. It's a time when we ask (to ask is *rogare* in Latin), God to bless the crops and the farmers who work the land, and we can also pray for our environment.

In centuries past, Rogation Sunday also saw the Beating of the Bounds. Congregations would walk around the boundaries of each parish, noting what lay inside the parish, and what had changed from last year. Some parishes still do this today, looking at natural resources and focusing on God's creation in their own parish.

Rogation Days began in the 5th century when St Mamertus of Vienne developed processional liturgies to pray for God's blessing and protection over the land in the fields themselves. *It is a day when Christians are called to leave the church building and to bless the good earth God has given to us.*

When I did some research into Rogation time, I found George Herbert, a sort-of patron saint for rural parish priests, had four aims for Rogation.

- To seek God's blessing for the fields to bear fruit
- To seek the preservation of justice in the boundaries of the parish
- To walk in love with one another and reconcile differences

- To practice mercy and generosity toward the poor from God's provisions

In the past the clergy, dressed in their robes (!) would lead their congregation around the parish stopping to bless the fields, the crops, and the hands of farmers as they walked.

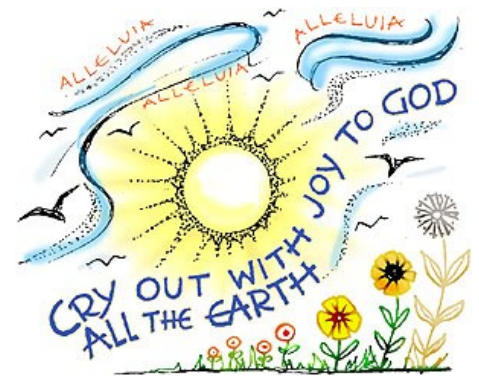
This year some may walk around their parish, some may do a virtual walk from their home, but whatever you do, take time to consider Herbert's four aims.

Many of us have been spending more time in our gardens, clearing the weeds, sowing seeds and now watching them grow. We are grateful for the fresh fruit and vegetables that have been delivered to us and we look forward to enjoying the fruits of our labours in the days and weeks to come. The farmers have also been busy during this time, many now waiting for rain to water their crops. We ask God's blessing on our gardens and on the fields surrounding our benefice.

To walk around the benefice boundary will be a long way and may not be physically possible, but those boundaries are perhaps not as important now as they were. We, the four parishes are breaking down boundaries and working together on so many things.

There are boundaries in our own lives, particularly at the moment. For some of us those boundaries mean we cannot do what we would like to do or even need to do. All boundaries are there for a reason, many to keep us safe, although we may not realise this at the time. Boundaries are also there because we are loved and there is a lot of love within the boundaries of our benefice for which we are so thankful for.

Walking the boundaries in that love which we share is not possible this year, but if we have differences with one another then we can pick the phone up and be reconciled. Walking together was



something Jesus did on the Emmaus Road, listening to the events of that first Easter. Walking is the ideal time to listen to one another and that is something many will be missing at the moment.

The fourth aim is something we can all do. God has given us all so much; we must be thankful for his goodness towards us and one way of acknowledging this is to give back to him a gift of time or money. We have just come to the end of Christian Aid week (it is not too late to make a donation) but much of their work is to encourage people to be self-sufficient, to grow their own crops, to have clean water to drink and water for sanitary purposes - all things we take for granted every day.

Rogation days, like all other days, are different this year, but we look forward to next year when we can celebrate these days. As you go for your daily walk why not make it a walk of prayer, praying for the world God has given to us and together we may have walked the distance around our benefice!

Collect for Rogation Sunday

Almighty God, whose will it is that the earth and the sea should bear fruit in due season: bless the labours of those who work on land and sea, grant us a good harvest and the grace always to rejoice in your fatherly care; 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**

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

News & Notices

Sunday Services. There will again be an act of Christian Worship at 8.00am on Radio York and Sunday Worship at 10.45 on BBC1



Christian Aid Week finishes today, but you can still [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.



St Nicholas Church's donations to IDAS and IRC

Every year St Nicks donates 10% of the money received via the collection plate or standing orders to worthy causes - usually one UK charity and one overseas. This year the PCC have chosen Independent Domestic Abuse Services (IDAS) York and The International Rescue Committee (IRC). Sadly IDAS is experiencing an increase in the number of victims and survivors contacting them for support and emergency accommodation, and they expect this to increase again when the lockdown ends. The IRC is having to scale-up their activities following the outbreak of COVID-19 as people living in vulnerable communities will be hit the hardest. The IRC delivers essential health care services, food, medicine and educational sessions on limiting the spread of the virus to refugees and displaced people. St Nicks has donated £3650 to each charity.



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

DONATE USING



Messy Church BRF are holding a Messtival on **20-21 May** with the theme a Round the World Adventure. The wonderful Dr Dave has offered science videos to fit in with some of the stories, and Fischy Music are providing song videos to fit in with a travel theme. The Messtival will be a lot of fun and will take place on the Messy Church BRF Facebook page, and their YouTube channel which can be found at: <https://www.youtube.com/user/brfonline>



Greenbelt - Wild at Home is available online NOW. "Let's see if we can translate the conspiracy of hope we conjure in the fields each August into the digital space; into something that can still bind and connect us, still move and inspire us, to be the change we want to see in the world. To live as generously, creatively, justly and lovingly as we dare in these strange times."

Lectionary Corner

21 May: Ascension Day

Grant, we pray, almighty God that as we believe your only-begotten Son our Lord Jesus Christ to have ascended into the heavens, so we in heart and mind may also ascend and with him continually dwell; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.



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News from the Methodist Church

Our buildings are still closed for the present and we do not as yet know when we will be able to worship together in them again. In your home and in isolation or in lockdown please know you are not alone. The stewards from Chapel are around for a chat or if you need help or advice:

Diane on 01904489495, Anne on 01904481656 or Chris on 01904481191. Jocelyn also for pastoral care on 01904488044

The Methodist Church have also launched a Free 'dial a prayer' line on 08082812514. Also listen to news from the Methodist Church On 08082812478

Rev Ruth is holding Zoom meetings on Wednesdays & Sundays at 9am and Tuesdays at 7pm. If you are interested in joining please e mail her ruth.duck@methodist.org.uk for more details.

Families Weekly Digest. Yorkshire North and East District & York Circuit, has put together a [digest of resources for families](#).

Scam warning from our Diocesan Bishops

We have advised of two instances in the last fortnight of fraudulent emails requesting money. These have been sent in the name of parish clergy to parishioners. It appears that someone is studying parish websites to learn names, addresses and responsibilities. There is no simple way to stop this, so please follow this advice, and encourage others to do likewise:

If you're asked for money:

- Do check that the sender's email address is the one you'd expect them to be using.
- Do check with the sender that the request is genuine.
- If you have any concern that the request isn't genuine, don't do it!

If you are the victim of a scam - especially if your identity has been mis-used - you should report it to the police via telephone 101 or www.actionfraud.police.uk.



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 covid19eastYork@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. It is also available to download from the St Nicholas Church website at www.stnicholasdunnington.org.uk/news/

Next newsletter on **Sunday 24 May**. Items to grapevine.rey@gmail.com by **9.00 am on Thursday 21 May**