



NEWSLETTER

Sunday 31 May - Pentecost

Acts 2.1-21; 1 Corinthians 12.3b-13; John 20.19-23



Online Service this Sunday



A service of worship for Pentecost, with music, pictures and other contributions from around the Benefice, 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/



Inner Light - a reflection from Revd Peter Moorhouse

This is a photograph of my niece dressed in Personal Protective Equipment. She continues to work as a nurse on a Covid-19 ward in a large hospital in the north of England, caring for seriously ill patients. Like all workers on the frontline she risks infection herself at work but still she carries on. She is one of the people we've clapped for on a Thursday evening. She's just an ordinary woman doing an extraordinary job. We, her family, are proud of her and the work she is doing. The patients we've seen discharged from hospital on TV news express their deep gratitude, often in tears, for the work of our hospitals in giving them a second chance. Lives are changed both for patients and staff. We stand by, looking on and perhaps giving thanks that we are neither patient nor health professional.

Where is God in this pandemic I keep asking myself. Perhaps God is testing us, as a friend suggested. I can only come up with one answer. It is the word 'love'. Our health care professionals are, in their work, demonstrating just that quality, love. They probably don't call it that. They are doing what they were trained to do, of course. But there's more to it than that. They are not robots. They have emotions - anxiety, fear? Yes. But they also have compassion for their patients, demonstrated not just by their technical skills, but also by their gentleness,

sensitivity, and the intangible human qualities which go into the healing process, in normal times often shown by a hug.



Let's face it God often feels remote. Yet Christianity says that in Jesus Christ God is also with us, Emmanuel. St John tells us 'God is love, and those who live in love live in God, and God lives in them'. I find it hard to believe that God's love is not being demonstrated in the selfless dedication being shown in hospital wards and care homes up and down the country. Or that as individuals go about

helping others they are not in some way demonstrating the love of God. Christ also suffered when on earth. He knows what it is to suffer as a human being, and I believe he is alongside those who suffer at this time.

At Pentecost we remember the gift and work of the Holy Spirit. St Paul reminds us that 'the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.' These qualities are not just confined to Christians, they are embraced by all mainstream faiths. Surely where these are exhibited in the world then God is present.

The Quakers believe there is that of God in everyone, sinners though we are. They call it the Inner Light. Sadly not everyone shows that in their lives. We know that times like this can bring out both the best and the worst in people. Most people act responsibly. However some are so damaged, proud or unable to demonstrate vulnerability that they all but snuff out the Inner Light. But at the moment there does seem to be a lot of Inner Light shining, including observing the lockdown and social distancing in order to protect everyone, as well as ourselves. Let's hope it continues that way.

Peter



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, or call Rev Nick Bird on 01904 489349 and we will link you up.

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

News & Notices

Sunday Worship on television and radio. There will be a celebration of Pentecost on BBC1 at 10.00 followed by Sunday Worship at 11.00. Don't forget the service on Radio York at 8.00am and Songs of Praise at 1.15.

Dunnington Methodist Church. Our buildings are still closed and we do not as yet know when we will be able to worship together in them again. The stewards from Chapel are around for a chat or if you need help or advise. Diane on 01904 489495, Anne on 01904 481656 or Chris on 01904 481191.

The Grapevine. The [June issue](#) is now available online.

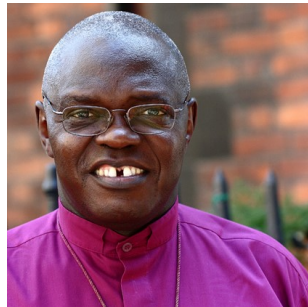


A message from Rev Keith Albans. Can I please say a huge thank you to everyone for their generosity in support of my fundraising activity for St Leonard's Hospice in Helen's memory. Last Sunday, I duly completed my challenge of running the Half Marathon distance (13.1 miles) on the streets around where I live, in just under 3 hours, and as I write the amount raised has reached £2585, which will reach over £3000 once Gift Aid is reclaimed. Thank you once again.

I am looking forward to returning to work next week – it will take me longer than usual I suspect to get back up to speed given all the new ways of working that I need to become familiar with. I am grateful to everyone who has covered my absence in such trying circumstances – you have all been in my thoughts and prayers.



The Archbishop of York is to preach as part of the national online service broadcast by the Church of England on **Sunday 7 June** at 9.00am. This will be the last day in his role as Archbishop of York. His wife, the Revd Margaret Sentamu, will lead a time of prayer in the service. The Archbishop said, "I am pleased to have this opportunity for the second time to take part in this online service on what will be my last day in office. Like many of us, I too, am missing being able to worship alongside others. I hope that many will join us on 7th June as we continue this way of worshipping. "We know that these times will pass and change will come, but our Lord and Saviour, King and Friend never changes. He is the same yesterday, today and for ever - and deserves our never-ending praise! 'Come let us bow down, kneel and worship the Lord our Maker' ". You will be able to watch the service live or on replay via the Church of England's Facebook page or the [Church of England website](#).



Living Wage for careworkers.

In one of his final acts as Archbishop, John Sentamu has written an [article in i-newspaper](#) encouraging us all to sign a [petition for a real Living Wage for all key workers](#). In the Archbishop's words 'carers need funding, not applause'.



Lectionary Corner

31st May: Pentecost (Whit Sunday)
1st June: The Visit of the Blessed Virgin Mary to Elizabeth
5th June: Boniface (Wynfrith) of Crediton.
Bishop, Apostle of Germany, Martyr 754

Pentecost - Whit Sunday

God, who as at this time taught the hearts of your faithful people by sending to them the light of your Holy Spirit: grant us by the same Spirit to have a right judgement in all things and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort; through the merits of Christ Jesus our Saviour. Amen.



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The Visit of the Blessed Virgin Mary to Elizabeth

Mighty God, by whose grace Elizabeth rejoiced with Mary and greeted her as the mother of the Lord: look with favour on your lowly servants that, with Mary, we may magnify your holy name and rejoice to acclaim her Son our Saviour, 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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A Prayer for Pentecost

This Pentecost, let us remember the disciples who met together that day,
Confused, maybe afraid, wondering what they were supposed to do now.

And then God's Spirit came, filled them,
inspired them, empowered them.

We pray that like them we might be filled,
That your love and power and joy might flow out of us to those around us;

We pray that we might be inspired,
To see where you are leading us, calling us to share your light;

We pray that we might be empowered,
To do your work in our world, our community, our Circuit, Our Church.

Lord, send your Spirit upon the Church worldwide this Pentecost,

And unite us in worshiping and serving too.

Amen

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 7 June**. Items to grapevine.rey@gmail.com by **9.00 am on Thursday 4 June**