



NEWSLETTER

Sunday 28 June - Trinity 3

Jeremiah 28.5-9; Romans 6.12-end; Matthew 10.40-end



Online Benefice Service this Sunday

A service of worship, led by Revd Nick Bird and lay members of St Nicholas Church, and with contributions from around the Benefice, will be shared on the **St Nicks YouTube channel** www.youtube.com/channel/UC_10sXmB7N5CKsD60_eRXjg.

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



Silence is Golden - a reflection from Rt Revd David Smith

Silence is golden it is often said and so it is in Christian discipleship if it is approached sensitively, and sensibly.

For example, people who live alone may experience more silence than they would like. People who have been bereaved can know a silence which is painful and reflects the absence of a loved one. People's work commitments may be time consuming and the parents of young children have their hands full. What we might think about is how to make such silence as we have a positive experience and not a negative one, not just absence of sound, and to do this in ways that are possible in our own circumstances.

One of the remarkable things about 'lock down' was that we did not need to create silence for much of the time. Unless we live near a main road, and sometimes even then, we could experience no activity and no sound. Reactions to this will have varied. Many will have switched on to the radio, or television, to their iPad or computer to have the reassurance of sound. Silence can be disturbing. Others will have welcomed an opportunity not to be bombarded with sound in one form or another.

In the Christian tradition silence can be a very positive thing and not just the absence of sound, a negative thing. A memorable experience of total silence for me happened during an official visit Mary and I made some years ago to Pakistan. We flew from Multan to Peshawar in a small local plane and stopped briefly outside the remote town of Zobia

Baluchistan. This was way out in the mountains. There were very few people there and we were struck by the silence. It was as near total as we could imagine. We were surrounded by mountains and remote countryside. The silence was powerful.

This made such a strong impression on both of us. I began to see the countryside in a different way. I began to feel part of God's creation in a way that made me realise that, insignificant as I am, I am loved by the Creator of all that exists and not only on this planet. The context in which I began to see my life began to change. It was no longer always dominated by the day to day local work existence. That was very important but life is incredibly more significant than that.

A similar experience came on a bitterly cold December night in the Northumbrian countryside. With no clouds and no light pollution the night sky was breathtaking.

Words from Psalm 8 in the Bible came to mind.

"When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established; what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?"

Indeed so, when you see the violence of many kinds which is so prevalent in human life. The Christian Gospel is that, in spite of human shortcomings, God who creates all that there is loves us as we are

and has declared this uniquely in Jesus. This love applies to all. God has no favourites.

A modern Anglican priest who was an experienced spiritual guide wrote 'Spiritual life and growth flourish when silence becomes part of human life.' Simple forms of silent prayer and meditation can help to make this possible. This is wisdom for all of us. One of many encouraging features of life in this Benefice and many others is the Christian Meditation group which meets each month. Groups like these can help us to learn how we can use what silence we have in a positive way. It is not a complicated exercise for experts. It is a simple way for all.

Jesus lived a busy life and was regularly on the move. St Mark's Gospel records how he rose very early in the morning for the silence to pray. We might follow his example and find the time that makes sense for us.

God bless you

+ David



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.

Benefice Churches

The government has announced that places of worship will be permitted to open for public worship once more from 4 July. This is under review in our parish churches, and may not take place in that time scale. We are awaiting further guidelines from both the government and the national church, however, we may well delay opening our church buildings for services until we feel the time is right.

The decision has already been taken not to host funerals in the near future, and these will continue to take place either at a crematorium or at the graveside.

All four of the parish churches are now open for two periods each week, for private prayer.

Church opening times for private prayer

Holtby	Wednesdays 8am - 4pm, Sundays 12noon - 4pm
Stockton	Wednesdays 1pm - 4pm, Sundays 1pm - 4pm
Warthill	Thursdays 1- 4pm, Sundays 1- 4pm
Dunnington	Thursdays 10am - 12pm, Sundays 3pm - 5pm

Dunnington Methodist Church

At present the Methodist Church advice is that Churches should remain closed. We are trying to keep in touch in other ways.

All stewards are around for a chat or for help or advice. Diane on 01904 489495, Anne on 01904 481656 or Chris on 01904 481191. Rev Keith Albans can be contacted on 01904 491761 or Circuit office 07984 019995, who will take a message.

Thank you to Rev Nick Bird for the wonderful and inspiring services he leads each week for all of us to share. We also get the chance to see wonderful views of our local area through amazing photography and technology. So thank you to all who are involved, readers, singers, photographers and those with the technical knowledge to put it all together. We are so lucky to live in such a beautiful area.

We give thanks to God that even in our lockdown the changes in the seasons still come and give us such joy.

The church on the Circuit prayer rota for 28th June is Stillington. Let us thank God for his work in that place and pray for the church as they consider how best to respond to God's call in this time.

A Prayer

God of the trinity, Be in our relationships,
Family, friends, colleagues, neighbours, Church,
The struggles, the forgiveness, the laughter, the love,
Help us to support one another,
With practical help, with a listening ear, with words of
wisdom and care,
As you are three, in relationship together, and yet one
Teach us, unite us in love and service to you
May we like Naomi and Ruth, find joy takes the place of
bitterness in our lives.

Amen

The Grapevine

The July issue is now available online. Read a letter from Mark Poole, our new curate from 5 July 2020, and a letter from Nick Bird; catch up on local news; learn about Hawthorn trees and Dung Beetles; or have a go at the Holtby Trader Quiz!



Lectionary Corner

29 June: Peter and Paul, Apostles

3 July: Thomas, Apostle

Peter and Paul, Apostles

Almighty God, whose blessed apostles Peter and Paul glorified you in their death as in their life: grant that your Church, inspired by their teaching and example, and made one by your Spirit, may ever stand firm upon the one foundation, Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. Amen.



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Peter has often been called the 'Prince of the Apostles' because of the words of Jesus re-naming him from Simon to Cephas. This was the Aramaic form of the Greek word Peter, which means 'rock'. Jesus said that on this rock he would build his Church. But both Peter and Paul came to be seen as having different roles to play within the leadership of the Church: Peter in witnessing to the lordship of Christ and Paul in developing an understanding of its meaning for Christ's followers. Peter and Paul have been remembered jointly on this day since the very early days of the Church, it being regarded as the anniversary of their martyrdom in Rome in about the year 64.

Sourced from 'Exciting Holiness'

Thomas, Apostle

Almighty and eternal God, who for the firmer foundation of our faith, allowed your holy apostle, Thomas to doubt the resurrection of your Son, till word and sight convinced him: grant to us, who have not seen, that we also may believe and so confess Christ as our Lord and our God; 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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Thomas is mentioned among the number of the apostles in the gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke but it is in John's gospel that his significance is revealed. First, he is heard encouraging the other disciples to go the Judea with Jesus; then, not knowing what Jesus meant when he talked about where he was to go, elicited the answer that Jesus was himself the Way. But probably most famously he was the apostle notably unconvinced by reports of the resurrection of Jesus, causing Jesus to show him the marks in his hands and side. Thomas then acclaims the risen Christ with the words that have been described as the great climax to John's gospel: 'My Lord and my God!'

Sourced from 'Exciting Holiness'

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 5 July**. Items to grapevine.rey@gmail.com by **9.00 am on Thursday 2 July**