



# NEWSLETTER

Sunday 26 July - Trinity 7

1 Kings 3.5-12; Romans 8.26-end; Matthew 13.31-33, 44-52



## Online Benefice Service this Sunday

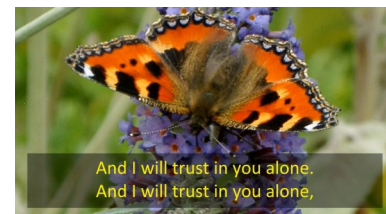


A service of worship, including a homily from Judith Hewitt and contributions from around the benefice, will be shared on the **St Nicks YouTube channel**

[www.youtube.com/channel/UC\\_10sXmB7N5CKsD60\\_eRXjg](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_10sXmB7N5CKsD60_eRXjg).

## Dial-a-service 899433

You can dial in and to listen to the service at any time during the week. It's the cost of a local call and very simple to do. Dial 899433. You will first hear a recorded voice with an American accent welcoming you to the service, then be asked to wait a moment. There might be a bit of a pause as the service recording uploads (15-20 seconds). Enjoy!



## Ponder anew - a reflection from Mark Poole

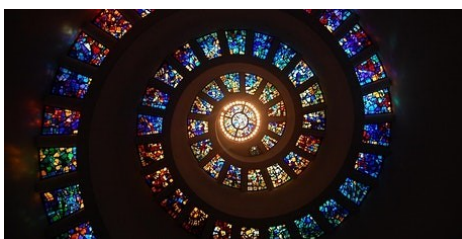
As your new curate it has been a real privilege to be welcomed into the three different teams who have been using their gifts and talents to bring us creative and inspiring online benefice services. It has also been an absolute joy to gather in the four church buildings for morning prayer over the last three weeks. In addition, I have taken the opportunity to spend time in each church to sit and pray and breathe in the beauty of our buildings appreciating the sense of how they have been soaked in worship and prayer over the centuries. Like many of us, I am longing for the day sometime in the future when we can gather and worship together safely as Church in these awe-inspiring places of beauty. What rejoicing and celebrations we will enjoy!

I have recently been reading on an interesting article, 'Everybody Welcome To The Future' by Bob Jackson, a former parish priest with twenty years' experience, who since 2001 has been researching, consulting, writing and speaking about church growth. This paper reflects on the Church of the future as we emerge from lockdown. For anybody interested, the full article can be downloaded by clicking on this link and is well worth a read: <https://www.cpas.org.uk/download/3613/everybody-welcome-to-the-future>

It reports some fascinating findings from a survey commissioned by Tear Fund during April in lockdown. Results showed

that an estimated 24% of the adult population had accessed either streamed, videoed, TV or radio church services, or a combination since the beginning of lockdown. This compares with around 5% attending church buildings on an average Sunday. This is quite startling.

Furthermore, the survey indicated that 2.5 million adults accessed a church service for the first time in their lives over the first month of lockdown. In particular, one third of those were young adults aged between 18-34 years compared to one fifth who were aged over 55. These are exciting figures and cannot be ignored. There is a hunger for God, and Church is growing. God is most definitely at work.



Once again, I am reminded of the words of Isaiah that I have already mentioned, that have been whispering to me over the weeks and months of lockdown. '*Do not remember the former things or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?*' (43:18-19). I am also reminded of the line from the hymn I referred to in my introductory video that

came to me as I was cycling and praying our benefice. 'Ponder anew, what the Almighty can do.' As we emerge as Christ's Church from lockdown into the post-coronavirus promised land, we have a unique and golden opportunity like no other to re-imagine the renewed Church Christ is calling us to be in the twenty-first century. In this much anticipated promised land, the world will certainly be different, Church as we know it, has already changed, and as the survey indicates, there are new on-line churchgoers who will bring inevitable change.

Yes, we love our buildings and are excited to return to them, but who would have thought that we could grow to love, cherish and look forward to online church, and that it would reach so many more hungry souls than would ordinarily have walked through our doors over the last few months? The article challenges me to embrace the changes and to join with God in re-imagining His growing Church, a Church that is intentionally both gathered in buildings and also continues reaching out online to those who are searching and those who are vulnerable and marginalised. The future is there to be shaped and I invite you to join me in prayer as we listen to the Holy Spirit, and discern God's mission, God's Church, right here, in the benefice of Rural East York.

*Your curate, Mark*



## 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](mailto:covid19eastYork@gmail.com), or call Rev Nick Bird on 01904 489349 and we will link you up.

## Services and private prayer in our church buildings

### Holtby

Morning Prayer (service) Monday 9.00am  
Open for private prayer Thurs 10am - 1pm, Sun 1pm - 4pm

### Warthill

Morning Prayer (service) Tuesday 9.00am  
Open for private prayer Thurs 1 - 4pm, Sun 1pm - 4pm

### Stockton

Morning Prayer (service) Wednesday 9.00am  
Open for private prayer Wed 1pm - 4pm, Sun 1pm - 4pm

### Dunnington

Morning Prayer (service) Thursday 9.00am  
Open for private prayer Thurs 10am - 12pm, Sun 3pm - 5pm

## Compline (online)

You are very welcome to (virtually) join Revd Nick Bird and others for a quiet service of Compline every Wednesday evening at 7.00pm. This is held online using Zoom. You can either download the free Zoom app or just join us through your web browser at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86707839332>. The Meeting ID is 867 0783 9332.



## Dunnington Methodist Church

We hope you are all keeping well and keeping in touch!  
Continue to telephone any of the Stewards if you require any information, or just need a chat. The church on the Circuit Prayer Rota for 26th July is Trinity. Let us thank God for the work of God in that place, and pray for the church as they consider how best to respond to God's call in this time.

Lord God,  
We pray for your kingdom to come;  
To be on earth as it is in heaven,  
For all people to know what you have done,  
For your name to be praised and glorified.  
We pray for your kingdom to come;  
For peace and justice for all,  
For healing in mind and body,  
For freedom from poverty and injustice;  
For an end to tears and suffering.  
We pray for your kingdom to come.  
Make us agents of your kingdom,  
Working for justice, bringing healing,  
Consoling those who weep,  
Speaking for those who are ignored.  
We pray for your kingdom to come,  
On earth, as in heaven.  
Amen.

## Dunnington Prayer Meeting

The Prayer Meeting, which formerly took place in Dunnington Methodist Church at 9.45am on Tuesday mornings, has now restarted in the garden of 23, Garden Flats Lane at 10.30am on Thursday mornings (under cover if wet). Anyone is welcome to come along but, because of social distancing, could you please ring Pat on 488919 to let her know you are coming. Thank you.

## York School of Ministry

YSOM offers courses for personal interest, lay, licensed and ordained ministries that are Biblically based and mission-focused. They are now recruiting for September 2020 with courses being offered initially online with a move to a blended learning approach with additional face to face teaching as the social distancing rules are relaxed. Read more at <http://www.ysom.org.uk/>

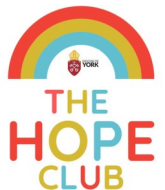
## The Hope Club

### our children's holiday club from home

We'd like to invite all children to our Benefice Summer Holiday Club from Home. Weekly sessions will start on **Tuesday 28 July** and continue for 5 weeks.

There will be craft packs sent to your door, puzzle pages, stories, weekly online Zoom sessions and Dynamic Dan videos to enjoy!

Please email Lisa Horton, Children & Families worker at [horton2517@sky.com](mailto:horton2517@sky.com) for more information and to sign up. Please let us know as soon as possible so that we can prepare your craft packs.



## Knock Venture

### another holiday club from home

Every year, a group of 20 leaders come together with CPAS (Church Pastoral Aid Society) to organise and run a one-week camp for 8-14yr olds in the beautiful Cumbrian village of Knock. This year, we have gone virtual, and anyone is welcome to use the material we create for the week **Mon 3 - Fri 7 August**.

To sign up, please go to our Facebook page [@knockventure](https://www.facebook.com/knockventure) or email us at [knock@ventures.org.uk](mailto:knock@ventures.org.uk) for more information.

Here's a little promo video which we would love for you to share with anyone around the ages of 8-14yrs old who might be interested in joining us: <https://youtu.be/ckFF8jxcMoE>.

Cost is £5 per family (not per child). Looking forward to hearing from you and sending you our Knock 2020 pack in the post!



## Lectionary Corner

29 July: Mary, Martha and Lazarus, Companions of Our Lord  
30 July: William Wilberforce, Social Reformer 1833.  
Olaudah Equiano and Thomas Clarkson,  
Anti-Slavery Campaigners 1797 and 1846

The readings and prayers for this week are available on: [stnicholasdunnington.org.uk/news/newsletter-26720.php](http://stnicholasdunnington.org.uk/news/newsletter-26720.php)

**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 2 August**. Items to [grapevine.rey@gmail.com](mailto:grapevine.rey@gmail.com) by **9.00 am on Thursday 30 July**