



NEWSLETTER

Sunday 20 September - Trinity 15



Jonah 3.10-end of 4; Matthew 20.1-16

Online Service this Sunday

A service of worship on the theme "The outrageous generosity of God's grace", including a homily from Mark Poole, will be shared on the **St Nicks YouTube channel** www.youtube.com/channel/UC_10sXmB7N5CKsD60_eRXig.



Post-service coffee & chat

Do join us at 11.30am over Zoom for a catch up. Make yourself a cuppa and join us at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87423794155>



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!



Labouring under false pretences - a reflection from Revd Nick Bird

Have you ever felt the weight of unfairness as things don't go your way? Do you remember that burning sense of injustice when someone is promoted over you, or rewarded disproportionately to the work they have done, or paid less than they deserve? There is a righteous indignation that can overtake us as we battle to get that which is just and fair, especially for the downtrodden and sidelined.

It is this sense of fairness that Jesus turns on his head when he tells the parable of the Labourers in the Vineyard (Matthew 20.1-16). You work, you get paid. You do a day's work, you get paid a day's wage. Fair is fair, it's what people expect. And yet our Lord tells this shocking story of the men who are hired throughout the day, beginning at about six in the morning. The landowner goes out at three-hourly intervals to recruit more and more workers, even up until five

in the evening, with maybe only an hour left to work. Then, at the end of the day and before they leave for home, the workers are lined up, and all are paid exactly the same.

How would you feel? How would you feel if you had been in the first tranche of recruits? I suspect my anger would burn, like my back had done during a hard day's toil in the sun. I had worked twelve hours to their one, and that they get paid the same is simply unjust. Everyone can see this, it is prima facie unfair.

And yet? And yet this is how the Kingdom of God operates its economy of grace. The first shall be last and the last shall be first. The welcome, the forgiveness, the acceptance, is, by the world's standards, deeply unfair – grace! And yet we, afire with outrage at the telling of this story, imagining ourselves as the hardest of workers, are, in all truth, the



beneficiaries of this unfair treatment. Do we actually receive what we deserve, even by our own standards and judgements? Do we receive that we have no way of earning? Perhaps this parable is one of the greatest explanations of Kingdom values, and at the same time so hard to accept. Our greatest conversion is the acceptance of the gift of freely given, prodigally gifted, lavishly and lovingly granted, grace.

Nick Bird

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

Stockton

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

Warthill

Morning Prayer (service) Tuesday 9.00am
Open for private prayer Thurs 1 - 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.



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.

Parish Churches News & Events

Churches' decisions on opening

Stockton PCC have taken the decision to restart Sunday services, and their first one will take place on **Sunday 4th October** at 10.30am. Warthill PCC have decided to postpone reopening for Sunday services and will review this again in January. Dunnington PCC decided to not start again just yet, but will review again in mid October. Holtby PCC have yet to meet to make a decision.

At first, services will not be eucharistic. Social distancing and other covid-secure measures will be in place, and mingling before and after services is not allowed. Face coverings are mandatory unless a person is exempt. To ensure adequate social distancing, numbers will be limited. In Stockton, a place will need to be booked ahead of time. Details of how to do this will be made available next week.

Mark Poole will be ordained at York Minster on **Friday 25 September** at 7pm by Archbishop Stephen. Only a small number of invited guests are allowed to attend due to Covid19 restrictions. However, the service will be live-streamed, and a link to the service will be circulated nearer the time. Please pray for Mark as he prepares to be ordained deacon.



Mr Malcolm Smith has decided to retire from Reader Ministry from 22 August 2020. Malcolm has been a Reader in these parishes for many years, and in Wheldrake previously. We are very grateful to Malcolm for his faithful ministry to us, especially his gift for preaching, and we wish him well in his retirement.



Canon Nick. Congratulations to our rector Revd Nick Bird who has been appointed a Canon at York Minster. This is an honorary position, so he's not leaving us! The collation and installation dates have not yet been decided.

APCMs. The Benefice churches are having their ACPMs this autumn. Warthill has already had theirs. Stockton APCM will be on **Tuesday 17 November**, 7pm, in Holy Trinity Church. The APCM for St Nicholas Church will take place on **Sunday 22 November** (time and location tbc). The number of attendees may have to be limited. More details to follow.

Carecent Harvest Appeal. Carecent have had to adapt to a different way of providing food during the pandemic and, as a result, this year they are asking for donations of money rather than goods at Harvest. This will enable them to buy food and other necessary items for the packed lunches they currently provide, and will also give them the flexibility to respond to changing needs.



The parish churches will gather financial donations from parishioners together, so that each church can make a single donation. If you would like to contribute, please do so by **Monday 12th October**. Money can be given in cash or a cheque payable to your parish church. Give it to your churchwarden or treasurer, or put it through Nick Bird's letterbox. Thank you very much! Carecent's new website is at www.carecent.org.uk/

Dunnington Methodist Church

NOTICE IS GIVEN THAT A CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING IS PLANNED FOR MONDAY 28th SEPTEMBER, 7pm. The meeting will be held at the Chapel. If you intend to come, please could you leave a message on Anne Castle's answer phone 01904 481656 before Wednesday 23rd September stating your name and contact number so that the stewards can make the necessary arrangements regarding Covid Restrictions, and information can be supplied to you in advance of the meeting. Many Thanks.

News from the Methodist Circuit

Worship resources. See <https://www.yorkmethodist.org.uk/coronavirus-information.html>. This week's Circuit-led Traditional service will be available from our Circuit YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/channel/UCMZlI3vyksFEonZ-EQbbhuQ

Flourish 21: Rooted in Love 17th-19th September 2021! Those who attended this District event in Scarborough last year will be able to tell you that this is an event not to be missed. So please put the date and venue (Scarborough Spa) in your diaries. More information at www.yorkshiremethodist.org/news-events/the-theme-for-flourish-21/

District Prayer diary. This year's prayer diary is now available.

Introducing... On both our Circuit YouTube channel and the Who's Who pages of the Circuit website there are now short videos introducing many of the staff, with more to come. So if you'd like to know more about the Circuit's ministers and lay staff, head to YouTube and watch!

Carecent Harvest Appeal. This year Carecent are asking for donations of money rather than goods.

Action for Children. An update on Action for Children's campaign to protect children from the effects of poverty due to the Coronavirus pandemic is available.

Refugee Action York. RAY are in need of items for some of the refugees currently in York. If you can help them please get in touch with John Williamson john@refugeeactionyork.com 07419815387 or Carrie Wheater carrie@refugeeactionyork.com 07545 060694. The main things that are needed are: Trainers (especially sizes 39-46), Small sizes of men's jeans, jogging trousers, hoodies, winter jackets, track suits, Large sized rucksacks, Suitcases, Smaller cross-body bags, Watches, Old tablets (for those with poorer eye sight to be able to access the zoom English language lessons more easily), and Smart phones.



Praying for our Circuit. The church on the Circuit Prayer Rota for **20th September is Alne**. 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.



Lectionary Corner

21 Sept: Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist
25 Sept: Lancelot Andrewes, Bishop of Winchester and Spiritual Writer 1626

Read about their lives, and access prayers on: www.stnicholasdunnington.org.uk/news/newsletter-20920.php

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 27 September**. Items to grapevine.rey@gmail.com by **9.00 am on Thursday 24 September**.