



NEWSLETTER

Sunday 11 October - Trinity 18

Isaiah 25.1-9; Philippians 4.1-9; Matthew 22.1-14



Online Service this Sunday

A service of worship, including a homily from Judith Hewitt, will be shared on our **YouTube channel** www.youtube.com/channel/UC_10sXmB7N5CKsD60_eRXjg.

Post-service coffee & chat

Make yourself a cuppa and join us at 11.30am over Zoom for a catch up.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87423794155?pwd=YUZ0RDE4a2pOT28rUXA2UFNBQUtUQT09>

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. There might be a bit of a pause as the service recording uploads (15-20 seconds). Enjoy!



Liberty, restrictions & responsibility - from Revd Keith Albans

Back in the 1980's I attended a rather unusual religious service. It was conducted by John Habgood, then Archbishop of York, and involved the dedication of a brand new place of worship. It was in the chapel at Full Sutton Prison, and each of us attending from outside was assigned a warder who opened and shut each set of bars which we had to pass through. I was there with my Radio York hat on and I can still remember the eerie sound of the echo down the corridor as the gate swung shut.

This Sunday marks the beginning of Prisons Week – an invitation to a week of prayer, supported by all the main denominations as well as some of the leading charities in the sector. The materials, which can be downloaded from www.prisonsworld.org, encourage us to pray for different groups of people each day under this year's theme "United in Lockdown". In the introduction, a former prisoner offers what I found to be a poignant reflection:

"There are many things we take for granted and it is only when we lose it, we realise the value it had. Due to Covid-19 a lot of people are now experiencing the loss of work and, at the same time, the loss of liberty. These two factors are bad enough but combined they risk diminishing the self worth of the individuals concerned. A lot of people can now relate to where I have been. In the same way I can now relate to their fears and insecurity."

Learning to relate to people whose experience is different from ours is at the heart of empathy, which is a key catalyst to changing perspectives, actions and attitudes.

I suspect that it is the sense of loss of liberty which lies behind the increasingly fractured support for restrictions aimed at curtailing the spread of the coronavirus. For most of our lifetimes, liberty and liberation have been dominating motifs, with the end of Empire on the international stage and movements aimed at winning rights and freedoms for many groups within society bringing about almost unimaginable changes. And at the same time the fuelling of the aspiration to not be bound by tradition or to be held back by a lack of ambition has radically changed the make up of society, even if the goal of so-called social mobility has not reached into all parts. Little wonder that our stamina for bearing with restrictions is wearing thin!

One of the common jibes made against the Church is that we are against everything. After all the Commandments are couched in "Thou Shalt not" language, my tradition certainly has a reputation for being against drink and gambling, while others have something against dancing and fun – remember the Blackadder portrayal of the Puritans?! But behind each example the reality is a concern for the building up of society and a balancing

between individual freedom and choice, and the wider responsibility to family, neighbour and stranger. Thus, John Wesley's problem was not with alcohol per se but with the working man who spent all his wages at the Ale House and neglected his wife and children. Likewise, not coveting things or people which don't belong to us does tend to make it easier to live in communities with less fear and insecurity.

Sadly, the discourse over law and order has become increasingly polarised and shouty over the past 50 years, while the prison population has grown inexorably. As Prisons Week begins, we can remember before God all involved and affected by these issues and give thanks for those working for rehabilitation and reconciliation. The Prisons Week Prayer says:

Lord, you offer freedom to all people. We pray for those in prison. Break the bonds of fear and isolation that exist. Support with your love prisoners and their families and friends, prison staff and all who care. Heal those who have been wounded by the actions of others, especially the victims of crime. Help us to forgive one another, to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly together with Christ in his strength and in his Spirit, now and every day. Amen.

Keith Albans – Methodist Minister



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.

Services and private prayer in our church buildings this week

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
Sunday Worship Sunday 10.30am (by reservation*)
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

* To reserve a place at Holy Trinity Church, Stockton, contact Ennis Tweddle (Churchwarden) ennisjacksonuk@yahoo.co.uk / 400364. Please wear a face covering, sit in designated seats only, and take your service sheet home afterwards.

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.

Parish Churches News & Events

All Souls Service. Every year on the first Sunday in November we invite those from the Benefice who have been bereaved in the previous year to a service at St Nicholas Church. We cannot meet in Church this year but there will be a YouTube service, including an opportunity to light your own candle in memory of your loved one. To receive a copy of the transcript, please contact Judith (488331).



APCMs. Stockton: Tuesday 17 November, 7pm, in Holy Trinity Church. Dunnington: Sunday 22 November (details to follow).

The Electoral Roll revision for St Nicholas Church will take place between 10 and 25 October. The revised roll will be published on 1 November and the report will be in the PCC Annual Reports. If you, or someone you know, wishes to be added to the Roll please contact Alison Gilmour (allie@bearwith.me.uk or 489148) before 24 October and I will provide you with the form.

Vacancies at St Nicholas Church. We need a Churchwarden, PCC members, and Deanery Synod reps. Details at <https://stnicholasdunnington.org.uk/news/vacancies.php>

Black Lives Matter - Raising Awareness in our Communities. Derwent Deanery are hosting a meeting on 19 October, 7.30pm at St Helen's Church, with Canon Linda Ali speaking on this theme. Linda, born in Trinidad and Tobago, travelled to Britain in 1961 to study Beauty Therapy and Electrolysis. As a result of sustained discrimination, she decided to follow a different career path in Trade Marks management working in the City of London for over 30 years. Linda is a lay canon at York Minster, a member of General Synod, and also of Derwent Deanery Synod. St Helen's is a large well ventilated church with room for us to be together but 'socially distant'. All welcome.

Carecent are asking for donations of money rather than goods this Harvest. The parish churches are gathering 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 12 October. Money can be given in cash or a cheque payable to your parish church (for St Nicks, make it out to 'Dunnington PCC'). Give it to your churchwarden or treasurer, or put it through Nick Bird's letterbox. Thank you very much!



Dunnington Methodist Church

We will be holding a short service (40-45 minutes) on **Sunday 18 October** at 10.00am as a trial event. This will be thoroughly risk assessed and adhere to all Covid19 guidance. Attendees will be required to wear a face covering inside, use hand sanitizer on entry and exit, practice social distancing throughout, and follow instructions issued by the steward on duty. But.... it does mean that we will worship together, in person, and in fellowship, something that most members have longed to do!!

In addition, a prayer meeting will be held at the chapel on **Tuesday 13 October** 10.30am under the same conditions.

A booking system is in place for both events. To attend the service, leave a phone message for Anne Castle 481656 by Thursday 15 October. For the prayer meeting call Pat Muir 488919 asap (apologies for the wrong number for Pat last week). For both events, you will be contacted if there are no more places left, otherwise consider yourself included.

News from the Methodist Circuit

Worship resources [link](#). This week's Circuit-led Traditional service will be available from our Circuit YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/channel/UCMZl3vyksFEonZ-EQbbhuQ

Central Methodist - Organ Vespers for Harvest - Sunday 11 October 2.30pm. A service of words and music celebrating God's gifts to us. Livestreaming to our facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/CentralMethodistChurchYork/>

Reset the debt. A campaign calling for debt cancellation for people who have been swept into unavoidable debt in recent months has been launched by churches. It is thought that 6 million people in the UK have fallen behind on rent, council tax and other household bills because of coronavirus and almost one in five have borrowed money to pay for every day essentials such as food. Find out more at <https://resetthedebt.uk/>

Praying for our Circuit. The church on the Circuit Prayer Rota for 11 October is Clifton. Follow the link below for the prayer.

Lectionary Corner

Access the dates, information and prayers at: stnicholasdunnington.org.uk/news/newsletter-111020.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 18 October**. Items to grapevine.rey@gmail.com by **9.00 am on Thursday 15 October**