



NEWSLETTER



Sunday 22 November - Christ the King

Ezekiel 34.11-16, 20-24; Ephesians 1.15-end; Matthew 25.31-end

Online Sunday Service

A service of worship celebrating Christ the King, including a homily from Revd Nick Bird and contributions from around the Benefice, will be shared on our [YouTube channel](#).

Post-service coffee & chat

Make yourself a cuppa and join us at [11.30am over Zoom for a catch up](#).



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!



Christ the King - a reflection by Revd Keith Albans

My friends and family will tell you that I have a rather good memory for dates and anniversaries – but this Sunday's date is one of the more memorable, even though I was only 7½ when it happened. November 22nd 1963 and a grassy knoll in Dallas – the assassination of JFK. He was born the same year as my Dad and every time I walk past the bust of JFK on Marylebone Road in London, close by Methodist Church House, that parallel always strikes me – one life cut off in his prime, my Father living into his mid-80's.

JFK appeared to be a man for his time – young and forward looking and embracing what Harold Wilson had described just two months earlier as "the white heat of a technological revolution". And while America did achieve the moon-landing challenge which Kennedy had set them, the rest of what might have been remains a matter of conjecture and thwarted hope.

This Sunday we reach the end of another Church year, a day regularly honoured in The Archers as Stir-up Sunday, but more widely recognised as Christ the King Sunday. The Lectionary has had us follow Matthew's gospel and the readings over recent weeks have been a series of Jesus' parables which Matthew places firmly in

the last week of Jesus' life. So alongside the sense of foreboding – that the end is nigh – you have a set of stories of how the ultimate end will be, culminating in this week's parable of separation between sheep and goats and the assigning of one group to eternal torment.

You will have heard the rejoinder to the question, 'Do you believe in God?' – 'it depends what kind of God you mean' – well, it strikes me that a similar approach is required to make sense of Christ the King Sunday, and indeed of what lies ahead as a new year begins. What kind of king? The image of the last few weeks certainly tends towards the king reigning in glory, with the whole of creation subject to that reign and rule, and as such it is an obvious way to round off the story, albeit that the image runs the risk of all too easily turning the king into a tyrant. But this can only ever be part of the image, for in the next chapter, Matthew takes us to Jesus' own grassy knoll via a religious plot, a kangaroo court, betrayal, denial and desertion. And along the way the title King is used as an insult by the soldiers, a question by Pilate and an accusation nailed above his head on the cross.

To change gospel for a moment, when Luke tells the story of the Emmaus Road, on meeting the risen Jesus the two friends use a telling phrase – 'we had hoped that...' – four words which convey their thwarted hope and a sense of deep disappointment about the fate their king had suffered. But Jesus' response is to take them through the scriptures to show them that they had got their King-image wrong and so had missed the point. This was his way and the model of kingship he espoused.

Next Sunday, as we begin our Advent journey towards Bethlehem, it is that model of divine kingship which we must follow again, for the trajectory of incarnation is downward and inward, physical and messy. And as we prepare for a Covid Christmas that is a vital truth and part of the good news which we will mark in a quite different way this year. The story is one of people subject to government edicts – a human story of vulnerability and openness to God, of hospitality and welcome amidst the struggle. And remember how Matthew introduces his part of the story – on the lips of the magi who ask, 'Where is the baby born to be the king of the Jews?'

Revd Keith Albans

Church buildings open for private prayer but not for services

Our church buildings have had to close for services of worship during the current lockdown period. However, they remain open for private prayer on the days and times listed here. If you come in, please wear a face covering, sit in designated seats only, and observe social distancing both in the building and also when travelling to and from it. Thank you.

Parish church buildings open for private prayer

Dunnington	Thursdays 10am - 12pm, Sundays 2pm - 4pm
Warthill	Thursdays 1 - 4pm, Sundays 1pm - 4pm
Holtby	Thursdays 10am - 1pm, Sundays un 1pm - 4pm
Stockton	Wednesdays 1pm - 4pm, Sundays 1pm - 4pm



Midweek Compline (online)

Join Nick Bird and others for a quiet service of [Compline every Wednesday at 7.00pm on Zoom](#). Download the free Zoom app or simply join us through your web browser.

St Nicholas Church Dunnington needs YOU!

We have several vacancies to be filled at the Annual Meeting on 22 November:

Churchwarden (from early 2021)

It is time now to identify a successor to Peter Helm, who is stepping down, to fill this immensely important, fulfilling and rewarding role. Please do consider if you can take this on and speak with Peter, Carole, or Nick for more information.

PCC Members

Four to serve until the APCM in 2023 and four to serve until the APCM in 2022. Anyone interested speak to Rev Nick Bird, a churchwarden (Peter Helm and Carole White) or any current member of PCC

Representatives on Deanery Synod

Anyone interested please speak to Judith Hewitt, Joan Verrier, Alison Gilmour or Rev Nick Bird.

Nomination forms for all the above are available from Eve Scoreby or the churchwardens.

Parish Churches News & Events

[Dunnington's ACPM is on Sunday 22 November 2020, 2pm, over Zoom.](#) The [ACPM Agenda and papers, and formal notices](#) of both the meeting and the election of churchwardens, are now available. If you would like a paper copy of the Annual Report and/or the full financial report, please contact Judith on 488331.



Nativity Trail. We will be setting up a Nativity Trail, telling the story of the First Christmas, at the beginning of December in the villages of Dunnington, Stockton on the Forest and Warthill. We are in need of 5 volunteers in each of the villages who are happy for us to attach an A4 sized poster, telling part of the story, to their fence or gate so that people can find them as they follow the trail map. If you would be happy to help with this please could you [email Lisa](#) or ring me on 07950 700232, with your details. Thanks very much for your help. Lisa Horton (Children and Family worker).



Advent book. Advent will soon be upon us and we would like to recommend a book that you may find helpful as we journey week by week through Advent, Christmas and Epiphany. It is called **'Freedom is Coming'** by **Bishop Nick Baines**, and invites us to reflect on what it meant for people in Isaiah's day to be living in exile and how the prophet encouraged them to keep their faith alive despite the apparent hopelessness of their situation. It encourages us to see the connections between Isaiah's time and ours, and how his vision of God's truth and justice can comfort, challenge and inspire God's people today. The book helps us to discover how we can be a 'light to the nations' once again as we approach the celebration of Christ's birth and the new world that God has promised to bring.



The book is available from a range of online retailers, for under £8 for a new copy, with second hand copies and an e-reader version also available. You can either purchase it yourself or contact Nick who will order it on your behalf. If you choose the latter, please let Nick know by Sunday 22nd November.

We pray that this book will bring you many blessings during Advent and Christmas. Revd Nick Bird and Revd Mark Poole.

Lectionary Corner

22 November: Christ the King

23 November : Clement, Bishop of Rome, Martyr c.100

Access the full [lectionary information and prayers](#).

Dunnington Methodist Church

Dear Friends, at this point in time the building remains closed until the lockdown ends, or eases, but as you will see from all the information below, the 'church' (as more than the building) is very definitely open! If you need anything at this time, please contact Anne 01904 481656 or Diane 01904 489495.

News from the Methodist Circuit

Stationing news

Following our successful match for a new Superintendent in the Stationing process, as mentioned by Keith in his recent Newsletter, we are delighted that, subject to Conference, our new Superintendent will be Rev. Dr. David Bidnell. David is currently Superintendent in the Huddersfield Circuit. He is married to Fiona and they have two daughters, Miriam, who is at University and Helen, who is studying for her A Levels. Please remember David and his family in your prayers, as we keep in touch with them over the coming weeks and then, eventually, as hopefully, the current situation eases, David and his family will be able to make a physical visit to York.

Worship resources

The [Circuit webpage](#) lists resources and services arranged locally. This week's Circuit-led Traditional service will be available from Sunday on the [Circuit YouTube page](#). Also see the [ONE Family page](#) for all-age worship!

Circuit Evening prayer

Each evening Monday- Saturday during lockdown at 7pm there will be an opportunity to meet with others on zoom for a short time of prayer and fellowship. Contact Revd Keith Albans 01904 491761 for details.

Advent Courses

A morning Advent Course will take place on Zoom at 9.30am Wednesdays 25/11, 2/12, 9/12, 16/12. [Email Ruth Duck](#) for details. An evening Advent Course will take place on Zoom 7-8pm on Mondays, beginning 30/11. This is being hosted by Huntington Methodist Church but anyone is welcome. Please contact Revd Keith Albans 01904 491761 for the zoom link.

Advent Windows. Help support the work of Action for Children by purchasing a pack containing Nativity Characters to colour in and display in your windows during Advent. You could add them gradually or make them move around as the story unfolds... Where will their journey start? [Email Lydia](#) or call 07579 765617 for your pack, suggested donation £3 for Action For Children.

Social media. Access the [Circuit Facebook Page](#), [Circuit Facebook group](#) & [Circuit YouTube Channel](#).

Praying for our Circuit

The church on the Circuit Prayer Rota for 22 November is **Heslington**.



To receive the Benefice news by email, [email Victoria](#). It is also available to download from the [St Nicholas Church website](#). To receive the Methodist Circuit News, please [email the Circuit office](#) or phone 07984 019995.

Next newsletter on **Sunday 29 November**. [Email items to grapevine.rey@gmail.com](#) by **9.00 am on Thursday 26 November**