



NEWSLETTER

Sunday 29 November - Advent Sunday

Isaiah 64:1-9; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37



Online Sunday Service

A service of worship for Advent Sunday, including a homily from Revd Canon Terry Joyce, 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!



Advent - a reflection by Judith Hewitt

May I wish you all a Happy New Year. No, I haven't lost the plot! This Sunday is Advent Sunday and the beginning of the liturgical year of the church.

It is the time of the year overlooked by many, particularly by shops. We will find our towns decorated and full of Christmas gifts, and as soon as Christmas Eve comes the decorations will disappear and gifts not sold will all be reduced in price. Christmas doesn't begin until midnight on Christmas Eve.

So what is Advent all about? It is a penitential season, rather like Lent. During this season Christians would spend 40 days in penance, prayer, and fasting to prepare for this celebration. Originally there was little connection between Advent and Christmas.

We now see Advent as a time of preparation for Christmas. Not just a time to buy presents and food but a time to prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ into the world as a baby: a time of expectant waiting and preparation.

Symbols are often helpful in our preparations. Our Churches may have Advent wreaths, a circle of evergreens reminding us of God's unending love for



us. The addition of red holly berries point us towards Jesus sacrifice and death. The four candles, lit on each Sunday in Advent, traditionally represent hope, faith, joy, and peace. Often, the first, second, and fourth candles are purple and the third being rose-coloured. A fifth candle is white and lit on Christmas Day to celebrate Christ's birth.

At home we might have an Advent candle, lighting it each day or we might have Advent calendars where a door is opened each day.

We might choose to read a book (Nick has suggested one for this year, and there are many others), or to spend more time in prayer or reading the Bible. Whatever you choose to do may this season of Advent prepare you for the joy of the Christmas season.

Church buildings open for private prayer but not for services during lockdown

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

Buildings re-opening for some services post-lockdown

Holy Trinity Stockton's Sunday services in the church building will re-commence from **Sunday 6th December**. As before the current lockdown, places are limited to 40 people, and must be reserved ahead of time by contacting Ennis Twedde (Churchwarden) 400364/ennisjacksonuk@yahoo.co.uk. Places will be booked on a first come, first served basis.

Midweek Morning Prayer will resume in each of our four churches, as before, from **week commencing Monday 7th December**, with the usual safety precautions (face masks, sanitising and social distancing). [Morning Prayer days and times here](#).

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.

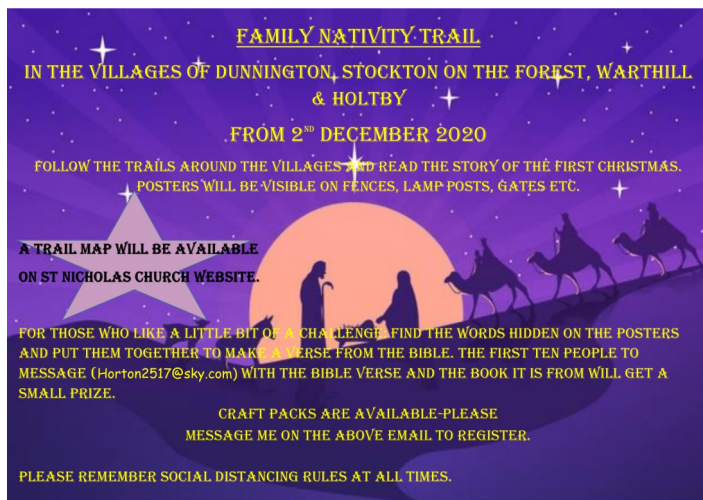
Parish Churches News & Events

[The December issue of The Grapevine](#) is now available online.

Relaunch of the printed Grapevine. We will relaunch the printed version of The Grapevine mid December with a **special Christmas 2020/ January 2021 issue**. This will be delivered to every household in the Benefice. Please send any information for inclusion by **Wednesday 2 December**.



Nativity Trail. We are setting up a Nativity Trail in each of the four villages from 2 December. We need 5 volunteers in each village who are happy for us to attach an A4 sized poster, telling part of the story of the First Christmas, 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).



Christingle and Children's Society. Next Sunday, 6th December, our online service will be a Christingle service. As part of your preparation for the service you might like to create your own Christingle ([instructions on how to make a Christingle](#)), or you can have a candle ready to light.



The Children's Society last year received £1.2 million from Christingle services. If you can support the Society's work with vulnerable children, please do so via our [Christingle fundraising page](#), or you can leave a donation at The Rectory in Dunnington or with Ennis Tweddle in Stockton in a marked envelope. Thank you!



Delivering Christmas Cards & Grapevine. If you are able to deliver a street of cards and Grapevines in any of the villages **from Thursday 17th December** that will be very helpful, thank you. The ones for Dunnington will be in Church ready for collection from 9.30 to 12.00 on Thursday 17th December.



Women's Refuge. Every year, we at St Nicholas Church, collect toys and toiletries to go to IDAS to support women and children affected by domestic violence. This year it has been suggested that we collect supermarket gift tokens so the women can buy the things they need. If you can support this appeal please let Judith Hewitt, 7 Water Lane, Dunnington, have your gift tokens or cash by December 12th, and she will purchase tokens on your behalf.



Dunnington Methodist Church

Dear Friends, as I am writing this, I do not yet know what tier we will be in 24 hours from now, and which restrictions will apply to us during December. So all I can say is "Watch this space" and as soon as any plans can be made, we will of course inform you. In the meantime, keep in contact. With best wishes, Anne 01904 481656 and Diane 01904 489495

News from the Methodist Circuit

Worship resources

The [Circuit webpage](#) lists resources and services arranged locally. This week the Yorkshire North and East District have produced a [service for the first Sunday in Advent](#). Circuit services are available to view on the [Circuit YouTube page](#). Also see the [ONE Family page](#) for all-age worship!

Christmas Circuit Quiz

Our digital enabler, Neil, will lead a light hearted online quiz featuring pictures, music and trivia on Tuesday 15 December at 7.30pm. All welcome, access details to follow.

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 Lois, Tel: 07984 019995 Email: yorkcircuitoffice@gmail.com for log in 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.

Volunteers needed

Hannah is looking for volunteers to record readings for digital services. Ideally you need access to a smart phone or device which can record audio. If you would like to help email HannahCB@yorkmethodist.onmicrosoft.com

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 29 November is **Hessay**. 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.

God of the past, the present, and the future,
At this time of uncertainty and fear, we pray for your church,
We give thanks for two thousand years of witness to your message of love,
We ask forgiveness for the times when we have not shown that message as we should.
We pray for the church in today's world,
Facing challenges, but also faced with opportunities.
Give your people the wisdom to see the paths forward,
The courage to follow those paths,
And the love to sustain us in our journeying.
Amen.

Lectionary Corner

30 November: Andrew the Apostle

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

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 6 December**. [Email items to grapevine.rey@gmail.com](mailto:email_items_to_grapevine.rey@gmail.com) by **9.00 am on Thursday 3 December**