

NEWSLETTER

Sunday 21 March - Lent 5

Jeremiah 31.31-34; Hebrews 5.5-10; John 12.20-33



Today

Any time [Benefice Worship Service](#)
(youtube) with a homily from Judith Hewitt



No internet access? You can listen to our Sunday services anytime by phone for the cost of a local call. Just dial 899433.

11.30am [Post-service coffee \(zoom\)](#)

7.00pm Ignite Youth Group (zoom)



This week

Monday 22 March

9.00am [Morning Prayer \(zoom\)](#)

Tuesday 23 March

9.00am [Morning Prayer \(zoom\)](#)

Wednesday 24 March

9.00am [Morning Prayer \(zoom\)](#)

7.00pm [Compline \(zoom\)](#)

Thursday 25 March

9.00am [Morning Prayer \(zoom\)](#)

7.00pm [Lent Course - 'Forgiveness' \(zoom\)](#)

Sunday 28 March : Palm Sunday

Isaiah 50.4-9a; Philippians 2.5-11; Mark 14.1 -15. end

Any time [Benefice Worship Service](#) focussed on Holy Week and the Passion of Christ
(youtube)

11.30am [Post-service coffee & chat \(zoom\)](#)

A Sentinel Calling

A reflection by Revd Mark Poole

I have been continuing to reflect on a reading from last Sunday, Simeon's prophecy to Mary and Joseph when they obediently presented Jesus in the Temple (Luke 2:33-35). Simeon is a Sentinel. Metaphorically stationed in his tower, he has been prayerfully and faithfully watching and waiting for the Messiah and on seeing Jesus, he boldly speaks truth to power. I admire his courage. As part of my continued training in preparation for being ordained priest in early July, I have been reading Stephen Cottrell's inspirational book 'On Priesthood.' Cottrell devotes a whole chapter to exploring the concept of priest as sentinel because it forms part of the ordination liturgy:

'[Priests] are to proclaim the word of the Lord and to watch for the signs of God's new creation. They are to be messengers, sentinels and stewards of the Lord; they are to teach and admonish, to feed and provide for his family.....'

The weight of such a calling is not lost on me and as I have searched and wrestled I found myself writing a poem, a conversation between me and God:

*I climb and cry, your hand in reach,
Yet weak in strength and poor in love,
Nay still I yearn for thee to teach,
Of rainbows high from up above.*

*So come my love, of what you fear,
Piercing arrows burning down?
Or treasure there of all held dear,
Thy head and heart no longer crown?*

*Tis mercy true I seek thy face,
From self and glory far I flee,
And boundless there I find thy grace,
Where visions bright doth set me free.*

*Then come and watch, take time and stay,
My whisper comes like trumpet sound,
And all melodious tunes will play,
As justice, truth and love abound.*

*So, burning bright with fire so pure,
I now return a herald healed,
The cross of Christ I now endure,
To serve in love of all revealed.*



Community Support Group — we are still here to help

If you would like someone to collect your shopping, or walk your dog, or if you'd like a friendly chat on the phone, please get in touch. Contact Rev Nick Bird 01904 489349 or revnickbird@gmail.com and he will put you in touch with your local contact.

Parish Churches News & Events

Basil Barber. We are very sorry to share the news of the death of Basil Barber. As part of the church family in Dunnington for many years he has been Churchwarden, treasurer and choir member, and will be greatly missed. Please keep Eunice in your prayers. Basil's funeral will take place at St Nicholas Church at 12 noon on Thursday 25 March. Sadly, under current legislation, the size of congregations are limited.



Easter cards. We would like to deliver an Easter card to every house in the benefice. If you can deliver a 'street of cards' in Dunnington, they can be collected from St Nicholas church on Thursday 25th March between 9.00 and 4.00ish.

National Day of Reflection. On 23 March, it'll be one year since the first UK lockdown. Since then, millions of people have been bereaved, both as a result of Covid-19 and due to other causes. The restrictions we've all been living under have meant that many people have had to grieve without the comfort of having friends and family around them. Marie Curie, a charity which supports people around the event of a terminal diagnosis, has organised a National Day of Reflection to acknowledge grief and loss over the last year. The national Church of England is one of several organisations supporting it. There will be a minute's silence at 12 noon on 23 March to create a moment that shows support for the millions of people who've been bereaved. Details on how you can be involved will be emailed out.

Revd Nick Bird, acting up. Nick has been called upon to be the acting Diocesan Director of Ordinands whilst his colleague is on sick leave. This may only be for a matter of weeks, but might continue for longer. This is likely to take up the equivalent of about two days a week.

Lent Course. This Thursday, in the final session of our Lent course, we will be exploring 'Forgiveness'. [Join us on zoom at 7.](#)

Scarecrow Trail. Do sign up to display a scarecrow during the trail 1-3 May, using the leaflet that came through your door, or the online [Scarecrow Trail form](#).



Easter Trails will be set up at each of the parish churches from 27th March. Prizes & Easter craft packs can be collected from St Nicholas's Church, Dunnington & Holy Trinity, Stockton on the Forest on Saturday 3rd April between 10:00am & 12:30pm. [Email Lisa Horton](#) (Children & Family Worker) for more details. The trails will use the 'In search of Easter' materials which are part of Scripture Union's 'On The Trail' series.



Dunnington Methodist Church

With the prospect of a possible opening of the Chapel at Pentecost, 23rd May, it has been agreed to bring forward the Church Council meeting from 25th May to **Thursday 22nd April at 2.30pm**. We hope that many of you will be able to attend (obviously subject to Covid regulations and as long as government guidelines allow)

THANK YOU to all who made donations following the World Day of Prayer event. A total of £155 was collected. (£110 of which was gift aided). Thanks also to Jocelyn for all the organisation, and to Diane for delivering all the booklets.

And after those two cheerful messages, if there is anything else we might be able to help you with, do not hesitate to call one of the stewards: Anne Castle 01904 481656, Diane Conway 01904 489495 or Chris Spedding 01904 481867.

News from the Methodist Circuit

Worship. Online worship produced by the Circuit can be found on the [Circuit YouTube channel](#) and a [list of online worship services around the Circuit](#) is available.

Dial a Sermon. For those unable to access the circuit YouTube service online, an audio recording of the most recent readings and sermon is now available by telephone. Dial 01904 948409 and, after a short delay (20 seconds), the audio file will play (usually around 10-15 minutes long). You will be charged as for a local call according to your current phone package.

Unique - a 8 week Mental Health Course for Young People. Do you know of a young girl aged 13-16 who would benefit from building their self-esteem and resilience? This short course covers a range of topics, in a fun and welcoming small group environment. Tuesday evenings on zoom, starting after Easter. Contact Lorraine to sign them up and get their craft bag and resources. See the flyer for the dates.

lorraine.jones@methodistyouth.org.uk 07850 631168.

Easter Boxes. The children's youth and families team have an Easter pack containing sunflower seeds and some activities available to send out. This will be sent out to all the families and young people we already have the details for. If you would like your child to receive the pack and you haven't previously given us your details, then please complete this [form](#) and we will send it out to you.

Breathing Space - Coffee and Chat session for parents and carers of pre-school children. Are you a parent or carer of a baby or toddler? Do you long for conversation with other grown-ups? Are you a first time parent or maybe you are missing the baby and toddler group?

Then join us on a Tuesday 2pm - 3pm for our new Zoom coffee and chat session. Starting on 16th March, it will be a space to meet other parents/carers, have a chat and a laugh with other grown-ups, share the joys and frustrations of bringing up little ones and get practical tips and support from others who understand. Just grab a cuppa and a biscuit and join us from the comfort of your own home.

Please contact heather.lewis@methodistyouth.org.uk for more information or to receive the zoom link.

Poppleton Quiz. Rivers Quiz - please contact Frances Priestnall on davidpriestnall@hotmail.com for details.

Praying for our Circuit. The church on the Circuit Prayer Rota for **21st March is Strensall**. 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 at this time.

Lord, may Lent be a time of inward searching that makes me more able to look with compassion at the needs of the world. Amen.

From [Methodist Lent & Easter prayers](#)

Lectionary Corner

25 March: Annunciation of Our Lord to the Blessed Virgin Mary
[This week's full lectionary info.](#)

To receive this newsletter 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 28 March** [Email items to grapevine.rey@gmail.com](mailto:grapevine.rey@gmail.com) by **9.00 am on Thursday 25 March**