

NEWSLETTER

Sunday 11 April : Easter 2

Acts 4.32-35; John 20.19-end



Today

No Benefice services in the buildings or online today.

There are many online options to choose from, such as the [Church of England's service broadcast](#) or the [Methodist Circuit service](#).

Alternatively, you could re-watch a previous Benefice service. They all remain available on our [youtube channel](#).



If you usually listen to the Benefice Service on the telephone you might like to tune in to Radio York (103.7) at 8.00am for an act of Christian worship.

This week

Monday 12 April

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

Tuesday 13 April

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

Wednesday 14 April

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

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

Thursday 15 April

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

Friday 16 April

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

Sunday 18 April : Easter 3

Acts 3.12-19; Luke 24.36b-48

Any time [Benefice Worship Service](#) (youtube) led by Revd Mark Poole and with a homily from Revd Keith Albans

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

7.00pm Ignite Youth Group (zoom)

Acts 4.32-35

A reflection by Revd Nick Bird

I absolutely love the Easter season. Lent, Holy Week and Easter Day all have their own special qualities, but it is the period after Easter that does something for me. Perhaps it ties in with the time of year, the spring rush, the sap rising in the soul, but there is a joy and lightness for me at this time of year.

For the early church there is something of a short, golden age. In recent weeks there has been a series of reports on historic abuse in the Church of England, and there is much to be ashamed about. Clericalism (the exaggerated deference toward those who wear funny collars, and the presumption of superiority by those who do dress in this odd way) has fed into this unhealthy culture that sometimes makes one wonder as to whether the church has ceased to be such a useful tool of the Kingdom of God.

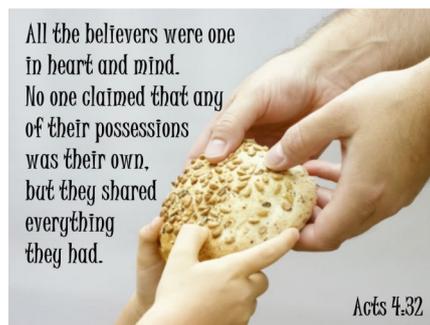
But returning to the scriptures and the stories of the early church, there are a number of accounts of disagreement, betrayal, fraud, deception and more. The stinging epistles suggesting that there were certain things that Christian folk should not be doing would only be written in response to the fact that it *was* happening already. 1 Corinthians 13 was not written because faithful folk in all perpetuity needed to read something uplifting about love, but because the church in Corinth was making such a mess of things in such unlovely ways (thank you Corinthians).

But in chapter 4 of the book of Acts we read of a brief moment of perfection: everyone was of one heart and mind, all property and possessions were held in common, land and houses were sold and the proceeds distributed to any who were in need.

Service was given, prayers were said, and 'great grace was upon them all'. It seemed only to last for a moment, but there was a glimpse of Eden and the heavenly city, all rolled into one.

The trials, tribulations and transcendent moments in the life of the early church are both an inspiration and a sign. The Spirit is moving across the land, lives are changed, sacrifices are made, renunciation is offered, and the call is heard that still demands my soul, my life, my all.

Revd Nick Bird



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

Ignite (Youth Group)

currently meets monthly via Zoom. The next meeting will be on **Sunday 18th April** at 7:00pm. This is a group for young people in school year 6 and above (most of the current members are aged 10-14). If you would like to know more, or get involved, please contact [Revd Mark Poole](#).

Easter Trails

are still available at each of the parish churches.



PCC secretary vacancy.

If you've got the time and necessary word processing skills and have been hoping that someone else would volunteer to take on the role of PCC secretary, then I'm sorry to say they haven't. Maybe God is calling YOU to step up to the mark? Eve, our current PCC secretary is happy to receive informal enquiries to discuss what is involved (eve_scoreby@hotmail.com)

Benefice Family Worship

There will not be a Family Worship service in April. The next one will be on **Sunday 2 May**. Contact Lisa Horton horton2517@sky.com, Rev Mark Poole revmarkpoole20@gmail.com or Judith Hewitt judithmhewitt@btinternet.com for more information.

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](#).



Save the date!

Revd Mark Poole is to be ordained Priest on **Saturday 3rd July** at 2:00pm in Holy Trinity church, Stockton on the Forest. We are very much hoping that many will be able to gather to worship and celebrate with him and hopefully share an afternoon tea together following the service. Further details to follow.



Benefice Weekend at Wydale Hall

Our weekend at Wydale is ON! **17th to 19th September 2021**. It will be led by Rev Rachel Hirst and we will have Lisa with us to lead the younger people. It would be good to know if you are planning to join us, as soon as possible. The cost for the weekend, including all meals, is £159, with a reduction for children. Application forms will be available soon, but a deposit of £10 per person, with the names and a contact number, of those attending, can be sent to Judith Hewitt, 7, Water Lane.

Dunnington Library

will re-open from **12 April** for browsing and drop-in. Books out on loan have all been automatically renewed until 30 April. More information on the [York Explore website](#).

Dunnington Methodist Church

NOTICE IS GIVEN THAT A CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING IS PLANNED FOR **THURSDAY 22ND APRIL at 2.30 PM**. The meeting will be held at the Chapel. We hope that many of you will be able to attend (obviously subject to Covid regulations and as long as government guidelines allow). Please leave a message with one of the stewards if you are intending to come.

Arrangements will be similar to those made for the Christmas Service. Please arrive no earlier than 2.25pm. Be prepared to wear a face covering in the building, maintain social distancing, and use hand sanitizer on entry. Hopefully the weather will be warmer than this week, but be aware that doors will be left open during the meeting. The toilets will be available, but we will not be using the kitchen so bring a drink or refreshments from home if you wish.

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 this week

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. Holy Week and Easter services are still available on our YouTube channel if you missed any.

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.



Save the date!

Sunday 11th July at 3pm will be our Circuit Celebration service. This will be held at Acomb and we hope some people will be able to join us in person; the service will also be livestreamed. Watch out for more information in the coming weeks!

Digital Resources

A [Digital Resources webpage](#) has been created on the circuit website with some selected useful links for digital church resources, training and information. In particular, there are two excellent manuals on using Zoom which can be downloaded from the page. Please send any further suggestions to Neil Craig (neilc@yorkmethodist.onmicrosoft.com).

Flourish 2021

The Flourish District event that was to have taken place this September has now been postponed, and we are awaiting a new date, probably in autumn 2022.

Gifts

A series of online events will take place from **Monday 10th May**. These will be looking at discerning how we can use our gifts from God to serve others in safe and gracious ways, looking at Community, Empathy, Place, Confidence, Resilience, Togetherness and Peace. Book online bit.ly/giftsoutsidethebox

Praying for our Circuit

The church on the Circuit Prayer Rota for 11th April is **West Thorpe**. 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.



Lectionary Corner

There are no festivals or Saints' Days in Easter week.

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 18 April** [Email items to grapevine.rev@gmail.com](mailto:grapevine.rev@gmail.com) by **9.00 am on Thursday 15 April**