

# NEWSLETTER

## Sunday 16 May : Easter 7

Acts 1.15-17, 21-end; John 17.6-19



### Today

- 8.00am Holy Communion : St Nicks, Dunnington  
10.30am Holy Communion : Holy Trinity, Stockton\*  
Any time [Benefice Worship Service](#) (youtube)  
with a homily from Revd Mark Poole



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

- 3.00pm St Nicholas Church ACPM : via Zoom  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88981527719>

### This week

#### Monday 17 May

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

#### Tuesday 18 May

- 9.00am Morning Prayer : St Mary, Warhill

#### Wednesday 19 May

- 9.00am Holy Communion : St Nicholas, Dunnington  
10.00am Holy Communion : Holy Trinity, Stockton  
7.00pm [Compline \(zoom\)](#)

#### Thursday 20 May

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

### Sunday 23 May : Pentecost

Acts 2.1-21; John 15.26-27; 16.4b-15

- 8.00am Holy Communion : St Nicks, Dunnington  
10.00am Worship Service : Dunn. Methodist Chapel,  
led by Revd John Schofield  
10.30am Holy Communion : Holy Trinity, Stockton\*  
Any time [Benefice Worship Service](#) (youtube)  
with a homily from Revd Canon Nick Bird  
6.00pm Re-Ignite Youth Group : St Nicks, Dunnington  
(note earlier start time this month)

\* places must be reserved via the churchwarden Ennis Twedde ([ennisjacksonuk@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ennisjacksonuk@yahoo.co.uk) or 400364).

### Acts 1.15-17, 21-26

a reflection by Revd Nick Bird

This passage from the Acts of the Apostles just has to be one of my favourites – it makes me both wonder and smile. Judas has done his thing and is now dead (did he hang himself, or did he 'burst open in the middle [of a field] and all his bowels gushed out', as we are told here?) Either way, Judas was one of the twelve chosen disciples, and being a full team of twelve was important as they represented the number of the *Tribes of Israel*. And now they are a man down.

Sitting on the substitution bench was a small group on which to call, who had to have been part of the wider team since the baptism of John up until the ascension. It looks as though the pool to choose from was small (Barsabbas and Matthias). But there was no vote, no election, no interviews, no hustings. To decide between the two they cast lots – in effect they left the decision to God (or chance, depending on your viewpoint).

This is fantastic, and the reason this passage makes me smile. The earliest and biggest decision to be made by the nascent church was done by drawing straws or rolling dice. If this is not a biblical injunction as to how all major church council decisions should be made, I don't know what is!

But what of Barsabbas and Matthias? Can we imagine them having followed Jesus around for three years, looking at the appointed Twelve with their bickering, floundering, failing, denying and betraying, and themselves thinking, 'He could have chosen me'? And then, with the casting of lots, Barsabbas still missed out. Would there have been disappointment or relief? Was martyrdom narrowly dodged?

Perhaps we are fortunate not to be able to see the 'big picture', and don't know when a rejection turns into a blessing, chance becomes providence, failure becomes success, or when the last will be first. If only life were so tidy, so organised. All we can do is to do that which is given us to do, and wonder and smile.

Rev 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](mailto:revnickbird@gmail.com) and he will put you in touch with your local contact.

## Parish Churches News & Events

**St Nicholas Church Annual Meeting.** Do join us today, Sunday 16 May, at 3pm via [zoom](#). The [Agenda and Report for the ACPM](#) are available online and there are some printed copies available in the church (which can be collected at times when it is open or by contacting Judith on 488331). If anyone would like a copy of the full financial accounts document for 2020 there are a few copies of this as well in church or via Judith.

**Holtby's APCM** will be held on Thursday 27th May, 7pm, in Holy Trinity Church.

**Benefice Prayer Meeting.** The meeting on 25th May has been cancelled. The next two will be via Zoom on Tuesday 29th June and Monday 26th July. There will be no meeting in August.

**Re-Ignite Youth Group** meets next on Sunday 23rd May, at the earlier time of at 6:00pm at St Nicholas Church, for a treasure hunt around the village! We will also meet on Sundays 27th June and 25th July. There will be no meeting in August.

**Family worship** is now taking place in St Nicholas Church again each month. The next dates are 6th June and 4th July, both at 4:00pm. All welcome.



### A message from Andy Hagon

Hi there everyone. I just thought I'd write to you all, thanking you for your hospitality! It's strange to have done a placement and yet never to have been to any of the churches in the benefice. In fact, I've not met any of you face to face sadly. But I have enjoyed your very creative services and the prayers on a Thursday morning, where it's been good to get to know many of you. I also really enjoyed the Lent course that Keith ran. But I do feel like I know the area quite well now, with all the lovely photos that appeared each Sunday.

I'm just finishing off my dissertation at the moment, and have written the opening song for the Musical I hope to write. It's called 'Who do you think you are?' and is sung by the Devil in the wilderness! I hope to put it to music soon and will send Nick a link when it's done - all feedback welcome! And this term I've been studying Islam which has been really interesting, but I've decided that I still quite like being an Anglican.

I've still got another year as an Ordinand after this one, but I finish teaching in July so have a year to fill. Please pray that I will listen to what God wants me to do so it's a year truly glorifying His name.

Anyway, thanks again for being so warm and welcoming and God bless you all. *Andy*

**Benefice Weekend at Wydale.** It is now time to book your place for the weekend, 17th to 19th September. Booking forms are available on the [St Nicholas Church website](#), from Benefice Churches when they are open, or from Judith Hewitt.



## Dunnington Methodist Church

Dear Friends. The next service at the chapel will take place on **23rd May** at 10.00 am when John Schofield will be leading us in worship. Please leave a message with one of the stewards by Monday 17th May if you are intending to come. We will only contact you and reply if there are no spaces left. Please arrive no earlier than 9.55am. Be prepared to wear a face covering in

the building, maintain social distancing, and use hand sanitizer on entry and exit. Be aware that doors will be left open during the meeting so dress for the weather. The toilets will be available, but we will not be using the kitchen so bring a drink or refreshments from home if you wish. We look forward to seeing you then.

If there is anything else we might be able to help 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.

**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.



**Norman Berryman.** We have heard that Revd Norman Berryman, supernumerary minister, has died aged 97. Norman had lived in York since his retirement in 1989 and was latterly in the Beaumont care home in Stamford Bridge.

**Vacancies: Synod representatives.** We have two vacancies for representatives from the Circuit to the District Synod - if you would be interested in taking on this role please let Lois or Keith know. Synod generally meets twice a year and you can find out more about it on the [District website](#).

**Join us for Quizian Aid!** The Children, Youth & Families team, and some of their crew, have put together a quiz to be launched live on Youtube on Friday 21st May at 7pm to raise money for Christian Aid. There's a section on General Knowledge, Sports, Arts and Music, 2020 and another mystery round! If any young people want to contribute a question, please contact [Lorraine](#). Answers will be revealed at the end of May. The Quiz will be loaded on the [Haxby and Wigginton Methodist Church YouTube Channel](#) the day before. Donate via the group's [just giving page](#).

**Save the date!** Sunday 11th July at 3pm will be our Circuit Celebration service held at Acomb and we hope some people will be able to join us in person; the service will also be livestreamed. More information in the coming weeks!

**Praying for our Circuit.** The church on the Circuit Prayer Rota for 16th May is **Central**. 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. Central is the home of Carecent, who provide meals for those who are homeless or socially excluded, as well as other groups that work with people in the City centre. Pray for them and especially for Deacon Judith as she works with the various groups.

## Lectionary Corner

19 May: Dunstan, Archbishop of Canterbury, Monastic reformer, 988

20 May: Alcuin, Deacon, Abbot of Tours, 804

[This week's full lectionary info.](#)

To receive newsletters by email, contact [grapevine.rey@gmail.com](mailto:grapevine.rey@gmail.com). They are also available on the [St Nicholas Church website](#). To receive the Methodist Circuit News, please contact the office by email [yorkcircuitoffice@gmail.com](mailto:yorkcircuitoffice@gmail.com) or phone 07984 019995.

Next newsletter on **Sunday 23 May**. [Email items to grapevine.rey@gmail.com](mailto:grapevine.rey@gmail.com) by **9.00 am on 20 May**