

NEWSLETTER

Sunday 23 January: Epiphany 3



Readings: Nehemiah 8.1-3, 5-6, 8-10; 1 Corinthians 12.12-31a; Luke 4.14-21

Today

- 8.00am Holy Communion: St Nicholas, Dunnington
Revd Mark Poole
- 10.30am Holy Communion: Holy Trinity, Stockton
Revd Peter Moorhouse
- 10.30am Holy Communion: St Mary, Warthill
Revd Mark Poole
- 4.00pm Evening Prayer: Holy Trinity, Holtby
Revd Nick Bird
- At St Nicholas**
- 9.30am Church open for quiet prayer and reflection
- 10.00am Coffee, reflection, prayer and music
- 10.30am Covenant and Unity Service
Revd Dr John Schofield and Revd Nick Bird

 [Online Benefice Worship](#) (YouTube)

This week

Monday 24 January

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

Tuesday 25 January

9.00am Morning Prayer: St Mary, Warthill

1.45pm Little People, Play and Praise: St Nicholas Tower Room

Wednesday 26 January

9.00am Holy Communion: St Nicholas, Dunnington

9.45am Bereavement Café: St Nicholas Tower Room

10.00am Holy Communion: Holy Trinity, Stockton

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

7.30pm Meditation Group: St Nicholas Tower Room

Thursday 27 January

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

Friday 28 January

7.00pm Burns Night Supper: St Nicholas Tower Room

Saturday 29 January

10.00 am Community Café: St Nicholas Tower Room

Sunday 30 January: Epiphany 4

Readings: Ezekiel 43.27-44.4; 1 Corinthians 13; Luke 2.22-40

10.30am Benefice Communion : Holy Trinity, Stockton

 [Online Benefice Worship](#) (YouTube)

In the synagogue—a reflection by Revd Mark Poole

The Gospel reading for this Sunday presents Luke's perspective of how Jesus' ministry is to be understood and therefore the lens through which the rest of the Gospel should be interpreted. Jesus reads from the scrolls in the synagogue at Nazareth. He chooses what we know as Isaiah 61:1-2:

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free."



In biblical times synagogues were surprisingly small. Their design was simple; a rectangular stone-built hall with benches along the sidewalls and an empty space in the middle. There might have been a platform at one end where the leaders of the synagogue sat, and possibly, a special cupboard at the same end that housed the scrolls. Also, synagogues were multi-purpose places functioning like a village hall. They were used for studying the Law, hosting community meetings, judicial hearings and for worship and teaching on the Sabbath. But the key thing is, the physical space was small. So, when Jesus stood up to read and to teach in the synagogue, everyone would have been up close. It was eyeball to eyeball stuff. What was Jesus going to say? Folks must have been waiting with bated breath and with intense anticipation as Jesus sits (as was the custom) to deliver his sermon. But it was just one line (maybe there is a lesson there for me!) Jesus boldly proclaims that the scripture he had just read was fulfilled in their very hearing that day. Jesus, sitting right there before the gathered, declares he is the long-awaited Messiah fulfilling the words of Isaiah.

What happens next? Well, we know the rest of the story. His captive audience initially amazed at "the gracious words that came from his mouth" eventually rejected him. Shouts of 'Hosannah' turned to shouts of 'crucify him' as he was sent to his cross of wood to die. Jesus stood up in the synagogue and declared God's gracious love for all people, even the despised and marginalised. He proclaimed reconciliation, freedom, and salvation for everyone. This wasn't the Messiah people expected. I wonder, if I was in the synagogue, eyeball to eyeball with Jesus and witnessed His radical proclamation, how would I have reacted? How about you?

Revd Mark Poole

Electoral Roll – St Nicholas

Have you recently moved into the parish and/OR do you now attend worship at St Nicholas on a regular basis? If so, have you considered applying to be added to the Electoral Roll. Being on the roll not only shows your commitment to St Nicholas church but also entitles you to participate/vote at the annual meetings and stand for office. Forms are available in the Tower Room or by contacting Eve Scoreby (Electoral Roll Officer) 489008; 07746765274 or eve_scoreby@hotmail.co.uk.

Parish Churches News & Events

Volunteer chalice bearers sought (St Nicholas Church): If you have attended church since Christmas you will be aware that the Priest now intincts (dips) each wafer in the wine before giving it. This requires someone to stand on the right of the priest to hold the chalice. So far Carole, Barry and Judith have been doing this, but we would like to start up a rota including some other people. No special skill is required - just the ability to stand and hold the chalice in a convenient position for the priest to dip the wafers in. Please inform Carole White if you feel you could offer to do this occasionally.

Derwent Deanery: invites everyone to join with them to mark Candlemas, after cancelling the service last year. We will be led by the newly installed Area Dean, Revd Jackie Doyle Brett, at St Mary's, East Cottingham at 4.00pm on Sunday 30th January. All Covid precautions will be observed and we look forward to meeting together, cautiously.

Sunday 30th January: Today we celebrate Candlemas as a Benefice at Holy Trinity, Stockton on the Forest at 10.30am. There will be no other services in the Benefice today.

Parish Lunch: The list for the next lunch is now in the Tower Room. The lunch is on Sunday 13th February at 1.00pm, with a Communion Service at 12.30.

District online prayer gathering: From Thursday 6th January, we'll be hosting a weekly online time of prayer – focussing on seeking God's renewal for our lives, church and world. We'll begin at 6.30pm for about 45 minutes. You can join on zoom or watch on facebook - joining details available at <https://www.yorkshinemethodist.org/news-events/district-online-weekly-prayer-gathering/>

Bereavement Café: Our next café is on Wednesday 26th January from 9.45 until about 11.15, at St Nicholas Church. Do come, or bring someone, to light a candle to remember a loved one and to talk to others who are bereaved.

Burns Night: Informal Burns Supper **this Friday** 28th January 2022, 7.00 pm in the Tower Room, Dunnington.

Haggis, tatties and neeps (alternative veggie haggis option) plus soup and dessert.

Bring your own drink

Dress – Smart Casual (but feel free to wear your kilt if you wish) Tickets £7.50 - numbers are limited so don't delay! - contact Judith Hewitt 488331; Eve Scoreby 489008; Joan Verrier 481626 or Diane Benson 07951 582672.



A Quiet Space Meditation: we are offering a **secular, non-religious course** as an introduction to engaging in this beneficial practice.

These sessions will take place in the Tower Room of St Nicholas Church over just three consecutive Tuesday evenings in February 2022. Places are limited to 10 so **booking is essential**.

If you are interested, please contact Carole White on 07508 834565.



Benefice Prayer Meetings: Revd Mark Poole will be holding a monthly benefice prayer meeting on zoom on the following dates at 7pm: Thursday 17th Feb, Tuesday 29th March, Wednesday 20th April (after compline), Tuesday 24th May, Thursday 23rd June, Monday 25th July. All are welcome. The zoom link can be found either on the front of the newsletter, or by emailing Mark at: revmarkpoole20@gmail.com. There is no pressure to pray aloud, just to be present in the presence of prayer in your own home

Sunday Coffee at St Nicholas: If you are able to serve coffee either before or after the service, there is a new list on the rota board. Coffee before needs to be ready for 10.00, please. We do appreciate all who volunteer to help with refreshments.

IMPORTANT: Updated Covid-19 Guidance

The Church of England have recently published new guidance in light of the ever-changing COVID-19 situation. Please note that this guidance applies to **all churches in the benefice**. A key point to note is that the wearing of face coverings is now a legal requirement (unless exempt). [Click here](#) or visit tinyurl.com/newcovidguidance to read the guidance in full.

Lectionary Corner at St Nicholas

24 January: Francis de Sales, Bishop of Geneva, Teacher of the Faith 1622

25 January: The Conversion of Paul

26 January: Timothy and Titus, Companions of Paul

To receive newsletters by email, contact grapevine.rey@gmail.com. Also available on the [St Nicholas Church website](#) and in St Nicholas Church.

To receive the Methodist Circuit News, please contact the office by email yorkcircuitoffice@gmail.com or phone 07984 019995.

Next newsletter on **Sunday 30th January** [Email items to grapevine.rey@gmail.com](mailto:grapevine.rey@gmail.com) by **9.00 am on Thursday 27th January**.