

NEWSLETTER

Sunday 27 February: Sunday before Lent

Readings: Exodus 34.29-end; 2 Corinthians 3.12-4.2; Luke 9.28-36



Today

- 10.30am Benefice Service: St Nicholas, Dunnington
Revd Dr John Schofield, Rev Mark Poole & Judith Hewitt
- 4.00pm Evening Prayer: Holy Trinity, Holtby
Judith Hewitt

A reflection from Revd Nick Bird - Transfiguration



Please note: these are the only services taking place today

 [Online Benefice Worship](#) (YouTube)

This week

Monday 28 February

- 9.00am [Morning Prayer \(zoom\)](#)
1.30pm Sewing & Art Group: St Nicholas Tower Room

Tuesday 1 March

- 9.00am Morning Prayer: St Mary, Warthill
1.45pm Little People, Play and Praise: St Nicholas Tower Room
3.30pm Pancake Party: St Nicholas Tower Room

Wednesday 2 March

- 9.00am Holy Communion: St Nicholas, Dunnington
9.45am Coffee: St Nicholas Tower Room
10.00am Holy Communion: Holy Trinity, Stockton
1.45pm Funeral: St Nicholas, Dunnington
7.00pm Ash Wednesday Service: St Nicholas, Dunnington

Thursday 3 March

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

Friday 4 March

- 3.00pm World Day of Prayer & Afternoon tea: St Nicholas, Dunnington

Saturday 5 March

- 10.00 am Community Café: St Nicholas Tower Room
4.00pm Theology@4: Thorganby Church

Sunday 6 March: First Sunday of Lent

- Readings: Deuteronomy 26.1-11; Romans 10.8b-13; Luke 4.1-13
- 8.00am Holy Communion: St Nicholas, Dunnington
10.30am Holy Communion: St Nicholas, Dunnington
10.30am Morning Worship: Holy Trinity, Stockton
4.00pm Family Worship: St Nicholas, Dunnington
7.00pm Re-Ignite: St Nicholas Tower Room

Friends,

Our gospel reading today (Luke 9.28-36) has Jesus transfigured, but does it leave us transformed? On top of the mountain, in the presence of two of the 'greats' of the Old Testament (Moses and Elijah), and three of the yet-to-be greats of the New Testament (Peter, James and John), Jesus lets his mask slip. The divinity of Jesus begins, literally, to shine out of him. He is transfigured.

Perhaps it was the elevation, or maybe it was the company, or possibly it was the conversation about Jesus' Jerusalem departure (or 'exodus' – fancy having that in common with Moses) that lightened the mood so much. Jesus, this god-man, incarnated deity, finds his 'veiled in flesh the Godhead' now is being seen, transfigured, made into something even more beautiful. Hidden under surface skin, there is supernaturalism just leaking out of the man.

We could leave this story on the page, but that would be sad. In a sense this is not simply about Jesus 'godding things up' for the crowd; small, and partially dead though it is. This is not simply humanity hiding divinity, this is also about our own 'divinization'. Jesus became mortal that we might become immortal. Jesus became human that we might become divine. The transfiguration is not simply the thing that happens to Jesus; it is the direction of travel for all who draw near to God. The story is not something for us to only observe, but is something in which we partake. Embrace your humanity, but do not deny your divinity. The mountain awaits all who draw near to God.



Re-Ignite

Please note: Re-Ignite will now be taking place on **Sunday 6th March** rather than Sunday 27th February

 [Online Benefice Worship](#) (YouTube)

Parish Churches News & Events

Sunday 27th February: Today we worship together, as a Benefice, at St Nicholas Church at 10.30am. There will be no other morning services on that day but there will be Evensong at Holtby at 4.00pm.

A Sausage Dog? Stockton Afternoon Tea: One of the answers to Anthony's Quiz 'breed of dog beginning with S' at a hilarious Silver Service Afternoon Tea in Holy Trinity, Stockton last week. With typical diplomacy, Anthony moved on. These Afternoon Teas are becoming very popular with 26 people sitting down in Church to cakes, tea and coffee. We had our own interpretation of community singing led by Arnie and a poem read by Pat J. The **Next Afternoon Tea is on Tuesday, 22nd March** and transport can be arranged for you.

World Day of Prayer: There are some prayers and reflections in the Lady Chapel at St Nicholas. Do take a look and if any 'speak to you', please take them home with you. We look forward to welcoming you to the service at 3.00pm at St Nicholas Church on Friday 4th March when we will join the prayers of thousands across the world.

Pancake Party: We look forward to seeing 'children of all ages' at our Pancake Party on Tuesday 1st March from 3.30 until 5.30 at St Nicholas Church. There will be craft activities for children.

Tea and Chat: Our Methodist friends are invited to meet with Rev Dr John Schofield on Wednesday 9th March at 2.00 in the Tower Room.

Family Worship: Do you know what the 'Pearl of Great Price' is? Come along to Family Worship on Sunday 6th March at 4.00pm at St Nicholas Church.

Ash Wednesday (this week!): There will be a Service at 7.00pm at St Nicholas Church. Everyone very welcome as we begin our Lenten journey.

Concert and Choral Evensong: The Stamford Bridge Singers are giving a 'Concert for Children', (of all ages) at St Nicholas Church on Sunday 20th March at 3.00pm. Tickets are £5.00 each from Eve or Joan, or payable on the door. Accompanied children under 16, free. Tea and cake will be served before Choral Evensong at 5.00pm.

Sunday Coffee at St Nicholas: We are now currently asking for volunteers to make and serve coffee after the 10.30 service, only. If you can help, please sign the list on the Tower Room rota board.

From the Deanery: Theology @4: Revd Dr Greg Hoyland is leading a new set of these studies at Thorganby Church at 4.00pm on Saturday afternoons, always the first Saturday of the month. Everyone is welcome, it is an open invitation to attend this Derwent Ings Church, part of our Deanery. On 5 March it will be Led by the Spirit and on 2 April it will be The Dignity of Difference. Greg is an excellent speaker and will keep us all up to date with these thought-provoking addresses.



Everyday Faith: The Church of England have an excellent set of resources which you can sign up to online at:

www.churchofengland.org/resources/everyday-faith-portal.

Here you'll find a huge selection of prayers, reflections, podcasts, blogs and more, to help equip you on your daily journey with God and with others.

Lent Course: We shall be running a Lent Course again this year. We did it, by necessity, via zoom last year, and it worked really well. Numbers attending at least doubled.

We begin Lent with the Ash Wednesday service at 7pm, 2nd March at St Nick's Dunnington.

Lent course runs at 7pm on Thursday evenings:

10th March - 'Peace' - Judith Hewitt

17th March - 'Love' - Nick Bird

24 March - 'Hope' - John Schofield

31 March - 'Anger' - Nick Bird

7th April - 'Generosity' - Mark Poole

Each session will last just one hour and will begin, after a short prayer, with a roughly 10 minute introduction on the topic, followed by the opportunity to explore the week's theme in more depth in small groups for those who wish to stay. We shall regather toward the end of the session in plenary for any feedback and sharing across groups.

If you would rather not stay for the discussion part of the course, you are perfectly welcome to drop out after the introduction. Each talk will be recorded and uploaded to YouTube.



Lectionary Corner at St Nicholas

1 March: David, Bishop of Menevia, Patron of Wales c.601

2 March: Ash Wednesday

Further information about the above can be found by visiting the newsletter page on the website.

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