

NEWSLETTER

Sunday 27 March: Mothering Sunday



Readings: Exodus 2.1-10; Luke 2.33-35

Today

- 8.00am Holy Communion: St Nicholas, Dunnington
Revd Canon Nick Bird
- 10.30am Holy Communion: St Nicholas, Dunnington
Revd Canon Nick Bird
- 10.30am All Age Worship: St Mary, Warthill
Revd Mark Poole
- 10.30am Holy Communion: Holy Trinity, Stockton
Revd Canon John Harrison
- 6.00pm Evening Prayer: Holy Trinity, Holtby
Revd Mark Poole
- 7.00pm Re-Ignite: St Nicholas Tower Room



[Online Benefice Worship](#) (YouTube)

This week

Monday 28 March

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

Tuesday 29 March

9.00am Morning Prayer: St Mary, Warthill

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

Wednesday 30 March

9.00am Holy Communion: St Nicholas, Dunnington

9.45am Bereavement Café: St Nicholas Tower Room

10.00am Holy Communion: Holy Trinity, Stockton

Thursday 31 March

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

Saturday 2 April

10.00 am Community Café: St Nicholas Tower Room

Sunday 3 April: Fifth Sunday of Lent

Readings: Isaiah 43.16-21; Philippians 3.4b-14;
John 12.1-8

8.00am Holy Communion: St Nicholas, Dunnington

10.30am Holy Communion: St Nicholas, Dunnington

10.30am Holy Communion: Holy Trinity, Stockton

4.00pm Family Worship: St Nicholas, Dunnington



[Online Benefice Worship](#) (YouTube)

A reflection on Mothering Sunday by Revd Canon Nick Bird



Friends,

Buying my mother a card for this Sunday is getting increasingly difficult. Perhaps slightly tongue-in-cheek, but my mum would always say as I was growing up, "It's not Mother's Day, it's Mothering Sunday"! Mother's Day was described as a 'Hallmark festival', to suggest that it was popularised as a means to sell stuff, and to make one feel bad for not spending more. Father's Day, arguably an imported event, is even more blatant as it has no historical tradition beyond the commercial.

Mothering Sunday, on the other hand, has deep roots. Held on the 4th Sunday of Lent, it generally falls near to March 25th, which is the feast of the Annunciation of our Lord to the Blessed Virgin Mary (N.B. The bible has a very precise timeline for this particular pregnancy, with the baby Jesus clearly arriving exactly 9 months later!). But it is also a time when people, particularly those in service, were permitted to return to visit their mothers and their mother church. Therefore, wrapped up in the overlapping themes of this day, there is the notion of the church which has nurtured us, and of the way in which God is a mother to us all.

Surely, almost without exception, parents will have experienced both their hearts overflowing AND being pierced, which was the essential experience for Mary (Luke 2.33-35). The push and pull, the highs and lows, the joys and grief, the darkness and light, are all interwoven themes for this day, and are shared by the whole people of God in the depths of their spiritual journey. God births us, nurses us, comforts, and, on occasion, scolds us, as the divine Mother understands best.

Revd Nick Bird

Parish Churches News & Events

Sides persons for St Nicholas 10.30am Sunday Service: We are planning to set up the rota and would appreciate the help of volunteers. The main task is to welcome and distribute the books for the service. It is a great opportunity to meet people and have a chat. If you can help, please let Peter or Carole know.

Electoral Roll – St Nicholas: The electoral roll for **St Nicholas** will be revised on 15th April this year. Any new applications for inclusion must be received by that date if you wish to participate in the Annual Meeting on 8th May. Forms are available in the Tower Room or contact Eve Scoreby, Electoral Roll Officer. 01904 489008 or email eve_scoreby@hotmail.co.uk

St Nicholas PCC secretary: We are in urgent need for someone to take on the important role of PCC secretary for the coming year when Eve Scoreby steps down after the APCM in May. The role requires organisation and word processing skills. Please pray that someone suitable can be found to take on this vital role. If you think this might be something that you could help with and you want further information, please talk to Eve.

Bereavement Café: Our next Café is on Wednesday 30th March from 9.45 until 11.15 at St Nicholas Church. Do consider coming or inviting someone who has been bereaved.

Readers and Intercessors at St Nicholas: The new rota is about to be prepared and we welcome new people to this rota. Please let Judith Hewitt know by 3rd April if you want to join the rotas, or if you don't want to be part of this ministry. If you are interested in preparing and leading the intercessions, please speak to Mark or Judith, who will talk you through what is expected.

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.

Donations for Ukraine: After the services, at St Nicholas, on Sundays 27th March and 3rd April, there will be a retiring collection for the DEC Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal.

Benefice Easter Card: We hope to have the cards ready for delivery from 3rd April. It would be good to have them delivered before palm Sunday 10th April.

Derwent Deanery warmly welcomes you to a “Quiet Time”, led by Bishop David Smith at Aughton Church on 2 April from 10.00 am 'til 1.00pm. You are welcome to bring a packed lunch and remain for fellowship. Drink-making facilities are available. We would appreciate a donation of £5 per head if that is possible to gift to the host parish. Contact Alison (allie.48@yahoo.com) for more details.

Lent Course: We are 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.

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.



York City of Sanctuary are creating a new “Register of Interest” of people willing to provide Homestay or Befriending on a temporary basis.

HOMESTAY – Do you have spare accommodation that you are able to offer on a temporary basis to one or more people who find themselves in York or the surrounding area unable to return to their country of origin.

BEFRIENDING – Would you would like to volunteer on our befriending project, offering newcomers support, advice and friendship.

Visit their web page <https://york.cityofsanctuary.org/ukraine> where you will find the link to an online form to register your interest.

Lectiary Corner at St Nicholas

27 March: Mothering Sunday

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 3rd April** [Email items to grapevine.rey@gmail.com](mailto:grapevine.rey@gmail.com) by **9.00 am on Thursday 31st March**