

# Newsletter

**Sunday 10th July: Trinity 4**

Readings: Deuteronomy 30.9-14; Colossians 1.1-14; Luke 10.25-37

## Today

- 10.30am Benefice Service: St Nicholas, Dunnington  
**Revd Canon Nick Bird, Revd Mark Poole, Judith Hewitt**
- 12.30pm Bring your own picnic: The Rectory, Stockton

please note: there will be no other services today -  
this is Nick's last service



[Online Benefice Worship \(YouTube\)](#)

## This week

### Monday 11th July

- 9.00am [Morning Prayer \(zoom\)](#)  
10.00am Dunnington Library Coffee Morning

### Tuesday 12th July

- 9.00am Morning Prayer: St Mary, Warthill  
1.45pm Little People: St Nicholas Tower Room

### Wednesday 13th July

- 9.00am Holy Communion: St Nicholas, Dunnington  
9.45am Coffee: St Nicholas, Dunnington  
10.00am Holy Communion: Holy Trinity, Stockton  
7.00pm [Compline \(zoom\)](#)

### Thursday 14th July

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

### Saturday 16th July

- 10.00am Community Café: St Nicholas Tower Room

### Sunday 17th July: Trinity 5

Readings: Genesis 18.1-10a; Colossians 1.15-28;  
Luke 10.38-end

- 8.00am Holy Communion: St Nicholas, Dunnington  
10.30am Morning Worship: St Nicholas, Dunnington  
10.30am Morning Worship: St Mary, Warthill  
10.30am Holy Communion: Holy Trinity, Stockton



[Online Benefice Worship \(YouTube\)](#)

## What does loving God look like?

**by Revd Canon Nick Bird**

Beware of those who are sticklers for the rules. The parable of the Good Samaritan disturbs our religious preoccupations, both liturgical and doctrinal. It is a stark warning to, and against, clergy and the pious laity.

It is worth noticing that, in response to the question 'What must I do to inherit eternal life?', the correct answers, given by this testing lawyer, are all about love. And further, Jesus does not say that one must believe this (loving God with heart, mind, soul and strength), but do it.

The thing about the priest and Levite is that they are doing the right thing, they are above reproach. They leave Jerusalem and head toward Jericho, ritually clean, undoubtedly after a faithful time serving in the temple, having worshipped their socks off. They are respected members of Jewish society, and they are following the rules. Both in turn come across a blooded man, quite possibly dead, stripped of his clothing, identity, dignity, and perhaps his life. To touch, or even come too close, would be to become ritually unclean, which would mean turning around and heading back to Jerusalem to undergo the rites of cleansing. Of course they shouldn't stop and approach! Of course they would not have been criticised for walking on by on the other side of the road. This is what they believed and what they knew, and what their teachers would have told them to do, and so they did nothing.

The Samaritan who followed them was not constrained by such rules, and he did not need to be a stickler for them. He didn't know whether this person was Jew or Gentile, Samaritan or other – what he saw was someone in need, and he responded with compassion and action. All that worship at the temple had not touched the hearts of the priest or Levite. Does it touch ours?

I think the older I get, the more I understand that it is about compassion – the Christian life in general, and church ministry in particular. What am I called to do as a priest? To love God and my neighbour, focussed in a very particular geographical area. But compassion, as with the Samaritan, leads us into right action, it is our guide and motivator. My job over the past 13 years serving in these parishes has primarily been to love the people to whom I've been sent, and in many ways I'm only just learning the depths of this, and know I have failed many times.

So when in doubt, maybe we should simply be asking ourselves, 'Is this the compassionate and merciful thing to do?' And, if it is, then we should probably do it, and quickly. Action motivated by compassion will nearly always be the right thing to do, even if some may think it wrong. And, at the end of the day, I am much more likely to be able to rest easy with myself, be at peace in my soul, or defend my actions with confidence, if I can honestly say that I acted out of love, pity and compassion, than if, in my uncertainty or by conviction, I walked by on the other side. This, I believe, is what loving God looks like.

Nick Bird

# Parish news & events

**Sunday 10th July:** Today, at 10.30, at St Nicholas Church we will be having a Benefice service to celebrate Nick and the family's ministry with us, and to say 'thank you'. Do come and share with us, or join us at The Rectory Stockton on the Forest YO32 9UR (Mark and Emma's garden) from 12.30 for a 'Bring your own' picnic lunch and when we can say 'Thank You' to Nick for all that he and the family have meant to us.

You will need to bring your own picnic (plus maybe a bit extra to share in case people like the look of what you're eating and haven't brought enough themselves!) including whatever you like to drink. Mark and Emma have kindly offered to provide tea and coffee.

You will also need to bring something to sit on.

We have one church gazebo which will be put up to provide some shelter, but if you have one that you could bring, please let Carole know.

If the weather is really awful, then we will rearrange on the day.

There is a list in St Nicholas Church to sign if you are able to offer / need a lift over to Stockton on Forest on the day. It would be good to minimise the number of cars going over.

**Help needed today after 10.30 service:** Unfortunately the person who had volunteered to serve drinks after Nick's last service has had to withdraw. Judith has kindly said she will set everything up, but we need someone to serve drinks to those who want to stay after the service (and clear up afterwards). If you are able to help out we would be SO grateful.

**Bring your own picnic:** Please do not arrive at the Rectory in Stockton before 12.30 on Sunday, 10th. There maybe parking available in the Village Hall car park, if not please park carefully so you do not obstruct drives. Don't forget something to sit on!

**Coffee at St Nicholas:** Coffee after services offers a time of fellowship. If you can set up and serve coffee please sign the list on the rota board in the Tower Room. Not sure what is involved, then speak to someone on the rota already.

**Reading Rota at St Nicholas:** It will soon be time to prepare the next rota to take us to the end of the year. If you would like to be included in the new rota, please let Judith know by 7th August. We will assume you wish to stay on the rota unless you say otherwise. If you are interested in leading intercessions, please speak to Mark or Judith.

**Jubilee High Tea, Weds 20th July, 1pm:** Year 8 would like to invite you to a free community event as part of their Young Leaders Award. The event will take place at Archbishop Holgate's School and will include musical entertainment, free refreshments, bingo and a raffle. If you have any questions please email [khollinger@ahs.pmat.academy](mailto:khollinger@ahs.pmat.academy) or call the school on 01904 411341.

**Bee-Friendly Trail:** If you can help serve refreshments, and/or provide a cake, over the weekend 23rd and 24th July, please sign the list in the Tower Room. This event will raise funds for the DEC and St Nicholas Church Building Fund.

**31st July:** Today will be a Benefice Service at St Mary, Warhill, at 10.30. There will be no other services in the Benefice that day.

**Grapevine deadline:** The deadline for the August edition is **Wednesday 13th July**. Please let Lou have any items for inclusion as soon as possible.

**Derwent Deanery** is holding its annual social afternoon at Dam End Farm, Kelfield Lane, Riccall, YO19 6PQ on the afternoon of 17 July by kind invitation of Mrs Anne Saunders. We will start at 2.30pm and finish at 5.00pm with a short open-air service. All are welcome. Please bring with you your picnic, and maybe a little extra to share, (Anne has chairs), any musical instruments to join in with our worship and any lawn games you may have. We look forward to seeing you there to chat, play games and share worship. The farm at the edge of Riccall village on the left as you leave Riccall heading for Kelfield. For further details please contact Alison on 01904 489148.

**Dunnington PCC** meet on Wednesday 13th July, please remember the members in your prayers. Thank you.

**Messy Church:** We have our next activity on Saturday 16th July at Stockton Village Hall. If you can offer some food items for refreshments, please sign the list in the Tower Room. Thank you.

## Lectionary Corner at St Nicholas

11 July: Benedict of Nursia, Abbot of Monte

Cassino, Father of Western Monasticism c.550

14 July: John Keble, Priest, Tractarian, Poet 1866

15 July: Swithun, Bishop of Winchester c.862

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

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 17th July** - please email items to [grapevine.rey@gmail.com](mailto:grapevine.rey@gmail.com) by 9.00 am on **Thursday 14th July**