



NEWSLETTER

Sunday 2 August - Trinity 8

Isaiah 55.1-5; Romans 9.1-5; Matthew 14.13-21



Online Benefice Service this Sunday

A service of worship, including a homily from Mark Poole and contributions from around the benefice, will be shared on the **St Nicks YouTube channel**
www.youtube.com/channel/UC_10sXmB7N5CKsD60_eRXjg.



Dial-a-service 899433

You can dial in and to listen to the service at any time during the week. It's the cost of a local call and very simple to do. Dial 899433. You will first hear a recorded voice with an American accent welcoming you to the service, then be asked to wait a moment. There might be a bit of a pause as the service recording uploads (15-20 seconds). Enjoy!



Waterfalls, hills and terrifying bulls - a reflection from Revd Nick Bird

Last week my family and I took a holiday in the North Pennines, a welcome break in one of the most beautiful areas of northern England. My dad, who seems to forget nothing that he has ever seen or read, cheerily told me that I would enjoy revisiting areas familiar from walking the Pennine Way 32 years ago. Nothing – I remembered nothing from what I saw! It all seemed new to me.

However, a bit like funerals, it's easier to remember the melody than the lyrics. Few people remember the words that a minister speaks on such occasions, but the way it is done, the manner in which it is held, that sinks deeply into people's souls. And so it was in the Pennines. I remember very little of the details, but the humbling sense of smallness and vulnerability, of being outsized by nature in all its forms, remains to this day. Last week we walked alongside the River Nent into Alston, with its surprisingly powerful waterfalls, and odd patches of redness on the river rocks, making them look like miniature sites of pagan sacrifice. To fall in the water at the wrong place would have caused certain harm. The hills outsized us and the views were spectacular. A gentle stroll quickly turned into an exhausting hike, unlike anything in the Vale of York (even our Mill Hill on the border of Dunnington and Holtby looks more like a mole hill), and reminding us that we are but a speck on the landscape, insignificant in both proportion and

duration. And then the field of bulls. There are few things that put one in one's place than a creature who looks at you like an inconvenient plaything, and we spotted them only when we were already half way through their meadow!

The scale of the topography helped me to reset my awareness. Not simply my tiny human presence in a vast space, but also the effect of human intervention on the landscape over many years. This is both a natural and worked space, a rich green space that has been altered by many hands and industrial minds, which

together have brought about profound change. It reminded me of the effect of gentle winds on vast sand dunes. Given time and persistence, something that seems immense and immovable can be transformed. And perhaps that is a metaphor for prayer, or maybe for how the Spirit of God has her effect on us. Maybe it is not the solidity of God that our prayers change, but the hardness of our hearts, transformed by the whispering breeze of God praying in us. The gift of God is both time and persistence.

Nick



Photo by Jude Bird



Do you need practical support or a friendly chat?

If you need help/support but don't know who your local Community Support Group volunteers are, please email covid19eastYork@gmail.com, or call Rev Nick Bird on 01904 489349 and we will link you up.

Services and private prayer in our church buildings

Holtby

Morning Prayer (service) Monday 9.00am
Open for private prayer Thurs 10am - 1pm, Sun 1pm - 4pm

Warthill

Morning Prayer (service) Tuesday 9.00am
Open for private prayer Thurs 1 - 4pm, Sun 1pm - 4pm

Stockton

Morning Prayer (service) Wednesday 9.00am
Open for private prayer Wed 1pm - 4pm, Sun 1pm - 4pm

Dunnington

Morning Prayer (service) Thursday 9.00am
Open for private prayer Thurs 10am - 12pm, Sun 3pm - 5pm

Compline (online)

You are very welcome to (virtually) join Revd Nick Bird and others for a quiet service of Compline every Wednesday evening at 7.00pm. This is held online using Zoom. You can either download the free Zoom app or just join us through your web browser at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86707839332>. The Meeting ID is 867 0783 9332.



News from the Methodist Circuit

Circuit Service

A Circuit Service video has been produced to be shown this Sunday on the Circuit YouTube channel. We encourage you to tune in to hear about some of the things that are going on and plans for the future.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMZII3vykFEonZ-EQbbhuQ>

Worship resources

Please see our webpage which lists a number of worship resources and services being arranged locally <https://www.yorkmethodist.org.uk/coronavirus-information.html>

Pastoral Letter from Revd Leslie Newton

Leslie challenges us all to use our 'peripheral vision' to focus on those who find themselves 'at the edge'. If you are unable to access this, or anything else from the Circuit News email electronically please contact Diane who will give you a printed copy.

Praying for our Circuit

The church on the Circuit Prayer Rota for 2 August is West Thorpe. 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 in this time.

Dunnington Prayer Meeting

The Prayer Meeting, which formerly took place in Dunnington Methodist Church at 9.45am on Tuesday mornings, has now restarted in the garden of 23, Garden Flats Lane at 10.30am on Thursday mornings (under cover if wet). Anyone is welcome to come along but, because of social distancing, could you please ring Pat on 488919 to let her know you are coming. Thank you.

York School of Ministry

YSOM offers courses for personal interest, lay, licensed and ordained ministries that are Biblically based and mission-focused. They are now recruiting for September 2020 with courses being offered initially online with a move to a blended learning approach with additional face to face teaching as the social distancing rules are relaxed. Read more at <http://www.ysom.org.uk/>



York Interfaith Group



York Interfaith Group is a member of the Interfaith Network for the United Kingdom and its aims are:

"to advance public knowledge and mutual understanding of the teachings, traditions and practices of the different faith communities in Britain including an awareness both of their distinctive features and their common ground and to promote good relations between persons of different faiths"

Our next meeting is titled 'God and Covid19' and will take place virtually using zoom on Tuesday 4 August at 7.30pm.

If you are not on our mailing list, but would like to attend this meeting please email Anne Castle am.castle@btopenworld.com

Lectionary Corner

5 August: Oswald, King of Northumbria, Martyr, 642.

6 August: The Transfiguration of Our Lord.

8 August: Dominic, Priest, Founder of the Order of Preachers, 1221.

The readings and prayers for this week are available on:

www.stnicholasdunnington.org.uk/news/newsletter-2820.php

God of stories,

Thank you for the stories that tell us of your presence
in our world,

Old Testament stories, of those who struggled with
what it means to be your people;
Help us to learn and to follow you.

New Testament stories, of Jesus and the first
Christians,

Help us to learn and to praise you.

Stories in our own lives, in our church's life, in the
world around us,

Help us to see you at work today;
And to share that with others.

Amen.

Would you like to receive this newsletter by email? Contact Victoria on grapevine.rey@gmail.com. It is also available to download from the St Nicholas Church website at www.stnicholasdunnington.org.uk/news/

Next newsletter on **Sunday 9 August**. Items to grapevine.rey@gmail.com by **9.00 am on Thursday 6 August**.