



NEWSLETTER

Sunday 3 January - Epiphany

Isaiah 60.1-6; Ephesians 3.1-12; Matthew 2.1-12



Today

Online [United Covenant Service](#)
Dunnington Methodist Church

11.30am [Post-service coffee & chat via Zoom](#)

Holy Trinity, Stockton

10.30 am Morning Worship*

- 1—4pm Holy Trinity Holtby open for private prayer
- 1—4pm St Mary Warthill open for private prayer
- 1—4pm Holy Trinity Stockton open for private prayer
- 2—4pm St Nicholas open for private prayer

This week

Monday 4 January

9.00am Morning Prayer : Holy Trinity, Holtby

Tuesday 5 January

9.00am Morning Prayer : St Mary, Warthill

Wednesday 6 January

9.00am Morning Prayer : Holy Trinity, Stockton
1—4pm Holy Trinity Stockton open for private prayer
7.00pm [Compline via Zoom](#)

Thursday 7 January

9.00am Morning Prayer : St Nicholas, Dunnington
10am—12 St Nicholas open for private prayer
1—4pm Holy Trinity Holtby open for private prayer
1—4pm St Mary Warthill open for private prayer

Sunday 10 January : Baptism of Christ

2 Samuel 7.1-11, 16; Romans 16.25-end; Luke 1.26-38

Online [Benefice Worship Service](#)

11.30am [Post-service coffee & chat via Zoom](#)

Holy Trinity, Stockton

10.30 am Morning Worship*

- 1—4pm Holy Trinity Holtby open for private prayer
- 1—4pm St Mary Warthill open for private prayer
- 1—4pm Holy Trinity Stockton open for private prayer
- 2—4pm St Nicholas open for private prayer

* Places must be reserved by contacting Ennis Tweddle (Churchwarden) 400364/ennisjacksonuk@yahoo.co.uk.

For all services in the church buildings, please wear a face covering, sanitise your hands, sit in designated seats only, and take your service sheet home afterwards.

New Year

a reflection by Revd Keith Albans

Welcome to 2021 and, for the first time since 1991, this year is a semi-prime number – that is the product of two prime numbers (43 and 47). Another fact about the number 2021 is not repeated until we reach 23,073,409,469,011,482,307,340,946,901,147, but I'll let you work that out for yourselves!

Attitudes to New Year vary. On the one hand, the second at which 2020 became 2021 is no different from those which preceded it or follow it, so why bother marking it? Then again, there is something about starting afresh and going back to the beginning which is exciting and full of possibilities. But while I suspect most of us were glad to consign 2020 to history, judging by the week's news there will be much that is horribly familiar for at least the first part of 2021.

On Boxing Day I went with my grandchildren and their parents for a walk round Moorlands nature reserve. It's one of my favourite spots, particularly in May when the Azaleas are in full bloom. Last weekend it was cold and damp with bare wood everywhere, but with signs of hope if you looked – buds showing through on the ground and, as the picture shows, buds on the branches. Rather like the news of a second approved vaccine, the dismal present can be illumined by the possibility of what might yet be – not always obvious, but there to be glimpsed and imagined.



This week we enter the season of Epiphany – or manifestation. The Magi had little idea of what they were looking for when they set out but, like Abraham, they knew that setting out was important in opening up divine possibilities. It led them to discover God present in a small child and brought them to their knees in worship. We none of us know what 2021 will bring or where we will end up, but let's at least set out in hope, believing that God is there to be glimpsed along the way.

Keith Albans – Methodist Minister



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 covid19east york@gmail.com, or call Rev Nick Bird on 01904 489349 and we will link you up.

Parish Churches News & Events

YORK MINSTER – Parish Passes 2021

The Parish Pass entitles church members of parishes and benefices in the Diocese of York to visit York Minster and the Undercroft for sightseeing during normal opening hours.

In 2021, the Parish Pass scheme is going digital!

Due to the impact of Covid, in a change from previous years, those planning to visit York Minster need to **make a reservation in advance**, because the number of people visiting each day is strictly limited. You need to make a reservation for a specific date and time from the www.yorkminster.org website.

NB. When you visit you need to take proof of residency in the Diocese, a copy of the Parish Pass and your reservation.

If you do not have internet access, please 'phone 01904 557275 to make a Parish Pass booking for a specific date and time.

Eve Scoreby, Dunnington PCC Secretary
eve_scoreby@hotmail.com or 07746765274.

Christmas 2020 : Connection

A poem by a member of St Nicholas Church

There are only so many times
I can wish you Happy Christmas;
write a cheerful card,
send an email or a text.
I might wave through your window
on my walk round the village,
worship online at the same time
as you, though perhaps not.

So please, be assured:
I am there if you need me,
as I know you are for me.
I hold you in my thoughts, yet also
release you into the overarching love
of the Living God.

Jesus is the vine, we are the branches.
The Spirit flows like sap,
connecting His people always.
We remain in His love.



Knitted by Margaret Eldridge

Dunnington Methodist Church

Friends.

I hope that you have managed to have as good a Christmas as was possible in these times, and that the true spirit of the season became all the more important to you, as the less important things were not there to worry about!!

I also hope you were able to access some of the lovely services provided online by the Circuit and by our friends at St Nicholas. I am still in awe at the technical ability required to produce these events and marvel at what I am seeing. I can only say a huge 'Thank You' to those involved in the production.

News from the Methodist Circuit

The **Covenant Service** for 3rd January will be available to view on the Circuit YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMZlI3vyksFEonZ-EQbbhuQ>. This is obviously a very important service for us and is unique to Methodism. It is a distinctive resolution at the heart of devotion, discipleship and our dedication to working for social justice, based on God's gracious offer to all men and women, of a relationship with Him. The Covenant is not a contract in which God and human beings agree to provide particular goods and services for each other, but a means of grace by which we accept, and live within, the loving relationship that God has already offered us. The service is a gift not a demand! and God will give you the grace to do it all. You are not alone!

Praying for our Circuit 3rd January

We give thanks for the season of Christmas and the good news that God is with us. As we look ahead to the New Year, we pray for God's blessing on ourselves, our families, our churches and our nation over the coming year.

God of the past, the present, and the future,
Help us to learn from the past, but not to be held back by it,
Comfort us in the present, and help us to live out our calling,
Give us wisdom for the future, and hope for that which is yet to come.
Amen.



The church on the Circuit Prayer Rota for 3rd January is **Huby**. 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 at this time.

Please continue to check www.yorkmethodist.org.uk for information on services and Covid guidance or contact Revd Keith Albans.

Lectern Corner

6 January: Epiphany

O God, who by the leading of a star manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: mercifully grant that we, who know you now by faith, may at last behold your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

[This week's full lectionary info.](#)



To receive this newsletter by email, [email Victoria](mailto:email.victoria). It is also available to download from the St Nicholas Church website.
To receive the Methodist Circuit News, please [email the Circuit office](mailto:email.the.circuit.office) or phone 07984 019995.

Next newsletter on **Sunday 10 January**. [Email items to grapevine.rev@gmail.com](mailto:Email.items.to.grapevine.rev@gmail.com) by **9.00 am on Thursday 7 January**