



NEWSLETTER

Sunday 31 January - Candlemas

Malachi 3.1-5; Hebrews 2.14-end; Luke 2.22-40



Today

Any time [Benefice Worship Service](#)
(youtube) with a homily from Judith Hewitt

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



This week

Monday 1 February

9.00am [Morning Prayer via zoom](#)

Tuesday 2 February

9.00am [Morning Prayer via zoom](#)

Wednesday 3 February

9.00am [Morning Prayer via zoom](#)

7.00pm [Compline via Zoom](#)

Thursday 4 February

9.00am [Morning Prayer via zoom](#)

Sunday 7 February : 2nd before Lent

Proverbs 8.1, 22-31; Colossians 1.15-20; John 1.1-14

Any time [Benefice Worship Service](#)
(youtube) with a homily from Nicky Gladstone

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

Community Support Group



We are still here to help

If you would like someone to collect your shopping, or to walk your dog, or if you'd like a friendly chat on the phone

Contact Rev. Nick Bird
01904 489349 : revnickbird@gmail.com
who will put you in touch with your local contact

Luke 2.22-40

A Mass of Candles

a reflection by Revd Nick Bird

On February 2nd it will be 40 days since Christmas, that great feast of the Incarnation: 'con carne' – with flesh. The eternal Word took on the mantle of human anatomy and joined us in our earthly venture. The human body, so it turns out, was good enough for God.

40 is a common biblical number: 40 years in the wilderness; 40 days in the desert; 40 days from resurrection to ascension. In fact, Google tells me that the number 40 is mentioned 146 times in the bible (who knew?!). One of those 40s was when Mary took Jesus to the Jerusalem temple, to be purified herself, and to present Jesus to God, and Simeon proclaims him 'A light to lighten the gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel', the whole world, in fact.

The tradition at Candlemas was to bless all the candles that will be used in the coming year, both in church and at home.

Conveniently, the feast falls half way between the winter solstice and the spring equinox and so the light increases and the darkness is displaced. And, as is so often the case, we do well not to push back against the movements of the natural world, as we might choose not to do against the modern world, the pagan or the cultural calendars, for divine economy and the life of the church are not coterminous. If Candlemas teaches us anything it is that God leaks!

In the same way that daylight pivots toward summer at this point in the year, so we pivot toward Easter and prepare our hearts and minds for that journey to the cross once more.

Nick



Parish Churches News & Events

St Nicholas Church

The PCC are pleased to have captured what we believe is God's mission for the people of our parish, see below. Our next step is make plan(s) for how we progress this. We will be dovetailing this with existing plans that were created out of the fruitful work done on '*Leading Your Church Into Growth*'. I am seeking interested and willing folks to create a small team to do this. If this could be you I would love to hear from you. Every blessing, Mark revmarkpoole20@gmail.com

St Nicholas Church Mission Statement 2020/2021

'A Christ-like presence with the people of Dunnington'

This is our Mission Statement because:

We believe that, in Jesus, God has revealed the most compelling way to be fully human and fully alive. God is calling us to respond to His love, to flourish as a community and to practise the way of Jesus filled with his Spirit and rooted in the Bible and the Holy Sacraments.

We aim to embody this by being a church community that shows and shares the love of Jesus by providing to all:

- A **home** of encounter, acceptance, safety, warmth and shelter
- A **place** of refuge for those who are struggling
- An **opportunity** for community enrichment
- An **inspiration** for worship, repentance, restoration, holiness and love
- An **oasis** for spiritual well-being, nourishment and transformation in the aftermath of a global pandemic
- A **commitment** to justice and the care of God's creation

Lectionary Corner

31 January: Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas)

3 February: Anskar, Archbishop of Hamburg, Missionary in Denmark and Sweden 865



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

Dunnington Methodist Church

Dear Friends

As the Church Building remains closed at this time we hope you remain safe and well and look forward to a point in time when we can all meet together safely. In the meantime, we hope you will be able to access services online, or via the printed version which Diane kindly delivers, and find out more about the Lent Course mentioned below.

If there is anything we might be able to help you with, do not hesitate to call one of the stewards:

Anne Castle 01904 481656,
Diane Conway 01904 489495
Chris Spedding 01904 481867

News from the Methodist Circuit

Worship

Online worship produced by the Circuit can be found on the [Circuit YouTube channel](#) and a [list of online worship services around the Circuit](#) is available.

Lent Course

You are invited to join in an online six week Lent course focusing on John's Passion Narratives, with sessions on Tuesdays, Wednesdays or Thursdays, beginning the first full week of Lent and ending in Holy Week. The 6 passages are:

- John 18: 1-11 - For whom are you looking?
- John 18: 12-27 - Before the High Priest and Denial
- John 18: 28-40 - Before Pilate
- John 19: 1-16 - Mob Rule
- John 19: 17-30 - Crucified
- John 19: 31-42 - The Aftermath

Contact Keith Albans, Ruth Duck or Alyson Christy for more details and to get the joining details.

Lent

Are you planning on giving something up for Lent? Is there something you have already given up, perhaps as a result of Covid? Would you be willing to talk to us about it to be shared on social media during Lent? Please get in touch with Lois Cross. Tel: 07984 019995 Email: yorkcircuitoffice@gmail.com

York Methodist Circuit Hub, Melbourne Terrace Methodist Church, Cemetery Road, York, YO10 5AF

27th January was Holocaust Memorial Day, with the theme of being light in the darkness. Why not light a candle while you consider how you can be a light in dark places? <https://www.hmd.org.uk/what-is-holocaust-memorial-day/this-years-theme/>

RAY- requests for donations

As many of the men originally accommodated in York have been transferred elsewhere, Refugee Action York are now welcoming new asylum seekers and would be very grateful to receive:

- Men's jogging trousers (sizes S, M and L)
- Men's jeans, waist sizes 30", 32", 34" 36" and 38" (especially skinny jeans)
- Men's fleeces and warm jumpers (sizes M and L)
- Men's trainers (especially sizes 8 and 9)
- Large cases/bags (preferably with wheels)
- Rucksacks (s, m and l)



You can drop them off at 46 Eastfield Avenue, Haxby, YO32 3EZ, or contact Steph for other drop off points, or to arrange for someone to collect them (stephcooper46@outlook.com; 01904 761605). Alternatively, monetary donations would be welcome to enable us to purchase any items that are needed.

Praying for our Circuit

The church on the Circuit Prayer Rota for **31st January is Poppleton**. 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.

Notice

Rev. Nigel Hannah, Supernumerary Minister in the Circuit died in hospital at the end of last week.

To receive this newsletter by email, [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](#) or phone 07984 019995.

Next newsletter on **Sunday 7 February** Email items to grapevine.rev@gmail.com by **9.00 am on Thursday 4 February**