

NEWSLETTER

Sunday 12 December: Advent 3

Readings: Zephaniah 3.14-end; Philippians 4.4-7; Luke 3.7-18



Today

- 8.00am Holy Communion: St Nicholas, Dunnington
Rev Nick Bird
- 10.30am Family Worship Christingle : St Mary,
Warthill
Rev Mark Poole
- 12.30pm Holy Communion: St Nicholas, Dunnington
Rev Nick Bird
- 4.00pm Carol Service: Holy Trinity, Holtby
6.00pm Carol Service: Holy Trinity, Stockton
At St Nicholas
- 9.30am Church open for quiet prayer and reflection
10.00am Coffee, reflection, prayer and music
10.30am Morning Worship : Judith Hewitt



[Online Benefice Worship](#) (YouTube)

This week

Monday 13 December

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

Tuesday 14 December

- 9.00am Morning Prayer: St Mary, Warthill
11.30am Funeral : St Nicholas, Dunnington
1.45pm Little People, Play and Praise: St Nicholas
Tower Room
7.00pm PCC Get Together: St Nicholas Tower Room

Wednesday 15 December

- 9.00am Holy Communion: St Nicholas, Dunnington
10.00am Holy Communion: Holy Trinity, Stockton
10.30am Funeral : St Nicholas, Dunnington
2.30pm Methodist Tea & Chat : St Nicholas Tower
Room
7.00pm [Compline \(zoom\)](#)

Thursday 16 December

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

Saturday 18 December

- 10.00 am Community Café: St Nicholas Tower Room
10.00am Christmas Coffee Morning: Holy Trinity,
Stockton

Sunday 19 December: Advent 4

Readings: Micah 5.2-5a; Hebrews 10.5-10; Luke 1.39-55

- 8.00am Holy Communion: St Nicholas, Dunnington
9.00am Holy Communion : St Mary, Warthill
10.30am Holy Communion: St Nicholas, Dunnington
10.30am Morning Worship : Holy Trinity, Stockton
6.00pm Carol Service : St Nicholas, Dunnington



[Online Benefice Worship](#) (YouTube)

A reflection from Revd Nick Bird

Time and Space

Luke 3.1-6

Friends,

Our gospel reading from last week seems typical of St Luke, with his historical and ancestral references. At the end of the third chapter, in the same manner as St Matthew, he attempts to trace the lineage of Jesus directly back to God, via Adam, who was the 'son of God'. This same chapter begins with a precise description of who, when and where the ministry of John the Baptist began; who the Emperor was, the Governor, the Jewish King and the High Priest. St Luke wants us to hear that, whatever drama is taking place, it took place at a particular time and in a particular place. He sets the stage in the way that Shakespeare might have, with a backdrop and all the right props, and into the scene walks John with his message of repentance and baptism.

This is a drama, and a big one, invoking the prophets from of old, with resonances and echoes that would have been heard wide and deep. And as Luke carefully sets the stage for John the Baptist, so John sets the stage for Jesus, who arrives in full adulthood a few verses later.

We are to hear this clearly. Jesus does not simply arrive, he is well prepared for. "Prepare the way of the Lord", as John quotes Isaiah in saying: preparations which began centuries before. This is a stage of epic proportions and a drama that began beyond time and space, and which is now being inserted into the here and now. The transcendent becomes physical, and the omnipresent becomes immediate. The stage is not simply set so that we can read about it as one of the great epics of old. The drama is elaborately and skilfully laid out so that we too can find our place in the greatest odyssey of all time.



The eagle-eyed among you may have noticed that the date for Stockton's Christmas Coffee Morning has changed—this isn't a mistake! The coffee morning will now be held on **18th December** rather than **11th December**, in order not to clash with Stockton Hall's Christmas Fair.

Parish Churches News & Events

A letter from the Healthcare Workers' Foundation to St Nicholas Church:

Thank you very much for sending on a cheque of £1,700 as a donation to the Healthcare Workers' Foundation. We are extremely grateful for your support. Do please pass on our thanks for this to the congregation and friends of St Nicholas' Church.

Your donation will assist us in continuing our work to ensure that our healthcare workers receive support at this exceedingly difficult point in time. We are providing hospitals, and other care settings with a range of services and support including: refurbishment of staff room facilities, counselling sessions, a package of services under our Families Programme banner to help those families of healthcare workers lost to Covid-19, and a Memorial Fund to support their children through further education. We are just in the final stages of completing staff room facility upgrades at York Hospital, amongst others.

Very many thanks, again, for this contribution, which is much appreciated.

Wednesday 15th December: There will be no coffee after the 9.00am service as there is a funeral.

Tea and Chat: Rev Dr John Schofield is inviting our Methodist brothers and sisters to chat over a cup of tea on Wednesday 15th December at 2.30pm.

Christmas Menu Parish Lunch: There maybe two spaces for the lunch this coming Sunday. If you are interested, please add your names to the list.

Sunday Coffee at St Nicholas. If you are able to serve coffee either before or after the service, there is a new list on the rota board. Coffee before needs to be ready for 10.00, please. We do appreciate all who volunteer to help with refreshments.

Carol Singing in Dunnington: We are Carol Singing in The Glebe carpark on Monday 20th December at 4.00pm and on The Green on Tuesday 21st December at 6.00pm. The carol sheet can be downloaded from stnicholsdunnington.org.uk and will be available as a paper copy. Don't forget to bring your musical instrument!

Bereavement Café: We recognize Christmas can be a difficult time for all who have lost a loved one, so come along on Wednesday 22nd December, from 9.45 to 11.15. Share with others and light a candle.

Christmas Communion: For all who may prefer a quieter service do come along on 23rd December at 12.30. The service will be followed by soup and a pudding. To help with catering please let Judith, 488331, know if you are coming.

Melbourne Terrace and friends carol service. Sunday 12th December, 3pm. Led by Revd Ian Hill. All welcome at Melbourne Terrace.

Clifton Methodist Church: Invite you to a Festival of Carols and Christmas Songs with York City Gospel Choir at 7:30pm on Saturday 18th December. There's no charge, but there will be a retiring collection for Action for Children.

Stamford Bridge Chapel: Invite you on Tuesday 14th December 2021 7-30pm to 8-30pm to join in with Barmby Moor Praise in Stamford Bridge Chapel. The Christmas Story, a selection of Carols, Messages and readings.

Christmas concert: Heworth Methodist Church will give a Christmas Concert Thursday 16th December at 7pm. No charge or tickets but funds for charity will be for the church's charity this year which is YOYO.

Decorating St Nicholas' Christmas Tree: We will be decorating the Christmas tree after school (3.20 onwards) on Wednesday 15th December. We would love to have your help. Please enter via the old Church door.

Carol Service at St Nicholas: We are planning to serve mulled wine, to take away or drink in, on Sunday 19th December. If you can provide mince pies and shortbread, they will be gratefully received. If you have access to large flasks, that we could borrow, to keep the mulled wine warm, please could you speak to Judith, thank you.

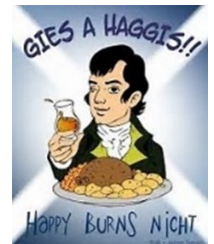
Burns Night: Informal Burns Supper Friday 28th January 2022, 7.00 pm in the Tower Room, Dunnington.

Haggis, tatties and neeps (alternative veggie haggis option) plus soup and dessert.

Bring your own drink

Dress – Smart Casual (but feel free to wear your kilt if you wish)

Tickets £7.50 - numbers are limited so don't delay! - contact Judith Hewitt 488331; Eve Scoreby 489008; Joan Verrier 481626 or Diane Benson 07951 582672.



Advent at St Nicholas Church: In the Lady Chapel there are some prayer stations to help you through the season of Advent. Do explore them either on a Sunday or during the week. The Church is open daily from 9.00 until 4.00pm. On the first Sunday in Advent, we remember that Advent is a time of waiting and longing. What are you waiting for?

Lectionary Corner at St Nicholas

13 December : Lucy, Martyr at Syracuse

14 December : John of the Cross, Poet & Teacher of the Faith

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 19th December** [Email items to grapevine.rey@gmail.com](mailto:grapevine.rey@gmail.com) by 9.00 am on **Thursday 16th December**.