

All Saints

NETTLEHAM PARISH CHURCH

St. Mary's

RISEHOLME PARISH CHURCH

The Good News from Nettleham

Sunday 8th December

Advent 2

No 127

Father Richard writes...

If our biblical Christmas timetable is about right, Mary and Joseph must have been planning their trip to Bethlehem about now. Today, the journey involves crossing a border – from Israel into Palestine. Strangely, and contentiously, the seat of the greatest ruler of Israel, David, is today in the West Bank of Palestine, a couple of miles south of Jerusalem. In Mary and Joseph's day the area around Jerusalem, in the former kingdom of Judah, still had a sense of independence, and a special place in the Jewish identity. The journey to Bethlehem is not in all the gospels, and may have been added to connect Jesus with King David. Jesus is described as being from Nazareth, where he and his family lived and worked, close by the sea of Galilee, and 30 years later the focus of Our Lord's adult ministry. In effect, then as now, free movement of people didn't exist, and all citizenship and zone borders were controlled by a foreign occupying force. Rome had put puppet kings in power, though it was not until a few years later when Jesus was about 6, that it became a fully fledged Roman province.

Our daughter has lived for several years in the area of Palestine, the West Bank, close to Jerusalem. We spoke last night, and she has been leading carol singing and music for Christmas celebrations for the last few evenings, in the vibrant, diverse cities of Palestine. She goes often to organise music classes in Bethlehem. Political pressure means she, like Joseph, has had to go to register and get an Israeli residence document.

In just the same way, we hear, Joseph had to take his dangerously pregnant wife to his ancestral city, to register, under a system imposed by the occupying government. It is as two ordinary people undertaking their civic responsibility and registering, that this couple find themselves bringing into this world a new era of peace and love, a new manifestation of the divine – God himself born into our world to transform it. A new world begins from that day, a world in which this world can become just like the kingdom of heaven, as we pray daily in our Lord's Prayer.

Before we celebrate the divine incarnation, we all have our own civic responsibility. To register and to vote. It would be vastly over-optimistic that our world might be transformed by our exercising our responsibility, as Joseph did, this Thursday. But we can pray that people will hold in their hearts and their prayers God's purpose for the world as we cast our votes, and that what ensues is, like our Lord's birth, a blow for justice and mercy, and for those who come first in the Lord's heart and reckoning.

Quote of the week.....

Google Maps

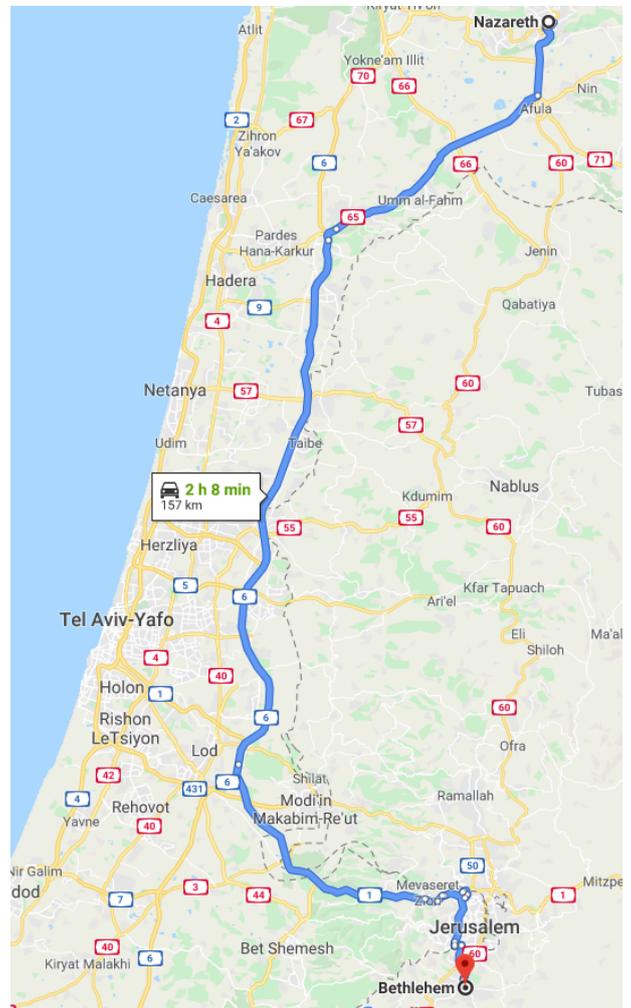
Nazareth
Israel

Get on Yitzhak Rabin Hwy/Route 6
from Route 60 and Route 65
38 min (41.0 km)

Continue on Yitzhak Rabin Hwy/Route 6
to Route 1
55 min (95.9 km)

Continue on Route 1.
Take Be'gin Blvd/Route 50.
Derech David Banbanishty,
Dov Yosef St,
Ha-Rosmarin St
and Hebron Rd to
Children St
30 min (20.2 km)

Bethlehem 5:19 PM



Prayer of the week...

O God, we acknowledge you today as Lord, not only of individuals, but of nations and governments. We thank you for the opportunity this election puts before us.

Awaken your people to know that they are not called to be a sect fleeing the world, but rather a community of faith renewing the world. Amen. *American Election Prayer*

In need of prayer....

Etienne Salt, Hugh Carter, Arielle Salt, Graham Chapman, Barry Crum, Heather Haynes, Richard Haynes, Chris Wooster, Jean Dewar, Julian Ellin, Harriet Rich and Ben Comins.

Special Prayers...

We pray for Juliette and James who are marrying next Saturday 21 December.
We wish them God's blessing as they make the final preparations for their wedding day.

RIP....

We give thanks for the lives, pray for the souls and ask comfort for the relatives and friends of Doris Coleman, Chris Giles and Eileen Briggs.

Year's Mind

Joy Leach	(2007)	Colin Dove	(2007)
Sandra Cavanagh	(2014)	Peter Hardcastle	(2009)
Marjorie Mayes	(2013)	John Bilton	(2015)
Ena Simpson	(2014)	Gertrude Terry	(2005)

Week commencing 8th December...

Sunday	Advent 2
8.00am	Said Eucharist
9.30am	Sung Eucharist
11.15am	BCP HC St Mary's Riseholme
3.00pm	Cuppa Time
4.00pm	Worship@4
6.00pm	Evening Prayer
Monday	<i>Feria</i>
Tuesday	<i>Human Rights Day</i>
9.30am	Ducklings
11.30am	Said Eucharist CW
2.00pm	Craft and Natter in the Parish Centre
Wednesday	<i>Feria</i>
10.30am	Home Communion Church View
12 noon	BCP Holy Communion
Thursday	<i>Feria – Election Day</i>
9.30am	CW Eucharist, followed by coffee in the Parish Centre
10.30am	Advent Bible Study – The four Advent candles – 3. John the Baptist
Friday	<i>Lucy, martyr, 304</i>
12.00pm	CW Eucharist
Saturday	<i>John of the Cross, poet, teacher of the faith, 1591</i>
5.30pm	Vigil Eucharist for Sunday
Sunday	Advent 3
8.00am	Said Eucharist
9.30am	Sung Eucharist
3.00pm	Cuppa Time
4.00pm	Worship@4
4.30pm	Healing and Wholeness Service in the Parish Centre
6.00pm	Carols by candlelight – St Mary's Riseholme

Weekday Morning and Evening Prayer – 9.00am and 6.00pm

Readings Sunday 15 December – Third Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 35.1-10 Psalm 146.4-10 James 5.7-10 Matthew 11.2-11

Future dates for your diary....

Lincoln Ukulele Band will be performing at the Village Hall on Saturday 14 December at 7.30 pm. Tickets £7.

15th December – 6.00pm Carols by candlelight at St Mary's Riseholme

20th December – 5.15pm. Recital by Simon Vincent before evening prayer.

21st December – 6.00pm Community Carols by Candlelight at All Saints

Prayer Diary....

Day	Diocese, wider church	Parish
Sunday 8th 2nd of Advent. Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Please pray for the Church in her prophetic ministry of calling people to repentance and recognition of Jesus our Lord. <i>Pray for the work of the Mothers' Union around the world, and for Sheran Harper (Worldwide President) and Bev Jullien (Chief Executive)</i>	Almighty God, purify our hearts and minds, that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again as judge and saviour we may be ready to receive him, who is our Lord and our God. Amen.
Monday 9th	The licensing of the Revd Peter Green to The Abbey Group of Parishes. <i>Shyogwe (Rwanda): The Rt Revd Jered Kalimba; Egba (Nigeria): The Rt Revd Emmanuel Adekunle; Lafia (Nigeria): The Rt Revd Godwin A Robinson</i>	Our clergy, Reader and Administrator <i>Pray for Fr Richard, Revd Judy. Bishop Nigel, Jane Hanson and Kath Pickering</i> We pray for the residents of The Green, The Barn flats and bungalows, Co-op flats.
Tuesday 10th Human Rights Day.	The meeting of the Diocesan Advisory Committee for the Care of Churches. <i>Sialkot (Pakistan): The Rt Revd Alwin John Samuel; Egba West (Nigeria): The Rt Revd Samuel Ajani</i>	Our choir and organists <i>Pray for choir members, for our Choir Mistress, and our organists</i> We pray for the residents of Vicarage Lane, Mill Lane and Sudbrooke Lane.
Wednesday 11th	Bishop's Staff Meeting. Please pray for the meeting of Bishop's Staff as they lead our diocese forward, and for all who work closely with them. <i>Singapore (SE Asia): The Rt Revd Rennis Ponniah; Singapore (SE Asia): The Rt Revd Low Jee King; Egbu (Nigeria): The Rt Revd Geoffrey Okoroafor; Egypt (Jerusalem & Middle East): The Rt Revd Mouneer Hanna Anis; Egypt: Vacant; Egypt: The Rt Revd Samy Fawzy</i>	Our churchwardens, sidespeople, readers and intercessors. We pray for the residents of North Street, North Close, Chapel Lane, Church Street, Ambrose Court and Cross Street.
Thursday 12th	Corby Glen: Swafield, Irnham, Kirby. The Revd Stephen Buckman. The meeting of the Bishop's Council of Diocesan Trustees. <i>Sittwe (Myanmar): The Rt Revd James Min Dein; Eha – Amufu (Nigeria): The Rt Revd Daniel Olinya</i>	Charities we support and the FiSH project We pray for the residents of Lodge Lane, Larch Avenue, the Oaks and The Hawthorns.
Friday 13th Lucy, Martyr at Syracuse, 304. Samuel Johnson, Moralists, 1784.	The North Beltisloe Group: The Revd Anna Sorensen. "Please pray for ongoing mission through Messy Church, schools and study groups; and for Ken, Diana, Colin, Fred, Tony and all those exercising a vital Christian ministry in the benefice." <i>Sittwe (Myanmar): The Rt Revd Moses Tun Pa; Ekiti (Nigeria): The Rt Revd Christopher Tayo Omotunde; Ekiti Kwara: The Rt Revd Andrew Ajayi; Ekiti Oke: The Rt Revd Isaac Olubowale; Ekiti West: The Rt Revd Rufus V A Adepoju</i>	The Sacristy team and Servers. <i>We pray for the whole team and their ministry for us</i> We pray for the residents of The Dales, Parkside, Eastway, Westway, Field Close and Greenfields.

<p>Saturday 14th John of the Cross, Poet, Teacher of the Faith, 1591</p>	<p>The Ringstone in Aveland Group: The Revd Neil Bullen. “Please pray for us as we discern how best to work together as a group and reach out to the younger families in our communities.” <i>Sodor & Man (England): The Rt Revd Peter Eagles; El Camino Real (USA): The Rt Revd Mary Gray-Reeves</i></p>	<p>Our Family Church, Cuppa Time, Ducklings and their leaders. We pray for the residents of Poacher’s Meadow, Lacey Close, Bramble Crescent, Squires Place, High Street, Becksides and Watermill Lane.</p>
<p>Sunday 15th 3rd of Advent</p>	<p>Please pray for the Church as she continues the ministry of Jesus in word and work – that the world may see and believe. <i>Sokoto (Nigeria): The Rt Revd Augustin Omole; El Salvador (Central America): The Rt Revd Juan David Alvarado Melgar</i></p>	<p>God for whom we watch and wait, you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son: give us courage to speak the truth, to hunger for justice, and to suffer the cause of right, with Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.</p>

Thank you...

A very big ‘Thank You’ to everyone who helped to make our participation in the Festive Market last Sunday such a great success! Throughout the afternoon and evening, the church was filled with music, prayer, the hustle and bustle of the market stalls and a stream of visitors not only from Nettleham, but also from the surrounding neighbourhoods and villages, which gave a brilliant feeling of community. We think we raised just over £500 for All Saints on the day, so thank you all once again. Blessings,
Lynne and Andy

Lincoln Ukulele Band...

will be performing at Nettleham Village Hall on Saturday 14 December at 7.30 pm.
Tickets £7. *Kath*

Craft items...

Please have a look in our craft basket at the back of church which has handmade items for sale in it. You might just find something useful for yourself or a Christmas present! All the proceeds go to the Tower Fund. *Lynne*

Drivers: male or female urgently needed...

Following my recent medical problem and surgery, I have an automatic minimum 6 month loss of driving licence. This leaves our group seriously short of volunteer drivers to transport anyone needing a lift to and from the 9.30am Eucharist each Sunday. We have a rota that fits in with your availability and generally involves each driver once a month. If you think you could help or need more information please contact me, Hugh Carter, group organiser, on 752378 or speak to me at church.
Many thanks,
Hugh

Church Women's Fellowship

Church Women's Fellowship will meet on Monday December 16th at 2.15 pm in the Old School (small room). We will welcome the Revd Alan Swann to our Christmas meeting.

Piano Recital....

20th December at 5:15pm in church. Simon Vincent will perform "Palais de Maris", the final piano composition by composer Morton Feldman. A moving and delicately constructed work, it is also a very spiritual work, in many ways, and perfect for late December reflection, leading into prayer at 6pm.

Joke of the week....

An Afghan, an Albanian, an Algerian, an American, an Andorran, an Angolan, an Antiguans, an Argentine, an Armenian, an Australian, an Austrian, an Azerbaijani, a Bahamian, a Bahraini, a Bangladeshi, a Barbadian, a Barbudan, a Batswanan, a Belarusian, a Belgian, a Belizean, a Beninese, a Bhutanese, a Bolivian, a Bosnian, a Brazilian, a Brit, a Bruneian, a Bulgarian, a Burkinabe, a Burmese, a Burundian, a Cambodian, a Cameroonian, a Canadian, a Cape Verdean, a Central African, a Chadian, a Chilean, a Chinese, a Colombian, a Comoran, a Congolese, a Costa Rican, a Croatian, a Cuban, a Cypriot, a Czech, a Dane, a Djibouti, a Dominican, a Dutchman, an East Timorese, an Ecuadorean, an Egyptian, an Emirian, an Equatorial Guinean, an Eritrean, an Estonian, an Ethiopian, a Fijian, a Filipino, a Finn, a Frenchman, a Gabonese, a Gambian, a Georgian, a German, a Ghanaian, a Greek, a Grenadian, a Guatemalan, a Guinea-Bissauan, a Guinean, a Guyanese, a Haitian, a Herzegovinian, a Honduran, a Hungarian, an I-Kiribati, an Icelander, an Indian, an Indonesian, an Iranian, an Iraqi, an Irishman, an Israeli, an Italian, an Ivorian, a Jamaican, a Japanese, a Jordanian, a Kazakhstani, a Kenyan, a Kittian and Nevisian, a Kuwaiti, a Kyrgyz, a Laotian, a Latvian, a Lebanese, a Liberian, a Libyan, a Liechtensteiner, a Lithuanian, a Luxembourger, a Macedonian, a Malagasy, a Malawian, a Malaysian, a Maldivan, a Malian, a Maltese, a Marshallese, a Mauritanian, a Mauritian, a Mexican, a Micronesian, a Moldovan, a Monacan, a Mongolian, a Moroccan, a Mosotho, a Motswana, a Mozambican, a Namibian, a Nauruan, a Nepalese, a New Zealander, a Nicaraguan, a Nigerian, a Nigerien, a North Korean, a Northern Irishman, a Norwegian, an Omani, a Pakistani, a Palauan, a Palestinian, a Panamanian, a Papua New Guinean, a Paraguayan, a Peruvian, a Pole, a Portuguese, a Qatari, a Romanian, a Russian, a Rwandan, a Saint Lucian, a Salvadoran, a Samoan, a San Marinese, a Sao Tomean, a Saudi, a Scottish, a Senegalese, a Serbian, a Seychellois, a Sierra Leonean, a Singaporean, a Slovakian, a Slovenian, a Solomon Islander, a Somali, a South African, a South Korean, a Spaniard, a Sri Lankan, a Sudanese, a Surinamer, a Swazi, a Swede, a Swiss, a Syrian, a Tajik, a Tanzanian, a Togolese, a Tongan, a Trinidadian or Tobagonian, a Tunisian, a Turk, a Tuvaluan, a Ugandan, a Ukrainian, a Uruguayan, a Uzbekistani, a Venezuelan, a Vietnamese, a Welshman, a Yemenite, a Zambian and a Zimbabwean

all go to a nightclub

The doorman stops them and says, sorry I can't let you in without a Thai.

Christmas at Riseholme....

Lots of people make part of their Christmas a visit to the smaller of our two churches, St Mary's, Riseholme. It is at the heart of the Riseholme estate, now part of the University of Lincoln. All are welcome – drive down the road from the A46, fork left, and as you drop down the hill and the hall and the lake start to come into sight, turn right. The beautiful 19th church by SS Teulon is on your left near the agricultural buildings. It was built for the bishops of Lincoln who lived on the site. There is a beautiful candle-lit carol service next Sunday, 15th December at 6.00 followed by mulled wine and mince pies. There is a service of Holy Communion on Christmas Day at 11.15 with carols and traditional readings. Do come and join us. All Welcome.

Understanding Eucharist: 4....

We have gathered together as the people of God, we've made preparation, we have met the Lord Jesus Christ in Holy Scripture and entered into a dialogue. Now we turn to the penultimate section of the Eucharist, in which Common Worship tells us we:

- exchange the Peace
- prepare the table
- pray the Eucharistic Prayer
- break the bread
- receive communion.

Our entry into this amazing act of sacrifice begins with greeting each other. Why? Because we fully understand that we meet our Lord and Saviour in the holy word of scripture. Jesus told us we would meet him in the blessing and breaking of bread, so we are about to do that. Jesus also told us that we meet him in each other. So we greet each other. And why would we say that we come to the Lord in faith as the body of Christ, unless we have cemented that membership of the body by affirming our togetherness. Showing that we can forget differences. In this, we bless and are blessed.

We call the next bit the Offertory – when it is a musical service we usually sing a hymn here and there are some special seasonal prayers we can say or sing. The Eucharist is an offering back to God of some of what he has given us. Does God need it? No. We give, and that makes us righteous. We need to give to God, God doesn't need what we offer. God isn't even an angry God who is appeased by what we give. We are like the child who takes a bit of her pocket money and buys a little present for their mum or their dad. OK, the parent paid for it. OK, it not something they need. But it gets a huge smile of love on the part of the parent, as it does upon the heart of God. So what do we offer? Most old religions had a practice of sacrifice as worship. We don't want a church built of animal carnage, and a smell like a barbeque. We bring bread, wine and water. They are the heart of what God has given for us, that gives us life itself. So we bring back some of it, like the child, to offer to God our parent. And at some services, we offer money. Someone must have paid for the bread and wine, but we are more personally invested in handing over some of our cash. It is ours. We worked for it. We could use it to get the things we like or need. So giving it to God is an act of love, of generosity in return for generosity. An act of sacrifice.

We place the bread and wine on the altar. It is a table, and that means a place where we eat, and welcome, and gather, and share fellowship. But we also call it an altar – that connects it with the historic idea of sacrifice. We place before God the best of what he has given us, our gifts, our hearts, and in a moment a little of his greatest gift to us, the body and blood of his son, the Word made flesh. Blessed are you, Lord God of ALL Creation! Listen carefully when the priest says those words. Think of the feeding of the 5,000. What have we got? asks the Master of the Universe. Just these little bits and pieces, his disciples say. But when we hand in love and sacrifice the last bits of what he gave us, he doesn't need it, but he takes it and makes it sufficient to feed the whole world. So, as the priest uses the Lord's words from the Last Supper, calls down the Holy Spirit, takes, blesses, gives thanks, breaks and shares, God uses these tiny morsels of his own creation and makes them sufficient for our needs and the needs of the whole world. Elevated, transfigured, adored, received. The words of the Eucharistic Prayer are the means by which this happens. The 20th century Jesuit theologian Karl Rahner said "the Eucharist is a Word event". Through the power of the words given to the priest, though the power of the Word made Flesh, God receives our offering, and we meet the Lord Jesus Christ, show our love, receive God's offering of grace, take Christ totally into ourselves. We approach in humility, receive in love, worship in adoration, and treat the whole with the profoundest respect. This is my body. Receive the Body of Christ.

Christmas Card Delivery....

We make a point of sharing our best wishes and blessings with the whole village at Christmas. Thanks to Amy, David, Cliff, Gill and Sue we have stuffed all the envelopes in record time. We just need you all now to volunteer to do the mail drop....

As an act of support and collaboration, we are also delivering cards from Nettleham Methodist Church. When you pick up the bundle for the streets you have agreed to do, you will find two sets of cards in envelopes. You need to put one of each through the letter-box of each house. This makes them very firm and much easier to get through.

The cards will be available at the back of church from today. So please sign up and set aside a bit of time to go down a street and deliver, praying as you go, and greeting those you meet with the Good News of the gospel and the joy of Christmas.

We have been giving out postcards to encourage people to come to services – if you'd like a few so you can use them to persuade friends to come along, pick them up at the back of church.

Walking round the streets and delivering our good wishes for Christmas, and the details of our seasonal worship, provides two fantastic opportunities. First, you run into all sorts of people, alone, together, with their dogs, with their little ones. Use it as an opportunity to say "Happy Christmas". Say you are delivering cards from the church – it identifies you clearly as a disciple of Christ doing the work of the gospel, and invites spiritual conversation. Secondly, at each house, you can say to yourself, or rather to God, a little prayer for the home and those that live there. Something like "God bless this house and all who live here. Bring them to hear the Good News of Christmas".

Contact...

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Parish & Deanery Office open weekdays 9.30am-12.30pm

To discuss a baptism, wedding or funeral, please call Administrator, Shirley Keyes.

If you need to talk urgently to a priest, please call Fr Richard or Reverend Judy.