

All Saints

NETTLEHAM PARISH CHURCH

St. Mary's

RISEHOLME PARISH CHURCH

The Good News from Nettleham

Sunday 19 January 2020

Epiphany 2 Unity

No 132

Father Richard writes....

This has been quite a week. Extraordinary news from a variety of places.

On Monday and Tuesday evenings last week on BBC2 there was a two-part documentary entitled "Exposed: the Church's Darkest Secret". It wasn't, in one sense news. The story that Bishop Peter Ball, bishop of Lewes and then Gloucester, had been accused of indecency with a young aspiring monk, ultimately being convicted in part, and put in prison, was "public domain". This documentary, however, explored, and dramatically reconstructed, the struggle his victims and those in the church concerned with safeguarding had to bring him to justice. The revelations were truly shocking and a matter of the deepest shame for both our Church of England and for the establishment in our nation. So many were damaged, so many were involved, so many knew and did nothing, so determined was the cocoon of protection around the perpetrator. Many young lives were deeply damaged – at least one ending in suicide. As one police officer said "for victims there is no historic abuse – they continue to live with it every day". The two things that shocked me most and are still deeply troubling my thoughts, were, first, that the hierarchy of the church – bishops who are still ministering, an Archbishop of Canterbury, many members of the house of Lords, our own Crown Prince, defied evidence, the police and even in the end the courts to protect him, to defend him, and even to provide a locus for continuing ministry and abuse. Secondly, his offending was not alongside his ministry – the ministry that his friends found so wonderfully pious and exemplary – but deeply woven into it. His exploitative, power-abusing, offensive and non-consensual practices were all perpetrated as part of his pastoral and sacramental ministry. This is deep rottenness. I suggest many of us should watch these documentaries on iPlayer – don't if you feel vulnerable, or don't have someone on whom to offload your feelings. We are the body of Christ, and this was happening in the body of Christ, pretty much in the name of our Lord. Both the abuse and the cover up. Of course Christ can take it, and Christ can heal. The cycle goes recognise, repent, absolve, heal. I feel there may be more search and cleanse before even the recognising and repenting can begin.

We've had great news as well. New resources for our church here in Nettleham – see page 7! And our analysis of attendances showing marked growth on previous years both over Christmas and week to week. Our diocese beginning to take firm action to try to balance resources (cash, people, buildings) with demand (mission, care, learning).

Quotes of the week....

“God knows why God has made some of us ecclesiastically homeless, but I hope and pray that our being so may be in service to Christian unity.”

— Stanley Hauerwas, *Hannah's Child: A Theologian's Memoir*

“Order your soul; reduce your wants; live in charity; associate in Christian community; obey the laws; trust in Providence.” - *Saint Augustine*

Prayer of the week...

God, giver of life,
we thank you for the gift of your compassionate love
which soothes and strengthens us.
We pray that our churches may be always open to receive
your gifts from one another.
Grant us a spirit of generosity to all
as we journey together in the path of Christian unity.
We ask this in the name of your Son
who reigns with you and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

In need of prayer....

Sandra Lawley, Dave Vincent, Etienne Salt, Arielle Salt, Barry Crum, Heather Haynes, Chris Wooster, Julian Ellin, Harriet Rich and Ben Comins.

Year's Mind

Connie Webster	(2017)	John Anstey	(2018)
John Oliver	(2010)	Lois Ellen Hydes	(2008)
Richard Clark	(2009)	Terrence Herrick	(2012)
Margaret Frith	(2015)	Maurice Asher	(2012)
Ronald Temperton	(2011)	Robin Southwood	(2013)

New plans from February....

As you know, we keep tweaking the pattern of our worship to respond to what is working and what isn't, and to pick up the next missional challenge. Your feedback suggests we have four big challenges – continuing the involvement of our huge number of Ducklings families when their little ones go to nursery or school; feeding those, mainly adults, who want a bigger element of teaching and perhaps a bit less sacrament and ceremony at this stage of their Christian journey; drawing some of the newer parts of our church family a little closer to the traditional parts; investing time and money in our music. Our increasing resources make some of this possible.

From February we will re-introduce the monthly Family Eucharist as an alternative way of offering worship at 9.30, probably this time on 4th Sundays. This is missed by many people. From February we will make an event either monthly or fortnightly at 11.15 at which a variety of speakers from the church and further afield will offer a more substantial teaching and speaking, probably with just one song at the beginning, some prayer afterwards, and some coffee and fellowship. Come to just that or stay on after the 9.30. We are exploring the idea of a Messy Church, probably monthly, after school/nursery, in church, on Mondays. It can be left set up for Ducklings. We will see whether we can staff a Sunday School, Children's Church, creche during some 9.30 services. All ideas, offers of help and prayer gratefully received.

Ducklings and Worship@4 are going very well – respectively 75 and 25 last Sunday.

Week commencing 19 January...

Sunday	Epiphany 2
8.00am	Said Eucharist
11.00am	Joint Service with other Christians in Nettleham followed by Bring and Share Lunch
4.00pm	Worship@4
6.00pm	Healing and Wholeness Service
Monday	<i>Richard Rolle, spiritual writer, 1349; Susanna Wesley, teacher, 1742</i>
2.15pm	Church Women's Fellowship in the Old School
7.00pm	Men's Curry Night at Mach
Tuesday	<i>Agnes, child martyr, 304</i>
9.30am	Ducklings
2.00pm	Craft and Natter in the Parish Centre
Wednesday	<i>Vincent of Saragossa, deacon, martyr, 304</i>
12.00pm	BCP Holy Communion
7.15pm	All Saints PCC at the Parish Centre
7.30pm	Nettleham Heritage Association meeting in the Old School
Thursday	<i>Feria</i>
9.30am	CW Eucharist for the departed
6.00pm	Fish and chips followed by film 'Enchanted April' in the Parish Centre
Friday	<i>Francis de Sales, bishop, teacher of the faith, 1622</i>
12.00pm	CW Eucharist
Saturday	<i>Conversion of Paul</i>
Sunday	Epiphany 3
8.00am	Said Eucharist
9.30am	Sung Eucharist
4.00pm	Worship@4

Weekday Morning and Evening Prayer – 9.00am and 6.00pm

Readings Sunday 26 January – 3 Epiphany
Isaiah 49.1-7 Psalm 40.1-12 I Corinthians 1.1-9 John 1.29-42

Future dates...

23 January. Film night in the Parish Centre. 6.30pm fish and chips. Main feature starts at 7.00pm!! Myfanwy's choice this month is 'Enchanted April'. Everyone welcome.

A little light relief...

This amused me last week, especially in our Vegan January season:

- Q My child has decided not to eat meat. With what should I replace it?
A Replace it with a dog – they love eating meat.

Prayer Diary....

Day	Diocese, wider church	Parish
<p>Sunday 19th The Second Sunday of Epiphany</p>	<p>Please pray for our work with the Setting God's People Free agenda, and the calling and empowering of all God's people. <i>Pray for the United Church of Bangladesh – The Most Revd Samuel Sunil Mankhin, Moderator, Church of Bangladesh & Bishop of Kushtia</i></p>	<p>Eternal Lord, our beginning and our end: bring us with the whole creation to your glory, hidden through past ages and made known in Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.</p>
<p>Monday 20th Susanna Wesley, Teacher, 1742 (FH, pg. 9)</p>	<p>The meeting of the Financial Advisory Panel. Martin Luther King Day. <i>Litoral Ecuador (The Episcopal Church): The Right Revd Alfredo Morante; St Albans (England): The Right Revd Alan Smith; Gombe (Nigeria): The Right Revd Henry Ndukuba</i></p>	<p>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 Nettleham Heath.</p>
<p>Tuesday 21st</p>	<p>Lincoln St Peter-at-Gowts w. St Andrew and St Botolph: The Revd Jeremy Cullimore. "Please pray for our ministry in Park Ward, and especially for St Peter-at-Gowts and Bishop King Primary Schools and our work with the other Christian churches in the area." <i>Liverpool (England): The Right Revd Paul Bayes; St Asaph (Wales): The Right Revd Gregory Cameron; Grafton (Australia): The Right Revd Dr Murray Harvey</i></p>	<p>Our choir and organists <i>Pray for choir members, for our Choir Mistress, and our organists</i> We pray for the residents of North Greetwell: Westfield Avenue, Westfield Drive and Westfield Approach.</p>
<p>Wednesday 22nd Vincent of Saragossa, Deacon, First Martyr of Spain, 304</p>	<p>Lincoln St Peter in Eastgate: The Revd Canon Edward Bowes-Smith. The meeting of the Lincoln Archidiaconal Mission and Pastoral Committee. <i>St Davids (Wales): The Right Revd Joanna Penberthy</i></p>	<p>Our churchwardens, sidespeople, readers and intercessors. We pray for the residents of North Greetwell: Lawley Close, Greetwell Close and Wragby Road East.</p>
<p>Thursday 23rd</p>	<p>The Deanery of Calcewithe and Candleshoe: The Revd Ros Latham, Rural Dean; Miss Lee Kent, Lay Chair. The meeting of the Diocesan Advisory Committee. <i>Llandaff (Wales): The Right Revd June Osborne; St Edmundsbury & Ipswich (England): The Right Revd Martin Seeley; St Helena (Southern Africa): The Right Revd Dale Bowers</i></p>	<p>Charities we support and the FiSH project We pray for All Saints Church, St Mary's Riseholme, Nettleham Methodist Church, and Threshold.</p>
<p>Friday 24th Francis de Sales, Bishop of Geneva, Teacher of the Faith, 1622</p>	<p>Church schools in Calcewithe and Candleshoe Deanery: Burgh-le-Marsh SS Peter and Paul; Wainfleet Magdalen; Willoughby St Helena's. <i>Lokoja (Nigeria): The Most Revd Emmanuel Sokowamju Egbunu; St Mark the Evangelist (Southern Africa): The Right Revd Martin Breytenbach</i></p>	<p>The Sacristy team and Servers. <i>We pray for the whole team and their ministry for us</i> We pray for the pre-schools and Nettleham Infant and Junior Schools.</p>

<p>Saturday 25th <i>The Conversion of Paul</i></p>	<p>The Alford Group: Beesby w. Maltby, Bilsby w. Farlesthorne, Hannah Cum Hagnaby w. Markby, Saleby, Ulceby with Fordington, Well, and Willoughby with Sloothby with Claxby. The Revd Ros Latham. <i>Lomega (South Sudan): The Most Revd Paul Benjamin Yugusuk; Sunyani (West Africa): The Right Revd Festus Yeboah-Asuamah; Grahamstown (Southern Africa): The Right Revd Ebenezer Ntlali</i></p>	<p>Our Family Church, Cuppa Time, Ducklings and their leaders. We pray for the residents and carers at Church View, the Health Centre and healthcare workers.</p>
<p>Sunday 26th The Third Sunday of Epiphany</p>	<p>World Leprosy Day. In our diocese we pray for true repentance, confident following of Jesus, and a renewed passion for evangelism and growth. <i>Pray for the Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil – The Most Revd Naudal Alves Gomes – Primate of Brazil & Bishop of Curitiba</i></p>	<p>God of all mercy, your Son proclaimed the good news to the poor, release to the captives, and freedom to the oppressed; anoint us with your Holy Spirit and set all your people free to praise you in Christ our Lord. Amen.</p>

A good news story...

Another good news story this week. You may remember that in September 2016 our very own Bishop of Grantham, Rt Revd Nicholas Chamberlain, under threat of “outing“ by a newspaper, went public on his own sexuality and same sex partnership, which had never been a secret, just private. A very large number of letters were received by Bishop Nicholas and by the diocese in that week, over 500. All but about 5% were immensely positive. Two leading academics were encouraged to work on these letters and discern what they told us about church, society and attitudes in the early 21st Century.

Their report, to be published next month, was presented at Goldsmiths University in London last Thursday, and describes the correspondence as a “Tsunami of love from within and outside the church”. In a week of prayer for Christian Unity we have to recognise that both gender and sexuality are significant issues that can divide Christians. The life to which we are called by our faith is always going to be challenging, and discerning God’s will and how to keep the faith is for all a matter of interpretation, understanding, and the need for prayer and humility. I derive my own position from my reading of scripture, from my attempt prayerfully to empathise with the mind of Christ, and to support love, generosity, fidelity and care. I have to recognise that some Christians see scripture differently, and believe my liberal inclusiveness is conforming to the world and not to God. I don’t agree, nor really understand, but I must respect. Let us agree to differ, but to recognise that we are united by the far more important belief that this is God’s world, that we are redeemed by Christ to bring in a new creation, that we are enjoined to care for our planet and our fellow humankind, and that prayer and openness to the speaking of God through his Word made flesh, are our common calling, inspired and empowered by the Holy Spirit. Let us share in the belief that we must bring the good news to all – the good news that “God did not send his son into the world to condemn the world, but so that the world, through him, might be saved.”

So, let us be clear that love for our fellows, whoever they are, whatever they are and whatever they do, is our duty and our joy, and let us rejoice that our loved and respected Bishop Nicholas found his honesty so comprehensively met with love.

Men's Curry Night...

Our Men's Curry Night is a social occasion for current and prospective members of the church. There is no order of service, just a menu! **The next curry night will be on Monday 20th of January at Mach in North Greetwell at 7-00pm.**

Please give your name to Bobby Hipgrave in person, or by email at bobby.hipgrave@btinternet.com, or ring Shirley, our Parish Administrator on 01522 931076 (weekdays 9.30-12.30), by midday the previous Friday.

Nettleham Heritage Association...

Wednesday 22 January 2020 - 7.30 at The Old School (Large Room) when John Campbell will give a talk on "Being Dean's Verger". Visitors welcome. *Kath*

Church Women's Fellowship...

Church Women's Fellowship will meet, for their New Year Tea, in the Old School (Small room) at 2.15 p.m. on Monday January 20th. *Barbara*

Ladies who lunch...

Is back! The first lunch of the year is on Monday 27 January at 12.30pm at Mamma Mia's Bistro, Alexander Walk, the Carlton Centre.

A list will be at the back of church from today, plus we need a £5 deposit by tomorrow, Monday 20th, and lunch choices by Friday 24th. There is a bus service to the Carlton Centre, the no 53 (but I'm not sure of the times) just in case you want to do a bit of shopping. If you are happy to drive, or require a lift please enter on the list. *Lynne*

Snowdrop Sunday...

Sunday 16th February 2020 12 noon to 4.00pm

Gardens, grounds and walled kitchen gardens at Hackthorn Hall are open to the public to come and enjoy the Snowdrops in aid of Hackthorn Church.

Homemade soup and afternoon teas available in the Village Hall.

Potted spring bulbs for sale in kitchen garden.

£4.00 per person – children free.

Make talking about death & dying easier....

'Death and Dying' has almost disappeared from everyday life. They are hidden away in hospitals or hospices and often take place away or outside the inner family circle and yet, we have to learn to cope and live with loss.

Bishop Grosseteste University's (BGU) annual 'Academic and Creative Responses to Death and Dying' conference will aim to provide an open and interactive forum to bring these discussions back into the mainstream.

The Conference is being held at the Lincolnshire Research & Innovation Centre (LORIC) and The Chapel at BGU in Lincoln and will include inter-disciplinary lectures, workshops and a concert.

Taking place across two weekends (30 January - 1 February and 27 - 29 February), the Conference will bring together members of the public, practitioners, creative artists and scholars working across the arts, humanities, and sciences, whose work, research and working/creative practices relate to death and dying.

"Our aim is to engage with a difficult topic academically as well as creatively and through conversation. We do not offer any solutions or remedies."

To register or for more information please contact: chaplaincy@bishopg.ac.uk.

There is a modest fee payable.

Curates and ordinands coming and going....

We are delighted that we have been asked by the diocese to take a full time curate in training from the beginning of July this year for between three and four years. She will be ordained deacon in Lincoln Cathedral on Saturday July 4th at 10.00am, and I hope lots of us will be there to celebrate, witness and pray for her and her family. She will be priested the year after. I have met with her on a number of occasions and am confident she will fit in here, and be extremely active, complement the strengths we already have, and challenge us in all sorts of ways. She is called Teena Twelves, and some of you may well already know her through her involvement in the cathedral, in singing and music, and through her leadership of Street Pastors. She's written a brief biography below.

She will move, with her family, into the house in Kingsway, as Kath comes to the end of her time as an ordinand in training and goes off to be ordained and serve as a curate in a parish elsewhere. We thank her for everything she has done and given to parish life whilst here, and wish her and her new parish every blessing in a new phase of ministry.

We are absolutely delighted that at the same time as Teena begins her curacy, Revd Judy Shaw, who has become such a big part of our church family here, completes her curacy. She has asked and Bishop Nicholas has agreed, that she can stay with our benefice as a fully trained Self-Supporting Minister. I am delighted and believe that our benefice and our deanery is incredibly blessed to have Judy continuing to work with us, and playing a role in Teena's training and development. PCC has agreed that we should give Revd Judy a new job title, reflecting her central and on-going role in the parish, so when we get the thumbs up that she has been signed off by the bishop, we will formally give her the title "Associate Parish Priest NSM".

While we are on training and personnel, we are also going to be receiving some more new faces. Three or four of those training for priesthood at Lincoln School of Theology, mostly preparing for ordination alongside Teena this July, are joining us for an intensive period of ministry experience. They are all training for a self-supporting ministry, like Revd Judy's, and they are going to be doing 60 hours each at Nettleham, beginning on February 9th, and lasting into May. I am sure we will be delighted to welcome them, to share some of our ways of worshipping, proclaiming the gospel and caring for our neighbours, and I am sure they'll enrich our parish life and ministry while they're here.

There will be various moments for farewell and thanks, celebration and welcome, so expect the Prosecco to be featuring heavily in the next six months! I'm sure we will want to maintain the tradition of receiving parishes making a welcoming gift for a new curate, and there may well be opportunities to help Teena, Corrin, Alexander, Harry, Noggin and Moo get their new home ready and move in and find their way about.

As you will have seen, Bishop Nigel has been called up as a reservist to help in a diocese depleted in the bishop department! It means we will see a bit less of him, but he says this will continue to be "our church" and he will preside and preach whenever other duties allow it. We are delighted that he and Anne have become such wise, prayerful, supportive and fun members of our church and team.

And at the top of the supply chain, we have two or three congregation members being gently prodded by god and nurtured by Father Richard and Revd Judy in the direction of training for ordained ministry. Pray for them, too. Even listen out yourself for that "you can't be serious", "not me, surely", prompting from God.

Teena writes about herself....

Our new curate is called Teena Twelves, and has been training for ordained ministry on a part-time basis over the last four years at the Lincoln School of Theology. She has undertaken her studies alongside her role as Co-ordinator for Lincoln Street Pastors, an ecumenical church project that offers support to vulnerable people overnight in Lincoln. Teena worships regularly at Lincoln Cathedral, where she is also a Duty Chaplain and chair of the Choir Association – her older son Alexander was a chorister and her younger son Harry is just about to complete his time there. On other Sundays she may be found in churches of various denominations around the city and further afield, often with her Street Pastor uniform on, promoting the project and seeking volunteers.

Teena is married to Corrin, and both are interested in social justice issues and working with marginalised and disadvantaged people and have a background in working with homeless people and the street community. The family spent the whole of last summer in Calais working with projects supporting refugees. Corrin also trained for a while as a chef, so their other shared passion is food and offering hospitality.

The main family pastime is music – the Twelves' family travel with various pianos, a drumkit, violin, French horn, tenor horn, guitars and ukuleles and a trombone, and play in various bands and orchestras alongside the singing. Alexander has put a marimba on his birthday list, if they can find the room!

The family will be moving into the parish sometime in June, together with their friendly collie, Noggin, and crazy car-surfing cat, Moo, and are very much looking forward to getting to know everyone in Nettleham and Riseholme. Teena says that she feels especially blessed to be coming to serve this parish, and looks forward to worshipping, praying and serving others in Christ's name alongside you all.

Contact...

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Parish & Deanery Office open weekdays 9.30am-12.30pm

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**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 Revd Judy.**