

All Saints

NETTLEHAM PARISH CHURCH

St. Mary's

RISEHOLME PARISH CHURCH

The Good News from Nettleham

Sunday 2 February 2020

Candlemas

No 134

Father Richard writes....

This is the end of the Christmas season. The last figures, structures, trees and candles will have been put away. Candlemas, better known as The Presentation of Christ in the Temple, is the pivot between looking backwards at the incarnation, and forwards to Passiontide, Good Friday and Easter. For a while the celebratory white and gold of our hangings and vestments give way to the green of ordinary time, to be followed later in the month by the beginning of Lent on Ash Wednesday, with its sombre purple.

The key text for Candlemas is the Nunc Dimittis, the poetic words of old Simeon. He recognises who Jesus is, and what it means for him and the whole world. This vision of a future which for some contradicts all that they aspired to, a world of challenging power not using it, a world that is entirely about light, not darkness. A world in which we can perceive the salvation that God offers us through Jesus Christ. A stepping out towards the death and resurrection which spell the commencement of a new creation, the destiny of mankind and the world unfolding as we recognise and commit to the power of the kingdom.

A very good piece of writing from Revd Dr Jonathan Hustler, Secretary of the Methodist Conference, turned up this week. He observes that the new future revealed by Christ in the Temple generated mixed emotions – anxiety and joy to name two. As we celebrate Candlemas on February 2nd, he observes that we will just have left membership of the EU after a bruising and divisive few years.

“Of course, there are deep divisions in the Church about whether or not that accords with God’s will. For some, exiting the EU is the right step for the UK; for others, the departure of 31 January is a mistake of historic proportions. For some this will be a moment of rejoicing and a chance to look ahead with excitement; for others it is a time that they wished never to see and they look ahead with trepidation. We know so little of Simeon. We cannot tell with what thankfulness and with what regret for all that he had seen and done he finally laid down his responsibility to watch and wait. Our prayer has to be that in this moment we may ‘depart in peace’, recognizing the mixed emotions that all will experience this week, acknowledging the hurts and fears of many and the joys of others, and committing into God’s hands our nation’s and our neighbours’ future. The end of January will not mark the end of the debate as negotiations about the future relationship of the EU and the UK continue and the constituent parts of the United Kingdom work through the implications of departure. Our prayers will be both for the healing of the divisions that have come to light over the last four years and for our political representatives as they work to shape a plethora of future relationships.

“It is with an awareness of great complexity that we pray that our departure may be in peace.”

A hymn to Christ, at the author's last going into Germany.

IN what torn ship so ever I embark,
That ship shall be my emblem of Thy ark;
What sea so ever swallow me, that flood
Shall be to me an emblem of Thy blood;
Though Thou with clouds of anger do disguise
Thy face, yet through that mask I know those eyes,
Which, though they turn away sometimes,
They never will despise.

I sacrifice this island unto Thee,
And all whom I love there, and who loved me;
When I have put our seas 'twixt them and me,
Put thou Thy seas betwixt my sins and Thee.
As the tree's sap doth seek the root below
In winter, in my winter now I go,
Where none but Thee, the eternal root
Of true love, I may know.

Nor Thou nor Thy religion dost control
The amorousness of an harmonious soul;
But Thou wouldst have that love Thyself; as Thou
Art jealous, Lord, so I am jealous now;
Thou lovest not, till from loving more Thou free
My soul ; Who ever gives, takes liberty;
Oh, if Thou carest not whom I love,
Alas ! Thou lovest not me.

Seal then this bill of my divorce to all,
On whom those fainter beams of love did fall;
Marry those loves, which in youth scatter'd be
On fame, wit, hopes—false mistresses—to Thee.
Churches are best for prayer, that have least light;
To see God only, I go out of sight;
And to escape stormy days, I choose
An everlasting night.

John Donne

In need of prayer....

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

Year's Mind

Annie Warden	(2010)	Jonathan Disney	(1980)
Miriam Bowman	(2008)	Kay McElroy	(2008)
Mary Lawrence	(2009)	Joan Hill	(2009)
Madge Freemantle	(2008)	Dorothy Wright	(2008)
Edna McBride	(2017)		

Week commencing 2 February...

Sunday	Candlemas
8.00am	Said Eucharist
9.30am	Sung Eucharist and Blessing of Candles
4.00pm	Worship@4
7.15pm	Saints Alive
Monday	<i>Anskar, archbishop, missionary, 865</i>
Tuesday	<i>Gilbert, founder of the Gilbertine order, 1189</i>
9.30am	Ducklings
2.00pm	Craft and Natter in the Parish Centre
Wednesday	<i>Feria</i>
12.00pm	BCP Holy Communion
Thursday	<i>Martyrs of Japan, 1597; Accession of Queen Elizabeth II, 1952</i>
9.30am	CW Eucharist
Friday	<i>Feria</i>
12.00pm	CW Eucharist
Saturday	<i>Feria</i>
Sunday 9th	3 Before Lent
8.00am	Said Eucharist
9.30am	Sung Eucharist – welcoming of four ordinands on placement
11.15am	BCP HC St Mary's Riseholme
4.00pm	Worship@4

Weekday Morning and Evening Prayer – 9.00am and 6.00pm

Readings Sunday 9 February – 3 before Lent

Isaiah 58.1-9a Psalm 112 1 Cor 2.1-12 Matthew 5.13-20

Future dates...

Server training in All Saints Nettleham on Saturday 15 February between 10.00am and 1.30pm.

Ash Wednesday – the beginning of Lent on Wednesday 26 February. Holy Communion BCP with Imposition of Ashes at 12.00, Sung Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes at 7.30

Free lunchtime recital by Wendy Leonard, Soprano with Jonathan Nowell. Lasts 45 minutes. Bring sandwiches if you wish.

Friday 13 March at 5.15pm. Piano and electronic recital by Simon Vincent based on Psalm 23. Followed by evening prayer.

**Annunciation of the Lord to Mary. Sung Eucharist 2.30pm
Wednesday 25 March**

Save the day! Saturday 28 March at 9.00am. The churchwardens cordially invite you to dig out your dusters and other cleaning materials for a church cleaning session. Further details will follow closer to the date. Lynne&Andy

Saturday 4 April at 7.00pm. Flute and piano recital by Joanna Reveley and Simon Gulliver.

Prayer Diary....

Day	Diocese, wider church	Parish
Sunday 2nd Candlemas	Please pray that as we turn our attention from Christmas to Easter we will appreciate more fully God's gracious gift of his Son, our Saviour. <i>Pray for the Anglican Church of Burundi. The Most Revd Martin Blaise Nyaboho Archbishop of Burundi & Bishop of Makamba</i>	Almighty and ever-living God, clothed in majesty, whose beloved Son was this day presented in the Temple, in substance of our flesh; grant that we may be presented to you with pure and clean hearts, by your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.
Monday 3rd Anskar, Archbishop of Hamburg, Missionary in Denmark and Sweden, 865	Gainsborough and Morton: Gainsborough All Saints, Gainsborough St George, Morton. The Revd Steve Johnson. <i>Lui (South Sudan): The Most Revd Stephen Dokolo Ismail Mbalah; Taiwan (The Episcopal Church): The Right Revd David Lai; Guildford (England): The Right Revd Andrew Watson</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 Cotton Smith Way, Herrington Avenue, Lechler Close, Cooper Close and Aima Court.
Tuesday 4th Gilbert of Sempringham, Founder of the Gilbertine Order, 1189	Church schools in Corringham Deanery. <i>Lusaka (Central Africa): The Right Revd David Njovu; Tamale (West Africa): The Right Revd Jacob Ayeebo; Guinea (West Africa): The Right Revd Jacques Boston</i>	Our choir and organists <i>Pray for choir members, for our Choir Mistress, and our organists</i> We pray for the residents of Shaw Way, Heath Road, Monsford Close and East Street
Wednesday 5th	The Lea Group. The Revd Canon Philip Wain. <i>Lusitanian Church (Portugal): The Right Revd Jorge Pina Cabral; Tanga (Tanzania): The Most Revd Dr Maimbo Mndolwa (Primate)</i>	Our churchwardens, sidespeople, readers and intercessors. We pray for the residents of The Croft, The Crescent, Jubilee Court, Orchard Way, Kerrison View and Highlands.
Thursday 6th The Martyrs of Japan, 1597. Accession of Queen Elizabeth II, 1952.	The Saxilby Group. The Revd Nicola Penn-Allison "Please join us in prayer for a refreshing of our vision to serve our communities and care for God's Creation." <i>Luwero (Uganda): The Right Revd Eridard Kironde Nsubuga; Tarime (Tanzania): The Right Revd R Mwita Akiri; Tasmania (Australia): The Right Revd Dr Richard Condie</i>	Charities we support and the FiSH project We pray for the residents of The Steepers, Wold View and High Leas.
Friday 7th	The Stow Group. The Revd Nicola Penn-Allison. "Please pray for our four churches as we seek to reach out further into our parishes in service and prayer." <i>Lweru (Tanzania): The Right Revd Godfrey Mbelwa; Te Pihopatanga o Tai Tokerau (Aotearoa NZ & Polynesia): The Right Revd Te Kitohi Wiremu Pikaahu</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 Brookfield Avenue, Midway Close and Riverdale.

Saturday 8th	The Trentcliffe Group. The Revd Mark Briscoe. “Please pray for the faithful and all those they serve in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.” <i>Machakos (Kenya): The Right Revd Joseph Mutungi; Te Pihopatanga o Tairāwhiti (Aotearoa NZ & Polynesia): The Most Revd Don Tamihere (Primate); Gujarat (North India): The Right Revd Silvans Christian</i>	Our Family Church, Cuppa Time, Ducklings and their leaders. We pray for the residents of Ashtree Avenue, Ridgeway and Willowfield.
Sunday 9th The Third Sunday before Lent	Racial Justice Sunday (25th Anniversary). Please pray for all God’s people in our calling to bring light to our world, and to encourage the growth of good new things. <i>Pray for the Anglican Church of Canada. The Most Revd Linda Nicholls – Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada</i>	Eternal God, whose Son went among the crowds and brought healing with his touch: help us to show his love, in your Church as we gather together, and by our lives as they are transformed into the image of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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.

Joke of the week...

It’s the early bird that catches the worm.

However, it’s the second mouse that gets the cheese.

Summer course...

The Faraday Institute will be holding its annual Summer Course June 28th

- July 3rd this year. This course is an opportunity to explore in more depth the ways in which Faith and Science speak to each other in contemporary society and to explore the theological and ethical issues which this dialogue raises.

The course will be held at Lucy Cavendish College, Cambridge, and is entitled 'Telling a better story - why faith and science belong together'. Topics will include the nature of reality, origins, human identity and the environment. For more information, please see faraday.institute/summercourse2020

Sssh.....

You may be aware that Kath Pickering, our Ordinand in Training, will be leaving us in the next few months to go to her curacy placement at St George’s Swallowbeck. In recognition of all her work and support here we are arranging a collection to buy her something she can use in her new parish. However, all is not lost as we will be welcoming Teena Twelves, our new curate (who is also being ordained Deacon on Saturday 4 July in the cathedral) and we are starting a collection for her welcome too. If you would like to make a contribution please see Andy or Lynne.

Server training....

We are organising some intensive server training in All Saints on Saturday 15 February for anyone who would like to join our team of servers. Or who already serves and would like a refresher and a bit of theological reflection on the role. We will finish with a 'bring and share' lunch. Please talk to Fr Richard or Reverend Judy for more information and book a place with Shirley either on admin@asn.church or by telephoning 01522 931076.

Charity Donations 2019...

For a number of years, we have given 5% of the money that we receive from our planned giving (and its recovered tax) to 3 beneficiaries; a local charity, a UK national charity and an international charity. We are again looking for your help in deciding which charities should receive our 2019 donations – please enter your nominations on the forms in the folder at the back of church, along with a space for any additional supporting information you may like to give us..

You can nominate charities in as many categories as you'd like – the only stipulation is that the 3 charities that we supported in 2018 are not eligible for support in 2019, so this means that the Nomad Trust, Macmillan Cancer Support and Wateraid are excluded from this year's list.

Nominations will close at the end of Sunday 23 February, so that we can make a final decision at the next PCC meeting on 4 March.

Thank you for your help.

Andy and Lynne

Pastoral Care Team...

Our Pastoral Care Team visit the sick, lonely and bereaved in their own homes. We also visit those who are in residential homes or in hospital. We take out Holy Communion to the sick and housebound who can no longer attend church. Pastoral care is an expression of our Christian care and love for each other. If you know of anyone who would like pastoral support please inform a member of the team which includes Peter Broadley, Jean Carter, Lynne Combes, Myfanwy Denton, Martin Farmer, Jean Gledhill, Sandy Gould, and Katie Smalley.

Jean Gledhill, Coordinator - tel. 01522 751451.

Reports for the APCM...

The 2020 Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) will be held on Sunday 3 May, starting at 11.15am. Can all those who prepare reports on behalf of our various in-church groups for consideration at the APCM please submit their reports for 2019-2020 to Shirley Keyes (admin@asn.church) no later than the **20 March** to enable us to put everything together at least two weeks before the 3 May (and there is Easter in between.) *Andy and Lynne*

Marmalade Jars....

Shirley is looking for jam jars for marmalade she is making to sell for church funds. Ideally with close fitting metal tops, and previously used for jam or honey, not concoctions involving vinegar. Put in orders for marmalade too.

Also, Fr Richard still has some excellent large Seville Oranges (and can get more) if you'd like to join the marmalade effort.

The church and Civil Partnerships....

Once upon a time, according to UK law, you could only marry if there was no reason not to, you were a man and a woman, and you did it in a church. In 1940, civil marriages were introduced, still only a man and a woman, but outside of a religious institution.

In 2005, Civil Partnerships became legal – some similarities in terms of the law with marriage, only available to same-sex couples, and not allowed to be performed in church, or even blessed. In 2014 the government made it legal for two persons of the same sex to be married, though not in a Church of England Church, unlike other churches, and not in Scotland until 2020. This was offered by Quakers, Unitarians, and United Reformed, Scottish Episcopal Church and the Church of Scotland. This has become quite a divisive issue amongst those who hold opposing views in the Church of England. There continues to be much theological exploration of what it would mean to offer it in the C of E. The Methodist Conference voted last year 5:1 to allow same sex marriage in chapels by their ministers, and that could become legal from later this year. To balance the offer to straight and gay couples, in late 2019, the government legalised opposite sex civil partnerships to man and woman couples as an alternative to marriage. It is not expected to be very popular, and has untested issues about when a partnership is dissolved, a partner wishes to marry or they convert from CP to marriage.

With so many changes happening with regard to same and opposite sex relationships and at the same time the issues around gender identity, and with firmly held views amongst different parts of the Church of England on some or all aspects, to the extent it is the presenting issue behind divisions, especially those between different parts of the Anglican Communion worldwide, we have had a number of reports and statements by our bishops and by working groups. We are coming to the end of a two year exploration of these issues and how they impact on our church, our theology and on the provision of appropriate liturgies, called the “Living in Love and Faith Review”.

Rather unnecessarily, very ill-advisedly, and to many deeply hurtfully, the bishops last week issued a Pastoral Guidance, ostensibly to clear up the question of whether, as their teaching is that all sex outside a permanent marriage of a man and woman is sinful, it is allowed in an opposite sex civil partnership. It concluded that sinful, and not allowed, they said. It talked about the alternative of “committed friendships”. In their document they reiterated their absolute condemnation of any same sex physical relationship, and any loving, committed sexual relationship between a man and a woman outside permanent marriage. It caused an outburst from very many Anglicans, clergy and lay, from a wide spectrum of traditions. It was a pastoral disaster, and even the Daily Telegraph felt it made the church a laughing-stock. Individual bishops and church groups began to distance themselves from the document publicly.

Our two bishops, +David and +Nicholas wrote to all the clergy saying they hoped to get the senior bishops to own that the tone and timing of the document were damaging and obtain a more conciliatory sequel. A variety of individuals felt it was regressive, and that they could not continue to support a church that was so willing to hurt the large number of people whose loving lifestyles were excluded by the statement, and upset the even greater number that wanted to welcome all equally into membership, ministry and the sacraments in our church. Our bishops were very robust – “we both believe that the Statement as it stands has significant pastoral and missiological implications which clearly undermine the work of the church today”. Whilst I recognise that there are those who in good conscience would support the theology of the Statement, I, for one, am pleased that the consensus is with those who believe we should always act in love.

The two Archbishops have issued an apology, albeit brief. Whether that amounts to metanoia or just papering over a PR gaff remains to be seen. I pray it is the former. I thought you'd like some background, as the anger has been widely covered in the press.

Fundraising....

Our income as a parish is made up of regular committed giving (steadily going up), casual collections (just about flat), fees for weddings and funerals (down a bit), appeals (tend to be for specific projects), legacies (lower than many churches) and fundraising activities. Our PCC is shortly going to be considering how to increase our income from fundraising. We have some stalwarts who plan and deliver a variety of concerts, meals, games evenings, sales, dances and schemes. We are all incredibly grateful. However, we are also aware that this list of fundraising initiatives needs to be:

- Refreshed and re-energised
- Run by a wider range of people, especially our newer or younger folk
- Address a wider range of interests
- Draw on a wider market – not just the same people forking out every time
- Make lots more money.

We have a budget for this year which almost balances, but only by leaving a great many initiatives in a “second column”, only to be done if we raise the funds. Ministry, outreach, social action, music and worship, marketing and buildings/resources are still represented in this “only if we raise the money” list. Even an extra £20,000 wouldn't realise our ambitions or maintain existing successes like the Parish Centre in the future.

We've got several new ideas, some of which we will be working up in more detail. Russ is leading the charge, and we are asking for two things – new ideas, and people to volunteer to help organise specific projects. Get you thinking caps on for great fundraising activities – ideally ones which draw people in, do good, and engage with the wider population as well. Think and pray about how you could help.

Contact...

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Parish & Deanery Office open weekdays 9.30am-12.30pm

Unit 2a, 22 The Green, Nettleham, LN2 2NR
(behind David Burghardt opticians)

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.***