

The Good News from Nettleham

Sunday 9 February 2020

3 Before Lent

No 135

Father Richard writes....

Revolution! Some books, today. Several of us are big fans of the theologian NT Wright (when he writes his hard books) or Tom Wright (when he writes his more readable stuff). Former Bishop of Durham, and now one of the world's leading New Testament scholars he has inspiring ideas about many aspects of our faith, especially how we derive it from our reading of scripture. He has a recurrent theme of the crucifixion, the death of the eternal Word on the cross, being the seal and starting gun for a new creation – a transformed world not somewhere else and in the future, but here and now. "On earth as it is in heaven". So the title of one of his most recent books is my flag to wave today, as we turn our backs on Christmas and start looking forward to Holy Week and Easter – *The Day the Revolution Began*. What does the Christ's death on the cross and his resurrection mean for us? The beginning of a revolution. Not a bit of sympathetic churchgoing tacked onto our lives, but a revolution. There can be no transformation of us and our lives, no transformation of God's created world and of all people, no triumph of justice and mercy over greed, oppression and selfishness, unless there is a revolution. The rule of God, not of human power – cosmic regime change.

Another author has been ruffling the waters these last ten years. The French economist, Thomas Piketty, wrote a book in 2013 called *Capital in the 21st Century* – it sold 1.5m copies in 18 months, and was the holiday read of most politicians of all persuasions, academics and shapers of society. Even bishops and clergy. In its 800+ pages it states and aims to prove that inequality is not an accident, but rather a feature of capitalism, and can only be reversed through state interventionism. The book thus argues that, unless capitalism is reformed, the very democratic order will be threatened.

Piketty argues that the rate of *return on capital* (profits, dividends, interest, rents and other income from capital) exceeds *growth* (society's income or output). So especially in hard times, those who profit from wealth do better than those who profit from their labour. Thus, when as now growth is low, then wealth tends to accumulate more quickly from investment, especially for the top 10% or 1%. Consequently, inequality increases. He analyses inheritance from the perspective of the same formula. We have a world, and especially a nation in which inequality has become much greater. In a recession or a period of austerity, those with invested wealth get much richer and those who depend on their labour get much weaker. Private jets and food banks.

Thus, the justice and mercy that we as Christians are called to seek requires, amongst other things, a rethink of the capitalist system. This is not a party political statement, despite the 1% attempting to make it one. There are good politicians of the right and the left that believe in transforming capitalism and making it more socially just, not simply replacing it. Piketty does believe that the state is the only agent that can bring about this revolution.

Piketty has a new book out. Many of us have been intrigued by the probable necessity when Artificial Intelligence and automated industrial processes generate even more wealth, but without any jobs for most of the population, to have a mechanism for getting the wealth, at least to some extent, to all those that need it to be housed, heated and fed. And stimulated in their increasing leisure time. Political parties in many places are exploring a Universal Basic Wage – enough to live on whether you work or not, with work offering a chance to do better than that. Finland has been trying it, and Canada is close to giving it a go. Piketty's latest book – Amazon hasn't got it to me yet – apparently says how things can be revolutionised – a new form of capitalism and inheritance. He proposes in France that every citizen should get a universal inheritance (not just the kids of better off parents), and receive a tax free lump sum of 125,000 Euros. Before you say it is madness, think briefly of the parable of the master who gave his servants a lump sum to see what they did with it! The fourth of the five marks of mission to which the Church signed up, is to fight for justice. Not just pray, fight.

We know that our planet needs a revolution in the way we live if it is to survive many more generations. Climate change crisis means economic, industrial and social revolution. The fifth mark of mission is to care for the whole of God's creation. A revolution led by Christians, remade in the new creation by the Holy Spirit, empowered and impelled by Christ's inaugurating revolution of triumphing over death and darkness, will be sacrificial and radical. It affects how and where we live, how we support or exploit each other. How we travel, how we eat and what our homes are like.

We even know that our own faith and our own Church of England needs a revolution. Rethinking our property, our parish system, how we are financed, how we share the good news, how we worship, how we use our resources. That revolution is about the first two marks of mission – proclaiming the good news and nurturing the faithful in their discipleship. We've seen the church doing the opposite in the last couple of weeks. We know that our diocese faces financial crisis within two or three years if we don't act fast and radically. Many of our churches will be dead if we don't think big.

So in all areas of mission – God's plan for us and the world – we need to pray for grace to make huge steps, and huge sacrifices. Let's reflect on this for a few weeks and through Lent until Good Friday. As NT Wright says – the Day the Revolution Began.

Prayer of the week....

Lord, I was a pile of ash and you made me a light for the world.
I was a stone and you made me salt for the earth.
I was as lifeless as clay and you made me part of the Body of Christ.
I was sinful and you made me holy.
I was nothing and you made me part of everything.

Lord, in you I am transformed and transformed still again.
When the discouraged cry for hope, make me hope.
When the hungry cry for bread, make me bread.
When the thirsty cry for water, make me water.
When the suffering cry for help, make me help.
When the sick cry for healing, make me healing.
When the bound cry for freedom, make me freedom.
When the outcasts cry for love, make me love.

Lord who is hope, who is bread and water, who is help and healing,
who is freedom, and who is love,
Transform me anew, and so keep me close to you,
as you transform the world. AMEN

RIP....

We give thanks for the life, pray for the soul and ask comfort for the relatives and friends of Jack Snowden.

Special prayers....

We pray for Rosie (one of our Ducklings) who is being baptised next Sunday at All Saints Church. We pray also for her family and friends.

In need of prayer....

Joyce Snowden, 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

Jill Howgemo	(2007)	Frederick Pollard	(2016)
Frances Temperton	(2016)	Cyril Needham	(2011)
Nancy Needham	(2009)	Henry Pybus	(2016)
Dorothy Button	(2013)	Geoffrey Berry	(2014)
Robert Woolley	(2015)	John Thomas Lane	(2010)
Stephen Bows	(2016)	Cyril Wright	(2017)

Some quotes....

From "The Day the Revolution Began" by NT Wright.

A new sort of power will be let loose upon the world, and it will be the power of self-giving love. This is the heart of the revolution that was launched on Good Friday. You cannot defeat the usual sort of power by the usual sort of means. If one force overcomes another, it is still "force" that wins. Rather, at the heart of the victory of God over all the powers of the world there lies self-giving love, which, in obedience to the ancient prophetic vocation, will give its life "as a ransom for many." Exactly

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The diagnosis of the human plight is then not simply that humans have broken God's moral law, offending and insulting the Creator, whose image they bear—though that is true as well. This lawbreaking is a symptom of a much more serious disease. Morality is important, but it isn't the whole story. Called to responsibility and authority within and over the creation, humans have turned their vocation upside down, giving worship and allegiance to forces and powers within creation itself. The name for this is idolatry. The result is slavery and finally death.

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Once we say that the aim of God's saving plan is the new heaven and new earth, with resurrection bodies for his redeemed people, then the means by which we are brought to that goal, leaving sin and death behind, must be rethought as well. Atonement (how humans are rescued from their plight and restored to their intended place within the loving and creative purposes of God) must dovetail with eschatology (what God ultimately intends for the world and for humans). And if we rethink our eschatology, as I have been trying to do over the last decade or two, we must rethink our view of atonement as well. In fact, the two go together very closely in the New Testament: the cross was the moment when something happened as a result of which the world became a different place, inaugurating God's future plan."

Week commencing 9 February...

Sunday	3 Before Lent
8.00am	Said Eucharist
9.30am	Parish Eucharist
11.15am	BCP HC St Mary's Riseholme
4.00pm	Worship@4
Monday	<i>Scholastica, abbess, c543</i>
Tuesday	<i>Feria</i>
9.30am	Ducklings
2.00pm	Craft and Natter <i>in the Parish Centre</i>
Wednesday	<i>Feria</i>
10.30am	Home Communion at Church View
12.00pm	BCP Holy Communion
Thursday	<i>Feria</i>
9.30am	CW Eucharist
Friday	<i>Cyril and Methodius, missionaries, 869 and 885; Valentine, martyr, c269</i>
12.00pm	OLW Eucharist
Saturday	<i>Sigfrid, bishop, 1045; Thomas Bray, priest, founder of SPCK and SPG, 1730</i>
10.00am	Server training
Sunday 16th	2 Before Lent
8.00am	Said Eucharist
9.30am	Parish Eucharist
2.00pm	Baptism of Rosie Wyld
4.00pm	Worship@4 at Hackthorn Snowdrops
6.00pm	Healing and Wholeness

Weekday Morning and Evening Prayer – 9.00am and 6.00pm

Readings Sunday 16 February – 3 before Lent

Genesis 1.1-2.3 Psalm 136 Romans 8.18-25 Matthew 6.25-34

Future dates...

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

Friday 28 February at 1.00pm after the midday Eucharist service. Free lunchtime recital by Wendy Leonard and 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.

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.

Saturday, 21 March 2020. 10:00 – 16:00 GMT

**St John the Evangelist Church Hall, Wrawby Street, Brigg, DN20 8JE
Training session for Eco Church. Talk to Father Richard about it**

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

Prayer Diary....

Day	Diocese, wider church	Parish
Sunday 9th The Third Sunday before Lent	<p>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></p>	<p>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.</p>
Monday 10th	<p>The Deanery of Elloe East: The Revd Canon Rosamund Seal, Rural Dean; Michael Taylor, Lay Chair. <i>Madhya Kerala (South India): The Most Revd Thomas Kanjirappally Oommen (Primate); Te Pihopatanga o Upoko o Te Ika (Aotearoa NZ & Polynesia): The Right Revd Waitohiariki Quayle; Gusau (Nigeria): The Right Revd John Garba Danbinta</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 Vicarage Lane, Mill Hill and Sudbrooke Lane.</p>
Tuesday 11th	<p>Church schools in Elloe East Deanery. <i>Madi & West Nile (Uganda): The Right Revd Charles Collins Andaku; Te Pihopatanga o Upoko o Te Waipounamu (Aotearoa NZ & Polynesia): The Right Revd Richard Wallace; Guyana (West Indies): The Right Revd Charles Davidson</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 Street, North Close, Chapel Lane, Church Street, Ambrose Court and Cross Street.</p>
Wednesday 12th	<p>The Elloe Stone Parishes: Moulton, Holbeach Fen and Whaplode The Revd Gareth Atha. <i>Madras (South India): The Right Revd George Stephen Jeyaraj; Temotu (Melanesia): The Most Revd Leonard Dawea (Primate)</i></p>	<p>Our churchwardens, sidespeople, readers and intercessors. We pray for the residents of Lodge Lane, Larch Avenue, The Oaks and The Hawthorns.</p>
Thursday 13th	<p>The Elloe Fen Group: Gedney Hill, Sutton St Edmund, Sutton St James, and Whaplode Drove. The Revd Michael Ongyerth. <i>Madurai-Ramnad (South India): The Right Revd Marialouis Joseph; Temuco (Chile): The Right Revd Abelino Manuel Apeleo; Tennessee (USA): The Right Revd John Bauerschmidt</i></p>	<p>Charities we support and the FiSH project We pray for the residents of The Dales, Parkside, Eastway, Westway, Field Close and Greenfields.</p>
Friday 14th Cyril and Methodius, Missionaries to the Slavs, 869 & 885	<p>Holbeach: The Revd Canon Rosamund Seal. "Please pray for all those who work so hard to sustain the life of the church and for those whom we serve. For the success of our Tower and West Window project and our continuing involvement with the community and the work of Holbeach Community Larder and Cafe." <i>Mahajanga (Indian Ocean): The Right Revd Spencer Hall Speers; Terekeka (South Sudan): The Right Revd Paul Modi Farjala</i></p>	<p>The Sacristy team and Servers. We pray for the whole team and their ministry for us We pray for the residents of Poachers Meadow, Lacey Close, Bramble Crescent and Squires Place.</p>

Saturday 15th Sigfrid, Bishop, Apostle of Sweden, 1045	Long Sutton with Lutton and Gedney Drove End, Dawsmere: The Revd Jonathan Sibley. "Please pray for the ministry team, for St Mary's 850th anniversary and all the celebrations in 2020; for building works at St Mary's and Lutton, and for mission and outreach programmes across the group this summer." <i>Maiduguri (Nigeria): The Right Revd Emmanuel Morris; Territory of the People (Canada): The Right Revd Barbara Jean Andrews; Gwagwalada (Nigeria): The Right Revd Moses Tabwaye</i>	Our Family Church, Cuppa Time, Ducklings and their leaders. We pray for the residents of High Street, Beckside and Watemill Lane, Greetwell Lane, Beech Avenue and Cherry Tree Lane.
Sunday 16th The Second Sunday before Lent	Please pray today for all those who are anxious about the future, that we may help them to find the provision and grace of our loving Father. <i>Pray for the Church of the Province of Central Africa. The Most Revd Albert Chama – Archbishop of Central Africa & Bishop of Northern Zambia</i>	Almighty God, give us reverence for all creation and respect for every person, that we may mirror your likeness in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Church Women's Fellowship...

Church Women's Fellowship will meet on Monday February 17th at 2.15 p.m. in the Old School, small room.

Sandy Gould is our speaker. We look forward to hearing her talk 'Walks through the Holy Land'.
Barbara

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 meeting will be on Monday 17th February at 7.00pm at the Castle View in Lincoln.** Please give your name to Bobby Hipgrave, in person, or by email at bobby.hipgrave@btinternet.com.

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...

A duck goes into a furniture store and says 'got any duck food?'
The man at the counter says, 'sorry, we don't sell duck food'. The little duck walks out.
The next day, same duck, same guy. 'Got any duck food?'
'Sorry little duck, I told you yesterday, no duck food here.' The duck walks out.
Next day, again, 'got any duck food?'
The guy says 'No! we don't sell duck food! and if you come in here again, I'm going to nail your feet to the floor!'
The duck walks out. Next day, the little duck walks in. 'Got any nails? '
The man says 'what?... no'. The duck asks, '...got any duck food?'

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. 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 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.*



7 March 2020
The Riverside Centre, Derby

Our environment is in crisis, inequality is growing, and yet our economic system seems fixated on endless growth, while politics is paralysed and coarsened by division.

- How must our political and economic assumptions change in order to meet these challenges?
- How can we model new ways of living as individuals and as churches?
- How does our hope in God's future empower us to live a hopeful, abundant life on a planet with finite resources?

JPIT's 2020 national conference **Renewal and Rebellion: faith, economy and climate** invites you to join with us in looking at the big challenges our world faces, rethinking economic structures and taking radical steps towards climate justice, and how we can all act to bring lasting change – in faith, for people and for planet.

Through panel discussions, workshops, poetry, art and conversation, we hope to inspire and resource people to speak, pray and act boldly for justice and peace over the next decade.

Keynote Speakers Include:

Ed Miliband, MP and co-host of 'Reasons to be Cheerful' podcast

Katherine Trebek, Wellbeing Economist

Christine Allen, Director of CAFOD

Anthony Reddie, Director of Oxford Centre of Religion and Culture

Ross Greer, Green Party MSP

The Joint Public Issues Team is a collaboration of Baptists Together, the Church of Scotland, the Methodist Church and the United Reformed Church, working together for peace and justice.

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Pastoral Care Coordinator: Jean Gledhill

Parish & Deanery Office open weekdays 9.30am-12.30pm

Unit 2a, 22 The Green, Nettleham, LN2 2NR

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

To talk urgently to a priest, please call Fr Richard or Reverend Judy.