

All Saints

NETTLEHAM PARISH CHURCH

St. Mary's

RISEHOLME PARISH CHURCH

The Good News from Nettleham

Sunday 29 March 2020

Passion Sunday

No 142

Father Richard writes....

Greetings

Greetings to you all from the confines of the Rectory. Margaret, Rachel and I are holed up here. I haven't been out for a week – Margaret has made one trip to the chemist. Because I am 70 and Type 2 Diabetic, I am being super-careful at the moment. I was quite relieved when schools closed, as it meant both Margaret and Rachel could be locked away with me and not risk bringing infection into the house. We are doing fine – I was a bit of a hoarder of things like beans and lentils since well before this crisis! We are getting vegetable deliveries and can make an occasional foray to Lidl if delivery services continue to creek. Margaret is all set up to teach most of her pupils online – as I write she is doing a whole day of one-to-one singing lessons with children and teenagers in Newark Church Choir. Rachel is getting a bit bored – if anyone is in touch with her and wants to do a video chat I'm sure she would appreciate it. Judy is fine, by the way, though very busy at school, and Kath and Bishop Nigel are fine. Jane is out of quarantine, our lovely gang of four are home and away. Teena is worrying about ordination and moving.

Ministry

Ministry has changed out of all recognition. The time I used to spend in church praying, leading worship, fiddling about getting things ready is now totally gone. The churches are locked and we are not supposed to access them except to check on things and get documents and vestments. The time I used to spend in the Parish Centre, meeting with Shirley, Churchwardens, Treasurer and others to plan and organise, and talking to parishioners, both in need and joy - has all gone. In its place, an immense amount of time on the telephone, hours at my computer, and some of it in video conferencing. Diocesan, deanery, parish meetings done online. Much to organise – altering the website, sorting our video conferencing capability, completing contingency planning, responding to daily briefings from the diocese and from London with ever changing rules. Working out what we can and cannot do to keep together, to worship, pray and learn, to serve our community.

Officially where we are – the 'cannot do' things

We are now in a position where, by order from the church and the government:

- The two church buildings and the Parish Centre are closed for at least a few weeks, probably quite a lot longer
- We can have no worship, prayer, healing, meetings or social activity that mean being in the same place as anyone else, except those already in your household.

- Clergy and laity must do everything from home, and may not use the church, even alone, for private prayer, worship, streaming or recording
- All baptisms and weddings are suspended
- Funerals can only take place at the crematorium or the grave-side and can only involve the minister, the undertaker and a handful of close relatives
- Guidance on confirmations, ordinations, and other functions is awaited
- The Blessed Sacrament remains in the church with the customary lamp lit, and is also available for emergency in my house
- Pastoral care continues, but strictly with no visiting.
- Trips and outings, curries, lunches, breakfasts and so on cancelled for at least the next 10 weeks. Kenmar etc will catch up when it's over.

Some things we are doing

We are doing quite a lot of important things:

- Those who normally say Morning Prayer in church every day are doing it at home for us all
- On a Sunday morning, at 10.00am, Fr Richard or maybe soon others as well, are offering the Holy Eucharist at home, in a simple said form, with a short homily and prayer for our parish and community. This is streamed live if you join the Facebook All Saints Nettleham group, and available afterwards to all via the website. 306 people have seen it! Doesn't mean they did all 20 mins!
- The website – www.asn.church – has been updated to reflect the new ways of being church and soon will have much extra material and links. Do get familiar with it. You can watch the previous week's Eucharist, and watch the Lent course video, for example.
- A huge network of mutual support is spreading, with people ringing and messaging to support each other. The Pastoral Care Team is extremely active in caring for those most vulnerable to isolation during this time by phone and other electronic means
- We are liaising with a number of community organisations who are doing sterling work shopping and fetching medicines for those totally unable to go out themselves.
- We have improved our database, and are looking for helpers to telephone and email and check our details and check people are OK.
- We are meeting online where we would normally have met in the flesh – our means of choice is called Zoom.us and it is a very professional way of seeing and being seen, talking and listening, sharing materials and keeping a sense of being together. Our Standing Committee and our Ministry Team have both been meeting like this and we have plans for much wider use. Zoom is a bit like Skype or FB Messenger, but is more professional and less tied up with intrusive things like Facebook and distant from your own contacts lists and so on. You just need a computer, a tablet or a smartphone with a camera, a microphone and a speaker. You get an invitation and it pretty much sets itself up for you in a few moments if you accept.
- We are compiling an online prayer list, which should be up and running very soon. Until then, please email prayer requests to me, Judy, Jean and Shirley
- We have got Shirley set up working from home. She is on the same email address – admin@asn.church and the same phone number – 01522 931076. She is available normal office hours. Try not to disturb her outside those hours. If it's urgent, call Fr Richard or Revd Judy – we aren't going anywhere!

Prayer and worship going forward

From Sunday 29 March we can offer a bit more worship, prayer and contact.

Some of it will be just for you to watch, listen and join in in your own way and offered through **Facebook Live** – just access it through the All Saints Nettleham group which anyone can join from Facebook. If you don't want to use Facebook, we will try to make it available afterwards on the website.

Some of it will be for you to join in interactively. That will be on **Zoom**, and you will need to be invited to a specific meeting for prayer, teaching, discussion or socialising at a specific time. If you want to join something you will need to email Fr Richard to ask for an invitation at present – it may be possible to go direct from the website in due course.

From now, we are offering:

| | | | | |
|-----------|------------|------------------------------------|---------|----------|
| Sunday | 10.00 am | Eucharist, said with homily | 30mins | Facebook |
| | 10.00 pm | Compline, said for 20 minutes | | Zoom |
| Monday | 10.00 am | Ministry Team Coffee | 30 mins | Zoom |
| Tuesday | 10.00 am | Ducklings parents/helpers coffee | 45 mins | Zoom |
| Wednesday | 12.00 noon | Holy Communion 1662. | 30 mins | Facebook |
| Thursday | 10.00 am | Holy Communion CW followed by chat | | Zoom |
| | 3.00 pm | Standing Committee | | Zoom |
| | 6.00 pm | Bible Study | | Zoom |
| Friday | 9.00 am | Ministry Team Morning Prayer | | Zoom |
| | 9.30 am | Staff Meeting | | Zoom |

In due course, we may be able to add:

- House group coffee meetings on Zoom
- Private case conference meetings of Pastoral Care Team
- More sessions of prayer and reflection on Zoom
- Bible stories and songs for children on Facebook
- A virtual children's choir for the future
- More social time online for all who want, eg. Virtual Knit and Natter

Our professional version of Zoom means we can centrally initiate meetings of up to 100 people lasting as long as you want. Anyone who has downloaded the software is entitled to a free version on which you initiate limitless one to one video meetings, and larger numbers which time out after 40 minutes.

I don't want to control how people are using this. Many of you will get to know how to do it by being invited to join an activity by me or Shirley, and then become really adept. However, do please let me and Shirley know what you are doing – I would love to have a sense of social interaction, prayer and worship in the parish!

I can't spend the whole day talking to you all on the computer, and I do have to make some time slots available for supporting colleagues in the deanery and elsewhere. But I will be as available as I can.

*We must work hard to be visible in the service of our whole community during this crisis. **What did you do in the great pandemic?** will be asked of All Saints and all Christians. Those who can, need to mobilise with love, care and even sacrifice.*

Call or email any time. Let me, Judy, Jean or Shirley know if you are worried about yourself or someone else. Or want to help. Keep safe. Keep healthy.

In need of prayer....

Mary Perridge, Mavis Kirton, Jan Cleveland, James Vincent, Sandra Lawley, Arielle Salt, Barry Crum, Heather Haynes, Chris Wooster, Julian Ellin, Harriet Rich, Ben Comins.

Please pray for those keeping our schools open for children of key workers and vulnerable children

Please pray for all in our community who work in health services

RIP....

We give thanks for the lives, pray for the souls and ask comfort for the relatives and friends of Phil Edwards, Revd Canon Bryan Barnes, Winsome Townrow, Barbara Milan, Doreen Fox, and Peter Turner.

Year's Mind

Maisie Hindle (2009)
Brian Stubbs (2017)
Dora Taylor (2011)
Betty Dobbs (2002)
Kitt Skipworth (2007)
Gillian Holtby (2016)
Marjorie Hopkins (2017)

Mavis Watson (2014)
Sally Bell (2018)
Winifred Jordan (2013)
Jules King (2012)
Dennis Clawson (2015)
Royce Vernon (2015)

Poem of the week....

And people stayed home
and read books and listened
and rested and exercised
and made art and played
and learned new ways of being
and stopped
and listened deeper
someone meditated
someone prayed
someone danced
someone met their shadow
and people began to think differently
and people healed
and in the absence of people who lived in ignorant ways,
dangerous, meaningless and heartless,
even the earth began to heal
and when the danger ended
and people found each other
grieved for the dead people
and they made new choices
and dreamed of new visions
and created new ways of life
and healed the earth completely
just as they were healed themselves.

Kathleen O'Meara (1839–1888). Written after the Potato Famine in Ireland

Prayer Diary....

| Day | Diocese, wider church | Parish |
|---|---|---|
| Sunday 29th The Fifth Sunday of Lent Thomas Kendall, Vicar of Louth, 1537 (FH pg. 27) | We pray for all who are bereaved and those facing death, and give thanks for the promise of new life in Christ. <i>Today, the fifth Sunday in Lent, is the focus of the Primates' Task Group's call for a period of prayer and repentance in the Anglican Communion.</i> <i>(A prayer is available on the Anglican Communion website.)</i> | Gracious Father, you gave up your Son out of love for the world: lead us to ponder the mysteries of his passion, that we may know eternal peace through the shedding of the Saviour's blood, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. |
| Monday 30th | Withamside: Aubourn, Bassingham, Carlton-le-Moorland, Norton Disney, Stapleford, Thurlby: The Revd Dee Freeman. <i>Mbamili (Nigeria): The Right Revd Henry Okeke; Wau (South Sudan): The Most Revd Moses Deng Bol; Ibba (South Sudan): The Right Revd Wilson Elias Kamani</i> | Our clergy, Reader and Administrator. <i>Pray for Fr Richard, Revd Judy. Bishop Nigel, Jane Hanson and Kath Pickering</i> We pray for shops, businesses and pubs in this lock-down |
| Tuesday 31st John Donne, Priest, Poet, 1631 | Washingborough w. Heighington and Canwick: The Revd George Goalby. "Please pray for our Mission Action Planning, that as we reach out the Spirit might guide and lead us and that God's presence might be experienced throughout our whole benefice." <i>Mbeere (Kenya): The Right Revd Moses Masamba Nthukah; Wellington (Aotearoa NZ & Polynesia): The Right Revd Justin Duckworth; Idah (Nigeria): The Right Revd Joseph Musa</i> | Our choir and organists <i>Pray for choir members, for our Choir Mistress, and our organists</i> We pray for village amenities: Mulsanne Park, Village Hall, Old School, The Community Hub and Scout and Guide HQ and those who miss them during the close down. |
| Wednesday 1st Frederick Denison Maurice, Priest, Teacher of the Faith, 1872 | The Deanery of Grantham. The Revd Stuart Craddock, Rural Dean; Peter Chalk, Lay Chair. <i>Mbhashe (Southern Africa): The Rt Revd Elliot Williams; Wernyol (South Sudan): The Rt Revd Gabriel Kuol Garang</i> | Our churchwardens, sidespeople, readers and intercessors. We pray for the residents of All Saints Lane, the Rowans, The Chestnuts |
| Thursday 2nd | We pray for our Rural Deans. <i>Meath & Kildare (Ireland): The Most Revd Patricia Louise Storey; West Ankole (Uganda): The Rt Revd Johnson Twinomujuni; West Buganda (Uganda): The Rt Revd Henry Katumba-Tamale</i> | Charities we support and the FiSH project We pray for the residents of Deepdale Lane, The Dene and Scothern Road |
| Friday 3rd | Church schools in Grantham Deanery. <i>Medak (South India): The Rt Revd A.C. Solomon Raj; West Lango (Uganda): The Rt Revd Alfred Acur Okodi</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 Cotton Smith Way, Herrington Avenue, Lechler Close, Cooper Close and Aima Court |
| Saturday 4th | The Evangelists' Network. Please pray for the network, and for God to raise up those gifted in evangelism in our diocese. <i>Melbourne (Australia): The Most Revd Philip Leslie Freier; West Missouri (USA): The Rt Revd Martin Field</i> | Our Family Church, Cuppa Time, Ducklings and their leaders whilst not meeting We pray for the residents of Shaw Way, Heath Road, Monsford Close and East Street |

Holy Week and Easter....

We are approaching the holiest and most affecting period of the church year. This will be the first year since I was about ten that I haven't spent most of the week in church. That I haven't followed the selfless journey of Our Lord into the hotbed of danger that was Jerusalem, to his hand-over dinner with his closest disciples, his gift of the Holy Eucharist, his betrayal, humiliation and agonising death, his shocking absence for three days, his glorious resurrection. That I haven't ended the week physically and emotionally exhausted and yet spiritually lifted up. That I haven't been involved in re-enacting the procession of palms, washing feet, striking new fire, blessing and dedicating the Paschal Candle, stripping the church of ornament, sitting in the dark as the Lord kneels in the garden awaiting his fate, that I haven't been with families dressed up, drinking bubbly, hunting for chocolate and hugging each other as we say 'Happy Easter' and 'He is risen indeed!'.

How can we turn the bereavement of losing this essential and devastating experience, into an opportunity for closer engagement with the story, the sacrifice, the message and the hope it brings? We will try, together.

Palm Sunday

Next Sunday, I will offer a Eucharist for Palm Sunday at 10.00am from home and I will bless Palms. We normally have a dramatic reading of the Passion story. If anyone fancies taking a part in this I will circulate a script, and we can have a preparatory Zoom meeting where everyone can read their own lines, and then we can record that and use it before the Eucharist – say at 9.45, on Facebook.

I will put the palm crosses somewhere – not sure if it can be the church porch – so you can collect during your one outing for exercise or your trip to the shop.

Holy Week

I will organise what I can for the first few days. That will certainly include Monday to Wednesday comply at 10.00 pm for those that want it on Zoom. Also, we will try to offer at least one Way of the Cross, maybe on Facebook. Maybe some music live from home one or more evenings.

Maundy Thursday

I'm afraid you are going to have to wash your own feet this year! One of us will offer a Eucharist at 8.00pm. I will get Margaret to sing the usual lamentation. We will then have a silent dark screen until midnight so you can sit at home and reflect on Christ's sacrifice.

Good Friday

Working on this. We may have some talks and times of reflection perhaps with music from 12.00. At 2.00, I am adapting the liturgy of the cross so it can be followed at home on Facebook.

Holy Saturday

I plan to light a bonfire in the garden, bless the Paschal Candle, proclaim the Light of Christ, invite all to renew their baptismal promises and I will offer the First Eucharist of Easter

Easter Sunday

A joyful but simple Eucharist at 10.00 am, followed by a moment when we all eat a chocolate egg at exactly the same moment and say 'Happy Easter!'

Offers of help or brilliant ideas are very welcome.

Let us make this the best Holy Week and Easter we never went to.

Joke of the week...

**QUARANTINED WITH
HUBBIE FOR TWO WEEKS –
GERTRUDE IS KNITTING
SOMETHING SPECIAL FOR
HIM! 🤖**



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Parish & Deanery Virtual Office open weekdays 9.30am-12.30pm

**To discuss a baptism, wedding or funeral, please call Administrator, Shirley Keyes.
If you need to talk to a priest, please call Fr Richard or Reverend Judy.**