

All Saints

NETTLEHAM PARISH CHURCH

St. Mary's

RISEHOLME PARISH CHURCH

The Good News from Nettleham

Sunday 26 April 2020

Easter 3

No 146

Father Richard writes....

I speak to many of you quite frequently, so I am getting a picture of how you are all coping with these extraordinary circumstances. If I haven't yet spoken to you and you'd like a chat, do phone me on 01522 754752 – I won't always answer as I spend a huge amount of time in Zoom Meetings, but leave a name and number and I will get back to you. Serious or trivial, I'd love to hear.

I am really pleased that so many of you are getting to share in our services. As you will see below, lots of people are starting to feel confident to lead prayer and daily worship either intimately on Zoom, or rather more publicly on Facebook Live. We will find some more ways of sharing, using the website and let you know when they are available. Ducklings met online this week, and our Standing Committee are becoming old hands. The Pastoral Care Team met last week and once a few technical glitches were ironed out, had a great conversation. There's a healing service with Jane this Sunday. If you want to join a prayer group, join in the daily morning prayer, or just get together for a coffee on the internet, do let us know and we will help you to get going.

I am inclined to worry about the theology of things, especially when it comes to the Eucharist and the other sacraments. What we are doing is very strange – me in my dining room, dressed for a proper Eucharist, doing a short offering of the word and the sacrament. Loads of people watching, maybe saying some of the words at home, trying to feel some of what they might have felt in church. I particularly love it when you press the *Like* button during the service, and little hearts float up the screen I have in front of me – do keep it going. Do also *Like* the All Saints Nettleham group – it helps to promote it! We are getting many new, regular friends through this online worship and I am looking for ways to be more in touch. Maybe a Zoom coffee and a chat afterwards – we will see. Do send messages, especially afterwards, and share the service with friends.

The theological and social challenges come in things that are supposed to be physical. Being together. Sharing the peace – either with all of us who are signed in, or with me on the screen, or with each other at home if you are not alone. The sending out! Most of all in the receiving of the bread and wine, the absolute token of the presence of Jesus Christ with us according to his promises. It puts a huge burden on you to “pray him present”, but it can be done. It is called ‘spiritual communion’. Remember, you have to do it even when you receive the bread and the wine – what you do, pray, and believe, not just my words, make Christ's promise come true. I may normally say “Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you”, and that feels poignantly wrong in this separated world. But I also say the second half of the sentence, “and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving”. Until we meet again, we will have to do without the taste, the touch, the proximity and the physicality of the sacrament. However, for now we have the deeper part of the promise and our role in it to fulfil – faith and thanksgiving.

In need of prayer....

Reverend Philip Wain, 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 Reverend Bill Williams, Ellen Uttridge, Kenneth Gibbard, Paul Blagburn, Phil Edwards and Alan Dawkins.

Year's Mind

June Sheldon (2019)

Phyllis Campling (2008)

Today's readings...

Acts 2.14a, 36-41

Psalms 116

1 Peter 1.17-23

Luke 24.13-35

A prayer in lockdown....

From the Association of English Cathedrals.

The doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked. (*John 20.19*)

Ever present God,
be with us in our isolation,
be close to us in our distancing,
be healing in our sickness,
be joy in our sadness,
be light in our darkness,
be wisdom in our confusion,
be all that is familiar when all is unfamiliar,
that when the doors reopen
we may with the zeal of Pentecost
inhabit our communities
and speak of your goodness
to an emerging world.
For Jesus' sake.

Amen.

Quote of the week....

And as the outer world closes up shop indefinitely, we can ingest a constant stream of stressful news, or veg out with our electronic toys, or have a pity party.

But we don't have to.

Why not instead, use this time of relative quiet to create our own private spiritual retreat?

What a great opportunity to go inward, spend time with ourselves and with Spirit. If ever there was a time to practice the presence, it would be now. We know that spiritual practices such as prayer, meditation, journaling, and even singing boost our immune system. So if you want to call it infection prevention, by all means! Go for it!

Poem of the week....

Malcolm Guite is being inspirational at the moment. Poet, priest, singer. He introduces his sonnet for St Mark's Day – yesterday if you are reading this on Sunday!

The 25th of April is the feast day of St. Mark the Evangelist, so I am posting again my sonnet on St. Mark's Gospel, one of a set of four sonnets on each of the four evangelists. As I re-read it during this lockdown, as we too make the shift 'from grand to intimate', I am struck afresh by the transition in Mark from Christ's action to his passion, from doing to suffering, from being in control to experiencing with us and for us what it is to depend, patiently, on the actions of others.

For each of these sonnets I have meditated on the traditional association of each of the evangelists with one of the 'four living creatures' round the throne, and how that helps us to focus on the particular gifts and emphasis of that Gospel writer. Mark is the lion. There is a power, a dynamic a swiftness of pace in Mark's Gospel, his favourite word is 'immediately'! and that suits the lion. His Gospel starts in the wilderness and that suits it too.

But the great paradox in Mark is that the Gospel writer who shows us Christ at his most decisive, powerful, startling and leonine is also the one who shows us how our conquering lion, our true Aslan, deliberately entered into suffering and passion, the great 'doer' letting things be done unto him. In this sonnet, I am especially indebted to WH Vanstone's brilliant reading of this aspect of Mark in his wonderful book *The Stature of Waiting*.



This sonnet is drawn from my collection *Sounding the Seasons*, available from Amazon. The illustration is taken from the Lindisfarne Gospels.

Mark

A wingèd lion, swift, immediate
Mark is the gospel of the sudden shift
From first to last, from grand to intimate,
From strength to weakness, and from debt to gift,
From a wide desert's haunted emptiness
To a close city's fervid atmosphere,
From a voice crying in the wilderness
To angels in an empty sepulchre.

And Christ makes the most sudden shift of all;
From swift action as a strong Messiah
Casting the very demons back to hell
To slow pain, and death as a pariah.
We see our Saviour's life and death unmade
And flee his tomb dumbfounded and afraid.

This week's services...

Sunday

Easter 3

- 10.00am Facebook All Saints Nettleham group – Holy Eucharist live from Fr Richard's home (also uploaded to the ASN website at 11.15) Gospel: Luke.24.13-35
- 4.00pm Healing and Wholeness with Jane Hanson on Zoom. Please email Jane for meeting ID and passcode.
- 9.30pm Compline with Fr Richard on Zoom

Monday

- 9.00am Morning Prayer from Martin Farmer's house on Facebook All Saints Nettleham. Ask him for a link.

Tuesday

- 10.00am Ducklings on Zoom. Email Fr Richard (rector@asn.church) for a meeting ID and passcode.

Wednesday

- 9.00am Morning Prayer with Fr Richard on Facebook All Saints Nettleham and available later online
- 10.00am Reflection and prayer

Thursday

- 9.00am Morning Prayer on Zoom with Sandy and Andy. Email Andy (allsaintscw@btinternet.com) to receive a meeting ID and passcode.
- 10.00am Holy Eucharist on Facebook All Saints Nettleham

Friday

- 9.00am Morning Prayer on Zoom with Revd Judy and the clergy team. Email Judy if you'd like a link

If anyone needs "pre meeting familiarisation" with new technology, please talk to Fr Richard, Russ or Andy.

- Zoom requires you to download an application (app) on to your smartphone or tablet, or you can use the internet on your PC without downloading the app. The meeting host needs to send you an invitation so that you can join in. Please make sure that you allow access to video and audio on your phone/tablet/PC.
- To be able to live-stream the services on Facebook you need to join FB and download the app onto your phone/tablet/PC.
- To get services afterwards via the website, you will need simply to go to our site, at www.asn.church and find the services page, and then click on the service you want to watch. This function should be functional by Monday, using the material created this Sunday.

Prayer Diary....

Day	Diocese, wider church	Parish
Sunday 26th The Third Sunday of Easter	We pray today for those on a journey towards faith and belief, that they might meet Jesus through the teaching of the scriptures and the breaking of bread. <i>The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem & The Middle East</i> The Most Revd Michael Lewis – Archbishop, Jerusalem & the Middle East & Bishop of Cyprus and the Gulf	Risen Christ, you filled your disciples with boldness and fresh hope: strengthen us to proclaim your risen life and fill us with your peace, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.
Monday 27th Christina Rossetti, Poet, 1894.	The Wolds Gateway Group. The Revd Philip Stevens. <i>Mount Kenya Central (Kenya):</i> The Rt Revd Timothy Gichere; <i>Mount Kenya South (Kenya):</i> The Rt Revd Timothy Ranji; <i>Mount Kenya West (Kenya):</i> The Rt Revd Joseph Kagunda	Our clergy, Reader and Administrator. <i>Pray for Fr Richard, Revd Judy. Bishop Nigel, Jane Hanson and Kath Pickering</i> We pray for the Police Headquarters, Police Office and emergency services.
Tuesday 28th Peter Chanel, Missionary in the South Pacific, Martyr, 1841.	International Workers' Memorial Day. The Bishop's Office. As well as our bishops, we pray for Jayson Rhodes, Hayley Coddington and Georgie Hewitt. <i>Mount Kilimanjaro (Tanzania):</i> The Rt Revd Stanley Elilekia Hotay; <i>Wusasa (Nigeria):</i> The Rt Revd Ali Buba Lamido; <i>Ijesha North (Nigeria):</i> The Rt Revd Isaac Oluyamo	Our choir and organists <i>Pray for choir members, for our Choir Mistress, and our organists</i> We pray for the Parish Council, our representatives on District and County Councils, and in Parliament.
Wednesday 29th Catherine of Siena, Teacher of the Faith, 1380.	Healthcare. Please pray for our NHS and all involved in healthcare at this time. <i>Mpumalanga (Southern Africa):</i> The Rt Revd Daniel Kgomoosotho; <i>Wyoming (USA):</i> The Rt Revd John Smylie	Our churchwardens, sidespeople, readers and intercessors. We pray for shops, businesses and pubs.
Thursday 30th Pandita Mary Ramabai, Translator of the Scriptures, 1922.	Vergers and sidespeople. Please pray for all those who care for our buildings, provide for our worship, and are on the frontline of welcome in our churches. <i>Mpwapwa (Tanzania):</i> The Rt Revd Jacob Erasto Chimeledya; <i>Yambio (South Sudan):</i> The Most Revd Samuel Peni; <i>Yangon (Myanmar):</i> The Most Revd Stephen Than Myint Oo (Primate)	Charities we support and the FiSH project We pray for village amenities: Mulsanne Park, Village Hall and the Old School.
Friday 1st Philip and James, Apostles, (Festival)	Furloughed workers. We pray especially for all the staff at Edward King House and everyone who is worried about their job security. <i>Mthatha (formerly St John's) (Southern Africa):</i> The Rt Revd Hummingfield Ndwandwe; <i>Yei (South Sudan):</i> The Rt Revd Hilary Adeba Luete	The Sacristy team and Servers. <i>We pray for the whole team and their ministry for us</i> We pray for village amenities: The Community Hub and Scout and Guide HQ
Saturday 2nd Athanasius, bishop, teacher of the faith, 327	People working from home. We pray for our bishops, David, Nicholas and Nigel as they inspire and lead our Diocese in lockdown. <i>Muhabura (Uganda):</i> The Rt Revd Cranmer Mugisha; <i>Yeri (South Sudan):</i> The Rt Revd John Abraham Nyari; <i>Ijumu (Nigeria):</i> The Ven Paul Olarewaju Ojo	Our Family Church, Cuppa Time, Ducklings and their leaders whilst not meeting We pray for Church View, the health centre and all health care workers.

Poetry to uplift your spirits...

Would you like to hear a reading of a poem every day during these days of self-isolation? Richard Haynes, a member of our congregation has set up a new page on Facebook. You can listen to poems written by some of our greatest poets and also commentaries on some of the poems.

If you search on Facebook for 'Poetry to Uplift the Spirits' you should find it. This is the link to one of the poems:

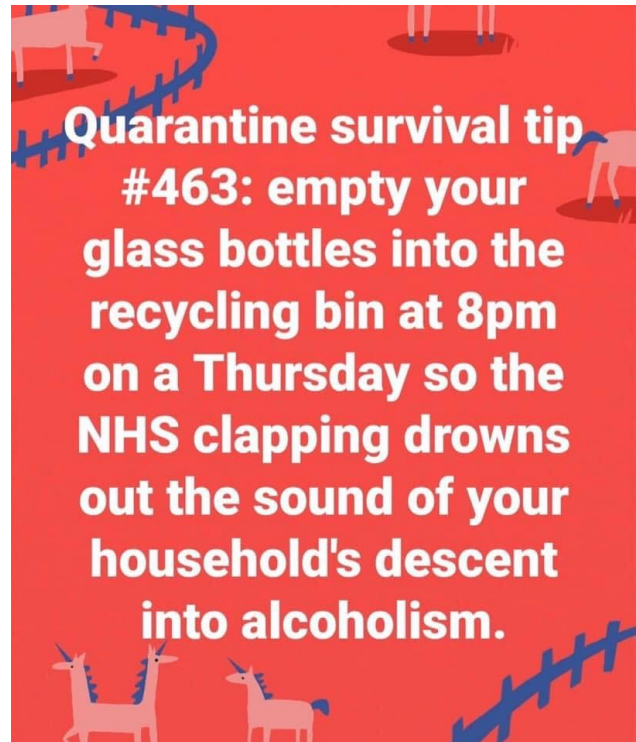
<https://www.facebook.com/102587861385514/posts/106728034304830/?vh=e&d=n>

Lockdown Humour....

Joke of the week...

Where did Saddam Hussein keep his CDs?
In Iraq.

I'd just like to say this is not a joke that I provided! Fr Richard



Spiritual opportunity in lockdown....

Some ideas from English Jesuits.

During this time of social distancing and 'lock down' many people have been finding creative ways of using their time. The Jesuit ministry to young adults in London have been experimenting with individually directed retreats. So far we have tried two different formats, the first was where a member of our young adult community in Brixton went into silence for a week (despite sharing the house with two other people) and spent the week in prayer, reflection and even more distancing from friends and family. Each day she 'zoomed in' for an online video call with her retreat director who listened to her experiences and between them they worked out where she might focus for the next 24 hours. 'I wrapped up my week feeling rejuvenated and more clear on plans for the next phase of my life,' the retreatant wrote afterwards.

The second experiment was to offer a retreat in daily life through Holy Week. This time the dozen retreatants were not in silence but going about their daily lives – such as they are at this time, working online, sharing coffee breaks, meals and glasses of wine virtually etc. The retreatants committed to 30 to 60 minutes prayer and a meeting with their retreat guide each day. There were also a couple of prayer workshops, again through the Zoom platform. This was a delightful experience of praying together in front of our screens. The retreat began and ended with a group meeting on Zoom, adding a community dimension to what was otherwise an individually directed retreat.

Speak to Fr Richard, Jane or Revd Judy if you'd like to try something like this.

The Venerable Justine's reflections....

The Archdeacon of Boston, The Venerable Justine Allain Chapman, is putting out a wonderful series of reflections on our spiritual life during the lockdown. She is wise, witty and whimsical, even wacky! Do look for all her stuff. She is doing it alphabetically and has just now reached T.

Resilience A to Z. T is for Tortoise.

I'm someone who has usually done quite a lot before breakfast - the washing will be in the machine or on the line, the dishwasher unpacked. This habit comes, in part, from years of needing to get children up and out before I could start work. Now that spring is here, the tortoise, out of hibernation, needs to be fed and watered every morning. This pet, you understand, isn't mine. The child the tortoise belongs to is not yet in a position to accommodate it. I was told this would happen by others wiser than me and I heeded the advice, agreeing to a low maintenance tortoise.

And Nettle, for that is her name, shows me every morning that even before nibbling that yellow flower, she needs to be in the sunshine. No basking at first, just being there cold and still. After the night, Nettle, having been out of the sunlight, can do nothing. She may be low maintenance but being in the sun is essential and has to come first. After that she races around, really (remember that tortoise and hare fable?), eats, basks, sleeps.

Nettle reminds me, that it is not doing things before breakfast that is the issue, it is doing anything at all if I haven't placed myself in the light and presence of God, not just to acknowledge my creatureliness before the creator, but to be warmed and energised. It need only be a pause, a glance, a sentence - spoken or sung. Then I act out of the gift of life, connected to God, not deluded that I can live self sufficiently. Jesus described himself as the vine and his disciples as the branches (John 15:5). Abide, is what he asks of his followers, abide in him, in his presence because apart from the vine the branches cannot live, cannot be fruitful. They wither and die, or because they are useless, get lopped off.

Prayer, being in the presence of God has been expanding for me. I have noticed the life around me, needed to put myself in the presence of beauty, stillness and colour, have fewer words. Join Nettle in just being in the light, before doing anything else.



THE FOODBANK

WAYS YOU CAN HELP IN 2020



FIND OUT
WHAT IS
NEEDED



PICK UP EXTRA
ITEMS WHEN
YOU SHOP



COLLECTING

THEY DO A
GREAT JOB AT
THE FOODBANK



GOSSIP
POSITIVELY

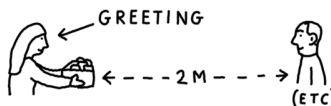


DONATE
MONEY



FUNDRAISE

MIGHT
HAVE
TO BE
ONLINE
NOW



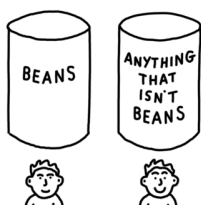
GREETING

VOLUNTEER
(REALLY IMPORTANT AS
MANY VOLUNTEERS OVER 65
AND NOW SELF-ISOLATING)

WHY IS THE
NEED FOR
FOODBANKS
INCREASING?



ASK AWKWARD
QUESTIONS



[BUT
CHECK
LOCALLY]



ASK PEOPLE FOR
FOODBANK DONATIONS
RATHER THAN PRESENTS



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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.