

All Saints

NETTLEHAM PARISH CHURCH

St. Mary's

RISEHOLME PARISH CHURCH

The Good News from Nettleham

Sunday 28 February 2021 Second Sunday of Lent No 187

Father Richard writes....

The stable used for the birth of the Saviour of the World because there was no room at the inn (actually the stable is an embellishment to the story and not explicitly there in the gospels) makes homelessness a Christian theme for Christmas. A few cards bought in aid of Shelter, a few parcels for the homeless wrapped up, and, for the urban and the more daring, perhaps a couple of nights of accommodation and a meal in a church hall for some people off the streets. Done for the year.

However, homelessness and atrociously poor housing are issues that are perennial. It is one of the great public disgraces that one of the world's richest countries, the UK, has such high numbers of homeless. The number of people in England alone with literally no-where to go and sleeping rough on any one night has fallen quite dramatically this year, from about 4,266 to 2,688, largely because of the funding of local authorities to get people in during the Covid-19 crisis. During the year the number of people being in need of accommodation to get them off the street at some point was 37,000, the figures from the government's "Get them in" scheme. That is the extreme, emergency end of the problem.

The real housing crisis is much, much bigger. It has been revealed in a major new report by the Church of England this week, called "Coming Home; Tackling the housing crisis together". It shows that around 8m people in England live in overcrowded, unaffordable or unsuitable housing. The report calls this unjust, and indicates that the burden of bad or inadequate housing falls generally on the poorest in our society. The church proposes a 20-year programme of improving and making more affordable housing. It proposes a better definition of affordable – relating to income, not to local property prices. Until that can be done, it proposes a fix of the benefits system to bridge the gap between affordability and availability. It proposes improved tenancy agreements, more temporary housing, and a programme of improvement of the stock.

As well as being prophets, calling out the wickedness of what they see, the leaders of the Church of England are proposing to get involved. The church is a massive land-owner. It has huge investment leverage. It has partnerships with housing associations in many places, including this diocese. It has an illustrious history over many centuries of providing housing for the poor as a landlord and as a provider of almshouses and emergency housing. The new Bishop of Cheltenham has been made Bishop for Housing.

We can all play our part. When I was part of the church at All Saints, Notting Hill, before the area was redeveloped for the upper middle classes, we were deeply involved in fighting the wicked local landlords, such as the notorious Peter Rachman, accompanying residents to court to fight evictions, and getting involved in the peaceful

obstruction of evictions and prevention of harassment. Housing the homeless, caring for the victim, fighting systems that deprive people, especially the poor and those with problems, of their right to a roof over their head and decency, is a clear gospel imperative. A faithful Christian will always have a bias to the poor, courage to stick up for victims against those who do them down – even the state. Jesus certainly did that.

It doesn't always make us popular as Christians, certainly not with the better-healed in our society. But Jesus didn't go down well with them either! A church in our deanery had vicious complaints when it allowed a rough sleeper to use the building to keep warm overnight. There have been difficult disagreements in churches in the deanery over local opposition to planning consent for so-called affordable housing – actually it is anything but affordable, yet people seem to think it would lower the tone and bring in the wrong type of person. The church in our diocese needs to use its leverage, its land and its resources to help build homes that can really tackle the issue of unsuitable, unaffordable, sub-standard and horrifically scarce housing for the people the Lord came to care for.

A concern for housing needs is for life, not just for Christmas. Here in Nettleham we might be able to identify ways in which we could encourage the provision of really affordable housing, which probably means social housing, pressuring for accommodation for people in need, and maybe even collaborating in delivery of specialist housing. Let us at least add our voice, our prayer and our support to the national church institutions in being the prophets calling out this public outrage, and using their power and resources, even leading by example, to help those with no power and no resources.

Quote of the week....

The Commission argues that the Church, as a significant landowner in England, has to lead by example by getting involved in addressing housing need, whether that is providing land to build more truly affordable houses or, at the local level, parish churches' getting involved, where they can, in relation to the housing need that surrounds them every day. *Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell.*

Prayer of the week....

O God of loving devotion, please be near our homeless citizens. Remain by their sides and meet their needs. Show me how to be a part of their lives by generously giving my prayers, time, and money to help them. Guide me so that I can spread your word to the needy. Amen.

In need of prayer...

Glynn Wilson, Hugh Wykes, Eileen Everett, Audrey Beverley and Jane Bointon.

RIP....

We give thanks for the lives, pray for the souls and ask comfort for the relatives and friends of Ivor Amos, Joseph Bointon, James Mason, Nigel Kingston, Ken Everett, Michael Melia, and Rita Chapman.

Year's Mind...

1 March Oliver Thornton (1992)
 Jane Goodliffe (2008)
 Norman Scott (2012)

3 March

5 March

6 March

Barbara Milan (2020)

Joan Edwards (1974)

Kathleen Grainger (2009)

Anthony Howgego (2015)

Joan Jones (2018)

Sunday and Weekday services...

Sunday	Second Sunday of Lent
10.00am	With congregation and on Facebook Live – Holy Communion (uploaded to the ASN website later)
11.00am	Church open for private prayer for one hour
4.00pm	Worship online – interactive worship on our website asn.church .
Monday	
9.00am	Morning Prayer on Facebook Live with Martin Farmer.
11.00am	Church open for private prayer for one hour
12.00pm	Facebook Live: Devotion; thirty minutes with the sacrament.
7.00pm	Lent Course on Zoom with Revd Teena. Meeting ID: 863 1404 8801 Passcode: 894316
Tuesday	
9.00am	Morning Prayer on Facebook Live with Jean Carter.
Wednesday	
9.00am	Morning Prayer and Fellowship on Zoom with Teena. Email Teena (teena@asn.church) for a meeting ID and passcode please.
11.00am	Church open for private prayer for one hour
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	Said Eucharist on FB Live
11.30am	Lent Course on Zoom with Revd Teena Meeting ID: 886 6671 9657 Passcode: 246875
6.00pm	Lent Course on Zoom. Please email Revd Judy for a Zoom meeting ID and passcode.
Friday	
9.00am	Morning Prayer on Zoom with Judy. Please email her for a Zoom meeting ID and passcode.
11.00am	Church open for private prayer for one hour
12.00pm	Holy Communion according to Book of Common Prayer on FB Live
Saturday	
9.00am	Morning Prayer on Facebook Live with Fr. Richard.

Today's lectionary readings –Lent 2...

Genesis 17.1-7 Psalm 22.23-end Romans 4.13-end Mark 8.31-38

Evening Prayer....

We are hoping soon to launch daily Evening Prayer online, probably at 5.30, but comments and ideas gratefully received. If you'd like to take on hosting and leading one of these services, have a chat with one of the clergy or with Shirley.
During Holy Week we will also be doing compline.

Today's collect, gospel reading and post communion prayer...

Almighty God,
you show to those who are in error the light of your truth,
that they may return to the way of righteousness:
grant to all those who are admitted
into the fellowship of Christ's religion,
that they may reject those things
that are contrary to their profession,
and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same;
through our Lord Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Mark 8.31-38

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

Almighty God,
you see that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves:
keep us both outwardly in our bodies,
and inwardly in our souls;
that we may be defended from all adversities
which may happen to the body,
and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Don't forget...

You can receive communion at home or at the gate after some of our services. Call Shirley on 01522 931076 to arrange this.

World Day of Prayer...

Due to the current restrictions, the service which has been prepared by a team from Vanuatu for the World Day of Prayer on Friday 5 March cannot take place in church. However, there is a service being prepared by the local team which will be available on YouTube if you have that facility. Alternatively, we do have the service booklet for those who would like to celebrate this day and if you contact Jean Carter on 01522 753378 she will drop a copy off for you. Also, she will be happy to collect any donation you may wish to make to World Day of Prayer.

Myfanwy

Church in the Porch....

This week there will be our usual Church in the Porch magazine in the porch from a little earlier on Sunday – because our main focus will be on our online pic’n’mix AllSaints@4 service from 4pm. Anyone can join us by clicking into our website www.asn.church and following the links to worship to watch the various video offerings.

We also need egg boxes ahead of Good Friday please for a craft for the children. Plastic or cardboard - either will do... Leave them in the church porch or Shirley will be returning to work in Nettleham next week and you can drop them off at the office between 10.00am and 1.30pm.

Rev'd. Teena

News from St Mary's Riseholme...

Last week we had a PCC meeting and it was good to see so many able to join in using the wizardry of Zoom.

It was unanimously decided not to open St Mary's for public worship at this present time. But we have decided to get together for a "social event with cake" now that most people can use Zoom. So if you are free on the 9th March at 3pm and would like to join us do let me know and I'll send you a link. If you would like me to deliver cake to your doorstep let me know that too.

As we are all getting very used to Zoom there will also be a service for Easter; so do request a link for that too. I hope to be able to play some hymns and as long as we mute ourselves you will be able to have a good sing along in your own homes.

If you need anything please do be in touch with either Father Richard, Rev'd Teena or myself.

God bless Rev'd Judy

Resourcing Sustainable Church....

The draft of the comprehensive plan to refocus the life of the church across the diocese has been published. It will form the basis of nine consultation meetings, one in each of the new groupings, now called Deanery Partnerships. There will be a Zoom gathering of clergy and laity from our own – the West Lindsey Deanery Partnership – on 17 March. The plan has much about how we hope to deploy a reduced number of stipendiary clergy in Local Ministry Partnerships working collaboratively together and with self-supporting ministers, both lay and ordained. It explains how ministry and mission will be focused on a relatively small group of Key Mission churches (probably not more than three or four across West Lindsey, and whatever number of Local Mission Churches we can reasonably resource in what will very likely be the Lawres Mission Partnership. The plan covers new approaches to share, use of investments, central services, training and supporting the other churches, and caring for buildings.

Prayer Diary....

Day	Diocese, wider church	Parish
Sunday 28 th Second Sunday of Lent	He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <i>Mark 8: 34</i> <i>Iglesia Anglicana de la Region Central de America</i>	Almighty God, by the prayer and discipline of Lent may we enter into the mystery of Christ's sufferings, and by following in his Way come to share in his glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen
Monday 1 st David, Bishop of Menevia, Patron of Wales, c.601	The Deanery of Grantham – Rural Dean: Revd Stuart Cradduck, Lay Chair: Mr Peter Chalk Pray that we may be focused on growing the Kingdom of God and not daunted by the challenges which lie ahead. <i>The Diocese of Armidale – The Anglican Church of Australia</i>	Our clergy, lay ministers and Administrator. <i>Pray for Fr Richard, Revd Judy; Bishop Nigel, and Revd Teena.</i> We pray for all shops, businesses and pubs and village amenities: Mulsanne Park, The Community Hub, Village Hall, The Old School and Scout and Guide HQ
Tuesday 2 nd Chad, Bishop of Lichfield, Missionary, 672	Church Schools in the Deanery of Grantham Financial Reporting Advisory Panel <i>The Diocese of Arochukwu/Ohafia – The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion)</i>	Our choir and organists <i>Pray for choir members, for our Choir Mistress, and our organists.</i> We pray for the residents of All Saints Lane, The Rowans and The Chestnuts, Deepdale Lane, The Dene and Scothern Road.
Wednesday 3 rd	Barrowby and Great Gonerby – In Vacancy Pray for all who are attending the online services at the moment as we plan for the opening of our Churches RSC Consultation - North Kesteven. <i>The Diocese of Aru – Province de L'Eglise Anglicane du Congo</i>	Our churchwardens, welcomers, prayer supervisors, readers and intercessors. We pray for the residents of Cotton Smith Way, Herrington Avenue, Lechler Close, Cooper Close and Aima Court.
Thursday 4 th	Grantham St Wulfrum - Revd Stuart Cradduck There are concerns about our recovery after Covid, but we are also optimistic about our future and the new resource centre at Grantham House. RSC Consultation - South Holland. <i>The Missionary Diocese of Asaba – The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion)</i>	Charities we support and the FiSH project We pray for the residents of Shaw Way, Heath Road, Monsford Close and East Street.
Friday 5 th	Grantham, Harrowby w Londonthorpe – Revd Sam Parsons Please pray for our OLM curate, Barbara Manterfield, and our Mission and Ministry across the team as we come out of lockdown. <i>The Diocese of Asante-Mampong – The Church of the Province of West Africa</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 The Croft, The Crescent, Jubilee Court, Orchard Way, Kerrison View and Highfields.
Saturday 6 th	Grantham, Manthorpe - Revd Stuart Cradduck We look to the future in realising our hopes and ambitions in the completion of the refurbishment of our church and its extension so we can serve God and our local community better. <i>The Diocese of Saint Asaph - The Church in Wales</i>	Church in the Porch, our Family Church, Cuppa Time, Ducklings and their leaders whilst not meeting We pray for the residents of The Steepers, Wold View and High Leas.

Rev'd Judy writes about prayer...

Silence was the theme for the first week of Lent. Thank you for all who have participated in discussions and sharing your artwork on this theme. For some, silence is welcome and easy, but for others it is something they find difficult or dislike. But it is the emptying our minds of all the noise which is the beginning of our prayer life and especially when we are trying to listen to what God is saying to us.

This week we turn our attention to contemplation. What is contemplation to do with prayer? The aim is to "look at", "gaze at", "be aware of" God. There are two schools of thought as some theologians believe that the contemplative practice of repetition, the focus on breathing, and the contemplation of images or icons seeking to empty the mind and usher in an altered state of consciousness like New Age meditation, warn of deception and express concern that this practice may offer a spiritual experience that may not be with the one true God. Henri Nouwen and others would disagree. They believe 'being still' is an important spiritual discipline so we are able to draw closer and hear God.

I hope that we will discuss that this week in our groups and find answers to the question. If you have artwork, quotes, prayers to thoughts on contemplation do send them to either Rev'd Teena, Jean Gledhill or myself. Jean is putting them all on display in the church porch so if you are out for a walk do stop and take a look as we have some very talented people in the village.

As we journey through Lent, Teena has made up some wonderful Lent bags, so do grab one before they all go as it's not too late to catch up. The first week is about being in the wilderness times.

If you are like me and love the feel of sand you will be delighted to find a small bag of sand in the bag. I've let mine dry out in a small dish so I can run my fingers through the sand. And as I was doing this I was reminded of my life journey and the times I've walked with God and the times when I have not.

As part of your journal this week try spending some time mapping out your life journey and thanking God for being with you even when you haven't been walking with him. Remember also all the blessings that you have received and give thanks.

Blessings, Judy

calling all crafters, prayer writers, flower arrangers, poets and painters...

We need your help! During Lent we are using different themes to explore our need for God in our lives. Each week we would like to offer an craft idea, a prayer or poem, a painting and some thoughts for each theme, which will then be shared through GNFN and in the Church Porch. If you can help with any of this please get in touch with Rev'd Teena or Rev'd Judy. The themes we are using are: Week 1- Silence; Week 2- Contemplation; Week 3 – Peace; Week 4 – Joy; Week 5- Confidence Week 6 – Love.

Private prayer and Sunday bookings...

As you are all aware, we are now taking bookings for the 10.00am service but are limited to 20 spaces in the nave/under the tower at present. If you make a booking but are unable to come at the last minute, it would be really helpful if you could let us know so we can allocate your space to someone else. The easiest way to do this is to ring or text Andy on **07943 099431** and you can do this even on Sunday morning.

The church is now open for private prayer four times a week, between 11am and 12 midday, on a Sunday, Monday, Wednesday and Friday. This is available to everyone and does not require any booking.

Nettleham Natters

For those who are feeling lonely or isolated – please do pass on the link for the Zoom meeting **‘Nettleham Natters’**. It’s an hour and a half of just general chit chat. No agenda, everyone welcome! You can also join by phone using the numbers below.

Topic: Nettleham Natters

Time: Mar 4, 2021 02:00 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86054399154?pwd=VWNRdjhoU2pzVW8wSHU2MmFBSUlwQT09>

Meeting ID: 860 5439 9154

Passcode: 177503

Contact...

Rector: Father Richard Crossland

Desk: 01522 754752
rector@asn.church
Mobile: 07717 767879

Associate Priest: Revd Judy Shaw

judy@asn.church
Mobile: 07594 670408

Curate: Revd Teena Twelves

teena@asn.church
01522 754003/Mobile: 07735 398040

Parish Administrator: Shirley Keyes

01522 931076/931075
admin@asn.church

Treasurer: Russ Coulter

treasurer@asn.church
07943 099431

Churchwarden: Andy Lewis

01522 823867

Churchwarden: Lynne Combes

Parish Safeguarding Officer: Russ Coulter

safeguarding@asn.church

Pastoral Care Coordinator: Jean Gledhill

gledhills@talktalk.net
01522 751451

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.