

All Saints

NETTLEHAM PARISH CHURCH

St. Mary's

RISEHOLME PARISH CHURCH

The Good News from Nettleham

Sunday 12th December 2021 3rd Sunday of Advent No 220

Father Richard writes...

We had an excellent conversation in church after the 10.00am Eucharist and the revisited Annual Parochial Church Meeting. It will provide some clear directions of thought as we work in January and February to refresh the vision for All Saints. In the church, this is often called Mission Action Planning.

Mission is a very widely used word. A mission in the church in the past meant sending some people to a non-Christian place – missionaries, in fact – to convert and establish a church. Sometimes with excellent motives, sometimes as an adjunct of empire. This “conversion motive” continues to be very strong, and some in the church retain this fairly narrow understanding. The word means sending originally. The Eucharist is often called the Mass, from the final words – go! As always it is more specific. It is go and..... Our modern words are “Go in peace to love and serve the Lord”.

Mission is often used to describe what it is you are sent to do. “My husband is on a mission to get the children to help with the cooking and clearing”. We also hear the word in military operations – the two planes were on a daring mission behind enemy lines. In our modern world, it has become a word to describe the core purpose of an organisation. John Lewis has a “mission” to be an outstanding retailer, selling high quality goods at fair prices with excellent service from stakeholder staff. The BBC has expressed its mission in various ways over the years. To inform, educate and entertain. And my favourite – to be the world’s most trusted broadcaster.

Mission action planning for churches could involve all these understandings of mission and more. I wonder what you’d say if someone who knew about churches but was an outsider asked you “how do you see your church’s mission”. You can see various church’s attempts to answer this question. “Making the Lord Jesus Christ known in Hemel Hempstead”. “Welcoming all to the Lord’s table”. “Serving God and transforming lives in Barnsley”. “Planting churches and making disciples”. “The Anglican Parish Church in the middle of Greenwich”. What would ours be? What might you hope it would become?

Some people see mission entirely as growth in numbers. The last words of Matthew’s gospel, “Go make disciples of all nations”, often called the Great Commission, is an important part of our own calling, but surely not the limit of our ambition, or of the work Christ handed to us his disciples. Love your neighbour. Fight for justice and mercy. Build on your gifts. Feed my sheep. Put down the mighty from their seat and exalt the humble and meek. Care for the hurting. Demonstrate God’s sacrificial love. Be Christ’s body in our own generation. Maintain the faith you have inherited.

What is the purpose of our church. What does God want of us? What is our mission?

Quote of the month...

"In our reflections on Matthew's use of the term "disciple", it has been suggested that to become a disciple of Jesus includes a whole range of commitments. Primarily, it means accepting a commitment to Jesus and to God's reign. At its heart, Jesus' invitation to people to follow him and become his disciples is asking people whom they want to serve. Evangelism is, therefore, a call to service. This is not to be contrasted with the blessings—including eternal blessings—which the new convert will receive; as a matter of fact, it is pointless to play the one perspective out against the other. Still, since it is the perspective on eternal bliss that has usually been emphasized, it is high time that the perspective of service to the kingdom be stressed as forcefully."

"Luke's entire understanding of the Christian mission: it is the fulfilment of scriptural promises; it only becomes possible after the death and resurrection of the Messiah of Israel; its central thrust is the message of repentance and forgiveness; it is intended for "all nations"; it is to begin "from Jerusalem"; it is to be executed by "witnesses"; and it will be accomplished in the power of the Holy Spirit."

David J. Bosch, Transforming Mission: Paradigm Shifts in Theology of Mission

Prayer for the week...

Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy
in this time of uncertainty and distress.
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may rejoice in your comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Amen.

In need of prayer...

Barry Crum, Alan and Beverly Bowls, Gill Kirk.

Please pray for Evie Willow Lincoln-Daniels, who is being baptised on Sunday 12th December, and for her parents and godparents.

RIP....

We give thanks for the lives, pray for the souls and ask for comfort for the relatives and friends of Colin Lewis, Muriel Bradley, Eileen Webb and Gill Jones.

Year's Mind...

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| 13 December | Ena Simpson (2014) |
| 14 December | Gertrude Terry (2005) |
| 15 December | Sylvia June Hartley (2008) |
| 16 December | Eleanor Dadson (1957) Dorothy Dadson (1969) Frances Holmes (2016) |
| 17 December | Duncan Macdougald (2006) Alan Bratley (2020) |
| 18 December | Brian Hall (2009) |

Sunday and weekday services and events...

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| Sunday 12th 8.30am 10.00am 1.00pm | Third Advent Sunday Said Eucharist Eucharist (Common Worship); and on FB Live Baptism of Evie Lincoln-Daniels |
| Monday 13th 9.00am 10am-12pm 12.15pm 2.00pm 7.30pm | Lucy, Martyr at Syracuse, 304 Morning Prayer on Facebook Live with Martin. Coffee Shop in church – all are very welcome! Deanery Chapter in Parish Centre Funeral of Gill Jones Handbells – Parish Centre |
| Tuesday 14th 9.00am 9.30am | John of the Cross, Poet, Teacher, 1591 Morning Prayer on Facebook Live with Jean Carter Ducklings in church |
| Weds 15th 9.00am | Wednesday Morning Prayer and Fellowship on Zoom with Rev. Teena Zoom link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7269957519 |
| Thursday 16th 9.00am 10.00am | Morning Prayer on Zoom with Sandy and Andy. Email Andy (allsaintscw@btinternet.com) to receive a meeting ID and passcode. CW Eucharist |
| Friday 17th 9.00am 12.00pm Evening | O Sapientia Morning Prayer on Zoom with Judy. Meeting ID: 869 4076 3374 Passcode: 700579 Holy Communion (BCP) at church & on FB Live Junior School are singing in the Cathedral |
| Saturday 18th 9.00am 6.00pm | Morning Prayer on Facebook Live with Fr Richard Carols by Candlelight – please book by contacting 01522 931076 or email admin@asn.church |
| Sunday 19th 8.30am 10.00am 11.15am 4.00pm 6.00pm | Fourth Sunday of Advent Church – CW Eucharist Church and on Facebook Live – CW Eucharist (uploaded to the ASN website later) Matins RSM Christingle. Please book by contacting 01522 931076 or email admin@asn.church Carols by Candlelight at St Mary's, Riseholme |

Today's lectionary readings – 3rd Sunday of
Advent

Zephaniah 3.14-end

Canticle: Isaiah 12.2-end

Philippians 4.4-7

Luke 3.7-18

Today's Collect, Gospel reading and Post communion prayer....

Collect

O Lord Jesus Christ,
who at your first coming sent your messenger
to prepare your way before you:
grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries
may likewise so prepare and make ready your way
by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just,
that at your second coming to judge the world
we may be found an acceptable people in your sight;
for you are alive and reign with the Father
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Gospel

(Luke 3.7-18)

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.'

And the crowds asked him, 'What then should we do?' In reply he said to them, 'Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.' Even tax-collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, 'Teacher, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.' Soldiers also asked him, 'And we, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.'

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

Post-communion prayer

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts;
kindle in us the fire of your Spirit
that when your Christ comes again
we may shine as lights before his face;
who is alive and reigns now and for ever.

Next Sunday's lectionary readings – Advent 4

Micah 5.2-5a

Canticle: Magnificat

Hebrews 10.5-10

Luke 1.39-45

Services at St Mary's, Riseholme....

12th December - 11.15am Matins

Christmas Day - 11.15am Holy Communion

26th December – 10.00am Deanery Eucharist at St. Peter & St. Paul Cherry Willingham

9th January - 11.15am Matins

23rd January - 11.15am Holy Communion

A provisional date has been set for St Mary's PCC of Friday 21st January at 2.00pm. This will be held in person and via a zoom link.

Messy Christmas and Messy Church

We are filling up fast so if you would like to book a place for Messy Christmas, please do it soon. It takes place on Wednesday 22nd December from 9.30am - 1.00 pm. We will need to know your child's name, contact details, any allergies and any dietary requirements and preferences for sandwiches: egg, ham, jam, cheese etc.

Volunteers Wanted....

At Ducklings this week one of our mums told us that they have to pay £10 an hour to have an evening out or have their hair cut without their children. One of our single parenting mums recently went for a night out and fell ill, the childminder stayed to help her care for her children but charged £200. This to me seems extortionate.

I wonder if there are any volunteers who have DBS and Safeguarding Training who would be willing to spare a little time to help some of these mum's out.

If you would, please do speak to me and I will compile a list of contacts. Many thanks

Rev. Judy

Reducing risk during Covid....

For Carols by Candlelight, Messy Christmas, or Christingles, please note that you will now need to book a ticket to attend. You can book your place by emailing Sophie at admin@asn.church or calling 01522 931076 between 9.30am – 1.30pm. Booking is **not** required for our usual weekday or weekend worship.

Funeral of Gill Jones....

Alun and Philip Jones invite all to join them at 2pm tomorrow Monday 13th December for the funeral of their dear mother, Gill Jones, here in All Saints Nettleham. Following the funeral service, the family will attend the crematorium for a private service of committal, but members of the church are welcome to stay in church and enjoy a cup of tea and coffee and remember Gill.

Christingle services

These will be held on Sunday 19th December and on Christmas Eve, at 4pm, in church, restrictions permitting. Booking is essential - email Sophie at admin@asn.church or call 01522 931076 between 9.30am – 1.30pm.

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| <h1 style="margin: 0;">Prayer Diary...Diocese, wider church</h1> | <h1 style="margin: 0;">Parish</h1> |
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| <p>Sunday 12th Third Sunday of Advent</p> <p><i>Highways</i></p> | <p>John answered all of them by saying, ‘I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. Luke 3: 16</p> <p><i>The Anglican Church of Canada</i></p> | <p>Residents of Washdyke Lane</p> |
| <p>Monday 13th Lucy, Martyr at Syracuse, 304 Samuel Johnson, Moralist, 1784</p> <p><i>Horticulture</i></p> | <p>The Environment Panel – Revd Annabel Barber Please pray for the Deanery Environmental Champions as they seek to find ways for churches to reduce their carbon footprint and engage with their communities in caring for all that God has created.</p> <p><i>The Diocese of Ijumu – The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) (Lokoja Province)</i></p> | <p>Residents of Welton Road and Willowfield Ave</p> |
| <p>Tuesday 14th John of the Cross, Poet, Teacher of the Faith, 1591</p> <p><i>Hospices</i></p> | <p>The Anna Chaplaincy – Revd Sara Davies Anna Chaplaincy supports our Ministry with Older people, recognising the wisdom of older age and the ongoing need for spiritual support as we all mature. Pray that Anna Chaplains and Anna Friends will come forward for these important roles.</p> <p><i>The Diocese of Ikara – The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) (Kaduna Province)</i></p> | <p>Residents of Wragby Rd East and Mulsanne Way.</p> |
| <p>Wednesday 15th</p> <p><i>Hospitality</i></p> | <p>The Deanery of Elloe West – Rural Dean: Revd Michael Howard , Lay Chair: Mrs Sue Slater Pray for the discussions across the Deanery about Resourcing Sustainable Church, that all will go well as we seek to adapt and change.</p> <p><i>The Diocese of Ikeduru – The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) (Owerri Province)</i></p> | <p>Residents of Trott View and Parker Way</p> |
| <p>Thursday 16th</p> <p><i>Judiciary & Legal Services</i></p> | <p>Church Schools in the Deanery of Elloe West Baston, Cowbit St Mary’s, Market Deeping William Hildyard, Pinchbeck East, Spalding Parish, Spalding St John the Baptist, West Pinchbeck, Weston Hills, Weston St Mary</p> <p><i>The Diocese of Ikka – The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) (Bendel Province)</i></p> | <p>Residents of Baker Drive, The Burrows and Frith Close</p> |
| <p>Friday 17th Eglantyne Jebb, Social Reformer, Founder of 'Save The Children', 1928</p> <p><i>Leisure & Sports Activities</i></p> | <p>Cowbit – Revd Charles Brown Pray for the connections we will make and relationships we can build at our Christmas services</p> <p><i>The Diocese of Ikwerre – The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) (Niger Delta Province)</i></p> | <p>Residents of Lawley Close and Lime Cresc., North Greetwell.</p> |
| <p>Saturday 18th</p> <p><i>Lincolnshire Community and Voluntary Service (LCVS)</i></p> | <p>Crowland – Revd Charles Brown Pray for our partnership with the Methodist Church, instrumental in setting up and running Messy Church, The Crowland Larder and our Adult Explorers Group</p> <p><i>The Diocese of Ikwo – The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) (Enugu Province)</i></p> | <p>Residents of Westfield Avenue, and Westfield Approach, North Greetwell</p> |

Our new acting bishop....

The Right Reverend Stephen Conway was confirmed as the 69th Bishop of Ely on 6th December, 2010. He was installed in Ely Cathedral on Saturday, 5th March, 2011. He will be commissioned as Bishop of Lincoln in early January 2022, initially for a year.

He was selected to train for the ministry while he was an undergraduate at Oxford, where he read Modern History, but first trained as a teacher and taught History and English at an Anglican public school, Glenalmond College in Scotland. He first became acquainted with East Anglia when he trained for the priesthood at Westcott House, Cambridge, and read Theology through Selwyn College. He did a placement on an acute admissions ward at Fulbourn Hospital - an experience that inspired his passionate interest in mental health.

Bishop Stephen was ordained deacon in 1986 and priest the following year in Durham Cathedral. He spent the next twenty years of ministry in the Diocese of Durham - an urban priority area, town centre and suburban settings. While serving in the North East, he was appointed as Diocesan Director of Ordinands and later as the Bishop of Durham's Senior Chaplain and Diocesan Communications Officer. In 2002 he became Archdeacon of Durham and Canon Treasurer of the Cathedral. He served in the Diocese of Salisbury as Bishop of Ramsbury, following his consecration on the feast of St Alban, June 22nd 2006. Not having ministered in a largely rural setting before, Bishop Stephen immersed himself in the needs of rural communities and the rural economy.

Since he was a curate, Bishop Stephen has been mentor and friend to clergy and lay people helping them to deepen their personal spirituality and strongly believes that prayer and worship are at the heart of everything.

His understanding of church doctrine and liturgical practice were formed principally within the Anglican catholic tradition, but this has been enriched by the positive experience of other traditions throughout his ministry, such as the charismatic movement. As a child, he attended a Methodist Sunday School. He is firmly committed to being a bishop for the whole Church, regardless of tradition.

He takes a keen interest in community development, seeking close links with other community leaders. He was a key member of the Wiltshire Assembly while he was Bishop of Ramsbury.

On 7 July 2014, Bishop Stephen was introduced to the House of Lords and took his seat as one of the 26 Lords Spiritual. Since the autumn of 2014 Bishop Stephen has been the Church of England's lead bishop for education in the House of Lords. He speaks on issues affecting communities within the Diocese and on mental health and disability. He chairs the Council of the National Society Council which supports the church's work in schools and further and higher education.

Bishop Stephen has played a major role in building up links with Churches overseas and has travelled to South Sudan and Latvia on behalf of the Diocese of Salisbury and Vellore in South India as Bishop of Ely. He has visited Kigali in Rwanda to build the new inter-diocesan link and in March 2015 he visited the Nordkirche, the Church of North Germany, which Bishop Stephen first got to know through a Durham link.

Bishop Stephen chaired the board of a mental health charity for some years. He is now the Anglican bishop accompanying the L'Arche Community in the UK, a mixed community of people with learning difficulties and those who care for them. He is one of the church leaders for the L'Arche Community internationally.

He is also a Vice President of Affirming Catholicism, a member of the Society of Catholic Priests and the Bishop Visitor of the Company of Servers. Previously Bishop Stephen has represented the Church of England on the Faith and Order Commission of the World Council of Churches. Bishop Stephen grew up in multi-cultural South London, where some of his family still live. He attended a Church of England grammar school next to the Oval cricket ground, with free views of test matches. Bishop Stephen is single and part of a wider loving family.

Bishop Stephen is a keen walker and enjoys watching rugby and cricket, as well as going to the cinema. He is interested in the connection between faith and film. He reads theology, history and biography at any time, and thrillers at the end of the day. He likes to travel and enjoys travel literature. He takes much pleasure in offering and receiving hospitality.



Contact...

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rector@asn.church
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Reader : Shirley Keyes

**Please contact Shirley
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07735 398040

Parish Safeguarding Officer: Russ Coulter

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01522 751451

The Parish Office is usually open weekdays 9.30am-1.30pm
Please call the office to discuss a wedding or funeral, and Revd Judy if you would like to discuss a baptism.

If you need to talk to a priest, please call any one of the clergy team.