

All Saints

NETTLEHAM PARISH CHURCH

St. Mary's

RISEHOLME PARISH CHURCH

The Good News from Nettleham

Sunday 17th November

2 before Advent

No 124

Father Richard writes...

How far beyond our comfort zone are we prepared to go to sort things out? I look at many aspects of life, and it is clear that neither tinkering nor sticking to our guns and waiting for everything to come right are really very possible options. The survival of life on earth, say. We clearly cannot live as we do, and help others in the world and those who come after us to live the lifestyle we have come to expect if there is to be a future. A huge change in all we have come to expect and indeed all we have labelled as progress, will be required of us. It will be costly, uncomfortable if we are settled, and highly divisive. The same is true if the gifts of God are to be shared equitably. On a global scale, the vast outnumbering of those of us who have more than we need by those who do not have enough is a disgrace, and painful to anyone who follows the teaching of Jesus Christ. And it will be worse – as more of the processes of our economic and practical lives are delivered by Artificial Intelligence and automated systems, then the wealth it creates cannot be shared by the population, a growing number of whom simply won't have anything to do. Sharing out a diminishing demand for labour won't suit all, and the idea, ultimately probably inevitable, that the wealth creators will have to pay the living costs of all regardless of whether they work, is a really challenging brave new world. We have to explore what our deep core values are and prepare to make sacrifices to honour them. The only alternative is selfishness, greed, fighting our corner to keep the part we have. Attractive? Christian? I think not. So how far beyond our comfort zone must we go?

What about the survival and flourishing of the church? I don't just mean here in Nettleham and Riseholme, though it is part of the bigger issue. Our diocese is at or very near the bottom of most league tables – fewer than 1.5% of our 1 million inhabitants go to church. At £7.20 per week on average, our regular church goers and givers are second to the lowest givers of all English Dioceses. And not because we are poor – we are actually bottom in terms of giving as a percentage of the county average income. 500 people leave our churches every year and are not replaced. So we have a challenge to turn the church round. No-one believes it will work unless it changes. Our increase in paid clergy has been a costly and only partly successful experiment in arresting decline by spending from our historic assets. We have subsidised our life as a diocese by using not just the receipts from our substantial assets (we are the richest diocese in capital assets, much of it farmland that brings a poor return) but by selling them. To the tune of £3m a year. The more we sell, the less interest and rent we get. We have borrowed from 2021 to make a balanced budget for 2020, and it just cannot go on. At the moment we have a cliff edge looming in January 2021.

Bishop David has taken on leadership at least for the time being, and is trying to confront this impossible-to-square circle. We need more mission and ministry or we will shrivel, but we need to spend less or give more.

Bishop David is working on this in a practical way which obviously is leading us to feel that the solution, like so many that face our world, is likely to mean sacrifice of some of what we hold dear. He is looking at five levers that will address the sustainability of the diocese – Increasing giving and share, better return on assets, lowering central service costs, streamlining clergy deployment and new mission to grow the church. Non-negotiable is the Christian faith, the making of disciples, the offering of worship, the living out of the way of life shown to us in Jesus, and the fight for justice and mercy. I think as Anglicans, we are not going to sacrifice the central beliefs and the sacraments of the catholic church. But 635 churches? A high percentage of the county's heritage? A church in every community, some of which are now tiny in terms of population? Paid clergy with all the leadership responsibility everywhere? Most worship on the day most families are stretched with sports, activities, travel to relations?

We are all going to be challenged to pray, think and talk about what are the non-negotiables in change. We shall have to let go of some of our pet assumptions about church, just as we may have to let go of some of our lifestyle expectations to save the planet, and share our income, maybe uncomfortably, if all are to have enough. Find homes on the higher ground of the county for the thousands whose homes may well be inundated by 2050. Care for the millions displaced around the world.

Perhaps if we can learn to work sacrificially for the survival of the Christian faith, we shall ready ourselves and others for the sacrifices needed elsewhere. Maybe we might even be an example to others – I am sure that is what the Lord calls us to do. The church has adapted and changed to have survived and flourished up to now – it is only recently we have come to feel more like a bit of the heritage business. Just as life on earth has flourished through change – natural selection, extinction, new hybrids, new habitats.

The key essentials of being church are quite simple, and these are what we must defend. It would be tragic to lose our soul whilst attempting to keep our body comfortable.

Fr Richard

Quote of the week....

Maya Angelou

"If you don't like something, change it. If you can't change it, change your attitude."

Prayer of the week...

Batter my heart, three-person'd God, for you
as yet but knock, breathe, shine, and seek to mend.

That I may rise and stand, o'erthrow me, and bend

your force to break, blow, burn, and make me new. Amen. *Part of a sonnet by John Donne*

In need of prayer....

Lynne Combes, Etienne Salt, Hugh Carter, Arielle Salt, David Herbert, Graham Chapman, Barry Crum, Heather Haynes, Chris Wooster, Jean Dewar, Julian Ellin, Harriet Rich and Ben Comins.

RIP....

We give thanks for the life, pray for the soul and ask comfort for the relatives and friends of Eileen Briggs, Brenda Boulter and Doreen Cruiks.

Special prayers....

We pray for Reuben who is being baptised this afternoon at All Saints Church. We pray also for his family and friends.

Year's Mind

Ted Greathead	(1995)	Annie Milward	(2003)
Dorothy Ball	(2006)	Susan Elizabeth Ulyatt	(2010)
Irene Pyrah	(2017)	Gwendoline Evans	(2016)
Trevor Finn	(2017)	John Slight	(2009)

Week commencing 17th November...

Sunday 2 before Advent

8.00am	Said Eucharist
9.30am	Sung Eucharist
2.00pm	Baptism
3.00pm	Cuppa Time
4.00pm	Worship@4
6.00pm	Service of Healing and Wholeness

Monday	<i>Elizabeth, princess, philanthropist, 1231</i>
2.15pm	Church Women's Fellowship in the Old School
7.00pm	Handbells in the Parish Centre

Tuesday	<i>Hilda, abbess, 680</i>
9.30am	Ducklings
11.30am	Said Eucharist CW
2.00pm	Craft and Natter in the Parish Centre

Wednesday	<i>Edmund, king, martyr, 870</i>
12 noon	BCP Holy Communion

Thursday	<i>Feria</i>
9.30am	CW Eucharist, followed by coffee in the Parish Centre
11.30am	Funeral of Brenda Boulter

Friday	<i>Cecilia, martyr, c230</i>
12.00pm	CW Eucharist
1.30pm	Funeral of Eileen Briggs
5.00pm	Diocesan Parish Share Meetings both in church and the Parish Centre

Saturday	<i>Clement, bishop, martyr, c100</i>
5.30pm	Vigil Eucharist of Sunday

Sunday	Christ the King
8.00am	Said Eucharist
9.30am	Sung Eucharist
11.15am	BCP HC at St Mary's Riseholme
1.00pm	Baptism
2.00pm	Baptism
3.00pm	Cuppa Time
4.00pm	Worship@4
6.00pm	Evensong
6.00pm	Saints Alive crib figure workshop at Parish Centre, plus Pizza!

Weekday Morning and Evening Prayer – 9.00am and 6.00pm

Readings Sunday 24 November – Christ the King
Jeremiah 23.1-6 Psalm 46 Colossians 1.11-20 Luke 23.33-43

Future dates for your diary....

1st December – Festive Market

7th December – 5.30pm. A service of remembrance at Christmas in conjunction with Lincolnshire Co-operative Funeral Services.

Prayer Diary....

Day	Diocese, wider church	Parish
Sunday 17th Second Sunday before Advent. Hugh, Bishop of Lincoln, 1200 – see <i>Furthering Holiness</i> , pg. 76	International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church. Please pray for steadfast endurance among God's people, especially those in areas of conflict and persecution. <i>The Reformed Episcopal Church of Spain (Extra-Provincial to the Archbishop of Canterbury): The Rt Revd Carlos López-Lozano – Bishop of Spanish Reformed Episcopal Church</i>	Heavenly Lord, you for the world's salvation: stir us from apathy, restrain us from excess and revive in us new hope that all creation will one day be healed in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
Monday 18th Elizabeth of Hungary, Princess of Thuringia, Philanthropist, 1231	The meeting of the Agenda Planning Committee. The retail sector: please pray for all those working in our shops in these uncertain times, and particularly in the approach to Christmas. <i>Saldanha Bay (Southern Africa): The Rt Revd Raphael Hess; Duk (South Sudan): The Rt Revd Daniel Deng Abot; Duk (South Sudan): The Rt Revd Thomas Tut Gan</i>	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 Kingsway and Washdyke Lane.
Tuesday 19th Hilda, Abbess of Whitby, 680	Kirton in Lindsey w. Manton: The Revd Kathy Colwell. "Please pray for our work with children and families at Kirton; that new leaders will emerge." <i>Salisbury (England): The Rt Revd Nicholas Holtam; Salisbury: The Rt Revd Edward Condry; Salisbury: The Rt Revd Karen Gorham; Dunedin (Aotearoa NZ & Polynesia): The Rt Revd Steven Benford</i>	Our choir and organists <i>Pray for choir members, for our Choir Mistress, Margaret Crossland, and our organists</i> We pray for the residents of Hall Lane and Lincoln Road.
Wednesday 20th Edmund, King of the East Angles, Martyr, 870	Scawby, Redbourne and Hibaldstow: The Revd David Eames. "Please pray that we might make the most of the opportunities we have through community events over the Christmas period to proclaim the gospel." <i>Sambalpur (North India): The Rt Revd Pinuel Dip; Dunkwa-on-Offin (West Africa): The Rt Revd Edmund Dawson Ahmoah; Durgapur (North India): The Rt Revd Probal Kanto Dutta</i>	Our churchwardens, sidespeople, readers and intercessors. We pray for the residents of Nettleham Heath.
Thursday 21st	The Ulceby Group: in vacancy. The meeting of the Search and Nominations Committee. <i>San Diego (USA): The Rt Revd Dr Katharine Jefferts Schori; Durham (England): The Rt Revd Paul Butler; Durham: The Rt Revd Sarah Clark</i>	Charities we support and the FiSH project We pray for the residents of North Greetwell: Westfield Avenue, Westfield Drive and Westfield Approach.

Friday 22nd Cecilia, Martyr at Rome, c. 230	The Deanery of the Isle of Axholme. The Revd Cliff Kay, Rural Dean; Diane Ekins, Lay Chair. <i>San Joaquin (USA): The Rt Revd David Rice;</i> <i>Dutse (Nigeria): The Rt Revd Markus Yohanna Danbinta; Kyoto (Japan): The Rt Revd Stephen Takashi Kochi</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 North Greetwell: Lawley Close, Greetwell Close and Wragby Road East.
Saturday 23rd Clement, Bishop of Rome, Martyr, c. 100	The Belton Group: Althorpe and Keadby, Amcotts, Belton: The Revd Cliff Kay. <i>Santiago (Chile): The Rt Revd Hector Zavala Muñoz;</i> <i>Santiago (Philippines): The Rt Revd Frenzel Ray P. Piluden</i>	Our Family Church, Cuppa Time, Ducklings and their leaders We pray for All Saints Church, St Mary's Riseholme, Nettleham Methodist Church and Threshold.
Sunday 24th Christ the King	Pray that as we celebrate the majestic reign of Christ today we may stand with him through our troubles and so reign with him in glory. <i>Pray for the Falkland Islands (Extra-Provincial to Canterbury): The Rt Revd Timothy Thornton – Bishop to the Forces and Bishop to the Falkland Islands</i>	God the Father, help us to hear the call of Christ the King and to follow in his service, whose kingdom has no end; for he reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, one glory. Amen.

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 curry night will be on Monday 25th of November at The Gate of India restaurant in Market Rasen at 7-00pm.**

Please give your name to Bobby Hipgrave in person, or by email at bobby.hipgrave@btinternet.com, or ring Shirley, our Parish Administrator on 01522 931076 (weekdays 9.30-12.30), by midday the previous Friday.

Help needed from now until December....

We require additional Sidespeople and Welcomers for all the extra services taking place during the next few weeks. We will be very appreciative of any assistance that you can offer. There is a sheet at the back of church for people to add their names to.
Lynne and Andy

Drivers: male or female urgently needed...

Following my recent medical problem and surgery, I have an automatic minimum 6 month loss of driving licence. This leaves our group seriously short of volunteer drivers to transport anyone needing a lift to and from the 9.30am Eucharist each Sunday. We have a rota that fits in with your availability and generally involves each driver once a month. If you think you could help or need more information please contact me, Hugh Carter, group organiser, on 752378 or speak to me at church.
Many thanks, *Hugh*

Help! vergers wanted for weddings and funerals....

Our verger team has become seriously depleted with both Martin and David suffering ill health which leaves yours truly as the remaining verger. Volunteers (ladies or gents) are urgently required to consider this important and rewarding role which is always well appreciated by those we serve. Please contact Wally G in church or on 01522 595963.

and baptisms...

If you think you could spare some time to become a member of the baptism team, please contact Revd Judy Shaw. Training is provided for this very valuable service.

Church Women's Fellowship...

Church Women's Fellowship will meet in the small room at the Old School at 2.15 pm on Monday November 18th. Pearl Wheatley is our speaker. We look forward to hearing her talk about 'Schools in Nettleham'.

Help for Fr Richard and Margaret!....

Literally. So, I've taken on a few more years as Rector and Rural Dean, and Margaret is going to be teaching for the foreseeable future – she has lots of pupils every day of the week. If we are going to survive and work effectively, we need some help around the house. We haven't had a cleaner for several years – the last one left because we could never tell whether she had been or not! And we've had three gardeners, all good in their way, but each lasted about six months, and either became ill, or took on too much to be regular, or went into another business.

So we need really good recommendations. Do you know a cleaner who turns up, looks behind things on shelves and gets into the corners when doing carpets? And doesn't mind dogs or their hairs. And can cope if we don't spend the night before tidying up. Do you know a gardener who cuts grass regularly, will get rid of rubbish, prunes shrubs, cuts hedges, ties up climbers, and can weed and dig carefully through quite large herbaceous borders recognising the difference between a dahlia and a dandelion? Realistically we could do with about four hours of each a week. Please only suggest if you feel they have time to take on a proper commitment and can be left to get on with the work. Let us know their rates. Drop Fr Richard a note on rector@asn.church or text Margaret on 07767 366192.

Fr Richard

Registering on the website....

We hope you have all been using the website. We have received quite a lot of donations for the tower through it.

If you are a regular attender, you are welcome to log on and become a member. You will be asked a few questions, and get to choose who may see and use the data you give. When you have joined, you should get an email telling you what you can do. Eventually we want to do all our rotas and circulation through this. We can give group leaders the access rights to change dates and information for their activity.

Go to www.asn.church and have a look.

Electoral roll....

On a similar note, there are loads of people involved in things at All Saints who aren't on our Electoral Role. It doesn't cost you (or us) anything, but it means you occasionally get a vote on things we do at church. There are forms at the back of church and a box to put them in. Or give them to Doug at the 9.30.

Giving....

The Lord loves a cheerful giver. If you'd like to give some money to help our church flourish, the best thing is to join the Parish Giving Scheme. We can collect Gift Aid on your donations, and we don't have to deal with each and every amount. You can give as much or as little as you like. £5 a month or £500 a month. Application forms at the back of the church or from Russ Coulter.

Understanding Eucharist: 1....

The Eucharist is the core of what the church offers to baptised Christians. Instituted by the Lord Jesus Christ himself, he took bread, blessed it, broke it and shared it; he took wine and blessed it and shared it. To his gathered apostles he said “this is my body” and “this is my blood”. And he told them to “do it”. The mainstream of the church has done it ever since. The gospels recount its inauguration. Especially in John, it is clearly what a very early church was doing all the time, and it is clearly the context in which Christians encountered the risen Lord. It is the regular rite that follows baptism in the early church as we see in Acts.

To most of us, meeting the Lord in the Eucharist is the centre, the heartbeat, the driver and the purpose of our faith. I personally don't see how a Christian wouldn't. Different names for this action show different emphases – *The Lord's Supper* emphasises the biblical origin and a sharing with Christ, a foretaste of the heavenly banquet. *Mass* emphasises the missional character of the rite and the action we are inspired and strengthened to take by our participation, using the Latin word for sending or mission which occurs in the final dismissal (spot the Latin root), *Ite missa est*, in the Roman and Lutheran versions. *Holy Communion* emphasises the sharing and the encounter – with each other and with the Lord. We tend to use the name *Eucharist* – from the Greek word *eucharisto*, which means thank you (try it in the Plough, but pronounce it *efcharistō*). Thus it offers back to God, in gratitude, all he has given us – the whole of his creation symbolised in the bread and the wine in their natural state, ourselves and our souls and bodies, and his love for us in giving us his son, offered to us and offered to God in the body and the blood which he told us “this is”.

Over the next few weeks, we will explore the parts of the Eucharist, hoping to understand what we are doing and why we do it, and discovering why each bit is so important and so powerful.

A video I was watching recently said one of the most important parts of the Eucharist happens before the first words in our booklet. We come together. We gather. We who have been baptised, who have determined to be followers of Jesus, gather to meet him. We are pleased to see each other, of course, but in a way we could do that anywhere. When we come to the Eucharist, we share an excitement and anticipation – that through all we shall do together in the preparatory sections, in the hearing and responding to the word, and in the breaking and sharing of the bread and wine and eating and drinking the Lord's body and blood, we will meet the Lord and offer the ultimate worship of greeting, receiving and offering. So the fact we come at all and the way we prepare ourselves, in prayer, and focus, is a sign of our respect, and a means of preparing ourselves to listen, to adore, to pray, to receive and to offer to God.

That is why we generally try to have a few moments of silence before we start. It is why walking in and going to our places is what we all do, but is symbolically demonstrated and emphasised by the walking in of the ministers and those who will lead our worship.

All this leads into the words and actions of the first proper section of the Eucharist, called the Preparation – it contains a greeting, a reminder of the fact that we are baptised as members of Christ's body, the church, by the sign of the cross, a clearing of the rubbish by confession and absolution, the singing of the joyful statement of praise in the Gloria, and by hearing the collect, the prayer that focuses us on what we are specially hoping to hear and receive, and what we are offering, on this particular day. We will look at the preparation next week, and then the liturgy of the word, the liturgy of the body and blood and the sending out. And then the fellowship and the living out.

Ducklings news....

It is wonderful that our Ducklings are doing so well. Most weeks it is our best-attended event in church. Often around 70+ of you, sometimes more. Some of you are incredibly loyal.

One of the good things is we meet every week, come rain or shine. Holidays or term time. Our team of helpers is fabulous – getting chairs moved, safe floor coverings put down, toys and play equipment set out, and wonderful cakes and drinks. And then putting it all away again. Pauline does a great job coordinating it all. Several mums, dads and carers stay and help afterwards. It would probably be nice if there were a bit of a rota, so have a word with Pauline or Shirley if you'd like to help from time to time.

Christmas is a great time for tiny children. Christmas Eve is a Tuesday this year, and I'd love to give our main helpers a morning off. We thought we'd meet at 9.30 as usual but keep it a bit shorter. So we will have drinks and biscuits when you get there – please let your little ones dress up as a character from a nativity play! Doesn't matter if we have ten Mary's, fifteen angels and six donkeys. We will sing a song and act out a bit of the Bethlehem story. If you can't organise that or your little one is too shy, come anyway and watch. Then we will have some festive cake. We'd particularly like some definite extra helpers for this – our ministry team will run it.

Then we will all have a week off the Tuesday after Christmas.

After Christmas, we are looking at a time for a get together for people who've moved on from Ducklings to Nursery. Probably a social slot on a different morning or in the afternoon after nursery, at the Parish Centre for parents and carers. Talk to Father Richard or Shirley about that. We will miss you if you disappear completely.

Contact...

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Parish & Deanery Office open weekdays 9.30am-12.30pm

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

If you need to talk urgently to a priest, please call Fr Richard or Reverend Judy.