

All Saints

NETTLEHAM PARISH CHURCH

St. Mary's

RISEHOLME PARISH CHURCH

The Good News from Nettleham

Sunday 15th December Advent 3

No 128

Father Richard writes...

I think everyone knows my politics, though I hope people also recognise that whilst I've encouraged everyone to vote, and suggested they pray about it, and asked people to consider others as well as themselves, especially the disadvantaged, and tried to question improbable claims and offensive statements, as befits Christian social action in the world, I haven't told people how I'd suggest they did vote.

It won't be any surprise that I don't feel elated by the result, being surrounded by a county and diocese that has turned entirely blue, and with a powerful new government that is still the same people under whose programmes the most important public services have been starved, and the numbers suffering real hardship have grown. My prayers today are for a change of heart in those who now govern, and a real commitment to deliver the seductive promises of the last few weeks. Mr Johnson is likely to be prime minister for the rest of my life, and I am never again likely to be a citizen of the Europe whose culture I have been proud to share, unless of course we emigrate. But things can get better if Christians hold their feet to the fire.

Christians are often called to be counter-cultural – as I remarked to more like-minded friends in the Twittersphere, Jesus didn't win the Jerusalem election. He didn't run. He was on the side of the losers. He would anyway have found it hard to choose between Herod and Tiberius, had there been such a choice!

We, as Christians, salute a higher leader – the Lord Jesus Christ. The incarnate Word. His is a political agenda, and a radical one, though not specifically a party-political one. Peace at all costs. Share everything you have. Protect the weak. Welcome the stranger at your gates. Bring down the mighty from their seats and exalt the humble and meek. Love your neighbour as yourself. You (and I for that matter) didn't have a great choice last week. The centre and the left let us down miserably, and I am going to remain involved with them because they are going to be needed to speak out and act for the weak against the oppression of today. As the Labour Party and probably the Liberal Party torture themselves and go down, I want to reach out, get involved and help them to discover a new voice for progressive, caring, sharing, power-challenging people, not fight the battles of the twenties, or the politics of the cold war. I think disadvantage and exploitation and inequality are greater now than then in many ways, and certainly more visible through mass media. But I don't think people abandoned their old party allegiances because they had moved to the right, or even that they were hoodwinked into voting for toffs, as some of my more outspoken friends say. I don't think they are stupid, or, for the most part callous or even really misled. I actually don't think they had anywhere else to go. I would dearly like there to be better choices to make if I'm still voting in five years.

If the result had been different, which was frankly never very likely, I'd have been equally expressing anxiety and urging a discerning, generous, practical approach to those other folk in power. I'd also have been urging decent followers of the Lord Jesus Christ to take things issue by issue and fight for what Jesus would have us fight for. So that is what I am doing from now on.

So for now we have to pray that these people, who will run our country, find love, creativity and, yes, sacrificial generosity in their hearts. And we, as the body of Christ in Nettleham, Lincolnshire and the world, have to be a campaigning force for those things that the Lord requires of us – to seek justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God.

Quote of the week.....

I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession, and thanksgiving be made for all people — for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Saviour, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. *1 Timothy 2:1-4*

Prayer of the week...

Lord, the God of righteousness and truth,
grant to our Queen and her government,
to Members of Parliament and all in positions of responsibility,
the guidance of your Spirit.

May they never lead the nation wrongly through love of power,
desire to please, or unworthy ideals

but laying aside all private interests and prejudices keep in mind their responsibility
to seek to improve the condition of all mankind;
so may your kingdom come and your name be hallowed. Amen.

Prayed daily in Parliament along with the Lord's Prayer

In need of prayer....

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

Special Prayers...

We pray for Juliette and James who are marrying next Saturday 21 December.

We wish them God's blessing as they make the final preparations for their wedding day.

RIP....

We give thanks for the lives, pray for the souls and ask comfort for the relatives and friends of Doris Colman and Christine Giles.

Year's Mind

Sylvia June Hartley (2008)
Dorothy Dadson (1969)
Duncan Macdougald (2006)
Lawrence Clarke (2018)
Keith Nelmes (2008)
Nellie Kinder (2003)

Eleanor Dadson (1957)
Frances Holmes (2016)
Brian Hall (2009)
Edward Thompson (1993)
David Chambers (2008)
Eda Norris (2013)

Week commencing 15th December...

Sunday	Advent 3
8.00am	Said Eucharist
9.30am	Sung Eucharist
3.00pm	Cuppa Time
4.00pm	Worship@4
4.30pm	Healing and Wholeness Service in the Parish Centre
6.00pm	Carols by candlelight – St Mary's Riseholme
Monday	<i>Feria</i>
2.15pm	Church Women's Fellowship <i>in the Old School</i>
Tuesday	<i>Eglantyne Jebb, social reformer, founder of 'Save the Children', 1928</i>
9.30am	Ducklings
11.30am	Said Eucharist CW
2.00pm	Craft and Natter <i>in the Parish Centre</i>
Wednesday	<i>Feria</i>
12 noon	BCP Holy Communion
Thursday	<i>Feria</i>
9.30am	CW Eucharist, <i>followed by coffee in the Parish Centre</i>
10.30am	Advent Bible Study – The four Advent candles – 4. Blessed Virgin Mary
11.00am	Visit by Nettleham Junior School for Chrismon Service
6.00pm	Wedding Rehearsal
Friday	<i>Feria</i>
12.00pm	CW Eucharist
5.15	Recital by Simon Vincent. Free. 30 minutes.
7.30pm	Choir Practice in church for Carol Service
Saturday	<i>Feria</i>
11.30am	Wedding of James and Juliette
6.00pm	Community Carols By Candlelight
Sunday	Advent 4
8.00am	Said Eucharist
9.30am	Sung Eucharist
4.00pm	Christingle @4 – all welcome, especially with children
6.00pm	Evening Prayer

Weekday Morning and Evening Prayer – 9.00am and 6.00pm

Readings Sunday 22 December – Fourth Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 7.10-16 Psalm 80.1-8 Romans 1.1-7 Matthew 1.18-25

Future dates for your diary....

15th December – THIS EVENING 6.00pm Carols by candlelight at St Mary's Riseholme

20th December – 5.15pm. Recital by Simon Vincent of a work by Morton Feldman (before evening prayer.)

25th December – Christmas Lunch at Village Hall. A few places remain for individuals or couple on their own on Christmas Day.

Christmas Services.....

carols by candlelight

Saturday 21st at 6.00 pm

Our annual service in the candlelit beauty of All Saints. Lessons read by members of the Nettleham community. Augmented church choir. Great to have Nettleham Community Choir too, with their special items. Well known carols for all. Seasonal refreshments.

Christingle

Sunday 22nd at 4.00pm

Ever popular service for all. Children love making the Christingles, decorating oranges in the ancient Moravian tradition. You are welcome whether you normally come to church or not. Refreshments.

Ducklings Christmas Service

Christmas Eve at 9.30am

Toddlers welcome with their parents, grandparents, older siblings, carers, etc. Shorter than usual, without the big play equipment, but the usual fabulous refreshments, great chat, and join in the Christmas Story. Come dressed for a Nativity if you wish!

Crib Service

Christmas Eve 3.00pm

Return after a few years of the proper Crib Service. Come dressed for a part if you wish. Open to absolutely everyone. Put the heart in Christmas with your family this Christmas.

Carols on the Green

Christmas Eve 7.00pm

One of the big Nettleham community events. We join with our friends in Nettleham Methodist Church, Threshold Church, members of Nettleham Community Choir and the Salvation Army Band for a rousing singing of popular carols. Bring a torch or a lantern, and a voice if you have one! Back to All Saints for mulled wine and mince pies after.

Midnight Mass

Christmas Eve 11.30pm

The heart of Christmas. Greet the Word made Flesh in the tiny baby in the manger, in the dead of night, in the Holy Eucharist, with candlelight, music and atmosphere. All welcome.

Holy Communion for Christmas

Christmas Day 8.00am

A simple service for those who like to greet the Lord quietly.

Parish Eucharist of Christmas

Christmas Day 10.00am

The joyful service on Christmas Morning. Well known carols, beautiful worship.

Communion for those that want it. Things for children. Bring a present to show off!

Christmas at Riseholme

Christmas Day 11.15am

Celebrate Christmas Day at Riseholme St Mary's Church. Holy Communion, a sermon and well-known carols.

New Year's Eve

December 31st 11.30pm

Our Watch Night Service. Interrupt your partying and come to church for 35 minutes to say thank you for 2019 and welcome to 2020. Just a few readings, a couple of songs, Auld Lang Syne, a glass of bubbly, neighbours' fireworks. Nothing to say you can't bring a wee dram or two to share! Then back to the pub, the party or the rubbish TV!

Prayer Diary....

Day	Diocese, wider church	Parish
Sunday 15th 3rd of Advent	Please pray for the Church as she continues the ministry of Jesus in word and work – that the world may see and believe. <i>Sokoto (Nigeria): The Rt Revd Augustin Omole; El Salvador (Central America): The Rt Revd Juan David Alvarado Melgar</i>	God for whom we watch and wait, you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son: give us courage to speak the truth, to hunger for justice, and to suffer the cause of right, with Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
Monday 16th	The Witham Group: North and South Witham, Stainby, Gunby. In vacancy. <i>South Ankole (Uganda): The Rt Revd Nathan Ahimbisibwe; Eldoret (Kenya): The Rt Revd Christopher Ruto</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 Greetwell Lane, Beech Avenue and Cherry Tree Lane.
Tuesday 17th Eglantyne Jebb, Social Reformer, Founder of Save The Children, 1928	Edenham w. Witham on the Hill and Swinstead. The Revd Ed Martin. <i>South Dakota (USA): The Rt Revd John Tarrant; El-Obeid (Sudan): The Rt Revd Ismail Gabriel Abudigin</i>	Our choir and organists <i>Pray for choir members, for our Choir Mistress, and our organists</i> We pray for the residents of Manor Court, Sutton Close, Dalderby Crescent and Cliff Avenue.
Wednesday 18th	The Deanery of Bolingbroke. The Revd Canon Peter Coates, Rural Dean; Bill Rose, Lay Chair. <i>South Kerala (South India): The Rt Revd Dharmaraj Rasalam; Ely (England): The Rt Revd Stephen Conway; Ely: The Rt Revd Dr Dagmar Winter; Embu (Kenya): The Rt Revd David Muriithi Ileri</i>	Our churchwardens, sidespeople, readers and intercessors. We pray for the residents of Kingsway and Washdyke Lane.
Thursday 19th	Please pray for Church Schools in Bolingbroke Deanery. <i>South Rwenzori (Uganda): The Rt Revd Jackson Nzerebende; Enugu (Nigeria): The Most Revd Emmanuel Chukwuma; Enugu North (Nigeria): The Rt Revd Sosthenes Eze</i>	Charities we support and the FiSH project We pray for the residents of Hall Lane and Lincoln Road.
Friday 20th	The South Ormsby Cluster: The Revd Teresa McLaughlin. <i>South West Tanganyika (Tanzania): The Rt Revd Matthew Mhagama; Esan (Nigeria): The Most Revd Friday Imaekhai</i>	The Sacristy team and Servers. We pray for the whole team and their ministry for us We pray for the residents of Nettleham Heath.
Saturday 21st	The Diocesan Evangelists' Network. Please pray for opportunities for faith-sharing with those who visit our churches this Christmas. <i>Etche (Nigeria): The Rt Revd Precious Nwala; Etsako (Nigeria): The Rt Revd Jacob Bada</i>	Our Family Church, Cuppa Time, Ducklings and their leaders. We pray for the residents of North Greetwell
Sunday 22nd 4th of Advent	Please pray for the many people who will visit our churches over this Christmas period, that they may find a warm welcome, inspiring worship, and a challenge to respond to the good news of God with us. <i>Pray for Christians in other denominations and the work of the ecumenical movement.</i>	Eternal God, as Mary waited for the birth of your Son, so we wait for his coming in glory; bring us through the birth pangs of this present age to see, with her, our great salvation in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Craft items...

Please have a look in our craft basket at the back of church which has handmade items for sale in it. You might just find something useful for yourself or a Christmas present! All the proceeds go to the Tower Fund. *Lynne*

Church Women's Fellowship

Church Women's Fellowship will meet tomorrow, Monday December 16th, at 2.15 pm in the Old School (small room). We will welcome the Revd Alan Swann to our Christmas meeting.

Piano Recital....

On Friday 20th December at 5:15pm in church. Simon Vincent will perform "Palais de Maris", the final piano composition by composer Morton Feldman. It is not only a moving and delicately constructed work, but it is also a very spiritual work in many ways, and perfect for late December reflection, leading into prayer at 6pm.

Christmas Card Delivery....

We make a point of sharing our best wishes and blessings with the whole village at Christmas. We have had an Army of Volunteers, designing, collecting, stuffing, sorting and delivering. Every home should receive one – there are a few roads still to do. A massive thank you to all who have taken part

Help yourself and All Saints....

All Saints has been insured for many years against accidental and criminal damage, theft, water penetration – though sadly not deterioration of stonework through weathering – by the Ecclesiastical Insurance Group, which also offers discounted insurance to clergy.

They are now offering competitive home insurance more widely, and have two special offers that may be of interest to you:

The first offer is a discount for any member of the church of 25% on premiums.

The second offer helps your church: a scheme called the TRUST 130 donation will pay to All Saints Church a sum for every policy taken out before 31 December 2020.

Our PCC has decided to communicate this offer as part of the ongoing search for funds: we are not recommending Ecclesiastical, nor suggesting that you swap right away, but that when you renew your home insurance you consider getting a quote.

You can ask for a quote by phone on 0345 777 3322, or on-line at <https://quote.ecclesiastical.com/HouseholdDirect/servletcontroller>

The discount code to use on the website is: DIOP10 and this will automatically apply the discount to the policy. This can be added during the quotation stage in the online system. Then in the drop down box immediately below that is a "HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT US" box where you should select TRUST130.

Alternatively, if you would like some help please reach out to Russ on 07770 777678.

Christmas decorations....

We love the work our Flower Team do, and at this time of year they really help to make the church beautiful for Christmas. Each year they make lovely Table Decorations. You can buy these, and the money goes towards the cost of the flowers over Christmas. Please dig deep, express your appreciation, and beautify your own Christmas Table.

Understanding Eucharist: 4....

So we come to the end of this quick explanatory canter through the Eucharist. I hope it has been interesting and useful. We will probably print off all the articles as a little booklet after Christmas.

We have come to church, we've prepared ourselves to worship, to hear and to meet the Lord. We've listened to his word in scripture and responded. We've taken, blessed and shared bread and wine, offering the fruits of the earth, some of our money, our hearts, and this inestimable gift of God in the death and resurrection of Jesus, sacrificially and in love. Now we wrap up, and get going.

Get going is a useful expression for the end of the Eucharist. It is helpfully ambiguous. **Oh, well, I'd better get going.** That is usually something that means you are about to leave. It signals the end of a meeting, of a conversation, of a visit, of a shared meal. That's it, folks. The end.

But not the end, perhaps more the beginning. Here is another statement. **So we all know what we've got to do, so let's get going.** Synonymous with getting cracking. At the end of the Eucharist, we've met our Lord, we've topped up our spiritual batteries, we've expressed our commitment. Everybody got the idea? **Let's get going.**

This final section is called "The Dismissal", and the list I've been quoting just has one action for this. It says the people and priest:

- Depart with God's blessing.

All the sacramental hardware has been put away. We are sitting waiting with that glow you get after meeting the Lord so intimately. The ministers re-group for a big exit. Sometimes we sing a hymn. Then the priest greets us again, and we prepare to receive God's blessing. In the Anglican church and most connected churches of the historic apostolic type, blessing of others is an activity reserved for ordained priests. We can bless ourselves – it is what we do when we say "In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit", reiterating the words of our baptism. If we make the sign of the cross, we not only maintain the symbolism of 2000 years of Christians, we show that our faith and our blessing is physical as well as spiritual. It is the whole of us. We bless ourselves when we say the Grace, which all of use whenever we have met together. Again the sign of the cross clearly shows it is a blessing we really receive – the newer habit of seeking eye-contact and nodding with a grin at everyone present also works, but we shouldn't either forget it is a blessing. You bless things and people to make them sacred, to make clear they are God's. After the encounters of the previous liturgy, this may seem superfluous, but it is the final reminder of who we are in Christ and what we have received.

The we are sent on our way. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **In the name of Christ. Amen.** This is so clearly more than "see you again sometime". It is truly the "I think we all know what we've got to do. Let's get going. Roman Catholics say *Ite, missa est. Deo gracias*. I like the ambiguity of this. It says, "Go, that's the Mass", but it also says "Go. You are sent". The reply, either way, is thanks be to God. So much more than "Ok". More, that is great, I will do my best, with God's help". See this like the end of a briefing before a mission in a film about the RAF. Or a rescue attempt. Get it? All ready? Know what we're doing? Ok, let's go. Yes, sir.

And then we go. Maybe hanging about for a bit of fellowship. Maybe checking friends are OK. Maybe offering a welcome to new Christians in our midst. But then out into our world. The work of Christ in our lives is wonderfully expressed in the Eucharist, but our true Christian vocation, our discipleship, starts as we step out. Let's get going.

Fr Richard

Caring for those in need at Christmas....

Alleviating hardship and calling out its causes are part of our Christian discipleship. Especially at Christmas. A saviour born in extreme conditions. A cold time of year. An obscene expression of unnecessary gluttony in our media and probably on our tables.



We should spare a thought and take some positive Christian action this Christmas. We have a table at the back for food for the Lincoln Community Larder – just non-perishable, child-friendly, easily prepared basics. The Trussell Trust says, in the UK, more than 14 million people are living in poverty – including 4.5 million children. We support more than 1,200 food bank centres in the UK to provide a minimum of three days' nutritionally-balanced emergency food to people who have been referred in crisis, as well as support to help people resolve the crises they face. Between April 2018 and March 2019, food banks in our network provided a record 1.6 million food supplies to people in crisis, a 19% increase on the previous year. Please give generously.

Contact...

Rector: Father Richard Crossland

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

Assistant Curate: Revd Judy Shaw

judy@asn.church
Mobile: 07594 670408
01673 862174
01522 809846

Assistant Bishop: Rt Revd Dr Nigel Peyton

Licensed Reader: Jane Hanson

Ordinand in Training: Kath Pickering

Parish Administrator: Shirley Keyes

01522 931076/931075
admin@asn.church
treasurer@asn.church
07943 099431
01522 823867

Treasurer: Russ Coulter

Churchwarden: Andy Lewis

Churchwarden: Lynne Combes

Parish Safeguarding Officer: Russ Coulter

Pastoral Care Coordinator: Jean Gledhill

safeguarding@asn.church
gledhills@talktalk.net
01522 751451

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.