



SUNDAY 17th JANUARY 2021

Epiphany 2

World Religion Day

Monday 18th January Week of Prayer for

Christian Unity begins

Readings for Sunday 17th January

Revelation 5:1-10 and John 1:43-51

Collect for Sunday

Eternal Lord, our beginning and our end: bring us with the whole creation to your glory, hidden through past ages and made known in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Prayers

Anne has asked for prayers for John, who is rather poorly and in hospital. Please pray for Anne also, as she cannot visit due to covid restrictions.

Please pray for all who are suffering, mentally or physically, at the moment; for all NHS and care workers: for all shop workers, delivery drivers and postal workers: for school children, teachers and other staff; for the lonely and isolated. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Coffee and chat

We had our first coffee and chat telephone conversations on Thursday this week. If you would like to join a chat next week please phone either

Carole 0113 281 2149 or Leslye 0113 281 2488

If Thursday is not suitable for you, we can try to arrange different days.

Online and phone-in services etc during lockdown 3

Sundays at 10am – services will be broadcast on YouTube (available later as a recording). Services will be followed by a Zoom coffee and chat at 11am. The links for both will be emailed the evening before.

Sundays at 6pm – the phone-in prayer service continues, offering an opportunity to socialise as well as worship. To access the service, phone 0330 336 0036 (local call rate) and enter the PIN 716 416.

Wednesdays at 11am – Morning Prayer with a reflection, followed by a chance to chat and socialise, on Zoom. The Zoom link can be accessed by phone as well as online. **The same link will be used each week.** To join: by phone – dial 0203 051 2874 and then dial the Meeting ID: 873 4803 0764 Join the Zoom meeting by clicking on <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87348030764> and keying the Meeting ID: 873 4803 0764

Letter from the Rector Saturday 16 January 2021

Dear all August 2nd 2020 was a sad day for Thorner Methodism. It was the date of the final service at the Methodist church that had opened its doors in 1754, now closed forever. In those over 150 years of worship and ministry, there had been some notable members, particularly John Pawson who was twice President of the Methodist Conference (effectively the leader of the Methodist Church in Britain). But more than that, there were countless members who served the village through their love and generosity.

Though the Methodist church in Thorner is now closed, some of its traditions will live on. One of those is the Covenant Service that takes place in January each year. When the chapel was open, the service would alternate between St Peter's and the chapel. From this year onwards it will take place in St Peter's and this year will be livestreamed.

Reflecting on this event brings up two thoughts in my mind.

First is the importance of working together with those of other traditions for the furtherance of God's kingdom, whether that be in Thorner, Barwick or Scholes. Too often we keep to our own church or cultural silos, listening to the echo chamber of those who agree with us. Yet when we allow ourselves to listen to those from other traditions, we will often find depths and riches that we had never seen. It was only when I came to the Elmete Trinity Benefice that I first experienced the Covenant Service, and now find in it a powerful reminder of the importance of publicly and actively promising myself to God's service. Likewise the Messy Church service in Barwick and the friendship between Anglican and Methodist churches in Scholes redefines what it means to be Christian.

Secondly this event reminds me of just how fragile our traditions are, but how strong God's presence is. The Methodist church may have closed, but Methodism, and the love for God and service of his kingdom, does not stop because a building closes down. A church is not a building but a people, and so long as people of faith are sharing their love in acts of generosity, God is able to work.

Next week is known as the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. This event does not expect that all Christian traditions become one tradition or for them all to believe the same thing, but that through working together for the furtherance of God's kingdom we are able to do so much more and be a more powerful presence than we could on our own.

This year's resources for the week of prayer for Christian Unity comes from the Grandchamp monastic community in Switzerland and take as the theme 'Abide in my love and you shall bear much fruit', based on John 15:1–17. This expresses Grandchamp community's vocation to prayer, reconciliation and unity in the Church and the human family. For more information see the website at <https://ctbi.org.uk/week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2021/>