

Newsletter

12th July 2020

Priest in Charge—Rev. Nick Morgan
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Parish Office: 01937 844402

The Office is now closed but messages left on the answer phone will be answered to as soon as possible

This Sunday's service marks a significant point in the life of our churches as the Easter flame is welcomed into all four of our churches. Back in March, when it became known that not even clergy would be allowed into our church buildings, late one evening I collected one of the candles from the sacrament chapel in St Mary's church. That candle bore the Easter flame, lit from the fire of 2019's Easter dawn service, and I took that flame home with me to Thorp Arch vicarage where it remained lit until Good Friday this year. Getting it home seemed rather miraculous at the time. Amid a windy week, that evening a stillness fell on our villages, and even as I crossed the bridge over to Thorp Arch there was no crosswind to snuff the flame out. It felt important in those uncertain times to keep that flame alive as a sign that God had not abandoned us, and the church continued its mission and ministry here in our villages. Over the coming months, we have had to learn how to kindle and tend the light of Christ, and to bear that light to others a different way. As ever, God's people were called to sing to the Lord a new song, even though it felt as though we were having to make the tune up as we went along.

On Easter morning, April 12th, a bonfire was lit in the vicarage garden and the new Easter flame was borne back into the vicarage where it has burned ever since. You may have seen that on our Easter Day online service. Well, I am happy to report that the flame has never gone out since. A candle was lit from that flame and, by carefully lighting a new candle before each one was spent, the flame has burned continuously since April 12th - exactly 3 months to the day before the very same flame will be used to light the Paschal Candles (also known as Easter Candles) of our four churches.

This is a moment of wonderful symbolism. Of necessity, the Easter flame has burned in my family's home these past three months rather than continuously in church. Our worship, too, has taken place in our homes, whether we have joined in our Worship Where You Are services online, or other services broadcast on radio and TV. Our service this Sunday - The Light of Christ - celebrates the truth that Christ has been present in the Church throughout this period, and we have kept the flame of God's love burning in our homes and in our daily lives. This was ever true, but the circumstances of the lockdown have forced us to confront it. Our faith cannot be limited to an hour or so on Sunday in a church building. God does not live in a church, but God is alive in us, God's Church - the people of God. As we bring the Easter flame into our churches to mark the resumption of public worship nationally in churches, we are reminded that our church buildings are where we celebrate our fellowship, our shared faith, the encouragement of being Church together. Our churches are where the sacredness of our individual lives and homes come together to bear one another up, and to proclaim that Faith is never a private matter, not simply all about us and our personal spirituality and salvation, but there is an "us" which is dear to God, and which is dear to us as well.

On Sunday therefore, small numbers of us will gather in the church buildings for a series of four acts of worship in which the Easter Candles will be lit using the Easter flame. You are welcome to join us, but bear in mind that numbers will be restricted. A few people may well join me as we process (at a brisk pace, it must be said!) from Walton via Thorp Arch and Boston Spa down to Bramham. The processional cross of Bramham will lead the way, and the Easter flame will be borne aloft in a special lantern. We proclaim publicly that Christ is Risen, and this is a truth which lives in our homes, in our lives, and - by bringing the Easter flame into our churches - our village communities too. This marks a special moment in our pilgrimage as God's people: a reclaiming of our villages' communal, sacred spaces.

Due to the continuing restrictions, I encourage you to follow the service at [Facebook.com/bramhambenefice](https://www.facebook.com/bramhambenefice) throughout the morning, though there is room for limited numbers in each church on the way, and for a socially-distanced procession. There will be four parts to the service appearing there as we reach each church. The timetable is as follows:

9am St Peter's, Walton

9.45am All Saints', Thorp Arch

10.30am St Mary's, Boston Spa

11.30am All Saints', Bramham

For those of you who would appreciate a less disjointed act of worship on Sunday, you can join our new Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell, as he leads the national Church of England service at <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/church-online/weekly-online-services> from 9am on Sunday morning.

Yours in Christ,

The Reverend Nick Morgan



The Church of England's village churches in
Boston Spa, Bramham, Thorp Arch and Walton

SUMMER WORSHIP

July and August 2020

Prayer and worship
online and in our church buildings
over the summer months.



See www.BramhamBenefice.org and
[Facebook.com/BramhamBenefice](https://www.facebook.com/BramhamBenefice)
for updates and amendments
and to access our online worship.

SUMMER SUNDAYS

Sunday 5th July - Worship Where You Are

An online service which you can watch live at 10am at
www.BramhamBenefice.org/online-services or at a time of your own
choosing later, both on the website, or our Facebook page.
ONLINE SERVICE ONLY

Sunday 12th July - The Light of Christ

The Easter flame has been kept alight in the vicarage since it was lit
on Easter Day. Keeping that flame alive in a home rather than in a
church building has reminded us of the abiding presence of the risen
Christ in our homes and in our daily lives.

To celebrate the resumption of public worship in our church
buildings, this flame will be brought into all four village churches in a
simple service. Limited numbers of people may attend each church,
others may join The Reverend Nick Morgan in his walk, carrying the
Easter flame between the churches throughout the morning, and you
can follow the progress of the service live on Facebook.
IN ALL FOUR CHURCHES AND ON FACEBOOK

Itinerary:

9am - St Peter's, Walton
9.45am - All Saints', Thorp Arch
10.30am - St Mary's, Boston Spa
11.30am - All Saints', Bramham

HOLY COMMUNION - Wednesdays 10am,
St Mary's Church, Boston Spa (commencing 8th July)

Holy Communion is offered for the Benefice on Wednesdays at 10am
in St Mary's Church, Boston Spa. Restrictions based on the current
public health and national Church of England guidance will apply.

PRIVATE PRAYER

St Mary's Church, Boston Spa is open
from 9.30 - 10.30am, Monday to Thursday.

All Saints' Church, Bramham is open
on Monday, Wednesday and Friday 10am - 1pm.

The above pattern was established in late June, and therefore
guidance on opening may vary in the meantime. In any case our ability
to open up may vary over the summer months so please check our
website and notice boards outside the churches for updated details.

THE DAILY OFFICE

The Reverend Nick Morgan livestreams Morning Prayer on Monday
to Thursday from the vicarage at 7am on Facebook. You can join him
live, or catch up on this daily service on the Bramham Benefice
Facebook page. This will continue throughout July but stops in
August while he is on leave. You can also find Morning Prayer
livestreamed daily from The Community of the Resurrection in
Mirfield on their Facebook page: [Facebook.com/CoRMirfield](https://www.facebook.com/CoRMirfield)

Sunday 19th July - Marking our Pilgrimage

Our Worship Where You Are service at 10am will come live from St
Mary's Church, Boston Spa. We shall reflect on the circumstances of
the past few months and will mark this significant period in our walk
of faith as God's pilgrim people.
This will be livestreamed on Facebook.
AT ST MARY'S, BOSTON SPA AND ON FACEBOOK

Sunday 25th July Holiday Club Launch Service

This service will be held online to launch our annual Holiday Club and
is led by Kate Kennedy, our Children and Young People's Ministry
Co-ordinator and ecumenical colleagues.
Join in online both on our website and on Facebook.
ONLINE ONLY

Sundays in August

Our online Worship Where You Are services resume throughout
August. These are shorter than usual services - around 20 minutes.
Holy Communion will continue to be offered at St Mary's, Boston
Spa at 10am on Wednesdays throughout the summer.
ONLINE ONLY

Find us online, where we worship wherever we are:



www.BramhamBenefice.org
[Facebook.com/BramhamBenefice](https://www.facebook.com/BramhamBenefice)



Readings for Sunday 12th July 2020

Romans 8.1-11

Life in the Spirit

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin,

Matthew 13.1-9, 18-23

The Parable of the Sower

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the lake. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: 'Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!'

The Parable of the Sower Explained

'Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.'

Online Donations

God has a plan for everyone and everything. That includes you, and it includes The Bramham Benefice. None of us can fully know God's plan—the best we can do is pray and listen for clarity.

As a Benefice we are excited to announce our online donation tool.

Whether you give to the church on a regular basis, or just attend on occasion, we're asking you to consider contributing. It's something we need our entire church community's help with, to support ongoing costs and events.

Even if you can't make a large gift, know that every little bit helps. It's more about coming together as a community united behind a common cause. We hope that you'll consider making a donation towards The Bramham Benefice.

Thank you for your continued support.

By clicking on the link below, you will be able to follow the online instructions and donate, £5, £10 £20 or choose your own amount. There are no minimum or maximum amounts, just give what you can or simply go to the homepage of our website www.BramhamBenefice.org and click the "Online giving" button at the top right hand corner.

<https://givealittle.co/campaigns/a404b921-2632-412c-a2e3-5cbaec4795ed>



Sunday services will be posted at www.bramhambenefice.org/online-services
and also at www.facebook.com/bramhambenefice

You can download an order of service at
<http://bramhambenefice.org/download-our-new-sunday-order-of-service-worship-where-you-are/>

Streaming services from home

We hope you have enjoyed our online services if you have been able to watch them.

Please keep checking our website for all our online services: www.bramhambenefice.org

And also check out the Church of England resources here:

Time to Pray app (<https://www.chpublishing.co.uk/apps/time-to-pray>) which is free and has an accompanying daily audio offering on SoundCloud and iTunes.

Mental health reflections (<https://www.churchofengland.org/faith-action/mental-health-resources/supporting-good-mental-health>)

The link to our facebook page is, [facebook.com/bramhambenefice](https://www.facebook.com/bramhambenefice) from here you can watch Services led by Revd Nick, Revd Trish, and other worship leaders from our Benefice churches.

THE RECENTLY DEPARTED:

**Alec Skinner, Judd Chambers, Doreen Billingsby and
Doreen Crich**



Bramham Benefice

St Mary's Email PRAYER GROUP

Why not join our group (if you have online access). Contact Niki if you know of anyone who needs our prayers at any time.

Permission must be sought before adding names to the list.

For prayer requests or for an information sheet about joining the group please contact: Niki Hampson: stmarysprayer19@gmail.com

Dial-A-Sermon

01937 228 825

To listen to this week's sermon from Rev'd Nick or Rev'd Trish, just call this number (it costs the same as a normal call and is less than 10 mins long).

Bramham Benefice

GET IT ON
Google play

Available on the
App Store

Daily Prayer

Bramham Benefice **AIDM**

Bramham Benefice

PRESENTS

Online Pilgrim Course

FRI JUNE 19TH
STARTS @ 1.30pm
FOR 6 WEEKS

If you would like to take part in an informal bible discussion group using the Pilgrim Series, please contact Penny Stables: pennystables@gmail.com 01941792902

YOUR HOST: PENNY STABLES

0800 804 8044

Daily HOPE

A free phone line of hymns, reflections and prayers

BRAMHAM BENEFICE & CLIFFORD METHODIST CHURCH

FOOD COLLECTION

SUPPORT WETHERBY FOOD BANK
ACCEPTING CANNED FOOD
AND NON-PERISHABLE ITEMS
COLLECTION POINTS
SOCIAL DISTANCING APPLIES

Saturday 10am - 11am	Bramham Surgery Carpark and St. Mary's Church, Boston Spa
Wednesday 2pm - 4pm	Clifford Methodist Church

Items required
Pasta and rice
Tinned potatoes
Tinned Spaghetti
Nappies size 5 and 6
Cooking sauces (not pasta)
Dog and cat food
Baby products

Bramham Benefice **Wetherby & District foodbank**



Wetherby in Support of the Elderly (WiSE) is a registered charity organisation part funded by Leeds City Council. Our aim is to improve quality of life for the over 60's by providing community based activities, information, help and support.

BE A FRIEND: Friends can become scarce as we get older. WISE are looking for volunteers to befriend an elderly person. If you can spare an hour a week and would like to help or receive more information call Carole McLelland 588994; remember we all need friends.

FROM WISE SCAM ALERT: Update from West Yorkshire Trading Standards on Covid-19 related scams can be found here:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/0kpes0aw7b1nh6r/Edition%206%20WYTS%20Coronavirus%20Scam%20Alert.pdf?dl=0>



5K RUN: around Boston Spa. Meet in the car park by the Stew and Oyster Warm up at 7:45, ready to run at 8:00 each Saturday. Completely free, bring a friend.

BOSTON SPA WALKING FOR HEALTH:

The Walk takes place every 4th Tuesday of the month. It starts and ends at Boston Spa Methodist Church, High Street Boston Spa. The walks will be 30 to 60 minutes - depending on the weather, walking conditions and participants. The walks will utilize footpaths and quiet roads around Boston Spa. At the end of the walk, refreshments will be available at The Methodist Church. High Street, Wetherby, West Yorkshire, LS23 6AA



CYCLING IN THE AREA

New to cycling? Boston Spa Green Group have some ideal safe rides listed on their website

bostongreengroup.co.uk/cycling/cycle-routes/



Ladies of the Benefice Retreat

I will be booking our 2020 Wydale retreat for the end of September. I will need to know the numbers who wish to go BY THE END OF JUNE. Please let Trish know by then. Tell all those you know who might want to go, in case they haven't seen this article.

Rev Trish

BRAINTEASERS

1. The number 8,549,176,320 is a unique number. What is so special about it?
2. A boy is walking down the road with a doctor. While the boy is the doctor's son, the doctor is not the boy's father. Then who is the doctor?
3. Guess the next three letters in the series GTNTL.
4. Your parents have six sons including you and each son has one sister. How many people are in the family?

Join us for our Holiday Club



THE
HOPE
CLUB

Online Opening Service Sunday 26th July

**Pick up a Resource Pack each week
Complete the activities provided in your own time at home.**

Join us online each week

For a fun 30 minute session
Find out how Jesus gives us all Hope
Stories, drama, crafts, songs and prayer

*Sign up so that we can make your pack up to collect each week and send you
links to the online stuff*

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-hope-club-boston-spa-holiday-club-2020-tickets-108976282996>

**Collect your Resource Pack every Monday
27th Jul – 24th Aug 10-11am from St Marys Church**



BRAINTEASERS ANSWERS

1. This is the only number that includes all the digits arranged in alphabetical order.
2. The doctor is the boy's mother.
3. I, T, S. The complete sequence is the first letter of every word in the sentence.
4. Nine. Two parents, six sons, and one daughter. All of them have one sister (not six sisters).



Revd. Nick Morgan on 07387728009

Revd Trish Anslow on 07903262880

Emma on 07740166706

Emails are checked daily:
bramhambenefice@outlook.com



Website: www.bramhambenefice.org



@ bramhambenefice