



I chose this picture because I think it links the Lambing season, so important in Upper Ryedale, to Agnus Dei, the Lamb of God, Lambs were sacrificed to God in the Old Testament from the time before Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt

Jesus is called the lamb of God because he is the perfect sacrifice of Love, and did away with the need for any further blood sacrifices

As St Paul wrote *“The law of Moses was unable to save us because of the weakness of our sinful nature. So God did what the law could not do. He sent his own Son in a body like the bodies we sinners have. And in that body, God declared an end to sin’s control over us by giving his Son as a sacrifice for our sins.”*

The lamb is shown holding a banner with a red cross on white ground, a symbol of the Resurrection. It lies on St. John's book of Revelation - the final book of the New Testament, containing a prophetic vision of the end of the present world, the Last Judgement, and the coming of the New Jerusalem The Book has Seven Seals to be opened by the enthroned Lamb of God. The number seven is an important number in the bible, being seen as the perfect number

Dear Friends

I do hope you are all well and remaining safe as the vaccine roll-out continues apace and we all look forward to being able to meet more of our families and friends.

We took the decision some time ago that, to remain withing Covid rules, and more importantly, to keep everyone in Upper Ryedale safe, we would continue to Worship on line

As our buildings are all quite small they make social distancing quite difficult.

We have however decided, as Easter is the most important occasion in our Christian calendar, to hold an Easter celebration at All Saints Hawnby. Everyone who comes will be given their own service booklet.

We are not allowed to sing but we can listen to music.

We ask everyone intending to come to wear masks—to take care when entering to move to their places without congregating near the entrance and to leave promptly without (sadly) staying to chat.

Most importantly to make sure we have enough room we need to know in advance if you intend to come, and then we will need contact details so that in the unlikely event that anyone has come into contact with Covid we can let you know.

If you would like to attend the Easter service please let us know in advance either myself on: 01439 798175 or Ben Houghton. 01439 798249

Thank you.

I wonder how many of you have given something up for Lent.

Have you lasted the distance?

I have cut back on drinking wine, at least during the week, but I always think it more effective to mark Lent by doing something positive. Giving to a food bank. Or doing something else to help others.

One good example is Joyce Garbutt who is walking 10,000 steps (aprox 5 miles) every day during Lent to raise money for Cancer research in memory of her son Steven and her friend Pat Gold.

Get in touch with Joyce if you would like to contribute to a worthwhile cause: 01439 798247

Of course, this Lent is like no other—as we pass the anniversary of the first lockdown it can be difficult to keep track of when one starts and another ends.

We have all come to appreciate the NHS more than ever before and have been brought together in many ways to celebrate them and all carers.

A Prayer for Carers, Nurses and Doctors

Lord Jesus, who healed the sick and gave them new life,

be with doctors, nurses and carers,

as they act as agents of your healing touch.

In desperate times, keep them strong yet loving;

and when their work is done,

be with them in their weariness and in their tears.

Strengthen all who are working to keep us fed and well and safe;

police, refuse collectors, postmen, delivery drivers, those who work in shops and supermarkets, and everyone else putting themselves in harm's way for our sakes.

Amen.

One thing that won't be any different is the lambing which will be keeping many people very busy during the next few weeks.

A Prayer for Lambing

Dear Lord we thank you for the friendship and support of our communities, and for the beauty of our hills and valleys

We thank you for the changing weather and seasons, the dawns and sunsets and the starry nights:

For the fields and pastures which provide food for our flocks and water from stream or river,

We thank you, Lord.

We ask your blessing on our ewes;

give them wisdom and strength to care as mothers.

We thank you for the lambs, for the miracle of their birth, and for the bounding joy of their young life:

We pray that they be free from sickness, and safe from attack

We pray that all who care for the sheep may be given strength and Endurance and may receive a just reward for their work:

Amen

Lastly, I am excited and privileged to have been asked to take part in this year's Chrism service at York Minster, on Maundy Thursday, 1st April, at 11.am.

This service is when the Oils used throughout the year for anointing, at Baptism, healing, Confirmation and Ordination are blessed by the Bishop. It is also an opportunity to renew our ordination vows.

This year there will be no congregation—but it will be live streamed.

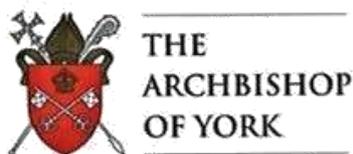
The link will be found nearer the time on the York Diocese website

<https://dioceseofyork.org.uk/news-events/events/chrism-service-online-for-maundy-thursday/>

Deacon Helen

16th March 2021

To All Churchwardens, Priests-in-Charge and Incumbents in the Diocese of York



Dear friends,

SERVICE OF ADMISSION OF CHURCHWARDENS

I am very much hoping to invite incumbents and churchwardens from across the Diocese to gather at York Minster at **6.30pm on Monday 14 June** for a service of Admission of Churchwardens.

This will of course be subject to COVID restrictions, but I wanted to give you this advance notice in order that you can “save the date” in your diaries, and be able to pass the information on to any new churchwardens who may be elected at annual meetings this year.

I very much look forward to meeting many of you in person and pray that this will be possible. I hope that it will be a great encouragement to us all to gather and to be able to affirm the immense effort and faithfulness of all of you, and particularly our churchwardens.

With all good wishes,

+Stephen Ebor:

Parish News

The future of churches in Upper Ryedale

The Special PCC meeting to consider further the future of the churches in our parish with the Archdeacon, the Very Revd Amanda Bloor, will now take place in Helmsley Church on Tuesday 4th May at 2.30pm. This venue will allow for social distancing and the use of the sound system.

Following this meeting there will be arranged an Open Parish Meeting to allow discussion of any proposals before decisions can be made.

Elizabeth G. Settle. PCC Secretary

I am repeating here something, because of its continued relevance, that appeared in last year's Easter Parish News,;



I wonder what Titian would have thought if he knew that 500 years after it was painted 'Noli me Tangere' would be so relevant today.

The Latin translates as 'Do not touch me' – something we can all relate to at the moment- especially when we venture out to the supermarket trying to keep our distance from others. Touch is our means of showing love and affection, we all crave it and many are missing it now.

These words were spoken to Mary Magdalene when Christ appeared to her in the garden at his Resurrection. Elsewhere, the Bible records that Christ will soon ascend to heaven and send the Holy Spirit down to his followers: he does not want them to cling to his physical presence.

Titian takes the story from St. John's Gospel and sets it in his own time and place, in an Italian landscape, a very human scene, bringing the image completely down to earth and; effectively, telling the viewer that the Resurrection isn't confined to one time two centuries ago. It is for all time.

Mary is a typical Venetian beauty, with of course the flowing titian coloured hair which takes its name from this artist.

The painting is one of Hope in dark times. Mary has come to anoint Christ's body but now her ointment jar lays under her hand as she reaches forward to touch her Lord. He tells her "*Do not hold on to me because I have not yet risen to my father*" He withdraws from her but at the same time appears to encircle her in a loving protective way with his body and the shroud. His earthly love transformed into something different – something enduring.

For Christians the love of Christ survives; it conquers death and gives the promise of eternal life.

This is a painting of celebration and hope; perhaps why, at the height of the Blitz, when Londoners were asked to choose one painting to stay at the National Gallery, when the rest of the collection was taken to Wales for safety it was this painting they chose