



The Revd Johannes Nobel

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*For God alone my soul waits in silence, for my hope is from him.
He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken.*

Psalm 62.5-6

Friday, 12 March 2021

Dear friends,

The end is nigh – in a good way! Most of us have now been (part) vaccinated, and we are carefully coming out of lockdown. I am delighted to tell you that the PCC has agreed to reopen St Thomas' Church for prayer and worship.

Church re-opens

The first day on which the church will be open is on the first anniversary of the first UK lockdown, Tuesday 23rd March, for the National Day of Reflection. See the enclosed leaflet. Perhaps you may want to invite your friends and neighbours to reflect on our collective loss, support those who've been bereaved, and pray for a brighter future? St Thomas's will be open between 10am and 5pm.

The following Sunday, Palm Sunday (28th of March), we will gather for Holy Communion, and during Holy Week there will be daily services in church as usual. Please see the Parish Link for details. Of course, we continue to follow government guidelines regarding social distancing and socialising inside and outside church. This is not the time to let our guard down! Both Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday will be live-streamed too, for those who cannot come to church for any reason.

2021 Annual Parochial Council Meeting, Annual General Meeting, and the Electoral Roll

Please allow me to give early notice of our 2021 APCM and AGM, which will take place on Monday 24th May at 7pm in church (subject to COVID-19 restrictions).

It may be worth explaining that the APCM and AGM are two distinct meetings. The purpose of the first meeting, the APCM, is to elect churchwardens. All people who are resident in the parishes of Osbaldwick and Murton are welcome to vote at the APCM. The APCM is followed by the AGM, which deals with the life of the church. This meeting includes reports of the church's activities, a

presentation of financial statements, the election of PCC members and the appointment of church officers. Please note: All people who are resident in the parishes of Osbaldwick and Murton are welcome to attend, but only those registered on the church's Electoral Roll can vote at the AGM.

We invite applications for inclusion on the church's Electoral Roll between Sunday 11th April and Sunday 25th April. The Church Representation Rules stipulate that the Electoral Roll is entirely renewed every six years. The last time this happened was in 2019. Therefore, if you have not completed an application form in the past 3 years, you will not be on the church's Electoral Roll. If you wish to be included, please collect a form in church, or contact the Electoral Roll officer, Mrs Anne Gray (07891 061865). This year, you will also be asked to complete a GDPR consent form.

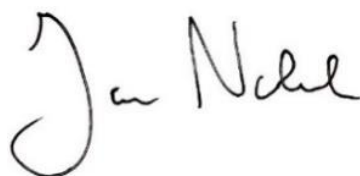
General Data Protection Regulations

The PCC has reviewed its GDPR policy and agreed that **everyone** who wishes to remain on our contact list will need to complete the attached consent form. Copies will be available in the church too. Please return your completed form to the church, or to Mr Julian Gray, 51 Osbaldwick Village.

Restarting, or Letting Go?

Last but not least, let us pause for a moment. Let us be careful not to rush back too quickly to how things were before COVID-19. Perhaps, we have a once-in-a-lifetime chance to introduce positive change. As we create a 'new normal', we may want to take the opportunity to deliberately review our activities. Some activities we need to restart, as soon as possible. But other activities we need to let go of. Please pray for the clergy and PCC as we seek to discern God's plans for our church and our community.

Love and Prayers,



Jan Nobel

Priest in Charge – St Thomas Osbaldwick with St James Murton

Green Ambassador – Diocese of York

Associate Lecturer (BA, MA, MA Dunelm, AFHEA) – York School of Ministry

