

# SELBY ABBEY

*Welcome Worship Witness*



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter 27<sup>th</sup> April 2025

### Reflection by Karen Banks, Reader (LLM)

When I was a child, it was a fact that there were nine planets in the solar system. Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune and Pluto. I was taught this by my teachers, read it in books, and finally, when I was at University, I could check this on the internet on a computer (we didn't have many computers in school when I was young and we certainly didn't have the internet to browse on as they do in schools these days!).

Astronomers and astrophysicists were all agreed – there were nine planets. And because everyone agreed that there was enough scientific evidence to 'prove' this 'fact', it was what everyone was taught and what everyone believed. Now, around twenty years later, I am teaching my pupils in school that there are only eight planets and Pluto is actually a dwarf-planet.

If you had asked me twenty years ago, I would have been 100% sure that because it had been scientifically proven that there were nine planets, then it must have been true. But that was not the case. It was not 'true'. It had not been 'proven'. Quite often we think that because something has been 'scientifically proven', it MUST be a fact and it MUST be true. Quite often it is not questioned – just taken as 'the truth'.

It is sometimes stated by people as their reason for not believing in God, that: "You can't prove there is a God as there is no scientific evidence for God's existence". However, in science, we find that for many things that have been 'proven', there will be other scientists who have questioned

or thrown doubt on that claim. Whether it is in the realm of physics, chemistry or biology, you will find things which are argued to be 'true' which other experts in the field will produce alternative theories or evidence about. In fact, that is often how a scientific breakthrough occurs and new things are discovered. We don't question this or say that the whole of science must not be true or reliable because of this. So why do we, when it comes to faith and belief in God?

Today, we read from John's Gospel about the disciple Thomas, who was not present when Jesus had appeared to the rest of the disciples. Not surprisingly regarding something so unusual, so out of the ordinary, Thomas had doubts about whether what the disciples are saying was true. It is only later, when he has seen Jesus for himself, that he finally believes that Jesus has indeed risen from the dead. Thomas, like many people, is asking for some evidence to convince him that this actually occurred. He is asking questions, just like scientists do. And he finds his answer. But does the fact that he had seen for himself make it any more 'true' or 'proven' that Jesus is risen from the dead? Is the fact that he had asked the question and not just trusted in his friends' accounts of the event a negative thing?

Asking questions, having doubts and looking for evidence can only be a good thing if it helps us to understand our world and our faith better. So, what questions do you have? And are you going to have the faith and trust to go forward and explore them more fully?

**Prayer for The Second Sunday of Easter:** Almighty Father, you have given your only Son to die for our sins and to rise again for our justification: grant us so to put away the leaven of malice and wickedness that we may always serve you in pureness of living and truth; through the merits of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

**Psalms 118v.14-end:** The Lord is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation. Joyful shouts of salvation sound from the tents of the righteous:  
'The right hand of the Lord does mighty deeds; the right hand of the Lord raises up; the right hand of the Lord does mighty deeds.'

I shall not die, but live and declare the works of the Lord.

The Lord has punished me sorely, but he has not given me over to death.

Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter and give thanks to the Lord.

This is the gate of the Lord; the righteous shall enter through it.

I will give thanks to you, for you have answered me and have become my salvation.

The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

This is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes.

This is the day that the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.

Come, O Lord, and save us we pray. Come, Lord, send us now prosperity.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord; we bless you from the house of the Lord.

The Lord is God; he has given us light; link the pilgrims with cords right to the horns of the altar.

You are my God and I will thank you; you are my God and I will exalt you.

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his mercy endures for ever.

**Acts 5v.27-32:** When the temple police had brought the apostles, they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, saying, 'We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man's blood on us.' But Peter and the apostles answered, 'We must obey God rather than any human authority. The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Saviour, so that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him.'

**Revelation 1v.4-8:** John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen. Look! He is coming with the clouds; every

eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail. So it is to be. Amen. 'I am the Alpha and the Omega', says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

**John 20v.19-end:** When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.'

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.'

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

**Final Prayer:** Lord God our Father, through our Saviour Jesus Christ you have assured your children of eternal life and in baptism have made us one with him: deliver us from the death of sin and raise us to new life in your love, in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

**FOR YOUR PRAYERS:** For all involved in the life and worship of the Abbey, especially Rachel Benson (High Steward), David Sherriff (architect), Paul Simpson (Chairman) and members of the Abbey Trust.

For local churches, and the York Diocesan support staff.

For schools and colleges in the parish and especially this week for the staff and students at Staynor Hall Primary Academy and the Headteacher (Rachel Ray) and office and support staff at the Abbey School.

**Those who are sick or in need:** Stephen Bower, Audrey Clark, Sharon Cooper, Sheila Harris, Peggy Morrell, Varvara Prykhodko, Stephen Rigg, Tony Rock, Lynne Tebbet, Audrey Thompson, Fraser, Martin, Sean, Joe, Jim, Deanna.

**The departed:** Jimmy Adams, Les Benn, Alan Hughes, Ray Kirby, Barbara Binns, Beryl Smith, Alexander Mason, Dorothy Cogan, Pope Francis

A video reflection on the Sunday bible readings is available at <https://vimeo.com/dioceseofyork> or the York Diocesan website. This week it is by the Ven. Andy Broom, Archdeacon of the East Riding

#### THIS WEEK IN THE ABBEY

<b>Fri</b>	18.15	Fleetwood Mac Tribute by Candlelight
	20.30	Fleetwood Mac Tribute by Candlelight
<b>Sat</b>	18.15	Eagles Tribute by Candlelight
	20.30	Eagles Tribute by Candlelight
<b>Sun</b>	08.00	Holy Communion
	10.00	Sung Eucharist
	12.15	Baptism
	15.00	St George's Day Parade
	18.30	Choral Evensong
<b>Mon</b>	12.00	Holy Communion
<b>Wed</b>	14.30	Funeral
<b>Thu</b>	10.00	Abbey Tots
	10.30	Holy Communion
	13.30	Mothers' Union Meeting
<b>Sat</b>	18.30	Silent Disco
	21.30	Silent Disco
<b>Sun</b>	08.00	Holy Communion
	10.00	Sung Eucharist
	15.00	Family Funtime
	18.30	Evensong (said with hymns)

*The Abbey is open 10.00 – 16.00 daily. The Coffee & Gift Shop is open 10.30–15.30 (13.30–15.30 Sunday)*

#### FOLLOW THE SUNDAY SERVICE AT HOME

For those not able to join us in the Abbey, the 10am Sunday Service is available to view online. Contact the Office for the Youtube link.

**THANK YOU** to all who supported the Easter Bank Holiday Craft Fayre, Tower Tours, etc. raising over £3,000 for Abbey funds. (Also the Lent Lunches which, with the money donated for soup on Good Friday, raised nearly £400 for Christian Aid).

**OPERATIONS MANAGER:** Charlotte Hughes will be starting in the new post of Operations Manager at Selby Abbey on the 12<sup>th</sup> May. Charlotte has been involved in the Heritage department at the Yorkshire Cricket Foundation for the last three years, working as Head of Heritage. There she has led operations, exhibitions, collection care, research, volunteer management, and social outreach. Her work there has primarily seen the creation of a collections management database and digitisation, the introduction and implementation of a strong volunteer team, and a diverse and inclusive exhibition programme. She is looking forward to getting to know the Abbey and its team of staff and volunteers who work here in the coming weeks.

#### ART INSTALLATIONS: 23<sup>rd</sup> April – 13<sup>th</sup> May

Visitors to the Abbey will be able to enjoy two art installations near the west door, the first by Helen Brook (until 2<sup>nd</sup> May), the second by Mandy Keating, that have been developed as part of the 'Now Then!' Arts project in Selby.

#### LITTER PICK: Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> April at 11am

All welcome to join the Abbey Eco-Group on their next litter pick – meet at the west door.

**ABBEY TOTS:** every 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month from 10.00-11.00 in the St Nicholas Room in the Abbey. Next one: **1<sup>st</sup> May**

#### FAMILY FUNTIME: 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays at 3.00pm

Fun crafts, trails, activities, bible stories & songs followed by free party food tea for ages 0-11 (accompanied by adults). Next one: **4<sup>th</sup> May**

#### BANK HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR: 5<sup>th</sup> May

If you have any donations of tombola, raffle prizes, gift bags, etc. please can you bring them to the Abbey so we can begin to sort them out? Any pledges of home baking, offers of help or donations of money, can be given to the vergers or Sue Tagert/Karen Banks. Thank you.

**ANNUAL MEETING: Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May at 11.30am**

As well as receiving the annual reports we will be electing 3 new PCC members and 2 new churchwardens. Nomination forms are in the office. Speak to the vicar for more info. if you are interested in serving the Abbey in either way.

**FRIDAY BIBLE STUDY:** After a break for Lent and Easter the Friday Bible Study Group are meeting on **16<sup>th</sup> May at 10.30** in the St Nicholas Centre. If you are interested in joining us, please speak to Lin Brown or just turn up.

**PRAYERS FOR THE WORLD:** A short service to focus on praying for peace in our troubled world is held in the choir at 1pm, *normally* the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday in the month: Next one: **20<sup>th</sup> May**

**CHURCHES TOGETHER QUIZ: Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> May** 6.30pm at Portholme Church. Bring & Share supper. Suggested donation of £5 for Christian Aid. Sign up list in the Abbey Office.

**DAY PILGRIMAGE 2025: Peterborough Cathedral**  
Advanced notice that this year's pilgrimage will be on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> October to the magnificent, historic cathedral at Peterborough. More info. and booking details soon.

**SELBY ABBEY JUNIOR CHOIR: Saturdays 9.00am**  
For any aged 6-10years who love singing to come and develop their vocal talents as part of a group.

**ABBEY CHOIR:** Any treble, soprano, alto, tenor and bass singers (adults/children 8+). If you are interested in joining a friendly community & making music in our great building with the famous Abbey organ, contact Oliver Waterer.

**CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER** 1.00-1.30pm Mondays in the South Choir Aisle. An ecumenical group, we share any joys or concerns followed by 20min of silence. All welcome. *Janet Lawrence & Linda Courage*

**SELBY FOODBANK:** *Items can be left in the Abbey. Current needs: cereal, tea, coffee, biscuits, pasta, beans, tinned meats/vegetables/fruit, soup, spaghetti, custard, rice pudding, jam, tinned potatoes & instant mash, toilet rolls, shampoo, toothpaste, shower gel, deodorants, washing-up liquid, bin bags, antibacterial spray. We are also recruiting more volunteers to sort/pack food, meet clients and for collections from Supermarket donation points. [info@selby.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:info@selby.foodbank.org.uk).*

**FORTHCOMING EVENTS APRIL-JUNE**

25<sup>th</sup> April Friday 6.15pm & 8.30pm Concert  
*Fleetwood Mac by Candlelight (tribute)*  
26<sup>th</sup> April Saturday 6.15pm & 8.30pm Concert  
*Eagles by Candlelight (tribute)*  
3<sup>rd</sup> May Saturday 6.30pm & 9.30pm Silent Disco  
*Music of the 80s, 90s, 00s*  
5<sup>th</sup> May Monday Bank Holiday Craft Fair  
10<sup>th</sup> May Saturday 7.30pm concert  
*York Philharmonic Male Voice Choir*  
17<sup>th</sup> May Saturday 7.30pm Concert  
*Don Pears & Singphonia – A Musical Alphabet*  
31<sup>st</sup> May 6pm Concert  
*Fairburn Singers & Austrian Male Voice Choir*  
7<sup>th</sup> June 10<sup>th</sup> June Eco-Fair  
*Stalls, talks & activities on an environmental theme*  
7<sup>th</sup> June Saturday 7.00pm Concert  
*Pendyrus Welsh Male Voice Choir*  
13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> June All Day Art Expo.  
*Local Artists*  
21<sup>st</sup> June 7.30pm Concert  
*A Night at the Opera by Candlelight*  
25<sup>th</sup> June Wednesday Recital  
*Olivia Graham – Celtic music & reflections*

NB. This year's lunchtime organ recital series will run from Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July to 26<sup>th</sup> August.

**WELCOME PACK:** If you are new to the Abbey (either as a volunteer or congregation member), please ask for a Welcome Pack containing useful information about different aspects of Abbey life.

**ABBEY OFFICE**

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**DIRECTOR OF MUSIC**

Oliver Waterer c/o Abbey Office

**ONLINE DONATIONS:** There is a 'Donate' button on our website so people can give online.

**YORK DIOCESE** [www.dioceseofyork.org.uk](http://www.dioceseofyork.org.uk)

For a variety of news and resources.

**CHURCH OF ENGLAND** [www.churchofengland.org](http://www.churchofengland.org)

A range of resources inc. an online Sunday service