

The Parishes of Aldbrough Mappleton & Goxhill with Great Hatfield & Witherwick



April 2020

From the Vicar

Dear All

“So many people right across the country are anxious about employment, anxious about food, isolated from loved ones and feel that the future looks dark.”

Although Easter was a few weeks later last year those words from the Archbishop of Canterbury’s sermon on Easter Day are as poignant this year as last and perhaps even more so. As we begin to see glimpses of the light at the end of the tunnel, in respect of the pandemic, it is clear that there are many people for whom the light is still switched off. Since last Easter many people have lost family and friends, jobs and security; relationships have been strained and communication difficult. Zoom, Microsoft teams, Facebook and the like are no match for being with people in the flesh. Yet as we reflect once again on the Easter story we are reminded that this is a story of hope, overcoming darkness and despair. The women arrived at the tomb on that first Easter Day with mixed emotions and when they saw that the stone had been rolled away were confused. All their hopes were dashed and they faced an uncertain future. The young man at the tomb reminds them that God is still in control: *“Don’t be alarmed,” he said. “You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is*

not here. See the place where they laid him.” (Mark 16:6).

Jesus’ resurrection is the sure hope for us – he turns our confusion and fear into joy and wonder. Despite the fact that things can’t return to the way they were doesn’t mean we can’t trust in God’s plan for the future. Quoting the Archbishop of Canterbury again: *“There needs to be a resurrection of our common life, a new normal, something that links to the old, but is different and more beautiful. We must dream it, build it, make it, grasp it, because it is the gift of God and the call of God.”*

I wonder what God’s gift and call to each one of you is. What dreams do you have about the future – not just in your own lives but in the life of the church? Some will be gathering in church to celebrate Easter, others may still be cautious and so worship at home, but wherever you are we cannot escape the fact that ‘Christ has died, Christ has risen and Christ will come again’. This is the ‘dream’ and the truth that we aspire to.

With every blessing this Eastertide.

Revd Anne

SERVICES FOR APRIL

April 1st Maundy Thursday: 7.00pm Holy Communion at Aldbrough

April 2nd Good Friday: 2.00pm Reflective service at Mappleton

April 4th Easter Day: 10.30am Parish Communion at Aldbrough

April 11th Easter 2: 10.30am Parish Communion at Witherwick

April 18th Easter 3: 10.30am Parish Communion at Aldbrough

April 25th Easter 4: 10.30am Parish Communion at Mappleton

May 2nd Easter 5: 10.30am Parish Communion at Aldbrough

Admitting Children to Communion before Confirmation

The Church of England has for many years admitted children to communion before confirmation. This is with the consent of the Bishop and in consultation with the PCC. Since we have very few young people in our churches this has not occurred before in our parishes. However, I am delighted to say that we will be admitting Leah Treadaway to communion on Easter Day. Easter is traditionally a time when people are baptised and we all re-affirm our baptismal promises. We recognise that children admitted to communion are welcomed and valued equally within the church family and not excluded from worship by their age. So Easter Day will be as joyous as we can possibly make it as we welcome Leah as a disciple on the way with us.

St George's Day

The film *How to Train your Dragon* is set in a Viking village under attack by dragons, who steal livestock and burn down houses. Hiccup, the village Chief's son, invents a machine to capture them. However, when he catches the most dangerous one, Night Fury, he cannot kill it. This is because when he looks into the dragon's eyes, he sees that he is just as frightened as himself. Through their friendship, the people and dragons eventually come to live in harmony. It's appropriate to think about dragons this month, when we remember St. George, England's patron saint, famed for slaying a dragon. Whether he actually killed a dragon is open to question! We do know that the original George was a Roman soldier at the time of Emperor Diocletian. He refused to renounce his faith, as commanded by the Emperor, resulting in his death on 23 April 303 AD.

So, we have here St George who slayed a dragon, while Hiccup refused to kill one. They seem like opposites: one a brave soldier and the other a weak boy! However, both acted according to their conscience, going against what people expected and not worrying about the cost to themselves. St George was martyred for standing up for his faith in Jesus, while Hiccup risked rejection by his father and village because of his compassion.

Today, we are still called to stand for Christ against wrongs and injustice in a daily life, despite the personal cost. We need to look into the eyes of apparent enemies and meet their hostility with love and compassion. And for all of us the most important place where we need to slay evil is in our own hearts. Don't forget that we have the power of the Resurrection at our disposal!



"It's not quite as bad as it looks – they're only withholding payment until we publish our expenses."

The Crossroad *By Megan Carter (Parish Pump)*

The road was hard, no turning back
The way ordained by mighty God,
'Your will not mine' was all He said
As humbly down that path He trod.

The crowd that cheered Him once with palms
Began to shout for Him to die,
They chose Barabbas in His stead
And with one voice cried 'Crucify!'

Between two thieves on Calvary's hill
They put to death the Prince of Life,
One cried for help, the other cursed
The first was promised Paradise.

This promise now is for us all
Christ gave His life to set us free,
The cross divides, it always will –
The question is: what side are we?

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETINGS

The election of churchwardens, Deanery Synod representatives and PCC members takes place in May. There will also be a financial update and reports on the fabric of the churches. In the past these have been poorly attended but I do urge you to put the date for your parish in the diary and come along. Nominations for Churchwardens (who of course are elected by the civil parish) and for PCC members are especially welcome.

WITHERNWICK: May 9th 11.30 following the morning service

ALDBROUGH and MAPPLETON: May 16th 11.30 following the morning service

ALDBROUGH'S CHRISTMAS EVENT WILL BE HAPPENING ON DECEMBER 4th – book the date and if you'd like a stall let Kath Moore or Sharlah Cantwell know.

To make you smile:

Divine Intervention?

A little boy was playing outside with his mother's broom in the garden. That night his mother realised her broom was still missing and asked her son to go out and bring it in. When the little boy confessed he was afraid of the dark, his mother tried to comfort him: 'The Lord is out there too, don't be afraid.' Hesitantly, the little boy opened the back door and peered out. He called softly: 'Lord, please will you pass me the broom?'

Signs found outside churches....

* Free Trip to heaven. Details Inside!

* Searching for a new look? Have your faith lifted here!

* Dusty Bibles lead to Dirty Lives.

* Come work for the Lord. The work is hard, the hours are long and the pay is low. But the retirement benefits are out of this world.

Items for next newsletter to Paul soltydog@yahoo.com by 20th April please