

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



March
2021

From the Vicar

Dear All,



When I wrote this time last year we were about to begin the weekend Come and See Mission with Bishop John Pritchard. It was to be a one-off event with the hope that as we pray about it seeds will be sown and more people will be less wary of those of us who profess to call ourselves Christians, and who know may well come along to other events that the Church hosts. It was also a reminder that Easter wasn't far off and we were looking forward to Mothering Sunday, Palm Sunday and of course Easter Day. What we didn't know at that time was that our daily lives were about to change dramatically – and in the event none of our traditional services happened in church. In fact we've missed most of the major festivals for a year now and this has had an enormous impact not only on our spiritual and mental well-being but also on the financial health of our churches. There are many challenges that face not just our churches but across the whole Diocese and during this year all churches are being invited to engage in a consultation process regarding the future of churches and clergy. There have of course been many scare stories that clergy posts will be cut – but the reality is that by 2024 York Diocese will have run out of reserves. If this is the case in the wider Diocese then our smaller churches are going to

struggle. I would hate to see the headline 'Churches to close in North Holderness' but this may happen. We are in the season of Lent and I would urge each and every one who reads this to pray about the situation – are there ways in which we can increase our personal giving for example, or perhaps there is someone out there willing to volunteer to do odd jobs, can we encourage others to join us in our worship and so on. Someone said that we need to dream dreams – it is absolutely clear that we cannot go on as we are. This past year has given us all an opportunity to reflect on what has been and what might be. We have mourned the loss of many friends, and come to understand the difficulties the NHS and others have been under, there have been some remarkable achievements – a vaccine has been found and being used within less than a year, we have become more aware of our own surroundings, most of us have had to learn new technologies with varying degrees of success. However, I hope and pray that as we journey through Lent we do so with the bigger picture of Christ's amazing love for each and every one of us. 'I sought the Lord, and He heard me, and delivered me from all my fears.' Psalm 34:4. We can take our anxiety and depression to Him because He *wants* to help us. He will always listen to us and help us.

With every blessing
Revd Anne

SERVICES FOR MARCH 2021

Every Wednesday at 10.00 Holy Communion at Aldbrough

7th March Lent 3: 10.30 Aldbrough
14th March Mothering Sunday: 10.30 Aldbrough
21st March Lent 5: 10.30 Aldbrough
28th March Palm Sunday: 10.30 Mappleton
1st April 7.00pm Maundy Thursday: Aldbrough
2nd April 2.00pm Good Friday: Mappleton
4th April Easter Day: Aldbrough

An invitation

It would be lovely to hear your thoughts on 'The three things I most want to do when coronavirus is over.' Please send your answers of no more than 100 words to: aldbroughbenefice@gmail.com – there might be a prize for the best suggestions!!

March 14th is Mothering Sunday

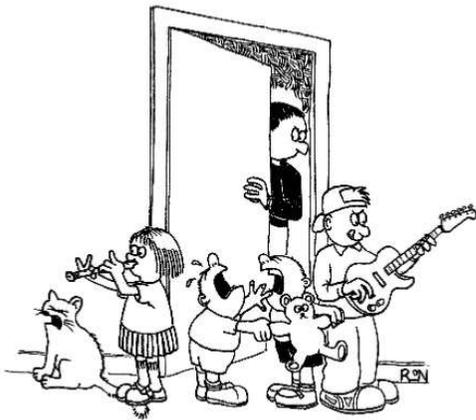
There is an old Jewish saying: *God could not be everywhere, and therefore He made mothers.*

Mother Church, Mother Earth, Mother of the Gods – our human mothers – all of them have been part of the celebration of ‘Mothering Sunday’ – as the fourth Sunday in Lent is affectionately known. It has been celebrated in the UK since at least the 16th century.

In Roman times, great festivals were held every Spring to honour Cybele, Mother of all the Gods. Other pagan festivals in honour of Mother Earth were also celebrated. With the arrival of Christianity, the festival became one honouring Mother Church. During the Middle Ages, young people apprenticed to craftsmen or working as ‘live-in’ servants were allowed only one holiday a year on which to visit their families, which is how ‘Mothering Sunday’ got its name. This special day became a day of family rejoicing, and the Lenten fast was broken. In some places the day was called Simnel Day, because of the sweet cakes called simnel cakes traditionally eaten on that day.

In recent years the holiday has changed, and in many ways now resembles the American Mother’s Day, with families going out to Sunday lunch and generally making a fuss of their mother on the day.

We shall be having a service in Church that day so please do join us.



Kevin took himself off to his study to pray for peace

Give me a sense of humour, Lord,
Give me the grace to see a joke,
To get some humour out of life,
And pass it on to other folk.

The Goldfinch

A flash of yellow, gold, and red
Dancing in our flower bed
Flocked together, bringing charm
Their joyful song restoring calm.

Through centuries since times of old
We’ve always loved their plumage bold;
As they gathered round to feed
Seeking grubs, and thistle seed.

So, go ahead, and plant some thistles
You will see, among the bristles.
Golden birds who dance and dart
Bringing joy to warm your heart.
By Nigel Beeton

Prayer for Families

Dear Father God,

In this month, when we especially think about mothers, we thank you for the families and friends you have given us. You know how hard it has been to have been separated over these past months, how much we have missed and longed for their hugs, their physical presence and fellowship.

As we hold on to the hope of overcoming the pandemic, help us to be strengthened by the power of the love we receive – and to strengthen others by the love we give.

May we know that, wherever we are, whatever our circumstances, we and our loved ones are held safe and connected by your unfailing love for us, revealed in Jesus – who is alive – and from whom nothing, no pandemic, no man-made turmoil, absolutely nothing and no-one can separate us, when we put our trust in Him.

Thank you, Father, that we belong to your family. Thank you for the love and security we have in you.

In Jesus’ name, Amen.

By Daphne Kitching