

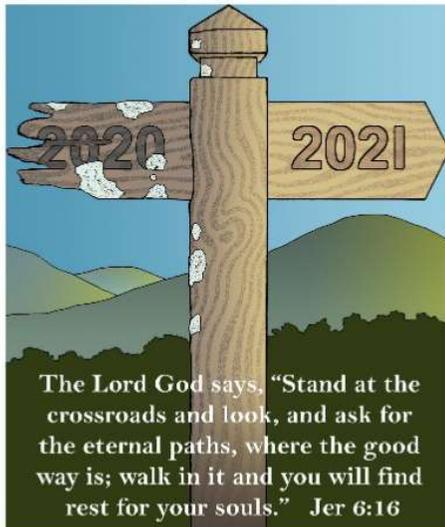
The Parishes of Aldbrough Mappleton & Goxhill with Great Hatfield & Withernwick



January
2021

From the Vicar

Dear All,



Where do we go from here? As we celebrate the feast of the Epiphany and the arrival of the Wise Men I wonder if this was the question they asked. Their return to familiar surroundings was going to be different. They couldn't be silent about what they'd experienced. Their lives had changed and now they faced new circumstances and challenges.

This weathered signpost is perhaps an indication of how 2020 was for many of us – our 'normal' way of being wasn't possible for much of the year. We have all lost friends and loved ones and we probably find ourselves quite worn out with it all. 2021 can't come soon enough it seems with its promise of a vaccine and a chance to be with family again.

We go into a New Year that is so different from this time last year. Whilst we might be downcast though God has not changed.

The prophet Jeremiah (often referred to as a prophet of doom) has some very wise words for us all: 'stand at the crossroads and look . . . and you will find rest for your souls. The crossroads of life is a critical time of decision making both outwardly and inwardly as we contemplate our relationship not only with each other but with God. The 'eternal paths' or more often translated as the 'ancient' paths are not simply a case of out with the old and in with the new, but a chance for all of us to take stock – to look at those

crossroads and decide which way to go.

George VI in his Christmas Day broadcast in 1939 said this:

'A new year is at hand. We cannot tell what it will bring. If it brings peace, how thankful we shall all be. If it brings us continued struggle we shall remain undaunted. In the meantime I feel that we may all find a message of encouragement in the lines [*words by Minnie Harkins*] which, in my closing words, I would like to say to you: 'I said to the man who stood at the Gate of the Year, "Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown." And he replied, "Go out into the darkness, and put your hand into the Hand of God. That shall be to you better than light, and safer than a known way.'"

Whatever 2021 may bring I hope that you will indeed find rest for your souls by placing yourselves into God's hands.
Revd Anne

SERVICES FOR JANUARY 2021

Every Wednesday at 10.00 Holy Communion at Aldbrough

January 3rd	10.30 Parish Communion: Withernwick
January 10th	10.30 Parish Communion: Aldbrough
January 17th	10.30 Parish Communion: Withernwick
	3.30 Licensing of Revd Susan Walker as Deanery Priest : Aldbrough
January 24th	10.30 Parish Communion: Aldbrough
January 31st	10.30 Parish Communion: Mappleton
February 7th	10.30 Parish Communion: Withernwick

THIS NEWSLETTER

Producing a newsletter each month is always a challenge (and this year particularly so) and we rely on the goodwill of volunteers to edit and deliver. At the beginning of the year we still had an A5 booklet, but with less events taking place it was easier to produce a double sided A4 copy. We appreciate that many people like to have a printed copy but are well aware that most have access to email. It is therefore our intention to send the newsletter via email next year. Please if you would like an email copy let Paul Soltys know. However, paper copies will still be produced and we ask that you let your distributor know if this is your preference. Thank you.



FUNERALS

25th November: Audrey Brook (Chanterlands Crematorium)
2nd December: John Witty (St Alban's Withernwick)
16th December: Maureen Hepworth (Chanterlands Crematorium)
18th December: Douglas Ward (Chanterlands Crematorium)

Prayer for New Year 2021 by Daphne Kitching (Parish Pump)

Dear Father God,

Here we are, nervously wobbling on the brink of this New Year. All our hopes, expectations, plans and possibilities for last year stolen by the relentless pandemic.

The landscape of our lives has been shaken and changed, Lord. Nothing is the same. Normality has been redefined. 2020 was a year like no other. How dare we move into the uncertainty of 2021?

Lord, we dare – because of the one, wonderful certainty we do have – that you have been with us through it all.

Thank you that You sent Jesus to save us, to offer us that bigger reality of life for all eternity – if we put our trust in Him, Jesus, who never changes.

You promise that You will never leave us or forsake us. We **will** be able to navigate the challenges lie ahead, if we keep our eyes on Jesus, our compass; if we trust His Holy Spirit to lead us, however strange and unfamiliar the days of 2021 may be.

You are with us! You are with us! You are with us!

Thank you, Lord of the years, that You know and love each one of us, and that we are safe in Your hands. We can go forward. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

To make you smile

Sign in an old church porch to reassure any visitors:

In this church many are cold, but few are frozen.

Church

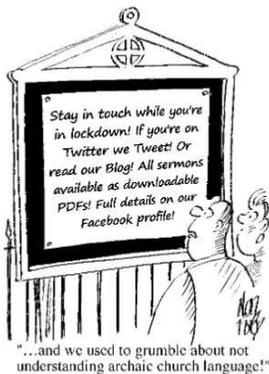
My grandson, Justin, watched a live streaming service with his dad one Sunday morning. His mum wanted to know how it went. He said, "The music was nice, but the commercial was too long."

Numbers

When the minister announced the first hymn on Zoom, "Ten thousand times ten thousand!" the little boy turned anxiously to his father. "Does he want us to work that out?"

Not comfortable

The vicar was praying for the sick and said: "We must remember Mrs Goodwin in our prayers. She recently had all her teeth taken out and a new gas stove put in."



Order

Happy to visit his local pub before it closed again, a man found himself near two nuns. Eager to talk to anyone after weeks in Tier 3, he ventured: "What is your order?" (Meaning their religious community.)

The nuns happily replied: "Sausage and chips."

'Quarantine' – the 2020 word of the year

The Cambridge Dictionary has named 'quarantine' as its 'word of the year' for 2020. Apparently, it was the word most looked up between January and October of last year. 'Quarantine' even beat 'pandemic' and 'lockdown'.

The Cambridge Dictionary has now added a new meaning to the word 'quarantine'. It runs: 'A general period of time in which people are not allowed to leave their homes or travel freely, so that they do not catch or spread a disease.'

The editors are also considering some possible new words for the dictionary. These include 'Quaranteam' (a group of people who go into quarantine together), Lockstalgia (a feeling of nostalgia for the lockdown period), and Coronial (someone born around the time of the pandemic).