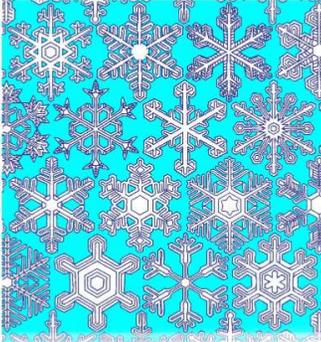


The Parishes of Aldbrough Mappleton & Goxhill with Great Hatfield & Witherwick



January
2022

January 2022
From the Vicar
Dear All



*The LORD spreads snow like wool and
scatters frost like ashes. Ps 147:16*

Happy New Year!

January is, of course, the time to take down the decorations and put them away for next year. I wonder where you will store them or indeed what state they'll be in next November when you start to get them out again. Each year my favourite moment is getting out my crib set because it belonged to my Gran although it is beginning to show its age – the donkey has lost both its ears and a sheep has lost a leg and each year the figures get moved around thanks to our cats! In addition, Baby Jesus is so small that it could easily get lost!

The crib is the last thing to get put away though – because it is not a Christmas decoration but a reminder of something other – a tradition that predates Christianity. On February 2nd (the midpoint of winter) churches celebrate the feast of Candlemas. This is known also as the Presentation of Christ in the Temple. It's the day when we celebrate Mary and Joseph taking their baby, Jesus, to the Temple. The custom was set down in Leviticus chapter 12, where the

parents presented the child to the Lord, and received a blessing from the priests. It was a picture of the sacrifice of the first-born son, giving him to the Lord. As such it marks the end of the Christmas season.

This New Year have a think about where you put Jesus after Christmas. Not the figure but the 'real' person. He's easily left in a virtual crib as a baby in our minds, just like the wooden or plastic figure in our attics or under the stairs. If we keep Him as that lovely sweet-smelling-cute baby we miss out on His teaching and miracles, we will fail to understand and engage with His massive love and compassion for each of us on the cross – and most importantly His resurrection. Death is not the end. Not for Him. Not for us and not for our loved ones.

For you as a Benefice 2022 will be different – there will be no regular priest taking services and indeed some will be led by lay people. However, as I prepare to retire, I know that you will be in good hands. The churchwardens will, of course, be shouldering much of the responsibility during the interregnum, but please don't leave it all to them.

It has been a real privilege to serve as your parish priest for the last 8 years – and I leave with many happy memories of the journey we have been on together. My prayer for you all in the coming months is that you will continue to grow in faith, to support one another in all that you do, and not lose heart!

With every blessing for 2022.

Rev'd Anne

SERVICES FOR JANUARY

Every Wednesday 10.00 Holy Communion at Aldbrough

January 2nd: 10.30am Parish Communion at Witherwick

January 9th: 10.30 am Parish Communion at Aldbrough

January 16th: 10.30am Parish Communion at Aldbrough

January 23rd: 10.30am Service of the Word at Mappleton

January 30th: 10.30am Parish Communion at Goxhill

February 6th: Service of the Word at Aldbrough

Last Saturday we held our annual Christmas Fair at St Alban's Church. We have more room for stalls now we have taken out some of the pews and part-paved the floor. The church looked very festive with our beautiful Christmas tree and its twinkling lights. The aroma of mulled wine and frying bacon for the butties was mouth-watering. We were pleased to see so many friends both old and new and the end result was a staggering £1001.93. Our thanks go to all who worked so hard to achieve this. If you pass us during the evening you will see the church floodlit thanks to Mike Soper. It's a wonderful Christmas at St Alban's.

FROM THE REGISTERS



BAPTISM: 5th December, Oliver Tweddle (Aldbrough)

FUNERAL: 7th December, Patrick Slaven (Mappleton)

Christmas Chill Out

On Sunday, 5th December 2021 we welcomed young people and their families to the church for a little party. There was a total of 5 children and 7 adults. During our party we enjoyed Parachute games, singing with actions, Hunt the sheep, colouring and of course let's not forget finishing with some lovely treats for a snack. All this while the adults enjoyed a chance to chat, with a hot drink.

Once again we were amazed at the support from the local community with offers of both food and drink - Your donations are greatly appreciated, and we can't thank you enough.

Date for Dairy - Next Chill Out Party is Sunday, 13th February 2021 at 4pm-5:30pm. Please do come and join us and offer support any way you can - We welcome donations and any volunteers for helping on the day.

From all at Church Chill Out, we wish you the Merriest Christmas and Healthy New Year.
Kind Regards, Kaye

Various reflections on God's grace for the New Year

New Year's Day is a good time to fix one's eyes on the only One who knows what the year is to hold. – Elisabeth Elliot
Faith never knows where it is being led, but it loves and knows the One who is leading. – Oswald Chambers
This one simple act of beginning each day with God sets each day on the path of wisdom. – Elizabeth George
Enter the coming year with renewed hope in the power of God to do through you what you cannot. – John MacArthur
Wherever you are, be all there. Live to the hilt every situation you believe to be the will of God. – Jim Elliot
Although our New Year's resolutions may quickly crumble, God's plans never fail. – Charles Stanley

To make you smile!

With Epiphany in mind...

I was telling my three boys the story of the Nativity and how the Wise Men brought gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh for the infant Jesus. Clearly giving it a lot of thought, my six-year-old observed, "Mum, a Wise Woman would have brought nappies."

Visitors

The minister came home after church one Sunday morning looking very satisfied.

"Many people in church?" asked his wife, bustling around the kitchen.

"Yes, and we had at least three strangers, though I didn't see them."

"Then how do you know?"

"Because there were three £10 notes in the collection plate."



A reminder that perhaps our churches are not the warmest places to be!!

New Year Prayer 2022

Lord of all creation,
Lord of all the years,
Thank you for steering us through the fragmented landscape of two pandemic riddled years. Here we stand at the beginning of a new year, not knowing what lies ahead. Our only security lies in you, Lord.
Please take our hands and guide us, day by day, into January and beyond. We will not be afraid, Lord because you have promised never to leave us, never to forsake us. And you keep your promises. We are safe.
2022, here we come... expectantly,
In Jesus' name, Amen.