

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

June 2021



From the Vicar

Dear All

I am delighted to say that we have elected our churchwardens for this year and these were all admitted to their office on Sunday 23rd May. Your new wardens are - Withernwick: Mrs Anne Wood and Mr Alan Monk; Aldbrough: Mrs Christine Longstaff and Mrs Antoinette Butlin; Mappleton: Mrs Ruth Skinner and Mr Brian Rhodes. This is a role that is ever changing and I'm eternally grateful to all the wardens who put in so much energy and effort into keeping our churches open. As is usual at annual meetings I also give my report on the past year which in normal circumstances is usually quite straightforward – we reflect on what has happened and look forward to what might be – these are not normal circumstances but as I reflect on the past 14 months or so I was surprised at what we have achieved as a Benefice! Yes, services were curtailed and online or over the telephone, churches shut, social distancing, masks and hand gel everywhere, but we still maintained some semblance of being together. There was a slight sense of normality throughout the summer – Aldbrough managed its Gift Day and Hatfield had their traditional fete. In October, Mappleton and Aldbrough had a meeting with

the Archdeacon to discuss becoming a joint PCC – this has now gone to the Diocesan Registry to make this legal – we are the first parishes in the Diocese to undertake this step! 'Mary and Joseph' spent nights in people's houses in December and we had a carol service at Mappleton –being able to sing carols outside afterwards. Throughout all of this the Food Bank at Aldbrough has been able to operate – this is a wonderful witness to loving our neighbour and my thanks go to John Phillips and Karen Huggins-Manners who work extremely hard to maintain this.

For those who like statistics: Baptisms in the Benefice 2020 = 2; Weddings = 3 (Somewhat surprisingly); Funerals = 17 (including some very loved and missed members of our congregations)

I don't know how our treasurers have managed it but at the end of 2020 we weren't in too bad a shape. There is no room for complacency, and although we hope that fund-raising events will soon be up and running, (indeed there are some already booked in!) I would urge you all to consider your own weekly gift to your church so that by the end of this year things will be looking up. I believe that there is light at the end of the tunnel, although as yet the church does not have a roadmap regarding singing and the sharing of the common cup or indeed when we can have coffee at the end of a service!! My grateful thanks go to each and every one of you for sticking with it – for being there on the end of a phone, to watching the videos and supporting each other in whatever ways you could. Yesterday is history, tomorrow a mystery and today a gift to make the most of. You are a great Benefice who work together and support each other at all times – it continues to be a privilege to be your parish priest. If I thank individuals I will almost certainly miss someone out, so thank you to you all for whatever you do for furthering God's kingdom in this Benefice.

With every blessing

Rev'd Anne

SERVICES FOR MAY

Every Wednesday 10.00 Holy Communion at Aldbrough

June 6th Trinity 1: 10.30am Parish Communion at Aldbrough
June 13th Trinity 2: 10.30am Parish Communion at Withernwick
June 20th Trinity 3: 10.30am Parish Communion at Aldbrough
June 27th Trinity 4: 10.30am Parish Communion at Mappleton
July 4th Trinity 5: 10.30am Parish Communion at Aldbrough

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

July 31st	Garden Party	Cowden Parva
August 8th	Deanery Songs of Praise	Nunkeeling Priory 3.00pm
August 30th	Village Fete	Great Hatfield
December 4th	Christmas Street Event	Aldbrough Village
December 11th	Christmas Fair	Withernwick Church



18th April: Kate Larkham (Mappleton)

16th May: Olivia Cooke (Mappleton)



Funeral: May 12th Nancy Hewson (Aldbrough)

Archbishop of York's Presidential Address to General Synod

It was "sobering and shameful" for the Church of England to be "confronted by the recent *Panorama* documentary", which looked at "a number of shockingly specific instances where sisters and brothers in Christ have experienced racism in the Church of England."

So said the Archbishop of York in his recent Presidential Address to the General Synod.

He went on to say that the Anti-Racism Task Force set up by the Church last autumn had now published its "inspiring, challenging, and – God willing – far reaching report" to deal with the "institutional racism" found in the church.

"It identifies five areas where urgent action is needed, namely: participation, including appointments and shortlists for appointments; education; training and mentoring; work with young people; and governance and structures."

The Archbishop looked forward to the discussion of all this at a future Synod. "However, we couldn't let this group of sessions pass without acknowledging the scale of the challenge and the call to action."

The Archbishop went on: "I'm not standing here to defend our record. Nor am I saying everything will be ok. ...I'm saying that there is racism in the Church, and it must be confronted."

The Archbishop agreed with a statement by the Revd Arun Arora which said: 'Apologies and lament must now be accompanied by swift actions leading to real change.'

Prayer for Encouragement in June

Father, At this time of year, we remember Barnabas, a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, who encouraged people to stay true to you – and others to trust you for the first time.

Lord, we have gone through difficult days. The pandemic has taught us that we are not in control. We don't know what each new day might bring. As we move into June and the hope of more normality after the restrictions of Lockdown, we too need encouragement. Help us to have courage to step forward with confidence and common sense. Most of all help us to stay true to you and to trust you, knowing that you are the security we need, knowing that you will never leave us or forsake us. Help us to be encouraged! In Jesus name, Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

To make you smile

Neighbourhood Watch

In one small rural village the local vet also led the local Neighbourhood Watch group. Late one night the phone rang, and his wife answered. An agitated voice inquired, "Is your husband there?"

"He is, but tell me, do you need him as the vet or the Neighbourhood Watch?" the wife asked.

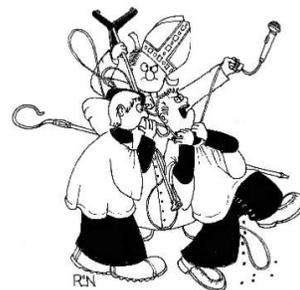
"Both!" was the reply. "We can't get our dog's mouth open, and there's a burglar in it!"

On a church notice board:

Visitors welcome.

Members expected.

Do you yearn for a garden gnome? You are not the only one. Since last year's lockdown, garden centres have been reporting a 'massive upswing' in ornament sales, due to people being forced to spend more time in their gardens. Gnomes top the list of most-wanted ornaments, with a near 100 per cent increase in sales over the past two years. There was even a gnome crisis a while back, when the Suez Canal got jammed, and thousands of gnomes on their way to UK gardens could not get through.



After months of lockdown, the Sunday procession probably needed some practise.