

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

From the Congregation



March
2022

This month sees the start of Lent, the 40-day season of penitence, self-examination and fasting running up to Easter. Jesus began His earthly ministry by fasting in the wilderness for 40 days and taught His disciples to fast: 'when you fast.' (Matthew 6:17).



The flowers are blooming, the time of birdsong has come! Song of
Isaiah 55:12.

The spiritual discipline of fasting involves missing one or two meals during the day, refraining from TV, alcohol or social media, and identifying the things that get in the way of our focus on God. What are the benefits of fasting?

- the act of giving something up expresses my desire to put God first in my life.
- it shows me the things that I depend on rather than God, so that I can surrender 'my idols' to Him.

- it encourages me to have a deeper hunger and dependency for God. It gives me space to focus on God for His strength, provision, and wisdom resulting in a more intimate relationship with Christ: 'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.' (Matthew 5:6).

Fasting enables the Holy Spirit to reveal my true spiritual condition, leading to brokenness and repentance, and a transformed life along with heart that is more attentive and dependent on God.

Lent can also be a time to embrace new spiritual disciplines, eg: joining a study group, 'random acts of kindness', giving more time to prayer and Bible study or solitude, and reading a Lent book. Whatever you do, make Lent count this year!

"Jesus takes it for granted that His disciples will observe the pious custom of fasting. Strict exercise of self-control is an essential feature of the Christian's life. Such customs have only one purpose - to make the disciples more ready and cheerful to accomplish those things which God would have done." (Dietrich Bonhoeffer).

Services for March

Holy Communion every Wednesday 10am at Aldbrough

20th February 10.30am at Mappleton: Service of the Word

27th February 4.00pm at Witherwick: Parish Communion

2nd March 10.00am at Aldbrough: Ash Wednesday

6th March 10.30am at Aldbrough: Service of the Word

13th March 10.30am at Witherwick: Parish Communion

20th March 10.30am at Aldbrough: Service of the Word

27th March 9.30am at Mappleton: Mothering Sunday

3rd April 10.30am at Aldbrough: Service of the Word

Valentine's Chill Out

We held our last Family Chill Out on Sunday, 13th February 2022. We welcomed 8 children and a total of 6 adults. We enjoyed making some heart wands, cards for our loved ones and colouring. Then we joined a song and games. Including hide the balloon. Thank you to those that joined us and to those who helped make it happen by providing snacks and donations for items. It is always very much appreciated.

Our next Valentine's Chill out is 10th April 2022 at 4pm. For an Easter Themed Chill Out. We hope you can join us then, Kaye.



The fan-heater under the cassock idea proved not to be such a good one

When the angel told Mary she would give birth to God's Son

(Annunciation, 25 March)

Almighty, loving Father,

Thank you for the month of March, the month of Spring, the month when hopes are high and new things seem possible, when even coming through the pandemic seems possible.

This month we remember the day that the angel told Mary that she would bear your Son – how could that have seemed possible to her?

Help us to trust you as she did. Whatever we may face, help us to have peace and confidence, knowing, as she did, that nothing is impossible with you.

In Jesus' name.

Amen

Retirement of Revd Anne White

On Sunday, 10th January, we said goodbye to Revd Anne after our service of Parish Communion. She has been the Priest in Charge for our benefice for the last 8 years and the time has flown by. She will be greatly missed by the churches, the school and each community because she has been very much a part of our lives and much more than a parish priest.

She became our friend as well as our spiritual leader. She brought a great sense of purpose and dedication tempered with a good sense of humour. She certainly has a talent for getting people involved and as a result we are a much closer group. The churches will continue to work together and support one another.

Following the service we had a celebration Thank You to Revd Anne. The cake says "Big Thank You". She was presented with a framed photograph of her 4 churches and St Helen's Well together with garden centre gift vouchers. If anyone would still like to donate towards Revd Anne's leaving gift please contact one of the churchwardens because donations are still coming in for more vouchers.

We were very fortunate when Revd Anne chose to follow her calling in our benefice and we will certainly miss her. We wish her and Philip a long, happy and fulfilling retirement.



Spring Poem

Blossom is showing,
Snowdrops appear,
Spring is showing lets just see.

Trees are budding,
Daffodils are springing
Spring is arriving ever so slowly.

Birds are calling,
Birds are nesting,
Soon they'll be feeding the chicks in the nests.

Lord bless this time and open our eyes,
Guide us to see your perfect creation.
Spring is arriving and soon will be here.

By Kaye Treadaway.

Church Wardens

St Bartholomew, Aldbrough

Antoinette Butlin, 01964 527438

Christine Longstaff 01964 527190

St. Giles, Goxhill

Ruth Skinner, 01964 534580

All Saints, Mappleton

Brian Rhodes, 01964 533954

St Alban's, Withernwick

Alan Monk, 01964 527263

Anne Wood, 01964 527947

New editor?

We are planning on moving home in the next few months. During the moving process I may be unable to produce the newsletter & depending where we end up, it may be impractical to produce it. Is there anyone in the community with a few hours to spare each month that would be willing to take over the reigns?

Drop me a line for more info as to what's involved if you are interested, Paul

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