

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

May 2021



*From the Vicar*

Dear All

Three significant events in the church calendar happen this month: first Ascension Day on the 13th, then Pentecost on the 23rd followed by Trinity Sunday on the 30th. It's quite unusual for all to occur in one month but that's due to where Easter falls. Nonetheless, for most people these important events largely get ignored, despite the fact that they are all known as 'Principal Feasts'. As such they are on a par with Easter and Christmas but sadly no card shops will have cards relating to these feasts!

So what is their importance to Christians? Ascension Day comes 40 days after Easter during which time Jesus appeared many times to his disciples after his death and resurrection. He strengthened and encouraged all of them, especially those who like Thomas were doubtful. Ascension Day is perhaps the most tender and loving farewell in history. St Luke in chapter 24 writes: 'When Jesus had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, He lifted up His hands – and blessed them.' Christmas is the beginning of story of Jesus' life on earth – Ascension Day completes it with his return to his Father in heaven.

Ten days later we celebrate Pentecost (formerly known as Whitsunday) – it's often described as a birthday party for the church as we remember the gift of the Holy Spirit to the disciples. A week later we focus on the Holy Trinity – a concept that is difficult to grasp

at the best of times but that is so important to our faith – the threefold God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. One helpful picture is to imagine the sun shining in the sky. The sun itself – way out there in space, and unapproachable in its fiery majesty – is the Father. The light that flows from it, which gives us life and illuminates all our lives, is the Son. The heat that flows from it, and which gives us all the energy to move and grow, is the Holy Spirit. You cannot have the sun without its light and its heat. The light and the heat are from the sun, are *of* the sun, and yet are also distinct in themselves, with their own roles to play.

One other significant event this month is that Bishop Alison will be presiding at the Eucharist on May 16th– she is such an inspiration to all of us and I know we shall enjoy having her with us.

That passage from Galatians 5 is such a poignant one given all the restrictions we have been living under for the past year. We have had to learn patience and self-control and it hasn't been easy. There has been so much evidence of gentleness, goodness and kindness throughout and perhaps we've all found love, joy and peace in different ways. As we begin the path to recovery I pray that these 'fruits' will remain and we can build a better (and dare I say it) a more loving future as we continue to walk in God's light.

*With every blessing*  
*Revd Anne*

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## SERVICES FOR MAY

May 2nd Easter 5: 10.30am Parish Communion at Aldbrough  
May 9th Easter 6: 10.30am Parish Communion at Withernwick  
May 16th Easter 7 10.30am Parish Communion at Aldbrough  
May 23rd Pentecost: 10.30am Parish Communion at Mappleton  
May 30th Trinity Sunday: 10.30am Parish Communion at Withernwick  
June 6th Trinity 1: 10.30am Parish Communion at Aldbrough

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### The puppies

A client brought a litter of Golden Retriever puppies to the local veterinary clinic for inoculations and worming. As the look-alike pups tumbled over and under one another in their box, the experienced vet realised it would be difficult to tell which had been treated and which hadn't. So, the vet turned on the water tap, wet her fingers and gently moistened each dog's head as she finished giving it the necessary shots.

After the fourth puppy, the vet noticed her hitherto talkative client had grown silent and was looking rather reverent. As the animal doctor sprinkled the last pup's head, the owner leaned forward and whispered, "Thank you so much. I hadn't realised you baptised them, too."



**Admitted to Communion: April 4th Leah Treadaway; John Kenway (Aldbrough)**



**Funeral: April 12th Minna Horsaman (Mappleton)**

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**Prayer for Pentecost**

Loving Father God,  
Thank you for sending your Holy Spirit;  
Your Spirit who knows no restrictions or barriers;  
Your Spirit who can reach us and be with us and in us, wherever we are, whatever our circumstances;  
Your Spirit who comforts and heals and empowers us to live with confidence that, ultimately, all shall be well;  
Your Spirit who connects us, through the life, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus.  
Because of Jesus' victory over death we have hope and life forever.  
Thank you, loving Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
Amen.

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**One hundred years ago, on 15th May 1921, the British Legion** was founded in the aftermath of the First World War, to provide support to veterans of the British Armed Forces, their families and dependants. It was created at a time when two million people were unemployed. More than six million had served in the war: of those who came back, 1.75 million had suffered some kind of disability, and half of those were disabled permanently. Four organisations came together at the instigation of Lancastrian Lance Bombardier Tom Lister, who was angered at the Government's unwillingness to help, and Field Marshal Earl Haig, who had been Commander in Chief of the British Forces. The Legion campaigned for fair treatment of those who given everything for their country, and it continues this work today. In 1922, the Legion's poppy factory opened in the Old Kent Road, London, with 40 disabled men manufacturing 1000 poppies a week. The first Poppy Day was held that same year. The Festival of Remembrance began in 1927, and the Legion became 'Royal' in 1971 – 50 years ago – on its golden anniversary. At first membership of the Legion was confined to ex-Service personnel, but it was expanded to include serving members of the Forces in 1981.



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**ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETINGS**

The election of churchwardens, Deanery Synod representatives and PCC members takes place in May. There will also be a financial update and reports on the fabric of the churches. In the past these have been poorly attended but I do urge you to put the date for your parish in the diary and come along. Nominations for Churchwardens (who of course are elected by the civil parish) and for PCC members are especially welcome.

WITHERNWICK: May 9th 11.30 following the morning service  
ALDBROUGH and MAPPLETON: May 16th 11.30 following the morning service

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**ALDBROUGH'S CHRISTMAS EVENT WILL BE HAPPENING ON DECEMBER 4th** – book the date and if you'd like a stall let Kath Moore or Sharlah Cantwell know.

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**WITHERNWICK: CHRISTMAS FAIR: December 11th**