

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



May  
2015



*From The Vicar May 2015*

I nearly forgot to let Paul have the information for this newsletter in time this month – it was only a chance phone call asking me if it was too late to send things in that reminded me that May was nearly upon us! Where did April go, I wonder? I blame the fact that the garden calls for my attention at this time of year and the lovely weather we've been having entices me outside rather than at my computer – excuses, I know but . . .

May is apparently the month when the ancient pagans used to get up to 'all sorts'! The Romans held their festival to honour the mother-goddess Maia, goddess of nature and growth, and the early Celts celebrated the feast of Beltane, in honour of the sun god, Beli. For centuries May was a time of indulgence and merriment after the hardship of winter, nature in all its glory is seen at the beginning of May.

In 1833 Robert Owen's had a vision of a millennium in the future, beginning on May Day, when there would be no more poverty, injustice or cruelty, but harmony and friendship. Whilst this vision may emulate the Christian faith there has never been a Christian content to May Day, but nevertheless there is the well-known 6am service on the top of Magdalen Tower at Oxford where a choir sings in the dawn of May Day.

It seems that this year we too are up to 'all sorts'. The Church calendar honours us with Rogation, Ascension Day, Pentecost and Trinity Sunday. Saints Days include Philip, James, Matthias, Patrick and our own St Helen (of St Helen's Well, Great Hatfield). We have a wedding and 4 baptisms. North and South Holderness are coming together at St Bartholomew's Aldbrough for the Admission of Churchwardens by the Archdeacon! Christian Aid Week begins on 10th May. The nation is gearing up for a General Election and Europe is commemorating 70 years since the end of WWII. PHEW!

The Celtic Knot symbol on the front cover this month is known as a TRIQUETRA or the Trinity Knot. The Celts were very familiar with the idea of the trinity, everything came in threes; the three stages of womanhood: maid, mother, crone, and the three elements: earth, fire, water and Christianity embraced this knot to include a circle

that goes through the three interconnected loops of the Triquetra. As with most Celtic Knots there is no obvious beginning or ending hence symbolizing God's everlasting love through the Holy Trinity.

Whatever you are up to this May, I hope that you will find some time for yourselves and for God.

**Revd Anne**

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**Votewise 2015 - making a difference at the ballot box and beyond**

"We are a nation of disaffected voters. The last three elections have seen the lowest turnout in living memory and there's no indication that 2015 will be any different... With the threat of a hung parliament, a drastic shake-up of the Union... it seems a hopeless time for politics." So writes Guy Brandon, in his timely new book, *Votewise 2015*, a guide to Christians facing the General Election.

Yet Brandon insists that "as Christians, hopelessness is not something we can afford, much less subscribe to." And so *Votewise 2015* aims to help Christians consider the main issues from a Christian perspective: the economy, debt and austerity; Europe and immigration; the environment; the NHS; education.

"Taking the trip to the polling station once every five years is not the beginning and end of political engagement – especially for Christians, who are taught to pray 'Your kingdom come, your will be done, *on earth, as it is in heaven.*' We are commanded to seek transformation here on earth, not simply to sit back and wait for the Age to Come.

"God did not intend for politicians to bear full responsibility for transforming an imperfect world. That responsibility lies, first and foremost, with Christians." Brandon says.

So as well as prayer and bottom-up local initiatives, he also encourages Christians to effect change by getting involved in direct engagement with the political process: "lobbying your council, joining a party, becoming a councillor yourself, writing to your MP or visiting one of their surgeries: all the activity that occurs the other four years and 364 days before the next General Election. Although change can be slow, it is absolutely valid for Christians to seek to change a faulty system, as well as to address its injustices. For *Christians not voting is not an option!*

### Withernwick Ladies Group April meeting

This took place in St Alban's with a warm welcome given to everyone and especially three new members joining the group. Arrangements were made for the forthcoming visit to Sewerby Hall on 4th June with a tour of the Hall following its refurbishment, this promises to be a very interesting visit of a very beautiful building. Our speaker was Karen Boyle on the subject of environmental issues and eco-systems. We are the guardians of our planet and so much depends on how we look after it, the food chains and the life cycles upon it. So many animals are now endangered species and deforestation has seriously affected the lives of people, plants and animal life in many areas of the world. Karen, who has moved here from Kansas spoke about how she had been so impressed with the differences she had seen here regarding saving energy and renewable energy- we drive much smaller cars, ride bicycles and hang out washing on a line! Next month 6th May Paul Schofield will speak on 'The Beverley Town Trail', please join us if you can.

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### **Aldbrough Dates for your Diary ;**

Early July will see the judging of the Annual Garden Competition, this is open to all residents and the entry form will be in the Village Show schedule, which will be available soon. So when planning your summer garden, large or small, patio, greenhouse and hanging baskets think about entering, after all the more people who enter, make it more of a competition.

*Sunday 5 July will be Scarecrow Day. Get your thinking caps on and come up with some brilliant ideas, there's loads of possibilities, TB/Film characters, fictional, historical or even your family. The entry form will be in the Village Show schedule and the trophy will be presented at the Village Show.*

Aldbrough Village Show will be on Saturday 25 July. Classes for vegetables, flowers, floral art, baking, art and craft, plus age related childrens classes.

Help us to keep these village going by entering and coming along with the day.

We look forward to seeing you all.

### **Vote for churches – Party leaders reveal their favourite churches**

The National Churches Trust has revealed the favourite churches of the seven party leaders who are taking part in the 2015 General Election.

They range from St Bartholomew the Great, one of London's oldest and most historic churches, to Soar Ffrwdamos in Penygraig, a chapel in the heart of the Rhondda valley and Fisherton Church in Dunure, located on the coast of the Firth of Clyde.

The Rt Hon David Cameron, Leader of the Conservative Party, has chosen All Saints Church, Church Lane, Spelsbury, Oxfordshire and St Mary the Virgin Church, Church Green, Witney, Oxfordshire. He says: "All Saints at Spelsbury (is) where my family sometimes worship when we are at home in Oxfordshire. It has a very special memory of my late son, Ivan's, christening. Another church I have great affection for in my constituency is St Mary the Virgin in Witney. I have the honour of being one of the Patrons for the Appeal for Restoration and Renewal."

The Rt Hon Ed Miliband, Leader of the Labour Party, has chosen St Mary Magdalene Church, High Street, Campsall, Doncaster. "St Mary Magdalene is said to be the church where Robin Hood and Maid Marian were married. As strong believers in redistribution, the people of #Doncaster North are happy to reclaim his roots. I am proud to have this church in my constituency."

The Rt Hon Nick Clegg, Leader of the Liberal Democrats, chose St Nicholas' Church, Town Gate, High Bradfield, Bradfield, South Yorkshire. "This stunning 15th century Grade One listed church is situated within High Bradfield in my Sheffield Hallam constituency. ... it can be seen for miles around and offers great views across the valleys."

The Rt Hon Nicola Sturgeon MSP, Leader of the Scottish National Party, chose Fisherton Parish Church, Dunure, South Ayrshire. "I was christened in Fisherton Church in Dunure. It is a picturesque and peaceful place, with nearby castle, harbour and lookout tower. It's a place I loved as a child and still means a great deal to my family."



Leanne Wood AM, Leader of Plaid Cymru, chose Soar Ffrwdamos in Penygraig, Rhondda. "Soar is a vital part of the community as it facilitates all kinds of groups, from all backgrounds and from all sectors of Rhondda society."

Nigel Farage MEP, Leader of the UK Independence Party, chose St Thomas à Becket Church, Fairfield, Romney Marsh, Kent. "A uniquely situated church in the middle of the marsh. Quite enchanting."

Natalie Bennett, Leader of the Green Party of England and Wales, chose St Bartholomew the Great, West Smithfield, London. "Laying a hand on the walls dating back to Henry I, I reflect back on the many tumultuous events they've witnessed, and survived, from the Great Fire to the Blitz."

Since 1953, the National Churches Trust has provided £85 million worth of funding, at today's prices, to help pay for urgent repairs and the installation of up to date facilities to places of worship of all the major Christian denominations. As spokesperson says: "Whatever the result of the 2015 General Election, we hope that politicians of all parties will continue to support the task of keeping churches, chapels and meeting houses looking beautiful and able to cope with the demands of the 21st century."

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*Prayer with Trinity Sunday in mind:*  
**The Guarding of the God of Life**

The God of life with guarding hold you,  
The loving Christ with guarding fold you,  
The Holy Spirit, guarding, mould you,  
Each night of life to aid, enfold you,  
Each day and night of life uphold you.

*Ancient Celtic poem*

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**What will you discover at YORK MINSTER in 2015?** Anyone wishing to visit York Minster is reminded that we have Parish passes available. If you would like to make use of them please speak to one of the PCC Secretaries or to Revd Anne.

### **Mappleton Church Clock Appeal**

The PCC at their March meeting decided that a Fund should be launched to repair All Saints' Church Clock. Mappleton Parish Council also have agreed to support this appeal and have contributed time and effort into the endeavour.

Currently we have had several generous donations and an account has been opened with Lloyd's Bank in the name of **Mappleton Church Clock Appeal Fund**. The amount we are trying to raise is £14,500:00 a not inconsiderable amount from such a small community.

I have some appeal letters and if you would like one please approach me after a service or call at our home, The Sycamores, Main Rd., Cowden. Our home 'phone no is 01964 527380.

Any contribution will be very gratefully received. Thankyou for reading this article.

K.Baish.

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### **When Children and RE mix...**

*When children meet the Bible, the result can be unpredictable.  
As in these answers to a school chaplain's efforts to teach RE...*

The main purpose of the prophets was to set up the lights for when Jesus came on the stage.

The Kingdom of God is no ordinary place like the bathroom at home. Jesus said: If you want to divorce your wife leave a note for her on the table.

Jesus healed a man with a weathered hand.

Some of the seed from the sower was carried off by Satan.

The last verses of Mark's gospel were written later by a unanimous person. Jesus first proclaimed the gospel to the Jews: He told them to make love to each other.

An altar is a stall for candles.

An example of Holy Orders are the Ten Commandments.

An epistle is the wife of an apostle.

Afraid, alone, in pain  
Be the answer to Loko's prayer this Christian Aid Week.

This Christian Aid Week, you can help transform the lives of women like Loko.

From 10-16 May, churches the length and breadth of Britain and Ireland will come together to pray, campaign and raise money to improve the lives of people like Loko.



Loko's choice in life is simple: 'If I can't collect firewood, my children will die.' Four times a week, in a remote corner of Ethiopia, Loko makes a back-breaking eight-hour trip to gather wood. It's a task she dreads, but she steels herself to do it because if she doesn't her children will starve.

She prays to God as she walks. 'I ask him to change my life and lead us out of this,' she says. Just £5 could give Loko a loan to start her own business buying and selling tea and coffee, freeing her from her desperate task and allowing her to spend more time caring for her family.

To help support people like Loko, Aldbrough Methodist Church are holding a Coffee Morning on 12<sup>th</sup> May from 9.30 – 11.30. Tea/Coffee and biscuits £1. Raffle. PLEASE DO GO ALONG.

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### Prayer at Election Time

Heavenly Father,  
We need your wisdom at this Election time. There are so many issues, so many voices clamouring for attention, clamouring for votes, clamouring for power. Thank you that you give your people a different sort of power, the power of your Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth. Help us Lord to receive your Spirit, to listen to him, so that we make good decisions on Election Day - and every day of our lives. Thank you for the wonderful gift of your Spirit, In Jesus name. Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

### **Services in the Benefice for May:**

#### EVERY Wednesday

10.00am Holy Communion followed by Coffee: Aldbrough

#### **Sunday May 3rd: Easter 5**

10.30am Parish Communion: Aldbrough

#### **Sunday May 10th: Easter 6/Rogation**

10.30 Parish Communion: Mappleton

#### HEALING COMMUNION: Tuesday May 12th

10.30 for 11.00 at 4 Mill Lane, Withernwick

#### **Sunday May 17th: Easter 7**

10.30am Family Communion: Withernwick

#### Thursday May 21st: 6.00pm Service at St Helen's Well, Great Hatfield

#### **Sunday May 24th: Pentecost**

10.30am Benefice Communion and Baptisms: Aldbrough

2.00pm Baptism: Withernwick

#### **Sunday May 31st: Trinity Sunday**

10.30am Parish Communion: Goxhill

Revd Sidney Fox

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#### SERVICES IN NORTH HOLDERNESS DEANERY

May 12th Admission of Churchwardens 7.30pm Aldbrough

May 14th Ascension Day: Holy Communion 7.30pm at St Nicholas,

#### **Hornsea**

Back to Bempton cliffs - all the birds are back on the cliffs, the Gannets are back to their nest sites and wait for the female to come back, as they pair up for life. It's the same with the razorbills, Guillemots, kittiwakes, puffins and fulmars.

We now have a up-to-date visitors centre, far bigger and serving far better sandwiches, fresh each day

I recommend you go and have a look, I am sure you will like the new place

regards

John

**Request from Muriel Berzins**

If there is anyone who might be willing (or indeed knows of someone who might) to give Muriel some extra help around the house during the week would they please contact her: 01964 527258

**Priest in charge  
Revd Anne White  
01964 527230**

**Churchwardens:**

**St Bartholomew, Aldbrough**

Mrs C. Longstaff (527190)

Mrs K. Moore (527552)

**All Saints Mappleton & St Giles Goxhill:**

Mr B Rhodes (533954)

Mrs R. Skinner (534580)

Mr J. Hepworth (Deputy, Mappleton 532754)

**St Alban's Withernwick:**

Capt. D. Smith (527419)

Mrs Anne Wood (527947)

Mrs Doreen Fryer (Deputy)

**See your Parish church on the websites;**

A Church near you: [www.acny.org.uk](http://www.acny.org.uk)

Also Diocesan website: [www.dioceseofyork.org.uk](http://www.dioceseofyork.org.uk)

**Why not try the Aldbrough & Withernwick  
village websites ;**

[www.withernwickvillage.co.uk](http://www.withernwickvillage.co.uk)

[www.aldbroughparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.aldbroughparishcouncil.co.uk)

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Items for next Parish News to Paul by 20th May, please