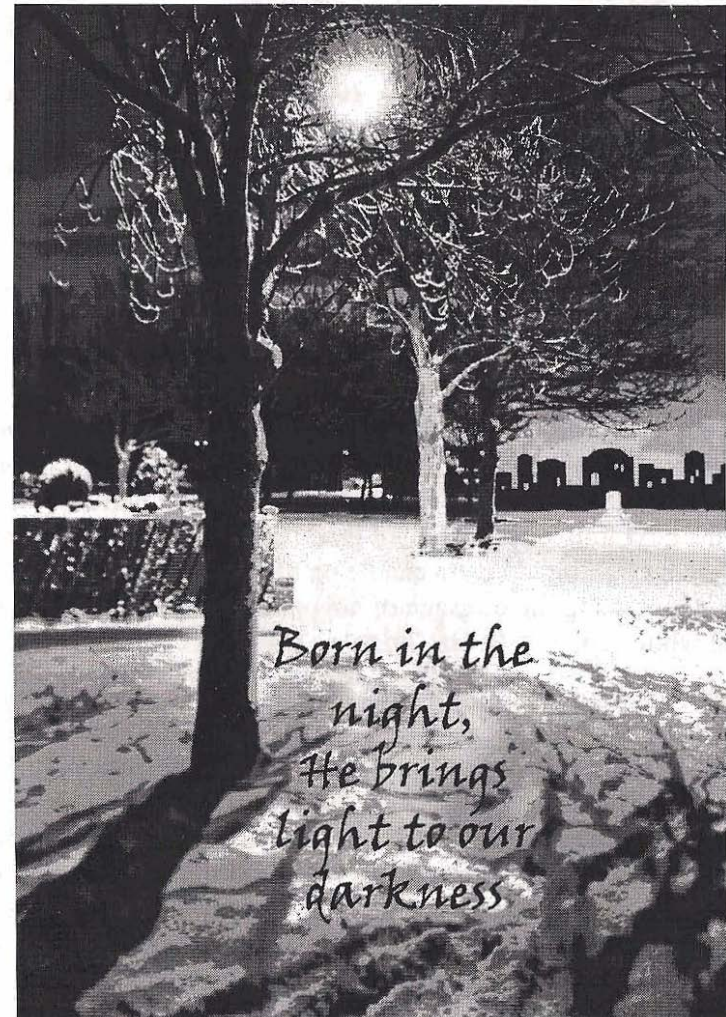


**The Parishes of Aldbrough,
Mappleton & Goxhill with Great
Hatfield & Witherenwick**

DECEMBER 2015



*Born in the
night,
He brings
light to our
darkness*

Most popular Bible Stories: *Who is the Baby?*

This month we continue our series looking at the top ten Must Know Stories.

A little girl was examining a Christmas crib with her grandmother and commented, 'Grandma, it's really nice, but there's one thing that bothers me: is the baby Jesus ever going to grow up? He's the same size he was last year!!' As we continue with the top ten Must Know Stories, the birth of Jesus must be the most well-known. However, are we really growing in our understanding of this story?

The angels announced, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.' (Luke 2: 10,11). The birth of a baby is a time of great joy and excitement and Jesus' birth is good news for all people! He is none other than the king of the universe, who has come as our Saviour. To experience this joy, we must let go of self-centredness and living as our own saviour. His deliverance and wholeness is a real cause for joy!

'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests.' (Luke 2:14). We may feel anything but peace with God, ourselves, or even with those closest to us at Christmas. How can a Jewish infant born to a peasant family in first century Palestine be the source of peace between God and man in the twenty first century? Jesus came to establish such peace through his death on the cross. Trusting the Prince of Peace in our lives brings peace with God. If we ignore this message of Christmas, we won't benefit from it. As the carol says, 'Joy to the world, the Lord has come, let earth receive her king.'

Christmas Answer (Lk 2:6)

So many refugees,
So many homeless people,
So much conflict and despair and pain,
In a world without answers.

But God so loved this world
That he created Christmas
And came, in Jesus.
Jesus, born into poverty,
Jesus, who was homeless,
Who was a refugee,
Who shares our conflict and despair and pain,
Who takes it all and transforms it
By his life-giving death and resurrection
Into possibilities of peace and hope and joy,
Into life in all its fullness.
Jesus who came out of the stable
And lives.
God's answer.
Hallelujah.

By Daphne Kitching

About wintering birds

We will start with the geese, a lot come from Iceland and Greenland as it's far too cold, and as we know too dark with very little daylight. The Barnacle, the Brent, the Greylag & the Pink-Footed Geese all come, some stay in Scotland on the low grounds, a lot come to the RSPB Titchwell, till next spring. Also a lot of Blackbirds come from Europe for winter in the UK and very soon the fieldfare and redwings will be showing soon and a few waxwings and Bramblings

Regards to all
and GOD bless Anne
regards
John

From the Vicar December 2015

November's news was dominated by terrorist attacks throughout the world, with considerable loss of life, and we could be forgiven for wondering if and when there would ever be good news. It's astonishing how the epicentre of world news has always seemed to be what we call the 'Middle East'. Ever since history was first recorded, these lands have been its backdrop: great civilisations and powers, Babylon, Assyria, Egypt, and Persia occupied the world's centre stage, sometimes for centuries. Yet within these civilisations the world's two greatest religions, Christianity and Islam, were born out of an even older religion – Judaism. Roughly 2000 years ago in a field outside Bethlehem a message rang out: 'Peace, goodwill among people'. This is the great paradox. In the midst of conflict, in a land that had suffered enemy occupation for 300 years, there came a message of peace.

This message of peace in a fragile world is often difficult to see, but those words on our front cover this month echo it – there is light at the end of the tunnel so to speak. It is this light that we are preparing for throughout the month of December. 'Longing for light, we wait in darkness. Longing for truth, we turn to you. Make us your own, your holy people, light for the world to see. *Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness. Christ be our light! Shine in your church gathered today*'. (Hymn by Bernadette Farrell)

Over the next four weeks we shall gradually increase the light in our churches by lighting an extra candle on the Advent wreath until all 4 are lit symbolising the message of hope, love, joy and peace. The central white candle is lit on Christmas Day itself.

During this time people will gather to sing carols and hear again the timeless truths of the gospel. Our carol services will range from the extremely traditional nine lessons and carols, with readings from the King James Bible at Mappleton, to services which incorporate meditations on the passages of scripture. The choir, and instrumentalists, will lead us and they too have different music for each service. So although the message is essentially the same at each carol service the content is varied and challenging – you are always welcome to services in churches other than your own!

I came across this the other day and wanted to share it with you this Christmas:

If our greatest need had been information, God would have sent us an educator;
If our greatest need had been technology, God would have sent us a scientist;
If our greatest need had been money, God would have sent us an economist;
If our greatest need had been pleasure, God would have sent us an entertainer;
But our greatest need was forgiveness, so God sent us a Saviour.

With every blessing for a happy and peaceful Christmas,
Revd Anne



"I'm sorry Michael – even if you HAVE changed your ring-tone to 'Away In-A-Manger', it's still ALL mobiles OFF!"

Life and Human Rights in Palestine

Ann Farr serves as an Ecumenical Accompanier on the World Council of Churches Programme in Palestine and Israel and she came to Aldbrough and to Withernwick to talk about her experiences living in a village in the north of the West Bank. The villagers here mainly live as shepherds and tenders of olive groves. Life is very hard because the villagers suffer from the changing definition of boundaries between Palestine and Israel. Israeli settlers are moving in ever closer and taking over the land with the villagers having no redress to compensation or to any form of assistance from a young and often frightening army. One of the most alarming sights was the 30ft high concrete wall which separates Palestine from Israel and communities from work, hospitals and family. Ann and her colleagues record people's stories and report them to the United Nations. They aim to raise awareness of injustice and the denial of human rights.

The peace making process has a long way to go.

Ann also brought lots of small items for sale, among them small pieces carved from olive wood and actually made by a couple called Joseph and Mary.

Among the leaflets she brought was one from Pax Christi. It offered a Muslim, Jewish and Christian Prayer for Peace and finishes with these words:

Give to us:

Understanding that puts an end to strife;

Mercy that quenches hatred, and

Forgiveness that overcomes vengeance.

Empower all people to live in your law of love.

Amen

Anne Wood

We would like to thank everyone who contributed to our hand made poppies, be either making, selling or buying them.

We sold a total of 80 poppies and raised £200, which will be shared between the churches of the benefice and most importantly, the Royal British Legion.

Sarah, Maureen and Ann

Services in the Benefice for December 2015:

EVERY Wednesday

10.00am Holy Communion followed by Coffee: Aldbrough

Sunday December 6th: Advent 2

10.30am Parish Communion: Aldbrough

HEALING COMMUNION: Tuesday December 8th

10.30 for 11.00 at 4 Mill Lane, Withernwick

Sunday December 13th: Advent 3

10.30am Parish Communion: Mappleton

7.00pm Carol Service: Goxhill

Friday December 18th

7.00pm Carol Service: Mappleton

Sunday December 20th: Advent 4

10.30am Parish Communion: Withernwick

7.00pm Carol Service: Aldbrough

Tuesday December 22nd

7.00pm Carol service: Withernwick

CHRISTMAS EVE

2.00pm Crib Service: Aldbrough

4.00pm Christingle and Crib Service: Withernwick

11.30pm Midnight Mass: Aldbrough

CHRISTMAS DAY

10.30am Family Communion: Mappleton

Sunday December 27th: Christmas 1

10.30 Parish Communion: Withernwick

NEW YEARS EVE

6.00pm Service: Goxhill

Sunday January 3rd: Epiphany

10.30am Parish Communion: Aldbrough

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

EVENT	DATE	WHERE
Christmas Tree Festival Begins	5th December	Aldbrough Church
Carol Services all at 7.00pm	December 13th	Goxhill
	December 18th	Mappleton
	December 20th	Aldbrough
	December 22nd	Withernwick

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)
St Alban's Withernwick:
Capt. D. Smith (527419)
Mrs Anne Wood (527947)
Recognised Parish Assistant:
Mrs Antoinette Butlin 527438

See your Parish church on the websites;
A Church near you: www.acny.org.uk
Also Diocesan website: www.dioceseofyork.org.uk

Why not try the Aldbrough & Withernwick
village websites ;
www.withernwickvillage.co.uk
www.aldbroughparishcouncil.co.uk

Editor P. Soltys soltydog@madasafish.com
Items for next Parish News to Paul by 22nd December, please