

## Services in the Benefice for December 2017

### EVERY Wednesday

10.00am Holy Communion followed by Coffee: Aldbrough

### **Sunday December 3rd: Advent**

\*10.30 Parish Communion: Withernwick

7.00pm Service of Light to welcome Advent: Aldbrough

### Friday December 8th: Carol Service 7.00pm Goxhill

### **Sunday December 10th: Advent 2**

10.30 am Parish Communion: Mappleton

### HEALING COMMUNION: Tuesday 12th December

### Friday December 15th: Carol Service 7.00pm Mappleton

### **Sunday December 17th: Advent 3**

10.30 am Parish Communion: Withernwick

7.00pm Carol Service: Aldbrough

### Wednesday December 20th: Carol Service 7.00pm Withernwick

### **Sunday December 24th: Advent 4/Christmas Eve**

\*10.00am Parish Communion: Goxhill

2.00pm Christingle/Crib Service: Aldbrough

4.00pm Christingle/Crib Service: Withernwick

11.30pm Midnight Communion: Aldbrough

### **Monday December 25th: Christmas Day**

10.30 am Family Communion: Mappleton

### **Sunday December 31st: Christmas 1/New Year's Eve**

\*10.30am Parish Communion: Withernwick

6.00pm Service for the New Year: Goxhill

### **Sunday January 7th 2018: Epiphany**

10.30 Parish Communion: Aldbrough

\* Please note changes in the service pattern

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### FROM THE REGISTERS:



5<sup>th</sup> November (Mappleton) Mark Rhodes

19<sup>th</sup> November (Mappleton) Stacey Larkham

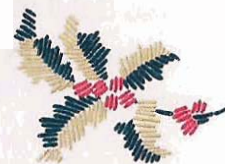
BAPTISM

Editor P. Soltys soltydog@yahoo.com \*\*please note new email \*\*

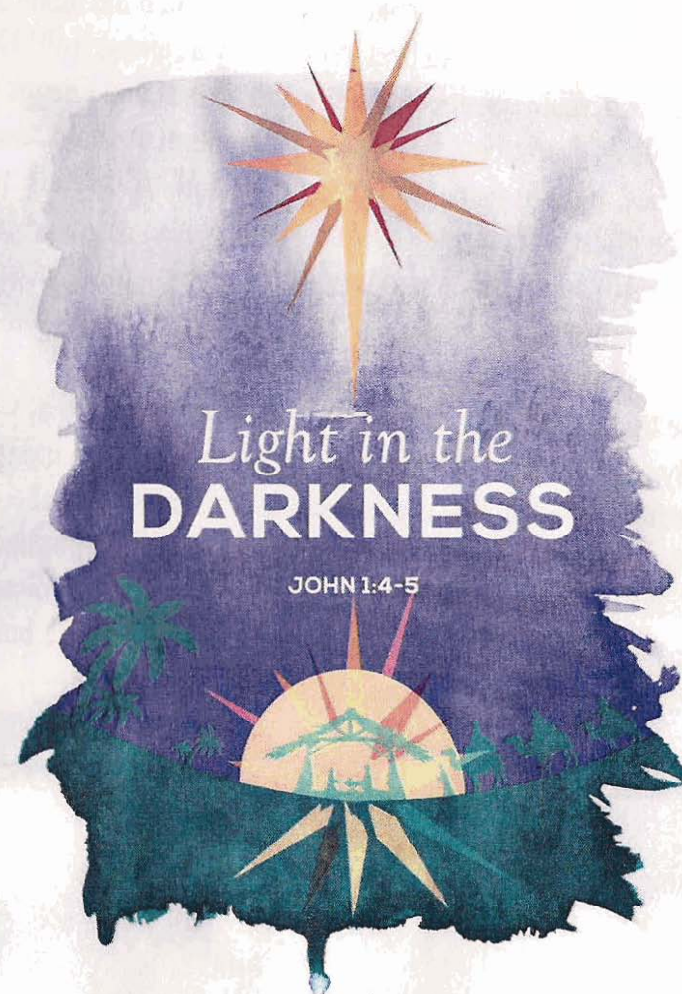
Could I please have items for next Parish News

to Paul by 20<sup>th</sup> December please

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



December 2017



*From The Vicar December 2017*

I must admit to being somewhat surprised by an article in a leading national newspaper calling for Christians to stop using the word Christmas because it has been hijacked by "Santa and reindeer". Even more surprising to me was that it was written by a Roman Catholic Priest who went on to say that Christians of any denomination need to accept that Christmas now has no sacred meaning!

The article was in response to a Greggs bakery advert in which the infant Jesus, in a nativity scene with the wise men, had been replaced by a sausage roll! Needless to say this provoked considerable comment both for and against and Greggs have apologised. On the plus side, though, there was a recognition of sorts though of the 'religious' significance of the season – so I'm not quite sure we're ready to abandon 'Christmas' yet! The priest had no suggestions as to what else we could call this season – which means of course that there is probably nothing to replace the word, whether or not we approve of all the commercialism that goes on.

For many of us the true nature of Christmas isn't lost and I believe that we have a perfect opportunity over the next few weeks to engage others in regaining or retaining the incredible fact that God chose to come to us as a human being. Jesus came down from heaven, and landed in the middle of a humdrum problem about an inn being too full. He came straight into our real world of problems, disappointments and unexpected expense. Our Lord appears among us, not in a palace but in a stable, adored by shepherds, and accessible to anyone of us.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our Carol and Christingle services.

With every blessing for a very Happy Christmas.

*Revd Anne*

At RSPB Bempton cliffs, just 100s of black birds coming in off the north sea from northern Europe to winter in the UK, as it gets very cold winters.

It's about the same with fieldfares and redwings, they come from mainly the cold, Sweden and Norway where there is little food and daylight, but will return home next spring.

Also we have a very rare bird the the uk, a yellow browed warbler at Bempton. It's home is in Siberia, been with us for 2 weeks and there are also black caps male and female showing well round the trees and hawthorn bushes, as there is plenty of berries to feed on. If you find the time to go to Bempton it's very cold out doors but the visitor's centre is nice and warm, where there is fresh hot soup, coffee, tea all fair trade and snacks as well

God bless our Revd. Anne  
and all who read this  
regards to you all  
John



"The vicar's still miffed that one of the parents got £250 from You've Been Framed for their video of last year's nativity play."

## Methodist Church

December 2nd—COFFEE MORNING at 10-00am—11-30am.

3rd Service at 10-45 am, Preacher Stephen Byass,

5th Bible Study at 2-00pm.

6th Art Club 7-30—9-30pm.

10th at 10-45AM Chapel Anniversary Service Led by Margaret Preece.

12th Network Party at 2-15 pm.

13th Craft Club at 1-30-pm also Art Club at 7-30pm.

17th Service at 10-45 am Led by Hazel Adamson.

Sat 23rd at 4-00pm SINGING OF FAVOURITE Chosen CAROLS

Everyone welcome to come along.

24th Carol Service at 10-45am Led by Rev Colin Marchment.

31st Service at 10-45am Preacher Rev Colin Barratt.

Please note no Coffee Morning in January.

Contact Minister Rev Colin Marchment. Phone 01377538806

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## Withernwick Christmas Fair

On Saturday 9th December our Christmas Fair will be held in St Alban's

Church and will be open from 11am until 3pm. Entry will be £1 and

includes a drink of mulled wine, tea, coffee or soft drink. There'll be

bacon butties on sale to keep you going as you look round all the stalls

and Father Christmas will be there too. We hope to see you there. Happy

Christmas.

## 2017/18 DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

DATE	EVENT	WHERE
December 2nd	Aldbrough Christmas Event	Church – Trees Church Street – Stalls etc
December 8th	Carol Service	Goxhill
December 9th	Christmas Market	Withernwick
December 15th	Carol Service	Mappleton
December 17th	Carol Service	Aldbrough
December 20th	Carol Service	Withernwick
23rd -25th February 2018	Parish Weekend	Wydale

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### The Christmas Message

The date was set in heaven above  
When love come down upon this earth,  
A stable bare, a bed of straw,  
The setting for the Saviour's birth.

Shepherds out upon the hillside  
'Watching o'er their flocks by night',  
When angels telling of a baby  
In splendour, burst upon their sight

Signs were seen in distant lands  
With wise men travelling from afar  
Having searched the skies at night  
Came following His natal star.

As we hear the Christmas message,  
If we think these things are true,  
We could come to seek this baby  
We could be like wise men too.

*By Megan Carter (Parish Pump)*

### **What about the first Christmas?**

*(From an article in Parish Pump)*

How did the early Christians celebrate Christmas? The simple answer is: they didn't!

Christmas was first celebrated as late as 336, during the reign of Emperor Constantine. The first Christians didn't celebrate Jesus' birth or any other birthdays, regarding them as pagan customs to be avoided. However, the resurrection was central to their faith and they celebrated this event every Sunday. By the 4th century however, many Christian groups observed Christ's birthday, although on different days. So, in 345, Pope Julius I officially fixed the date of Christmas as 25th December.

### **Why was this date chosen?**

Early Christian tradition said that the Jesus' birth was announced to Mary on 25th March (the Annunciation), nine months before 25th December. As time went on, the Annunciation became more associated with Mary than Jesus' birth. It was also believed to be the day on which Jesus died (14th Nisan in the Jewish calendar). In the setting of Passover, as Jews from all over the Empire travelled to Jerusalem for the Festival, it would make sense for the Romans to take a census. Also at Passover, many lambs would be sacrificed at the Temple in Jerusalem. 'He is believed to have been conceived on the 25th March, upon which day also He suffered.' (Augustine).

The date of Christmas may also have been chosen because the Roman winter solstice and midwinter festivals took place at this time. 'Saturnalia' honoured the god Saturn and 'Dies Natalis Solis Invicti' ('birthday of the unconquered sun') celebrated the sun god Mithra. Here we also see the Christian church 'redeeming' a pagan festival, by investing it with new Christian meaning.

This Christmas, let's not forget that we celebrate a real gift in real time for everyone: 'Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!' (2 Cor 9:15).

**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**

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### **Benefice Website**

<https://aldbroughbenefice.wordpress.com>

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**See your Parish Church on the web ;  
A Church near you: [www.acny.org.uk](http://www.acny.org.uk)  
& Diocesan website: [www.dioceseofyork.org.uk](http://www.dioceseofyork.org.uk)**

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**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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While Mary was giving birth  
to the son of God,  
Joseph was having his own problems.