**The Benefice Of The Lower Swale**

**United Parish of Ainderby Steeple with Yafforth**

**and Kirby Wiske with Maunby**

**www.lowerswalechurches.org.uk**



**Newsletter for December 2016**

***Letter from The Rectory***

**01609 773346**

Funding for Growth!

Growth in numbers, in the depth of our spirituality and in our commitment to others is what Funding for Growth is all about. I together with several members of our churches went to a Funding for Growth training Day recently. In addition, the LCC of Ainderby are considering the possibility of a Stewardship Campaign to increase funding and the offering of people’s time and talents for the sake of the future of the Benefice, whilst also seeking to appeal for grants for a further development within the building. Alongside these new initiatives a current Heritage Lottery Scheme is well under way seeking to restore the quality of the Heritage of St. Wilfrid’s church at Great Langton, meetings are currently being held to discuss possible redevelopment of the Church of St. Radegund’s in Scruton, and another Heritage Lottery Application is currently being prepared to secure a new roof for St. John the Baptist at Kirby Wiske.

What has all this commitment of time and energy got to do with the Kingdom of God I hear you say!

Well quite a lot is the answer!

We have beautiful church buildings but we only have very small congregations, for our buildings to be attractive to others they need to be fit for purpose, not much use inviting people to cold and uncomfortable places which are not even able to keep out the rain! However, the call of God on us as Christian Disciples is not to attract people to our buildings but rather to attract people to Jesus. We do this in part through our buildings which stand as testimonies to the faith of past generations but God calls us as his chosen people to call others by the way in which we support, encourage and indeed are generous to one another across the entire benefice not just in our own village or church community.

With so many potential schemes all happening at the same time this is a struggle but it is also a great opportunity for us to all help each other as fellow Christians with our time and energy and expertise. We all need to explore what is happening across the whole of the benefice and seek to support one another as best we can. We have small numbers who worship with us but we are surrounded by many others who support and help us and who love having the church buildings in their villages. So, this letter is a call both to our regulars and everyone else in the benefice to seek ways in which we can support and encourage one another in all we are seeking to do.

This is a call for anyone interested in the Heritage of our buildings, a call to anyone with experience of applying for grants and raising funds, a call on everyone’s personal generosity of time and of finances to secure the future of the Heritage of our nation and to provide buildings which are fit for giving praise and thanksgiving to God.

So, let us be generous to one another, let us support one another, and let us seek to do what we can for others, for in so doing Funding for Growth will truly be about building the Kingdom of God in our midst. Please do get in touch if you can help in anyway and may God be with us all as we seek to grow, in numbers, grow in spiritual depth and truly become faithful disciples of the baby Jesus born for us this coming Christmas Day.

With my every blessing for a reflective Advent and a gloriously happy Christmas celebration.

 Clive

**Parish News**

**Benefice Evensong - Sunday 11th December-**Please join us for this wonderful service at Fencote at 6.30pm.

**"Candlelight Music"** 21st December 7pm St Helen's Ainderby Steeple
Free entry, everyone is welcome to come along and enjoy an evening of Christmas carols and music.

**St Helen’s 100 Club Winners** – November – 1st J.Williams (80), 2nd G.Crusher (41)

**Baptisms:**

Theo James Barker at Ainderby on 23rd October

Reuben Richard Thomas Ted Hampton at Ainderby on 23rd October

**Weddings:**

Richard Joseph White and Danielle Louise Taylor at Ainderby on 9th July

Lee Knowlson and Kelly Anne Morgan at Ainderby on 3rd September

Michael Raymond Feasby and Samantha Louise Dodds at Kirby Wiske on 4th November

**Morton on Swale News**

**Events at the Village Hall:**

**Christmas Quiz** Saturday Dec. 3rd at 7.30pm at Morton on Swale Village Hall. Light refreshments, tombola, bar. Tickets £5 from any member of the committee.

**Floral Workshop** to make a Christmas wreath Friday Dec. 9th at Morton on Swale Village Hall at 7.30pm. Cost £12 to include all materials and refreshments. To book phone 01609 770748 or 01609 600529.

There is no **social afternoon** in December at the hall

Details of all regular groups/classes on the notice boards at the Village Hall and ‘ex-Post Office’ and on the website [www.lowerswalechurches.co.uk](http://www.lowerswalechurches.co.uk)

**Yafforth News**

**Crib Service -** will be held in All Saints Church on Sunday 18th December from 2.0pm – 4.0pm. We invite all from the Benefice to bring along a hand crafted Angel to decorate the church.

**Carol Service -** come and join us forour traditional service of carols and readings

 at 7.0pm on Christmas Eve

**100 Club Tickets -** for the Christmas Draw, and for 2017, are now available and will be with the usual ticket sellers on 27th November

**Kirby Wiske News**

**Carol Service** Please join us for the service of carols and readings on Friday, 16th December at 7pm in the Parish Church. Seasonal refreshments will follow.

**Church decoration.** We shall be decorating the church from 9.30 am on Friday, 16th December. We shall be glad of your help and any donation of traditional greenery you can bring.

**Village Hall News.** The next committee meeting will be on Thursday, 15th December at 7 pm. Villagers are welcome to join us for Christmas carols and mulled wine on Friday, 23rd December at 7 pm in the village hall.

**Local History Group.**  On Tuesday,13th December the group will hold its Christmas lunch at The Corner Cupboard, Birdforth. Details of arrangements will follow. The next working meeting will be on Tuesday, 10th January.

**Parish Council Meeting** on Tuesday, 6th December at 7.30 pm in the village hall.

**Rota** Sidesmen:    16th December   7 pm   Mrs M. Dale

                                 18th December 9. 30 am Mrs M. Dale

                                 25th December 10 00 am Mrs M Dale

 Cleaning: Mrs D Statham     Flowers: Mrs S Rodgers & all arrangers for Christmas, please.

**Maunby News**

**Maunby Village Carol Service** will be held in Church on Sunday 18th December at 6.30 pm. Readers are needed to take part and anyone wishing to volunteer please contact Ann Quinn on 01609 760356 by ***Thursday 1st December*.** Please join us after the Service at The Buck Inn for a free glass of wine and a mince pie, with thanks to the owners of The Buck Inn for their support.

**Sidesmen**:     11th December  9.30 am  Mr. N Quinn

                       18th December  6.30 pm  Mr P Hill- Walker

**Methodist Rota** 4th December Mr J Parkinson   11th Mrs K Walker   18th Revd K Heathcoat HC    25th U @ Romanby

**Youth Groups**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Little Acorns** | **Busy Bees** | **Groovers and Shakers** | **Trendy Teens** |
| 01/12/16 |  |  |  | 6.30-8.30pm |
| 08/12/16 |  | 4-5pm | 6.15-8pm |  |
| 15/12/16 |  |  |  | 6.30-8.30pm |
| **Break up for Christmas** |
| 05/01/17 |  | 4-5pm | 6.15-8pm |  |

**Services for December 2016**

**Sunday 4th December Advent 2 Purple**

Ainderby Steeple (Clive Todd)10.00am United Parish Holy CommunionReadings Isaiah Ch 1 v 1 to 10; Matthew Ch 3 v 1 to 12

**Sunday 11th December Advent 3 Purple**

Maunby (Ann Chapman)9.30am Holy Communion

Ainderby Steeple (Ann Chapman)11.00am Holy Communion

Readings  Isaiah ch35 v1-10; Matthew ch11 v2-11

Fencote 6.30pm **BCP Benefice Evensong**

**Friday 16th December**

Kirby Wiske (Paul Chubb) 7.00pm Carol Service

**Sunday 18th December Advent 4 Purple**

Kirby Wiske (Ann Chapman)9.30am Holy Communion

Ainderby Steeple (Clive Todd) 11.00am All Age Worship & Carol Service

Readings Isaiah Ch 7 v 10 to 16; Matthew Ch 1 v 18 to end

Yafforth (Ann Chapman) 2.00pm Crib Service

Maunby (Ann Chapman) 6.30pm Carol Service

**Saturday 24th December Christmas Eve Purple**

Yafforth (Clive Todd) 7.00pm Carol Service

Ainderby Steeple (Clive & Paul) 11.30pm Midnight Mass

Readings Hebrews ch1 v1-4; John ch1 v1-14

**Sunday 25th December Christmas Day Purple**

Kirby Wiske (Clive Todd) 10.00am Family Service

Readings Hebrews ch1 v1-4; John ch1 v1-14

**Sunday 1st January**  **Naming and Circumcision of Jesus** **Purple**

Maunby (Ann & Joan) 10.00am United Parish Holy Communion

Readings Galatians ch4 v4-7; Luke ch2 v15-21

**\*\*\* Copy date for January 2017 \*\*\***

**Deadline noon Saturday 10th December to the newsletter team**

Mrs Dawn Statham **(01845 587143)** for **KW & MBY**; Mr Chris Riley **(01609 773767)** for **Yafforth**;for **Ainderby Steeple, Morton on Swale, Warlaby and Thrintoft** please send directly to the editor on juliabarker@riponcathedral.org.uk