

## SCRUTON

*At the Christmas Market on 19th November, the magnificent sum of £800 was raised for The Dales Centre. Many thanks to all who contributed in any way.*

Saturday and Sunday, 3rd and 4th December at The Lodge, Scruton. You are invited to view this **Yorkshire Cottage decorated for Christmas** by kind permission of Dr and Mrs Ewart. A donation of £5 in aid of Marie Curie Foundation. Tickets available from Sandra Johnston (748363) or Marilyn (748272). NB timed entry and not exchangeable.

Tuesday, 6th December in St Radegund's at 6.30 pm Celebrate the start of Christmas at our St Nicholas night concert - **The Three Organists** (William, John and Joyce) with helpers and St Nicholas (?). Plan a Family Fun Evening. Entrance is free, though donations for the church are welcome.

### **Village Christmas Card 2016**

The last date for signing the Village Signature Christmas Card is Wednesday 14th December when the card will be at Screen Scruton. The Christmas Card will be available for signing at the back of the church and also at village events until that date.

When in church, donations for signatures can be put in the wall safe by the Church door. Cards can be purchased for £1 each from Bridget Vickers (748699), George Ewart (748272) and Liz Davies (748664).

## LANGTON

Wednesday 30th November 2016. Langton Church are holding a **Christmas Fair / Coffee Morning** in Northallerton Town Hall The doors are open from 9.00am to 1.00pm.

We shall have all the usual stalls, Tombola, Cake Stall, Crafts, Books and bric a brac. Tea, Coffee, Juice, biscuits and Bacon Butties will be served

## AINDERBY STEEPLE

Wednesday, 21st December 7.00 pm in St Mary's **CANDLELIGHT MUSIC**. Entry free

*If you have any notices for the newsletter, please contact Katherine Lawther (748287), or on [rjlawther@btinternet.com](mailto:rjlawther@btinternet.com) - I usually start typing during the third week of the month*

**Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year ed**

# THE BENEFICE OF THE LOWER SWALE

[www.lowerswalechurches.org.uk](http://www.lowerswalechurches.org.uk)

United Parish of Kirkby Fleetham  
with Langton on Swale and Scruton

## NEWSLETTER FOR DECEMBER 2016

### SERVICES

#### DECEMBER 4th

10.00 am LANGTON United Holy Communion

#### DECEMBER 11th

9.30 am SCRUTON Holy Communion *Mrs Calder and Mrs Green*  
11.00 am KIRKBY FLEETHAM Holy Communion *Mrs Garner*  
6.30 pm FENCOTE Benefice Evensong *Mrs Kettlewell*

#### DECEMBER 18th

11.00 am FENCOTE Carol Service *Mr Peirson*  
2.30 pm LANGTON Carol Service  
6.30 pm SCRUTON Carol Service *Mr and Mrs Exelby*

#### DECEMBER 24th

11.30 pm KIRKBY FLEETHAM Midnight Mass *Mr Garner*

#### DECEMBER 25th

10.00 am SCRUTON Family Christmas Service *Mr Mainwaring-Taylor*

#### JANUARY 1st 2017

10.00 am SCRUTON United Holy Communion *Mrs Lawther*

### FROM THE REGISTERS

12th November; Wedding at SCRUTON:  
Simon David Dodsworth and Kylie Victoria Toner

## 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 in order 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 in order 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 in reality quite a lot is the answer!

We have beautiful church buildings but we only have very small congregations, in order 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 in order to secure the future of the Heritage of our nation and to provide buildings which are fit for the purpose of 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*

## NOTICES

### KIRKBY FLEETHAM

Thursday, December 6th 7.30 in the Village Hall, **WI Christmas Supper**

Kirkby Fleetham Feast will be leading carol singing around the villages of Great & Little Fencote and Kirkby Fleetham on Monday 19th December from 6pm. Everyone is welcome to join in. [www.kirkbyfleethamfeast.org](http://www.kirkbyfleethamfeast.org)

### **Kirkby Fleetham Village Hall Events:**

**Thurs. Dec.1st: Gardening Club at 7.00pm - Christmas Wreaths & Table Decorations;** .Make your own Christmas wreath / table decoration at this workshop run by Jane from Northdale. Bring your own greenery & decoration. Visitors £2.00

**Sat. Dec.3<sup>rd</sup>: Dominoes at 7.00pm - £2.00 at the door.**

**Please note that there will be NO Book Lovers' Group or Lunch Bunch in December.**