**The Benefice Of The Lower Swale**

**United Parish of Ainderby Steeple with Yafforth**

**and Kirby Wiske with Maunby**

**www.lowerswalechurches.org.uk**

[](http://www.google.co.uk/url?sa=i&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&frm=1&source=images&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0ahUKEwj3iYXp9ovLAhWKSRoKHa5jBOcQjRwIBw&url=http://www7.capofrontg.tk/wall/clip-art-and-christian-crosses/&bvm=bv.114733917,d.ZWU&psig=AFQjCNEHyMsWZPSSTP8Siid9nEVb2hau2w&ust=1456249029645676)

**Newsletter for February 2017**

***Letter from The Rectory***

**01609 773346**

**Learning to be Disciples of Jesus!**

Lately I have been asked by some young members of our Churches and others who have been in the Church for many years to justify my existence as a Priest in the Church of England. Naturally I rise to such challenges and seek to respond by setting a challenge in return. This it seems to me is centered very much on what it means to be a Disciple of Jesus.

When Jesus spoke to those who asked him similar questions he also tended to respond by challenging them in return. When the rich young man approaches him he is told to abandon his wealth and follow Jesus but he is of course rather reluctant to do so. When he calls his first disciples and says to them leave everything behind and follow me, they respond much more positively and did exactly what he asked.

Therein lies the dilemma are we reluctant or are we willing to follow Jesus.

I have looked over my own ministry lately and asked myself the question have I been like an early disciple in my ministry or have I been a rather reluctant follower? It is good to question ourselves at times but it is not always helpful simply to seek justification for our own actions as we can of course always find excuses which will tend to support our chosen responses.

Time of course changes everything I was once a young man full of energy for social justice and wanting to change the world. In many respects that is why I followed Jesus when he called me, abandoning my nice house, sports car and a very well paid job in computing in order to give myself to the service of the Church. Throughout my ministry I have always worked with young people, I was on the board of a group which provided detached youth workers and went out on the streets of Consett with them; I kept a store of food in the vicarage in my parish in Gateshead because of the huge number of hungry people who called at my door. I helped to run a Homeless unit in the City of Canterbury turning over our church hall and staying up for two nights a week watching over 12 homeless people over the winter months in order to keep them safe and warm, meaning that I often went 48 hours without sleep having to go into the office to do my Diocesan Job in-between. I have spent over twenty years serving the Church Lads’ and Church Girls’ Brigade seeking to bring something of the Christian message to under-privileged children often from difficult backgrounds. However as good as all that sounds have I gone hungry and given all my food away to others? No! Have I travelled to London and banged on the door of 10 Downing Street demanding action and social justice to be higher on the agenda? No! But is that what God asks of me as a Priest? I believe I am called to do my bit and work hard for the kingdom and I believe I continue to do that in my service of the Lord and his Church, however I am also called to be like Jesus and challenge others. As a Priest in a certain place I am called to ask the difficult questions and to challenge the people around me not just to expect me to do the things which I have done throughout my ministry but also to consider how they can get involved and do some of that work themselves.

So my challenge to you all as we move from the birth of Jesus to his ministry and his death, is this! How have you sought to follow Jesus in your lives and how are you seeking to serve him today? Are you reluctant followers like the rich young man, or are you fully behind Jesus like those early disciples and prepared to go wherever he calls you in his service?

With my prayers and best wishes,

Clive

**Parish News**

**Benefice Evensong - Sunday 12th February -**Please join us for this wonderful service at St Radegund's Church Scruton at 6.30pm.

Ainderby Steeple 100 club Christmas winners were:

1st prize M Miller (57), 2nd prize H Cantle (35), 3rd Prize D Carr (55)

January winners: 1st Prize H Tweddle (66), 2nd prize T Roddy (52)

**From the Registers:** Funerals

Dorothy Mary Pickering 21st December, Yafforth

Ann Horner 23rd January, Ainderby

Gordon Sanderson 26th January, Ainderby

Amanda Holt 27th January, Kirby Wiske

**A great big thank you** to all you kind people who sent good wishes, cards, gifts, hugs and sang for my 90th birthday on 26th December. It was a memorable occasion. Josephine

**Boden Party** Ainderby Steeple School are holding a fundraising Boden party on Tuesday 28th Feb from 7-9pm in the school hall. Its great opportunity to try before you buy with 20% 0ff their spring collection, free delivery and returns and a free gift on orders placed the night. There will be refreshments available and a raffle for a £50 Boden gift voucher. If you need further details, please contact Fiona Crusher at school on 773519.

**Morton on Swale News**

**Events at the Village Hall:**

The AGM for Morton on Swale Village Hall will take place on Wednesday March 22nd at 7.30pm at the Hall. All welcome.

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**

Many thanks to all who helped with the Christmas events and services.

December 100 Club winners: £100 R Ellis, £50 J Pattison, £30 K Christopher

**Our best wishes** go with Brenda Boulton our Churchwarden of fifteen years when she

moves to Devon in February.

**Kirby Wiske News**

**Thanks** to all who helped to decorate the church for Christmas and supported our Carol and Christmas Day services so well.

**Village Hall news**. Thank you to all who joined in our most enjoyable Christmas carol singing get-together. Work will commence shortly in the hall on replacement of windows and renewal of heaters and the fuse board as grants towards this work from the Big Lottery fund and the Locality budget funding have been finalized.

**A Beetle Drive and Raffle** is arranged for Friday, 24th February with hot supper. Tickets £4 (£2 children under 16) from committee members nearer the time.

Next **Committee Meeting** will be on 9th February at 7pm in the village hall.

**Local History Group.** At the next meeting on Tuesday 14th February at 7 pm in the village hall we shall be assembling an archive about the floods. If you have anecdotes or experiences to share on the subject, please join us at this time or you can contact Marion Pettengell on 01845587326.

**Parish Council Meeting** on Tuesday 2nd February at 7.30 pm in the village hall.

**Rota:** Sidesmen:   5th February   9.30 am   Mrs M Dale

                              19th February 9.30 am   Mrs M Dale

Flowers:  Mrs S. Rodgers       Cleaning:  Mrs M Dale & Mrs G Green

**Maunby News**

**Sidesmen:**   12th February 9.30 am, Mr P. Hill-Walker

**Methodist Rota**:  5th February - [CS@SJG](mailto:CS@SJG)   12th - Revd D Godfrey HC   19th – Mrs Martin

26th - Mr M Breckon

**Youth Groups**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Little Acorns** | **Busy Bees** | **Groovers and Shakers** | **Trendy Teens** |
| 02/02/17 |  | 4-5pm | 6.15-8pm |  |
| 09/02/17 |  |  |  | 6.30-8.30pm |
| 16/02/17 |  | 4-5pm | 6.15-8.00pm |  |
| Half Term | | | | |
| 02/03/17 |  |  |  | 6.30-8.30pm |

**Services for February 2017**

**Sunday 5th February 4th before Lent Green**

Kirby Wiske (Paul) 9.30am Morning Prayer

Ainderby Steeple (Paul) 11.00am Morning Prayer

Readings 1 Corinthians ch2 v1-12; Matthew ch5 v13-20

**Sunday 12th February 3rd before Lent Green**

Maunby (Clive)9.30am Holy Communion

Ainderby Steeple (Clive)11.00am Holy Communion

Readings  1 Corinthians ch3 v1-9; Matthew ch4 v1-11

Scruton (Ann) 6.30pm **BCP Benefice Evensong**

**Sunday 19th February 2nd before Lent Green**

Kirby Wiske (Ann)9.30am Holy Communion

Ainderby Steeple (Joan) 11.00am All Age Worship

Readings Romans ch8 v18-25; Matthew ch6 v25 to end

**Sunday 26th February Sunday next before Lent Green**

Yafforth (Paul) 9.30am BCP Morning Prayer

Ainderby Steeple (Clive) 11.00am Holy Communion

Readings 2 Peter ch1 v16-end; Matthew ch17 v1-9

**Wednesday 1st March Ash Wednesday Purple**

Ainderby Steeple (Ann) 7.00pm Holy Communion

Readings Isaiah ch58 v1-12; John ch8 v1-11

**Sunday 5th March Lent 1 Purple**

Kirby Wiske (Paul) 9.30am BCP Morning Prayer

Ainderby Steeple (Clive) 11.00am Holy Communion

Readings Genesis ch2 v15-17, ch3 v1-7; Matthew ch4 v 1-11

**\*\*\* Copy date for March 2017 \*\*\***

**Deadline 5pm 17th February 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

**\*\*\* Copy date for March 2017 \*\*\***

**Deadline 5pm 17th February 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

**\*\*\* Copy date for March 2017 \*\*\***

**Deadline 5pm 17th February 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