**The Benefice Of The Lower Swale**

**United Parish of Ainderby Steeple with Yafforth**

**and Kirby Wiske with Maunby**

**www.lowerswalechurches.org.uk**



**Newsletter for March 2018**

**01609 773346**

***Letter from The Rectory***

**Preparing for Easter!**

As I write this letter Lent has begun! Yes, it’s that time of year once more when we think about giving something up which will be of benefit to us once Lent is over. We all have things which we can deprive ourselves of, chocolate is a favourite, or sweets and crisps etc. Fasting for six weeks can be a bit of a challenge to us today, because we have so much choice and the availability of so many things which are naughty but nice is at times rather overwhelming. It takes quite a bit of determination to give up something which we enjoy even if it is only for a relatively short period of time, but the rewards of doing so can be quite dramatic.

We can become lighter, fitter, healthier, and feel so much better about ourselves mentally if we take our Lenten Fast seriously and maintain it throughout the 40 days. The challenge however is not so much about keeping a change of lifestyle going throughout the season of Lent, but rather continuing that change for the rest of our lives. Fasting is not so much about giving things up temporarily but about ensuring that we, upon reaching our goal, then strive to go even further.

This can be said about our spiritual lives just as much as it can about our diets. Lent is a time for creating a change, a chance to make a difference and what better way of seeking to address this change than in seeking to use our fast as a means to something else. Jesus was famished when he was in the wilderness and yet he refrained from temptation because he filled the void of physical food with spiritual nourishment. This is what kept Jesus going and the same thing can apply to us. However, it is not as easy as it sounds. Devoting ourselves to God, resting in his presence and seeking to be fed by him is always it seems an ideal which often alludes us, and yet in reality if we can only seek to improve our quality time with God just a tiny amount, the change to the rest of our lives will be phenomenal.

So this Lent, as you strive to maintain your fast, remember the reason for a little self-denial is to create a better you, a more vibrant personality, a healthier body and a healthier mind, a mind set on God more fully so that we can truly be fed by him, and in so doing be enabled to live out our lives freed from the temptations of the world.

Have a happy Lent for through a little self-denial you will find yourself truly prepared for Easter.

God bless,

***Clive***

**Parish News**

**Confirmation Service with Holy Communion ~ Sunday 11th March**

**Please Note:** The Confirmation Service will be held at 11.0am on Sunday 11th March in St Helen’s Church at Ainderby Steeple. This is a Benefice Service and, apart from Evensong, there will be no other Services in the Benefice on this day. The Bishop of Ripon, The Rt Revd Bishop Helen-Ann Hartley, will lead the Service.

**Benefice Evensong: Sunday 11th March 6.30pm**

Please join us for this wonderful service at St Mary’s Church, Kirkby Fleetham

**Parochial Church Council:** the PCC will meet in St Helen's Church, Ainderby Steeple, at 7.30pm on Wednesday 14th March

**Funerals:** Steve Dunn - 8th January at Darlington Crematorium

 Douglas Vaughan Craggs - 3rd February at All Saints Church, Yafforth

**Bell Ringers Needed.** This year is the 100th anniversary of the end of World War One. During the hostilities Church Bells were silenced and on 11 November 1918 they were rung not only to mark the end of the War but also as a celebration of peace.The Central Council for Church Bellringing are planning a similar ring for peace on Nov 11 this year when, during the evening, church bells throughout the country will be rung. We do not have enough ringers to cover Ainderby Steeple and Kirby Wiske and are looking for new ringers to help us mark this historic event. We have been actioned nationally to recruit 1400 ringers to remember the number of ringers killed in the war.

If anyone feels they may be able to help, please contact Richard Turner on 01609 778805 or call in at the belfry before service for an informal chat. Full training will be given, and the only cost is that of time and commitment.

**Ainderby Steeple News**

**Ainderby Steeple 100 Club:** February Draw winners: 1st prize M.Town (765); 2nd prize I.Larkin (33)

**The Leyburn Band:** will be performing in St Helen’s Church on Saturday 14th Aprilat 7.30pm. Tickets will be available at the door or from Brian Phillips on 01609 774016. Ticket price £8.00 and tea and coffee will be available.

**Morton on Swale News**

**Young at Heart:** Thursday 22nd March at the village hall - 2.00pm until 4.00 pm

**Village breakfast**: Unfortunately this has been cancelled - to be rearranged for another date.

**Morton-On-Swale Easter Egg Hunt** - 30th March (Good Friday) from 2.00pm until 4.00pm

**Morton-On-Swale resident survey**: The deadline for responses is 4th March.

**Litter pick and village condition survey:** Saturday 10th March at 11.00am at the village hall

**Tour De Yorkshire Plans:** The next planning meeting is at 7.30 on 12th March in the village hall.

**Hall bookings:** To book the hall for your own event please contact Lynne on 01609 779447

**Yafforth News**

**Yafforth 100 Club:** January winners: £20 T.Riley; £10 F.Simpkin

**Yafforth Hub:** will meet on Saturday 17th March from 10.0 – 12.00

**Tour de Yorkshire:** a Village Event is planned for Saturday 5th May - WATCH THIS SPACE!

**Kirby Wiske News**

**Thanks -** to all loyal contributors and supporters of the Coffee and Chat morning on February 3rd. Through your efforts we raised £362  for the Church Roof Fund.

**Local Church Council:** the LCC will meet at Graystone Lodge, Maunby, at 6.30pm on Wednesday 7th March

**Rota:**  Sidesmen: 4th March 9.30am Mrs M.Dale; 18th March 9.30am Mrs M.Dale

 Flowers: Mrs S.Rodgers   Cleaning: Mrs G.Green & Mrs D. Statham

**Village Hall News:**

* **Beetle Drive:** at the village hall on Friday 2nd March. Tickets from Committee members or at the door - £5,or £3 for under 16s. Hot supper included.
* **Village hall committee AGM** in the village hall 7pm Thursday, 9th April.
* **Advance notice** for Sunday, 28th October. Villages Together Family Fun and Pumpkin Show and Competition at Kirby Wiske village hall at 3pm. Details of categories to follow.

Seeds available from John and Doreen Hunter at Pasture Holme , Newsham Road.

* **Local History Group** will meet on Tuesday 13th March at 7pm in the village hall. We shall be planning topics for the heritage leaflets.
* **Parish Council:** will meet in the village hall at 7.30pm on Tuesday 6th March.

**Maunby News**

**Sunday 11th March:** No Service at Maunby - Confirmation Service at Ainderby Steeple

**Local Church Council:** the LCC will meet at Graystone Lodge, Maunby, at 6.30pm on Wednesday 7th March

**Methodist Rota**:   4th March - Revd D Jones; 11th March - Mr J Parkinson;

 18th March - Revd A Powers; 25th March - Revd M Sellers HC.

 Services start at 10.30am unless indicated

**Youth Groups**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date**  | **Little Acorns** | **Busy Bees** | **Groovers & Shakers** | **Trendy Teens** |
| 01/03/18 |  | 4-5pm | 6.15-8pm |  |
| 08/03/18 |  |  |  | 6.30-8.30pm |
| 15/03/18 |  | 4-5pm | 6.15-8pm |  |
| 22/03/18 |  |  |  | 6.30-8.30pm |
| 29/03/18 |  |  |  | Service at 7pm |
| Easter Holidays |

 Trendy Teens: back on 19th April; Busy Bees and Groovers and Shakers: back on the 26th April

**Services for March 2018**

**Sunday 4th March**   **3rd Sunday of Lent**  **Purple**

Kirby Wiske (Ann) 9.30am Holy Communion

Ainderby Steeple (Paul) 11.00am Morning Prayer

Readings Exodus ch20 v1-17;

John ch2 v13-22

**Sunday 11th March 4th Sunday of Lent Purple**

Ainderby Steeple

Rt Revd Bishop Helen-Ann Hartley 11.0am Confirmation Service &

Revd Clive Todd Benefice Holy Communion

Readings  Exodus ch2 v1-10;

 Luke ch2 v33-35

Kirkby Fleetham 6.30pm  **Benefice Evensong**

**Sunday 18th March 5th Sunday of Lent Purple**

Kirby Wiske (Paul)9.30am Morning Prayer

Ainderby Steeple (Clive) 11.00am All Age Worship

Readings Jeremiah ch31 v31-34;

 John ch12 v20-33

**Sunday 25th March Palm Sunday Red**

Yafforth (Clive) 9.30am Holy Communion

Ainderby Steeple (Clive) 11.00am Holy Communion

Readings Isaiah ch50 v4-9a;

Mark ch15 v1-39

**Thursday 29th March Maundy Thursday White**

Ainderby Steeple (Clive) 7.00pm Holy Communion

Readings Exodus ch1 v1-14;

John ch13 v1-17 & 31b-35

**Friday 30th March Good Friday Red**

Ainderby Steeple (Paul) 2.00pm Meditation

**Sunday 1st April**  **Easter Day**  **White**

Kirby Wiske (Clive) 9.30am Holy Communion

Ainderby Steeple (Clive) 11.00am Holy Communion

Readings Acts ch10 v34-43

 John ch20 v1-18

**\*\*\* Copy date for April 2018 \*\*\***

**Deadline 5pm 21st March to the newsletter team**

Mrs Dawn Statham **(01845 587143)** for **KW & MBY**; Mrs Susan Dixon **(01609 761089)** for **Yafforth**;for **Ainderby Steeple, Morton on Swale, Warlaby and Thrintoft** please send directly to the editor on juliabarker@riponcathedral.org.uk