

From the Vicar July 2015

Michael Palin, perhaps best known for his role in the Monty Python series as well as recent documentaries, recently gave an address to the National Churches Trust in which he described how churches have played important roles throughout his life - indeed he said that his Father would happily have seen him become a vicar! Whilst filming for the Himalaya series he visited a brewery where the only outlet for its products was through a hole in the back wall of the Raffles Hotel. However, before he could purchase any liquor he had to fill out a form which required him to name his religion in addition to name, address etc. He wrote 'Agnostic' – the form was duly returned to him asking him to be more specific. This time he wrote 'Agnostic with doubts' – this was sufficient to purchase said liquor it seems.

Palin goes on to say that 'if the idea of community is to mean anything at all then we must value the churches that are at their centre'. Our local churches may not have the grandeur of cathedrals but they are welcoming spaces – we should not be afraid to open them for believers, non-believers, and agnostics with doubts. They provide havens and shelters from the busy-ness of the world and they don't cost a penny to enter! They are a precious expression of our past and it is the duty of this present generation to deliver them intact for the future. Hence the reason we are having a joint PCC meeting after the service on August 2nd to look at ways in which we can preserve this legacy.

Like Palin many people would perhaps also describe themselves as 'Agnostic with doubts' – after all it is not always easy to believe in things that we cannot easily define. Fortunately for us there are plenty of people throughout scripture who went through the same struggles that we so often do. Take Abraham and Sarah for example who found it difficult to believe that they would be the founders of many nations. But my all-time favourite doubter is the saint we celebrate at the beginning of this month – St Thomas. Thomas certainly had his doubts but nonetheless he was absolutely loyal to Jesus. His doubts and his uncertainties were part and parcel of his discipleship. It is Thomas who says 'Lord, we do not know where you are going', and who asks 'How can we know the way?' We too wonder where our journey with Jesus will take us, but Thomas' doubts enable us to see the proof of Jesus' resurrection. Jesus invites Thomas to touch him, to probe his wounds – there is no evidence that he actually did so, but that this encounter was sufficient for him to respond in trust and worship, for he responds 'My Lord and my God'.

Someone once said that 'when you go to church you should actively seek something. You must not go like an empty basket, waiting passively to be filled'. I would hope that whether you are an 'agnostic' or a 'believer' as long as you are seeking something, if only some peace and quiet from time to time, then you will find this in our churches.

With every blessing. Revd Anne

On Wednesday 27 May Aldbrough WI played host to the South Holderness Group of WI's at the Haven Arms, Hedon.

The event was the Group Rally, this was a well attended event with members from each of the five WI's attending.

There were classes in Produce, Craft and Floral Art, between the seven classes there were 108 exhibits. These made a wonderful display in the marquee. Overall winners on the night were Preston, Hedon second and Aldbrough third. Aldbrough President Angela Dunn welcomed everyone to the evening and thanked them for the entries which were of a high standard. Heartfelt thanks were also expressed to the Aldbrough ladies who had worked so hard and so well together to make this event a success.

The speaker/demonstrator was Alan Lavender, formerly Head Chef at Chequers, Mrs Christine Longstaff gave the vote of thanks.

The June meeting of Aldbrough wI was held at Great Newsome Brewery, South Frodingham.

Following a short introductory film, a tour of the brewery took place. Malted barley was available to taste and three different types of hops were shown, each having different characteristics. The process was then explained by the Head Brewer, on a step by step basis.

Members and guests were then served a pie and pea supper, with three samples of different beers to accompany the food, a short business meeting followed, our thanks were expressed by Mrs Hazel Armstrong.

> Mappleton and Goxhill Friends Extraordinary General Meeting on Wednesday 8th July at 7.00pm in Mappleton Church - all welcome.

Canon David Winter, former Head of Religious Broadcasting at the BBC, considers one of the joys of life...

The Way I See It: Keeping connected

When you think about it, life revolves around keeping connected. From the moment we are born we instantly connect with mummy (think of the pictures of the royal baby!). Then we begin to connect through our family, then our school friends, colleagues at work and those we connect with through interests, hobbies or neighbourliness. Then, for many people, there is a major and life-long 'connection' with a partner. Our lives are made meaningful, colourful and fulfilling largely because of our 'connections' My mother used to speak of people we knew (posher than us) who were 'well-connected'. Even at nine years old I knew what she meant.

The modern world expects us to be connected in other ways, too. Someone was complaining in a recent newspaper article that BT had left them disconnected for a month when they moved house - disconnected, that is, from phone, email and internet. People who can't Twitter or do Facebook feel disconnected from the 'social media', as they are called. Nobody likes to be 'cut off'.

Loneliness is a fearful fate, and at its worst it is, of course, total disconnection - not from the human race, but from our significant connective people (friends, family, even neighbours). It is the invisible plague in our midst, to be truthful: top of the list of disabilities for many older people.

So, how can we improve our 'connections'? My great-niece is a GP in the Midlands. She told me that many of her older patients don't have any specific medical condition. They are simply lonely, and that brings on worries and mental niggles that eventually become a crippling handicap. At one level it's the inevitable consequence of time and mortality, of course, but it's exacerbated by a life-style that tends to be immersed in itself. Couples tend not to be 'joiners'. 'We've kept ourselves to ourselves', people say. But there's often a price to pay in the end.

'Why don't you try church?' my young relative asks. 'But I'm not religious', they reply. To which she counters, 'You don't have to be religious to go to church. They need everyone they can get!' I don't know how effective this particular piece of evangelism has been, but it's certainly true that church is, or should be, one place where you'll be warmly welcomed - and quickly make 'connections'.

Withernwick Ladies Group

As a change from our monthly meeting, 13 members and friends enjoyed a visit to Sewerby Hall on a gloriously sunny day. We arrived in time for coffee then had a tour of the refurbished rooms which include many items of furniture on loan from the Victoria and Albert Museum in London. How interesting it was to see the room settings as they were many years ago particularly the kitchen without its labour saving devices we take for granted today. The Hall commands spectacular views over well tended gardens and out to sea and we were able to enjoy walking in the grounds as well as lunch in The Clock Tower before returning home. Next month, July 1st we meet at 7.00pm in St. Alban's when our guest speaker will be Robert Jordan on The Great Wall Of China, please join us.

The Eight Day Mark

Actor John D Slater will performing the Gospel of Mark in eight days, travelling from Withernsea to Whitby. Bridlington based Bijou Enterprises is staging this remarkable feat from Sunday 5th to Sunday 12th July, visiting sixteen locations along the Yorkshire coast.

Chris Scruton of Bijou Productions said, "The Gospel According to Mark, of all the gospels, comes across as a story telling narrative – the storyteller being Mark The Evangelist himself and lends itself well to this event. Our project seeks to emulate the idea of a travelling story teller, as it is considered that Mark was - exchanging the coast of Syria for the coast of Yorkshire."

John Slater (Mark) will be at Aldbrough Church on Monday 6th July at 2.00pm and Mappleton Church on Tuesday 7th July at 10.00. Each 'talk' lasts about half an hour and everyone is invited – there is no charge although donations may be given to the church. Please do try to support this if at all possible.

These last few days my blue tit box is empty, they must have gone early morning, but they say that they fly about mid morning to get a good start in life. They will be not far away as they will still be fed by the male and female, also whilst driving my car, a sparrow hawk flew right in front of car, moving fast, must have had eye on a quick meal.

Back to Bempton cliffs, I've seen a puffin chick in the hole in the cliffs, near grand stand view point. The gannets are doing well again, rearing the young they never leave the young alone

until they get too big for meal for the herring gull or the peregrine falcon. They can move very fast, hunting dive, which is called a stoop, up to 200mph or 320kmh, so not much gets away. I've seen them hunting, they never give up.

God bless Rev Anne and all who read this Regards John 5 Withernwick Ladies Group invite you to celebrate YORKSHIRE DAY, SATURDAY 1st AUGUST St Alban's Church 10.30-12.30 Cakes, Raffle, Tombola, Refreshments All proceeds in aid of Yorkshire Air Ambulance

Aldbrough Village events

Sunday 5th July is once again Scarecrow Day, we are hoping for a fine day to bring you all out. Entry to this is free, the rules state that your scarecrow must be visible from the road and within the village boundary. Ensure your scarecrow is in position by 10 am on the day.

Please put entry forms through the letter box, house next door to the Post Office, Aldbrough by 28 June, giving your exhibit a name and address, for printing of the map.

The start and finish of the trail is the Youth Club, come down and pick up your map, there is a nominal charge to cover printing costs, then when you have completed the trail and voted bring your form back to us.

Hopefully this will be an enjoyable day, refreshments will be available at the usual outlets.

In early July, it is the Garden Competition free to enter, trophies to win. The entry form for this is in the Village Show schedule, available now in the village and local garden centres. Please think about entering this, rules are on the entry form and to keep this going it would be nice to see new people entering. Classes include large and small gardens plus hanging baskets, plus others -see details on the entry form

Trophies for this and the Scarecrows are presented at the Village Show.

The Village Show is on Saturday 25 July, at the Village Hall, Garton Road, Aldbrough. All the information you need, and show rules are contained in the schedule, available locally.

We look forward to welcoming old and new competitors, there are classes for everyone, from home grown vegetable and flowers, baking, art and craft, plus childrens classes. Please have a look at the schedule and see what you could enter. Small cash prizes to be won, plus trophies.

Entries are received at the Hall on the morning of the show, the hall then closes for judging to take place and opens to the public at 14.00, trophies presented at approx.. 15.15

Tea, coffee and home made cake available plus raffle.

If anyone has a couple of hours to spare on the Friday afternoon to help put up the tables, we would be pleased to see you and also to stay behind on the Saturday afternoon to clear up Services in the Benefice for July:

EVERY Wednesday

10.00am Holy Communion followed by Coffee: Aldbrough
Sunday July 5th: Trinity 5
10.30 Morning Praise: Aldbrough led by Helen Wastling

Sunday July 12th: Trinity 6/Sea Sunday 10.30 Parish Communion: Mappleton

HEALING COMMUNION: Tuesday July 14th 10.30 for 11.00 at 4 Mill Lane, Withernwick

Sunday July 19th: Trinity 7 10.30am Family Communion: Withernwick

Sunday July 26th: Trinity 8 8.30am Holy Communion: Aldbrough 10.30am Parish Communion Withernwick 10.30am Morning Praise: Mappleton

Sunday August 2nd: Trinity 9 10.30 Parish Communion/Baptism: Aldbrough

| EVENT | DATE | WHERE |
|---|---------------|---------------------------------|
| John Slater | 6th July | Aldbrough Church |
| Mark's Gospel | 7thJuly | Mappleton Church |
| Afternoon Tea | 8th August An | nchorage, Rolston Road, Hornsea |
| | - | (home of Mr and Mrs Rhodes) |
| Gift Day | 22nd August | Aldbrough Church |
| Hatfield Fete | 29th August | Great Hatfield |
| Salvation Army Band 13th September Goxhill | | |
| Peter Naylor & supper 10th October Aldbrough Youth Club | | |
| Coffee Morning | 17th October | Hornsea Parish Rooms (Mapp) |

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FROM THE REGISTERS: <u>Marriage:</u> Withernwick: 20th June David and Joanne Rogerson

Baptism: Aldbrough: 28th June Kian Croft

> 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

See your Parish church on the websites; A Church near you: www.acny.org.uk Also Diocesan website: www.dioceseofyork.org.uk

Why not try the Aldbrough & Withernwick village websites ; www.withernwickvillage.co.uk www.aldbroughparishcouncil.co.uk

Editor P. Soltys <u>soltydog@madasafish.com</u> Items for next Parish News to Paul by 21st July, please