

June 2018

Dear Friends

This time last year I wrote about my colleague, Jo Mabey, and the fact that she was about to become The Revd Johanna Mabey when she was ordained Deacon at the end of June. This year she is about to be ordained again. I should add very quickly that this is not because there was anything wrong with her first ordination, this is an absolutely normal procedure.

The usual pattern for clergy is that, a year after their Diaconal ordination, they are ordained Priest. The difference is to do with enabling and opening doors. Jo has already been doing lots of things including preaching and leading services that don't include Holy Communion. But as a Deacon she is not permitted either to celebrate Holy Communion or to give God's blessing. Those (huge) privileges are reserved for the priesthood and it is into that priesthood that Jo will be ordained - on the afternoon of Saturday June 30th, in our cathedral in Bury St Edmunds. The service is both solemn and joyful and if you wish to attend you would be very welcome. We have organised a coach from Aldeburgh and if you would like to reserve a seat on it please have a word with one of the clergy.

The following day (Sunday July 1st) Jo will celebrate Holy Communion for the first time, at the 10.30am service in Aldeburgh. As this is such a special day, not just for her but for all of us, we will make this a service for the whole benefice and there won't be services in the villages that morning other than one at 8.00 in Aldringham. Just as Jo is offering us so much, so we need to offer her our love and our support - and being together for her and with her on July 1st will be a wonderful sign of that. I, for one, am very much looking forward to working with my new priest-colleague - she will, I'm sure, be a blessing to us all.

Friston is currently gearing up for its annual Open Gardens celebration which this year will take place on the afternoon of June 17th. Money raised at the gardens themselves or in the Village Hall (where excellent refreshments will be available) goes to support the work of St Mary's church so we pray for good weather and a splendid turn-out - and we thank all of those who give their time and energy (and gardens!) to make the day the undoubted success that I'm sure it will be.

During June Knodishall church will be benefiting from a bit of a 'wash and brush up'. Flaking plaster inside the church on the north wall has already been dealt with and the necessary redecoration is about to take place. It is just a fact of life that old buildings with thick stone walls sometimes retain moisture in places that mean regular redecoration is necessary. The high-tech solutions (in more than one sense of the word) rarely work and can make things worse. Good use of traditional materials is usually the best answer, and this is what has been happening at Knodishall. Our thanks to all involved in the planning and execution of the work.

Finally, an appeal from Aldeburgh. St Peter & St Paul's church is currently short of a treasurer. Owing to the hard work of our previous treasurer the church accounts are in a better shape than I have ever seen them, and a new treasurer's work should be very straightforward. If you have the necessary skills, or know someone else who has, then please do speak to one of the clergy.

With my love and my prayers, as ever.

Mark