

PARISH NEWSLETTER

December 2020 January 2021

for the villages of Aldwark, Alne, Flawith,
Tholthorpe, Tollerton and Youlton

The Anglican ministers for the villages in the Parish of Alne are Revd. Debbie Coyne and Revd. Carmel Gittens. They can be contacted by telephone on 01423 360759 or by e-mail at rev.deborah.coyne@gmail.com and 01347 833437 or carmel-gittens@live.co.uk respectively.



Every year throughout December we tell a story. It is of the miraculous and somewhat unconventional birth of a baby. This story is told across the world, in every culture and language. It has been told for over 2,000 years, passed on from one generation to another. This birth is celebrated in different ways, with traditions varying between cultures, families and individuals.

This year all our traditions have looked different but there is something about Christmas that stands out as important for us in our culture, whether or not we believe the baby in the story was God in the form of Jesus. And Christmas, in whatever form it is allowed to take, will look different this year too.

But the story stays the same. Whatever services we are allowed to have (and there will be some, even if they only happen online), whether we can only sing Carols within our homes, even if we are limited in the people we can gather around us, the essence of Christmas will remain the same: Faith, Hope and Love.

We will celebrate Christmas, maybe in a way that is completely new to us, with new traditions we take with us into years to come, or simply leave as being part of our experience of this year. And the story will be told: of a baby born who brought into the world, through faith and love, hope.

The people of God had Faith that God was going to do something to change their situation. God loved the world so much, he wanted to share that Love with them and so came, as a baby, as Jesus, at that very first Christmas to change the situation, but not in a way they expected. In coming, Jesus brought Hope. Faith in Jesus still brings Love and Hope to our situation.

“Happiness can be found even in the darkest of times, but only for those who remember to turn on the light.” - Albus Dumbledore (Character in the JK Rowling Harry Potter Books).

The Bible tells us Jesus is the light of the world because He is the Love and Hope God brings to us, not just at Christmas, all year round, and we are invited to have Faith in Him, to turn to the light. My prayer is, however you celebrate Christmas this year, you will know the Love and Hope of Jesus, through Faith.

Many prayers and blessings this December and Christmas, whatever it holds for you and those you love, whoever they may be.

Take care, keep safe.


Grace and Peace.

Debbie & Aslan

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

There will be Christmas Services but due to the nature of this year they may be online.

Please check outside churches, local noticeboards & Facebook for updates.

 **@BeneficesofAlneandBrafferton**

<https://beneficesofalneandbrafferton.wordpress.com>

Alne Preschool Playgroup

We are a preschool playgroup situated within the grounds of Alne Primary School, caring and educating children from the age of 2 years to 5 years and offering a breakfast club and holiday play scheme for children from 5 years to 8 years. We open 49 weeks a year from 8.00 am to 6.00pm.

Although we are on the school grounds we're not funded like the school, we are a charity and generate money through the children either by them using their 15 hours or by parents paying fees. We therefore rely heavily on fundraising. As with all other charities, this year with the Coronavirus pandemic we are struggling to continue with our normal fundraising events as we had 6 months without parental fees but all the usual outgoings. In 2021 we will have been officially registered for 50 years (although the group was running before this informally).

How can you help support us?

We have a number of ongoing online schemes where you could help.

Easy fundraising

If you shop online, you could help us fundraise, all you need to do is do your normal shopping but by going through the easy fundraising website as we get a % donation from the retailers. All the big names are on there: M&S, John Lewis, Amazon, Tesco, etc. No one can see what you are buying or which shops you are visiting. To register please visit: www.easyfundraising.org.uk and search for Alne Pre-school Playgroup; or by visiting Amazon.smile and choose Alne playgroup for your charity donation.

Ink recycling

If you work in an office or currently at home, we are collecting ink cartridges, please watch out for the collection bin which will be arriving soon. We are paid for each cartridge they are able to use. If your office would be willing to have a bin, this could be arranged.

We are delighted to have been accepted as one of the Co-op's chosen community groups this year. If you are a Co-op member, you can allocate us as your chosen group. For every £1 spent on Co-op products we receive 2p. If you are not already a member and do shop for 'bits and bobs', please consider joining and nominating us by using the following link

coop.co.uk/membership or the Co-op app. The money we will receive will go towards renewing our outdoor surface in the playground garden.

If you are having a pre-Christmas clear out, as the Charity shops are not open we would welcome donations of good quality toys, things such as small trikes, wooden blocks, small world cars and people, electronic table top computers or good quality children's books.

Fundraising in December

Christmas market

We are planning to hold a small Christmas market in the school car park on **Saturday, 5th December, 10.00a.m to 3.00p.m.** with stalls and games. As it is outside it will be possible to maintain a social distance.

If you would like to book a stall, let us know, or come along and support us.

Christmas trail

Following on from the success of our lockdown trails around the village for the children to find, we have set a Christmas trail, booklets will be available to purchase from Playgroup or message us on alneplaygroup@live.com or call us 01347 830011 and we can get one to you. Don't forget to let us know which one you would like. They will be priced at £2.50, they have the trail to follow and some activities for you or your child to complete. There will be 3 trails, Alne, Tollerton and Tholthorpe, choose the one you would like to do or do them all. The trail will run from **1st to 31st December**, you will be able to choose when to do it with your family. Please do not remove any of the items as the next family won't be able to find them and let us know if any things go missing. Remember to Social distance if you come across other families competing at the same time. Suitable for all ages, toddlers, preschool, school age children or adults wanting something to look out for on their walks!

Christmas quiz £1.00

A quiz will be available from **1st December**, all the answers are Christmas songs or carols. Finished entries need to be received back to us by **17th December**.

Christmas Raffle

We will be having a raffle this year, we already have some prizes, if you feel you could offer us a prize or would like tickets, they will be £1.00 a book, please let us know using one of the contacts below.

The raffle will be drawn on the 12th December.

alneplaygroup@live.com

Thank you for reading.

Alne Coronavirus Support Group

A coronavirus support group has been set up in Alne, initiated by the enthusiastic Street Fayre Committee and backed by Alne Parish Council. David Edwards has agreed to be the overall co-ordinator and the village (including Alne Station and Forest Lane) has been split into seven zones, each with its own team leader and its own group of volunteers. Every house should have received a leaflet identifying which zone it is in and who is its team leader with the relevant contact details.

If you are over 70, pregnant, vulnerable or with underlying health conditions, these volunteers have put their hands up to be of service to you. They can do shopping, collect prescriptions, post letters or do anything else (within reason!) that you might be prevented from doing by current government regulations.

If you are in need, please contact your designated team leader. If you need to contact the overall co-ordinator, or you have not received the leaflet, contact David Edwards on 833269, 07583 377276 or daviedwards8@gmail.com.

Alne Parish Council



FRIENDS OF ST MONICA'S HOSPITAL

TRUSTEES WANTED

The Coronavirus pandemic is affecting all our lives and will continue to do so for some time to come. Good health and mental wellbeing have never been more important. You can do something positive.

The Friends of St Monica's Hospital in Easingwold has provided support and equipment at the hospital for many years. We are now looking for new trustees to help change the way in which we support the hospital and the patients registered at the surgeries in Ampleforth, Tollerton, Stillington, Hovingham and Easingwold.

This is an exciting opportunity to become involved in your community, particularly in making grants and ensuring that our funds achieve maximum impact.

The way that health services are delivered in our area is changing. These changes will significantly affect St Monica's hospital. You can help to shape the future of our healthcare.

The trustees welcome applications from people from all walks of life. Previous experience of charity or trustee work is not essential. Full induction will be given.

Full details of the work of the Friends can be found on our website www.fosmh.org.uk or phone David Kenworthy on 01347 821948 or 07710 439771 for an informal chat.

Gudrun Gaudian and Paul Medley

Having moved into Sunny View, Alne in 1997 Gudrun Gaudian and Paul Medley left the village early this November in a typically dignified and understated manner.

Gudrun, supported by her family, made a significant and long term contribution to our village having a strong sense of community spirit. This was demonstrated in many practical, thoughtful and kind ways.

Gudrun was on APLA's committee for 22 years and amongst her various initiatives developed the orchard. She was also on the Parish Council for 16 years. She read, absorbed, researched and considered every document that came before her and winged off many, many e-mails as a consequence holding to account public bodies, MPs and the like as well as challenging environmental and planning concerns such as the Forest Lane landfill site.

Gudrun was also on the Village Hall Committee and having helped with setting up was most often to be seen supporting in the kitchen. She put together various successful bids to help secure the long term prospects of our well-used Village Hall.

She put into practice her key local interests supporting various rural bodies, often with the whole family spending days rhododendron clearing, tree planting, surveying local ancient sites and monitoring public footpaths.

Gudrun and Paul came to the village with Sammy and Holly and Fizz was born here. Poignantly they leave Sammy in our midst but move closer to his "Grove" which is part of the reforestation of the Highlands and is a legacy to their great sadness of 2015.

As someone said "Every village needs a Gudrun" - we have truly benefited and if you would like to contribute towards a gift please donate on 30-97-80 a/c 00017199 and mark your gift "Scotland". This will be sent to the family just before Christmas for them to spend as they wish in their new home.

Please follow the link to sign an online card:

<https://www.groupgreeting.com/sign/dbd7c81d88746de>

Anne Mennim



Call our 24/7 message service
0772 44 44 750

We will always call you back.
Confidentiality assured.

Our service:

- We deliver to Easingwold and surrounding villages.
- If you wish, we can discuss further help and offer confidential support over a cuppa in your home.
- Our food packages contain tinned and dry goods with milk, bread and spread as well as toiletries. We can't supply fresh fruit and vegetables.

**Run by volunteers for
local people in need**



Tollerton Coronavirus Support

A Tollerton support group, in conjunction with the Parish Council, Doctors' Surgery and the Church, has been set up by local villagers to offer support to anyone who is affected by coronavirus. If you are self-isolating or needing support we can help you with:

Food shopping

Prescription collections & requests

Posting letters

Collecting deliveries

Connecting you to other services

Dog walking

Having a chat

We can assure you that we will respect your privacy and your health security. If you would like our help then please call or text either of the following numbers and we will put you in touch with a neighbour who will help.

07831 306795

07835 532918

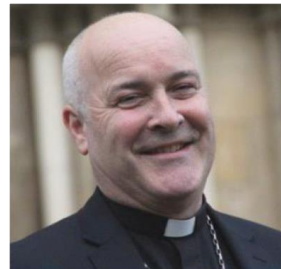
If you need any help at all please do get in touch, we are here to help.

To the Saints of the Diocese of York

The Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell, writes:

Light in the darkness

You have to get out into the more remote parts of the diocese to experience real darkness. Even in some of our more rural communities, street lighting softens the darkness. In urban communities, light pollution means that some of us rarely encounter complete darkness at all. But there is something sobering and spectacular about the dark, not least the darkness of the night sky, because actually the more you look at it the more you see. The darkness is not dark at all. Millions and millions of stars are shining, though we know that even the light is the afterburn of that star's demise.



In the Bible, the really important things always happen in the darkness. The resurrection happens in the night-time. When Jesus died on the cross we are told that darkness covered the land. And of course we celebrate Christmas, the birth of Christ, in the middle of the night.

This Christmas and this year we find ourselves encountering darkness in other ways. COVID-19 seems to have spread a blanket of darkness across our whole world. We have had to learn how to live differently. We have paid a heavy price in human suffering. As I write, a few weeks away from Christmas, we don't know how we will be able to celebrate or with whom we will be able to meet.

But the promise of Christmas, and with it the promise of the Christian faith, remain the same: "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; Those who lived in a land of darkness, on them has light shined." (Isaiah 9.2)

As Christians celebrating the birth of Christ, we are the ones who look for this light, the light of Christ dawning on the world. We are also the ones through whom this light must shine for others. For a present this Christmas, let us give to others our prayer and service. **"The light shines in the darkness and the darkness cannot overcome it."** (John 1.5)

Yours in the service of the Gospel
+ Stephen

Contact Details:

The Anglican ministers for the villages in the Parish of Aine are Revd. Debbie Coyne and Revd. Carmel Gittens. Their contact details are:

Revd. Debbie Coyne 01423 360759 e-mail: rev.deborah.coyne@gmail.com

Revd. Carmel Gittens 01347 833437 e-mail: carmel-gittens@live.co.uk

The Methodist Minister for the villages around Easingwold is The Rev Elizabeth Cushion.

Elizabeth Cushion 01347 821460

Church Wardens

St Mary's Aine
Church Warden Posts vacant

St. Stephen's Aldwark
Vivienne Bird e-mail: viviennebird@hotmail.co.uk

St. Michael's Tollerton
Arthur Harland 01347 823575 e-mail: janeatwoodyedge@yahoo.co.uk
Alison Dowson 01347 838138 e-mail amcd2350@gmail.com