

PARISH NEWSLETTER

February 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.



NEW BEGINNINGS

Happy new year to you and yours! It is lovely to have a sparkly fresh new year to look forward to isn't it? I wonder what this year will bring you all? The usual toast is for health, wealth and happiness, and we all begin to make resolutions to assist us in this aim.

Perhaps after all our lockdowns; and for many this means less activity, a new health and fitness regime, a healthy eating plan, a new business venture or plans to spend more time with family and friends? We certainly need to keep positive and patient as the Covid vaccines are rolled out. There is hope, and we need to remember that there is light at the end of this long dark tunnel.

But I wonder if in those resolutions and plans there is a desire to become spiritually fit? We look after our mind and body and sometimes forget our souls. Once the glitter and sparkle and cosy feelings of wellbeing over Christmas fade, the carols die away, and we pack the decorations and cribs in the loft, are we also packing Jesus away for another year, or are we determined to explore our faith and all that being a Christian has to offer?

It is all too easy to throw Jesus away with the gift wrapping. But he was the fulfilment of Old Testament and indeed New Testament prophecies, that because God loves us so much, even though we've made such a mess of the world and the gifts He has given us, He would send a Messiah to save us. That is what we have just celebrated, the birth of Jesus, fully God and fully human, who came to give His life that we may have life in all its fullness and to enjoy eternal life with the Father in heaven. Because of the birth of Jesus, we have that assurance of hope and through his death and resurrection we were shown how much our Father in Heaven loves us. We don't have to earn this love it is freely and unconditionally given. We just need to have faith.

Although for the time being in-person services are postponed until government restriction ease, we are still an active worshipping community. We have weekly services on Zoom, and I have a Celtic prayer service every Monday morning at 9.30a.m. If you would like to make a resolution to improve your spiritual health come along to our Zoom services; or ask about a Christian enquirers course. Let me know if you are interested in joining us in worship and I will ensure you get the links to join in. You have nothing to lose and eternity to gain.

Love and Blessings

Revd Carmel Gittens

News from Alne Church

Funerals

29th October 2020 – Bromwyn Jennison – Interment of ashes

5th January 2021 – Barbara Jane Hirst – Funeral and burial

Church Services

Even though the government has not required churches in England to suspend worship, the wardens and clergy have, on reflection, decided not to hold services at this time.

While we know this will disappoint some, we feel that this is the wisest and most responsible action to take until the current high rate of transmission of coronavirus has been vastly reduced. Funerals are unaffected. Our service by Video Conference at 10.30a.m. every Sunday will be available and we hope you may join us at these. If you do not already receive the e-mail invitation to join these and would like to please e-mail office@abchurches.org.uk.

Views during recent flooding



Alne Church from the south



Alne 'Lake' - looking north from the road to Tollerton from Alne

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

Alne Village Website Re-vamp

The eight-year-old Alne Village website will shortly be revamped and updated. Websites have evolved significantly over that period and the updated Alne Village website will be responsive, adaptive and mobile-friendly.

The website includes 55 pages of historical and current information on the village and its community activities. Visit it at www.alnevillage.co.uk

Robert Brech, Chairman, Alne Parish Council

Help needed with Community Improvements in Alne

There is a project to restore and improve the “BMX” bicycle track to the north of the Alne recreation field car park. If you are interested in assisting with this task, please contact Izzy Rochester at izzyrochester1980@gmail.com.

As soon as the weather and Covid restrictions allow, we plan to restore and improve the telephone box library on Main Street. If you are interested in assisting with this task, please contact Sue Laycock on 07984-402084, 838664 or sue@laycock1.plus.com.

How should the goals in the Alne MUGA (Multi-Use Games Area) be best arranged to suit the needs and safety of both basketball and football players? If you are a user of this facility, please contact Dennis Myers on 838552, 07714-276937 or dennismyers5@btinternet.com.

The annual maintenance and replanting of the cherry trees along Main Street will be taking place shortly. If you would like to assist with this, please contact David Lepper on 07850 480923 or d.lepper27@btinternet.com.

Alne Parish Council and Alne Parish Leisure Association

Alne Open Gardens June 2021

We held a very successful inaugural Alne Open Gardens event on Sunday 19th May 2019. It was agreed that we would make this a biennial event. Those who kindly offered us their gardens felt it was a bit early in the season and plants would be looking their best towards the end of June. So a provisional date for your diaries is **Sunday, 27th June 2021**.

This is obviously all subject to current Covid restrictions being lifted. I am aware that a few potential Open Gardens last time were not available on the day we chose. Other gardens were carrying out improvements so maybe ready for inclusion in our next event.

With the current lockdown many people will have more time available to get their gardens in tip top condition. So I am giving you all plenty of advance notice now, It will be good to have some new additional gardens participating this time around to keep the event fresh and interesting.

If you would like to offer your garden for inclusion then please get in touch with me. I will be happy to visit your garden in due course and clarify what will be involved. The more the merrier to make a full varied programme.

As before, any profits from this day will go towards supporting Village Hall improvements.

David Lepper
Alne Open Gardens Coordinator
d.lepper27@btinternet.com or 01347 838114

The Pearson and Others Charitable Trust

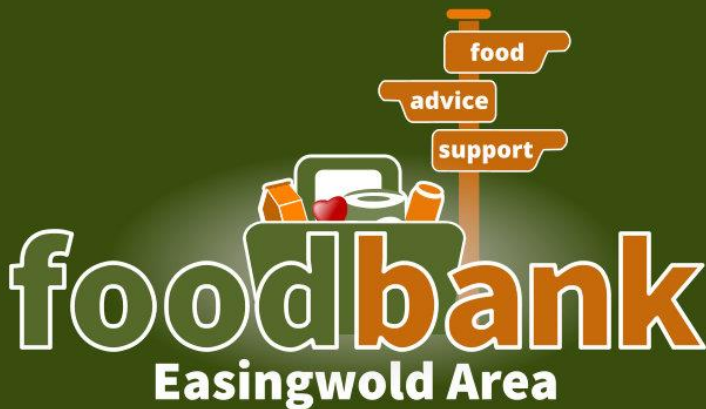
The Pearson Trust is a small local charity which was established in 1882 to help people in need who live in the parishes of Aldwark, Alne, Flawith, Tholthorpe, Tollerton and Youlton. The charity makes grants to residents of these villages who are perhaps struggling to meet their everyday living costs or who have a particular need. This might include help to pay for essential household items or repairs, fuel bills, healthcare, or clothing and equipment for a baby or children and young people who are in education or training. All applications are treated in the strictest confidence.

The trustees are particularly keen to help people who are experiencing financial difficulties caused by the Coronavirus pandemic.

The charity also makes grants to local organisations for charitable activities which benefit people living in these villages. Organisations must have a bank account and a constitution.

Applications can be made at any time using the appropriate application form which can be downloaded at the Alne and Tollerton websites go to: <https://www.tollerton.net/the-pearson-trust>

To find out more about the charity and how to apply, please contact the Chair, Colin Stroud on 01347 838780 or by e-mailing: strouds2@btinternet.com



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

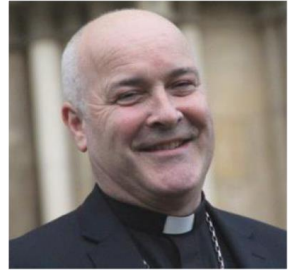
We can assure you that we will respect your privacy and your health security. If you would like our help then please call or text either of the following numbers and we will put you in touch with a neighbour who will help.

07831 306795

07835 532918

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

Archbishops invite nation to pause, pray and remember 100,000 people 'known to God and cherished by God'



Dear friends,

As we reach the terrible mile stone of 100,000 deaths from COVID-19, we invite everyone in our nation to pause as we reflect on the enormity of this pandemic.

100,000 isn't just an abstract figure. Each number is a person: someone we loved and someone who loved us. We also believe that each of these people was known to God and cherished by God.

We write to you then in consolation, but also in encouragement, and ultimately in the hope of Jesus Christ. The God who comes to us in Jesus knew grief and suffering himself. On the cross, Jesus shares the weight of our sadness.

We therefore encourage everyone who is feeling scared, or lost or isolated to cast their fears on God. We also know that poorer communities, minority ethnic communities and those living with disabilities have been afflicted disproportionately and cry out for the healing of these inequalities.

During this pandemic, we encourage everyone to do all they can to live within the guidelines and constraints given by government following the advice of the Chief Medical Officer and Chief Scientific Adviser. We show our commitment, care and love for one another by ensuring we do everything we can to stop the virus spreading.

None of this is easy. Very many of us are experiencing isolation, loneliness, anxiety and despondency like never before. Many people have lost their livelihoods. Our economy struggles. Also, the necessary restrictions we live with have also prevented us from being alongside loved ones as they died, or even at their graveside. All grief profoundly affects us, but this pandemic grief is so hard.

Therefore, we need to support each other. We do this by following the guidelines. But we also do it by reaching out to each other with care and kindness.

One thing we can all do is pray. We hope it is some consolation to know that the church prays for the life of our nation every day. Whether you're someone of faith, or not, we invite you to call on God in prayer. Starting on 1st February we invite you to set aside time every evening to pray, particularly at 6.00p.m. each day. More than ever, this is a time when we need to love each other. Prayer is an expression of love. A number of resources will be made available at www.ChurchofEngland.org/PrayerForTheNation.

Finally, we write of hope. We are grateful for the hope we have because of the service of our NHS and social care staff. What a blessing and lifeline for our nation. We are grateful for the service given in local communities by clergy, other frontline workers and so many good neighbours. We are grateful for the hope of the vaccine. It is a testimony to the God-given wisdom and gifts of scientists and researchers. We urge everyone to take the vaccine as soon as it is offered to you.

Most of all, we have hope because God raised Jesus from the dead. This is the Christian hope that we will be celebrating at Easter. We live in the hope that we will share in his resurrection. Death doesn't have the last word. In God's kingdom every tear will be wiped away.

Please be assured of our prayers. Please join us.

Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury and Stephen Cottrell, Archbishop of York

Contact Details:

The Anglican ministers for the villages in the Parish of Alne 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 Alne

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

COPY DATE for March 2021 issue: 23rd February 2021 please.
e-mail: news@abchurches.org.uk