

PARISH NEWSLETTER

December 2021/ January 2022

**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. However Revd Coyne is currently on long term sick leave, so please do not try to contact her. Until 17th January 2022, Carmel can be contacted by e-mail at carmel-gittens@live.co.uk. Thereafter the first point of contact should be either one of the wardens or one of the co-ordinators. Contact details can be found at the back of the newsletter.



A farewell note from your Curate

I am sure by now most of you will have heard that I plan to retire (with permission to officiate) on 17th January 2022.

This decision has been extremely difficult, but necessary, as I have been increasingly juggling family and ministry commitments over the last year.

I was licensed as a Reader in the Church of England in April 2009 in Liverpool diocese and began house for duty ministry here in Brafferton and Alne benefices in 2013. I was ordained deacon then priest four years ago, and during all this time I have loved living here among such wonderful people.

The welcome and friendliness of you all played a huge part in mitigating the sense of loss of our very large family back in Liverpool and our homesickness.

Over the almost nine years we have lived and ministered here looking after the six churches, we have had many joys and indeed many challenges. When we first arrived, St Peter's Brafferton was under threat of closure, as the electrics were in such a dangerous condition that we could not get insurance cover. The church was also in desperate need of redecoration and some serious brick and plaster remedial work. We took on the challenge and managed with a lot of meetings and form filling, to secure a lottery grant for £180,000. Then, thanks to the wonderful generosity of our villagers and further grants, we also raised the incredible sum of £30,000. The electrics and redecorating were completed, and the church saved from closure. But this was just the beginning of the work as a later and larger work to replace the failing external masonry needed addressing. Once again people rallied to help, then, just as this was completed, the lead was stolen from the roof!

The sense of community and determination of the local people to fix this was just incredible and we could not have done it without you all. From fund raising to forming a fabric committee to ensure the future stability of the building restored to its glory.

But during this time, the most inspiring thing has been to see the spiritual growth in our communities. Visiting the sick and taking communion into people's homes and witnessing their moving closer to God. Working as a Chaplain at York hospital, praying with families as their loved ones were seriously ill or dying.

Working with our two schools has been a delight from the early days of open the book with Maureen East, Jean Benton, and Barbara White, to our weekly collective worship/assemblies. Harvests and Christingles. Being on the board of Governors for a while too.

The wonderful memories of visiting the local care homes, I have so many funny stories of my visits there....but one thing for sure, God was so clearly present in all those moments.

I have laughed with you at pantomime time, even performed at one of them! Loved our pop-up choirs, and Alne community choir, village barbeques, bonfires, and street fayres. Welcomed many babies and several adults into our church family via baptism. I have had the privilege of marrying couples and praying for their new lives together.

I have held the hands of the dying and wept with you as you have laid family members to rest, having conducted over one hundred funerals since the start of my ministry. I still consider it a great privilege to be asked to take the comfort of the Lord to grieving families at such a sad time.

But all of this I have done not in my strength alone, but in the strength of the Holy Spirit who has always been by my side in tough times.

The over two-year vacancy when our last Priest in charge, Chris Park, moved to another post, then this year as our new Priest in charge has sadly been so unwell, has been particularly difficult. I give a heartfelt thanks to all the lay teams, wardens, acting wardens and retired Vicars, who have helped and supported me through.

But I also need to give all my love and deep deep thanks to my wonderful family, who have sacrificed so much so that I can be here. Missing family occasions and so many Christmases together and me taking their dad so far away from them!

Which brings me to my final point. When we came over the hill to Yorkshire, all those years ago, Bill was diagnosed with Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis. He was given 2-5 years to live then. This man is my inspiration, fighting on and supporting me so much over the years. He took on the role of Treasurer in Brafferton and was instrumental in securing all the grants over the years. He has been my rock and has gracefully accepted the times I was called out during the wee small hours to a dying person or have been away from home for days during my ordination training. And the separation from our family. Now as his health has seriously deteriorated, it is time for me to spend some quality time with him, to make some happy memories with our family together.

As he could no longer manage the stairs, we have moved to a bungalow in Carlton Miniott. It is small and cosy, and I am not sure Holly doggy is too pleased!! She misses the large garden at Alne (a lot less for me to look after though!).

We have been blessed to have made many, many, lifelong friends, and you know who you are. Bill and I would love to have visitors, so do keep in touch, and please keep us in your prayers. We would be happy to see you in our new home.

But I will be carrying out all the usual advent and Christmas services so may see you then. My last service will be in Alne church on **Sunday, 16th January at 10.30a.m.** This will be a joint benefices service so I hope you can make it to say goodbye. We have too many memories to put down here, but will treasure them.

Once again, thank you all for your love and support over our time here with you, for the joy, the laughter, and the tears. May God bless you richly.

With love and ongoing prayers for you all.

Carmel and Billy Gittens

And of course, Holly doggy!

#baby Jesus rocks in Tollerton!



Keep an eye out this Advent for Baby Jesus!
Can you find him and give him a place to stay over Christmas?

From December 1st - 17th,
#baby Jesus rocks
will be appearing around Tollerton!

Can you find him?

Once you have found him, give him a warm and safe place to
sleep, but do bring him along to our candle-lit Christmas Service

at St Michael's Church, Tollerton
on Sunday 19th December
at 6.00pm.

There will be a chocolate for everyone who brings
#baby Jesus rocks to the service!

PS He would love to go home with you afterwards!

News from Alne Church

Remembrance Service

The Remembrance service on 14th November benefitted greatly from the Last Post and Reveille being played live in church by Simon Dawson. We are grateful to him for allowing us to make use of his talents alongside those of other veterans and readers who participated in the service.

The sun shone brightly through the newly cleaned stained glass which volunteers had worked hard on during the previous week. Many thanks are due to them too as the difference was clear to all attending!

Christingle service

Volunteers, including children, are welcome to get together in church from **2.00p.m. on Saturday, 18th December** to make Christingles for the **4.00p.m. service on 24th December**. Candles and tape will be available to supplement with oranges, sweets or fruit and cocktail sticks in order to prepare the Christingles for the children attending the service. If you can't attend on that day, candles and tape will be available at the back of the church from **Sunday, 12th December** to prepare at home.

Given that we need to keep everyone safe in the current circumstances, it would be enormously helpful if you could contact one of the following to let us know you intend to come along to the Christingle service:

Peter Cove at alnecove@btinternet.com	or	01347 838346
Sharon Oliver at mandsoliver@btinternet.com	or	07778 158770

Salvation Army Angels

The Salvation Army are collecting presents for children who might not otherwise have anything to open on Christmas morning.

If you would like to give a gift for a needy child this Christmas you can collect an Angel from Alne church, buy your gift, wrap it in Christmas paper and label it, indicating the age and gender of the child for whom the gift is intended (as written on the back of each angel).

Any new presents would be gratefully received anyway - without collecting a specific angel.

Please drop your donation in the boxes on the pew next to the kitchen area (opposite the main church door) any time during daylight hours. Angels can be collected from the same point, where there are suggestions for suitable gifts if you need any inspiration. Donations can be made until **12th December**.

Bell ringing for COP26

In Alne Church there are three bells dated 1638, 1656 and 1756 respectively.

The ringing of church bells has traditionally been a warning sign across the nation so, prior to the start of COP26, representatives of churches across the country were asked to ring their bells to underline the threat to the world due to climate change.

As this was at very short notice, a small number of volunteers (including Stephanie Mortimer, seen here) gathered at the church during the evening of Saturday 30th October to ring the bells.

The congregations in Alne and our sister churches continue to pray for much needed progress across the world on the preservation of our precious planet.



Parish Records

Interment of ashes:

25th October 2021 – Christine Kinnell

Funeral:

29th October 2021 – Kathleen Carruthers

COMMUNITY NEWS

Village Hall December events

Pub Night

Friday 17th December - PUB Night.



Please note- There will **NOT** be a Christmas Eve Pub Night this year.

Alne Village Hall Christmas Tree

This year Alne is to have a Christmas Tree outside the Village Hall alongside the usual icicle lights. The tree has very kindly been donated by the Bells.

We are going to have a Christmas Tree Lights switch on event on **Sunday 5th December from 5.00 – 6.00p.m.** There will be mulled wine, hot chocolate, tea and coffee with mince pies to purchase.

Helen Dawson from the Alne Singers will be there with some of the choir to lead some carols. It is hoped the weather will be dry so the event can be outside (drinks served inside).

Alne Advent Window Trail

Sue Laycock has also been busy co-ordinating an Advent Window Trail and all 25 numbers have now been taken. A list of the houses will be available so why not pick up a trail (£1) each and enjoy the windows at the same time!

Lets' enjoy creating a very festive atmosphere in the village this year!

Alne Music Club

On **10th December** Alne Music Club presents Folk duo Plumhall. Plumhall are an exciting contemporary award winning feisty duo of Michelle Plum and Nick Hall who put on a great show.

Tickets are available to book online from www.plumhallmusic.com for £13.20, which includes a booking fee. For local people who can pay cash upfront to reserve a ticket in advance, tickets are available for £12, a bargain special price. E-mail d.lepper27@btinternet.com or phone 01347 838114.

The audience is limited to a maximum of 50, cabaret style, for your comfort and safety. If there are tickets still available on the night of the performance, they will be £14 on the door.

Doors open from **7.00p.m.** and there will be a bar.

Wishing you all Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year
Alne Village Hall Committee

Alne WI November Meeting

The gavel was gently brought down by our President Joan, who started our November meeting by recapping our wonderful 95th anniversary celebration. Joan introduced speaker: Jean Yorston and her talk on "Base Camp Everest. Jean is one of our members, I remember at one of our meetings asking what she had been doing since last month. "Oh, I went to Base Camp Everest" not an answer I was expecting!

Jean who is 79 YEARS YOUNG joined her daughter, her granddaughter and her daughter's friend to make her expedition. Jean packed her bags, including fleeces, walking boots and outdoor clothes that had been donated for Sherpas, which at Heathrow were distributed through everyone's luggage.



The flight was delayed, which in turn meant they missed their connecting flight from Delhi to Kathmandu. The airline promised if they flew to Calcutta there would be a hotel in the airport & they would fly them back to Delhi the next day! Unfortunately, the hotel didn't exist, they slept on a very thin carpet on a floor! They did fly the next day, Calcutta-Delhi-Kathmandu, into the most dangerous airport in the world on board a 16-seater plane filled with passengers and carrots! First stop a toilet.

The party was met by their Sherpas. A good meal & nights rest prepared them for the 5 hour trek the next day. They were told they must always stay on the inside of the pathway as a sheer drop was on the other. They were passed by men and Yaks, carrying an assortment of goods, fridges, freezers, carrots, etc. everything must be carried to base camp, there are no roads. Jean did 4 more treks, ranging from 7 to 4 hours a day, including crossing 3 suspension bridges (no mean feat for someone afraid of heights but her strong faith got her across), unfortunately, as the air was getting thinner and the thought of holding the party back, Jean made the decision to return to Kathmandu. 2 Sherpas brought her back, who respectfully referred to her as Momma Jean.

Jean is still bemused that so many people wanted to have a selfie photograph with her. Jean was an amazing speaker and inspirational person.

Maggie and Helen provided us with a wonderful supper to round off the meeting.

Afterwards the annual (much anticipated & enjoyed) charity Tombola organised by our President Joan was held. This year the fantastic sum of £145 raised will go to the Motor Neurone Disease Charity.

Next meeting **Wednesday, 8th December** – Christmas Fun. Visitors (£3) always given a warm welcome.

Alne WI 95th Anniversary Celebration

Alne WI celebrated its 75th anniversary with a visit to historic Ripon and afternoon tea. Some of our members had grown up, had family, or taught in Ripon, so were able to share interesting, educational facts & personal memories, the very best way to a place. The city had been “yarn bombed” with poppies, which added to its beauty.



The 13th Century cathedral was the focus of our visit; the cathedral is full of history, beautiful windows, interesting architecture but still retains its gentle, calm reflective spirit. The choir screen was a delight and we learnt that Lewis Carroll's inspiration for the white rabbit going down a hole in Alice in Wonderland came from a carving on one of the wooden pews! We completed our visit with an outstanding afternoon tea in The Yorkshire Tea Room, (how daunting for them, 22 WI members!). They rose to the challenge magnificently. We had a wonderful time as the photographs show.





A reminder that the Plumhall Concert is taking place on **Friday, 10th December starting at 7.30p.m.** Tickets available online from www.plumhallmusic.com for £13.20 or alternatively available for the special price of £12 cash in advance to reserve your seats up to a week ahead from d.lepper27@btinternet.com or phone 01347 838114. If tickets are still available at the door or a couple of days beforehand they will be £14, so book early for best value for money.

On **Friday, 28th January 2022** we have a double bill of local singer songwriter **Gary Stewart** who is based in Easingwold together with **Rosie Doonan**. Gary plays homage to Paul Simon and fronts a larger band that performs the classic Graceland album. He has released a couple of albums on his own account, the latest "Lost, Now Found" came out earlier this year, recorded during lockdown, it a charming album. Gary will be performing many of the songs from this record, and also some Paul Simon covers which he does superbly.





Gary Stewart in a recent concert performance at Stillington Mill

His friend Rosie Doonan has performed in concert duetting with Peter Gabriel in front of large stadium audiences and has a powerful singing voice. Rosie also provided backing vocals on Gary's recent album.

Tickets will be £10, see the Aine Music Club Facebook Page for more details.

David Lepper
Aine Music Club Promoter



GIVE THE GIFT OF YOGA THIS CHRISTMAS

**Treat yourself or a loved
one to a five-week yoga
course to begin 2022
with energy, mindfulness
and bliss.**

**Gift
Vouchers
Available**

**MONDAY MORNINGS
STARTING 10TH OF JANUARY
ALNE VILLAGE HALL - £60**

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or email laura@mumsyoga.com**

www.mumsyoga.com



Alne Oil Co-operative



Happy Christmas to all our Members



The Alne Oil Co-operative is a founder member of the Lower Swale Syndicate of Oil Co-operatives. Collectively, nearly 1,000 Syndicate members purchase between 1.5 and 2 million litres of heating oil annually. The Syndicate is run by volunteers for the benefit of the community.

We recently met with our supplier, Tate Fuels, and agreed to continue to work together to offer members preferential rates for the supply of domestic heating oil. The arrangement has been working well for both parties.

Members can order at any time and Tate Fuels has undertaken to deliver within 10 working days from order. The price charged will be that applying on the delivery date. (Preferential prices are applied January to November inclusive. December deliveries will be charged at market rate, as this is the supplier's busiest month.)

If not a Member, why not join? You will undoubtedly save money by comparison with your existing supplier and Tate's service has been outstanding!



Call EDCCA on
01347 822875

or our 24/7 message line
0772 44 44 750

Our service:

- We deliver to Easingwold and our many surrounding villages.
- If you wish, we can discuss further help and offer confidential support over the telephone during lockdown.
- Our food packages contain tinned and dry goods for 3-5 days supply. We include UHT milk, bread and spread as well as toiletries. We can also try to supply fresh fruit and vegetables.



info@edcca.org.uk



<https://edcca.org.uk>

Are you looking for a bit of space, the opportunity for peace and quiet before Christmas?

Our next contemplative/ imaginative prayer meeting will take place on **Wednesday, 22nd December at 7.30p.m. in St Michael's church Tollerton.** It will give you the time to stop, be quiet and consider the Christmas narrative in a new and contemplative light. The meeting will last no longer than an hour.

All are very welcome to attend



St Michael's church

now has a Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/stmichaelstollerton>

If you want to know
about services at St Michael's Church
or any of the other activities
taking place in the church
look for us on Facebook

ANGLICAN SERVICES

DECEMBER 2021

Venue	5 th Dec	12 th Dec	19 th Dec	24 th Dec	25 th Dec
Aldwark	10.30a.m. Baptism	4.00p.m. Carol Service			9.00a.m. Christmas Day Communion
Alne		10.30a.m.		4.00 p.m. Christingle	
Tollerton	10.30a.m. Morning Worship	10.30a.m. Morning Worship	6.00p.m. Carols by Candlelight		9.00a.m. Christmas Day Communion

There will be no services on **Sunday, 26th December 2021.**

JANUARY 2022

Venue	2 nd Jan	9 th Jan	16 th Jan	23 rd Jan	30 th Jan
Aldwark	No service		10.30a.m. Joint Service at Alne Holy Communion		
Alne		10.30a.m. Holy Communion		10.30a.m. Holy Communion	
Tollerton	10.30a.m. Morning Worship	10.30a.m. Morning Worship		10.30a.m. Morning Worship	10.30a.m. Morning Worship

METHODIST SERVICES

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

Elizabeth can be contacted on 01347 821460. You are welcome at all of the village services listed below.

DECEMBER 2021

Date	Time	Venue	Service Details
5th Dec	10.30a.m.	Stillington	R Jackson
12th Dec	3.00p.m.	Tholthorpe	E Cushion
19th Dec	10.30a.m.	Stillington	E Cushion
24th Dec	6.30p.m.	Huby	E Cushion
25th Dec	9.30a.m.	Stillington	E Cushion
26th Dec	No Service		

JANUARY 2022

Date	Time	Venue	Service Details
2nd Jan	10.30a.m.	Huby	E Cushion
9th Jan	3.00p.m.	Alne	E Cushion
16th Jan	10.30a.m.	Stillington	B Taylor
	3.00p.m.	Tholthorpe	Covenant – E Cushion
23rd Jan	10.30a.m.	Alne	TBC
30th Jan	11.00a.m.	Huby	Covenant - E Cushion
	3.00p.m.	Tholthorpe	E Cushion (by Zoom)

Contact Details:

The Anglican ministers for the villages in the Parish of Alne are Revd. Debbie Coyne and Revd. Carmel Gittens. However Revd Coyne is currently on long term sick leave, so please do not try to contact her.

Until 17th January 2022, Carmel can be contacted by e-mail at: carmel-gittens@live.co.uk

Thereafter, please contact Church Wardens / Co-ordinators in the first instance.

Church Wardens/ Co-ordinators

St Mary's Alne

Sharon Oliver 07778 158770 e-mail mandsoliver@btinternet.com

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

The Methodist Minister for the villages around Easingwold is The Rev Elizabeth Cushion (Tel: 01347 821460)