

PARISH NEWSLETTER

May 2024

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

Please contact the church wardens as the first point of contact – a full list of wardens is provided on page 16 of this Parish Newsletter.



Easter Day Sermon – York Minster

Archbishop Stephen delivered the sermon during the Festal Eucharist at York Minster on Easter Day. This follows in full:

‘For whom are you looking?’ (John 21. 15)

This is Christ's question to Mary Magdalene on the morning of the first Easter day - and at that point still unknown to her.

The answer, of course, is that she's looking for Jesus, the very person who is addressing her; and although I don't know exactly why each one of you has come to York Minster this morning, I expect we all have this in common: we're looking for Jesus.

Perhaps you are someone of robust faith and you are here, as it were, to further deepen the relationship with God that you already have.

Or perhaps you are searching, confused and concerned by the trials and horrors of our world and believing there must be a better way?

Perhaps you've glimpsed this way in Jesus and even, maybe, in some of those who follow him, and you're here to see if he really can be found today?

Or perhaps you really don't know why you are here at all.

You walked in off the street. It's a good way of getting to see York Minster without having to pay the entrance fee.

Or you like the music.

You love the building.

Or maybe, for you, this place, at this hour, is the last chance saloon, that, like one of the thieves crucified with Jesus, and knowing the ways your life has not turned out as you had hoped, you are crying out: 'Jesus remember me.'

Mary herself had come to the garden to anoint a corpse. It was still dark. She probably couldn't sleep. All her hopes were dashed. Nailed to the tree and now buried in a tomb.

And here is the first enigmatic message of Easter. The tomb is empty. 'He is not here', are the first words spoken to describe - and even begin to explain - what has happened.

You are looking for him. But he is not where you put him. Not where you left him. Not where you are expecting him to be.

And then, lingering in the garden – while, I note, all the men in the story rush around like headless chickens, looking busy, but achieving very little - Mary sees someone whom she believes to be the gardener.

Perhaps he knows what has happened? Perhaps he has seen the body taken away?

He speaks to her; 'Woman, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?'

And all I'm suggesting to you this morning - whoever you are and for whatever reason you find yourself here - is that in and through and beyond, and at the same time right in front of you in this place, in this service, in these words you are hearing now, and in the profound comfort of the sacramental presence of the risen Jesus in broken bread and poured out wine, sisters and brothers, it is this same Jesus who stands before you.

You came to look for him, but the profound, beautiful, life changing truth of the gospel is that he is looking for you. He has plumbed the depths of what it is to be human, even sharing death itself.

And now he has returned.

He is not on the cross where we executed him.

He is not in the tomb where we buried him.

He is with us - by his Spirit and in and through the work and witness of his Church.

And, I want to say this to each of you. He loves you very much. He cares for you.

He has known you since the very first moment of your being.

He delights in you.

He weeps over your feelings; cries out at the injustices and cruelties you have experienced.

He longs to be so invited into your life, that he may be alive in you for others, so that his kingdom, which is not a territory on a map with borders and governments, but a beautiful, ever expanding network of healed heart and changed lives, that through this, He can change the world itself, even if it is just one heart at a time.

And when this happens: when, like Mary, we hear Jesus speaking our name; when we discover that he has always been looking for us, we receive him with joy, embrace him and live our lives in him.

And, yes, there is great joy; and there is freedom from fear, from failure, from exclusion and from anxiety; but, no, it doesn't necessarily make life easier. In fact, perhaps harder.

'Don't cling to me', says Jesus to Mary. 'I am returning to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God' and I am preparing a place for you and for everyone.

Now you will be my representatives in the world, you will be my hands and eyes and feet and heart.

I will be present in the world through you. And your life must be shaped by my life. And yes, this is hard.

During the Second World War, Bishop Wilson of Singapore, and later Bishop of Birmingham, was interned by the Japanese and tortured in the Camp at Changi.

Speaking about his experience in 1946 and what it taught him about following Jesus, he recalled words of one of my predecessors, Archbishop William Temple.

Temple had written that if we pray for a particular virtue, whether it be patience or courage or love, one of the ways that God answers this is by giving us opportunity to express it.

This is not, perhaps, the answer to prayer we would choose, and Bishop Wilson said this in his sermon –

'After my first beating I was almost afraid to pray for courage lest I should have another opportunity of exercising it; but my unspoken prayer was there, and without God's help I doubt whether I should have come through.

'Long hours of ignoble pain were a severe test. In the middle of that torture, they asked me if I still believed in God. When by God's help I said, "I do", they asked me why God did not save me; and by the help of his Holy Spirit I said, "God does save me. He does not save me by freeing me from pain or punishment, but he saves me by giving me the spirit to bear it." And when they asked me why I did not curse them, I told them it was because I was a follower of Jesus Christ, who taught us that we were all sisters and brothers.

'I did not like to use the words, "Father forgive them." It seemed too blasphemous to use our Lord's words, but I felt them, and I said "Father I know these men are doing their duty. Help them to see that I am innocent." And when I muttered "Forgive them," I wondered how far I was being dramatic, and if I really meant it, because I looked at their faces as they stood round and took it in turn to flog, and their faces were hard and cruel, and some of them were evidently enjoying their cruelty.

'But by the grace of God, I saw those men not as they were, but as they had been. Once they were little children playing with their brothers and sisters and happy in their parent's love... and it is hard to hate little children. But even that was not enough. Then came into my mind as I lay on the table the words of that communion hymn:

'Look, Father, look on his anointed face, And only look on us as found in him.'

'And so, I saw them, not as they were, not as they had been, but as they were capable of becoming, redeemed by the power of Christ; and I knew that it was only common sense to say "Forgive."

Few of us will, thank God, find ourselves tested in this way.

But this is the way of Christ. To see ourselves, and to see others, as God sees them and as God loves them. And to be found in Christ. And to forgive, as he forgives.

Dear friends, it is also, the only hope for our world.

And the alternative is on show each day in the terribly inequalities and depravities of our world, which means that even in a country like ours, the sixth wealthiest in the world, child poverty and inequality continues to rise; asylum seekers fleeing terror and torture themselves are treated with indignity; where Christians in Gaza and the West Bank are not able to worship today as we are, where war foments, where antisemitism and Islamophobia are on the rise, where conflict smoulders – in the Holy Land itself, in Ukraine, Yemen and Sudan, in human hearts bent on endless retribution, unfound by grace, endlessly banging the table for what we have decided is just, but with no mercy whatsoever.

This is the world where Christ is not recognised; where he reaches out to our sorrows and pleads with us to think again, but we do not listen, so conditioned by vengeful hatredness and all that has proceeded from it, that we do not hear him calling our name, we do not see him standing among us.

We are here this morning, even with the concerns and conflicts of the world, because we are looking for him and because we know that we need something that is outside ourselves and that can make us, and those we love and all the world what it is meant to be. We long to be found.

After eight months, and the most unimaginably awful torture, Bishop Wilson was released. He wrote very movingly about the joy of seeing sunlight again. He said it was like a foretaste of resurrection and that of course God is to be found on the cross, sharing in the sufferings of the world, but it is the resurrection that has the final word.

Which is why Easter day, this Easter day, is a day of celebration.

The dead wood of the cross has become the tree of life. Where life was lost, their life has been restored.

New Hope and new joy break forth. Flowers grow.

And we, the people of God rejoice.

And forgive me, I think I find myself saying this on every Easter morning, but make no apology for saying it again, for there is nothing the devil and the dark forces of the world hate more than laughter and rejoicing, especially the laughter and rejoicing that comes from victory over evil and even death itself.

This is why we open the Champagne today, fill the fridge with beer, eat lots of chocolate, shuck many oysters, slap legs of lamb on the grill, rustle up the rum punch and dance the night away, embracing one another with hopeful joy and confident expectation: the Lord is risen. He is risen indeed. Alleluia! He has appeared to Mary. He longs to come to us. And everything is changed.

One last amazing thing.

After the end of the Second World War and when Singapore was liberated, some of the men who had tortured Bishop Wilson came back to find him. They asked him to baptise them.

Amen

Save the date, Saturday 15th June 2024

Maidens Folly gardens in Youlton will be open between 1.00p.m. and 5.00p.m. Wander through the White garden, an homage to Vita Sackville-West's garden at Sissinghurst, and explore the several garden rooms for a contrast to the more colourful parts. Help raise funds for Rotary International locally supported charities, including St Stephen's Church Fabric Fund in Aldwark.

Admission £5 (cash or card) payable on the day, children free, with tea and home-made cakes available. Car parking on grass.

Contact David Robinson 07856 645399 or e-mail
d.robinson436@btinternet.com

Alne Street Fayre – Supporting Your Recreation Ground

Street Fayre Day is nearly here. **Sunday, June 9th from 12.00 noon to 4.30p.m.** is the date, so prepare yourself for a fantastic afternoon of fun, frolics and fabulous entertainment. All you need to know is at <http://www.alnestreetfayre.co.uk>.

The day itself is designed for enjoyment but remember that everything that is earned from the day goes directly back to our community by making sure that the Recreation Ground can continue to offer all-year-round facilities for everyone. This year, Alne Parish Leisure Association (APLA), which manages the Recreation Ground, is spending most of its reserves on refurbishment and exciting new additions. A successful Street Fayre is essential to keep that momentum going.

Street Fayre Day is a great opportunity for families and friends to get together and enjoy themselves so don't forget to invite all those people you have not seen for a while to join you.

We welcome anybody who would like to help with the Street Fayre. As little as one hour is appreciated and it is not too late – we can always do with extra pairs of hands. A great way to meet people, if you are interested, please contact Chris McCrae (07960 397498 or cmccrae100@yahoo.co.uk).

Above all though – attend, support and have a fun day.

Calling all bakers, we need your cakes and scones

Your kind donations for the Village Hall teas at Alne Street Fayre on **9th June 2024** would be greatly appreciated. Homemade or shop bought would be fantastic.

Are you able to do an hour or two helping with the Village Hall teas? **Sunday 9th June.** Times available between **12 noon and 5.00p.m.**

Please e-mail suzannewarren@btinternet.com or call 07971 689377.

Thank you.

St Leonard's
Hospice



Open Garden



(Including Afternoon Tea)
By kind permission of James and Debbie Lee

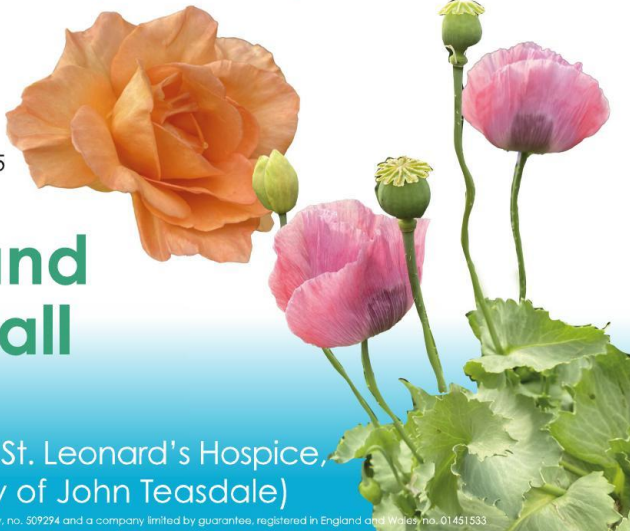
Sunday 16 June 2024

2-6pm Low Hall, Alne, York, YO61 1TW

Tickets - £10 each

Available from:

Mary - Veg Stall, Alne
Debbie - 07734 971165
Jean - 07743 214229



Raffle and plant stall

Parking Available

All Proceeds for St. Leonard's Hospice,
York (In memory of John Teasdale)

St. Leonard's Hospice, York is a registered charity, no. 509294 and a company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales no. 01451533

Alne WI Meeting Wednesday 10th April 2024

Joan (President) warmly welcomed members and visitors, we had 7 member apologies, so 35 members in attendance. We also welcomed 4 new members. We are thriving.

Apologies were given from members unable to attend. Joan then let us know, out of our preferred options, only The Dawnay Arms at Newton on Ouse could accommodate us all to be seated together for the WI summer dinner. Thanks was given to all members for paying this year's subscriptions on time.

Diana kept the WI Business part of the meeting brief, following up with full information by e-mail, to allow Maggie Soper to give a lovely, lively report on what seems to have been a wonderful day at the Spring Council meeting held in Scarborough that day, starting by telling us the opening address was again this year given in rhythm.

Maggie shared many of the wonderful anecdotes of the life stories of the 2 fabulous Speakers, Nicola Mills (opera singer "for the people") who also sang beautifully throughout her session and Rev. Kate Bottley.

Dates for Your Diary

The Forest of Galtres WI Group spring meeting is on **Monday, 15th April at 1.30p.m.**

Pam Towse will talk about 'Pam's Travels on a Camel'.

Cost £3 – non-WI guests welcome

Outing to Yorkshire Auction House on **30th April 2024.**

This week's "Speaker?" (Fabulous Dancer) Laucinda Roberts:
jorvikdance.com/.

Laucinda runs dance classes, Silver Swans & Gently Ballroom in the Easingwold and surrounding areas. Laucinda treated us to a fun introduction to The Tango and The Waltz, whilst thoroughly entertaining us at the same time with the story of her professional dancing life, her battle with Crohn's disease, leading to her eventually becoming a teacher with Silver Swans, which is an initiative for over 55's helping to improve mobility, posture, co-ordination and energy levels in a very gentle way. There followed one of the most fun filled, brilliant evenings and we all had a thoroughly fantastic time. "Watch out Strictly!".



THANK YOU LAUCINDA. PURE JOY.

Thanks to our hostesses, Maggie Soper, Karen Roger's and Laura Hanson for providing such delicious refreshments.

Chris McRae and Mary Hair for setting up the hall and Anne Brown for giving a thoughtful vote of thanks.

Next meeting: **Wednesday, 8th May at 7.30p.m.** (second Wednesday of the month).

Activity: Photography - Keith Hillsden. "Producing a good photograph from start to finish".

Competition: photograph of a Landscape.

Hall Set Up - Maggie Bond and Helen Taylor

Hostesses – TBC

Vote of thanks Denise Wrathall

Visitors (£4) always given a warm welcome. Come and meet us, we would like to meet you.

Christian Aid Sponsored Walk

Dorothy Gray from Ripon Christian Aid and myself from All Saints Kirby Hill Christian Aid groups are starting at 6.00a.m. on 12th May from York Minster and hope to arrive at Ripon Cathedral 12 hours or so later.

The theme for Christian Aid week this year is Poverty and the Cost of Living Crisis at home and abroad, particularly timely.

We are walking from York to Newton on Ouse then Aldwark to Myton on Swale, Kirby Hill, Skelton and finally Ripon. We have never walked this far previously and have been training hard for it.

We hope to get to Aldwark around noon but don't expect anything other than encouragement and any donations to the collecting tins!

Clare Slator
Kirby Hill



Sponsored Walk

a fundraising event for Christian Aid

York Minster to Ripon Cathedral
Via
Kirby Hill Church

On Sunday 12 May 2024

Clare Slator, Dorothy Gray and their dogs, Kit and Scout

Please ask you to sponsor them at
www.justgiving.com/page/dorothy-gray
1707059567927

Christian Aid week theme is poverty and the cost of living crisis in the UK and abroad



www.christianaid.org.uk



Do you know what is available in Alne?

- * Everything about Alne and up-to-date news. See <https://www.alnevillage.co.uk/>
- * Daily Newspaper delivery and general stores
Tollerton Stores 838436
- * Sunday Newspaper delivery. See <https://www.alnevillage.co.uk/sunday-newspapers.html>
- * Bakery van outside Village Hall every Saturday 08:00 – 09:00
<http://www.amosandwelsh.com>
- * Farmshop making weekly (Thursdays) deliveries in the village. Contact them on sales@farmgatefarmshop.com 868894 or 07759 609106
- * Milk delivery (and cream, eggs, yoghurts etc.)
Contact Gemma and Brett Potter on 07866-530953
- * Heating Oil purchase co-operative. See <https://www.alnevillage.co.uk/oil-co-op.html>
- * Regular buses to Easingwold and York. See <https://reliancebuses.co.uk/service-30-30x-30se/>
- * Weekly bus to Morrisons in Boroughbridge. 11:00 Mondays.
See https://sites.create-cdn.net/sitefiles/29/8/9/298951/Morrisons_bus.pdf
- * Sports: Thriving tennis and cricket clubs. See <https://www.alnevillage.co.uk/tennis.html> and <https://www.alnecc.co.uk/>
- * Alne Street Fayre, raising funds for the Alne recreation ground, sports field and play park. Now in its 39th year.
[The next Alne Street Fayre is on Sunday 9th June 2024.](#)
- * Maps. Historical maps are displayed in the Village Hall. There is an indexed map of Alne houses on the Parish Council notice board. Other maps of Alne and Alne Station can be found at <https://www.alnevillage.co.uk/maps.html>



Easingwold District Community Care Association

Registered Charity 1172534

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>

ANGLICAN SERVICES

May

Venue	5 th May	12 th May	19 th May	26 th May
Aldwark	10.30a.m. Holy Communion			
Alne		10.30 a.m. Holy Communion		10.30 a.m. Holy Communion
Tollerton	10.30a.m. Morning Worship	10.30 a.m. Morning Worship	10.30 a.m. Holy Communion	10.30 a.m. Morning Worship

METHODIST SERVICES for Villages Together

Revd David Bidnell is the Methodist Minister for villages around Easingwold.

David can be contacted on 01904 345429. You are welcome at all of the village services listed below



May

Venue/ Date	Alne @ Alne Hall	Huby	Husthwaite	Tholthorpe	Byland Abbey
3 May 10.30a.m.		Ruth Duck Holy Communion			
12 May 3.00p.m.	David Bidnell		10.30		
19 May 10.30a.m.		Stephen Leah Café Service			

Venue/ Date	Alne @ Alne Hall	Huby	Husthwaite	Tholthorpe	Byland Abbey
19 May 7.30p.m. Byland Abbey open air communion service.					David Bidnell Holy Communion
26 May 3.00p.m.				Elizabeth Cushion	

Contact Details:

Please Contact the 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

Richard Swan 01347 823644 e-mail richardswan@btinternet.com

Alison Dowson 01347 838138 e-mail amcd2350@gmail.com

COPY DATE for the June 2024 issue: 21st May 2024 please.

e-mail: news@abchurches.org.uk