

# PARISH NEWSLETTER

February 2022

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

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The Anglican minister for the villages in the Parish of Alne is Revd. Debbie Coyne. However Revd Coyne is currently on a phased return to work following long term sick leave, so please do not try to contact her. 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.



## The Most Reverend Desmond Tutu

Thankful memory of this wonderful human being.

One of the great and abiding images of the second half of the 20th century was Desmond Tutu and Nelson Mandela dancing in the courtroom at the end of the closing session of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in Cape Town. Nelson Mandela asked his friend Desmond Tutu to chair the Commission.

It was a bold and creative way of helping a nation divided brutally between black and white learn to live in glorious technicolour by facing up to the horrors of its past and by putting the Christian imperative for forgiveness alongside the need for truth as the only way of achieving reconciliation.

And Desmond Tutu was asked to chair it because this incredibly joyful little disciple of Jesus Christ was one of the few people in South Africa other than Nelson Mandela himself, who could unite the nation and carry the trust of everyone.

In this respect, he was a giant.

The world itself feels a little smaller without him. His expansive vision of how the Christian faith shapes the whole of life has touched many hearts and changed many lives. The Anglican church in particular gives thanks for one of its greatest saints. But Christian people everywhere, and all people of goodwill, will today be mourning the loss of someone who showed the world what following Jesus looks like and where it leads.

Our prayers today are particularly with his family and with our sisters and brothers in the Anglican Church of South Africa. When I go to my chapel this morning to celebrate the Eucharist on this, Saint Stephen's day, I may dance a little jig in thankful memory of this wonderful human being. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

*Stephen Cottrell, Archbishop of York*

## **News from Alne Church**

### **Revd. Carmel Gittens retirement service – January 16<sup>th</sup>. 2022**

The church was once again full of people from across the Alne, Brafferton, Myton and Thormanby parishes to say our goodbyes to Revd. Carmel Gittens as she led her last service with us before her well-deserved retirement. Many wanted to express their sincere thanks for her input over the period she has spent with us, and particularly over the last few years, which have been particularly difficult for everyone. Thanks to those who brought celebratory snacks and cakes to enjoy after the service.

## **New heating and lighting ...**

Plans are being finalised for the new, much needed, heating and lighting in the church. Donations to the restoration fund over the last few years will be used to fund this work, which will hopefully go ahead in 2022.

## **... and internal porch?**

However, additional work is required to make full use of the sunlight and heat that are blocked out from the South by the existing internal porch and could be harnessed by its replacement with a glass porch of the kind often seen in church entrances. Work included in this phase of the project would also improve disabled access.

## **FUTURE OF ST MARY'S, ALNE**

It is clear that church attendance has changed with the pressures of modern life and especially with virtual services in recent years that are accessible online as live streams or to view at any convenient time. This means that the usage of our churches is being closely scrutinised and, over the next few years, decisions will be made by the Church of England about the future of some of these historic village assets. At present, there is no definite or immediate threat to St Mary's but, in order to secure the future of this ancient 12<sup>th</sup> century (in parts) building, the village will need to demonstrate it is of value and fully utilised in whichever way residents choose, within reason.

Financial support goes a long way to demonstrate that facilities are valued by the local community. If you feel able to set up a small, regular monthly or annual donation to support the above works and those that will be required in the next few years to maintain and restore the beams in the tower by making it more waterproof, keeping it woodworm free and the bells functioning safely, please get in touch using the contact information above. Bank details will then be provided to set up a direct debit or standing order.

Without the ongoing generous and demonstrated support of the local community, the future of St Mary's will be up for debate in the not too distant future.

Please do make full use of your church as the attractive village asset that it is and not just for baptisms, weddings and funerals – important though these are.

All ideas welcome!

If you can use the church in any way for community groups, meetings or events, please do get in touch with Sharon Oliver at [mandsoliver@btinternet.com](mailto:mandsoliver@btinternet.com) or 07778 158770.

### **Christingle service**

It was lovely to see the church full on 24<sup>th</sup> December for this popular service and, thankfully, everyone who enquired beforehand about booking a place was accommodated. This totalled 72 adults and 28 children, with Christingles given to all children and then to others who wished to take them. Many thanks to those who supplied the sweets, oranges and time to get them ready.



### **Salvation Army Angel Appeal**

Many donations were gratefully received by The Salvation Army from our churches for them to distribute to children who might not otherwise have anything to open on Christmas morning.

A very big thank you to all those who donated children's presents from the Angel Tree. This photo shows the generosity of the residents of Alne, Aldwark and Tollerton, with over 140 presents under the tree. The Salvation Army lady who collected the presents was absolutely delighted. It is sad to reflect that there are so many families in York who are in such need but she assured us these toys would bring great joy to children on Christmas day.



### **Parish Records**

Interment of ashes:

14<sup>th</sup> December 2021 – Tony Harrison

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### **A few years in the life of the Village clocks**

The Walkers and Mortimers have been doing the Village Hall clock since about the summer of 2017 when my son Alex first started to do it towards his Duke of Edinburgh Silver award (along with the Church clock). Between my two sons (Alex and Tom) and the Walkers two sons (also Alex and Tom - can you believe it!!) the two families have kept it going from 2017 until present day with help from us parents in between the times when they weren't doing their DoFE awards. It's been a lovely thing to do for the community and all of us have enjoyed it.

The boys have shown dedication going week in and week out and we have used all the tips John Teesdale kindly passed on as their mentor at the beginning, including how to manage times when it stops or when the hour goes back or forward. (Not as easy as it may first sound as the hands must not be wound backwards and really should only be moved on a small amount.) The clock keeps good time only losing a couple of minutes a week and a good head for heights is needed to get up to the face where the winding mechanism is!

The boys have also (with guidance and mentoring from Alan Daniels ) kept the church clock going too over the same period of time, this time with Alan taking back the role which was his originally, in between the times the boys weren't working on their awards. It's helped the boys collect 4 Bronze and 2 Silver Awards; and 2 Gold and 1 Silver are still in the pipeline!

We are very grateful to Alan, John and Peter Bond for their support and trust in the boys over the years and we are very happy to carry on being keepers of the village clock! We are also grateful to John and Alan for the opportunity given and have thoroughly enjoyed being able to give a little back to the village that we have loved living in!

Stephanie Mortimer  
January 2022

The Village Hall Committee would like express our thanks to the Mortimers for continuing in 2022 to look after the special clock in the Village Hall. We are very fortunate.

## **River Kyle depth gauge and footbridge**

Thanks to Alne Parish Council, there is now no need to guess as to which flood was the higher. A new depth gauge has been erected on the west side of the Avenue bridge in Alne and shows the height of the water in metres above normal. Our thanks to the landowner for his permission and advice, to Councillor John Newton for his fabrication and to Councillor Eddie Edwards and Allium Organics for their assistance in installation.

We have been in regular touch with NYCC on the question of the missing footbridge over the river Kyle. Their official word in January 2022 is that 2022/23 funding for footpaths is looking more healthy and they are “reasonably confident” that our bridge will be restored, probably in the summer of 2022. Thanks to Councillor Colin Fletcher for keeping on top of this.

Robert Brech, Chairman, Alne Parish Council

## **2022 Alne Street Fayre and Road Closure**

The first meeting of the 2022 Street Fayre organising group was held at the end of January. The Street Fayre is the annual fund-raising event for the Alne recreation park and is an excellent fun group for village newcomers to join. Please come along to the next meeting which will be later in February. The date will be published on the Alne Village website calendar.

We also need a couple of digitally-confident volunteers to help with the Street Fayre website and programme. Please contact Suzi on 07718-801591 or [alnestreetfayre@btinternet.com](mailto:alnestreetfayre@btinternet.com).

Alne Street Fayre has put forward their proposals for the road closures in Alne on Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup> June 2022. The plan, which takes into account the safety considerations proposed by North Yorkshire County Council, is the same as the last several years and is posted on the Alne Parish Council notice board. Any comments by 8<sup>th</sup> February, please, to [alnestreetfayre@btinternet.com](mailto:alnestreetfayre@btinternet.com).

## News from Alne Park

The proposal to establish a running track on the Alne recreation field received very little support and has been shelved.

We need a couple of volunteers to take over from the late Dennis Myers the management of the woodland at the top of the recreation field. Tholthorpe scouts already have a project in hand to assist in this but a couple of keen Alne volunteers are needed to oversee what is to be done. The orchard also has work being done by a contractor but this, again, needs oversight. Please contact Robert on 838265 or [brech28@btinternet.com](mailto:brech28@btinternet.com).

## Alne WI Meeting December 2021

This month was our Christmas celebration. Due to the covid situation our wonderful committee volunteered to organise and host our traditional outing, combining it with our December meeting. What a fantastic job they did. WI news and information was kept to what was necessary by our President, Joan and Di our Secretary. Then our Christmas festivities



began, traditional party games, glorious food. We raised our glasses & toasted all our members (around the table & those unable to attend) and visitors that have joined us. After the challenges of 2021. To be able to sit around a Christmas table was special, the indomitable spirit of WI has shined through. A massive Thank you to the committee.

Date of next meeting to be confirmed.

Visitors (£3) are always given a very warm welcome.

May we wish everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year.



## **Alne Music Club – Chris Wood Concert Friday 25th March 7.30 pm**

The Gary Stewart Concert previously programmed for Friday 28<sup>th</sup> January was frustratingly sadly postponed due to the ongoing concerns about Covid locally. The decision was taken to “better be safe than sorry”. This gig will be rearranged for later in the year.

The exciting news is that for our next scheduled concert we have one of the absolute top notch singer songwriters in the country, **Chris Wood**. Chris (pictured) is a veteran performer, nationally critically acclaimed, who in the past has won Folk Song of the Year with his “One in A Million”. He is an astute observer and commentator on contemporary British society, with an insight into small details that capture your imagination. He is a fine guitar player with a mellow singing voice, but it is the power and strength of his carefully crafted memorable songs that will stay with you. Chris is based in Kent, so we are fortunate to host him in a live concert performance locally here “up north”. Some of his songs are more political with acerbic views, but others are more personal and charming, such as My Darling’s Downsized, the personal true story of his wife’s decision to take early retirement.

We now have our own ticket sales link where you can purchase tickets at £15 <https://buytickets.at/alnemusicclub/631669>. This is a premium price, but well justified for a premium performer here on your doorstep. I have seen Chris in concert over the years, he is someone truly special, once seen and heard live never forgotten, and he comes highly recommended.

We have a number of other future concerts in the pipeline:

**Boo Hewerdine** Friday 20<sup>th</sup> May, a superb melodic singer-songwriter  
**Plumhall** Feisty duo Michelle Plum & Nick Hall **Friday 9<sup>th</sup> September**  
Dorset duo **Ninebarrow** on **Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2023!**

**David Lepper Alne Music Club Promoter**  
01347 838114 [d.lepper27@btinternet.com](mailto:d.lepper27@btinternet.com)



### **Tholthorpe WI meeting 17<sup>th</sup> November 2021**

Our November meeting was held in our home venue at Tholthorpe Village Hall, where members agreed it was good to 'touch base', and to feel a little bit more grounded after all the challenges and uncertainties of the past year and a half. In normal times our group meets on the third Wednesday of the month, and prospective members and guests are always very welcome to join us.

Accordingly, we began this meeting with a warm welcome from our President Dorothy to all members, and visitors alike.

WI business matters this month included reports back from members who had been involved in WI events during the previous month:

One of us had attended the regional WI Federation Autumn Council meeting and had been moved and entertained in equal measure by the 2 speakers – the first, Karen, spoke about her personal experience and involvement with the work of the NHS Organ Donation Service, and the second, novelist Milly Johnson, gave us a most entertaining glimpse into her take on women's lives as wives, mothers, daughters, carers, peacemakers and comforters, not to mention chief cooks and bottle washers!

Also 2 of our members had taken part in the 'International Day: Nepal,' hosted by Stockton on Forest WI, which they had found to be a fascinating event looking at many aspects of the country of Nepal's history, society, culture and many-layered role in the world. And another of us had been to the Wreath Making Workshop in Thirsk, hard work but good fun.

The remaining business included mention of various upcoming WI events (not forgetting a reminder about our December Christmas meal outing!) and Dorothy gave details of current WI appeals – including a competition to design a card for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee (perhaps with inspiration from our evening's speakers/demonstrators!) and details from a request from York Women's Refuge for bedding items.

Business concluded, Dorothy then welcomed Richard and Clare Adams from Tholthorpe whose hobby is to make handmade greetings cards for friends and family – but with Christmas approaching, rather than just speak and demonstrate their talents to us, it was over to us members to have a go and try our



hand at designing and producing some examples of our own, This process was fortunately made much easier by Richard and Clare providing an abundance of ready-cut motifs and other materials, plus advice, which resulted in pleasingly professional results. Soon we were all absorbed in our work and there was general agreement that it had been a thoroughly relaxing and enjoyable way to spend an evening – and hopefully we would be inspired to make more use of our hidden artistic talents! Some of our efforts are shown here!

Many thanks to Richard and Clare

## 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 (Wednesdays) deliveries in the village. See <https://farmgatefarmshop.com>
- \* Milk delivery (and cream, eggs, yoghurts etc.)  
[Contact Liz and Andrew Wade on 838806](#)
- \* 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](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 37<sup>th</sup> year.  
[The next Alne Street Fayre is on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2022.](#)
- \* 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>



## Alne Oil Co-operative

The Alne Oil Co-operative is a founder member of the Lower Swale Syndicate of Oil Co-operatives. Collectively, nearly 1,000 Syndicate members purchased 1,789,488 litres of fuel oil in 2021.

Our agreement with the supplier ties the price members pay to the commodity (ex-refinery) price for fuel oil. This ensures that we are not affected by market fluctuations such as occurred last autumn when a certain amount of panic buying occurred. Syndicate prices were, at that time, on average, around 15p per litre cheaper than the lowest open market price (source: BoilerJuice, supplier syndicate prices). Ordinarily, we beat the BoilerJuice lowest price by between 3p and 5p per litre.

Members can order at any time and our supplier, 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 the supplier's normal rate, as this is their 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!

# PRAY ONE FOR ME!

Do you have a sick person, a bereaved friend, a job need or decision to be made, perhaps?

As Christians, we believe prayer changes the situation. You can post a request at any time into the letter box at the front of St. Michael's Church in Tollerton. But if you prefer, we will soon be dropping off through all Tollerton letterboxes another of our "Pray One for Me" cards.

Simply fill it in and drop it in the church letterbox so we can include\* your request in our prayers during one of our Sunday services, or within our personal prayer times.

\* Your privacy will be respected and only first names, or none if requested, will be used.





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## **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

### FEBRUARY 2022

Venue	6 <sup>th</sup> Feb	13 <sup>th</sup> Feb	20 <sup>th</sup> Feb	27 <sup>th</sup> Feb
Aldwark	10.30a.m. Holy Communion			
Alne		10.30a.m. Holy Communion		10.30a.m Joint Anglican/ Methodist
Tollerton	10.30a.m. Holy Communion	10.30a.m. Morning Worship	10.30 a.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.

### FEBRUARY 2022

Date	Time	Venue	Service Details
6 <sup>th</sup> Feb		Huby	Taylor
13 <sup>th</sup> Feb	3.00p.m.	Alne	E Cushion
20 <sup>th</sup> Feb	3.00p.m.	Tholthorpe	E Cushion
27 <sup>th</sup> Feb	10.30p.m.	Alne	D Priestnall

## **Contact Details:**

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

Therefore, 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](mailto:mandsoliver@btinternet.com)

### **St. Stephen's Aldwark**

Vivienne Bird e-mail [viviennebird@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:viviennebird@hotmail.co.uk)

### **St. Michael's Tollerton**

Arthur Harland 01347 823575 e-mail [janeatwoodyedge@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:janeatwoodyedge@yahoo.co.uk)

Alison Dowson 01347 838138 e-mail [amcd2350@gmail.com](mailto:amcd2350@gmail.com)

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

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e-mail: [news@abchurches.org.uk](mailto:news@abchurches.org.uk)