

PARISH NEWSLETTER

December 2017 & January 2018

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

There is now a vacancy for the Priest in Charge of the Alne Parish, although Carmel Gittens is still with us. She can be contacted by telephone on 01423 360702 or by e-mail on carmel-gittens@live.co.uk. However please try contacting the church wardens as the first point of contact – a full list of wardens is provided on page 13 of this Parish Newsletter.



PEACE AND GOODWILL TO ALL

Our lives today often seem to be spent between rushing and waiting. We rush to the airport only to queue up at the check-in desk. We rush to pre-Christmas/post-Christmas sales and wait to pay at the checkout. Waiting involves a necessary slowing down as well as hope of fulfilment.

The Advent season (Advent means 'coming' or 'arrival') that begins the Church's year summons us to slow down, even if our lives seem even more hectic than normal; it also calls us to live in hope and real expectation. Usually we think of the coming of Jesus only in terms of his birth at Christmas. But there are actually three ways in which to think of his coming: past, present and future. Jesus came as a human person like us when he was born in Bethlehem more than 2,000 years ago. Jesus still comes into our own personal histories today, through prayer, through the sacraments, to those willing to receive him. Finally, Jesus will come at the consummation of history to judge the world.

Through the readings from Scripture during Advent, the Church reminds us that we won't be able to celebrate the anniversary of his coming to us at Bethlehem properly, or receive him into our hearts through prayer and the sacraments worthily, unless we're prepared to meet him at the final judgement. To celebrate the joy of Jesus' birth fully, we must live each and every day prepared to meet the Lord Jesus whenever he comes.

This Advent God calls to us through the voices of the prophet Isaiah, King David, John the Baptist, Paul, Peter and Mary of Nazareth. They speak urgently to us.

Through the words of the prophet Isaiah, God assures the people that he is always their redeemer and nearest kin, a God who has never been absent from them, a God who is always ready and waiting to be found, even by those who have given up looking for God. 'Here I am, here I am' God also calls to us this Advent.

We also learn from the book of Isaiah that God is repelled by injustice and violence and summons people to turn and walk a different way. How unrealistic Isaiah's vision seems when appalling violence and war still seem to prevail. Yet Isaiah's messages were proclaimed in a no less difficult time, when the small and insignificant nation of Israel was threatened with destruction by the superpower of its day.

During this Advent may I recommend a deeper engagement with the book of Isaiah through study and prayer, perhaps for ten minutes each day, letting his words refresh your hearts. And then there is the voice of John the Baptist, a voice that refuses to be silenced. Herod Antipas tried to do just that by having him beheaded; yet here we are, centuries later, listening to him. John the Baptist stands before us, blocking out sentimentality and reminding us that Advent is less about 'baby Jesus' and more about the adult; Coming One, and the mystery of his life, death and resurrection that is offered as a means of interpreting our own lives.

John does not deliver his message in the second temple or anywhere else in the Holy city of Jerusalem, but by the River Jordan. At a busy crossing place, so significant in the history of Israel, John urges people to cross over into God's forgiveness through the waters of a ritual baptism of repentance. During this Advent the Baptist invites us to engage in an honest assessment of the water - not of the Jordan, but of our baptism - and to an honest

examination of our conscience. Advent is the time to ask ourselves just how faithful are we towards Christ Jesus into whom we were baptised?

Finally, we are brought up short by Mary of Nazareth - a powerless woman in a patriarchal world; a poor woman in a highly stratified society; found to be pregnant before she is married to her husband. Mary's God; our God, is full of surprises, always taking the initiative, turning our expectations upside down. This Advent this humble woman challenges us to live lives of attentiveness to the stirrings of God at work in the world, lives that are obedient to the call of God so that we can stand upright when he comes in glory at the end of time.

Every blessing for Christmas

Revd Carmel Gittens

GodZone

Fun sessions for children age 3 - 13 years

Sunday mornings twice a month

For more info see our facebook page



@St Michael's Church Tollerton

News from Alne Church

The Vacancy – The process of appointing a new vicar always seems to take time and currently the wardens think that we are unlikely to see our new vicar before the middle of 2018. In the meantime we thank Carmel Gittens for her consistent support. We are also grateful to a number of retired clergy who are taking some of our services; especially Canon Chris Hawthorn and Canon Robert Law. We continue to share our fourth Sunday service with our Methodist friends.

Christmas services – As usual these will include the **Carol Service (9th December at 7.00p.m.)**, **Christingle (Christmas Eve at 4.00p.m.)** and **Christmas Day (10.30a.m.)**. However, we are sorry that we will not be holding Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve; nor will there be a service on Sunday 31st December.

Helpers – We are very fortunate to have so many volunteers who carry out flower arranging and who help with church cleaning. A very big ‘Thank you’ to everyone! We offer our special thanks to Steve Gilholm who edits the Newsletter and to Alan Daniels for all his work in the churchyard. We also thank the dedicated Duke of Edinburgh Award students (Alex, Fizzy and Thomas) who have worked regularly in the churchyard over recent months.

Concert 11th November – Thanks to Helen and Simon Dawson and Emma Hewison. We had an excellent concert with a most varied and enjoyable programme plus lovely refreshments. Thanks to all who came and to those who contributed the refreshments.

Sunday Newspapers – We are pleased to learn that the plan to use the church as a collection point for Sunday newspapers is working well.

Christingle Makers – urgent call!

For the Christingle Service at Alne we need 250 Christingles. If you would be happy to make some please contact Carol Glen (838016), Peter Cove (838346) or e-mail office@abchurches.org.uk. We will supply the candles and ribbon, if you could supply the oranges, sweets or dried fruit, and cocktail sticks.

All best wishes for Christmas and the New Year!

Flower Rotas

We are extremely grateful to all those who continue to help with flower arranging and church cleaning. There are still some vacancies if anyone wishes to help – please contact Jean Teasdale (838431) for flower arranging and Gill Charlton (838325) regards cleaning.

December

2nd/16th Advent

The Team – Christmas

Christmas Celebrations in Church



Saturday 9th December

- 7.00p.m. Alne Carol Service with the Alne Singers.

Sunday 10th December

- 4.00p.m. Myton Carol Service

Thursday 14th December

- 6:30p.m. Carol Service at Thormanby

Monday 18th December

- 2.00p.m. Alne School Christingle Service

Friday 15th December

- 2.00p.m. Brafferton School Christingle Service

Sunday 17th December

- 4.00p.m. Aldwark Carol Service
- 6.00p.m. Tollerton Carols by Candlelight
- 6.30p.m. Brafferton Carol Service

Tuesday 19th December

- 6.30p.m. Tollerton Carol Singing around the village
- 6:15p.m. Myton Carol singing around the village, starting at church

Friday 22nd December

- 6.00p.m. Aldwark Carol Singing around the village – meet at the pub

24th December

- 3.30p.m. Brafferton Nativity
- 4.00p.m. Alne Christingle
- 11.30p.m. Brafferton Midnight Communion

25th December

- 9.00a.m. Aldwark All Age Communion Service
 - 10.30a.m. Alne Holy Communion
 - 10.30a.m. Brafferton Communion
 - 9.00a.m. Myton Holy Communion
 - 9:00a.m. Thormanby Holy Communion
 - 10.30a.m. Tollerton All Age Worship

Calling Christingle Makers

If you would be happy to make Christingles for us for our Christmas Eve service at St Mary's Alne would you please contact Carol Glen on 838016, Peter Cove on 838346 or e-mail office@abchurches.org.uk

We supply the candles and the ribbon, if you could supply the oranges, sweets and cocktail sticks.



St Stephen's Aldwark

Annual Carol Service

Sunday 17th December at 4.00p.m.

Start your Christmas by coming along to our popular Carol Service which will be led by the **Revd. Chris Mitchell**. The service of Carols, interspersed with a variety of readings and poems, caters for all tastes. Children are especially welcome. Afterwards everyone is invited to stay and enjoy a glass of wine and mince pies.

Decorating the Christmas Tree

Friday 15th December at 4.00p.m.

Children are invited to decorate the church Christmas tree. They always do a brilliant job!

Village Carol Singing

Friday 22nd December

Meet at the pub at **5.30p.m.** to go round the village singing Carols and offering mince pies, followed by Carol Singing in the pub from about 6.15 p.m. All are welcome, adults and children alike. Great enthusiasm more important than great voices!!! (Don't forget your torch!)

Christmas Day Service

9.00a.m.

Everyone is welcome to our Christmas Morning Breakfast Service. A shortened **All Age** Communion service with coffee, croissants and mince pies. A great way to start Christmas Day!

COMMUNITY NEWS

Village Hall News and Dates for your Diary



Dates for your diary.

Pub Night Christmas Eve after Christingle 5.00p.m. to 8.00p.m.

Whatever you are doing this Christmas don't miss our Christmas Eve pub night. This event was a huge success last year and very well attended.

Doors open at 5.00p.m.

Come and relax and have fun. All are welcome, friends, family & neighbours. There will be real ale on draught and mulled wine in addition to the normal bar.

Quiz Night 13th January 2018

Give your brain some exercise after the Christmas and New Year break. Come along and pitch your wits against your friends and neighbours. Maximum 6 in a team. **Doors will open at 7.00p.m. for a 7.30p.m. start.**

Pub Night Friday 9th February 2018 at 7.00p.m.

The first pub night of the New Year. Come and join us for a drink and a catch up.

Pub Night Friday 9th March 2018 at 7.00p.m.

Put the date in your diary now so you don't miss it.

Spring Plant Sale Sunday 20th May 2018

It may be a long time away but keep the date free and watch out for more details.

POP up Café. Unfortunately due to other commitments the pop up cafes will stop during the winter months. We hope to resume these in the Spring. If you can volunteer to help, then please get in touch.

Don't forget, the bakery van is stopping **every Saturday at 8.00a.m.** outside the Village Hall – delicious!

You can contact us at alnevillagehall@gmail.com You can check our webpage on www.alnevillage.co.uk for more information on the hall and upcoming events or follow us on Facebook. If you would like to be included on the email distribution list (which is confidential) please let us know.

Alne Singers Family Concert



Join Alne Singers for a special family concert

Saturday 16th December
2.00 pm
Alne Village Hall

Adults £5/Children Free

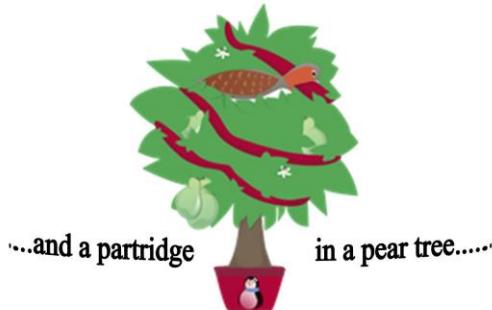
Refreshments/Cake stall/Raffle

Raising funds for Alne Preschool Playgroup



Tickets on the door or in advance from playgroup

An Evening of Songs and Carols
with
Alne Singers
and the
Shepherd Group Brass Quartet



Thursday 7th December
7.45 pm
Alne Village Hall
Adults £5/Children Free
Festive Refreshments & Raffle

Tickets on the door or in advance from Maggie Bond
(maggiebond23@hotmail.com)

Proceeds to be shared between the village hall,
church restoration fund and choir fund

Alne Oil Co-operative

Founder member of the Lower Swale Syndicate of Oil C-operatives



 **Happy Christmas to all our Members** 

- Tate Oil is closed to Co-operative orders for delivery during December and will re-open in January 2018 (our agreement with Tate is designed to encourage ordering outside their busiest period). If you need oil in the meantime, you can order in the usual way, but the price will be the prevailing market price, not the usual discounted Co-operative price.
- Members can order at any time (January to November) — Tate has undertaken to deliver within 10 working days from order. The price charged will be that applying on the delivery date.
- In the year to 31st March 2017, Lower Swale Syndicate members ordered just shy of one and a quarter million litres of heating oil, making a combined saving of £37,600 compared with the price quoted on the Boilerjuice website
- If you're not a Member, why not join? You will undoubtedly save money by comparison with your existing supplier and Tate's service has been outstanding! Membership is open to all — if you live in or around Alne and want to know more about the Alne Heating Oil Co-operative, please visit the Alne Village website at: www.alnevillage.co.uk/groups_oil.html or send an e-mail to: alne@swaleoil.org
- You can also find us on Facebook.

NYCC and EASINGWOLD COMMUNITY LIBRARY - HOME LIBRARY & INFORMATION SERVICE

Love books but can't get to the library?

Easingwold Community Library offers a **free service** for people of all ages who, because of ill health or disability, find it difficult to get to the library or carry books. **The service is also available to carers.**

Our volunteers will select books to suit the customer's tastes and they can either be collected from the library by a friend or relative or we can deliver directly to the customer every two weeks. Our delivery volunteers are all DBS checked and cover Easingwold and all the surrounding villages. We offer **free access** to books (including large print and children's), audio books, DVDs, music on CD and information

Users can **opt in and out** so can use the service if they are recovering from an illness or operation or can't get out in bad weather.

To find out more **please contact Easingwold Library on 01609 534584** and leave your name and telephone number. Someone will call back to arrange a visit find out what sort of books or other materials are required and to explain how the service works.

We have volunteers ready and waiting to help!

Easingwold Area Foodbank

If you have no income, please don't go hungry - we are here to help!

Call our 24/7 Message Line (all calls strictly confidential) 0772 44 44 750
We always call you back and deliver food support to your door. (Supported by Tollerton Church)

Carol singing around Tollerton - Monday, 18th December

On Monday, 18th December, the Sports field committee, partners and friends, will be carol singing around Tollerton. Please support this, as it makes a major contribution to the field.

St Michael's Church Tollerton - Find us on Facebook

St Michael's Church Tollerton now has its own Facebook page – follow us at 'St Michael's Church, Tollerton' for up-to-date information on GodZone, what type of service we are having, and other interesting bits of information about who we are and what we are up to.



Church Warden Contact Details:

St Mary's Alne

Peter Cove 01347 838346 e-mail: alnecove@btopenworld.com
Carol Glen 01347 838016

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 01348 838138 e-mail amcd2350@gmail.com

METHODIST SERVICES DECEMBER 2017

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.

Date	Time	Venue	Service Details
3rd December	10.30a.m.	Brifferton	United Service
	3.00p.m.	Tholthorpe	E Cushion

Date	Time	Venue	Service Details
10th December	10.30a.m.	Brafferton	United Service
	3.00p.m.	Alne	R Jackson Carols
17th December	10.30a.m.	Brafferton	I Atherton
	2.00p.m.	Tholthorpe	E Cushion Carols
24th December	3:30p.m.	Brafferton	United Service
	4.00p.m.	Alne	United Service
	11:15a.m.	Tholthorpe	E Cushion

METHODIST SERVICES – JANUARY 2017

Date	Time	Venue	Service Details
7th January	10.30a.m.	Brafferton	United Service
	3.00p.m.	Tholthorpe	E Cushion Covenant
14th January	10.30a.m.	Brafferton	United Service
	3.00p.m.	Alne	E Cushion
21st January	10.30a.m.	Brafferton	R Jackson
	2.00p.m.	Tholthorpe	V Paylor café
28th January	10:30a.m.	Brafferton	United Service
	10:30a.m.	Alne	United Service

ANGLICAN SERVICES DECEMBER 2017

Venue	3rd December	10th December	17th December	24th December	25th December
Aldwark	9.00a.m. Holy Communion Carmel Gittens		4.00p.m. Carol service Rev Chris Mitchell		9.00a.m. Holy Communion or All Age Rev C Mitchell

Venue	3 rd December	10 th December	17 th December	24 th December	25 th December
Alne	10.30a.m. Holy Communion Canon Chris Hawthorn	10.30a.m. Morning Prayer. Warden	10.30a.m. Holy Communion Carmel Gittens	4.00p.m. Christingle Carmel Gittens	10.30a.m. Methodist Service Carmel Gittens
Tollerton	10.30a.m. Morning Worship Carmel Gittens	10.30a.m. Holy Communion Rev Jim Roberts	6.00p.m. Carols by Candlelight God Zone Team		10.30a.m. All Age Worship
Brafferton	10.30a.m. Holy Communion Canon Robert Law	6.30p.m. Compline Carmel Gittens	6:30p.m. Carol Service Carmel Gittens	3.30p.m. Nativity Service Maureen 11.30p.m. Midnight HC Carmel Gittens	10.30a.m. Holy Communion M Chester
Myton		4.00p.m. Carol Service Carmel Gittens			9.00a.m. Holy Communion Carmel Gittens
Thormanby	10.30a.m. Morning Prayer Catherine Toase/ Charlotte Cranfield TBC				9.00a.m. Holy Communion TBC

JANUARY 2018

January	7th January	14th January	21st January	28th January
Aldwark	9.00 a.m. Holy Communion Carmel Gittens		9.00 a.m. Holy Communion Chris Mitchell	
Alne	10.30 a.m. Holy Communion Canon Chris Hawthorn	10.30 a.m. Holy Communion TBA	10.30 a.m. Holy Communion Carmel Gittens	10.30 a.m. United Service (Anglican) TBA
Tollerton	10.30a.m. Morning Worship Carmel Gittens	10.30a.m. Morning Worship Alison Dowson	10.30a.m. Holy Communion TBA	10.30a.m. All Age
Brafferton	10.30a.m. Holy Communion Canon Robert Law	6.30p.m. Compline Carmel Gittens	10.30a.m. Methodist Service R Jackson	10:30a.m. Holy Communion Carmel Gittens
Myton		10.30a.m. Holy Communion Carmel Gittens		10.00a.m. Morning Prayer Warden
Thormanby	10.30a.m. Morning Prayer Catherine Toase/Charlotte Cranfield			9.00 am Holy Communion Catherine Toase

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