

# PARISH NEWSLETTER

## December 2025/ January 2026

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. Lucy Brencher. Revd. Lucy can be contacted by telephone on 07940 514492 or by e-mail at [revlucybrencher@gmail.com](mailto:revlucybrencher@gmail.com).



### **Not a Silent Night**

On this first day of advent, I have been thinking and delving into the historical context of the Christmas Carol Silent Night. And what has become evident is that it was not silent. The reflection about Jesus entering the world where peace and tranquillity abound is not necessarily the true experience of that day. I suspect there was noise around, crying, whaling and relief and trepidation all penetrating the first experience of Jesus the Messiah coming into the world. This made me think through how I feel at this time of year and the tension I feel to please people to rush and panic about the commercial aspect of what Christmas has become today and then I think through the sentiment and purpose of this Carol and three aspects jump out at me.

### **The promise**

He would bear the sins of the world and establish His kingdom all over the world.

## **Prince of Peace**

Silent Night is a lullaby about Peace, Sleep in heavenly peace, He came and preached peace to those far off and peace to those who were near. Jesus' birth brought a stillness to our relationship with God and with one another. The same Jesus who slept like a baby on that ordinary night also preached rest to the weary.

"Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

This is key as the burden of a modern Christmas can so often corrode our peace and cause more anxiety, However, the calling I bring to us all is that when we're feeling weary and overburdened use this first day of advent and place the lullaby at your centre in worship and you will find rest and peace.

Finally, reflecting on the carol concerts attended, Salvation Army with my mother-in-law often resonates with me because often it brought a message that seemed to link more with Easter and the resurrection rather than the birth of Jesus. And it was only recently that I see there was a final silent night, one that gave us forgiveness,

## **The second Silent Night**

The second Silent Night, the one in the Garden, when the disciples slept while Jesus wept. He cried for the cup to be removed but submitted to His Father. For His followers that Silent Night was horribly unresolved, as was the cross. To them, "It is finished," meant only that His life was over, and their crowns were gone, not that their eternal future was assured.

But what of Mary who treasured that first Silent Night in her heart? What about the silent night following the cross? What else could it be but a Sobbing Night, a night of heart break and horror? And how could she make any sense of those reports about a resurrection? They couldn't possibly be true! Yet they were! That's when Silent Night unresolved became Silent Night resolved, even as it does for us.

The resurrection resolves these nights, not just in the promise of eternal life but rather the eternal life in us.

Carol Scott  
St Michaels Alne Parish

## **Services for the New Year**

From January 2026, St Mary's Alne and St Stephen's Aldwark will be collaborating in worship.

We are excited to share a monthly Communion service in week one.

We are also keen to revisit and modify a shared Celtic Service in the afternoon of week 4 - with lots of space for stillness, listening to Taizé music and a reflective reading of the Bible and some poetry. If this appeals, please do come along - all are welcome.

## **January - March 2026**

Week 1: 10.30a.m. St Mary's - Shared Communion for Alne and Aldwark

Week 4: 3.00p.m. St Mary's - Celtic Reflective Service for Alne and Aldwark

## **April 2026**

Easter Services (advertised in a later magazine)

## **May- September 2026**

Week 1: 10.30a.m. St Stephen's - Shared Communion for Alne and Aldwark

Week 2: 10.30a.m. St Mary's - Communion

Week 4: 9.00a.m. St Mary's - Celtic Reflective Service for Alne and Aldwark

All are very welcome

Blessings, Rev Lucy

## **News from Aine Church**

### **Christingle**

A reminder that this is back to Christmas Eve this year and will start at **3.30p.m.**

Thank you so much to those who have volunteered to help assemble the sweets on sticks in advance and to get them in the oranges on the morning of the Christingle (**24<sup>th</sup> December 9.30 – 10.00a.m. in church**). If anyone would like to join in this fun session or help with the sweets beforehand, which can be a great family activity, please contact Jan and Andrew on [ajnstmarys@gmail.com](mailto:ajnstmarys@gmail.com).

### **Midnight Communion Service**

This will start at 11.30p.m. to celebrate our first communion of the year on Christmas Day.

Both Christingle and Midnight Communion services will be led by Rev Lucy.

### **Harvest Services**

A massive thank you for all generous donations to the EDCCA Easingwold area food bank, which were very gratefully received.

### **Shoebox Appeal**

Thank you so much to those who filled shoeboxes for the Samaritan's Purse 2025 Operation Christmas Child shoebox appeal, which aims to bring hope and joy to children in need around the world.

The shoeboxes are now on their way to children in destinations around the world.

If you didn't manage to return a shoebox in time and are happy for the contents to be used to support the Salvation Army appeal, please still return to church as detailed below.

## **Christmas Angels**

We will also be supporting the Salvation Army Christmas Angel appeal for needy children in the York area. Donations should remain unwrapped and should be back in church for the morning of **7<sup>th</sup> December** but please bear in mind when doing your Christmas shopping if you feel able to support this appeal.

## **Flawith**

From January, (the February newsletter) we are seeking a volunteer to distribute the parish newsletters in Flawith. As an alternative, the newsletters may be placed in the village phone box for individual households to pick up. If you are happy to help deliver the newsletter in Flawith, please contact the church office at: [office@abchurches.org.uk](mailto:office@abchurches.org.uk).

## **St Mary's Church**

Our village church has been in Alne for more than 900 years. We hope that this is a fact that brings wonderment and joy and, perhaps, a small feeling of joint custodianship across our village and wider parish. You may have seen that we have a new sign outside the church inviting all to visit at any time, be it for quiet reflection or to admire the many features inside our ancient church. It is open daily.

Those of us in the St Mary's congregation have ambition to safeguard our magnificent church for many more years to come, for future generations to enjoy as we are able to do. New projects may include: internal decoration, upkeep for the stained glass and a new internal porch (the current porch is no longer fit for purpose). There may be other projects and we are keen to hear ideas accordingly.

In the next few weeks, Reverend Lucy will send a letter detailing some of this ambition and seeking widespread support across our community. Please keep an open mind to the prospect of offering some financial support to help maintain our church for the next period of its 'life' – the support we give could well enable its existence for decades, even centuries, to come! In the meantime, why not pop in for that look around? (There is currently a lovely exhibition of some banners from Alne School, too.)

A decorative border surrounds the central text, consisting of small stars and stylized angel figures with wings and halos.

# CAROL

**14<sup>th</sup> December, 4pm**

**St Stephen's, Aldwark**

**Carols by Candlelight – Bible readings  
and poems**

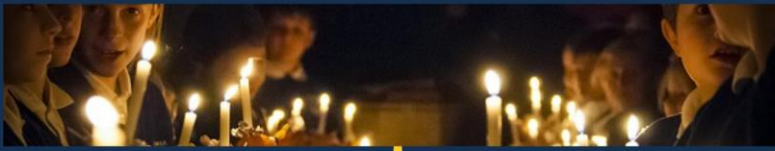
**21<sup>st</sup> December, 6pm**

**St Michael's, Tollerton**

**Family Carols – suitable for adults and  
children**

 **THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND**

**JOY** 



For unto us  
a child is born!



*St Mary's, Alne*

## Christingle with a scratch Nativity

**24th December**  
**Christingle with the**  
**Christmas Story**  
**3.15pm Doors Open**  
**3.30pm Start**

You are invited to our special Christingle service! Come and experience the wonder of Christmas! Everyone is welcome

Dress up as Mary, Joseph, a shepherd, angel or king. Let's have fun retelling the most wonderful story of when Jesus was born

For more details:  
Email: [revlucybrencher@gmail.com](mailto:revlucybrencher@gmail.com)

# MIDNIGHT

11.30pm, St Mary's Alne

Join Reverend Lucy for a short  
beautiful candle lit service, full of  
anticipation and joy as night tips into  
Christmas morning!

This service is loved by many and is  
open to all from our surrounding  
villages and all from the  
West Galtres Churches.

Carols, a short reflection and the  
sharing of communion - a sign of  
Emmanuel, God with us





# Start ▶

## *Got Questions about Life and the Christian Faith?*

Start will help you discover more about God,  
Jesus and the journey of life.

After Christmas, when the tree is packed down and relatives have gone back home, you may like to find out more about Jesus whose birthday so much is made of!

Rev Lucy would like to facilitate a space in February-March 2026 for asking such questions. Start is a 6-week course that helps us to a conversation about the Christian Faith.

Are you interested?

Get in touch – [revlucybrencher@gmail.com](mailto:revlucybrencher@gmail.com) / [office@abchurches.org.uk](mailto:office@abchurches.org.uk)



# Alne Singers Christmas Concert

Thurs 11th December - 7.30 pm

Alne Village Hall

A festive programme including  
Traditional Carols, *Carol of the Bells*,  
*It's Beginning to Look Like Christmas*, and  
music from the Shepherd brass players.

Brass Group   Village Hall Bar  
Festive Raffle

Entry by donation on the door to  
Alne Village Hall

(Donation and raffle -  
cash payment only please)

## **North Yorkshire Litter Control**

On Friday the 31<sup>st</sup> October, concerned residents from Alne village met representatives of North Yorkshire Council to discuss Litter Control & Fly Tipping across the county and particularly in the Hambleton district.

North Yorkshire Council told us they plan to extend and promote renewed energy towards litter control.

Progress has been made to enable fly-tippers and casual litter dropping nuisances to face a compliance and penalty notice through enforcement cameras.

In addition, there will be greater emphasis applied to litter bin management and a promise by North Yorkshire Council to litter pick sections of the A19 commencing in December.

Thank you to Michael Leah of North Yorkshire Council and his team of Tom & Adam and also David & Robert from Alne, for their support and co-operation in this important matter which blights North Yorkshire's countryside and beyond.

If you are interested in contributing to litter control you can contact Andy Kitchman, e-mail: [abkitchman@btinternet.com](mailto:abkitchman@btinternet.com)



# Music by Candlelight

**St Mary's Church, Alne**  
**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> Feb - 7.30 pm**

## **Cello - Helen Dawson**

Music from the 1600s to the present day including  
Bach, Gabrielli, Imogen Holst and Andrea Casarubios

### **Tickets**

**Adults: £10 in advance/£12 on the door | Under 18s: FREE**

In advance via Eventbrite or from Helen Dawson  
(cellohelen@gmail.com) and Denise Wrathall

Profits after expenses to St Mary's Church

# EASINGWOLD DISTRICT COMMUNITY CARE ASSOCIATION

## WHAT CAN WE DO FOR YOU TODAY?

### FOODBANK & FOODSHARE

For those in need.  
Available 24/7 call  
message line  
0772 44 44 750.

### MINIBUS

There are regular trips to  
various destinations.

### CARERS SITTING SERVICE

A service for those caring for a  
friend or relative.

### BEFRIENDING SCHEME

For those who would like  
someone to chat with.

### COMMUNITY CAR SCHEME

For those who have  
difficulty with public  
transport.

### MEALS ON WHEELS

Two course hot meal  
delivered to your  
door. Mon-Fri.

### HUB CLUB

Tuesdays & Fridays,  
for people living with  
Dementia.

### SHOPPING

You supply the list and we  
do the rest.

### CHARITY BOUTIQUE

71 Long Street  
Open 4 ½ days a week.  
Telephone  
01347 820078.

### MEN IN SHEDS

Social group for men.

### COLLECTING PRESCRIPTIONS

We collect & deliver on  
Tuesday & Thursdays.

### MONTHLY CITIZENS ADVICE

Minibus in the Market Place and  
Advisor at the office.  
Call for details.

### TEA & TARTS

Monthly get together with  
cake!!

### WEEKLY CROSSWORD CLUB

### WHEELCHAIR HIRE

### KNIT & NATTER CLUB

For more information on any of the above  
services please contact us on **01347 822875**  
email: [info@edcca.org.uk](mailto:info@edcca.org.uk) or visit [edcca.org.uk](http://edcca.org.uk)  
Car Scheme & Mini Bus **01347 822598**

Office Open  
Mon, Tue, Thur, Fri  
9.30 - 12.30pm



We are proud to be in Social Partnership with the Easingwold Advertiser

## **Tollerton War Memorial Institute (Village Hall)**

The TWMI Committee would like to thank all those who supported "An Evening with Mike Craven" & the "Snake Davis & His Band" events. Both occasions were a great success and fund raising get-togethers.

A big thank you also to everyone who attended the Brunch on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2025, especially the 1<sup>st</sup> Kyle Valley Scout Group who, once again, made it a very memorable Remembrance event.

Thank you to all who contributed, lined the way, joined the Scouts on the Green and the laying of wreaths at the Hall, to remember the service and sacrifice of all those who have defended our freedoms. Thanks to everyone who helped at the event, we could not have done it without you.

## **Forthcoming Events:**

### **Christmas at the Hall on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December**

Come to the Hall to start the festivities with Mulled Wine, Hot Chocolate, Mince Pies and a sing along to some Carols. There will be a visit from Santa, before his big day, and some activities to enjoy.

### **Interested in joining us?**

We are always on the lookout for new members. It is a very friendly committee, and not too onerous, with 4 committee meetings and 4-5 fund raising events per year. For further information please e-mail [tollertonvillagehall75@gmail.com](mailto:tollertonvillagehall75@gmail.com)

### **Planning an Event?**

The Village Hall is a great place to hold a party/event to celebrate important occasions. There is full use of kitchen facilities & hall equipment. We offer very competitive prices. Please e-mail [tollertonvillagehall75@gmail.com](mailto:tollertonvillagehall75@gmail.com), You will not regret it!

## **Tollerton Coffee Club**

Tollerton Coffee Club meets weekly on **Wednesdays at 10.30a.m. to 12.00 noon** at St. Michael's Church Hall, Tollerton.

Join us for coffee/tea and biscuits. All Welcome.



# **Christmas Day Family Service**

**A fun filled service, with some**

**Singing**

**Games**

**Interactive talk**

**Space to be thankful**

**Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> December, 10.30a.m.**

**St Michael's, Tollerton**

**All are welcome**

**St Michael's Church  
invites you to**



**Pre-Christmas Dates  
Thursdays  
6th November  
20th November  
4th December  
18th December**

**12-2.30pm in the Church  
All welcome for a  
delicious light lunch and chat  
(that's the best bit!)**



# **ANGLICAN SERVICES**

## **December 2025**

Venue	7 <sup>th</sup> Dec	14 <sup>th</sup> Dec	21 <sup>st</sup> Dec	24 <sup>th</sup> Dec	25 <sup>th</sup> Dec	28 <sup>th</sup> Dec
<b>Aldwark</b>	10.30a.m. Holy Communion	4.00p.m. Carol Service			At Tollerton	No service
<b>Alne</b>	At Aldwark	10.30a.m. Holy Communion		8.30p.m. Christingle  11.30p.m. Midnight Communion	At Tollerton	No Service
<b>Tollerton</b>	10.30a.m. Morning Worship 6.00p.m. Sunday at 6	10.30a.m. All Age	6.00p.m. Carols By Candlelight		10.30a.m. Christmas Day Celebration	No Service

## **January 2026**

Venue	4 <sup>th</sup> Jan	11 <sup>th</sup> Jan	18 <sup>th</sup> Jan	25 <sup>th</sup> Jan
<b>Aldwark</b>	At Alne	At Alne		At Alne
<b>Alne</b>	10.30a.m. Holy Communion	10.30a.m. Holy Communion		4.00p.m. Celtic Reflective Service
<b>Tollerton</b>	10.30a.m. Morning Worship 6.00p.m. Sunday at 6	10.30a.m. All Age	10.30a.m. All Age Communion	1030a.m. Morning Worship

# METHODIST SERVICES for Villages Together

You are welcome at all of the village services listed below



**Minister: Rev Alex Middleton-Laing**

Telephone: 07414 945299 e-mail: [alex.laing@methodist.org.uk](mailto:alex.laing@methodist.org.uk)

**Wishing you all a wonderful Christmas and a peaceful New Year.**

## December 2025

Date	Alne @ Alne Hall	Huby @ Methodist Church	Tholthorpe @ Methodist Church
7 December 10.30a.m.		Alex Middleton-Laing Joined by friends from Easingwold.	
14 December 3.00p.m.	Alex Middleton-Laing <b>Carol and Nativity Service</b>		
21 December 10.30a.m.	@ Easingwold, <b>Carol Service</b> led by Alex Middleton-Laing		
24 December 6.00p.m. <b>Christmas Eve</b>		Alex Middleton-Laing	
25 December 10.30a.m. <b>Christmas Day</b>	@ Easingwold Methodist Church led by Alex Middleton-Laing		
28 December 10.30a.m.		Ruth Duck Joined by friends from Easingwold.	

## METHODIST SERVICES

### January 2026

Date	Alne @ Alne Hall	Huby @ Methodist Church	Tholthorpe @ Methodist Church
4 January 10.30a.m.		<b>Covenant Service</b> led by Alex Middleton-Laing <b>Holy Communion</b>	
11 January 3.00p.m.	Ruth Duck		
18 January 10.30a.m.		Alex Middleton-Laing	
25 January 3.00p.m.			Alex Middleton-Laing <b>Holy Communion</b>

**Advent Reflection Group: Wednesdays 12.30p.m. at Huby Methodist Church** 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> November, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> December. (Bring your own lunch – drinks provided!)

**Blue Christmas:** This is for anyone who may find Christmas difficult for whatever reason, not just recent bereavement.

The short service takes place at **11.00a.m. on 11<sup>th</sup> December at Easingwold Methodist Church.**

## **Contact Details:**

The Anglican minister for the villages in the Parish of Alne is Revd. Lucy Brencher. Revd. Lucy can be contacted by telephone on 07940 514 492 or by e-mail at [revlucybrencher@gmail.com](mailto:revlucybrencher@gmail.com)

## **Church Wardens/ Co-ordinators**

### **St Mary's Alne**

Jan and Andrew Naismith e-mail [ajnstmarys@gmail.com](mailto:ajnstmarys@gmail.com)

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

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

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

Richard Swan 07923 905186 e-mail [richardswan@btinternet.com](mailto:richardswan@btinternet.com)

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