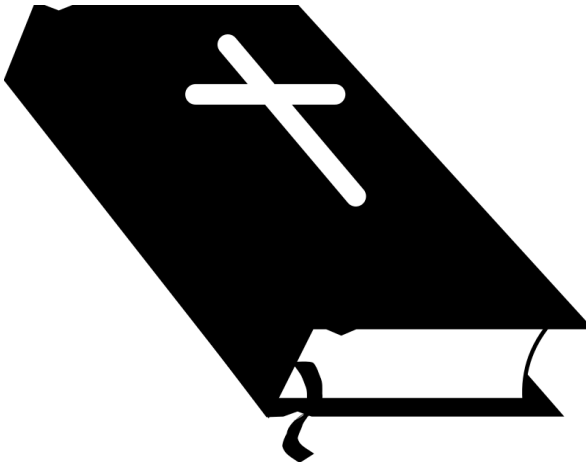


PARISH NEWSLETTER

February 2026

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

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.



What are you reading?

I got some great books as Christmas presents that I am working through, alongside continuing to read the world's yearly best seller - the Bible.

I was delighted to hear on the radio this week (17th Jan) that globally there were 6.3 million sales of Bibles in 2025, which is a mirror switch from 3.6 million sales before Covid in 2019. In only 5 years the numbers have skyrocketed, as there is a real hunger in people to know more about God.

People, especially younger 18-25s, are not only buying a Bible, but they are reading it and many are attracted by God's messages of love, purpose, redemption and hope in Jesus. What they are reading in the Bible cuts through the fear, confusion and stress of modern day living.

If you are one of those dipping into the Bible as one of your books for 2026, please reach out to us at your local church if we can be of help; you might get stuck and would appreciate asking a question or two; or you might be bowled over with what you read and you want to find out how you might respond to God's love for you.

Our regular Sunday services at all our churches are welcoming and there is room for you!

In our surrounding villages there are midweek Bible study groups, but if that sounds too daunting to begin with, we have some monthly services that would especially suit people new to or coming back to faith and who want to explore.

Our monthly 6.00p.m. evening service at St Michael's Church is different because there is no sermon or talk: instead, we share insights about the passage from the Bible together and how it speaks to us. This is a rich and engaging way into the Bible. Either way you can join in or just come and listen.

In addition, our new monthly 3-3.45p.m. afternoon Celtic Service at St Mary's will also encourage us to think deeply and creatively on passages from the Bible in a reflective and quiet way, using music, scripture and art.

Here to serve you.

Blessings,

Rev Lucy

News from Alne Church

Salvation Army Christmas Angels

Very many thanks to those who dropped off Christmas presents to be distributed to families in and around York. These were very gratefully received by the Salvation Army from our three churches in Alne Parish.

Christmas Services

It was lovely to see the church full for both of our Christmas Eve services in St Mary's – with many children enthusiastically getting involved in the "scratch nativity" during the Christingle service. Any feedback or ideas for future services would be welcome as planning for next year has already begun!

Mother's Day Coffee Morning

Following the success of our pop up café in November, we are planning to have another from **11.00a.m. – 1.00p.m. on Saturday 14th March**, which is the day before Mother's Day. Please put the date in your diaries to join us for some sweet and savoury refreshments, with the opportunity to prepare small gifts for the Sunday.

Fundraising

We are truly grateful to the many who contribute routinely to the upkeep and maintenance of St Mary's, thank you. Please see the letter from Rev Lucy, on pages 4 & 5 of this Newsletter, articulating some of our future aspirations and hope to receive support from our community.

As part of our efforts to raise funds, we are planning to put on a village quiz night (or two) at Alne Village Hall. Please stay tuned and we shall look forward to some gentle brain teasers in amongst an enjoyable evening.

St Mary's Church – Appeal for contributions for next phase of improvements

St Mary's Church has been in Alne for more than 900 years. Over the life of the church, there has been a mix of necessary and aspirational work and alterations to keep the church fit for purpose and to fulfil its role in the Parish.

Restoration work is important - St Mary's boasts many interesting artefacts and stained-glass windows and it is home to some of the finest 12th century stone carvings in North Yorkshire, with animal carvings in the South porch dating back to 1150.

We hope that these facts bring a sense of wonderment at our shared heritage and perhaps a feeling of joint custodianship across our village and wider parish.

Like all parish churches, our day to day running costs are paid for by monthly giving from our congregation, one-off donations, collections at services, fundraising activities, and income from weddings and funerals.

However, each year our necessary expenditure exceeds our income. Our expenditure includes 1/6th of the cost for my role (as vicar), insurance, utility bills and maintenance.

Alne Parochial Church Council (PCC) and 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 currently able to do.

The PCC has identified some specific projects for the next phase of safeguarding St Mary's, namely: internal decoration; upkeep for the stained-glass windows; and a new internal porch (the current porch is no longer fit for purpose).

The PCC will work hard to secure as much grant funding as possible, to reduce the burden on the local community. While we do not yet have specific costs for these projects, the combined total is likely to be in excess of £60,000.

There may be some follow-on projects. We are keen to hear any ideas you may have.

Whether you are a regular member of the congregation or an occasional visitor, the church serves a very important role in the parish. Many of us attend Christmas, Easter, Remembrance and school-centred services, as well as Christenings, Weddings and Funerals throughout the year.

Please keep an open mind to the prospect of offering some regular financial support to help maintain our beautiful church for the next period of its life. A relatively small monthly donation of say £5 to £20 per month by many might well enable its existence for decades, even centuries, to come.

If you are willing, and able, to contribute either as a one-off or to set up a monthly donation (as some already do, thank you!), that would be great.

The church's bank details are below:

Alne Parochial Church Council

Sort code: 20-98-98

Account: 53543080

If you make a donation and are a taxpayer, please e-mail our treasurer Ian, so that we claim an extra 25% on your donation: lan.scott64@gmail.com

If you have any fundraising ideas or questions, please send them via our administrators, Andrew and Jan Naismith (ajnstmarys@gmail.com). In the meantime, please feel free to drop in to your church at any time.

Blessings,

Rev Lucy

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

**YOU ARE WARMLY INVITED TO
ST MARY'S POP UP
SPRING COFFEE MORNING
SATURDAY 14TH MARCH
11AM-1PM**



- MOTHER'S DAY GIFTS TO MAKE OR BUY
- DECORATE HEART SHAPED BISCUITS
- FRESHLY MADE SANDWICHES, SAUSAGE ROLLS AND CAKES
- TEAS, COFFEES AND JUICE
- TOY CORNER



COMMUNITY AND CHURCH TOGETHER

Start



Got Questions about Life and the Christian Faith?

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

Now that the Christmas 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 / office@abchurches.org.uk

Music by Candlelight

St Mary's Church, Alne
Saturday 7th Feb - 7.30 pm

Cello - Helen Dawson

**Music from the 1600s to the present day including
Bach, Biber, Imogen Holst and Andrea Casarrubios**

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 Restoration Fund



Alne WI and Forest of Galtres Group of WI's January Report



Well, Alne's WI definitely started the New Year with a bang. Bubbles, nibbles and a hugely fun and brain challenging quiz. We added a new member to our group and we welcomed 6 visitors and hope we will see them back again.

The New Year's program has now been distributed and is showing we have many wonderful speakers booked for the coming year and as it is our Centenary year, there are lots of celebrations planned. So if you have not been to us before, this is a very good year to do so and we will welcome you with open arms.

Our meetings are always the **second Wednesday in the month** with the **February one on the 11th, starting at 7.30p.m.**, when you can have a Charleston Dance lesson (not obligatory), but James White is a very popular ballroom dance teacher and I am told he is a lot of fun, so if you are game for a laugh, please come and join us or even please come and watch us. It's going to be a very entertaining evening.

Guest Entrance £4 and we even have a monthly raffle. we look forward to seeing/meeting you.

Alne Street Fayre Planned Road Closure

The usual closure of Main Street, Church Wind and ancillary roads is planned for the annual Alne Street Fayre on Sunday 7th June 2026. Details and a map are on the Parish Council notice board in the centre of the village.

If you have any comments, please contact Suzi Rix on Suzirix@btinternet.com or 07718 801591 by **Sunday 8th February**. Thank you.

Alne Parish Council

“ALNE VILLAGE ANNUAL LITTER PICK”

This year's Alne Litter Pick will take place on

Saturday 28th February

Meeting Outside Alne Village Hall promptly at 10.00a.m.

All equipment & high-vis jackets provided

After the 1-Hour Pick, complimentary refreshments will be provided
in the form of tea, coffee, juice, hot sausage & veggie rolls.

Please come along
and help make Alne Village and the surrounding roads “Litter Free!”

Everyone welcome including children.

Got a question, then contact

Andy Kitchman on

abkitchman@btinternet.com or 07971 178605

Alne Parish Council

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](https://www.alnevillage.co.uk/tollerton-stores)
- * 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. Go to: www.alnevillage.co.uk then Amenities then Buses.
- * Weekly bus to Morrisons in Boroughbridge. 11:00 Mondays.
Go to: www.alnevillage.co.uk then Amenities then Buses.
- * 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 40th year.
[The next Alne Street Fayre is on Sunday 7th June 2026.](#)
- * 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

WHAT CAN WE DO FOR YOU TODAY?



For more information on any of the above services please contact us on **01347 822875**
email: info@edcca.org.uk or visit 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

Wednesday 18th February at 7:30

St Michael's Church Tollerton

A meditation for Ash Wednesday
followed by the imposition of ashes



This will be an opportunity for quiet reflection before the start of Lent, with a guided meditation and periods of silence.

The service of the imposition of Ashes is a very old tradition and marks the start of Lent with the signing of the cross on the forehead. The ashes are made from the ashes of palm branches and ultimately signify: -

Faith & Belonging: The cross shape signifying commitment to Jesus and reminds recipients of their baptism.

Renewal: While acknowledging death and sin, the ritual ultimately points to hope, as God transforms ashes into new life through Christ's sacrifice.

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.

ANGLICAN SERVICES

February 2026

| Venue | 1 st Feb | 8 th Feb | 15 th Feb | 22 nd Feb |
|------------------|---|----------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Aldwark | At Alne | | | |
| Alne | 10.30a.m. All Age Holy Communion | | | 3.00 p.m. Celtic Service |
| Tollerton | 10.30a.m. Morning Worship 6.00p.m. Sunday at 6 | 10.30a.m. All Age | 10.30a.m. Holy Communion | 10.30a.m. Morning Worship |



Minister: Rev Alex Middleton-Laing

Telephone: 07414 945299 e-mail:

alex.laing@methodist.org.uk

METHODIST SERVICES

February 2026

| Date | Alne @ Alne Hall | Huby @ Methodist Church | Tholthorpe @ Methodist Church |
|-------------------------|---|--|--|
| 1 February 10.30a.m. | | Alex Middleton-Laing Holy Communion | |
| 8 February 3.00p.m. | Alex Middleton-Laing | | |
| 15 February | Flourish Weekend – Worship at York University | | |
| 22 February 3.00p.m. | | | Alex Middleton-Laing Holy Communion |

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

Church Wardens/ Co-ordinators

St Mary's Alne

Jan and Andrew Naismith e-mail ajnstmarys@gmail.com

St. Stephen's Aldwark

Vivienne Bird e-mail viviennebird@hotmail.co.uk

St. Michael's Tollerton

Richard Swan 07923 905186 e-mail richardswan@btinternet.com

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