

PARISH NEWSLETTER

April 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 12 of this Parish Newsletter.



We need a conversation about justice

On 10th March 2024 Archbishop Stephen wrote in the Sunday Times about the Fund for Healing, Repair and Justice. The article follows in full:

Jesus teaches us in the scriptures that forgiveness has no limits. Nor is it an optional extra. At the heart of the Christian gospel is the call to be reconciled – to each other and to God.

The publication this week of a report by an independent Oversight Group advising the Church Commissioners on how to respond to links to enslavement has created an opportunity to focus on a future filled with healing, reconciliation, justice and repair. For that's what you need to do when you know things have gone wrong.

This year the Church Commissioners is spending in excess of £400 million on mission and ministry across the Church of England. Over nine years that is a commitment to spend £3.6 billion. In addition, it has committed £100 million to create a fund for healing, repair and justice. This has attracted some negative comments.

Couldn't this money have been spent on poor parishes? Well, yes it could. But by creating this fund, the Church of England is acknowledging a shameful chapter in our collective history.

We know that the endowment now looked after by the Church Commissioners invested in the transatlantic chattel slave trade. This fills us with horror. So much so that we could conclude (and perhaps previously would have done) that nothing can be done. It's all too late.

But can we respond?

After much prayerful consultation, not least with the descendants of those who were themselves enslaved, we have come to believe that the best way of responding is to create a fund that will build a better future. Some argue £100 million isn't enough. However, if others join us and catch hold of this vision, this is something that can make an even bigger, lasting difference in our world.

Moreover, it will benefit every parish in the country. It will send out a message that the Church of England is serious about justice, and serious about the gospel of Jesus Christ, and that we are called to do what is right and not simply to take care of ourselves.

However, it is right that people have questions about where this money is coming from. To be clear: none of the money given to a parish church will be used for this fund and none of the money will come from parish income. The money for this initiative will come from an endowment that invested in and profited from a wicked and inhuman enterprise.

Meanwhile, the Church Commissioners will continue to fund mission and ministry across the Church of England, and we remain rightly grateful for the huge generosity of many people who support ministry in their local church. But this new fund says something else. It expands our horizons. It shows the Christian faith making a difference for justice in the world, and it invites others to examine their own balance sheets.

The ambition is for the Fund for Healing, Repair and Justice to get to £1 billion. In order to do this we need others who have also profited from enslavement to join us.

Obviously, no amount of money will ever be enough to repair the horrors of the past, but to do nothing when we have the opportunity to act would mean we fail to be a Church that looks like Jesus Christ, a church which loves justice, which seeks reconciliation, which binds up the wounds of those who are hurting.

We celebrate with our sisters and brothers of African descent that we are one in Christ and it is a good thing that the joy of the gospel has been shared throughout the world, even if the way this was done was not without question. While terrible things were done in the age of slavery and empire, Christians, including Anglicans, also spread the gospel of love. And as I said to the General Synod recently: human beings were then, and continue today, to be treated as commodities, being owned and traded. This not only falls short of the new humanity we have in Christ, it denies and contradicts it. Those who are descended from the enslaved, our Christian sisters and brothers, cry out for justice; for a Christian response to the inter-generational trauma and systemic disadvantage that many continue to experience today.

So when people ask me if we are wasting money which could be better spent serving our churches, I answer: this work is serving our churches. This fund is an expression of what it means to follow Jesus. It is what his challenge to love and forgive requires of us. Or as the prophet Micah put it: to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God.

Archbishop Stephen

News from Alne Church

A special Mother's Day service on Sunday 10th March was led by Rev. Chris Swift. Three children read the lessons and all children attending helped to distribute pot plants to the congregation after some enthusiastic participation in the service. Something similar is being planned for Father's Day in June. Please note that the monthly coffee mornings in St Mary's are being paused until further notice.

Unfortunately, investigations have confirmed that some of the beams in the church tower have suffered significant insect attack and will need to be replaced. This will require some fundraising and grant applications in the coming year. If you feel able to contribute, you are welcome to use the QR code that you can take away from the bowl by the font or to use those on the church pews.

Generous giving in the past has already enabled minor repairs to be completed on the woodwork in the church and replacement of the louvres keeping out the worst of the weather from the tower. Thanks to anyone who has contributed to the upkeep of this ancient building.

Alne Tennis Club

As we approach the summer season, please be aware that Alne Tennis Club is always seeking new members. We run three mixed teams and a ladies' team in the local leagues so there is plenty of opportunity for match play at different levels. The three courts are floodlit so members have playing access throughout the year. For more information, see <https://www.alnevillage.co.uk/tennis.html> or contact Robert at brech28@btinternet.com.

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

The Christian Aid logo, featuring the words "christian aid" in white lowercase letters on a red background, with a white arrow pointing to the right.

www.christianaid.org.uk



Alne Recreation Ground Access Path – Ready to Go!

The APLA Trustees are really pleased to be able to announce that they have now secured sufficient funding to make the long-proposed Access Path in the Recreation Ground a reality.

Grants from The Friends of St. Monica's (£10,000) and from North Yorkshire Sport (funded by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund through North Yorkshire Council) (£20,000), will be supplemented by a contribution from APLA Funds. As a consequence, we have been able to appoint a contractor who should be able to start work shortly after this year's Street Fayre (9th June). With good weather and a fair wind, we expect to have a path up and running before the autumn.

The project will involve a 1.5-metre-wide stone path (similar to the one at Millfield in Easingwold) that runs around the perimeter of the field. It will pass through and around the Orchard Area.

In addition, a link path from the car park entrance will join the path and go across to the Tennis Courts and the multi-use games area (MUGA). The result will be to open up the whole of the Recreation Ground to groups and individuals for whom access is currently impossible. A distance of around 700 metres will be available to wheelchair users, prams & pushchairs, runners and casual strollers. We anticipate that this will invigorate enjoyment of the Orchard Area in particular.

We are hoping that the new pathways together with easier access will encourage increased use by our two local Care Home residents and by the children attending Outwood Primary Academy Alne.

We will install a new accessible gate at the entrance, courtesy of a generous donation from the Pearson Trust. Together with a new large hard standing area this will facilitate easy entrance from the car park for prams and wheelchairs in particular.

Finally, we intend to create flagged or concrete pads to allow for the fixing of benches around the Access Trail. Initially we plan to install 4 pads and we will shortly invite residents to sponsor one or more benches maybe as a memorial to a loved one.

We are extremely grateful to all three of the agencies who have made this project possible and to the many local residents who have contributed to the planning process.

If anyone would like more details of the scheme, or just have a question, then contact Ian McCrae who can be found at mccrae500@yahoo.co.uk.

Alne Street Fayre

Alne Street Fayre this year is on **Sunday, 9th June from 12.00 noon to 4.30p.m.** The Street Fayre is the annual fund-raising event for the UK Charity, Alne Parish Leisure Association, which manages the Alne recreation field. As you will see from recent items in this Parish Newsletter, a great deal of refurbishment and new additions are planned for the field and raising funds is even more important than usual.

APLA received a Queen's Award for Voluntary Service in 2022. This is the MBE for volunteer groups and is a signal honour.

If you would like to become part of this distinguished family and volunteer to help with the Street Fayre, please contact Chris McCrae on cmccrae100@yahoo.co.uk

Alne Parish Leisure Association



The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service

The MBE for volunteer groups

Alne WI Meeting Wednesday 13th March 2024

Joan (President) warmly welcomed members and visitors (we had one new member and 5 visitors). Apologies were given from members unable to attend. Joan then put forward options for WI summer dinner.

Summer Dinner (14/08/24) and Federation Yorkshire Lunch (01/08/24)

Attend the Yorkshire Day Lunch instead of holding a Summer Dinner

Attend the Yorkshire Day Lunch and the Summer Dinner.

Attend the WI Summer Dinner with the option of booking the Yorkshire Day Lunch for those who want to.

Attend the WI Summer Dinner only.

Suggested venues:

The Aldwark Arms

Dawnay Arms at Newton

The Lime Tree at Great Ouseburn

The Oak Tree at South Kilvington.

Also future trips have been organised for:

a visit to the Yorkshire Auction House, Kirbymoorside; and
a trip to Newby Hall House and Gardens.

This week's speaker was Joanne Aston.

Joanne is an accomplished speaker, she shared her knowledge and passion about *The Oresteia*, a trilogy of Greek tragedies written by Aeschylus in the 5th century BCE, concerning the murder of Agamemnon by Clytemnestra, the murder of Clytemnestra by Orestes, the trial of Orestes, the end of the curse on the House of Atreus and the pacification of the Furies.

This particular talk was interesting, full of fact, fiction and sprinkled with fun.

We then had a Social time supper provided by hostesses Debbie, Pam and Anne (Giving everyone chance to chat and tuck into the delicious refreshments).

Hall Set up was Margaret, Jenny and Julie.

Vote of thanks was given by Maggie

Next meeting: **Wednesday, 10th April at 7.30p.m.** (second Wednesday of the month)

Activity: Dance - Lucinda Robert's will lead an introduction to ballroom dancing steps.

Competition: Pair of dancing shoes

Hall Set Up - Mary Hare and Chris McCrae

Hostesses - Maggie Soper and Karen Roger's

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

The Unpleasant Job

This time of year as the weather starts to improve, always leads to the unpleasant problem of dog poo.

I am sorry to have to mention it, but if everyone would just think about how they would feel if their child ran through it, or cycled through it, they would clear up after their dog.

It is a particular problem in Aldwark, along the main road. The Parish Council has placed bins at either end of the road which are not too far apart. Try to get your dog off the path and verge or at least try to move it into the gutter, if you run out of poo bags.

We don't like having to talk about it, but it is a quick and kind thing to do for all the residents whether they own a dog or not.

Please, please Bag it and Bin it.

Aldwark Parish Council



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

April

Venue	7 th April	14 th April	21 st April	28 th April
		10.30a.m. Holy Communion		
Alne		10.30a.m. Holy Communion		10.30a.m. Holy Communion
Tollerton	10.30a.m. Morning Worship	10.30a.m. Morning Worship	10.30a.m. Holy Communion	10.30a.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

April

Venue/ Date	Alne @ Alne Hall	Huby	Tholthorpe
7 April 10.30a.m.		Own Arrangement	
14 April 3.00p.m.	Tricia Mitchell		
21 April 10.30a.m.		David Bidnell Café Service	
28 April 3.00p.m.			John Schofield Café Service

Easter Monday, 1st April, Cream Teas at Huby Chapel between 2 and 4.00p.m.

Contact Details:

Please Contact the Church wardens / Co-ordinators in the first instance.

Church Wardens/ Co-ordinators

St Mary's Aine

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 richardwswan@btinternet.com

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

COPY DATE for the May 2024 issue: 17th April 2024 please.
e-mail: news@abchurches.org.uk