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| ALLERTON  CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH |



July/August 2025 Newsletter

Dear Friends

I’m writing this on the eve of Pentecost and the day before our summer holidays, and by the time you read it I’ll be back. All over and done in 10 days with only a few pictures and hopefully some happy memories to remind me of the good time we had. It did make me think about the things in our lives that are transient that we look forward to and then are over in the blink of an eye. A few weeks ago, we went to watch Mary Poppins at the Alhambra which was brilliant and a week or two prior to that Bradford City won promotion in a dramatic finale at Valley Parade. My diary reminds me I have many more events such as these to look forward to which like my holiday will be over in a flash.

Fortunately for us Christians we also have God in our lives. God is a permanent fixture, a constant companion amongst all the other things and all the other people who come and go in our lives. Granted these other things can provide us with rest and relaxation, entertainment, elation or disappointment but they are transient. God on the other hand, is permanent, once we invite him into our lives, he never leaves us. He will be our constant companion and someone we can rely on whatever the day, month or year it happens to be.

I’m reminded of the way Jesus described the coming of the Holy Spirit to his disciples in John’s Gospel. He described the Holy Spirit as a helper who would stay with them forever, not transient, not in our lives one minute and gone the next but a permanent reminder that God is always with us. The Holy Spirit acts as the go between relaying our thoughts and prayers to God and making sure we can tell what God is calling us to do. Having that permanent helper in our lives certainly means that we are never alone, never without a companion or a friend. God surrounds us with his love and care everyday of our lives and that knowledge I find makes our lives so much easier to navigate.

The final verse of the children’s song ‘Jesus friend of little children’, which I remember singing in Sunday School, says ‘Never leave me nor forsake me, ever be my friend, for I need thee from life’s dawning to its end’. How very true that is for those of us who depend on the presence of Jesus in our lives. Never transient, never here one minute and gone the next, never a distant memory. A permanent fixture, a helper for ever, a Saviour we can trust and a God who loves us.

With love and prayers

Trevor

**Deacons & Volunteers**

This new group of deacons and volunteers met for the first time in early June. Although still in its infancy the signs are good that this group will ensure that lots of jobs relating to Sunday worship and the spiritual life of the church will be done effectively and efficiently.

The group currently consists of Carole Brook, Susan Hardy, Trevor & Yvonne Hippey, Pauline Breen, Jane Ing, Fiona Graham, Julie Lee and Jenny Roper. Anyone else who wishes to join us will be most welcome.

**Readers**

Previously we’ve had the readers list on the table in the hall on a Sunday morning and invited people to put their name down to read on a Sunday morning. Although partially successful there were many ‘blank’ Sundays. So, in future we’ll be trying something different by compiling a list of people who are willing to read, one of them will then be contacted to ask them to do so at the next Sunday service. If for some reason that person is unable to read on that Sunday another name from the list will be contacted instead. We think this way there should be a reader available most Sundays. Please consider if you would like to read and if so, give your name to Trevor or one of the people in the Deacons & Volunteers group. Thank you

**Harvest Supper**

In order to accommodate the preaching plan, the date for our Harvest Festival service has changed to Sunday 28th September. This means the date for the Harvest Supper will also change to Saturday 27th September. More details to follow.

**Coffee morning**

The Ladies Circle coffee morning will take place on Saturday 12th July, 10am to 12noon. Please try and support this event and tell as many people as possible so that we can have a really successful morning. Thank You

Trevor

**Finance/Property Report**

The stone steps have all been cleaned and are looking like new. The rest of the tarmac surfacing at the front area has been treated to stop the growth of moss. In a few weeks this will be brushed which should remove the residue of the old moss.

Our gardeners of 20 years, Stuart and David Inman have moved on to other things and retired respectively and we now have a new gardener Rose Gardens. Alex has suggested that we should tidy the planted area at the right hand side of the entrance by applying bark over this area. This has now been done and the area looks tidier. Some additional planting may follow if this is deemed necessary.

Thanks Chris

**Dates for your Diary**

Friday 4th July Ladies Circle Afternoon Tea

Saturday 12th July - Ladies Circle Coffee Morning

Friday 1st August – Ladies Circle - Jill Holdsworth = Poems

**Flower Rota** – flowers provided by:

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| **July 2025** | | **August 2025** | |
| 20th | Mrs S Coldwell | 3rd | The Hastings Family |
| 27th | Mrs J Holdsworth | 10th | Mrs K Clough |
|  |  | 17th | Mr & Mrs R Breen |
|  |  | 24th | Mr & Mrs C Roper |

On Sundays not listed, silk flowers will be used.

**Preaching list**

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| **July 25** | |  | **August 25** | |
| 6th | David Robinson |  | 3rd | Trevor Kershaw |
| 13th | David Robinson |  | 10th | David Robinson |
| 20th | Trevor Kershaw |  | 17th | Robert Waddington |
| 27th | Valerie Jenkins |  | 24th | Revd David Morris |
|  |  |  | 31st | Trevor Kershaw |

**Coffee Rota**

It would be really helpful if those on the rota could come a little earlier to set things up. You will not need to bring milk.

The coffee rota is on the notice board in the vestibule and will be on the table in the hall on Sundays.

**Note from the Editor**

The next newsletter is due on 31st August 2025 – please let me have any items for inclusion by 24th August 2025.

Thank you Carole

Sundays - Services at 10.30 am.

Addresses:

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| **Pastor** | **Treasurer** | **Secretary** | **Editor** |
| Trevor Kershaw |  |  | Carole Brook |
| Mobile:  07811 888348 |  |  |  |
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## Website: allertoncongregationalchurch.org.uk

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