

ALM Report - January - December 2025

It has been an interesting year: a new Archbishop, A new Pope, A new Bishop of Grimsby, and a new Archdeacon of Stow and Lindsey. Most important is that Helen and Jonathan are now full members of the team; however, Jonathan is training to be a Reader, and Helen has extra personal responsibilities, so while we are plus two, we are still stretched and in need of ALMs, and there is a question of succession. The remaining team all have personal caring responsibilities!

We continue to meet regularly to discuss Pastoral Support, and have a separate meeting to discuss Worship. Sue continues to take the lead at Kettlethorpe lay-led service as and when needed, and also works diligently in formulating the ALM rota, for which we are all grateful.

During the year, we continued to support Rev. Jane, making the services more inclusive and giving a form of order to the monthly services. The new order of services is slowly bedding down, although some of us still get confused, is it the 3rd Sunday we do this or that, etc., when we are confused, that just adds interest to the service. Hopefully, as the new monthly order of services continues to evolve, we as ALMs will evolve with it.

We start a service on time, with or without a minister, who can be delayed for any number of reasons, and have a procedure in place to cope. Fortunately, they have always arrived, sometimes with seconds to go before we have to resort to a Homily! Recently, we have invited the congregation to sit when reading a very long Gospel, and certainly, with 100% of the congregation taking up this option, it is something to consider in consultation with whoever is officiating.

Monthly services have continued at Wispington House. ALM's continued to carry out pastoral / bereavement visiting in the community and give communion when asked for. This continues to be an important part of the church's outreach.

We must also thank Wendy for her contribution to the Thursday Eucharist - she unfailingly acts as server - and leads a service of the word if there is no priest present.

Once again, a special thanks to Sue, who manages to give us a workable rota taking into account when we are available. Another reason why we need more volunteers.

ALMs continue to support new innovations in the church, and are very grateful to Rev. Jane and Rev. Joan for the help and support they give to all ALMs and in building and strengthening the ALM team.