Here we are getting ourselves ready for the Sunday before Christmas. It really is the 4th Sunday of Advent but I don’t think it is too early to wish you all a very Happy Christmas. Thank you for the number of cards that have been received at The Vicarage.

Worship for Sunday 20th December
Today we offer you our Carol Service - a Service of Nine Lessons and Carols. Thank you to all those who provided the readings and to the wonderful St Lawrence Church choir for all the music. I do hope you can take time to listen to the retelling of God’s story of salvation through the music and the readings. Here is the link: <https://youtu.be/bTX9Vlfi2sg>

Also Sarah Broadbent has recorded her telling of the Nativity Story for children and families. It is always good when Sarah tells it this way and now we have it recorded too. Here is the link for this: <https://youtu.be/Ut7X710rvCE>

Looking Forward
Attached is the leaflet detailing the Christmas Services online and in our church buildings. If you are wanting to come on Christmas Day in any of our church buildings then you must book your place and get confirmation - spaces are limited. Please email the parish office at potr.alton@btinternet.com

If you want to join the Nativity Crib Service on Christmas Eve at 4pm then you need to get the login details by emailing potrcribservice@gmail.com

There is no in-church service on Sunday 27th December but there will be an online service which is shared with The Parish of the Resurrection and Alton Methodist Church. We will send out the link in the usual way ready for the Sunday morning.

Notices
Parish Christmas Appeal
After discussion with the Churchwardens it has been decided that we ask you to support The Kings Arms Youth Project here in Alton this Christmas. We are already in partnership with them in various ways but mainly through the work of our Youth/Children/Family Worker, Martha Lloyd. Many of you will know about it and the new centre at the bottom of Vicarage Hill is nearly complete. It needs flooring and carpeting and they are in need of raising approximately £3500. It would be wonderful if we as a parish could make this happen in the next few weeks. To donate please visit their JustGiving page
<https://justgiving.com/campaign/thekingsarmsalton> or if you prefer do drop a cash or cheque (made payable to 'The Kings Arms') donation to St Lawrence Vicarage. Please also pray for the work of The Kings Arms and for the young people of our community.

The St Lawrence Church Choir now have a CD available of Advent and Christmas music. If you would like a copy they are available at Resurrection Furniture or from Tony Willman - tony.willman@me.com or 01420 543628 - a bargain at £5. It is a wonderful recording and of very high quality. Do make sure you have a copy and it also makes a good present for people.

Landry - Youth Intern
I am sure you will have read that Landry is coming as an intern to both The Kings Arms and The Parish of the Resurrection - we are delighted to welcome him. His home is in Cameroon and at the moment he is staying with family in Coventry. He is due to begin his time in Alton in the New Year. We have accommodation sorted for April onwards but we will still need somewhere for him to stay from January to the end of March - there is a small allowance available. Landry is 26 years old, a teacher and is coming to England to complete a Leadership and Discipleship course. He will need to live near to Alton town centre as he doesn't drive so will need to be in walking distance of the King's Arms youth centre and the parish. Hosting him would include providing a room for him and providing his food.

Living Advent Calendar.  I hope many of you are enjoying the window displays that are being offered as we build up through the 24 days of this season. We are all invited to go and have a look. Here is a link to the Google Map which shows you the trail by day.
<https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/1/edit?mid=1qt_vwIH2NFC1y31RUBGE-WBDo_I5uIXR&usp=sharing>

Attachments
This week attachments are:
Parish Matters
Methodist Service Sheet
Christmas Services Leaflet

As I said at the beginning of this email Christmas is celebrated at the end of this coming week. It will be a different Christmas this year but nonetheless do join with us in worship as you can - Jesus comes into our world and we need His hope for our lives. I am aware as I type this that the Prime Minister is holding another press conference this afternoon. The Bible teaches that we pray for those in authority and I ask you to hold him, his Cabinet and those who advise him in your prayers at this very difficult time - that they may know great wisdom and get their hope from the One we worship. In fact we all need the hope of Jesus, the Christ Child, so let us pray for each other that we will be aware, amidst the restrictions and uncertainties, of His comfort and joy. Jesus is The Light of the World, inextinguishable in the darkness.

With love and prayer
Andrew