**Parish Matters**

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**Welcome…**

to our weekly edition of Parish Matters – we hope you enjoy

catching up with news and prayers from the Parish

##### Sunday 28th March 2021 Palm Sunday

##### This week’s Collect Prayer

True and humble king,

hailed by the crowd as Messiah:

grant us the faith to know you and love you,

that we may be found beside you

on the way of the cross,

which is the path of glory. Amen

**Prayers**

**Prayers & Readings**: Monthly prayers and the daily lectionary readings are available in Sunrise and they are available on the parish website.

**Prayer Cascade**. If you need prayer for any reason please contact pray4potr@gmail.com. A prayer team will pray regularly for each request.

Please pray for each person by name.

**Those who are ill and require prayer:** Jane, Simon, Josh and Francesca (the family of Harry and Jean Arman) Helen Milns,Anne Cleaver,Gwen McGilvray, Gail Bicknell**,** Margaret Conway, Bethan, Josephine Ayton (Julie Moss’ Mum).

**Other prayer requests** for all those attending The Prayer Course on Thursday evenings; for the families who have been attending Church@4 online recently; for the country of Mynamar (one of our Diocesan companion partners) as they face unrest; for The Diocese of Winchester as plans are made and disseminated across Deaneries and Parishes; for our Bishops - Tim, David and Debbie and the rest of The Bishop’s Staff Team.

If you or someone you know would like to be included here would you please let Andrew (01420 88794) or Philippa Penfold know (potr.alton@btinternet.com)

**Every Saturday at 10am a Prayer Meeting** is held on Zoom. Do come along.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88678575981?pwd=UzFBb2ZqdTkwQlhsYW95T05TTUtDQT09>

**Meeting ID**: 886 7857 5981 **Passcode:** 014559

**Those who are bereaved – families and friends of:** Walter Davies, Carol Cunningham, Ivor Guy, Elizabeth Hamm, Brian Bicknell, Dennis Martin, Susan Leonard, Gordon Stewart, Jean Hewitt, Jean Bramfitt, Helena Williams, Helen Lockey, Harry Arman, Beryl Daborn, Ian Cooke

**Proclaiming the Risen Jesus, Steadfast in faith, Active in Service**

**This week’s Online Services**

* Church@4 Sunday 28th March at 4pm
* <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81941371951?pwd=cTZiMWprRXV6ZkpYTjNjcWJsc3JQQT09>

**Meeting ID: 819 4137 1951 Passcode: POTR1234**

* Informal Evening Service 28th March at 6pm
* <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85739883699?pwd=YUN2czUrVXNZQU1nWEVVK3NXaVU4dz09>

**Meeting ID:** 857 3988 3699 **Passcode:** 642862

* Morning Prayer on Facebook Live everyday at 9am
* Compline (Night Prayer) on Facebook Live everyday at 8pm
* Sunday Worship service – on YouTube POTR Alton
* Afternoon tea – On Zoom Thursday 4pm
* <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85196760975?pwd=ZU9RYzA2MWFPYWpDRGlTRzFEUE5sQT09>

**Meeting ID:** 851 9676 0975 **Passcode:** 323046

**News & Notices**

**Update on the use of our church buildings**

From 29th March as the ‘Rule of Six’ is reintroduced we will open the church buildings for public worship ensuring all the social distancing and other public health guidelines are in place. From then on we will hold midweek and Sunday worship. We will need to take bookings as before.

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| **Holy Week 2021 - In Church Services in Parish of the Resurrection** |
|  | *All attendance at services will need booking through The Parish Office**There are a number of services across the four churches in the week so please be aware that we will not be able to accommodate everyone at every service so choose appropriately and do give The Office options**All social distancing and public health guidance will be followed - 2 metre rule, hand sanitising, face masks, no singing* |
|  | St Lawrence | St Peter’s  | Holy Rood | All Saints |
| **Tuesday 30th March** | 7pmCommunion |  |  |  |
| **Wednesday 31st March** |  |  |  | 9.30amCommunion |
| **Thursday 1st April** |  | 2pmMaundy Thursday communion |  |  |
| **Good Friday 2nd April** | 2.15pm Good Friday Service |  | 9.30am Good Friday Service | 12pmGood Friday Service |
| **Easter Sunday 4th April** | 10.30am Easter Communion | 9.15am Easter Communion | 9.30amEaster Communion | 10.30amEaster Communion |

All four churches are open for Individual Private Prayer. We follow the same pattern as before:

All Saints Church – Monday 2-4pm & Friday 10am-12noon

St Lawrence Church – Tuesday 2-4pm & Saturday 10am-12noon

Church of the Holy Rood – Wednesday 10am-12noon & Saturday 2-4pm

St Peter’s Church – Thursday 2-4pm

**Holy Week crosses** – Everyone is invited to help us decorate the wooden crosses that have been erected in the churchyards at All Saints, St Lawrence and Holy Rood churches to help us reflect on the Easter story.  You are welcome to take along some flowers or foliage from your garden, or there are buckets of flowers at each cross for you to use.  The crosses will remain in place all week and will serve as a focal point in our communities.  Do encourage the people you know to take part.  Thank you!

**Easter Gardens** We really enjoyed seeing all the lovely Easter Gardens that people created last year. We are going to challenge you to make some this year too! Place your decorated garden outside your house for people to see and enjoy. Please share pictures of any you make on Facebook, Twitter or email.

**Easter Packs for families** Martha is busy making up Easter craft packs for children to do over the Easter holidays. If your children would like one please let Martha know by emailing her on martha@potr-alton.co.uk

**Church@4 Sunday 28th March at 4pm** Come along and join us for Church@4 on Zoom – everyone welcome! This week we celebrate Palm Sunday. Martha, our Children, Youth and Families worker will lead the short 30-minute service with songs and worship. Church@4 will take place **every other Sunday**. Zoom details are:

**Meeting ID: 819 4137 1951 Passcode: POTR1234**

**Easter Family Scavenger Hunt on Good Friday** The list of items to find along with an Easter Story booklet will be available from St Lawrence Vicarage (side passageway) or from Holybourne Vicarage from early this week. A digital copy will also be sent out. Bring your treasure to either St Lawrence Church or Holy Rood Church between 2pm-4pm on Good Friday where someone will welcome you and present you with your chocolatey prize.

**Traidcraft**  If you’re looking for ideas for Easter gifts Jo may be able to help you. Traidcraft have a range of Fairtrade Easter eggs including The Real Easter Egg which comes with a little book of the Easter Story. For adults there is a beautiful selection of Olive Wood crosses. The small one fits into a pocket, perfect encouragement as we start to venture out a little more. There are also beautiful handcrafted cards and decorative eggs.

To see the range visit **:**[www.traidcraftshop.co.uk](https://www.traidcraftshop.co.uk/), or call Jo for more information, 07980 371034.

**Fresh Start led by Christians Against Poverty (CAP)** For some people, Lockdown has meant they spend more time and money on a life-controlling habit such as smoking, gambling, over-eating, internet addiction, online shopping,  drinking, or taking drugs.  **Fresh Start** helps you tackle such a habit.  It’s an 8-week course pioneered by Christians Against Poverty (CAP), based on principles from the Bible and the 12-steps-of-recovery process, backed by 1-to-1 coaching and a support group of others wanting to tackle their dependencies.  It’s free and completely confidential.  For more information, see [www.capfreshstart.org](http://www.capfreshstart.org/).

A new Fresh Start course will begin on **Monday 12th April, 7:30 - 9:00 pm** at the Alton Maltings Centre.  Arrangements comply with Covid rules.  If you, or anyone you know, would like to try the Fresh Start course, contact Mark Rumsby on 07769 030913 or email markrumsby@capuk.org .

**Alton Foodbank Update** Given the positive trend in levels of Covid infection in East Hampshire the foodbank is planning to reopen in Market Square w/c April 5th. They will continue to home deliver to families who cannot get to the foodbank itself. Demand remains high but thankfully so do donations. Below is the list of items in short supply, Thank you for your donations.

\* Sponge puddings (long life)

\* Potatoes (tinned & instant)

\* Tea

\* Coffee

\* Rice (dry)

\* Chocolate (not Easter eggs)

\* Marmite / Peanut butter

\* Tuna

\* Hair Conditioner

\* Fabric Conditioner

\* Cleaning products

**Stewardship Giving to POTR** has been impacted during the Covid pandemic. The work of God’s church still carries on, though. Please remember our mission to ‘Proclaim the Risen Jesus, Steadfast in Faith and Active in Service’ and consider your response, which is partly your financial commitment. Donations may be sent to the vicarage, marked for the attention of the Stewardship Secretary (Tim Sturt). Tim can advise you on setting up regular and one-off donations through your bank or credit card and The Parish Giving Scheme. Please ask. T: 07949 006730 E: stewardship@potr-alton.co.uk. There is also information on the website. *Tim Sturt*

**Lent Challenge** Why not join in our Lent Challenge? This week your challenge is to go on a nature walk with your family. As you walk ask the questions ‘What can I hear? What can I see? What can I feel?’ Nature is a blessing so thank God for every blessing you come across along the way.

**Deanery Pastoral Reorganisation** The Winchester Diocese is responding to an ongoing financial situation which has been exacerbated by The COVID pandemic. Budget cuts have been made to central office provision, sale of property is taking place and there is to be a reduction in stipendiary (paid) clergy. These reductions are being made in every Deanery with a needed loss of 22 posts.

In the Alton Deanery we will lose two posts to retirement (Revd Ed Pruen & Revd Tony Pears) and therefore each parish/benefice is to be reorganised. The first part of the consultations for this is now taking place which means that PCCs are having meetings with Bishop David and The Archdeacon, Richard Brand. It is proposed that the Parish of the Resurrection is joined by the parishes of Bentworth, Lasham & Shalden. Every reorganisation will make new single parishes with one PCC. As the consultation process continues we promise to keep everyone informed. I hope that you understand that this needs to be undertaken with a deep commitment to prayer and under the guidance of The Holy Spirit. It also needs a missional approach rather simply an administrative or financial process. Please would you hold The PCC and Ministry Team in your prayers at this time.

**The Ministry Team**

**Vicar:** Revd Andrew Micklefield andrewmicklefield@gmail.com 88794

**Associate Vicar:** Revd Gordon Randall gordon.randall@sky.com 549567

**Assistant Priest:** Revd Lynn Power revlynnpower@outlook.com 07850 232995

**Assistant Priest:** Revd Rachel Sturt rachelsturt@btinternet.com 07411 384496

**Assistant Priest:** Revd Martin East martineast@btinternet.com 549595

**Anna Chaplains:** Debbie Thrower & Rachel Sturt c/o The Parish Office 83234

**Youth/children/family worker:** Martha Lloyd martha@potr-alton.co.uk 07492 392246

**General Enquiries to the Parish Administrators** Philippa Penfold & Ellie Elder **07865 292401 potr.alton@btinternet.com**

**Currently the Parish Office is closed but contact can be made by calling the work mobile on 07865 292401 or via email. Please leave a message on the mobile if nobody answers and we will call you back as soon as possible.**

Please send all news and notices to the Parish Administrators.

More information on all our activities can be found on the Parish website [www.potr-alton.co.uk](http://www.potr-alton.co.uk) or by visiting our **Facebook, Instagram and Twitter** pages. Please like and share our posts so we can spread the good news of our parish. All notices are also published on the website.