

Sunrise

A monthly magazine for the Parish of the Resurrection, Alton



June 2021

A donation
will be appreciated



The Parish of the Resurrection, Alton

Vicar: Reverend Andrew Micklefield, 88794

St Lawrence Vicarage, Church St, Alton GU34 2BW

Sunday Services

Details of Sunday services for the month can be found on the Back Cover. You will find that there is a variety of services intended to meet the needs of people of many different ages and backgrounds. You are welcome to worship with us.

Family Worship

The church wants to make it as easy as possible for families with children to become part of the worship life of the church. To find out more contact one of the clergy.

Marriage and Baptism Enquiries

Enquiries should be made to the Parish Office by telephone 07865 292 401 or by calling at the Parish Office or email: potr.alton@btinternet.com

Parish Centre Bookings

It is possible to book St Lawrence Parish Centre or All Saints Parish Hall for functions and other events. Bookings for all Church Buildings and Halls should be made to the Parish Office.

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Ellie Elder

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c/o The Ministry Team via the Office

Youth, Children & Family Worker

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Parish Office: Tel. 07865 292 401

Email: potr.alton@btinternet.com

Open Monday to Friday

9.30am-12.30am

Parish Web Site:

<http://www.potr-alton.co.uk>

This month's cover picture is

Holidays are coming (well maybe)

The Parish of the Resurrection lies within the Winchester Diocese of the Church of England & is in covenant partnership with Alton Methodist Church in the Greater Alton Project

First thoughts . . .

I dreamt that I went to Heaven and an angel was deputised to show me around.

Our first stop was at a large room filled with angels. They were unfolding, reading and stacking thousands of bits of paper, of all sizes. My angel guide explained, "This is the Receiving Section. Here, all petitions to God said in prayer are received.' I looked around the area, and it was terribly busy. Angels were sorting out petitions from all over the world. Some were long and involved and weighty, others merely a sigh on a scrap of paper.

Then we moved on down a long corridor until we reached the second section.

The angel said to me, "This is the Packaging and Delivery Section. Here, the graces and blessings that have been asked for are processed and delivered to the people who need them." I noticed again how busy it was there. The angels were working hard to package and send back to earth all the blessings that had been requested.

Finally, at the farthest end of the long corridor, we stopped at the door of a very small station. To my great surprise, only one angel was seated there, doing nothing much. "This is the Acknowledgement Section, my angel friend said quietly. He seemed a bit embarrassed." How is it that there is no work going on here?' I asked.

The angel sighed. "Well, after people receive the blessings that they ask for, it seems very few think to send back any acknowledgement."

"How does one acknowledge God's blessings?" I asked..

"Simple," the angel answered. "Just say, 'Thank you, Lord.' And mean it."

I tell you this simple story to encourage you to find time to simply say it. There are plenty of examples of people doing things for us that simply need us to find the space and the time to say 'thank you'. We can look out over our community and each day there is someone who does something for us - the postman delivers, the milkman leaves us his goods on the doorstep, the workman repairs the road, the grass verge is cut, someone may deliver us a meal, someone stops and chats, the Town Councillor looks after that nagging problem, someone from the Parish's Ministry Team offers to do pray or help out with a problem and the list goes on. Little things, normal things, everyday things are just as important as the extraordinary, out of the way things.

Some research from Hofstra University in Long Island, New York says giving thanks is good for your health - that maintaining an attitude of gratitude can improve psychological, emotional and physical wellbeing. Feeling grateful and expressing our thanks apparently gives us more energy, more optimism, more social connections and more happiness - we earn more money, sleep more soundly, exercise more regularly and have greater resistance to viral infections. And no I don't understand how that all works but it sounds great!

Philosophers as far back as the ancient Greeks and Romans cited gratitude as an indispensable human virtue and let's not lose it. Our Christian tradition says we say thank you to the person who does good to us and for us and I encourage you to say 'Thank you, Lord' and mean it as we receive the blessings of life and people and circumstances.

Andrew

Parish Re-organisation with Bentworth, Lasham & Shalden

As many of you will know we have been asked to have conversation with the parishes of Bentworth, Lasham and Shalden in the overarching re-organisation within the Diocese. This follows the effects of COVID 19 on Diocesan finances and with the agreed reduction of 22 paid clergy posts.

The proposal is to find ways in which we can become one single parish across all the churches involved and cover ministry and mission. This is a big task and there have been a couple of meetings so far to begin to get to know each other. We have outlined four work streams which will be starting in June.

1. Service patterns
2. Focal ministry
3. Church of England Primary Schools, especially St Mary's in Bentworth
4. Governance

We will need to involve different people in these work stream areas with the hope we can have something to report back initially by the end of July. I am sure this won't be the finished piece of work and further conversations will be necessary. There are also formal pastoral reorganisation processes that the Archdeacon needs to be part of and we will keep him informed as we go forward.

We very much need all of this covered in prayer and therefore I ask you to do just that please. In everything we must keep the focus on the growth of God's kingdom, good unity and joy.

Andrew

Pilgrim Group

How does a Home Group carry on meeting and supporting each other during a pandemic?

I don't know/it doesn't/with difficulty. Could be any of those but we prefer to say with the help of the Holy Spirit.

We have used the inevitable Zoom to help us keep in touch, choosing favourite hymns was a particular favourite. We have had Monday updates by email throughout the year; we have met in person outside when allowed. Tina and I always seemed to choose particularly rainy days!

Several of us have had to deal with difficult situations concerning health, work, financial worries, family sadness, isolation and loss like everyone else but we have tried to support each other through prayer and practical help that has made such a difference to the experience. Clare can be relied on for delivering fish and chips, so I've heard. Gil shared "thanks for all your encouraging words Liz, do so enjoy your Monday messages". Robert has kept us posted from Southampton.

Barbara has continued to cheer us up with her lovely poems and rumour has it that another one is imminent so watch this space. We keep trying to persuade her to publish an anthology. It's also cheered us up to share photos. Couldn't ignore Pilgrim Bear.

This is what Barbara shared

"Continuing communication was a real soul saver, to hear how everyone is, what we are all doing or not doing more to the point, and how it has made us feel.

It was lovely we were able to meet up in Alton Community Gardens, between some of us.

My walks since recovery have been building and I am going much further, faster. I have explored some new footpaths and by ways, thinking I THINK I know where they come out, but not always! Although I can't say I have actually got lost, just not sure which is the best way back or turning back before I have ended up too far away. I guess my homing skills are quite good after 38 years, but I have used the tracker app on my phone a few times. Now I know the new ones so far, I won't stray in the wrong direction. Analogy to life I fear!

This joy has provided lots of prayer time and thanks to God for the free enjoyment of the wonderful surroundings and views. With spirit lifted and weary feet, I have enjoyed a G & T as well as a cuppa on my return"

We hope to meet up soon to chat about future plans. I just want to thank all my fellow Pilgrims and in a funny sort of way I know we are closer than ever. Praise the Lord.

Liz Griffiths

Bible Readings for the month of June

Taken from the Church of England lectionary – readings to use daily

Tuesday 1 st	Psalm 5	Job 8	Romans 4: 13-end
Wednesday 2 nd	Psalm 119: 1-32	Job 9	Romans 5: 1-11
Thursday 3 rd	Psalm 147	Deuteronomy 8: 2-16	1 Corinthians 10: 1-17
Friday 4 th	Psalm 19	Job 11	Romans 6: 1-14
Saturday 5 th	Psalm 23	Job 12	Romans 6: 15-end
†			
Sunday 6th Trinity 1	2 Corinthians 4: 13 - 5.1		Mark 3: 20-35
Monday 7 th	Psalm 30	Job 13	Romans 7: 1-6
Tuesday 8 th	Psalm 36	Job 14	Romans 7: 7-end
Wednesday 9 th	Psalm 34	Job 15	Romans 8: 1-11
Thursday 10 th	Psalm 37	Job 16: 1-17: 2	Romans 8: 12-17
Friday 11 th	Psalm 100	Jeremiah 9: 23-24	Acts 4: 32 - end
Saturday 12 th	Psalm 42	Job 18	Romans 8: 31 - end
†			
Sunday 13th Trinity 2	2 Corinthians 5: 6-10 [11-13]14-17		Mark 4: 26-34
Monday 14 th	Psalm 44	Job 19	Romans 9: 1-18
Tuesday 15 th	Psalm 48	Job 21	Romans 9: 19 – end
Wednesday 16 th	Psalm 119: 57-80	Job 22	Romans 10: 1 – 10
Thursday 17 th	Psalm 57	Job 23	Romans 10: 11 – end
Friday 18 th	Psalm 51	Job 24	Romans 11: 1 – 12
Saturday 19 th	Psalm 68	Job 25 - 26	Romans 11: 13-24
†			

Bible Readings for the month of June

Taken from the Church of England lectionary – readings to use daily

Sunday 20th Trinity 3	2 Corinthians 6: 1-13 Mark 4: 35-41		
Monday 21 st	Psalm 71	Job 27	Romans 11: 25 – end
Tuesday 22 nd	Psalm 73	Job 28	Romans 12: 1-8
Wednesday 23 rd	Psalm 77	Job 29	Romans 12: 9 – end
Thursday 24 th	Psalm 50	Ecclesiasticus 48: 1 – 10	Luke 3: 1 - 17
Friday 25 th	Psalm 55	Job 31	Romans 13: 8 – end
Saturday 26 th	Psalm 76	Job 32	Romans 14: 1 - 12
†			
Sunday 27th Trinity 4	2 Corinthians 8: 7-15 Mark 5: 21-43		
Monday 28 th	Psalm 80	Job 33	Romans 14: 13 – end
Tuesday 29 th	Psalm 71	Isaiah 49: 1-6	Acts 11: 1 – 18
Wednesday 30 th	Psalm 119: 105-128	Job 39	Romans 15: 14 - 21



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(All government guidelines relating to COVID-19 will be adhered to)



*After months of lockdown, the Sunday
procession probably needed some practise.*

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News and Views from St Peter's Church Beech

Unselfishness and Hope for the Future

At last there is a glimmer of light at the end of a long, winding, dark tunnel. At times over recent years, as many of our safe routines began to disappear, it seemed as though this day would never dawn. Today, the seventh Sunday after Easter, we had another really uplifting service at St Peter's, as we do each week with the Reverend Lynne Power. On this occasion we were led by the Reverend Gordon Randall, with prayers from our own Sarah Neish and a passage from St John's Gospel read by Peter Johnson. The occasion was enhanced by the fact that it was a Eucharist and that is always special. Due to the current restrictions there were less than twenty people in the congregation but our freshly repaired Church appeared full and the hymn humming reverberated about the old wooden building. We were able to look round the seats and see and recognise everyone. As it does when there is not much movement involved our minds carried out the perambulations and the overriding feeling was of unity and familiarity. During this very trying period the togetherness of our congregation was palpable. We have actually gathered in St Peter's when allowed and we have contacted each other on the phone, on line or actually, especially recently, over socially distanced coffees or the equivalent. We know the problems that each of us has experienced and the mutual support has been evident and helpful. I don't know if this has partially been due to the fact that we are small in number or that we are familiar with each other or because we have a joint Christian faith. It is probably a mixture of the above but whatever it is we feel privileged and very fortunate to be part of this worshipping community.

As time moves on we are slowly regaining social confidence and we have been able to 'do' more. I'll just give you one example of this. We are very much involved in the National Trust and the grounds of the NT properties are now open to visitors and from tomorrow (17th May) the buildings are starting to welcome visitors. One of our favourite local properties is Hinton Ampner and last week we visited the place (outdoors only) for the first time in ages. Visits have to be booked remotely in advance, which takes away visits on a whim, but there is much still to enjoy. At this place one enters through the walled garden and it is fabulous. Over the past few months because the National Trust has lost much of its usual income and also a number of its members, staff numbers have had to be cut back. Instead of the usual team of gardeners, some of them volunteers, the sole worker in the whole property has been their head gardener. He has not wasted his time. The walled garden is a real picture. The vegetables, in their serried ranks, the more exotic plants and the carefully espaliered fruit trees are inspirational. In fact the whole grounds are uplifting. We were able to enjoy our home-made lunch seated outside overlooking the valley behind the house. We could also see the retraining of staff that was taking place. It is very well worth a visit or two.

One always gains from such experiences and a couple of years back we picked up a wonderful little booklet from their beautiful small chapel. Items from the publication appeared in several of our Beech Pages. On this visit we were able to purchase another small book. This one is called: **Words to Share**, an *anthology of prose and poetry for use in Christian education and worship*. In future Sunrise editions you will experience some extracts from this book, beginning with one this month.

When Jesus Came to London

When Jesus came to London,
He visited Hyde Park.
He gathered crowds around Him
And talked till it was dark
Of how we should remember
The homeless and the poor,
The hungry and exploited, that
We usually ignore.
They listened quietly to Him –
The strangest man they'd met –
Then each lit up another cigarette
And went home to forget!
They thought he was a preacher
Who'd tell them something nice!
Instead, He ordered everyone
to practice sacrifice
When Jesus came to London
They all knew what He meant,
But shrugged it off because the truth
Was inconvenient.
They packed Him off to Brixton
Where He could preach no more,
Then carried on in London town
Just like they did before.

Paddy Mendham

Join us in prayer for Climate Justice!

In November the UK will host the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP) with the aim of bringing leaders from across the world together to accelerate action towards the goals of the Paris Agreement and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. As we head towards this summit it is vital that we underpin it with prayer. To this



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IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ITSLI

end Christian Aid has set up a prayer chain; throughout the year people across the country and the world are committing to pray for climate justice and COP26. As a parish we have signed up to join the prayer chain on Saturday 5 June and this is where you come in!

- ❖ Join us at St Lawrence Church on the morning of Saturday 5 June where simple prayer resources will be available to enable us all to focus on climate justice, to aid our understanding on the current challenges and to pray for the leaders at the summit. The church will be open from 10am to 12noon and you will be able to pray in the peace and quiet of the Galilee Chapel for as long or as short a time as you wish. A member of the Eco Church team will be present but prayers will not be led.
- ❖ The Saturday prayer meeting on Zoom from 10am to 11am will be committed to praying towards COP26. Watch out in Parish Matters and on email for the Zoom link nearer the time.
- ❖ Resources will be shared by email and on social media; if you are unable to visit St Lawrence or join in the Zoom prayer meeting perhaps you could pray at home (or wherever you may be) for some time between 10am and 12noon.

Can we encourage you to take part in this simple prayer event where we play our part in joining together with friends from around the world by praying for climate justice?

Your Eco Church Team

(Elspeth, John, Robert, Julie, Jenny, Sue, Martyn and Ruth)



Alton Organ Society - 2021 Lunchtime Organ Concert

Once life gets back to some degree of normality we hope to repeat the series of lunchtime organ concerts given by local organists on the St Lawrence Church Organ.

The first concert is to be given by our own **Will Nisbet on Thursday 24 June 2021**. Doors open 12.45 and the concert starts about 1.10 pm and ends about 1.50 pm.

Admission is free but we encourage members of the audience to donate money at the end of the concert - this includes using gift aid if eligible - and all proceeds (less expenses) will go towards the organ restoration fund.

Future concerts are to take place on the third Thursday of the month so do look out for concerts on 15 July, & 19 August 2021 and keep a note of the events in respective your diaries!

Usually, we supply liquid refreshments before the concert but that won't happen until we are out of the Covid 19 restrictions.

Contact Tony Willman tony.willman@mac.com or 07928 516052) for further details.



News from Alton Methodist Church

We're excited to be able to re-start live services on Sunday 23rd May and will continue through June with one service at 10.00am each Sunday. As social distancing will still be in force initially, numbers will be limited, so advance booking of a place is essential. Please email or phone the church office altonmethodist@hotmail.com or 01420 82695) and your message will be picked up and answered.

The recorded services will continue in tandem with live services. You can access them through the church website (altonmethodist.org.uk) where you will also find the weekly newsheets and midweek 'Pause for Thought'.

David Allan is organising a Spring Saunter on the morning of Tuesday 18th May. If you are interested in taking part, please contact David for further details by phoning 01420 84739 or emailing oldschoolhouse@gmx.co.uk.

The Boys' and Girls' Brigades are meeting again face-to-face, with programmes adapted to comply with COVID protocols. If you know a boy or girl who would like to join, please contact Pete or Kym Burgess via the church office (see above) for further information.

Notes from a locked down Choir

(but not for much longer hopefully!)



My castaway this month is the lovely Faye Mylward, our much treasured alto who is never quite sure whether she has seen a piece of music before or not, even if we assure her she's sung it many times! She is also the inventor of "Faye Time". This is where no matter what time choir practice starts Faye will slide into the back row (she hopes unnoticed) anything up to ten minutes later. This is a handy ploy if we're practicing a hymn nobody likes at the beginning of choir practice. I must remember Faye Time.

So here is her selection of Desert island Discs. In your own time Faye...

"As I sat down to think about my eight Castaway Discs, I realized that the songs I was coming up with fell into pairs.

My first pair are from the 80's, and unashamedly big and brash. It was at that time when, as teenagers, Joy and I were getting on trains and buses to see any group we could, live in concert, and you didn't need to go to massive arenas in those days. The Guildford Civic and the Hammersmith Odeon were good enough! The songs I've chosen are "**Girls on Film**" by **Duran Duran**, and "**Club Tropicana**" by **Wham**, which always lift my spirits when I hear them on the radio now. Great teenage memories!

My second pair reflect two passions which have stayed with me since the age of 11: French and singing. I find listening to **Edith Piaf's "La Vie en Rose"** sums up all that is beautiful about the French language. Equally, it was listening to Karen Carpenter's voice in the late 70's/early 80's that inspired me to sing, and it was the start of my lifelong double act with Joy, singing together at any chance we could. The incredible guitar solo at the end of "**Goodbye to Love**" makes that probably the best **Carpenters** song there is.

My third pair is all about singing with Joy and with St Lawrence Choir, starting with the "**Duetto buffo di due gatti**" or "**Cat Duet**" by **Rossini**. Joy and I have sung this many times over the years, starting at the age of 16 or so, and most memorably at the "Last night of the Proms" in the Public Gardens in (I think) 2013. With cat masks, purring and clawing, we meowed our way through this brilliant piece, and were presented with a box of "Go Cat" at the end. Great fun! It was hard to decide which choral piece to choose from our church choir repertoire – mainly, as everyone who sings with me will tell you, because I can never remember the names of anything we sing! But in the end, it has to be the beautiful advent anthem "**E'en so Lord Jesus, quickly come**" by **Paul Manz**. It is the one we sing year after year, and I think Tony would fear for his life if he didn't let us. I love this one particularly because the alto line is so lovely and I

would love to sing it more times in choir practice, if it weren't so very high for the soprs! (They would not be best pleased!)

My final pair of songs come from the Covenant Youth Choir repertoire. We ran the CYC for ten years and had the best of times introducing music and singing to such a wonderful group of young people. Our concerts at home, our trips abroad and the crazy things they all said and did make for such wonderful memories. Joy, Alison, Anneliese and I still regularly reminisce about it all! There were so many songs to choose from, all special, but I have chosen "**Cerf Volant**" from the film **La Chorale** which we sang on tour in Pertuis, France in 2014, and which they sang so beautifully, to the great delight of our French audience. And last, but by no means least "**Somewhere only we know**" by Keane, which we started singing in 2013/14, but sang on through the years right to the end of the CYC, and our final tour to Paris in 2019. You can often catch the song on the radio, as it's been covered by many artists, and whenever I hear it, I can't help putting in the all the harmony parts underneath. As Tony said the other day, "our choral version beats the real thing"!

For my book, it would be The Lollipop Shoes by Joanne Harris which is the sequel to her bestselling novel Chocolat set in Montmartre, Paris and a lot darker and more mysterious!

For my luxury item I would choose my dog Harvey who is my excellent companion and cuddly chap. I can't think what more you would need really.

"Somewhere Only We Know" would have to be the song I would rescue if they were all washed away as it sums up the CYC so well.

Great selection Faye. I'm not sure Harvey would be strictly allowed, as another living being. However if this wretched lockdown has taught us anything it's about the importance of companionship so I'm going to let you have him. (Apologies to Roy Plomley but these are changed times Roy !)

Thank you so much Faye for letting us hear your Desert Island Discs.

Elaine Cook

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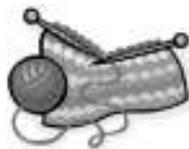

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Knitters Anonymous

Knitters Anonymous

Many thanks to those who have continued to knit so industriously. Once our churches are opened regularly please leave donations in All Saints Church or contact me (83514). It is hoped that another shipment to the Refugee camps will be ready for dispatch by the end of June.



Handmade – with love

Just for a change all you 'square knitters' here is a simple pattern for a Square Strips Blanket (although single squares will still be collected). Why not give it a go?

Double Knit wools of various colours Size 8 needles. Cast on 35 (40) sts Garter st for 60 (70) rows. Change wool colour . Repeat 4 more times. This will make a strip of 5 different colour squares. Cast off. Knit 4 more strips in the same way. Sew the 5 strips together. Crochet around the outside edge in a contrasting colour. This will result in a colourful blanket of 25 squares (and much less sewing up!!) Good luck!

Thank you once again to you All!

All Saints Hard of Hearing Group



Good news!! - make a note in your diaries! The Hard of Hearing Group Traditional Harvest Festival Service, to be led by Rev Rachel, has been arranged for **Tuesday 21st September, 2.30pm** in All Saints Church. As it will probably be the first occasion on which members and friends will meet up after the group was mothballed, please circulate the good news. All are welcome! As usual the Harvest gifts will be donated to the Alton Food Bank and any collection will go to the Anna Chaplain Funds.



Over the summer months discussions will be taking place to see how and when the group can restart and meet on a regular basis, so all ideas welcome please. Many thanks to those who have already indicated that they will be volunteering to ensure that this popular Group will continue for another twenty one years!! Contact Rev Rachel or Kate Dando

News from Holy Rood Church, Holybourne

It's great to be back in church worshipping together; I think the highlight for many is the opportunity to sing one hymn out in the churchyard at the end of the service, usually accompanied by music although not when I am in charge of the speaker and it fails to work properly...! On Sunday 15 May, while Gordon was leading the service at St Peter's, a small group of Holy Rood regulars led the service based on 'creation'; too many people to mention but a particular vote of thanks goes to Helen Walters for leading us so efficiently.

We have also been singing outside with a small group of 'Teddies' (the church toddler group) and their parents, along with listening to a story from the Bible. Grateful thanks go to Sarah Ebbutt and Alan Armstrong, our regular team members. We had lots of fun at our first 'in person' Church@4 at Holy Rood when we learnt about the story of the road to Emmaus and, again, were singing outside ably accompanied by Robin Kemp on his guitar. We are currently planning to next Church@4 at Holy Rood, this time focussing on the Ascension.

From 17 May the church of the Holy Rood will be open every day; we look forward to the time when we can restart our Tuesday coffee and prayer mornings. In the meantime, we continue to have small groups for 'tea and cake' in the garden when the weather permits.

Now that things are opening up some more we are looking to resurrect our cleaning and flower rotas; if you would like to help with either please do contact me. When numbers allow we hope to be able to arrange a 'spring clean' day which should be lots of fun.

With best wishes from everyone at Holy Rood, Ruth Randall
(ruthmaryrandall@gmail.com / 01420 549567)



Prayerful responses to the creation service at Holy Rood led by the team.
"If everything exists to lift you high, so will I"



Jesus at the Ascension made by Andrew Micklefield and Robin Kemp from Church@4

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Step by Step – Preventing Youth Homelessness Locally

Our young people are our future. Much of the resources of the state, our families and communities are invested in giving young people the best chance in life. As individuals, much of our effort goes into looking after and nurturing the development of young people so they achieve their potential to contribute to society.

It is a crucial turning point when a young person is dislocated from their family or made homeless. Inevitably they fall behind their peers educationally and socially. The impact on their character, education and motivation is deep and long lasting. The opportunities available to them to develop and improve their lives is severely disrupted. This situation exists locally and is surprisingly widespread with many young people on the cusp of becoming homeless without people recognising their situation.

Step by Step provides that help. With the assurance of established, secure accommodation, Step by Step provides care that begins from the point of presentation, usually after referral from local authorities. Each young person is assigned individual professional support appropriate to their needs – a Step Worker. The aim of young people's Step Workers is to help every young person to reach their full potential and lead a fulfilling life.

It is important the for the community to be aware of Step by Step and know they can refer young people who find themselves in hard times to contact the charity. The sooner young people are helped, the less damage is done and the better their prospects for the future.

The charity needs the skills and patronage of the community, whether for helping young people prepare for life, or for creating openings and employment. A very active fundraising department is organising charitable events throughout the year and keen to hear of new ideas, particularly as we regain our freedom from the pandemic.

Many people and families are prepared to help with Supported Lodgings. The offer of a calm, organised environment is crucial to many young people and invaluable to their reconnection to an independent way of life.

Please look at our website, hear and see the stories of young people who have been part of the Step by Step community [Step by Step: Young People Charity | Youth Homeless Prevention](#)

Thankyou for listening. Should you wish to know more email gordon.pope@stepbystep.org.uk and as a resident of Holybourne always happy to meet up.

A Conversation about Traidcraft with Jo McGregor

What prompted you to become involved with Traidcraft and to sell their goods?

I used to do fund-raising for Christian Aid and Liz Russell, our Curate at the time, suggested that I sell the Traidcraft Christmas cards because a percentage from that went to Christian Aid. It went quite well, so Liz encouraged me to sell Traidcraft goods once a month in church using supplies from the Methodist Church. It went well, so I set up as a Fair Trader with my own account with Traidcraft, and that was 21 years ago. Since then, I've been selling at church once a month, and I have to say that the congregation at St Lawrence are caffeine and chocolate-eating addicts!

What else does Traidcraft get involved with?

Traidcraft have three things at the heart of everything they do, *trade justice*, *social justice* and *environmental justice*. They were founded in 1979 by a group of Christians who wanted to challenge the injustice in global trade, and they pledged to keep going until trade was conducted fairly for the benefit of everybody in the supply chain. We are still meeting those challenges. Trade justice was the key element when they began, but social justice has very quickly caught up with that, so they make sure that there is equality in gender, religion and opportunity for producers, regardless of their background. And then came environmental justice. They have been quite passionate about that for a number of years now and have been looking at how they source things, at packaging and the environmental issues.

Does Traidcraft campaign on behalf of Fairtrade issues? If so, how and where?

The three forms of justice are at the heart of Traidcraft and underpin everything it does. In terms of campaigning, people like myself selling Traidcraft products wanted to reinvest any profits that they made into a charity that supported the ethos of Traidcraft. So in 1986 they set up their sister charity, Traidcraft Exchange. This is really the campaigning side, the charity side of Traidcraft. They campaign, they educate consumers, they work with and educate producers. One of their campaigns was the *Who Picked my Tea* campaign, which addressed inequalities for tea workers in Assam. Traidcraft Exchange campaigned to make everybody more aware of where their tea came from and a result six of the UK's biggest tea brands now reveal their suppliers and in the UK we now know where more than 70% of our tea comes from, so the UK tea market has moved from being quite a secretive one to being very transparent and that means it helps the tea workers and they get better pay and working conditions. Traidcraft Exchange work very closely with Traidcraft and for years Traidcraft have been championing the rights of tea workers, but I guess they realised that not everybody is going to buy Traidcraft Fairtrade tea, so Traidcraft Exchange go out and lobby the larger tea producers. Also, the Fairtrade mark was established by Traidcraft, making everybody aware of Fairtrade issues.

When I started selling Traidcraft I was working for Sainsburys and there really wasn't much choice back then, you might get one token Fairtrade tea and coffee and they'd do a few lines, and then Christmas would come and those items would be removed to make room for Christmas stuff, but now, when I go in and speak to the children at St Lawrence School, it's amazing how aware they are of that Fairtrade brand logo, and I've heard them going around supermarkets badgering their parents to buy Fairtrade, and their little eagle eyes find the Fairtrade logo on all the products – so yes, probably above anything else, Traidcraft have pioneered the Fairtrade logo.

How does Traidcraft justify the carbon footprint of transporting their goods around the world?

Most things are sent by seafreight., though fairly traded roses for example, flown from Kenya to be sold in the supermarkets have a smaller environmental footprint than roses grown in polytunnels in the Netherlands, where they're grown under cover and need a lot of heat and irrigation. It's a complex issue, but at the core of everything they source and sell comes trade, environmental and social justice so they are constantly looking for the most environmentally friendly, socially friendly, fair way of supplying goods. Take sugar for example. We've been out of sugar for a long time because a shipment got held up. They order multiple pallets' worth so it all comes in one huge shipment, and then the warehouse will be full of sugar for the next few months.

The Eco Church team is looking ahead to the 26th UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) in November. What is Traidcraft doing to address the issue of climate change?

This comes back again to their three aims. One of the mantras of Traidcraft now is investing in what's good, not what's cheap, so it's making those sustainable choices and thinking about what we buy. They are encouraging people not to waste food so are looking carefully at everything they buy - where it's come from, how it's sourced, the environmental ethics of that company. They have really worked hard to make sure that their products are environmentally friendly. Also, they are ahead of the curve in that they are not afraid to go out there and look for new products, for example T-shirts made of seaweed, which is abundant and sustainable. They also buy from suppliers who reuse and recycle; there are some beautiful products which are made from recycled saris, products made from bicycle inner tubes. Their stationery is from a company called Vent, and for every pack of pencils bought they support children's educational projects around the world. As well as being an ethical and recycled product, the pens are refillable, the ink cartridges hold 5 times more ink than the average pen, meaning they last longer.

Traidcraft have also looked at their packaging, for example they stopped using plastic fillers in their boxes, they use paper tape on their boxes, the wrapping round the single-wrapped sweets is home compostable, the chocolate wrap is home compostable. They want the environment to be at the heart of the decisions they make. It's working, because people are buying the products. Also,

there's the Bio-D products. At the moment I offer a refill service on the washing-up liquid and I will do more when I get back to church. The catalogue is recyclable, the ink is vegetable- and water-based and it's printed in a factory powered by solar panels. The photographer who does the artwork works from a studio that's run by solar panels.

Thank you Jo for telling us about Traidcraft, and here's to the next 21 years of your Traidcraft stall!

Please call Jo on 01420 87680 /07980 371034 for more information or a catalogue, which is more than just about the products - it tells you about Traidcraft's journey and what they're doing to help the environment.

Look out for the Traidcraft stall at the Climate Service at St Lawrence on Sunday 4th July. You will once again be able to buy all your favourite things, pick up a catalogue, and read much more about Traidcraft.

*Jenny Thompson
(on behalf of the Eco Church team)*

News from St Lawrence CE Primary School

In our Collective Worship at St Lawrence CE Primary School, we have recently been looking at positivity and gratitude as key themes and have discussed how Jesus modelled this. As part of this, we have introduced the Always Club that meet on a Thursday or a Friday afternoon. The Always Club has different members each week – one child from each class is nominated because they are always for example, being polite, giving 100% effort, being kind, listening.....the list goes on! Each week, their name goes in our newsletter and they meet to have some special time with Mrs Casson or Mrs Micklefield which involves a chat and a hot chocolate (even with marshmallows!) We are so proud of our children and it is important that we recognise those children who are always doing the right thing.

With the government guidelines changing, our Year 6 and Year 4 children are ecstatic as it means they can go on their longed for residential trips! In June, Year 6 will be going to a PGL site at Osmington Bay, Dorset and Year 4 will be going to Runways End Outdoor Centre, near Farnborough, Both year groups will be staying from Monday to Friday and will have the opportunity to undertake many exciting outdoor activities. We look forward to hearing all about their adventures!



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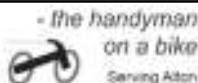


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And Finally . . .

Out to graze

A group of elderly British tourists were touring Holland by bus. They stopped at a cheese farm where a young guide led them through the process of making cheese from goat's milk. She showed the group a lovely hillside where many goats were grazing.

"These," she explained, "are the older goats put out to pasture when they no longer produce." She then asked, "What do you do in Britain with your old goats?"

A spry old gentleman answered: "They send us on bus tours!"

Great religious truths

During these serious and troubled times, people of all faiths should remember these four great religious truths:

Muslims do not recognise Jews as God's Chosen People.

Jews do not recognise Jesus as the Messiah.

Protestants do not recognise the Pope as the leader of the Christian world.

Methodists do not recognise each other in the pub.

The Lord's work

On leaving the local Churches Together lunch, the Catholic priest was heard to say to the Methodist minister: "Well, at the end of the day, we're all doing the Lord's work: you in your way, and I in His."



The July Copy Deadline is Noon Sunday 20 June - Please no late articles

Articles can be emailed to the editor **sunrise.alton@gmail.com**
left in Parish Office or taken to 31 Shipley Close.

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Donations towards printing costs will be much appreciated -- Thank you

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Traidcraft

Jo McGregor 87680

Children's Society

Carol Williams 588565

All Saints Organisations

Hard of Hearing Group

Kate Dando 83514

Children's Society

Judy Brown 82289

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Headteacher

Mrs. Dawn Casson 84400

Chair of Governors

Paul Susans 84400

Andrews' Endowed CE Primary School

Headteacher

Mrs Maria Lloyd 83094

Chair of Governors

Shirley Nellthorpe 83094

Other Organisations

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Priscilla Inkpen 768941

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Andrew Hinde 84056

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Rob Law 544865

Flowers

Ruth Randall 549567

Sacristan

Vacant

Services in the Parish of the Resurrection

Sunday 6th June

Trinity 1

9.15am	Morning Worship	St Peter's
9.30am	Holy Communion	Holy Rood
10.30am	Holy Communion	St Lawrence
10.30am	Morning Worship	All Saints

Sunday 13th June

Trinity 2

9.15am	Holy Communion	St Peter's
9.30am	Morning Worship	Holy Rood
10.30am	Morning Worship	St Lawrence
10.30am	Holy Communion	All Saints

Sunday 20th June

Trinity 3

9.15am	Morning Worship	St Peter's
9.30am	Holy Communion	Holy Rood
10.30am	Holy Communion	St Lawrence
10.30am	Morning Worship	All Saints

Sunday 27th June

Trinity 4

9.15am	Holy Communion	St Peter's
9.30am	Morning Worship	Holy Rood
10.30am	Morning Worship	St Lawrence
10.30am	Holy Communion	All Saints

Every Tuesday

7pm	Holy Communion	St Lawrence
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Every Wednesday

9.30am	Holy Communion	All Saints
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