

Sunrise

A monthly magazine for the Parish of the Resurrection, Alton



July 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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Philippa Penfold

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Wendy Burnhams (All S)

Robin Kemp (SL)

Lisa Hillan (HR)

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Pastoral Visiting

c/o The Ministry Team via the Office

Youth, Children & Family Worker

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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

Teddies at Holy Rood

First thoughts . . .

“Why did I ever start this?”

Do you enjoy ‘Call the Midwife’? Each episode begins with a voiceover by Vanessa Redgrave during which words appear on the screen with the question: Why did I ever start this?

The words come from Jennifer Worth’s memoirs which were the inspiration for the drama, and which provide much of its early material. The drama brings to life the impoverished East End of London in the 1950s and 1960s. It is told through the experience of midwives based at Nonnatus House, home to an order of Anglican nuns. I’m sure many of you are aware of this! I have to say I haven’t watched every episode but it has been on in The Vicarage and I have been forced to watch it on occasions.

Jennifer Worth’s words “Why did I ever start this?” come as she thinks of so many other careers that she could have chosen - clearly feeling that many of them, maybe all of them, would have been a lot easier! I sometimes find myself asking the same question in the middle of sermon writing or funeral preparation or a PCC meeting, or even writing a magazine letter. So why did I ever start this letter?

Jenny Worth is acknowledging that her life as a midwife was grim, demanding and often traumatic but also rewarding and full of joy. She finds “the quiet thrill of the safe delivery of a healthy baby ... intoxicating”. Her service illustrates what it is to die to self. The result is a grim-filled and a joy-filled life. For me that is an illustration of the abundant life to which Jesus calls us. I like to describe myself as a John 10:10 Christian.

The TV series not only draws back the veil on some horrific conditions, but also gives hope because we know change for the better does come. And that can give us hope in joining the struggle to address many injustices that still face us at home and internationally. Yet it is important to know that even heroic works of service have times of questioning and doubts - wondering if what we’re doing makes a difference, or enough of a difference, to justify the cost to us and our loved ones.

The only good answer to the question “why did I ever start this?” must be ‘because it’s worth it’. Unless it’s not - which must always be considered!

Why am I writing about this - is it worth it? It just got me thinking about midwives.

As followers of Jesus we, are not just called to proclaim the coming kingdom, but to be midwives of the kingdom - using our God-given resources to bring to birth a new way of life and love which is different and eternal. Grounded in the everyday doubts and joys of life, we become intoxicated by glimpses of the

kingdom here and now, motivated to bring life and love into the world despite the cost.

We are in the midst of the Coronavirus, of great environmental concerns about our climate, deepening levels of inequalities between rich and poor, rifts between nations and peoples, ill treatment of minority groups, of change in the church and its life and much more.

And we will often ask: “Why did I ever start this?” I hope these words sometime used in the Communion Service may assist:

Lord of all life, help us to work together for that day when your kingdom comes and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Andrew

Soon to be Revd Wendy Burnhams

It will be my delight to attend Winchester Cathedral on Sunday 4th July for Wendy’s ordination. We have been waiting for this day for a while knowing that she has been busy with her training. Many of us have got to know Wendy over the last few years as she has worshipped in the parish and got herself involved in our activities and worship. Her many gifts are going to be treasured among us. On 4th July Wendy will be ordained a deacon and for the first year will actively be involved in the parish’s ministry and mission alongside others in The Ministry Team although not entitled to preside at communion or conduct weddings. Next year in July 2022 she will be priested.

Please will you pray for Wendy and her husband Dave and welcome her wholeheartedly into her ordained life among us. We will share photos and more in the next edition of Sunrise.

Andrew



The real art of conversation is not only to say the right thing at the right time,
but also to leave unsaid the wrong thing at the tempting moment.

World Day of Prayer Service

Friday 2 July 2pm

Alton Methodist Church

This service is usually held on the first Friday in March, but this year that could not happen due to lockdown. However, we are hoping to be able to share in this united service on the first Friday in July (2nd). It will take place at Alton Methodist Church at 2pm when the theme will be Build on a Strong Foundation. It has been prepared by the Christian women of Vanuatu, in the South Pacific, where there are earthquakes, cyclones, storms and volcanoes, so a good foundation is a necessity. It is hoped this can be a celebration of worshipping more normally than we have been able to, but, of course, Covid restrictions may still apply. Come and learn something about life in Vanuatu and enjoy seeing our friends from other churches – all are welcome.

Parish of the Resurrection St Lawrence Mini Market In the Parish Centre

Saturday 3rd July 9.30 to 12.30

Books, Puzzles, Tombola, Produce, Cakes

(The monthly Market held on 5th June raised £802.16)

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

Alton Organ Society - 2021 Lunchtime Organ Concert

Thursday 15 July at 1.10pm (doors open 12.45)

St Lawrence Church



Bible Readings for the month of July

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

Thursday 1 st	Psalm 92	Job 40	Romans 15: 22 - end
Friday 2 nd	Psalm 88	Job 41	Romans 16: 1 - 16
Saturday 3 rd	Psalm 146	2 Samuel 15: 17 - 21	John 11: 1 - 16
Sunday 4th Trinity 5		Mark 6: 1 - 13	
Monday 5 th	Psalm 98	Ezekiel 1: 1-14	2 Corinthians 1: 1 - 14
Tuesday 6 th	Psalm 106	Ezekiel 1: 15-2: 2	2 Corinthians 1: 15 – 2: 4
Wednesday 7 th	Psalm 111	Ezekiel 2: 3 – 3: 11	2 Corinthians 2: 5 - end
Thursday 8 th	Psalm 115	Ezekiel 3: 12 - end	2 Corinthians 3
Friday 9 th	Psalm 139	Ezekiel 8	2 Corinthians 4
Saturday 10 th	Psalm 121	Ezekiel 9	2 Corinthians 5
Sunday 11th Trinity 6		Mark 6: 14-29	
Monday 12 th	Psalm 126	Ezekiel 10: 1-19	2 Corinthians 6: 1 – 7: 1
Tuesday 13 th	Psalm 132	Ezekiel 11: 14 - end	2 Corinthians 7: 2 - end
Wednesday 14 th	Psalm 119: 153 - end	Ezekiel 12: 1 - 16	2 Corinthians 8: 1 - 15
Thursday 15 th	Psalm 143	Ezekiel 12: 17 - end	2 Corinthians 8: 16 – 9: 5
Friday 16 th	Psalm 144	Ezekiel 13: 1 - 16	2 Corinthians 9: 6 - end
Saturday 17 th	Psalm 147	Ezekiel 14: 1 - 11	2 Corinthians 10
Sunday 18th Trinity 7		Mark 6: 30 -34, 53 - 56	
Monday 19 th	Psalm 1	Ezekiel 14: 12 - end	2 Corinthians 11: 1 - 15
Tuesday 20 th	Psalm 5	Ezekiel 18: 1 - 20	2 Corinthians 11: 16 - end
Wednesday 21 st	Psalm 119: 1 - 32	Ezekiel 18: 21 - 32	2 Corinthians 12
Thursday 22 nd	Psalm 32	1 Samuel 16: 14 - end	Luke 8: 1 - 3
Friday 23 rd	Psalm 19	Ezekiel 20: 21 - 38	James 1: 1 - 11
Saturday 24 th	Psalm 23	Ezekiel 24: 15 - end	James 1: 12 - end
Sunday 25th Trinity 8		John 6: 1 - 21	
Monday 26 th	Psalm 30	Ezekiel 28: 1 - 19	James 2: 1 - 13
Tuesday 27 th	Psalm 36	Ezekiel 33: 1 - 20	James 2: 14 – end
Wednesday 28 th	Psalm 34	Ezekiel 33: 21 - end	James 3
Thursday 29 th	Psalm 37	Ezekiel 34: 1 - 16	James 4: 1 – 12
Friday 30 th	Psalm 31	Ezekiel 34: 17 - end	James 4: 13 – 5: 6
Saturday 31 st	Psalm 42	Ezekiel 36: 16 - 36	James 5: 7 - end

You may have heard...

...that a small group of people have been meeting together recently to plan how to get a pastoral visiting team up and running again.

We are aware that such a team has existed in the past, and that members of the church family have been supporting each other during recent times, particularly over the past year or so during the pandemic. As Christians, we are called to 'love our neighbour' and so it is quite right that we should support each other as best we can in practical ways, caring, listening and by keeping in touch, and we would hope that everyone will continue to do that.

In addition, a small team of people have come together to plan and pray for a POTR wide 'pastoral team' and we are currently working through action points to enable this to happen. The idea is that we will focus on supporting people as best we can whether they be young, old or somewhere in the middle, and this may involve pastoral visiting, practical help, training courses and so on.

If you have any thoughts or comments, or would be interested in helping in any way, please do get in touch.

And please can everyone pray for this vital initiative.

Gordon and Ruth Randall



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Through the Son, then, God decided to bring the whole universe back to himself. Colossians 1 V 20

It is easy to feel overwhelmed by the issue of climate change; there are daily headlines and in depth coverage of how serious the problem is and what a short time there is to solve it.

As Christians we have a God given duty to care for all creation and that duty is set out clearly in both Old & New Testament teaching. But we also have a faith and a hope grounded in God's reason for creating the universe – Jesus.

As individuals & as a parish we can and must take what actions are available to us to carry out that duty of care. And we must remember we owe that duty of care to the whole world and especially to our brothers & sisters in the global south who are already suffering the effects of climate change.

Part of that duty includes praying for the world & its leaders who have the power to make the right or the wrong decisions, particularly as we approach CoP26, scheduled to be held in Glasgow in November. POTR has already been part of the Christian Aid prayer chain and on July 4th is joining the Climate Sunday initiative and holding a special outdoor service (see the poster in this magazine for details).

God of the impossible,
we pray for justice, peace and reconciliation.
And when the challenges seem too many,
remind us of your resurrection power,
and the miracles of your love that happen
whenever injustice is dismantled and rebuilt with peace.
Help us to hope that the impossible can happen
and live as if it might do so today.
Amen.

Just over 18 months after the launch of Eco Church in POTR, the parish has achieved the Bronze Award under the A Rocha scheme. We hope that the plaque will be ready to display at the Climate Sunday service in July. The team has worked hard, together with the Ministry Team and many of you, so thank you for your support.

The Team is already working towards the Silver Award and we will finalise our programme of work in September and let you know what we (& you!) will be doing.

Elsbeth Mackeggie Gurney
(elsbethmary59@gmail.com 07545 310911)



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News and Views from St Peter's Church Beech

The Changing Face of Worship in this Parish

As we said in Beech Pages last month, change is in the air in the Parish, post-pandemic. Services are becoming more fore-castable and our current newer forms of formal worship are almost becoming old friends. Now more amendments are in hand. Discussions are taking place to determine how we move forward and to encourage more of us to take a giving role in the St Peter's 'servants' list. Sarah Neish is heading this current challenge and it is hoped that different members of our congregation will emerge to take on more formal duties. This picture is shifting and will continue to do so in the coming months. On top of this, within the wider Parish, extra Churches are coming within the Parish of the Resurrection. Here again a newer structure will become clearer later this year. Whilst these changes have been brought about due to the after-effects of the Pandemic and the national and international fall off in numbers of regular worshippers, the news is not too bad. Most of us are adapting to these changing times and whilst not having willed them upon ourselves, we are learning and becoming more flexible in our Christian lives.

In our two most recent Sunday services we have again heard two of Jesus parables. Last week we had the story of the mustard seed and how this quite insignificant kernel grew and became a major factor of every-day basic life in the middle eastern countries 2,000 years ago. Today we heard once more how Jesus was able to calm the wind and the waves in order to safeguard the lives of his disciples during a cross-Galilee trip at roughly the same time. We were all encouraged to take these examples of ways to grow our own faith at times of adversity. One of the discussion points last week had been the wish for modern day miracles to lead us forward through our own turbulent times. Today the message was that we should delve within ourselves to stir up and invigorate our inner, somewhat moribund, faith, in order to cope with our current adversities.

At the start of today's service the Reverend Andrew Micklefield invited us to be more proactive in thanking God for the good things that have emerged within our own lives in recent months. He invited members of the congregation to tell us all about 'Happy Happenings' in our personal lives. We then heard of recent sun filled holidays in Cornwall and Somerset and a planned railway holiday to and through north Wales. A grand child had also added a sparkle to one family in our midst. Gloria had also selected three very suitable hymns to go with the day's sermon and we trooped outside St Peters to sing, hum and mumble our different ways through our final 'musical' offering.

Father's Day

In this country we celebrate Mothering Sunday in March but this special day occurs at other times in the year elsewhere in the world and is often called Mother's Day. Father's Day is more regularly celebrated across the world on the third Sunday in June, although this year for an unknown reason it takes place on the fourth Sunday in the month. Grandfathers and Great Grandfathers also receive accolades on that day.

Another extract from the fairly recently acquired book ***Words to Share***

When I wake up

Good morning, God!
You're giving me today:
Your things to do,
Your words to say.
Today's a new path
I haven't yet trod:
But You'll be with me –
Good-morning God!

Before I go to sleep

Dear God, good-night;
I'm bringing You my day,
Some things golden,
Some things grey,
I'm still with You;
We'll turn out the light.
Forgive me, love me;
Dear God, good-night.

Paddy Mendham

Ladies Meet and Eat

At last ... the ladies got to meet in person!

A lovely evening was had by the ladies at June's Meet and Eat (our women's group for fun and fellowship), the first time we could meet in person again rather than on Zoom! There was much relief and happiness all round, as well as lots of conversation. We had a walk around Holybourne, taking in Holy Rood Church and Mill Cottage Farm Experience, followed by a brief stop to admire David and Sarah Bowyer's beautiful garden, before returning to Holybourne Vicarage for a picnic in the garden.



Very many thanks for organising and hosting such a lovely evening where we could safely meet real people. What a difference it makes as we try to establish what it is safe to do. I just hope and pray that we will be able to continue to do so.

What a lovely surprise I had in store for my first experience with the ladies from Meet and Eat! We went for a short walk around the beautiful village of Holybourne which included a visit to the farm and ended with a picnic in the vicarage garden-and it didn't rain....Not only was it a pleasure to walk and talk

with new friends but I also got to see 9 tiny piglets and their mum, Humbug, Christie the Alpaca, some lambs and had a cuddle with a duck called "Green Apple"! Thank you Lyn for organising this and to everyone for making me feel so welcome, I will be back! Carol

What a delight to walk and talk, marvel at the stamina of the sow feeding 9 piglets at once, pet the animals, watch a furious goose being returned to its field and role as guardian of the farm, and then sit eating in a peaceful and pleasant garden until well into the evening. Thank you, Sovereign Lord Jesus, for all your provision for us and thanks to Lyn and Ruth for serving us so kindly. Sally

We meet on the first Monday of each month with a different location and theme each time, usually involving food of some kind! Ladies from any of the churches in Alton and the surrounding villages are invited; do join us whether or not you have been before, you will find a warm welcome!

Future plans (watch out for details in Parish Matters):

5 July – walk and picnic at Sarah Neish's farm in Beech

2 August – walk to Chawton, visit Jane Austen's garden.

Followed by a Meal in French Horn (Government guidelines permitting)

If you would like to know more please contact Kathy Norkett at All Saints, Sarah Neish at Beech, Ruth Randall at Holybourne, Elspeth Mackeggie Gurney or Alison Parr at St. Lawrence, or email Lyn Baines at meetandeat@btinternet.com



Notes from a locked down Choir

(but almost out of it!)



This month my castaway may very well have landed on a desert island himself. He certainly has the skills. He is our very own Master and Commander and erstwhile Salty Sea Dog Bill Griffin. He's likely got a full repertoire of sea shanties once the rum ration has been given out but let's find out what his desert island disc choice would be, once on dry land!

On the occasions when Elaine and I have discussed Desert Island Discs I have always responded with "No problem – it will be eight recordings of Royal Marine bands!" Well, you will be relieved to see that the Royals make only one appearance, but the Royal Navy has been part of my life since my earliest memories and for generations of the family before that. My grandfather, father and I have together over 120 years of RN service, and my Uncle William also contributed a few years before he was killed aged 18 when the battleship HMS BARHAM was sunk in November 1941.

Some of my choices are closely associated with particular events or places in the past. Others are generally vocal works because in my view the human voice is the finest musical instrument. Several fall into both categories.

1. **“All I Have to Do is Dream” by the Everly Brothers.** In 1972 a group of us from HMS GURKHA went on a ski-ing holiday to Kitzbuhel, and the helicopter pilot brought his sister with him. There wasn't much snow, so apres-ski started early in the day and centred around the Firebird Club, where this song was a very popular number. It always reminds me of those early courting days – we celebrate our Golden Wedding Anniversary in 2023!

2. **“Sailing” by the Fron Male Voice Choir.** Originally sung by Rod Stewart for the very successful BBC documentary series “Sailor” about the aircraft carrier HMS ARK ROYAL. It was first shown in 1976 and really captured the life onboard in the RN at that time. Here it is given the full Welsh Male Voice Choir treatment, with a brilliant accompaniment to match.

3. **“Evening Hymn, Prelude to Sunset & Sunset” by the band of the Royal Marines.** This setting brings back memories of sunset ceremonies in many parts of the World. At the start of Sunset the high notes of the massed bugles bursting through the calm of the hymn and prelude never fail to move me.

4. **“Marriage of Figaro – Final Act – finale” by Mozart.** Surely one of the most beautiful pieces of opera, as the duke realises his mistake and begs forgiveness from his duchess. I saw Marriage of Figaro three times when working in the MOD in Whitehall for three years. The Coliseum and English National Opera were just the other side of Trafalgar Square!

5. **“Farewell to Stromness” by Sir Peter Maxwell Davies.** There are several versions of this work, but played on the piano by Adrian Lord it is a wonderfully calm and evocative piece, kindling memories of sailing around the Scottish Isles.

6. **“For the Love of Jesus” by John Stainer.** This is the final hymn from Stainer’s “The Crucifixion”, which I have sung on several occasions. A principal merit of this work is that it is generally within the competence of an average church choir, but such “accessibility” can draw scorn from more professional musicians. Legend has it that on being asked what he thought of Stainer’s Crucifixion Sir Adrian Boult replied “In my view, it cannot come soon enough.”

7. **“My Heart Will Go On” by Celine Dion.** Great song from a great movie! I remember flying back from Karachi having just been told that my daughter had cancer, and playing this over and over again during the night flight. Happily, Emma is fully recovered.

8. **“Eternal Father Strong to Save”.** The Royal Navy’s hymn, sung by any large congregation to the tune “Melita”, which is the Italian name for Malta. Many happy memories of the George Cross island, both as a boy when my father was twice based there, and then later on with many ship visits.

My book choice would be **The Royal Navy Day by Day**. For each day of the year it records a significant maritime event which happened on that particular day across the years.

My luxury would be a mast complete with yardarm and gaff, with a limitless supply of White Ensigns for the sunset ceremony and, to complete the set, the disc I would save has to be the Royal Marine Band playing Sunset.

You old romantic Bill! Your first encounter with Tish sounds like it's straight out of a Bond movie! Let's hope you can navigate off the island before your Golden Wedding Celebrations, maybe shaken but not stirred!

Thank you Bill for letting us hear your Desert Island Discs.

Elaine Cook

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Knitters Anonymous

Over the next couple of weeks I am looking forward to collecting donations of knitting and crochet from members of the Knitters Anonymous group, ready to join the next consignment to be shipped out to the refugee camps on the continent. For those who prefer to give anonymously it is the time to leave your beautiful offerings for me to find on the back pew inside All Saints Church. Many of you rose to the 'Hat Challenge' and so far we have about one hundred and ten, with more to collect, thank you. If you wish to make some more, please could I ask for more teenage and adult sizes, as the majority of those received so far are for the under tens and toddlers. At the moment I am not sending hats to the Fishermen's charity as I no longer have my contact. Over four hundred knitted squares have been sewn into a dozen brightly coloured blankets of various sizes (with more squares waiting to be sewn up!). Thank you also to all those who crochet those blankets too. All donations are most welcome and will find a home. There is little movement with Bliss and the prem baby items, but I will let you know as soon as I hear that they are being accepted again. The photographs show some of the knits waiting to be bagged up. Once again, thank you all so much for your support, it makes so much difference to the lives of so many. Kate 83514



All Saints Hard of Hearing Group

The Group will restart again in the autumn with the Traditional Harvest Festival, led by Rev Rachel, Tuesday 21st September, 2.30pm in All Saints church.

The monthly Knitters Anonymous sessions will commence on Tuesday 19th October 2pm in All Saints church hall

Discussions are now taking place to arrange the fourth Tuesday afternoon sessions and to see how and if the Lip Reading sessions can recommence

A new Co-ordinator to lead a team of volunteers will be essential to the continuation of the Group

If you feel that this is something with which you can help in any way please contact Rev Rachel or Kate Dando



A date for your Diary!

4th August in All Saints Church

The Forget-me-Not Service

followed by **The Friendship Tea**

in the Church hall ALL WELCOME!



News from Holy Rood Church, Holybourne



It has been a great joy being able to meet in the churchyard at Holy Rood for Teddies, especially in the lovely sunshine we had in early June!



Another joy has been the stunning flowers that have decorated the church; we are so grateful to all those who help. A lady who lives nearby the church offered us some calla lilies which were growing in her stream so I had much fun donning my wellies to reach them (we were also fortunate to be able to pick some fresh watercress), and on the day of writing some beautiful alstroemeria and aстранtia came from another garden in Holybourne.

A number of both weddings and funerals have taken place at Holy Rood recently, and our first baptism since restrictions have been lifted will take place at the beginning of July; what a great celebration that will be.

Now that both restrictions are lifting a little and the weather has been better, it has been wonderful to be able to use the Vicarage garden for meetings as well as social events. At one of the meetings someone suggested we might have hemlock in the garden; thankfully it turned out to be a similar but different plant altogether!

Congratulations go this month to Graham and Britt Hill, regulars at Holy Rood, as they celebrate their Golden Wedding. Many of you will know Jean Hole and will want to know that she has recently moved into a local care home; we are not allowed to visit at the moment owing to Covid restrictions, but we are keeping in touch and hope to visit when allowed. I am sure she would love to hear from any of you who know her so please contact me for her address if you would like to send her a card.

Plans are afoot for 'Summerfest', a Holybourne community event at the cricket field; we have agreed to run a church stall and might get the 'Splat the Rat' game out of storage!

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

Teddies are back in church!!

We are very pleased to report that on the 7th June, and after a careful risk assessment, the **St Lawrence Teddies** were able to meet inside the church for the first time in ages. Despite missing a few Teddies, because of a school inset day, we welcomed eight children including two toddlers born in lockdown who had never been in church before. The session was lovely. Covering the story of Noah and the flood, the children made a mosaic rainbow, sang some favourite songs and hunted the laminated teddies. One little boy summed up the morning saying, 'I've had a lovely time' and a Mum commented that it was so good to chat to other Mums. We hope to build our numbers up again so please pass on the invitation to anyone that you think would like to come. As a reminder the session is for pre-school children and the people looking after them and we meet on a Monday morning from 9.30 – 10.30.

Lynn Power and Sarah Broadbent

For further information about St Lawrence Teddies please contact Lynn on 07850 232995

The **Holy Rood Teddies** have been meeting in the churchyard since the beginning of May and it has been lovely to welcome back previous 'Teddies' who have now grown such a lot, as well as to greet new members. On 9 June we too looked at the story of Noah and we each made a rainbow to take home as a reminder of the story of the Ark and God's promise. We meet every Wednesday during term time from 9.45am at Holy Rood Church; all welcome!

Sarah Ebbutt, Alan Armstrong and

Ruth Randall

For further information about Holybourne Teddies and/or to book your place please contact Sarah at sarahebbutt@gmail.com

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An update on the development of Anna Chaplaincy nationally

Anna Chaplaincy is more than a decade old in Alton and the surrounding villages. It is such a timely response to our rapidly ageing population and the complex pastoral needs of this age group, many of whom describe themselves as lonely:

2.2 million of those aged 75 and over live alone. (Office for National Statistics) And more than 1.4 million older people say they are often lonely. That number is projected to rise to 2 million by 2025/26. (*All the Lonely People – Loneliness in Later Life*, Age UK 2018, drawing from data collected by the English Longitudinal Study of Ageing).

As you will know, Anna Chaplaincy is named after the 84-year-old widow Anna, who appears with Simeon in Luke's gospel. Both are good role models of faithful, expectant, hopeful, older people. Set within a church or group of churches which takes responsibility for their supervision, Anna Chaplains are community-based and are there for people of strong, little, or no faith at all. A recent survey showed 47 per cent of their encounters are with people who are not church members. (Anna Chaplaincy Impact Report 2021– Where we are a decade on).

Increasingly we are seeing men as well as women becoming Anna Chaplains.

- Pamela Gilbert was commissioned as an Anna Chaplain at the United Church, Winchester
- Thirty new members of the Anna Chaplaincy network have joined in the last year
- Mavis Martin was commissioned to serve as an Anna Chaplain in Bridgend, South Wales, in May
- John Tootell who was working as an Anna Chaplain in Kent has now moved to Cornwall and will be recommissioned to work near Penzance shortly

Those of you who come into contact with our own Anna Chaplain, Rachel (Sturt), and have followed the story of the growth of this chaplaincy in Alton since GAP first appointed me back in 2010, will be aware that it is a ministry of presence and listening, paying attention to a person's story, giving time to people. Chaplains accompany those who may be finding life hard in their later years, as well as being a voice for some who feel they are becoming invisible as they age. Anna Chaplains are companions on the journey, keeping people connected, exploring the art of ageing well.

It showed great foresight when Anglicans and Methodists in the town created the new post seeking someone who would spot the gaps in existing provision and raise the whole standard of good practice of ministry among older people in their area. Four years of developing a suitable model locally and Anna Chaplaincy was ready to be replicated elsewhere.

To that end, when Anna Chaplaincy became part of The Bible Reading

Fellowship, BRF, in 2014 it was hoped it could emulate the some of the success of Messy Church (another BRF initiative) which had spread nationally and internationally in the previous decade.

Some of you may recall I joined the BRF staff then and work began on developing Anna Chaplaincy across the UK. There are currently more than 160 Anna Chaplains for Older People and others in equivalent roles - such as Older People's Pastor, or Director of Older People's Ministry - in the network nationally. They are in cities, towns and villages as far afield as Devon and Kent, the Midlands, Northumbria and Cumbria, as well as in the very north of Scotland and even in Orkney!

More churches are recruiting Anna Chaplains

As the implications of an ageing population hit home, churches are increasingly wanting to 'up their game' pastorally among this age group. They are realising the benefits of valuing older congregation members as well as reaching out to others in their later years beyond church. The name 'Anna' means gift or grace, and Anna Chaplaincy is a gracious gift from the church to its community.

Some Anna Chaplains are paid, as here in Alton, though the majority are volunteers. Each Anna Chaplain is sent out from a church that prays for them. Whichever church the chaplain is based in signs a 'Head Licence Agreement' agreement with The Bible Reading Fellowship, BRF, to use the trademarked name. Each Anna Chaplain is thus appointed and authorised by, and is accountable to, their local church (or group of 'Churches Together'). Training courses are, at present, mainly online based on the Anna Chaplaincy Handbook.

Anna Chaplains have always worked ecumenically, becoming visible in the community; at clubs where older people tend to congregate and visiting one-to-one (pre- pandemic).

To give you a current example further afield, Anna Chaplain Sue Yeo from St Martin's Church in Maidstone offers spiritual care to residents in care homes in the parish. When Covid-19 prevented her from visiting in person, she began recording services and delivering them on DVD. Now all 23 care homes in the Maidstone area receive these DVDs. For Mothering Sunday Sue invited local primary school children to produce artwork and poems on the theme of spring, a time of hope. The children's work was delivered with the DVD and displayed in the care homes for residents to enjoy, bringing the outside world in. She commented, 'Some of the children have a grandparent in a nursing or residential home, and I am sure being able to express their emotions in their poetry was important to them.'

An Anna Chaplain is someone who celebrates old age in a society which often tends to overlook and denigrate people of advanced years. This is counter-cultural work in a society which prizes autonomy, youth, beauty and productivity so highly.

The Anna Chaplain can be a friend to someone who is lonely; a key link for the bereaved, anyone who is isolated, and feeling alone. They can signpost what

help is on offer in any given context, for example for a husband or wife caring for their spouse living with dementia.

From the outset I was convinced Anna Chaplains could be just as effective in rural, or inner-city settings, as in a small market town like Alton. That has proved to be the case, with Anna Chaplains now in the countryside, in seaside resorts as well as increasingly multi-cultural urban environments.

Our vision is to see Anna Chaplains in every small-to-medium-sized community in the UK, each contributing to the spiritual care of men and women in later life by being skilled listeners and hope-bearers. Anna Chaplains plant a flag in towns and villages up and down the land to signal the fact that 'older people matter'.

As a former broadcaster I might have thought I had left broadcasting behind a decade ago but in fact this Easter I was leading *Sunday Worship* on BBC Radio 4, marking a year since lockdown and commemorating the deaths of so many people with coronavirus, many of them of course in their later years, and composed a week of *Prayers for the Day* for Radio 4, this time to coincide with National Carers' Week in June.

Rachel and I are so grateful for the support we receive locally. She is getting back into swing again as restrictions lift, post furlough, and though I may be less visible locally than I was, I hope this shows you that the work my small team and I at BRF are doing is extending the model so presciently begun in Alton all those years ago!

If you would like to know more or subscribe to the Anna Chaplaincy blog, visit www.annachaplaincy.org.uk or contact annachaplaincy@brf.org.uk

Debbie Thrower



A woman took her four-month-old baby to visit her neighbour, but the baby began to fuss as soon as they arrived. The neighbour's five-year-old son asked where the baby had come from. "He was sent down from Heaven," the mother replied, above the screams.

The little boy watched the baby crying for a few more minutes, and then turned to his mother. "I bet I know why he was sent from Heaven. God wanted some quiet up there!"

An Interview with our Editor

Well, we have lived here for two years now and I have finally got to meet the Editor of Sunrise, Peter Hicks! Did you know that as an electronics engineer by trade, Peter is now retired and is working, among other things, on a rocking horse for a granddaughter who is due to be born on the same day as our grandchild? He was involved with the local council for many years, knows the area very well and lives in a house that was built on the former Eggar's sports ground.



As you will be aware, Peter does a great job of publishing our church magazine each month which is full of lots of information and regular features. We thought it might be nice to include some kind of 'interview' in each publication whereby we focus on different people within the church family so we can get to know each other better, a bit like when Andrew and Gordon were doing the weekly 'midweek encouragement' at the height of lockdown focussing on different people within POTR. If you would like to be the focus of a future feature or have an idea of someone who would, please let me or Peter know. Otherwise we might have to do a bit of 'persuading'... or should we say 'encouraging' or even 'arm twisting'? ;-)

Back to Peter, the day I met him he was going home to cook lamb koftas for supper for his wife. I was impressed. I'm lucky if Gordon makes me beans on toast!!

Ruth Randall



George supervising from the cooker hood



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Children's Society

Carol Williams 588565

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Kate Dando 83514

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Mrs. Dawn Casson 84400

Chair of Governors

Paul Susans 84400

Andrews' Endowed CE Primary School

Headteacher

Mrs Maria Lloyd 83094

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Shirley Nellthorpe 83094

Other Organisations

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Services in the Parish of the Resurrection

Sunday 4th July

Trinity 5

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 11th July

Trinity 6

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 18th July

Trinity 7

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 25th July

Trinity 8

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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