

Sunrise

A monthly magazine for the Parish of the Resurrection, Alton



November 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.

Parish Administrator

Philippa Penfold 07865 292 401

Ellie Elder

Secretary to PCC

Philippa Penfold

Treasurer

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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>

Associate Vicar

Revd Gordon Randall 549567

gordon.randall@sky.com

Assistant Priests

Revd Lynn Power 07850 232995

Revd Rachel Sturt 07411 384496

Revd Martin East 549595

Anna Chaplain to Older People

Debbie Thrower 83234

Rachel Sturt 01252 710968

Churchwardens

Alan Armstrong 88971

Keith Arrowsmith-Oliver 542135

Tim Duddridge 542451

Angie Briggs 544138

John Vivian 07535 188475

Sarah Neish 565696

Deanery Synod Representatives

Derek Gurney Matthew Bayliss

Tori Hewitt Elspeth Gurney

PCC Special Interest Members

Sarah Neish (St.P)

Wendy Burnhams (All S)

Robin Kemp (SL)

Lisa Hillan (HR)

Parish Donations Coordinator

Tim Sturt 01252 710968

Pastoral Visiting

c/o The Ministry Team via the Office

Youth, Children & Family Worker

Martha Lloyd Martha@potr-alton.co.uk

This month's cover picture is

Harvest at Holy Rood

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 . . .

Change pervades November. As a nation this month we mark Guy Fawkes Day and what was a great threat to parliamentary government and we might describe nowadays as a terror attack. On Remembrance Sunday we come to mark the huge changes which war and peace make to our nation, and to the world in human, social and economic terms. Much of our government's language around Coronavirus has been styled in dramatic, war like terms, so that changes to our individual and communal life are seen, wrongly, I believe, in an attempt to defeat this new and 'silent enemy'.

Yet, for the Church, November begins with All Saints Day and ends with Advent Sunday. For Christian people this progress through the month envelops change and affirms that the only constant is God who is present in every circumstance of human life yet also still to come in fullness as we await the return of the Lord Jesus.

We cannot know what more changes will be introduced in our community in the month ahead to slow down the rate of Covid infection, to keep people safe and to protect us. But what we do know is that God doesn't change. Of course, we may well need to change the way we mark Guy Fawkes Day and Remembrance Sunday, we may well need to change, once again, our patterns of worship and prayer, of service and care. And that is okay, providing that we hold to the essentials. We don't need to fear the 'new normal' and, in attempt to avoid it, cling on to old ways and old habits by our fingertips.

I think what is crucial is to adapt, knowing that the Church is masterful at adaptation. In so many ways the institution of the Church, which has existed for over 2000 years, is very good at adapting - to a spread from its roots in Jerusalem to include foreigners like us; to develop a spirituality of prayer and monasticism over and against a world view of success being about material gain in the 4th Century; in adapting to new technologies- like printing- in the 16th Century; to moving to abolish slavery in the 19th Century; to ordaining women in the 20th Century.vThe Church is masterful at adapting, yet at heart remaining the same.

So too whether we have to re-invent our strategies of care, prayer and worship we are simply another link in a long chain of Christian people who, in the light of changing reality, have learned to adapt their practice to new contexts. The 'new normal' has never, neither in times of evolution or revolution, entailed going back to an old normal, but must be about re-interpreting for our times, for our world, our community, the love of God 'who was made flesh and dwelt among us'. How we do that we must decide both as the local Body of Christ and as individuals.

We will not succeed if we attempt to hold on to things which no longer have value or are not sustainable in the light of our changed circumstances. We should then come to a mind on how best to witness to the love of God in the world for this our own day. We could simply close things down or, as will seem only right and proper, open our hearts and minds to the God who goes on loving

his creation and his children sacrificially. We are called to imitate that love in our living and trust that may just banish the fear that change so often brings. I remember saying at the outset of lockdown in March 2020 that “God is still the King of his creation and Jesus is still Lord of all”. That simply has not changed and never will.

Love and prayers

Andrew

All Souls & Remembrance

We will not be holding an All Souls Service as we have in the past during November. We will think about having one in the new year sometime when we feel we can safely bring everyone together.

Remembrance Sunday. There will be a service of remembrance in Holybourne around the War Memorial on Saturday 13th November at 10.30am. Revd Gordon Randall will be taking part in this. In Alton on Sunday 14th November there will be the Act of Remembrance at 10.45am at The Cairn led by Revd Andrew Micklefield. There will be no parade or singing. Wreaths will be laid. The service will be live-streamed as well onto various websites and Facebook pages including the Parish of the Resurrection.

From 12pm-5pm our churches will be open for anyone to find the space and time to remember those they have lost to death recently. We will provide areas of remembrance for people to use and other prayer stations. At St Lawrence we will have an installation at the Church gate called ‘Ribbons of Remembrance’. People will be invited to attach a ribbon to remember a loved one or maybe add a small cross or poppy.

Andrew



Proclaiming the Risen Jesus
Steadfast in faith
Active in service

Come and worship with us or find out about the Christian faith - we are a vibrant community of four churches in Alton, Holybourne and Beech

We are part of the Church of England, Diocese of Winchester and in covenant partnership with Alton Methodist Church.

Bible Readings for the month of November

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

Monday 1 st	Psalm 2	Isaiah 1: 1 - 20	Matthew 1: 18 - end
Tuesday 2 nd	Psalm 5	Isaiah 1: 21 – end	Matthew 2: 1 – 15
Wednesday 3 rd	Psalm 9	Isaiah 2: 1 – 11	Matthew 2: 16 - end
Thursday 4 th	Psalm 15	Isaiah 2: 12 - end	Matthew 3:
Friday 5 th	Psalm 16	Isaiah 3: 1 – 15	Matthew 4: 1 – 11
Saturday 6 th	Psalm 18: 31 - end	Isaiah 4: 12 - 22	Matthew 4: 12 - 22
Sunday 7th	3 before Advent Psalm 62.5-12 Mark 1.14-20 'Following our Hope'		
Monday 8 th	Psalm 20	Isaiah 5: 8 – 24	Matthew 4: 23 – 5: 12
Tuesday 9 th	Psalm 21	Isaiah 5: 25 – end	Matthew 5: 13 - end
Wednesday 10 th	Psalm 23	Isaiah 6	Matthew 5: 21 – 37
Thursday 11 th	Psalm 26	Isaiah 7: 1 – 17	Matthew 5: 38 – end
Friday 12 th	Psalm 32	Isaiah 8: 1 – 15	Matthew 6: 1 – 18
Saturday 13 th	Psalm 33	Isaiah 8: 16 – 9: 7	Matthew 6: 19 - end
Sunday 14th	2 before Advent Psalm 16 Mark 13.1-8 'Following the One'		
Monday 15 th	Psalm 47	Isaiah 9: 8 – 10: 4	Matthew 7: 1 - 12
Tuesday 16 th	Psalm 52	Isaiah 10: 5 – 19	Matthew 7: 13 – end
Wednesday 17 th	Psalm 56	Isaiah 10: 20 – 32	Matthew 8: 1 – 13
Thursday 18 th	Psalm 62	Isaiah 10: 33 – 11: 9	Matthew 8: 14 – 22
Friday 19 th	Psalm 63	Isaiah 11: 10 – end of 12	Matthew 8: 23 – end
Saturday 20 th	Psalm 78: 1 - 39	Isaiah 13: 1 - 13	Matthew 9: 1 - 17
Sunday 21st	Christ the King Psalm 93 John 18.33-37. 'Following the King'		
Monday 22 nd	Psalm 96	Isaiah 14: 3 – 20	Matthew 9: 18 – 34
Tuesday 23 rd	Psalm 97	Isaiah 17	Matthew 9: 35 – 10: 15
Wednesday 24 th	Psalm 119: 105 - 128	Isaiah 19	Matthew 10: 16 – 33
Thursday 25 th	Psalm 125	Isaiah 21: 1 – 12	Matthew 10: 34 – 11: 1
Friday 26 th	Psalm 139	Isaiah 22: 1 – 14	Matthew 11: 2 – 19
Saturday 27 th	Psalm 145	Isaiah 24	Matthew 11: 20 - end
Sunday 28th	Advent 1 Psalm 25.1-9 Luke 21.25-36 'Following the Son of Man'		
Monday 29 th	Psalm 50	Isaiah 25: 1 – 9	Matthew 12: 1 - 21
Tuesday 30 th	Psalm 47	Ezekiel 47: 1 – 12	John 12: 20 - 32

Service Pattern - January 2022 onwards

First of all a big thank you to all those who came to recent Parish Conversations on Service Patterns. It was very helpful to both of us (Gordon & Andrew) as we thought about the pattern for the future and then presented to the PCC and Churchwardens.

Over the last few years we have trialled and experimented with different services and ideas but now with the pastoral reorganisation upon us and including services for Bentworth, Lasham & Shalden churches as well as the four churches of The Parish of the Resurrection it is time to set a more sustainable pattern. We have finite resources to provide services and an almost infinite number of opportunities. Therefore decisions have to be made that maintain a good healthy balance of services yet achievable each and every month recognising that the ministry team need this sustainability to minister effectively and well. The pattern that we will begin in January 2022 recognises where there is need for continuity, brings more equity across the churches, uses the whole day of Sunday which makes resourcing easier, keeps the midweek communion at All Saints which has recently grown in number attending and helps the POTR and BLS identity to strengthen and grow.

This pattern was discussed at length at the September meeting of the PCC and with Churchwardens and all give it unanimous support. The following takes you through the new pattern week by week with some explanatory notes which follow.

There is no mention of The Greater Alton Project (GAP) services in this pattern. These services are planned by the GAP Covenant Council meetings and we will add them accordingly. Also there will need to seasonal changes which we can communicate as they arise.

We are sure we will soon get used to it and that our worship and discipleship will deepen and flourish.

Best wishes
Andrew & Gordon

Week 1

8am	BCP Holy Communion	St Lawrence Church ¹
10.30am	POTR altogether service	St Lawrence Church ²
	<i>Lighthouse groups for children will be held in The Parish Centre</i>	
10am	Communion Service	St Mary's Bentworth
10am	Communion Service	St Mary's, Lasham

Week 2

9.15am	Communion Service	St Peter's Church
9.30am	Communion Service	Holy Rood
10.30am	Morning Worship	St Lawrence Church
4pm	Afternoon Worship	All Saints Church ³
4pm	Church@4	St Lawrence School ⁴
6pm	Evening Worship	St Lawrence Church ⁵
10am	Communion Service	St Mary's, Bentworth
10am	Communion Service	St Peter & Paul, Shalden

Week 3

9.30am	Communion Service	Holy Rood
10.30am	Communion Service	All Saints Church
10.30am	Communion Service	St Lawrence Church
	<i>Lighthouse groups for children will be held in The Parish Centre</i>	
6pm	Choral Evensong	St Lawrence Church & travelling ⁶
10am	Communion Service	St Mary's, Lasham
10am	Communion Service	St Peter & Paul, Shalden

Week 4

9.15am	Communion Service	St Peter's Church
10.30am	Communion Service	St Lawrence Church
4pm	Afternoon Worship	Holy Rood ⁷
4pm	Church@4	St Lawrence School
6pm	Evening Worship	St Lawrence Church
6pm	Bentworth, Lasham, Shalden Together Service ⁸	

Week 5 - when there is one - we will advertise separately

Every Wednesday, 10am Midweek Communion - All Saints Church ⁹

Notes

¹This is the only 8am BCP Holy Communion Service. Many of the usual attenders of these services have transferred themselves to other services and therefore attendance has been low in recent months.

² This is a chance to strengthen and encourage our identity as The Parish of the Resurrection - having a monthly combined celebration service. This will alternate month by month as a Service of Morning Worship and Holy Communion. We will often invite guest speakers, take time to introduce areas of parish life and ministry, get to know others within our parish community. We see this as a time to celebrate and to have good fellowship with each other. We will aim to provide refreshments from 10am and hope to continue with community lunches after the service. Lighthouse groups for the children will be available during the service with time for them to join the main service. If you would like transport to St Lawrence Church for this then in the first instance please speak to your churchwarden and we will arrange drivers.

³ This service will be preceded by some sort of Afternoon Tea from 3pm - a time to gather and get to know each other and build relationships. We see this service taking a variety of forms with things like a Songs of Praise, Taize communions, maybe Evensong. We would like to give some good invitations to those who live in Clover Leaf & Willow Courts and The Cooperage and to members of groups which meet locally to All Saints.

⁴ Church@4 will continue twice a month in St Lawrence Church of England Primary School. It attracts on average about 50 adults and children but all the church family are invited and can come along. We are looking at the possibility of another Church@4 beginning midweek in Holybourne and hopefully at Andrews Endowed CE Primary School.

⁵ This service is led by members of the parish congregations with occasional support from the clergy and is informal in its approach. There are contemporary hymns and songs, a time of teaching and prayers often led so that others can join in.

⁶ This is a traditional service of Evensong from the Book of Common Prayer containing hymns, sermon and intercessions. The aim will be that it travels around the parish and sometime across the Deanery. We will advertise where it will be each month.

⁷ This will be similar to the Afternoon Service earlier in the month at All Saints but with a more all-age focus. It will be begin with tea and cake from 3pm and the service will take varying formats.

⁸ This is a combined service for Bentworth, Lasham & Shalden which everyone would be very welcome to attend. Each church will take it in turn to host with refreshments available. The idea is to look at various seasonal themes for these services.

⁹ It is important to retain this midweek service at All Saints Church as it offers a good opportunity for people who can find Sundays hard or want something shorter and quieter or perhaps a top-up during the week, We have adjusted the time to 10am after some consideration. Once a month there will be a small group which meets after the service for discussion and prayer.



November Services at Alton Methodist Church

Sunday 7th: 10.00am led by Mrs Pam Jones

Sunday 14th: 10.00am (Remembrance Sunday) led by Rev Philip Simpkins

Sunday 21st: 10.00am led by Mrs Liz George

Sunday 28th: 10.00am GAP Service led by Rev Philip Simpkins

There will be a Lighthouse group for children on Sundays 14th and 28th, during the morning service. We would be delighted to welcome additional children into Lighthouse at the GAP service on 28th November, but it would be very helpful (though not essential) if you could email the church office (altonmethodist@hotmail.com) with names and ages in advance so we can make appropriate preparations. Please note, our morning service starts at 10.00 am!

Walking Church for Men

The Walking Church for Men will be meeting on Thursday 4th November at 10.30am starting at the Sun in Bentworth for Walk 6. Ending at the Sun for refreshments

Also meeting on Saturday 27th November at 2.30p.m. at Beech Village Hall - family and friends are invited and will end with a family tea party.

Please contact Robin Kemp to book on 07957 653403 or familykemp@tiscali.co.uk,

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References available

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Email c.may981@btinternet.com

Bible Reading Notes - why bother?

It's said that if a ballet dancer doesn't practise for one day, she notices. If she doesn't practise for two days, the class notices and if she doesn't practise for three days, the whole audience notices. It might not be so immediately obvious if Christians don't read the Bible every day, but, sooner or later, it will be noticed.

Different Christian traditions give different weight to the habit of daily Bible study, but all are agreed that it's an important discipline: a practice to be fostered, along with prayer, worship, reflection and service, if faith is to grow deep roots.

Our enthusiasm for Bible reading may wax and wane: life becomes busy or difficult, we drift away and don't know how to return, scripture no longer seems to 'speak' to us, we get bored, distracted or discouraged until daily Bible study becomes a joyless 'ought', another niggly, guilt-inducing 'should'.

But what if, instead of thinking of it as a duty, we think of it as a gift: a lovely opportunity to sit in God's presence, focus on His word and keep the channels of communication open?

Daily Bible reading notes nourish and inspire on good days, but they come into their own when we're flagging. They provide a structure, a manageable passage of scripture and the thoughts of a wise, compassionate and experienced commentator.

BRF offers six different series of Bible reading notes from the seriously theological to the quietly contemplative, from notes for women to reflections for older people. The most popular series is the approachable and illuminating *New Daylight*, offering insight into God and into scripture. Whichever series you choose, it will introduce you over time to the whole sweep of scripture, from Genesis to Revelation, allowing you to absorb its wisdom, develop your understanding and encounter daily inspiration, encouragement and challenge.

Written by Eley McAinsh from the BRF

Want to know more about the BRF Bible reading notes and which series would be best for you? Then have a word with Sue Burrows - 01420544903 or email susan.m.burrows@gmail.com

Anna Chaplaincy Open Forum

Rachel Sturt finishes her time as Anna Chaplain in early December. We will be saying our thank yous to Rachel in our GAP Service on Advent Sunday which we hope you will be able to attend. In the meantime there is a small group of people who are going to look at the job description and other relevant paperwork as we move towards making a new appointment. To help this process we would like to hear from others. We are going to hold an Open Forum at 3pm on Sunday 7th November at Alton Methodist Church where we can think of all the good things that we celebrate in Anna Chaplaincy here in Alton, dream some dreams and evaluate our resourcing going forward. We would love to have a really good conversation so please do come along.

Andrew Micklefield & Philip Simpkins

Eco Corner

Time to drive electric?

The more I chat to people, the more they are saying 'my next car will be electric'. Electric cars are quiet, smooth and sprightly and, if those are good enough reasons for you, then why not go ahead?

Just because your electric car window sticker may proclaim that you are driving CO₂ free, that is not really true. Carbon dioxide is released during the manufacturing of the car and, for some years to come, electricity generation itself will not be CO₂ free, particularly if driving in a country with large numbers of coal or gas -fired power stations.

Many writers have attempted to calculate the through-life release of CO₂ from electric cars and to compare them with petrol cars. Roughly speaking, a small electric car, such as the Nissan Leaf, has a through - life CO₂ release of 125 gms/Km. This compares with the most efficient European conventional car at 175 gm/Km. So, the electric car wins, but it is not CO₂ - free. Also, no CO₂ release was added for recycling of the Lithium battery at the end of its life. While our small electric car may be a winner over petrol, big 4X4 SUVs use about three times as much electricity, putting them into a band where the electricity costs may exceed those of diesel.

Finally, the Treasury makes about £20.9 Billion each year from fuel tax (petrol, diesel and gas). How long before they find a way of taxing electricity for cars, I wonder and how will they allow for users who charge their batteries from solar panels on their property?

Watch this space!

Nigel Hughes

Volunteer Befriending Service

We are looking for Volunteers in your Community

Could you be a 'Befriender'?

What will I be doing?

As a Volunteer Befriender your role will be to provide social companionship to patients who have a chronic or life limiting illness and who are isolated or lonely. Visiting patients in their own homes, you will help them to feel more supported and help to improve their emotional well-being and confidence.



How much time do I need to commit?

Just 2-hours a week, or less, can make a real difference to a patient living in your local community.

What support will I be given?

All relevant training will be given, as well as regular and on-going support and supervision.

Interested?

For further information contact Caroline Nash, Befriending Manager on: 01264 835293

Email: Caroline.Nash@hhft.nhs.uk

Interested volunteers will be invited to an informal interview and the role is subject to references, simple health checks and DBS clearance.

News from St Peters Church, Beech....

Firstly I would like to thank Anna Aungier and Paddy Mendham who in the past have written this page in Sunrise, with such thought, creativity and love of and for our Church Family within the Community of Beech and Alton.

I received this to encourage us onwards.

“The more you look into and understand yourself, The less judgemental you become towards others”

AND

“The self is not something ready-made, but something in continuous formation through course of action....”.

Thank you Paddy for these and all your support and writing over the years.

Over the Summer we held two Baptisms welcoming George Marigold and Mattias Gardener into the Church Family with their families and God Parents. More recently we held a funeral for a long standing resident of Beech, Olive Jean Blackman.

These services reminded me of what it is to have a village church, open for those who need love, care, fellowship and support in a welcoming Christian environment.

We are also pleased to help and be involved with Beech Coffee and Cake a village initiative set up to encourage and bring people together on a regular basis; every Friday between 10 and 4 pm in Beech Village Hall please come along you will be assured of a warm welcome and of course cake.....

Whilst writing I also am encouraged by many of the community who are involved with many charities both close by and abroad, today I was reading about a resident crowdfunding for refugees from Afghanistan I hope to write more about these charities in the future .

Please if you have anything to celebrate or remember for future editions please contact me...

With love and prayers Sarah

Sarah.neish@btconnect.com / 01420 565696



Parish of the Resurrection Living Advent Calendar

We have decided to run another Parish of the Resurrection Living Advent Calendar as we had so much fun last year. We'd love you to join in and spread some festive cheer.

The idea is that each volunteer will be given a date in December to reveal their Christmas Advent window display – you can use painting, lights, models as long as it has a Christmas or seasonal theme, displays the number for that date and a Christmas Bible verse of your choice. Once you have revealed your window we ask you to keep it displayed until after Christmas. Each day a new window will be revealed and you can walk around Alton and Holybourne to find the new window. We will provide a map with the houses marked to help you navigate.

If you wish to volunteer please ensure your house has a window (upstairs or downstairs) that can be visible from the street. Please make sure you are happy to keep the window illuminated each evening after it is 'opened' until after Christmas and are happy to have people stop and admire your window. Please be aware that by agreeing to participate you are also agreeing to have your address (but not your name) identified on our website and on the map so people can look for your window. Please contact Ellie on potradventwindows@gmail.com for more information or to be allocated a 'day'. There are lots of design ideas on the internet.



New Parish House Group

In September, a new house group started to meet on a Monday lunchtime. At the moment there are 7 members and they meet to get to know one another better, support one another, grow in faith and witness and to study the Bible and pray. And of course to have a cuppa and biscuits!

You'll see Anna, Jane, Carol, Thelma, Eliizabeth and Alison in these photos. And there is another Alison who had to leave before the photo was taken! We haven't got a name for the group yet, but watch this space!

There are a number of small groups in the parish now, and more coming along, so if you are interested in joining one please speak to Andrew or Gordon."



An interview with...

This month our 'interview' is with Fiona Micklefield, Christian, Deputy Head Teacher, mother of Emily and Dan, wife of Andrew...

Fiona was born in Bath and grew up in Somerset. (She actually went to the same school as Elaine and Steve Cook, the unusually named 'Blue School'). From a young age she knew she wanted to be a teacher and would line up her teddies and read them 'George's Marvellous Medicine', so it was no surprise when she embarked on teacher training (with music specialism) at King Alfred's College, now Winchester University. It was there that she met Andrew when they were both singing with the Chapel Choir (she a soprano, he a tenor). This sense of calling



Fiona feels to teaching has been a privilege for her ever since. Fiona's first teaching job was at Four Lanes Junior School in Chineham, Basingstoke, where she taught our son John. She then moved to Bramley CE Primary School. At the time, Andrew was also teaching and they lived in Basingstoke, but after a 'round the world' trip and lots of prayer and discussion, as well as the birth of Emily, they moved to Ridley Hall, Cambridge when Andrew felt called to ordination training. Dan was born during their time at Ridley Hall, and Fiona talks fondly of the great support network amongst the many other young families.

Andrew's curacy brought the family to Alton and it was while Emily was attending St Lawrence CE Primary School that Fiona started as a supply teacher (she is still there, now Deputy Head and studying for a National Professional Qualification for Headship), and carried on working at the school when the family moved to the Itchen Valley before returning to Alton in 2014. Fiona has a great love for the church community here in Alton that has accepted them as a family not once but twice; she says how remarkable it is that Emily and Dan, who were first known as babies here, are now at college and university.

Mozart Symphonies, anything by John Rutter, Jason Donovan, Abba and Take That show the range of music that Fiona enjoys; she also loves to attend musicals and listen to Christian music on Spotify. At church, she very much appreciates the choir and organ music, and also values modern worship songs. Her favourite hymn is 'Love Divine'. She says her favourite version of it would have to be played to the Blaenwern tune – with Will playing ('letting rip' in the last verse) and the choir conducted by Tony! Some of her favourite worship songs include 'Jesus, Victorious' – Kees Kraayenoord (who Fiona heard at Spring Harvest) and 'I can only imagine' – Mercy Me (such a coincidence as this song had a great impact on us when we had a holiday in America many years ago).

Fiona has recently taken up crochet and is attempting to knit 'granny squares'. She likes to read and has completed a tapestry of Winchester Cathedral (which took her 2 years to do!). She very much values her homegroup where, as Fiona says, she can 'be me' and enjoys learning more about the Bible with friends. She follows Lectio 365, a daily Bible reading app. Her favourite Bible passages include Psalm 139 which 'encompasses everything' and Jeremiah 29:11 ('I know the plans I have for you'). She became a Christian at a Scripture Union camp at 13 years of age and says that her Pathfinder leaders had a massive impact on her. Now she really values the importance of teaching children about faith, seeing them as 'seeds' that can grow, as she helps to run the Lighthouse, the parish 'Sunday school'.

'God doesn't call the equipped, He equips the called' is a favourite motto of Fiona's as she aspires to do her very best in whatever she is involved in. Do pray for Fiona in her numerous roles and have a chat when you next see her.

Ruth Randall

(if you would like to be the subject of a future 'interview' or would like to suggest someone please do message me at ruthmaryrandall@gmail.com)



What's On . . .

POTR St Lawrence Monthly Market

Saturday 6th November 9.30 to 12.30

In the Parish Centre

Books, Puzzles, Tombola, Produce, Cakes

Ladies Meet and Eat

Monday 1 November 7.00pm

Craft evening at Holybourne Church at 7pm. With cake and hot drinks.

Contact Lyn Baines on 01420 898590 or email: meetandeat@btinternet.com

Monday 6th December – Alternative Christmas Supper – to be held at St. Lawrence Parish Centre from 7pm. More details to follow

Alton Walking Church for Men

Thursday 4th November at 10.30am

The Sun at Bentworth, finishing at the Sun for refreshments

Also Saturday 27th November at 2.30 at Beech Village Hall

Contact Robin Kemp on 07957 653 403 email: familykemp@tiscali.co.uk

Alton Organ Society Concert

At St Lawrence 8.00pm

2nd November Admission is £10

Ilaria Centorrino (Winner of the Dame Gillian Weir Medal, Northern Ireland International Organ Competition (NIIOC))



Men's Breakfast

Saturday 27th October at 8.30am

White Hart, Holybourne

We will be meeting again at the White Hart public house, Holybourne, at 8.30am on **Saturday 30th October** for our usual delicious 'full English' breakfast, all for just £9. Come and enjoy some lively banter and listen to our excellent speaker. If you have not attended the breakfast for a while we would love to see you again. Please reply to Tim Codling by email: tim.codling@hotmail.co.uk or telephone him on 01420 80388 by **Wednesday 27th October**.



Seniors Library Club

Monday 1 November 2.00 p.m. - 4.00 p.m.

Come along and enjoy good company, shared readings, a cup of tea and biscuits, and an opportunity to change your library books if you wish, in a relaxed and happy atmosphere. The quiz is optional!

We also have occasional visits from local schools, the nursery school, and interesting speakers, so there's plenty going on for you to enjoy.

If you need a lift contact Peta 01420 84149

*Please note the change of day from the previous first Wednesday of every month.

GAP Ladies Lunch

The next **GAP Ladies Lunch** will take place on **Wednesday, 24 November** at 12.15 for 12.30pm at the Swan Hotel.

This is an excellent opportunity to meet people from different churches and get to know each other better. If you would like to join us, please contact Norma Duke on 01420 84722 to book a place and order your main course (if you have not already done so). Please contact 01420 89062 if you need a menu.

Christmas Fair at Alton Methodist Church

Saturday 27th November, 10am to 12 noon

Come and enjoy the festive atmosphere while browsing our varied stalls in the church including cakes, gifts, art, accessories and toys. Then join friends for a break in the Foyer Café or visit the Games Zone in the Hall.

Luminosa

**St Andrew's Church, Farnham on
Saturday 27th November at 7.30pm.**

See page 29 for more details



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Alton All Saints Hard of Hearing Group



The All Saints Hard of Hearing Group held a well-attended Welcome Back meeting recently, eighteen months since its last one in 2020. There was a lot of lively conversation, over a cream tea, with much catching up to do. During the lockdown members had kept in touch with each other with phone calls, emails and cards but for some it was the first time they had actually seen each other in a long time. The new pattern of meeting on the third Tuesday for Knitters Anonymous and the fourth Tuesday afternoons each month was announced. At present there will be no Lip-Reading sessions. Those present responded well to requests for more volunteers to help in the everyday running of the Group and a new committee was also formed. It was also an opportunity for Rev Rachel Sturt, Anna Chaplain for Older People, to present Diane Hobbs with a certificate naming her as a Founder member of the Group, Diane having been at the inaugural meeting twenty-two years ago. This had been ready to present at the group's 20th Birthday Afternoon which had to be cancelled due to the Covid lockdown. New members are always welcome, both those with a hearing loss and their hearing friends. More information may be obtained from the Parish Administrator 07865 292401 potr.alton@btinternet.com



News from Holy Rood Church, Holybourne

Hello friends!

During the past month Gordon and I have had some time off and have come back feeling refreshed and renewed. After a wet weekend in the Wye Valley with friends, we were then surprised with wonderfully sunny weather in Cornwall for the rest of our break. We spent a lot of time visiting our favourite places and walking new stretches of the coastal path; we even took a dip in the sea at our favourite beach. A treat of a hot chocolate was then necessary to help us warm up ;-)

We were very grateful to all those who kept Holy Rood 'going' while we were away, particularly churchwardens Alan and Keith, together with their wives Corinne and Rosemary, along with Martin East and Rachel Sturt who led the Sunday services.

A small group of children continues to meet for Teddies every Wednesday; the adults who bring them seem to appreciate the group as much as the children and sometimes the adults come on their own even if they don't have the children with them! We do have room for a few more so if you know of any pre-school children who are free on a Wednesday from 9.45am for about an hour do let them know about our friendly group. In the next couple of weeks we will be looking at Remembrance, making prayer boats for COP26 and celebrating Harvest as we take a short break from looking at Bible stories.

The coffee mornings are going particularly well at present with good numbers of people attending, and a time of focussed prayer from 11.45am until 12noon. If you are free on a Tuesday do come and join us; you will find a warm welcome!

It was lovely to be able to host the 'Listening Course' at Holy Rood recently when a number of people came along for a couple of hours to learn about active Christian listening. Members of the 'currently being formed' pastoral care team attended, along with a number of other interested people.

We are now planning for Christmas including a nativity 'experience' with live animals from Mill Cottage Farm Experience and a sheep 'trail'. Thank you to everyone who has offered to knit a sheep for us; if you would like to help out please message me. All shapes, sizes and colours of sheep would be gratefully received!

Our Harvest service took place towards the end of October and was particularly well attended; the church building had been beautifully decorated and members of the Eco Church team came along to update us about forthcoming events. Jo McGregor brought along her Traidcraft stall which proved popular; I bought a knitted alpaca as a gift for a friend!

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



Harvest at Holy Rood
And the flower arranging team



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Good reasons to have a church magazine

Following the article in the October edition of 'Sunrise', I received a very nice letter from one of our readers . . .

My first reaction was to say that it was a very welcome familiar friend. Certainly during the various "Keep out of Church" periods in the last 18 months and was very grateful to those who produced paper copies and it was one of the first things I looked for when we allowed back in for private prayers. Now it is good to see it sitting on the table by St Lawrence Church door ready for anyone who wants a copy.

Long may it continue

Thank you

From the Editor - many thanks and makes the monthly effort all the more worthwhile!



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Thank you

A new Parish Record - with a Difference

Some of you may know that I am quite a keen journaler and lover of the hand written letter and as I have been scribbling away over the last 21 months the impact Covid has had on me and my family has inevitably crept into my jottings. With the Christmas Tree Festival approaching, I began thinking about what we actually treasure and feel is important, not only at Christmas, but in the lives we find ourselves living now. I'm aware many of us have endured difficult and often heartbreaking losses of all kinds but also what, if anything, have we gained? What have we discovered about ourselves? What changes have we made in our lives? What have we learned and what are our hopes for a better future for us, our children and grandchildren?

Well, the idea I have come up with is to create a written parish record but with a difference. I plan to have a large book available in church where people can write about their experiences since March 2020 up to the present day and looking towards the future. A kind of "Doomsday Book" but with a bit less doom and a bit more hope! Maybe you took up a new hobby, such as gardening or a craft. If so, could you take a photograph of your work and display it in the book? Did you lose a friend or relative but want to acknowledge the blessings they brought to your life? What happened to you and your family? How have you coped with isolation, being separated from loved ones for months on end? How do you feel now? Are you angry, fearful or optimistic? What do you hope for? And how do we record all of these emotions?

These are just a few ideas but it can be anything that is important to you or a statement you'd like to make. The space on the page would be yours to fill. I am proposing that the book be available for a while, say from Advent to Candlemas (November to February) after which time it will be placed in the church archives for future generations to read. It will be a record of an unprecedented time in our lives, one we couldn't have foreseen, and one which has had far reaching consequences for us all. Nearly all of our communication now is via text, Whatsapp or Facebook, buried in an ocean of images and messages that may be almost impossible to find in the future. In contrast, the written word is a permanent record that is accessible simply by opening the pages. Every life really does matter and this would offer an opportunity to make your voice heard and to give your experiences of living through the pandemic, the good and the bad and the downright ugly, a voice and a validation.

I would love to know if you think this is a good idea and maybe you could consider what your contribution to this unique record might be. I'm not aware of anywhere else doing this and feel it would be a revealing and worthwhile contribution to our social history here in our town and Parish.

Elaine Cook

The Christmas Tree Festival is Back!

At least, we are planning for it! After last year's restrictions and frankly dismal Christmas, all being well we shall have our 10th Christmas Tree festival at St Lawrence on December 11th and 12th. This will be the year to truly celebrate Christmas as a parish with all the things brought back that we missed last year . The format will be the same i.e. bringing your tree in on Friday the 10th December from around 11am until 5pm . You can bring it ready decorated or decorate it in church. It can be any size, and shape, made from any material , real or artificial. I think most of you know how we do it by now! If you don't just grab me or Carol Graham or Jenny Thompson one Sunday morning. Nativity scenes , model villages, dolls houses (Sue Dell) and family Christmas decorations can also be included.

In addition to the trees this year , we are going to try to have an installation similar to prayer flag messages.(Carol is already on" the best fishing line to use" mission!) We plan to suspend Christmas cards with written messages of gratitude and hope inside, drawings by children (or adults), prayers written on anything really as we hopefully look forward to more secure , less troubled times. Rather like paper chains with a purpose. So get your creativity flowing and your pen writing. Hopefully we can leave them up for a while and we will recycle them as per Eco church directives afterwards!

Of course we hope we will have a forest of lovely Christmas trees as well as Christmas music and festive refreshments. I will be asking all you wannabe bake off contestants to contribute to the latter! Help over the weekend to serve coffees and mince pies and to generally be around over the weekend will be very much appreciated as always. You've not let me down yet. Let us hope Boris doesn't!

Elaine Cook



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The Waverley Singers is a registered charity no. 264115

Luminosa Voices Prepare for Energising, ‘Glorious’ Return

There is a certain charge and energy in the air each Tuesday evening at The Maltings in Alton since the successful choir, Luminosa, returned to live singing in preparation for their winter concert. Thrilled to be singing together once again after many months of Zoom choir rehearsals, there is unmistakable vitality and spirit in their collective sound.

With much to celebrate, not least an abundance of new members, the two adult choirs, Luminosa Voices and Chamber Voices, are relishing their singing community and the vibrant programme of music which they are eager to share with music-lovers, friends and supporters after their absence from live performance for almost two years.

Antonio Vivaldi's *Gloria* and John Rutter's *Gloria* will be the explosive and energetic centre of the programme, celebrating the return of the Choirs in a wall of exhilarating sound. The two pieces performed as companion pieces make for a positive and uplifting experience. Vivaldi's *Gloria* RV589, celebrated as 'the' Vivaldi *Gloria*, crackles with excitement and tension and marks a seminal moment in the history of sacred music in early 1700. With the opera genre flourishing, audiences were beginning to expect church music to live up to the dramatic, expressive, theatrical music they heard in the opera house and Vivaldi delivers that and so much more.

Rutter's *Gloria* is also electrically exuberant but very different, making a powerfully stirring impact. Contrasting intimacy with drama is a hallmark of Rutter's work. His harmonising, proclamatory, prayerful and joyful melodies create moments of reflection and haunt the memory.

A selection of James Macmillan's *Stretchclyde Motets*, to include the electric 'O Radiant Dawn' will be performed by Luminosa Chamber Voices whose clarity and refinement of singing accentuate the moods created by Macmillan and highlight words with dignified and profoundly moving effect. The harmony of ancient and modern is the essence of the selection of motets from his two collections.

The concert will also feature Luminosa's two youth choirs, Young Voices and Rising Voices, performing a range of works based on the theme of Gloria!

The choirs are honoured to be accompanied by Katherine Dienes-Williams who was the first-ever female member to be elected to the Cathedral Organists' Association and is currently Organist and Master of the Choristers at Guildford Cathedral, the first woman to hold such a post in the Church of England.

Luminosa is delighted to be performing at St Andrew's Church, Farnham on Saturday 27th November at 7.30pm. The choirs have performed there many times and are excited to once again fill the beautiful, spacious and welcoming church with a 'glorious' sound which will bring joy, energy and hope.

Tickets are available on TicketSource <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/whats-on/surrey/st-andrew-s-parish-church/gloria/e-kvgzxy>



The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.

Psalm 24 v 1

The beauty of Autumn, with its amazing colour palette, beautiful misty mornings and earthy smells is a daily reminder of God's astonishing creation. We are so blessed here in Alton, Beech & Holybourne to access this beauty so readily.

CoP26 will most likely be in progress whilst you are reading this edition of Sunrise and I am hopeful will be making daily headlines on the news, so raising awareness of the impact of the Climate Crisis and producing real, timely and measurable actions to tackle it. As I have mentioned before in Sunrise, there is so much written about the situation we are faced with, it is easy to feel overwhelmed, to become anxious and (a very human response) to want to ignore it all, telling ourselves it is someone else's problem to resolve.

In common with most of life's problems, knowledge and understanding is helpful in dealing with these feelings. There is so much material out there, particularly if you sign up to emails from campaigning organisations – they easily fill the inbox in a couple of days!

I found "**L is for Lifestyle – Christian living that doesn't cost the earth**" by **Ruth Valerio** (published by ivp books) a brilliant read. Ruth, an Environmentalist and theologian, social activist and author, and Director of Global Advocacy and Influencing at Tearfund, takes the big environmental issues of the day and breaks them down into manageable chunks & offers advice as to how we as individuals can take action. Advice ranges from practical tips on lifestyle to how to campaign on environmental issues and is rooted in biblical teaching and prayer, in faith & hope.

I would also recommend Ruth's book "Saying Yes to Life" (published by spck) which was chosen as the Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent Book for 2020 which sets in context what it is to be a follower of Jesus now with its environmental, ethical and social issues.

Other books which I have read written on our environmental problems, their cause, possible solutions and, most importantly, reasons for hope and optimism by authors who do not claim to be Christians are "Who Cares Wins" by Lily Cole (published by Penguin Books) and "The Story of Stuff" by Annie Leonard (published by Constable)

Please continue to pray for the environment and for the work of the Eco Church Team:

Each leaf, each petal, each grain, each person, sings your praises, Creator God. Each creature on the earth, all the mountains and great seas, show your glory, Spirit of love. And yet, the hand of greed has patented and plundered your splendour, has taken and not shared your gift, has lived as owner of the earth, not guest. And so, the ice is cracked, the rivers dry, the valleys flooded and the snow caps melt. God our Father, show us how to step gently, how to live simply, how to walk lightly with respect and love for all that you have made. Amen (written by Linda Jones)

Elspeth Mackeggie Gurney – Eco Church Team

Seniors Library Club

There was a lively buzz at the very busy first meeting, since lockdown, of the Seniors Library Club. Welcomed back by Peta and Rev Rachel, Anna Chaplain for Older People, and supported by volunteers led by Kevin, everyone quickly settled down to catch up with old friends and new, while puzzling over a fun quiz. There was also an opportunity to change library books in a quiet, unhurried manner as on Mondays the Library is not open to the general public. After light refreshments and a reading of John Betjeman's 'The Diary of a Church Mouse', everyone departed, agreeing to meet again on the first Monday afternoon in November.



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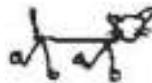
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Parish Posada



This year we are going to run a **Parish Posada** and we would love you to join in. A Posada is a re-enactment of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem, seeking shelter. It doesn't require a lot of commitment but is a nice way to spread the story of Christmas and perhaps meet new people along the way. A knitted Mary and Joseph (kindly created by Kate Dando – thank you Kate!) and an advent candle will 'travel round' the parish, visiting a different family or place every night. At the end they will end up at Church for the crib service. If you would like to offer to host Mary and Joseph for a night, please contact Ellie on **POTRposada@gmail.com**. It's open to everyone, and lots of people and families find it's a great way to be involved in the Christmas story. After the knitted Mary and Joseph have spent the night at your house, you then arrange with the person next on the list about delivering Mary and Joseph to their house. You can even meet for a coffee or a meal to do the exchange – it is entirely up to you!

Knitters Anonymous

Knitters Anonymous



Handmade - with love

Knitters Anonymous members have had a busy month! As well as the making the usual knitted garments and blankets to donate to the refugee charities some have been supporting an appeal from Treloar's College for knitted and crochet poppies, for their Remembrance Day project. Unfortunately the request came too late to mention in last month's Sunrise, but many thanks to those who did pick up the appeal in time to support the students. I am sure they will be very pleased with what we give them. Others will have seen the request from Ruth to knit/crochet small woolly sheep for a Christmas activity at Holy Rood. Patterns are available from ruthmaryrandall@gmail.com or contact |POTR Office. Meanwhile I have heard that Bliss – the charity for babies born too soon and too small are also back in full swing again and would appreciate any donations, preferably using their recommended patterns (available from the back of All Saints church). Donations for AltonAid for distribution to the refugees is taking place now, ready for transporting out at the beginning of November. Please continue to leave any donations in the back of All Saints church or phone 83514 if it is easier for me to collect them. Thank you all, once again for all your hard work and generosity; it is really appreciated.

Kate

Notes from a Returned Choir



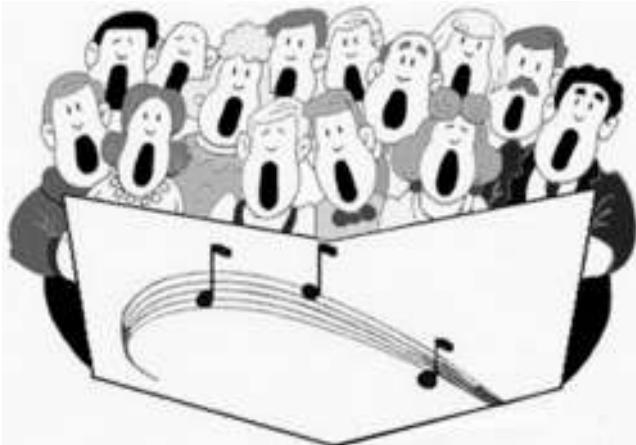
Hallelujah! We're back! The choir stalls are once again filled with our covid- deprived voices. To be honest, we were all a bit concerned about what sounds would utter forth after 18 months of limited singing but now we are practising again regularly we appear to be regaining our previous standard. Oh, how we have missed our choral evensongs, our carol services, our introits and anthems and it's such a good feeling to have them back. Music really is the food of love (and choirs) and we need to feast on quality fare regularly. Speaking of feasts, let's see what's on the menu...

As you know we are welcoming the good folk of Lasham, Bentworth and Shalden churches into the Parish of the Resurrection and on Sunday 31st October they will be joining us for our 10.30 service. If you enjoyed the Alleluia by Boyce that we sang recently then you will have the chance to hear it again as an introit. We will also be giving the soaring notes of Darke in E an airing and the harvest anthem will be "For the beauty of the Earth" by Andrew Carter. After all, we must aim to impress!

The Advent Carol Service will take place on Sunday 28 November at 6.30pm. This year, as a departure from the usual format, the service will be an Evensong with advent carols interspersed. All your favourites will be there culminating of course with the beautiful Paul Manz "E'en so Lord Jesus" We all melt when we sing this one, as we do when we sing the Herbert Howells Collegium Regale Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis. You will have the chance to sing your favourite advent hymns too. You've probably missed them as much as we have. So, definitely a date for your diaries, whether on your phone or on the kitchen wall, like mine!

We look ahead with hope (tinged with just a little apprehension perhaps in these uncertain times) that we will have our Christmas carol service this year so I will tell you about that next month. With any luck there will also be the sound of popping Prosecco corks too! Oh, I do hope so!

Elaine Cook



And Finally . . .



*...it's perhaps not the most dynamic of mission statements...
but at least it received the unanimous approval of the Church Council!*

Sunrise
The Parish of the Resurrection, Alton

**The December Copy Deadline is Noon
Sunday 14 November - Please no late articles**

Articles can be emailed to the editor **sunrise.alton@gmail.com**
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Jo McGregor 87680

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Carol Williams 588565

All Saints Organisations

Hard of Hearing Group

Kate Dando 83514

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Mrs. Dawn Casson 84400

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Mrs Maria Lloyd 83094

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Girls' Brigade (at Alton Methodist)

Kym Burgess 01252 334814

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Andrew Hinde 84056

Bellringing

Rob Law 544865

Flowers

Ruth Randall 549567

Sacristan

Vacant

November Services for POTR & BLS

7th November

8am	BCP Holy Communion	St Lawrence
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
	Church@4	St Lawrence
10am	Holy Communion	Bentworth
10am	Holy Communion	Lasham

14th November - Remembrance

9.15am	Morning Worship	St Peter's
9.30am	Holy Communion	Holy Rood
10.45am	Town Remembrance Service	The Cairn
6pm	Evening Worship	St Lawrence
10.45am	Remembrance Service	Bentworth
10.45am	Remembrance Service	Lasham
6pm	Remembrance Evensong	Shalden

21st November

8am	BCP Holy Communion	St Lawrence
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
	Church@4	St Lawrence
10am	Holy Communion	Shalden
10am	Holy Communion	Lasham

28th November - Advent Sunday

10.30am	GAP Service	Alton Methodist Church
6pm	Advent Evensong	St Lawrence
6pm	BLS - Service of Light	Shalden

Every Wednesday:

9.30am Said Holy Communion All Saints