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**Parish Matters**

**Welcome…**

to our weekly edition of Parish Matters – we hope you enjoy catching up with news and prayers from the Parish

**Sunday 28th November 2021 Advent Sunday**

**This week’s Special Prayers**

**The collect of the week**

Almighty God,

as your kingdom dawns,

turn us from the darkness of sin to the

light of holiness,

that we may be ready to meet you

in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Amen

**Eco Church prayer November**

We give thanks for the ways in which countries have come together to address the global crisis of climate heating.

We praise you for the efforts of individuals who have raised our awareness, and changed hearts and minds.

May we, together, create the political climate for effective action. Amen

**Prayers**

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

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

Please pray for each person by name.

**Those who are ill and require prayer:** Bethan, Sheena Herbert and family, Gwen Pettigrew, Penny Carmichael, Barbara Turk, Carol Conway, John Threadgold, Tony Marchant and Joan Butterworth

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

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

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

**Those who are bereaved – families and friends of** Brian Pond, Cyril Hunt, Gwen McGilvray, Ronald Chalmers, Clifford Chivers, Bob Hedges, Doreen Adams, Wendy Brown, Peggy Bruce, Norman Isham, Revd. Anthony Kennedy and Alfred White

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

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| **This week’s Online and extra Services*** Morning Prayer on Facebook Live **Monday to Friday** at 9am (@potralton)
* GAP Service at the Alton Methodist Church at 10am for everyone
* Advent Evensong 6pm at St Lawrence Church
* Sunday Worship Service on @POTRAlton YouTube
* St Lawrence Teddies in St Lawrence Church on Monday at 9.30am
* Holy Rood Coffee Morning Tuesday 10am with prayer after
* Alpha and Alpha Youth – see website for times and locations
* Holy Communion Wednesday 9.30am in All Saints Church
* Holybourne Teddies in Holybourne Church on Wednesday at 9.45am
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Please see our website [www.potr-alton.co.uk](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Cpotr%5CDropbox%5CParish%20Administrator%20folder%5CParish%20Matters%5CParish%20Matters%202021%5CParish%20Matters%202021%5Cwww.potr-alton.co.uk) for a full list of church services for this month.

**News and notices**

**Services on Advent Sunday – 28th November** We are meeting as The Greater Alton Project for a service at 10am (not 10.30am) in Alton Methodist Church. This service will include a thank you to Revd Rachel Sturt as she leaves the post of Anna Chaplain and continues ministry in Wrecclesham. **No other morning services will be taking place in our churches**. At 6pm (not 6.30pm) there will be an Advent Evensong in St Lawrence Church with worship led by the choir. A big encouragement to attend both of these wonderful services.

**Alton Foodbank Christmas Parcels** The Alton Foodbank will be packing parcels from mid-November onwards – any donations of the following gratefully received: Tinned ham/gammon, Tinned salmon, Cranberry Sauce, Crackers for cheese/Savoury biscuits, Crisps/Twiglets etc, Chutney, Chocolate, Christmas pudding, Christmas cake, Hot chocolate, Chocolate spread, Christmas biscuits, Tinned custard. Thank you

**All Saints Coffee and Conversation** Wednesdays 10.15am-11.15am for friendship and sharing faith. All welcome from POTR at any time, come and just enjoy the company and join in the sharing if you wish.  Led by Rev. Peter Brown and Anne Mason

**Alton Women’s Refuge Christmas Appeal** The Women's Refuge is now able to accept \*new gifts for children and mothers as Covid regulations have been eased. Our Parish has been exceptionally generous over the past few years, and as you might imagine the Refuge has been particularly busy lately. Obviously they were not able to take in any offerings last year.
There will be a box in St. Lawrence for donations, but they would also be very grateful to receive gift tokens from Argos, or One4All. As they are working on some much needed refurbishment, please could you mark your gift token envelopes, or cheques, which should be handed in to the Parish Office, “Gift” or ‘Refurbishment”. Any help you can give will be gratefully received.

\*Please note that all gifts should be in their original wrapping. Peta Sutherland

**Parish Window Advent Calendar Trail begins 1st December**. A new brightly lit festive window will be revealed every day until 24th December around Alton and Holybourne. Follow the trail to find each new window – the trail map will be in churches, on our website and on our facebook page. Join in the fun!

**Waverley Singers Carol Concert 4th December 7pm at St Lawrence Church** Tickets are now available for the Waverley Singers Carol Concert. The concert is in aid of the St Lawrence Organ Restoration Fund. This concert is always a great event and very popular so book early! www.ticketsource.co.uk/waverleysingers

**Meet and Eat – women’s group for Fun and Fellowship. Our next meeting is on** **Monday 6th December** – Alternative Christmas Supper – to be held at St. Lawrence Parish Centre from 7pm. A selection of meat and vegetarian Chilli, lasagne and curry, Christmas music and activities. Please do chat to Kathy Norkett at All Saints, Sarah Neish at Beech, Ruth Randall at Holybourne, Elspeth Mackeggie Gurney and Alison Parr at St. Lawrence about the group.

If you would like to be added to the distribution list or need any further information just email Lyn Baines at meetandeat@btinternet.com

**Alton Churches Together present joint Pop-Up Christmas** **Carol** events on green spaces scattered around Alton. These short 30-minute events are a great way to gather near where you live and sing carols together with friends and neighbours, bringing some real Christmas joy to our communities.

The Parish of the Resurrection is responsible for ‘popping up’ at first **The Barley Fields estate at the Holybourne lights and we will do this on Wednesday 8th December at 7pm. Then we will ‘pop up’ outside Wooteys School on Wednesday 15th December at 3pm and then on the Racecourse Estate (between Lingfield Close & Fontwell Drive) at 7pm.** Please follow this link to sign up to the event you would like to attend. [**https://harvestchurch.uk/diary**](https://harvestchurch.uk/diary)**.** We will also need to leaflet the area a few days beforehand with the invitation leaflet/song sheet. Please email the office if you can help distribute the flyers.

**Alton Repair Café** Do you have any items that you would like to be repaired, free of charge? (we just ask for a donation) Our marvellous repairers do their best to avoid goods being put into landfill – the message is REPAIR, RE-USE, RE-CYCLE – BUT DON’T REPLACE!  Items such as clocks, toys, electrical equipment, furniture, radios, bicycles, clothes and textiles to name but a few.

The Repair Café runs again on **Saturday 11th December from 10.30 to 12.30** in the Community Centre.  Just turn up with your item.

If you want to know more contact altonrepair21@gmail.com or ring 07759 489315

**The Christmas Tree** Festival will take place on the weekend of December 11th and 12th at St Lawrence. Donations of mince pies and other edible goodies, plus bottles for the Bottle Tombola will be gratefully received. There will be a box at the back of the church. Please also sign up if you can help out serving refreshments. Thank you.

**Christingle** This beautiful children’s service will take place on Sunday 12th December at St Lawrence Church at 4pm.

**New group?** Is anyone interested in trying an ordered group to share prayer in silence/waiting/contemplation/meditation? Also sharing anything emerging from the prayer in love and humility. The aim being to grow in ‘the Divine Dimensions’ as described in Ephesians 3: 17 – 19. This would be open to people of all church backgrounds and traditions. Contact petelaine@btinternet.com

**Empty Shoeboxes?** If you have any spare shoe boxes please leave in the office or at Holy Rood or Ruth will collect. Thank you

**Coffee Rota – St Lawrence** Are there any willing volunteers to join in this part of our hospitality? If so please speak to Clare Kirby 544735.

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

**The Ministry Team**

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

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

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

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

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

**Curate:** Revd Wendy Burnhams wendy@burnhamsfamily.co.uk 07514 280362

**Anna Chaplains:** Debbie Thrower c/o The Parish Office

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

**General Enquiries to the Parish Administrators** Philippa Penfold & Ellie Elder

potr.alton@btinternet.com 07865 292401

The Parish office is open on Monday, Thursday and Friday this week between 9am-11am. Please wear facemasks and observe social distancing when visiting.