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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 12th December 2021 The Third Sunday of Advent

**This week’s Special Prayers**

**The collect of the week**

God for whom we watch and wait,

you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son:

give us courage to speak the truth,

to hunger for justice,

and to suffer for the cause of right,

with Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

**Eco Church prayer December**

We praise you for the Word made flesh,

for heaven comer down to earth and earth raised up to heaven,

Being found in human form, Christ embodied his love for the material world.

Help us, like him, to care for the

earth of which we are part and to give substance to our concern

for the environment. 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, 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** Gwen McGilvray, Ronald Chalmers, Clifford Chivers, Bob Hedges, Doreen Adams, Wendy Brown, Peggy Bruce, Norman Isham, Revd. Anthony Kennedy, Alfred White and Ivor McCaul

**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)
* Christingle in **St Lawrence Church** 4pm Sunday 12th December
* Informal Evening Service at St Lawrence Sunday 12th December 6pm
* St Lawrence Teddies in St Lawrence Church on Monday at 9.30am
* Holy Rood Coffee Morning Tuesday 10am with prayer after
* Holy Communion Wednesday 9.30am in All Saints Church with Coffee and conversation after
* 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**

**New office email address** **office@potr-alton.co.uk**

**COVID Precautions** Following the government announcement on 8th December face coverings are mandatory inside our church buildings unless you are exempt. We would rather you kept your facemask on whilst singing – this is not mandatory. For the protection of others we ask that you consider taking a Lateral Flow Test before attending.

**Christmas Flowers at St Lawrence** If you would like to make a donation towards the Christmas flowers, please put in an envelope marked flowers and post through Andrew’s letterbox. It is much appreciated. With thanks

**Parish Centre Keyholder** Beryl Atwood has kindly held the key for the Parish Centre but is now moving away so we are looking for a new keyholder. All it involves is being in charge of loaning out the key to external bookings which are not very often. Beryl will happily discuss the role with anyone who is interested. Please contact 07999577732.

**Traidcraft**  On Sunday 12th December there will be an opportunity to buy your Fairtrade cards, gifts and treats at Holyrood after the 9.30am service. This will be the last Traidcraft stall before Christmas.

**Alton Foodbank** have been very busy and are in need oftinned custard, tinned rice pudding, tinned vegetables, UHT milk, coffee, chocolate spread, marmite, fruit juice (long life), deodorant, shower gel, shampoo & conditioner, laundry detergent capsules, laundry conditioner, toilet rolls. Please no baked beans, soup, pasta and tinned pulses as we have very good stocks currently.

**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. Cheques to be made out to: **“Stop Domestic Abuse (East Hants Refuge)”.** Peta Sutherland

**Parish Window Advent Calendar Trail**. 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!

**Alton Churches Together present joint Pop-Up Christmas** **Carol – come and join in the fun!**  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’**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)**.**

**The Christmas Tree** Festival will take place this weekend at St Lawrence Church. Saturday 10am – 4pm and Sunday 12pm – 4pm. Come and see all the beautifully decorated trees. Free admission & festive refreshments.

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. Thank you.

**U3A Choir Christmas Concert on Wednesday 15th December at 2.30pm at the Methodist Church**. An afternoon performance of carols, poems and readings. Festive refreshments served after. Entrance free with a retiring collection to the Methodist Church.

**Can you free Elf Derek?** Elf Derek has been Elf-napped and he needs you and your team of detectives to locate him. This is 1 hour of KA “Escape Room” fun with items to find, clues to spot and puzzles to solve. Contact jen@thekingsarms.org.uk or book at www.thekingsarms.org.uk

**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.

**Special Chrismas Services**

**Sunday 19th December**

10.30am Carols for All St Lawrence Church

10.30am Carol Service All Saints Church

6pm Nine Lessons & Carols St Lawrence Church

6pm Carol Service Church of the Holy Rood

**Thursday 23rd December**

2-3.30pm Outdoor Nativity Church of the Holy Rood

**Christmas Eve**

4pm Crib Service St Lawrence Church

11.30pm Midnight Communion Church of the Holy Rood

11.30pm Midnight Communion St Lawrence Church

**Christmas Day**

9.15am Christmas Communion St Peter’s Church

9.30am Christmas Communion Church of the Holy Rood

10.30am Christmas Communion All Saints Church

10.30am Family Christmas Communion St Lawrence Church

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 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

Please note new email address **office@potr-alton.co.uk** 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.