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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 5th December 2021 The First Sunday of Advent

**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 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, 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)
* Christmas Church@4 in **St Lawrence Church** Sunday 5th December
* 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**

**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.

**A message from Rachel** Thank you for the beautiful flowers and garden centre tokens from the GAP congregations which I was given last Sunday. Thank you too, for your kind words and good wishes. I will miss you all. Rachel Sturt.

**Traidcraft** This Sunday, 5th December, there will be a Traidcraft Stall after the 10.30am service at StLawrence Church. Jo will have Christmas cards and gifts as well as the usual Fairtrade teas, coffee, chocolate, biscuits…... It’s not too late to place your Christmas orders and there will be catalogues available to browse. 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

**Do you have any suitable raffle gifts we could donate to a local CAP (Christians Against Poverty) event at the beginning of December?**   Items like toiletries, hats, gloves, scarves, socks and so on would be ideal.  The raffle will be free for CAP guests. If you would like to donate anything you could leave it in Andrew's garage or bring it to Holy Rood, or Holybourne Vicarage, or let me know and I will collect! Many thanks, Ruth (ruthmaryrandall@gmail.com /01420 549567)

**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!

**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. Just email Lyn Baines at meetandeat@btinternet.com

**Alton Churches Together present joint Pop-Up Christmas** **Carol – We need your support – spaces available**  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)**.**

**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.

**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.

**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.

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.