

Sunrise

A monthly magazine for the Parish of the Resurrection, Alton



November 2023

A donation
will be appreciated



The Parish of the Resurrection, Alton

Vicar: Reverend Canon 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 01420 513881 or by calling at the Parish Office or email: office@potr-alton.co.uk

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 (9am - 12noon)

Philippa Penfold (Mon-Wed) **07453 590569**
Ellie Elder (Thurs & Friday) **07865 292401**

PCC Secretary

Philippa Penfold 01420 513881

PCC Minute Secretary

Sue Hubbard 01420 513881
office@potr-alton.co.uk

Treasurer

Craig Stolton treasurer@potr-alton.co.uk

Parish Office: Tel. 01420 513881

Email: office@potr-alton.co.uk

All Saints Church Hall

Open Monday to Friday

9.00am-12.00 noon

Parish Web Site:

<http://www.potr-alton.co.uk>

Associate Vicar

Vacancy

Assistant Priests

Jon Rooke 07519 046593

Revd Martin East 549595

Revd Lynn Power 07850 232995

Revd Bruce Nicole 07974 021764

Revd Peter Brown 549943

Licensed Lay Minister

Elaine Brown 549943

Curate

Wendy Burnhams 07514 280362

Anna Chaplain Pioneer

Debbie Thrower 07865 292401

Anna Chaplain

Kate Powell 07484 026546

Churchwardens

Matthew Bayliss 07920 002328

Helen Walters 07766 076899

Clive Muller 86064

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

Robin Kemp (SL) Sarah Neish (St.P)

Wendy Burnhams (All S)

Lisa Hillan (HR)

Parish Donations Coordinator

Tori Hewitt 07554 428100

Pastoral Visiting

c/o The Ministry Team via the Office

Youth, Children & Family Worker

Vacant

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 . . .

When I was first ordained and licensed as curate to the Parish of St Lawrence Alton (long before we were The Parish of the Resurrection) one of the first things Peter Doores, the then vicar, told me about was the services and people we met at The Brendoncare Nursing Home.. There was one particular instruction that went along with this - “and the Bishop has particularly asked us to keep our eye on Chad Varah - you’ll find him in Room 314.” That sounded to me like an interesting name but I am afraid it meant nothing to me. So I went home and ‘googled’ it only to discover that Revd Chad Varah was the founder of The Samaritans.

What was he doing in a nursing home in Alton? It turns out his daughter lived locally and he had become quite confused. So diligently I went to visit him and offered him Holy Communion as I had just taken the service in the communal lounge. His riposte I will never forget - “My dear boy, if I want communion I will do it myself!” He had photographs of himself and royalty and celebrities all over the walls and I managed to engage him over my several visits in his extraordinary life and ministry.

This month, 2nd November, sees the 70th anniversary of the very first phone call to the Samaritans.

The idea for a confidential crisis phone-line that desperate people could use came from the Chad Varah, following the suicide of a young girl of 14 in one of his parishes. He was appalled by the senseless loss of life, and the idea of offering help to those in such need was born. When he moved to St Stephen’s Church Walbrook in the city of London in the summer of 1953 he knew the time had come for him to launch what he called a “999 for the suicidal”. He was, in his own words, “a man willing to listen, with a base and an emergency telephone.”

The first ever call to the new service was made on 2nd November 1953 – and hence this date is recognised as the Samaritans' official birthday. The service received lots of press coverage and on 7th December 1953 the Daily Mirror coined the term “Telephone Good Samaritans”. Although Samaritans is not a religious organisation, the name has stuck and become synonymous with the idea of people being there for others struggling to cope and I am sure from the Gospel story told by Jesus ‘The Good Samaritan’.

From that first phone call in the autumn of 1953 the workload increased so rapidly that Chad Varah had to turn to volunteers for help. Soon he said that “they were doing the clients more good than I was.” It was in February 1954, that Chad Varah officially handed over the task of supporting the callers to the volunteers. Samaritans as we know it today was born.

This country is full of caring and loving organisations and charities founded on Jesus' stories or a Biblical perspective. We should be glad that people have found such inspiration and I am glad that Chad eventually allowed me to give him his communion.

Chad is just one of the amazing and inspirational people I will be bringing to mind in this November season of remembrance. We have held our poignant All Souls Service where so many people have been named and remembered in prayer and we will be joining with many others to hold our Remembrance Services on 11th and 12th November. These are very special occasions. This year on Remembrance Sunday Revd Philip Simpkins and I will also be leading a Service for Peace at 6pm in St Lawrence – a quiet, simple vigil style service. With so much violence, tragedy and war in our broken world this seems very apt and I invite you to come along.

Andrew

Gordon and Ruth

What a send off we had on Sunday 15th October. A gloriously packed St Lawrence Church for a wonderful service of Evensong. Cracking music and hymns, inspiring Bible readings and a magnificent sermon from Gordon himself. Then the gifts - many things for their new garden - a garden mirror, a bird feeder, outdoor lights, a fire pit and two roses named 'Retirement Rose'. And a voucher for afternoon tea at Lainston House and a wine tasting tour at Black Chalk Wine near Andover. This was followed by superb nibbles and Prosecco and much chat and friendship.

It was so right to take time to give thanks to both Ruth and Gordon for all that they have brought to The Parish of the Resurrection. We have all been looked after, inspired, encouraged, equipped and taught by them and we will miss them. They go well with our blessings and prayers.

And if you enjoyed Choral Evensong, then do remember that we have this service every 3rd Sunday of the month at 6pm in St Lawrence Church. We would love to see you!

Andrew



Do you receive our weekly
Email newsletters?
If not, but you would like to,
please contact Ellie in the
office - office@potr-alton.co.uk
and we can add you to the
database.

LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE



THE LIGHTHOUSE

10.30am - 11.30am at the Parish
Centre, next to St Lawrence Church.

Whilst you worship in church,
we invite your children to worship with us at The
Lighthouse.

We welcome all children aged between 0 - 11 years to join us every
Sunday of the month in term time.

At the end of the session, the children will be brought back to church to
enjoy the last part of the service.



All our leaders are DBS checked.

www.potr-alton.co.uk

Bible Readings for the month of November 2023

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

Wednesday 1 st	Psalm 119: 1 - 32	Ecclesiasticus 42: 15 - end	John 17: 20 - end
Thursday 2 nd	Psalm 15	Ecclesiasticus 43: 1 - 12	John 18: 1 - 11
Friday 3 rd	Psalm 19	Ecclesiasticus 43: 13 - end	John 18: 12 - 27
Saturday 4 th	Psalm 23	Isaiah 35	John 18: 28 - end
Sunday 5th All Saints – 4 before Advent Colossians - You are being built for true purpose Colossians 4: 2-18 Matthew 24: 1-14			
Monday 6 th	Psalm 2 or 30	Isaiah 1: 1 - 120	Matthew 1: 18 - end
Tuesday 7 th	Psalm 5 or 36	Isaiah 1: 21 - end	Matthew 2: 1 - 15
Wednesday 8 th	Psalm 9 or 34	Isaiah 2: 1 - 11	Matthew 2: 16 - end
Thursday 9 th	Psalm 15 or 37	Isaiah 2: 12 - end	Matthew 3
Friday 10 th	Psalm 16 or 31	Isaiah 3: 1 - 15	Matthew 4: 1 - 11
Saturday 11 th	Psalm 18: 31 – end or 42	Isaiah 4: 2 – 5: 7	Matthew 4: 12 - 22
Sunday 12th 3 before Advent Remembrance Sunday			
Monday 13 th	Psalm 20 or 44	Isaiah 5: 8 - 24	Matthew 4: 23 – 5: 12
Tuesday 14 th	Psalm 21 or 48	Isaiah 5: 25 - end	Matthew 5: 13 - 20
Wednesday 15 th	Psalm 119: 57 - 80	Isaiah 6	Matthew 5: 21 - 37
Thursday 16 th	Psalm 26 or 57	Isaiah 7: 1 - 17	Matthew 5: 38 - end
Friday 17 th	Psalm 32 or 51	Isaiah 8: 1 - 15	Matthew 6: 1 - 18
Saturday 18 th	Psalm 33 or 68	Isaiah 8: 16 – 9: 7	Matthew 6: 19 - end
Sunday 19th 2 before Advent Zephaniah 1: 7, 12-18 Matthew 25: 14-30			
Monday 20 th	Psalm 47 or 71	Isaiah 9: 8 – 10: 4	Matthew 7: 1 - 12
Tuesday 21 st	Psalm 52 or 73	Isaiah 10: 5 - 19	Matthew 7: 13 - end
Wednesday 22 nd	Psalm 56 or 77	Isaiah 10: 20 - 32	Matthew 8: 1 - 13
Thursday 23 rd	Psalm 62 or 78: 1 - 39	Isaiah 10: 33 – 11: 9	Matthew 8: 14 - 22
Friday 24 th	Psalm 63 or 55	Isaiah 11: 10 – end of 12	Matthew 8: 23 - end
Saturday 25 th	Psalm 78: 1 – 39 or 76	Isaiah 13: 1 - 13	Matthew 9: 1 - 17
Sunday 26th Christ the King Ezekiel 34.11-16,20-24 Matthew 25: 31-46			
Monday 27 th	Psalm 96 or 80	Isaiah 14: 3 - 20	Matthew 9: 18 - 34
Tuesday 28 th	Psalm 97 or 89: 1 - 18	Isaiah 17	Matthew 9: 35 – 10: 15
Wednesday 29 th	Psalm 119: 105 - 128	Isaiah 19	Matthew 10: 16 - 33
Thursday 30 th	Psalm 47	Ezekiel 47: 1 - 12	John 12: 20 - 32

Living Advent Calendar 2023



It is two years since we last had a calendar in the front windows of our flats and houses around the town. This provides an attractive and cumulative witness, building up to Christmas Day itself, posting words of scripture or brief quotations from carols alongside eye-catching images. It can provide a talking point with neighbours and a prompt to invite them to pop-up carols around the town and carol services in our churches.

If the images are back-lit they can be both visible by day and stand out at night.

As in previous years you are invited to “book a day” [1-24] in December with Ellie at the Parish Office, giving your name and address, so she can compile a labelled map of the locations around the town. You are encouraged to book early to secure the date of your choice.

It is time to let the creative juices flow.

Community & Outreach Committee of the PCC



Church@4 is an all-age family service where parents and children come together to learn about God, sing songs and enjoy crafts together. Tea and cake are served before the service.

Church
@ 4

3rd Sunday of the month at 4pm in the Parish Centre, next to St Lawrence Church.

www.potr-alton.co.uk

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Tel Carol 07753178468

Email c.may981@btinternet.com

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of our Advertisers.
Thank you*

Charity Giving

The PCC have been given some very serious thought to how, as a Parish, we support charity and mission agencies. We would like to put a more systematic system in place. This was also discussed at this year's APCM and in other places and we have listened carefully.

It has been agreed that in 2024 we will give 5% of all regular giving to 4 charities or mission agencies and then also ask that other events and activities support them as well. We will look at our budgets but would like to raise this percentage figure to 7.5% in 2025 and then 10% in 2026. We would also encourage other ways to support these charities. We will look to support these chosen charities for a 2/3 year period recognising that regular and ongoing gifts are good for their own budget setting and work. It would be appropriate to think of support for local, national and international organisations.

So, we would like some help in determining which charities/mission agencies to support. We have come with simple criteria:

- Christian based/founded or supportive of Kingdom values
- An ease of building relationship/partnership with the organisation
- People/families within the parish who can act as natural advocates - to keep us informed
- An ability to be able to invite speakers and receive regular communication from the organisation
- An inter-generational appeal - can all-ages find ways to engage and support

Would you be able to nominate a charity or mission agency? If so, would you please write a brief paragraph synopsis based on the above criteria for The Ministry Team to consider - send it to the Parish Office by email or note by the end of November. They will then put a proposal to the January 2024 PCC meeting for consideration. At that meeting there will be a full written policy presented so that we have a basis for review and consistency.

As well as the chosen charities we will continue our regular support for Karamoja, The Anna Chaplaincy and Youth & Children's Ministry. Also we would always encourage local practical support for local charities and organisations as we know is so prolific amongst our worshipping communities.

We will ensure we always make good use of Gift Aid possibilities.

We look forward to your ideas, and support of this way forward.

Andrew - on behalf of the PCC

Sunday Evenings at 6pm

St Lawrence Church

We are making some regular changes to our Evening Services across each month.

Week 2

A time of prayer for the parish, our community and nation interspersed with Bible readings and reflective songs. There will be space to share ideas for prayer and then time to pray quietly or altogether. 'Be still and know that I am God' This replaces the Saturday Zoom prayers. It lasts about 50 minutes.

Week 3

Choral Evensong service from the Book of Common Prayer. This service is led by the choir who sing a psalm, Magnificat, Nunc Dimittis and an anthem. There are traditional hymns accompanied by the organ. There are also two Bible Readings, a short sermon and prayers of intercession. It typically lasts about 50-60 minutes and occasionally we end with 'drinks and nibbles'.

Week 4

Informal Evening Service - an informal service led by a group of people who plan it together. The music is led by a small band and we sing a variety of contemporary worship songs. It contains teaching, open prayer, 'Talking Jesus' discussion and times of sharing. It lasts about 60 minutes. For October and November we will look at 'The Church in Harmony' and the Book of Colossians. Come and come and relax in the Lord's presence and meet with Him afresh.



Alton Methodist Church



Christmas Fair

**Saturday 25th November
10am – 12 noon**

Gifts, Toys, Art & Crafts

Cakes, Jewellery

Games & Refreshments

Admission free



News from Alton Methodist Church

The Boys' and Girls' Brigade parade and enrolment service on Sunday 15th October was very well attended. It was good to be able to welcome friends and families to our morning worship.

Christmas Fair

All are welcome to come to our **Christmas Fair on Saturday 25th November, 10-12** at Alton Methodist Church. Come and browse the varied stalls, including cakes, gifts, art, accessories, toys and wood turning or take a break with a cuppa and some cake. The Boys' Brigade will be running games in the hall to amuse all ages.

Services in November

All services start at 10am.

Sunday 5th: Rev Howard Sharp – Morning Worship

Sunday 12th: Rev Philip Simpkins – Morning Worship

Sunday 19th: Mrs Liz George – Morning Worship

Sunday 26th: Rev Philip Simpkins – Communion Service

The Lighthouse group for children will meet on Sundays 5th and 19th during the morning service.

The Bereavement Journey.

Are you grieving the death of a loved one or struggling with the long-term effects of loss? The Bereavement Journey is a seven week series of short videos and focussed conversations. Topics include attachment; separation and loss; difficult feelings; rites of passage; the impact and pain of bereavement; coping with others; coping with change; moving forward; and an optional session on questions of faith.

Tuesday mornings, 10am - 12 noon, January 16th - February 27th at The Alton Maltings Centre.

Suggested voluntary contribution £20.

To book your place, or to find out more about it, please

email bereavement@potr-alton.co.uk

or phone Wendy Burnhams 07514280362

Anna Chaplaincy Update

The Anna Chaplaincy team continues to be present for older people all around Alton visiting care homes, activity groups, people in their homes and patients in hospital. Over the last month, we have especially enjoyed celebrating harvest in the care homes and with so many different community groups.

But, now that Harvest is over, we are looking forward to Christmas and are getting in early with our Anna Chaplaincy Christmas Event. We are so lucky to have won funding from the Alton Lions Club to cover the cost of this event so do come along! It will be on Wednesday, 29th November from 2-4pm in the Alton Methodist Church and there will be Christmas crafts, Christmas shopping, hand massages, a sing-a-long and a delicious Christmas tea. Please put the date in your diaries and we look forward to seeing you there!

Kate and the Anna Chaplaincy Team

The Christmas Tree Festival

9th and 10th December '23

Tinsel alert! The Christmas Trees are coming to a church very near you and I hope you are all busy channelling your creativity in the tree-decorating department! As promised and in discussion with Andrew, we have decided upon the charities that we will support this year.

The first one is The Alton and District Community Relief Foundation and this is their aim:

“The Alton & District Community Relief Foundation (ADCRF) aims to provide support and assistance to local residents and groups who find themselves in exceptional circumstances and need of help. Initially conceived as a community response to the pressures caused by the current Covid-19 situation, the fund is designed to be a longer-term funding option to provide a lifeline both now and in the months and years to come to ensure we are able to support each other as a strong and inclusive community. The fund, supported by Alton Lions Club (CIO), Alton Town Council, Alton Foodbank, Citizens Advice East Hampshire, the Parish of the Resurrection and Harvest Church is provided by our community for the benefit of our community.”

The second will be Homestart and, if you're not familiar with it, this is what they do:

“Homestart is a local community network of trained volunteers and expert support helping families with young children through their challenging times.

I'm sure you will agree they are both very worthy charities to support.

I'll also be putting up my high-tech bits of paper for you to sign up (yes, with an actual pencil) if you can offer some seasonal goodies or an hour of your time to help serve the refreshments on either day. As always Carol I are extremely grateful for all the help you give us. I just know it's going to be another “cracker” of a festival!

Only 56 days 'til Christmas...

Elaine Cook and Carol Graham

(Chief sprinklers of Christmas Fairy Dust)

Quiz for KA THE KINGS ARMS

Saturday 18th November 2023

Four Marks Village Hall

6.30pm for 7.00 start, 10pm finish

£15 per person

**Includes Chilli/Curry Supper
Teams of 6-8**

Bar (no BYOB, please)

To book contact:

Lisa@thekingsarms.org.uk

**All funds raised will go to The King's Arms Youth
Project supporting local young people**

Eco Corner

Having owned several historic vehicles, I was fascinated by the results of a survey by the Federation of British Historic Vehicle Clubs.

"The number of historic vehicles on the DVLA database has increased to 1,241,863.

9.8m people in the UK are interested in historic vehicles.

Average distance covered by an historic vehicle is 2,214 miles per annum.

21m people see historic vehicles as an important element of the UKs heritage.

11.3m people think historic vehicles should be exempt from restrictions of low and ultra-low emissions imposed on other vehicles.

5.1m people are interested in owning an historic vehicle.

60% of owners say owning an historic vehicle is one of the most important things in their life."

So, whether it is a Morris Minor, an Austin Seven or the original Rolls-Royce Silver Ghost, the general public would like to see such vehicles maintained and used on public roads. So, what do we do when there is no petrol?

It turns out that this is not a new problem.

When the Ford Model T was introduced in September 1908, it had a knob by the steering column which could select gasoline (Petrol) or Alcohol as fuel. Pretty well all Historic cars could run on alcohol and reduce pollution.

It is extremely unlikely that anybody will produce a fuel specially for historic vehicles. However an 85% alcohol fuel E85 is already available in Europe for multi-fuel vehicles and there was a time when countries such as Brazil ran all vehicles on 100% alcohol derived from sustainable wood, until petrol became cheaper.

So maybe there is a low pollution, non-electric, sustainable future not only for historic vehicles but for others as well.

This is yet another 'watch this space' issue.

Nigel Hughes

What's On . . .

Friday Coffee Morning

Friday 3 November

St Lawrence Church

Monthly Coffee Mornings (first Friday in month), at St. Lawrence Church, from 10.30am until 12.00am.

The informal sessions are open to everyone, with plenty of cake and conversation.

Please come along, and meet-up with old friends, and make new ones.

POTR St Lawrence Monthly Market

Saturday 4 November 9.00 to 12.30

In the Parish Centre,

Books, Puzzles, Produce & Cakes

HELP, after 30 years of volunteering and makes many cups of tea and coffee Cathy has decided to hang up her tea towel and retire. This will leave a big vacancy in the kitchen and we are looking for someone to help Sarah and myself in the future. We are there from 8.30am - 1pm. If you think you might be interested please give me a call on 01420 86064 or speak to me when I am around church. Gillian Muller

St Lawrence Organ Concert

Tuesday 7th November

Philip Scriven - Concert Organist

Tuesday 5th December

Marcus Wibberley - London Based Concert Organist



GAP Ladies Lunch

Wednesday 29 November 12.15 for 12.30pm Swan Hotel

If you have not already booked and ordered your main course, please contact Norma Duke on 01420 84722. This is an excellent way of getting to know more people. You are very welcome to join us and to invite a friend to come long too. But don't forget to book the friend and their main course.

Men's Breakfast

We will be meeting again at the White Hart public house, Holybourne at 8.30am on **Saturday 25th November** for our usual delicious 'full English' breakfast, all for just £10. Come and enjoy some lively banter and listen to our excellent speaker, Derek Scufell, who will be talking to us about 'Science and Technology.' 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 22nd November**.

All Saints Coffee and Conversation (2nd & 4th Wednesdays 11am to 11.30am after Communion at 10am)

for friendship and sharing faith.

All welcome at any time, come and just enjoy the company and join in the sharing if you wish. Our sharing includes at the moment an overview of Jesus life and also people sharing their their own delights, difficulties and questions.

Anything is allowed, it is very informal and open to anyone to just come and see." No experience necessary ! " led by Anne Mason"

GAP Traidcraft Coffee Morning Every Tuesday from 10-12 noon

Alton Methodist Church.

All profits to local charities. Come and catch up with friends over coffee.

ST LAWRENCE CE PRIMARY SCHOOL



The Autumn term is well underway at St Lawrence CE Primary School now! It was wonderful to welcome our new Willow Class in September. They are settling really well and are enjoying getting to know their new friends. We have also had some new families join us from out of area across the school so it has been lovely to welcome them into our St Lawrence family too.

We have a wonderful PTA at our school and I wanted to say a massive THANK YOU to them. This year they have raised an incredible £7,600 this year which is way more than ever before. They have just purchased wet play games for every single class and last Friday, each class was given a box with a range of card games, board games and other fun activities for each class to look after and enjoy. This year we are very grateful to them for also funding one school trip for every class, welcome book bags for Year R and Year 6 hoodies and along the way, I am sure there will be other things as well. Jo and Kate have a great group of parents who are really keen to raise as much money as they can for the school and it was lovely to see many parents at the AGM Cheese and Wine.



We have also had a generous donation given to us by Bob Booker on behalf of the Church Triangle Resident's Association to put towards our spiritual garden which we are thrilled about. Thank you very much for that.



Year 1 visited Milestones Museum in Basingstoke for their first school trip of the year and Year 5 visited Fort Nelson as they are studying World War 2. We had a wonderful email from Fort Nelson even before the children returned home which made us all very proud!

Dear Mrs Micklefield,

I just wanted to drop you a quick line to say what a fantastic job your year 5 children have done today.

We have all been impressed by their impeccable behaviour, enthusiasm, and respect. They have also been very forthcoming with interesting and intelligent ideas and there was lots of good teamwork. The staff in the shop have also said that they were the best school they've had using the shop in years, the children were fantastically behaved and the staff were super supportive as well. So thank you.

Wishing you all the best for the forthcoming year.

Many thanks,

Ruth Nye (she/her)
Education Officer

It is so lovely to hear our children showing our values of Love, Compassion and Respect even when they are not in school.

Mrs Fiona Micklefield

Headteacher



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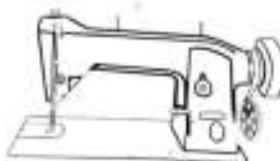
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Hard of Hearing Group – latest news

Lip Reading

Please note that the next meeting of the Lip Reading group is at 2pm in All Saints Church hall, Queens Road on Tuesday, 2pm, 7th November



Why not come and give it a try!

Main Monthly Meeting

The next full meeting of the Hard of Hearing Group is on 28th November in the church hall. The Annual Christmas Service, led by Revd Wendy Burnham, will take place in All Saints Church, 2.30pm, on Tuesday 12th December, followed by light refreshments in the church hall. Put the date in your diary now!

Many thanks for your generous support of the Annual Harvest Festival service led by Anna Chaplain, Kate Powell, which resulted in six bags of produce being donated to the Alton Food bank and a generous donation to the Anna Chaplaincy fund. *Annette* ablackman4@googlemail.com & *Kate*

KNITTERS ANONYMOUS

Handmade – with Love



Once again, thanks to your generosity, we have been inundated with beautiful blankets and clothes, all of which have now gone via the 'Help for Refugees' collection from St George's church, Farnham, recently. Please keep your donations coming – we can never have too much! Thanks have also been received from the area Bliss organisers too. Knitters, please note that more of the red 'traffic light' hats are required with less of the yellow ones being required. These donations are delivered to the collecting point every couple of months before being sorted then despatched on various baby units here in the south. Again, the more we receive the more we can support this vital charity. Our next meeting is on 21st November, 2pm in All Saints hall. Please come and join us! *Kate* 01420 83514 or kaddando@gmail.com

Meet and Eat – women's group for Fun and Fellowship

Thirteen of the Meet and Eat group met on Monday 2nd October at Holy Rood Church for Sock Creations with Wendy Hunt. There was lots of chat and laughter. The group made some great creations, you can see a photo of them below. Plenty of hot drinks and cakes were consumed! We said Goodbye to Ruth as this will be her last meeting, she knows she is always very welcome to join us.

Meet and Eat – women's group for Fun and Fellowship

Our next Meet and Eat will be on Monday November 6th starting at 7pm in Holy Rood Church. Wendy and Sharon will be there for a Craft evening - Christmas Jars - Hot drinks and cakes will be available.

Please do chat to Kathy Norkett at All Saints, Sarah Neish at Beech, Gill Tull at Holy Rood, 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



POTR Eco Church

Forthcoming Eco Church Events

November 4th – Craft Swap St Lawrence Church Hall 2.30pm to 4.30pm

Thinking of taking up a new hobby for the winter months or running short of craft supplies? Then don't shop for new items – instead come along on to the next craft swap and collect what you need for free!

November 25th – Toy Bonanza St Lawrence Church 10.00am to 12 noon

Toys, books, puzzles & games suitable for Christmas gifting will be available at no cost. Donations of unwanted toys etc. in good condition can be left in the marked boxes in each of our churches.

Look out for.....

The Eco Church Team is developing a permanent **Prayer Station**, a space in St Lawrence Church where anyone can stop & engage in prayer for nature, the environment and for people adversely affected by climate change. The theme of the first Prayer Station will be Plastic Waste and will mark the Rubbish Campaign Week being run by Tearfund, starting on 30th October. Do take time to have a look & to pray.

Did you know 230,00 tonnes of food is thrown away each Christmas including 7,500,000 mince pies (yes, you did read that correctly, 7.5 million mince pies!). Christmas wrapping paper that, if laid end to end, would stretch from the earth to the moon is sent to landfill.

Have yourself a Greener Christmas is a booklet of ideas on how you can have a more environmentally friendly Christmas. It will be available in each church and at Resurrection Furniture from mid-November.

Elspeth Mackeggie Gurney – Eco Church Team



Home Energy Support Team Alton - HESTA

Have you been thinking about improving the energy efficiency of your home, but are not sure where to start? Saving energy means saving money, having a more comfortable home and reducing your carbon impact.

Energy Alton, a volunteer-run community group, is launching a new project to make it easier for residents to get advice on what they can do and to then actually get it done. Home Energy Support Team Alton (HESTA) is funded by East Hampshire District Council and Alton Town Council. All the advice and support provided by Energy Alton is free of charge and there is no selling involved.

Energy Alton volunteers have provided over 500 free energy surveys over the last 10 years. They have found that one of the biggest challenges for residents wanting to have energy saving measures installed is finding someone to actually do it.

HESTA includes a list of several local handypeople who can install loft insulation, secondary glazing, draught proofing and other measures. HESTA also provides grants of up to £100 towards the cost, for properties in council tax bands A, B, C or D.

Volunteer Green Home Champions are also available to talk to for advice. These are local people who have already had energy saving measures installed, who are happy to share their experience so that you can find out the benefits, challenges and lessons learned from someone who has already started making their home more sustainable.

You can find out more at <https://energyalton.org.uk/energy-advice/home-energy-support-team-alton-hesta/> or just search online for Energy Alton and click on the HESTA link on the home page. You can also call Energy Alton on 07811 462 659.

An update from the Parish of the Resurrection Eco Church Team

As the Parish of the Resurrection Eco Church Team, we continue to work alongside other local organisations as part of our 'Community and Global engagement'. This month, we were interviewed by a member of ACAN (Alton Climate Action Network) under the heading of 'Making a Difference' and we thought that you would like to read what they wrote about us. The article below is reproduced with the author's permission.



'God has created us to look after all that He has made.'

This quotation from the book of Genesis encapsulates the philosophy behind Eco Church, a national initiative adopted in 2019 by Alton's Parish of the Resurrection (POTR). To quote a spokesperson: 'As Christians, we believe we have a God-given duty to care for Creation.'

Covering five key areas of church life, Eco Church encourages congregations across all denominations to engage in learning about and implementing actions to care for God's earth, and the Parish of the Resurrection churches (Alton's St Lawrence and All Saints, the Church of the Holy Rood and St Peter's in Beech) have embraced this wholeheartedly.

Their first step was to examine what they had already done and then look at possible next steps. In the '**Worship and Teaching**' section, for example, they noted that they were holding prayer stations during COPs and holding an annual Creation Care service. The next stage includes introducing a series of talks on carbon literacy and social justice.

In the '**Management of Church Buildings**' section, they had already switched to green energy suppliers, installed LED lighting, and turned down their thermostats, with the replacement of a boiler in Holy Rood high on the agenda for the future.

Under '**Management of Church Land**' they had installed a water butt in the Holy Rood churchyard, cooperated with ACAN, AVLAN, and others to build a wildflower garden at All Saints, conducted biodiversity surveys in St Lawrence and Holy Rood, and started to green St Lawrence churchyard by planting bulbs and establishing a wildflower bed. They now plan to follow the advice of the Alton Natural History Society to improve biodiversity, by planting more wildflower gardens and installing bird boxes and bat boxes.

The **'Community and Global engagement'** section saw them holding a stall at ACAN's COP26 vigil in the Market Square, participating in our two Eco Fairs, and hosting our 'Listen to the Children' exhibition. At Christmas 2022 they held a Greener Christmas event, examining ways of making Christmas more environmentally friendly. To avoid waste, as well as to help people's pockets, they host and help at ACAN's Community Share scheme at which children's toys and games can be borrowed at no cost, they have held craft swaps and toy bonanzas and plan to hold more of these. In addition, they have contributed donations from their events to various local, national and international charities. Cooperation with other local churches under GAP (the Greater Alton Project) also takes place.

Eco Church's cooperation with ACAN groups continues under their **'Lifestyle'** heading. A 'travel to church' survey established individual parishioners' carbon footprints and encourages people to walk or cycle to church where it is practical to do so. After consulting Cycle Alton, they installed cycle racks at three of their churches. Other ACAN groups have benefited from their participation too: Repair Café, Litter Picks, and Energy Alton, to name just a few, have all welcomed Eco Church members.

At the hub of Eco Church is a small, dedicated group of enthusiasts who take on the responsibility of organizing and promoting events and initiatives. They have been gratified by the positive response from the rest of the congregation; environmental awareness has been raised and many others have become involved in the various activities. 'Every little helps' is their attitude, and they are pleased to see that so many other parishioners join in as far as available time or resources allow.

The Eco Church structure includes receiving awards at certain stages of the program's completion. In May 2020 POTR Eco Church received the Bronze Award and hopes to achieve silver in the next few months. They acknowledge the recognition that the awards bring and celebrate the way they raise awareness, both of their work and of the wider issues around environmental damage and the climate crisis. But much more important to them is that caring for God's Creation should be embedded in their daily lives.

They quote Archbishop Desmond Tutu, who said: 'Do your little bit where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world.'

To find out more about Eco Church, go to:

<https://potr-alton.co.uk/eco-church/>

or <https://ecochurch.arochoa.org.uk/>

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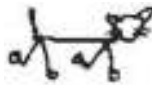
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Notes from an Advent and Christmas Choir

There is nothing more satisfying for a choir than a full house to sing to and the farewell evensong service for Gordon and Ruth certainly provided that! We normally get around a dozen people on a good day so to have the church full was just marvellous. We hope you enjoyed the singing and that many of you will come along again to our regular evensongs now you know how gorgeous this little service is. What a wonderful occasion it was, enjoyed by all and we wish Gordon and Ruth a long and happy retirement. Maybe their new church in St Mary Bourne will have a choir singing evensong too!

Unbelievably, Advent and Christmas are fast approaching and Tony has chosen some new pieces for your delight this year. We have copies of the newly published “Carols for Choirs 6” edited by Bob Chilcott and David Hill and not surprisingly there are a fair few goodies within its crisp new pages.

One of these is a new version of The First Nowell by Bob Chilcott which I just know you’re going love and Tony has identified 3 others with new arrangements that could make the cut! Tony describes them as “challenging” but we always rise to a challenge! The beautiful “O Magnum Mysterium” by Lauridsen is also included and, just for Andrew, “A Babe is Born” by Mathias. (It’s no secret that he has to have his Mathias fix.) The Advent service will take place on Sunday December 3rd at 6pm and the Christmas Carols service on Thursday December 21st at 6pm. Prosecco will of course be a feature!

With the arrival of the autumn chills and a choir vestry that doubles up as a fridge it’s time for the thermal vests and tights to make their debut. Donning the choir robes is probably a very similar experience to cold water swimming. A shock to the system but ok once you’re in. Last year before the carol service I provided us all with a little nip of port which worked wonders for the vocal chords and warmed us up a treat. (Mention has been made of making this a tradition by certain choir members.)

That’s all for now. We hope to see you at both carol services and don’t forget to wear your vest!

Elaine Cook

Waverley Singers

Sat 2 December, 7:00pm St Lawrence Church, Alton



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Retiring collection in aid of Alton Food Bank

The Waverley Singers is Registered Charity no. 2841123



Thank you from Gordon and Ruth

Thank you so much for all the lovely messages, cards and gifts sent to us for Gordon's retirement. We feel very 'loved' and quite overwhelmed by your generosity. In terms of the joint presents from the churches, we look forward to planting the 'Happy Retirement' roses in our new garden, and watching the birds find food in our new bird feeder as we sit on our new bench and feel the warmth of the fire pit! We also look forward to enjoying the 'experiences'. We will let you know what we spend the money on - watch out in a future edition of Sunrise!

We have had a wonderful time here in Alton since June 2019 and from the first moment felt very welcome. You have been wonderful church family and we have made so many friends. By the time you read this we will have moved to St Mary Bourne (God willing) but we will be back on a regular basis to see our daughter and her family so no doubt we will continue to see many of you. If you are ever over near St Mary Bourne do come and see us; our email addresses will remain the same.

We cannot end without commenting on our 'farewell' services at St Lawrence Church and Holy Rood Church. Thank you for all your support and encouragement, and to all those involved in making the services happen, as well as the wonderful refreshments. The 'Gordon and Ruth' song penned by Karen Pepper, set to music by Andrew Hinde, and sung by the Holy Rood choir will always make us smile!

As Gordon mentioned in his final services, please keep loving each other. We have been so blessed to be part of the Parish of the Resurrection and we know you will welcome whoever comes next.



The December Copy Deadline is Noon Sunday 19 November - Please no late articles

Articles can be emailed to the editor **sunrise.alton@gmail.com**
left in Parish Office or taken to 31 Shipley Close.

Editor Peter Hicks 07768 041 622

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Matthew Watts 543886

Teddy Bears

Lynn Power 07850 232995

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Ken Jackson

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All Saints Organisations

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or Julia Poole 07840 066211

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Judy Brown 82289

St Lawrence (CE) Primary School

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Fiona Micklefield 84400

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Paul Susans 84400

Andrews' Endowed CE Primary School

Headteacher

Mrs Gemma Gundry 83094

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Daniel Rainbird 83094

Other Organisations

Busy Bees @ St Lawrence (Pre-school)

Debbie Morgan 07561 346521

Rainbows, Brownies & Guides

Catherine Morgan cathmorg@outlook.com

Organ Society

Tony Willman 543628

Girls' Brigade (at Alton Methodist)

Kym Burgess 01252 334814

Boys' Brigade (at Alton Methodist)

Pete Burgess 01252 334814

DofE

David Allan 84739

November Services for POTR & BLS

5th November

8am	BCP Communion Service	St Lawrence Church
10.30am	POTR Altogether Service	St Lawrence Church
10am	Communion Service	St Mary's Church, Lasham
10am	Communion Service	St Peter & St Paul Shalden
10.30am	Butts Church Service	All Saints Church

12th November

Remembrance Sunday

9.15am	Communion Service	St Peter's Church
9.30am	Communion Service	Holy Rood Church
10.45am	Town Remembrance	The Cairn
3pm	Afternoon Worship	All Saints Church
6pm	GAP Service for Peace	St Lawrence Church
10.50am	Remembrance Service	St Mary's Church, Bentworth
6pm	Remembrance Evensong	St Peter & St Paul, Shalden
10.30am	Butts Church Service	All Saints Church

19th November

9.30am	Communion Service	Holy Rood Church
10.30am	Communion Service	All Saints Church
10.30am	Morning Worship	St Lawrence Church
4pm	Church@4	Parish Centre
6pm	Choral Evensong	St Lawrence Church
10am	Communion Service	St Mary's Church, Lasham
6.30pm	Butts Church Service	All Saints Church

26th November

9.15am	Communion Service	St Peter's Church
10.30am	Communion Service	St Lawrence Church
4pm	Afternoon Worship	Holy Rood Church
6pm	Informal Evening Worship	St Lawrence Church
10am	Communion Service	St Mary's Church, Bentworth
10.30am	Butts Church Service	All Saints Church
6.30pm	Butts Church Service	All Saints Church

Every Wednesday:

10.00am	Said Holy Communion	All Saints
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