

Sunrise

A monthly magazine for the Parish of the Resurrection, Alton



December 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 . . .

This is taken from a book called 'The Advent Calendar' by Steven Croft. You can still order it from popular booksellers

"The cold and the rain led her, with the rest of the crowd, to the indoor shopping mall. Everywhere was brightly lit. Everyone, it seemed, was shopping in twos and threes. No-one else was on their own. Everyone was in a tearing hurry, rushing about, heads down.

There was a strange new shop, Alice noticed, on one side of the mall. The sign about the door said "The Christmas Preparation Shop". There was nothing at all in the window. Completely empty. Inside there was nothing on the shelves.

'Strange,' thought Alice. 'Have they sold out already? Or is it so new that they haven't got any stock yet?'

She pressed her nose up against the window. Around the sides of the shop were little cubicles. Each was equipped with a telephone, pens, envelopes and paper, but nothing else. There were no customers, unlike every other shop in the mall which was packed out. No one else seemed to take the slightest notice...

JB led Alice and Sam into the doorway of the new shop Alice had seen on the way in. 'I was looking at this before,' said Alice. 'It doesn't seem to sell anything.' 'Absolutely right,' said JB, opening the door and leading them in. 'It doesn't sell anything at all. Everything in here is given away...

The most important lesson to learn about getting ready for Christmas is the one about forgiveness. All over the world, people hurt those they love in terrible ways... Scratch the surface of any family and you will find deep fractures.

'Why do you think it is that people spend so much on Christmas? What is it they are looking for in the bright lights and decorations, food and drink...?'

'And that is why the most important lesson in preparing for Christmas is this: use these weeks before the Holy Day to practice forgiveness, to be reconciled, to let go of old hurts and wounds, to bring hearts and lives together again. There is no better way to get ready for the King.

'The best way is just to decide you will forgive, and if you can, let the person know. That's why this little centre is equipped with phones and pens and paper...'

May the blessings of the Prince of Peace be with you this Christmas.

Andrew

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



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 December 2023

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

Sunday 3rd Advent 1	Advent Sunday 1 Corinthians 1: 3-9 Mark 13: 24-37		
Monday 4 th	Psalm 50	Isaiah 25: 1 - 9	Matthew 12: 1 - 21
Tuesday 5 th	Psalm 80 or 5	Isaiah 26: 1 - 13	Matthew 12: 22 - 37
Wednesday 6 th	Psalm 7 or 119: 1 - 32	Isaiah 28: 1 - 13	Matthew 12: 38 - end
Thursday 7 th	Psalm 42 or 15	Isaiah 28: 14 - end	Matthew 13: 1 - 23
Friday 8 th	Psalm 25 or 19	Isaiah 29: 1 - 14	Matthew 13: 24 - 43
Saturday 9 th	Psalm 9 or 23	Isaiah 29: 15 - end	Matthew 13: 44 - end
Sunday 10th Advent 2	2 Peter 3: 8-15a Mark 1: 1-8		
Monday 11 th	Psalm 44 or 30	Isaiah 30: 1 - 18	Matthew 14: 1 - 12
Tuesday 12 th	Psalm 56 or 36	Isaiah 30: 19 - end	Matthew 14: 13 - end
Wednesday 13 th	Psalm 62 or 34	Isaiah 31	Matthew 15: 1 - 20
Thursday 14 th	Psalm 54 or 37	Isaiah 32	Matthew 15: 21 - 28
Friday 15 th	Psalm 86 or 31	Isaiah 33: 1 - 22	Matthew 15: 29 - end
Saturday 16 th	Psalm 145 or 42	Isaiah 35	Matthew 16: 1 - 12
Sunday 17th Advent 3	Zephaniah 1: 7, 12-18 Matthew 25: 14-30		
Monday 18 th	Psalm 40 or 44	Isaiah 38: 1 – 8, 21 - 22	Matthew 16: 13 - end
Tuesday 19 th	Psalm 146	Isaiah 38: 9 - 20	Matthew 17: 1 - 13
Wednesday 20 th	Psalm 46	Isaiah 39	Matthew 17: 14 - 21
Thursday 21 st	Psalm 121	Zephaniah 1: 1 – 2:3	Matthew 17: 22 - end
Friday 22 nd	Psalm 124	Zephaniah 3: 1 - 13	Matthew 18: 1 - 20
Saturday 23 rd	Psalm 130	Zephaniah 3: 14 - end	Matthew 18: 21 - end
Sunday 24th Advent 4	Christmas Eve Isaiah 52: 7-10 John 1: 1-14		
Monday 25 th	Psalm 110	Isaiah 62: 1 - 5	Matthew 1: 18 - end
Tuesday 26 th	Psalm 13	Jeremiah 26: 12 - 15	Acts 6
Wednesday 27 th	Psalm 21	Exodus 33: 12 - end	1 John 2: 1 - 11
Thursday 28 th	Psalm 36	Baruch 4: 21 - 27	Matthew 18: 1 - 10
Friday 29 th	Psalm 19	Jonah 1	Colossians 1: 1 - 14
Saturday 30 th	Psalm 113	Jonah 2	Colossians 1: 15 - 23



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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References available

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Email c.may981@btinternet.com

***Please mention the Parish
Magazine when contacting any
of our Advertisers.
Thank you***

Waverley Singers

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



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CONDUCTOR - RICHARD PEARCE

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Retiring collection in aid of Alton Food Bank

The Waverley Singers is Registered Charity no. 284123



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.



Thursday 7th	11.00am	Treloar School and College
Monday 11th	6.30pm	Lingfield Close, Racecourse Estate
Tuesday 12th	6.30pm	Charrington Close, Rivermead Gardens,
Tuesday 12th	7.00pm	Queen Elizabeth Place, Town Centre
Tuesday 12th	7.30pm	The Butts Green
Tuesday 12th	8.30pm	Connaught Way, Treloar Heights
Wednesday 13th	6.30pm	Vyne Close, Greenfields Estate
Thursday 14th	6.30pm	Greenfields Avenue, (Opp Brandon Close)
Friday 15th	5.30pm	Beech Village Hall
Saturday 16th	5.00pm	Lipscombe Rise, Wooteys Estate
Saturday 16th	6.00pm	Barleyfields, Nr Holybourne
Monday 18th	6.30pm	Hop Fields Estate
Tuesday 19th	7.00pm	Holland Drive, Four Marks
Tuesday 19th	7.00pm	Wentworth Gardens, Greenfields Estate
Tuesday 19th	7.00pm	The White Heart, Holybourne
Wednesday 20th	7.30pm	Northanger Close, Greenfields Estate

More location details can be found at

<https://harvestchurch.uk/pop-carols>

News from Alton Methodist Church

We look forward to welcoming the parish to two GAP services in the Methodist Church in December, on Sunday 3rd and Sunday 31st, both starting at 10.00am. There will be Lighthouse on offer for the children at both GAP services. This year we are holding our Carol Service at the morning service to make it accessible to more members.

Sunday services in December:-

Sunday 3rd - GAP Service, 10am (with Lighthouse)

Sunday 10th - Morning Worship, 10am

Sunday 17th - Carol service led by Mrs Liz George, 10am

Sunday 24th - Christmas Communion, 10am; Family Christingle, 4pm

Christmas Day Celebration, 10am

Sunday 31st - GAP Service, 10am (with Lighthouse)

Messy Church on Saturday 2nd December, 10-12, will have a Christmas theme. All families with children are most welcome - activities are geared to the Primary School age range.

ST LAWRENCE CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Head Boy and Head Girl

I am thrilled to announce that Matthew Gibbs and Emily Brake are our Head Boy and Head Girl for this academic year. There was a democratic process where a shortlist was made in class and then the candidates read their speeches out to the whole school and the votes were counted up. In the new year, Matthew and Emily will help me write this monthly article.

School in a Bag for Ukraine

Our harvest charity this year was raising money for School in a Bag for Ukraine. We had set a £100 target and amazingly with the generous donations from our families, we smashed the target and raised £400! All our children wrote "Dear Friend" letters too so that when the children receive these rucksacks with school and medical resources in, they will also have a letter from one of our children.

Eco church partnership

Building and being part of a community is so important to us here at St Lawrence CE Primary School and so it was lovely to support the eco work of St Lawrence Church. Year R and Year 6 went out to plant 600 bulbs in the churchyard with the Eco Church Team. I had a lovely email from Elspeth afterwards about our children:

"Please pass on our thanks to Hawthorn & Willow classes for their brilliant help in planting 600 crocus bulbs in the rose beds in the churchyard. All the children worked very hard and worked really well in their buddy pairs - we were all very impressed. Their help is so much appreciated.

Kind regards,

The Eco Church Team"

The Year R and Year 6 buddy system is working really well and seeing the happy faces of Willow when they spot their buddy is heart-warming. I am really proud of our Year 6s taking on more responsibility this year by looking after our younger children, greeting parents at Family Time and welcoming Key Stage 1 at the gate in the mornings.



Key Stage 1 Nativity and Key Stage 2 Cantata

As I walk around the school, I am being treated to hearing all our children practising their singing. Key Stage 1 are working really hard learning lots of words for their Nativity called "Born in a Barn". They will perform at the beginning of December in our school hall to a packed audience of family.

Our Key Stage 2 children are also impressing me with how quickly they are picking up their songs for the cantata called "Witnesses". As is tradition, we have one performance the week before the end of term in St Lawrence Church with the whole of Key Stage 2 singing along with a live band. The PTA kindly provide mulled wine and mince pies afterwards. It is a wonderful way to kick off the Christmas celebrations and to hear all of our children sing definitely brings much joy.

Wishing you a very happy Christmas from all of us at St Lawrence CE Primary School!

*Mrs Fiona Micklefield
Headteacher*

POTR ADVENT WINDOWS 2023

Come and join our festive trail of Advent windows. A brightly lit window display will be revealed each day between 1st to 24th December. The houses will be lit up between approx 4pm to 7pm. Pick up a map from St Lawrence Church, Holybourne Church, All Saints or online.

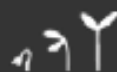
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You're invited to our Christingle

St Lawrence Church 4pm
Sunday 10th December





Resurrection Furniture

CHRISTMAS GIFT DONATION

Resurrection Furniture working with Alton Community Cupboard, to help to ensure that as many people as possible have a present to open on Christmas day.

All new gifts welcome for men, ladies and children, even pets.

We will gift wrap and supply a name tag.

Gifts will be taken to Alton Community Cupboard just before.

Christmas Eve for distribution.

Help to spread some Christmas Cheer!

Please
donate your
gift by 19th
December



December Services for POTR & BLS

3rd December Advent Sunday

8am	BCP Communion Service	St Lawrence Church
10am	GAP Advent Service	Alton Methodist Church
6pm	Advent Carol Service	St Lawrence Church
10am	Communion Service	St Mary's, Lasham
6pm	Service of Light	St Peter & St Paul Shalden
10.30am	Butts Church Service	All Saints Church

10th December Advent 2

9.15am	Communion Service	St Peter's Church
9.30am	Communion Service	Holy Rood Church
10.30am	Communion Service	St Lawrence Church
3pm	Carol Service	All Saints Church
10.30am	Butts Church Service	All Saints Church

Saturday 16th December

5pm	Carol Service	St Mary's Church Lasham
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17th December Advent 3

10.30am	Communion Service with carols	All Saints Church
10.30am	Carols for All	St Lawrence Church
6pm	Carol Service	Holy Rood Church
10am	Carol Service	St Mary's Church, Bentworth
5pm	Carol Service	St Peter & St Paul, Shalden
6.30pm	Butts Church Service	All Saints Church

Thursday 21st December

7pm	Carol Service	St Lawrence Church
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24th December Christmas Eve

3pm	Crib Service	Holy Rood Church
4pm	Crib Service	St Lawrence Church

11.30pm	Midnight Communion	Holy Rood Church
11.30pm	Midnight Communion	St Lawrence Church
11.30pm	Midnight Communion	St Mary's Bentworth

10.30am	Butts Church Service	All Saints Church
6.30pm	Butts Church Service	All Saints Church

25th December Christmas Day

8am	BCP Communion Service	St Lawrence Church
9.15am	Christmas Communion	St Peter's Church
9.30am	Christmas Communion	Holy Rood Church
10.30am	Christmas Family Communion	St Lawrence Church
11am	Christmas Communion	All Saints Church

9.30am	Christmas Communion	St Peter & St Paul, Shalden
10am	Christmas Communion	St Mary's Church Lasham

9.30am	Butts Church Service	All Saints Church
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31st December New Year's Eve

10am	New Year Communion	Alton Methodist Church
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Wednesday, 10am, Holy Communion - All Saints Church
No service on 27th December

What's On . . .

Friday Coffee Morning

Friday 1 December

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 2 December 9.00 to 12.30

In the Parish Centre,

Books, Puzzles, Produce, Cakes and a Tombola

Our last tombola was at Easter and was great fun for everyone, in order to make this one just as interesting we require plenty of prizes. If you have any unwanted gifts or would like to buy a small prize to donate then please give them to Clive or myself when you see us in church. We would be most grateful. Don't forget to come and have a go you might even win your gift back again!!

Gillian Muller

St Lawrence Organ Concert

Tuesday 5th December

Marcus Wibberley - London Based Concert Organist

Tuesday 9th January

David Price - Portsmouth Cathedral



GAP Ladies Lunch

Wednesday 31 January 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

Will Continue in January

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 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.



Eco Corner

This time I simply quote from a number of reports recently published, as they sum up the bad news and the good.

UN Climate Change News, 26 October 2022:

A new report from UN Climate Change shows countries are bending the curve of global greenhouse gas emissions downward but underlines that these efforts remain insufficient to limit global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius by the end of the century

The Carnegie Endowment for International Peace says:

There are plenty of reasons to worry about climate change in 2023, from record-high coal consumption to record-high ocean temperatures. As climate scientists at the United Nations and protestors in the streets keep reiterating, humanity is in a climate crisis.

And yet it's not all bad news. Positive trends—like the rapid spread of electric vehicles and solar panels and the recent decline in Amazon Rainforest deforestation—give humans reason to hope. It's worth talking about this good news to forestall fatalism and encourage more action.

EuroNews Green reports that Energy generated by fossil fuels in the EU hit a record low in the first half of 2023. In the first half of 2023, the 27 member states burned 17 per cent less fossil fuels for electricity than during the same period in 2022.

The study from clean energy think tank Ember found that between January and June, fossil fuels generated just 33 per cent of electricity - their lowest-ever share of the EU's power mix.

We just need to go faster. I long for the day when there is a report that atmospheric greenhouse gases have actually gone down.

Nigel Hughes

Ecumenical Coffee Morning

The most recent donation from the ecumenical coffee morning, held every Tuesday at Alton Methodist Church, went to St. Michael's Hospice. Louise Gough, Community Engagement Fundraiser, received the £500 cheque from Geraldine Mason who, with her daughter Fran, is part of the coffee-making team. Geraldine's late husband, David, received exemplary care at the Hospice in the days before his death earlier this year. Based in Basingstoke, the Hospice cares for patients from all areas of North East Hampshire.

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

Fourteen of the Meet and Eat group met on Monday 6th November at Holy Rood Church. We all got into the Christmas spirit, decorating glass jars with foliage, Christmas decorations. They all looked very festive.

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

Our last Meet and Eat for 2023 will be on **Monday 4th December starting at 7pm** in Holy Rood Church. Bring and Share Supper with a Quiz.

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





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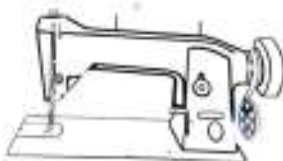
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Hard of Hearing Group – latest news

Lip Reading

Reminder - There will be **NO** Lip Reading session in December.

The new term will start on Tuesday 9th January 2024, 2pm in the Church hall. Put the date in your new diary and come along and give it a try. You will be made very welcome!



KNITTERS ANONYMOUS

Handmade – with Love



Thank you to all who have been so industrious over this last year, and to all of you who have kept us going with generous donations of wool. With all your hard work we have been able to donate a bumper amount of completed Knits and Crochet garments and blankets all of which have all been despatched to our various charities. Just before writing this we had a first – I discovered a box of knitted cakes at the back of All Saints Church!! They were delicious!! They were passed on, and much appreciated, to the Anna Chaplain Event to raise money for their funds. Thank you to the anonymous donor! Many thanks also to those who knitted small Christmas decorations to hang on our exhibit at the Christmas Tree Festival.

There will be **NO** Knitting meeting in December. The first session will be 16th January 2pm in All Saints hall. Please come and join us! Kate 01420 83514 or kaddando@gmail.com

For further details about the Group contact Annette

ablackman4@googlemail.com

We wish all our members and supporters a very Happy Christmas and hope that you will be able to join us at our Christmas Carol Service

ALTON ALL SAINTS HARD OF HEARING GROUP

You are all invited to the

Annual Christmas Carol Service

led by Revd. Wendy Burnhams (with Lip Speaker)

Tuesday 12th December 2.30pm

All Saints Church, Queens Road

and afterwards in the Church Hall for light refreshments



Anna Chaplaincy Update - December 2023

I am pleased to be able to report that the Anna Chaplaincy continues to grow with more referrals from healthcare professionals, more people attending our care and residential home services and more Anna Friends coming on board! There will be an Anna Friend Commissioning for some newer Anna Friends at the next GAP service (10am on 3rd December at the Alton Methodist Church). Do come along if you can as we would love to see you there.

In other news, I was lucky enough to be invited to the first Anna Chaplaincy Conference since Covid. It was lovely to meet 40 other Anna Chaplains from all over the country and hear about their ministries. Debbie Thrower led the conference and reported on the impressive growth of Anna Chaplaincy nationwide. She even met the Archbishop of Canterbury recently who was very encouraging about the ministry and its growth. There was a lovely quote from the Bishop of Portsmouth which I want to share with you:

“Young people are not the work of tomorrow - they are the work of today. Just as older people are not the work of yesterday – they are the work of today. This is my vision for the church – that we all come together today to share the love of our Lord with others.”

So a big cheer for today and thank you again for all your support.

Kate & The Anna Chaplaincy Team

Alton Womens' Refuge

Alton Womens' Refuge, which also has some teenage boys and girls, thanks everyone who has so kindly and generously contributed toiletries, toys, crayons, colouring and story books, diaries and note books throughout the past year.

The managers and residents are most grateful.

Last Christmas we were able to pass on some lovely gifts to the mothers and children - most of whom arrive without anything, having fled abusive relationships.

There is a box at St. Lawrence Church on the right as you enter, or I can collect. Please note that items must be new and unopened..

*Thank you so much.
Peta Sutherland (01420 84149)*

Notes from a “Merry” Christmas Choir

We have started a merry little Christmas tradition in the choir. Before the Christmas carol service, we have taken to quaffing a teeny tot of ruby port, just to get the voices warmed up. When you consider that we will have emerged from a vestry that doubles up as an ecclesiastical freezer, you'll get our point. Cockles will be warmed and notes ever sweeter thanks to its defrosting and convivial effect! Therefore, we do hope that you will be able to join us at this lovely service of Christmas Day anticipation on **Thursday 21st December at 7pm** and don't forget you have the opportunity to join in, not only in the well-loved Christmas carols but also in the joyful Prosecco afterwards, to really get you in the Christmas mood.

As we reflect back over a year of largely no covid restrictions, it gladdens our little choristers' hearts that Choral Evensong is well and truly back. Please keep coming to this service and tell your friends about it too. Now that we have met our new Bishop of Winchester and have had a chance to show him the standard we can sing to we hope to nab another slot in the cathedral before too long.

We would love to get the message out there that Evensong is for every one of every age, especially in this manic and complicated world in which we find ourselves living. Andrew has had the idea of having some “come and sing” workshops around choral evensong music which we think is a novel and great idea. Watch this space for any news and updates on that.

I was listening to the radio this afternoon and there was a feature about Ed Balls conducting the BBC Singers in Norwich Cathedral. (We all secretly aspire to being as good as the BBC Singers!) This in celebration not only of its organ rebuild but also the music of the 20th Century English composer, organist and teacher, Herbert Howells, whose Collegium Regale we have sung several times here in St Lawrence and will also be singing at the Advent Carol service. He said that he attended a service of evensong when he was a student at Keble College Oxford and the experience had never left him. We agree – once heard, never forgotten.

It just leaves me to wish you a Happy Christmas from us all. Thank you, once again, for the support of your choir throughout the year and in the words of the great Herbert Howells;

“From the earth another song shall rise/to meet your own in Heaven's long delight”.



Have a delightful Christmas!

Elaine, Tony, Will and the Choir



Christmas Tree Festival

St Lawrence Church Alton

Saturday 9th December 10-4pm

Sunday 10th December 12-4pm
With Christingle at 4pm

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If you are finding these dull, damp winter days are getting you down, then why not find new interests and friends with Altonu3a? Reduced membership subscription rates of between £12 - £35 are available for January - May 2023, and you are welcome to take a "taster" class before joining (class size permitting). There are now more than 55 different classes and activities, most of which can welcome new members mid-year; plus monthly coffee mornings at the Allen Gallery and monthly talks with tea at the Alton Community Centre, which are both open to all. And, as we start to plan the 2024-5 programme, ideas for new groups are always welcome please. Do pick up a current 2023-4 "Blue Book" programme from the Allen Gallery, the Curtis Museum, the Library or the Community Centre; visit our website at altonu3a.co.uk; or contact the Membership Secretary Colin Aiken for more details altonu3amembers@gmail.com

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And Finally . . .

Christmas gifts

Grandfather was talking to his granddaughter, "When I was a child all we got for Christmas was an apple and an orange."

The little girl clapped her hands in joy. "Brilliant! I'd love a new computer and a mobile!"

Christmas shopping

It was Christmas and the judge was in a benign mood as he asked the prisoner what he was charged with. "Doing my Christmas shopping early," replied the man.

"Why, that's no offence," said the judge. "How early were you doing it?"

"Before the store opened," replied the defendant.

What do you get Dad?

December is the month when the family begins to discuss what to get Dad for Christmas. Some argue for a shirt; others hold out for a pair of socks. But the argument usually ends in a tie.

The Christmas stars

Any astronomer can predict with absolute accuracy just where every star in the universe will be as the clocks chime midnight on Christmas Eve. He can make no such prediction about his teenage daughter.

Sunrise
IT'S A NEW DAY - OUR DESIGN, OURS

The January Copy Deadline is Noon Sunday 10 December - 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

Advertising Please contact the Editor

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St Lawrence (CE) Primary School

Headteacher

Fiona Micklefield 84400

Chair of Governors

Paul Susans 84400

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Girls' Brigade (at Alton Methodist)

Kym Burgess 01252 334814

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Pete Burgess 01252 334814

DofE

David Allan 84739



Christmas Tree Festival

St Lawrence Church
9 and 10 December
Saturday 10am to 4pm
Sunday 12noon to 4pm

Free Admission and Festive Refreshments



***NB December Services for POTR & BLS
can be found on the centre pages 16 & 17***