

# Sunrise

A monthly magazine for the Parish of the Resurrection, Alton



**January 2024**  
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](mailto: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](mailto:office@potr-alton.co.uk)

## **Treasurer**

Craig Stolton [treasurer@potr-alton.co.uk](mailto:treasurer@potr-alton.co.uk)

**Parish Office: Tel. 01420 513881**

Email: [office@potr-alton.co.uk](mailto: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 . . .***

Christmas comes but once a year – October to February. I say October because that's when the shops begin their push and February because the feast of 'Candlemas' is the end of the forty day season of Christmas (it falls on 2nd February).

Being radical why not make Christmas every day? In other words how about if we remember every day how close God came in Jesus at Christmas time. To live in such a state then we would certainly have a different outlook on life. It should certainly make us more generous in all we do as we think of all God has given to us in the meaning of the Christmas story. Just imagine the generosity alone if it was Christmas every day.

And so the New Year is upon us. What is the New Year known for? Well, fresh starts would be high on anyone's lists, New Year resolutions, new attempts at this, that or the other.

Sometimes we sing the hymn. 'New every morning is the love our waking and uprising prove'. God says it can also be New Year every day. Every day should be an occasion to say I am wrong in some of things that I have done and thought and said. The prayer in the Book of Common Prayer intimated that such things were 'grievous' and the weight or 'burden of them intolerable.' Living as if every day is New Year's Day is to offer our imperfections in faith of God's love and forgiveness and then every day we should walk and talk in the light of that forgiveness. Again our outlook on life and those we meet changes.

A parable to illustrate the freedom which Christmas and New Year bring:

*If you had a bank that credited your account each morning with £86,400, that carried over no balance from day to day - allowed you to keep no cash in your account and every evening cancelled whatever part of the amount you had failed to use during the day, what would you do? Surely, draw out every penny every day, and use it to your advantage or the advantage of others in need!*

*Well, you have such a bank and its name is Time. Every morning it credits you with 86,400 seconds. Every night, it rules off as lost whatever of this you have failed to invest to good purpose. It carries over no balances. It allows no overdraft. If you fail to use the day's deposits, the loss is yours. There is no going back.*

*There is no drawing against "tomorrow." It is up to each of us to invest this precious fund of hours, minutes and seconds in order to get from it the utmost in health, happiness, success and generosity.*

So is the life that God offers under his love. Every day we can live in the light of Christmas and the New Year. God is close and allows us to start afresh each and every day. How do we spend such a gift?

*Andrew*



**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](http://www.potr-alton.co.uk)



Do you receive our weekly  
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If not, but you would like to,  
please contact Ellie in the  
office - [office@potr-alton.co.uk](mailto:office@potr-alton.co.uk)  
and we can add you to the  
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## LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE



# THE LIGHTHOUSE

10.30am - 11.30am at the Parish  
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We welcome all children aged between 0 - 11 years to join us every  
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enjoy the last part of the service.



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[www.potr-alton.co.uk](http://www.potr-alton.co.uk)

## ***St. Lawrence Monthly Market***

Hello everyone, just a few lines to thank you all for your support throughout 2023. Whether you have donated items and/or come to our sales just to have a look, a cup of coffee and a chat, it has been good to see you. The total sum raised at the Monthly Markets this year is approx. £3,400.

We are working closely with Joyce and The Resurrection Furniture shop. Many items that we are unable to sell go to the shop or sold on-line and this has raised another approx. £3,200.

Other items have been sold at two Anna Chaplaincy events this year raising £155 for their good work. So as you can see by working together many people benefit along side the church.

Last but not least we wish to say a big thank you to our volunteer helpers who make this all possible each month, Our next Monthly Market will be held on **Saturday 3rd February 2024**, hope to see you then.

Wishing you all a Happy New Year from Clive and Gillian Muller



# Bible Readings for the month of January 2024

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

Monday 1 <sup>st</sup>	Psalm 103	Genesis 17: 1 - 13	Romans 2: 17 - end
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Psalm 18: 1 - 30	Ruth 1	Colossians 2: 8 - end
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Psalm 127	Ruth 2	Colossians 3: 1 - 11
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup>	Psalm 89: 1 - 37	Ruth 3	Colossians 3: 12 – 4: 1
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup>	Psalm 48	Ruth 4: 1 - 17	Colossians 4: 2 - end
Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup>	Psalm 99	Baruch 1: 15 – 2: 10	Matthew 20: 1 - 16
<b>Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> Epiphany</b>	<b>New Year – Remember</b> <b>Psalm 105: 1-11 &amp; 42-45   Matthew 2: 1-12</b>		
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup>	Psalm 89: 19 - 29	1 Samuel 16: 1 – 3, 13	John 1: 29 - 34
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup>	Psalm 9 or 73	Genesis 1: 20 – 2: 3	Matthew 21: 18 - 32
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup>	Psalm 20 or 77	Genesis 2: 4 - end	Matthew 21: 33 - end
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup>	Psalm 21 or 78: 1-39	Genesis 3	Matthew 22: 1 - 14
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup>	Psalm 67 or 55	Genesis 4: 1 – 16, 25 - 26	Matthew 22: 15 - 33
Saturday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Psalm 33 or 76	Genesis 6: 1 - 10	Matthew 22: 34 - end
<b>Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> Epiphany 2</b>	<b>New Year - Refocus</b> <b>1 Corinthians 15: 1-11   John 1: 43-51</b>		
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup>	Psalm 146 or 80	Genesis 6: 11 – 7: 10	Matthew 24: 1 - 14
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup>	Psalm 132 or 89: 1-18	Genesis 7: 11 - end	Matthew 24: 15 - 28
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup>	Psalm 81 or 119: 105 -128	Genesis 8: 1 - 14	Matthew 24: 29 - end
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup>	Psalm 76 or 92	Genesis 8: 15 – 9: 7	Matthew 25: 1 - 13
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup>	Psalm 27 or 88	Genesis 9: 8 - 19	Matthew 25: 14 - 30
Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Psalm 122 or 97	Genesis 11: 1 - 9	Matthew 25: 31 - end
<b>Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> Epiphany 3</b>	<b>New Year – Restart</b> <b>Revelation 5: 1-10   Luke 19: 1-10</b>		
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Psalm 108 or 98	Genesis 11: 27 – 12: 9	Matthew 26: 1 - 16
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Psalm 36 or 106	Genesis 13: 2 - end	Matthew 26: 17 - 35
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup>	Psalm 46 or 111	Genesis 14	Matthew 26: 36 - 46
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup>	Psalm 147	Ezekiel 3: 22 - end	Philippians 3: 1 - 14
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup>	Psalm 65 or 139	Genesis 16	Matthew 26: 57 - end
Saturday 27 <sup>th</sup>	Psalm 68	Genesis 17: 1 - 22	Matthew 27: 1 - 10
<b>Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> Epiphany 4</b>	<b>New Year – Revelation</b> <b>Revelation 21: 1-8   Mark 1: 21-28</b>		
Monday 29 <sup>th</sup>	Psalm 57 or 126	Genesis 18: 1 - 15	Matthew 27: 11 - 26
Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup>	Psalm 93 or 132	Genesis 18: 16 - end	Matthew 27: 27 - 44
Wednesday 31 <sup>st</sup>	Psalm 95 or 119: 153 - end	Genesis 19: 1 – 3, 12 - 29	Matthew 27: 45 - 56

# ALTONIAN CARE

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**References available**

**Tel Carol 07753178468**

**Email c.may981@btinternet.com**

## **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.

## ***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](mailto:bereavement@potr-alton.co.uk)

or phone Wendy Burnhams 07514280362

## ***Magnets are Everywhere***

You will have seen many references to the use of Lithium as the major component of rechargeable batteries, particularly for electric vehicles. This metal is so critical to the production of batteries that Governments and Industry have taken steps to secure long term supplies for their vehicle production facilities.

However, as well as Lithium there are other critical elements required to complete the story. These are the so-called 'Rare Earth' metals, so named because they are indeed relatively rare. One, Neodymium, is particularly important because it is the basis for the most powerful magnets in the World, so-called Neo or NIB magnets ( Neodymium, Iron and Boron ). As an example, a Neo magnet 20mm diameter and 10mm thick has a lifting capacity of 14.5 Kg.

Wind turbines and generators require very strong permanent magnets. Rare earth magnets, like neodymium magnets, are used in some of the largest wind turbines in the world.

The motors in electric vehicles currently also use Neo magnets, therefore large quantities of the rare material Neodymium will be required.

Some of my older readers may recall the name 'ZF' relating to car gearboxes. Well, they have faced up to the potential problem of critical material shortages and developed a self-exciting motor which does not require permanent magnets and therefore Neodymium. Such innovation is good news, but as with all new ideas, we will have to wait and see if it is adopted by the big vehicle manufacturers.

Nigel Hughes

## ***News from Alton Methodist Church***

### **Sunday Services – all start at 10am**

31<sup>st</sup> December: GAP Service at AMC led by Rev Philip Simpkins and Rev Jonathan Rooke

7<sup>th</sup> January: Covenant Service led by Rev Philip Simpkins

14<sup>th</sup> January: Morning Worship led by Mrs Pam Jones

21<sup>st</sup> January: Morning Worship led by Mrs Liz George

28<sup>th</sup> January: Morning Worship including celebration of 2<sup>nd</sup> Alton Boys' Brigade Company's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, led by Rev Philip Simpkins

### ***2<sup>nd</sup> Alton BB is 40 years old!***

Anyone who has been involved in the Company, in any way, is warmly invited to join in the celebrations on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> January. In addition to the morning service, these include a “camp style” meal (please book in advance), a display of photographs covering 40 years and catching up with old acquaintances. Please see the church website, [www.altonmethodist.org.uk](http://www.altonmethodist.org.uk), for more information or use the QR code.



Try Alpha

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## Curious about faith?

Join a series of group conversations that freely explore the basics of the Christian faith in an open, friendly environment. At each Alpha session, you'll be hosted in a small group and watch an episode on a different question of faith – then you have a chance to share your thoughts and hear what others think. You can say anything you like, or nothing at all.

Everyone's welcome. You're invited, no matter your background or beliefs.

It's FREE so why not come and check it out!

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From the Alton area Churches.

Starts Monday 8th January at  
Alton Maltings, Maltings Close,  
GU34 1DT  
7pm for a free meal.

For more information or to book,  
email [altonplusalpha@gmail.com](mailto:altonplusalpha@gmail.com)



## ***Anna Chaplaincy Christmas Event***

As part of their Community Grant Project, Alton Lion's Den awarded the Anna Chaplaincy a gift to host a Christmas Event. This happened at the Methodist Church on the afternoon of 29<sup>th</sup> November and round 40 people came along to enjoy some Christmas shopping, hand massages, Christmas crafts and a chance to chat to The Anna Chaplaincy Team. The afternoon ended with a delicious afternoon tea - put together by Sarah Neish - and some lovely carol singing, led by Robin Kemp. It was a fun afternoon and great to work together as an Anna Chaplaincy Team (aka The Dream Team!). Thank you to everyone for coming and for supporting all the work we do and we look forward to seeing you in 2024!

Kate Powell





## ***Hello Sunrise readers,***

The accompanying pictures show our Coffee and Conversation time at All Saints.

We meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month after the 10am communion service.

First we enjoy some refreshments together which are kindly provided by our hard-working church warden, Angie Briggs.

Then we spend time trying to better understand the scripture passages and liturgy used during the service.

These discussions are led by Anne Mason and Elaine Brown.

Occasionally other clergy join us, and we have recently enjoyed the company of Andrew Micklefield and Jon Rooke.

Since the group started, we have doubled in numbers. There is a growing sense of togetherness and each meeting helps to remind us that we are part of the Body of Christ as we continue our journey towards the promised heavenly Home.

*William Blake and Wendy Burnham*



## ***What's On . . .***

### ***Friday Coffee Morning***

**Friday 6 January**

#### **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 3 February 9.00 to 12.30**

**In the Parish Centre,**

Books, Puzzles, Produce & Cakes and much more!

### ***St Lawrence Organ Concert***

**Tuesday 9th January**

David Price - Portsmouth Cathedral

**Tuesday 6th February**

John Challenger - Salisbury 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***

We will be meeting again at the White Hart public house, Holybourne at 8.30am on **Saturday 27th January** for our usual delicious 'full English' breakfast, all for just £10. Come and enjoy some lively banter and listen to our excellent speaker. 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](mailto:tim.codling@hotmail.co.uk) or telephone him on 01420 80388 by **Wednesday 24th 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 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.

## ***A New Year Promise to our readers*** ***– from the Editor of this church magazine***

*Some of you have noticed a few typos in the magazine now and then. To improve this, for 2024 I am using a new set of rules for editing. They are as follows:*

1. Verbs HAS to agree with their subjects.
  2. Prepositions are not words to end sentences with.
  3. And don't start a sentence with a conjunction.
  4. It is wrong to ever split an infinitive.
  5. Avoid cliches like the plague. (They're old hat.)
  6. Also, always avoid annoying alliteration.
  7. Be more or less specific.
  8. Parenthetical remarks (however relevant) are (usually) unnecessary.
  9. Also too, never, ever use repetitive redundancies.
  10. No sentence fragments.
  11. Contractions aren't necessary and shouldn't be used.
  12. Foreign words and phrases are not *apropos*.
  13. Do not be redundant; do not use more words than necessary; it's highly superfluous.
  14. One should NEVER generalise.
  15. Comparisons are as bad as cliches.
  16. Eschew ampersands & abbreviations, etc.
  17. One-word sentences? Eliminate.
  18. Analogies in writing are like feathers on a snake.
  19. The passive voice is to be ignored.
  20. Eliminate commas, that are, not necessary.
  21. Never use a big word when a diminutive one would suffice.
  22. Use words correctly, irregardless of how others use them.
  23. Eliminate quotations. As Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "I hate quotations. Tell me what you know."
  24. If you've heard it once, you've heard it a thousand times: Resist hyperbole; not one writer in a million can use it correctly.
  25. Puns are for children, not groan readers. Who needs rhetorical questions
  26. Exaggeration is a billion times worse than understatement.
- And the last one...?

*Proofread carefully to see if you any words out.*

## ***Some thoughts for New Year***

A carillon, then twelve long chimes  
We join in noisy 'Auld Lang Syne'  
To celebrate the changing times –  
And times of hope, not fear!  
Even while the chimes still ring  
And while we gaily laugh and sing  
We pray the coming years will bring  
Good reasons for good cheer!

All the sadness of last year –  
Every sorrow, every tear  
Let them fade and disappear;  
Yes – let them fade away!  
Hearken to the chiming bells!  
See the fireworks 'sparkling spells!  
The sights and sounds and tastes and smells  
Of ev'ry New Year's Day!

*By Nigel Beeton*

He comes he goes, his times are set,  
The New Year now has shown his face.  
For time is here and will not wait  
For dwellers all in time and space.

We sojourn here on this fair earth,  
Just for a time so quickly gone,  
Our lives just like a vapour spent,  
As we await another dawn.

There is a day God has ordained,  
When we will reach a distant shore,  
Eternity our new address  
Where time will cease and be no more.

*By Megan Carter*



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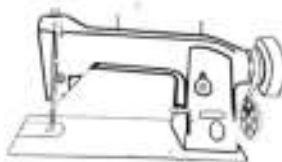
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## ***Hard of Hearing Group – latest news***

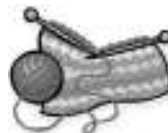
### ***Lip Reading***

The new term will start on **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024**, 2pm in the All Saints 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*



We hope that you all had a lovely, peaceful Christmas and are ready once again to support our various projects – knitting for Bliss (the charity for premature babies) and for the various Refugee Charities to which we donate. The Group meet regularly on the third Tuesday of every month from 2pm in the Church Hall. Do come along, pick up some suggested patterns and wool, have a chat and make new friends. If you wish to remain 'anonymous' just drop your Knits in the large collecting box in All Saints Church. All are gratefully received and quickly despatched to their various destinations. The first meeting the new year is at 2pm on **Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> January, 2024**. Thank you for your continued support Kate 83514 [kaddando@gmail.com](mailto:kaddando@gmail.com)

After an enjoyable 'Christmassy' afternoon at the end of November the group finished the year with a Carol Service led by Revd Wendy Burnhams on 12<sup>th</sup> December, in the church. Thank you to all who volunteered at these meetings, your help is really appreciated. The first main monthly meeting of the year will be held on **23<sup>rd</sup> January 2pm** in the Church hall, when the speaker will be Nick Shelley from the Battersea Dogs Home

**For further details about the Group and a list of the speakers booked for the main monthly meetings contact** Annette [ablackman4@googlemail.com](mailto:ablackman4@googlemail.com)



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

Seventeen of the Meet and Eat group met on Monday 4th December at Holy Rood Church to enjoy a bring and share supper followed by a Christmas quiz. We enjoyed a wonderful selection of delicious food and stretched our brains with Sue's quiz 😊

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

Our next Meet and Eat will be on Monday 4th March starting at 7pm in Holy Rood Church. Look out for more details in Parish Matters nearer the time.

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](mailto:meetandeat@btinternet.com)



## **ST LAWRENCE CE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Hi! My name is Matthew Gibbs and I am Head Boy at St Lawrence CE Primary School and my name is Emily Brake and I am Head Girl. We are joined by Ava and Oliver who are our Deputies. We would like to share with you some of the exciting activities that we have been doing in the lead up to Christmas.

Recently, Year 6 went to Fishbourne Roman Palace, it was so much fun. We learnt about the different types of mosaics that they used. At the palace, we discovered all different types of games children used to play, like building bridge towers, flag communication, and other games that we didn't know how to play. Out on the field, we also practised doing Roman soldier marching. We also enjoyed Roman food tasting – bread, carrots, cheese, olives, and dried out apple.



Our Year R, 1 and 2 classes performed their nativity to their families in the school hall. We think they did really well and had worked hard on it. We hope you enjoyed the show if you watched it. They had such great confidence to perform in front of all those parents, especially the new Year Rs.

By the time you read this, Key Stage 2 will have performed the Christmas cantata in St Lawrence Church with our live band. We are very proud of our soloists and our readers. We thank Mrs Micklefield for organising all of this and all of the thought the teachers put in to it.

We have also enjoyed some sporting events. A group of Year 3s and some Year 4s took part in a basketball tournament. They worked really hard and trained a lot to play against Anstey, Selbourne, and The Butts at Amery Sports Hall. They

had a great time and showed brilliant sportsmanship and fantastic teamwork. Miss Panther was very pleased with them.



On behalf of St Lawrence CE Primary School, we wish you a very Happy New Year and best wishes for 2024!

From Matthew and Emily, Ava and Oliver.

## ***Notes from a Resolute Choir***

Happy New Year everyone. The title of this year's notes is just to fool you really as we haven't actually made any new year resolutions (that we know of – maybe Tony has made some for us but is yet to divulge them) However, I can tell you of a few new things we hope to try in the coming year.

Andrew and Tony are very keen to try some “Come and Sing Evensongs” where you can have the opportunity to join in with the music of the psalms and canticles. Tony also has a few professional organists/musical directors in mind that he plans to approach in the Spring to come and direct a workshop with the choir and congregation. A bit like Songs of Praise but with more musical bells and whistles and fewer cameras. Extra lipstick and a hairdressing appointment will not be required. Alton is having an Arts Festival in July so it would be a great opportunity to have a come and sing evensong during that week.

Tony is also keen to apply to Winchester, Portsmouth and Chichester Cathedrals for us to sing some of the services there. However, I'm sure you can appreciate the amount of time and effort this takes, particularly for Tony (with his usual military precision) so just one of them would be good. Maybe the new Bishop of Winchester will invite us along?

Other than that, we have the cold winter months to get through so we hope we can add a little warmth and cheer to your church attendances with our singing. That and the heating on please Andrew! Cold air ne'er aideth a choir to sing tunelessly. Too busy shivering! Spotless Roses we are not!!

That's all for now. It'll soon be February and there will be snowdrops.

*Elaine Cook*

## ***Christingle service***

A very big thank you to all who attended the Christingle service and so generously donated a total of £252.85 for the Children's Society.

Also my thanks to Sue Burrows and Pippa Mills who helped me make the 100 Christingle bags.

*Carol Williams on behalf of the Children's Society.*

## ***Why churchwardens love January***

Hail to the Lord's anointed,  
Both clergyman and lay!  
But they're seldom disappointed  
To get past Christmas Day!  
The hectic Christmas season is  
Of service constantly –  
There can't be better reason  
To welcome January!

The Curate and the Vicar  
A busy schedule keep,  
As they rush, ever quicker –  
They don't get that much sleep.  
And overworked Churchwardens  
And their sidespersons team –  
Sure don't get time for boredom,  
And only seldom scream!

So, when the season's over,  
The crib has been put by,  
The drapes to green changed over,  
They breathe a heartfelt sigh!  
They laugh and smile with pleasure,  
And sing a merry rhyme,  
But short-lived is their leisure –  
For soon comes Easter time!

*By Nigel Beeton*

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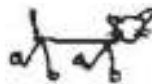
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## ***Team “Christmas Tree Festival” does it again!***

Wow folks! Yet again we have had another wonderful Christmas Tree Festival with a magnificent display of 80 trees from our local schools, groups and businesses. This year we had several new trees which was very encouraging and all of them so innovative and interesting. AND ... The icing on the cake is that the generous people of Alton donated a massive £1250.77. Carol and I were so completely overwhelmed that we had to have a little tear and a hug!

Of course, the festival wouldn't happen without the help of a lot of people. Carol is my right-hand fairy and gives up 4 precious days before the Christmas mayhem to organise the festival with me. I love that woman! The lads- Tim, John and Clive who get the boards off the pod roof for me and put them back, put the banner up and generally make themselves available to help. I reckoned it would be folly to get Clive climbing a ladder, just at the moment! But what he did do was sit by the door throughout the festival and welcomed everyone who came into the church with his usual cheerful smile and positive disposition. Clive is actually a bit of a legend.

My husband Steve powered up the trees and was my general goffer. To Maureen, Jane, Sarah, Kate and all of the girls who ran the refreshments and were kept very busy! Thank you.

Gillian, Nick, Diane and Joyce did an amazing job on the tombola which was filled with beautiful prizes, donated in the main by church members. Thank you all.

Thank you to Tony who organised the organ players and Mark Penfold who organised the running order and played for the carol singers.

A special thanks to Carol's neighbour who provided the little Christmas trees that lit up the pathway and looked so sparkly and inviting. That was Andrews' idea and of course I must thank Andrew for letting me take over his church, shifting everything around and generally doing whatever I like!

So, you see it's a team effort and apologies if I've forgotten anyone. The Christmas Tree Festival is becoming something of an institution in Alton now. Even the Mayor popped in. So, it looks like there will be more to come as long as Carol and I can find the stamina to keep going!

*Our task is to stand tall in God's love, secure in our place, sparkling in kindness, surrounded by his goodness, freely giving to all who come our way. You, me, and the Christmas tree. Picked, purchased, and pruned.*

*Max Lucado*

*Elaine Cook*







"The vicar really is taking all of January off to recuperate, then."

**Sunrise**  
The Parish of the Resurrection, Alton

**The February Copy Deadline is Noon  
Sunday 21 January - Please no late articles**

Articles can be emailed to the editor [sunrise.alton@gmail.com](mailto:sunrise.alton@gmail.com)  
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**Editor** Peter Hicks 07768 041 622

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*Donations towards printing costs will be much appreciated -- Thank you*

## **St Lawrence Church**

### **Director of Music**

Tony Willman 543628

### **Organist**

Will Nisbet

### **Head Server**

Clive Muller 86064

### **Captain of the Bell Tower**

Matthew Watts 543886

### **Teddy Bears**

Lynn Power 07850 232995

### **The Lighthouse**

Fiona Micklefield 88794

## **All Saints Church**

### **Organist & Choir Leader**

Ken Jackson

### **Bellringing**

Matthew Watts 543886

## **St Peter's Church Beech**

### **Organist**

Gloria Wills 542683

### **Sacristan**

Sarah Neish 565696

## **Church of the Holy Rood**

### **Bellringing**

Matthew Watts 543886

### **Flowers**

Ruth Randall 549567

### **Sacristan**

Alan Armstrong

## **St Lawrence Organisations**

### **Community Market**

Clive Muller 86064

### **Traidcraft**

Jo McGregor 87680

### **Children's Society**

Carol Williams 588565

## **All Saints Organisations**

### **Hard of Hearing Group**

Annett Blackman 01420 543219

or Julia Poole 07840 066211

### **Children's Society**

Judy Brown 82289

## **St Lawrence (CE) Primary School**

### **Headteacher**

Fiona Micklefield 84400

### **Chair of Governors**

Paul Susans 84400

## **Andrews' Endowed CE Primary School**

### **Headteacher**

Mrs Gemma Gundry 83094

### **Chair of Governors**

Daniel Rainbird 83094

## **Other Organisations**

### **Busy Bees @ St Lawrence (Pre-school)**

Debbie Morgan 07561 346521

### **Rainbows, Brownies & Guides**

Catherine Morgan [cathmorg@outlook.com](mailto: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

## January Services for POTR & BLS

### 7th January

#### Epiphany

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

### 14th January

#### Epiphany 2

9.15am	Communion Service	St Peter's Church
9.30am	Communion Service	Holy Rood Church
10.30am	Communion Service	St Lawrence Church
3pm	Afternoon Worship	All Saints Church
6pm	Prayer & Praise	St Lawrence Church
10am	Communion Service	St Mary's Church, Bentworth
10.30am	Butts Church Service	All Saints Church

#### Every Wednesday:

10.00am      Said Holy Communion      All Saints

### 21st January

#### Epiphany 3

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
6pm	Evensong	St Peter & St Paul, Shalden

6.30pm      Butts Church Service      All Saints Church

### 28th January

#### Epiphany 4

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
4pm	Evensong	St Mary's Church, Bentworth

10.30am      Butts Church Service      All Saints Church

6.30pm      Butts Church Service      All Saints Church