

Sunrise

A monthly magazine for the Parish of the Resurrection, Alton



March 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

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 . . .

Christmas or Easter, which one is your favourite?

Of course, for many people the instinctive reaction is probably Christmas. Christmas is by far the biggest event of the year in our country and in much of the western world. Christmas is certainly the biggest consumer event of the year and is often referred to as “the saviour” of many retailers with billions of pounds being spent. Father Christmas is a very busy - and we all help him out just a little bit! Also it has been noted that if you were to take Christ out of Christmas all you would be left with is “M&S”.

There can be no doubt that the joy and fun of Christmas is a wonderful thing and that it is rightly enjoyed by all generations - we just love it, don't we? . This year in The Parish of the Resurrection there was a great deal of joy and fun and it was wonderful to have so many people come and join us at our Church events. I thank God for the success of all these events, but I am also extremely grateful to all the many people who gave up their time to help make them happen. And we managed to keep it all going until we got to Candlemas - I packed the crib scene away in St Lawrence the week following that - the beginning of February!

Whilst Father Christmas is a very busy man, I read recently that in America they produce five million marshmallow chicks and bunny's a day in preparation for Easter. I can only try to imagine how many chocolate eggs are being produced in our world right now.

In the Church at this time of year the joy and fun of Christmas begins to be replaced by the anticipation of Easter. Easter comes with more complex thoughts and feelings than the very natural joy of Christmas. There is the triumphal entry on Palm Sunday, Jesus' last meal with his friends, Judas' betrayal of Jesus, crucifixion and death on Good Friday, hopelessness and despair on Saturday, followed by resurrection hope and victory on Easter Day. I am grateful that we have Lent to think about these things and prepare ourselves.

Yes - we are in Lent already. It all started on 14th February with Ash Wednesday falling on Valentine's Day. There is something quite consistent that we start our period of preparation on the same day we celebrate love. We are preparing for the biggest love event in history. God's love for you and me that Jesus dies and then rises again - and we are loved so much that our sins are forgiven and eternal life is guaranteed.

But back to where I started. Without Christmas there could never have been Easter but without Easter there would have been no point to Christmas. When the Son of God came to us at Christmas, he fully understood why he had come. For the Christmas Messiah to be our saviour, for the joy of Christmas to become a reality, the cross and resurrection of Easter had to happen. Jesus' mission had to be completed.

On Sundays during Lent we are going to look at some of the Last Words of Jesus - great preparation and we also have the Alton Churches Lent Sessions where we look at 'How the Early Church Shapes Us Today'. Please engage with these as we look for signs and glimpses of God's love for each and everyone of us. I encourage you all to seek a fuller joy of both Christmas and Easter this Lent. Let us look forward eagerly yet patiently.

Andrew



Thursday 29th February - Mission
with Philip Mounstephen - Bishop of Winchester

Thursday 7th March - Fellowship
with Philip Simpkins - Alton Methodist Church

Thursday 14th March - Prayer
with Jason Clark - Waverley Abbey College

Thursday 21st March - Apostles Teaching
with Andrew Lawrence - Harvest Church Alton

Thursday 28th March - Breaking of Bread
with David Williams - Bishop of Basingstoke
with Communion for Maundy Thursday

Services for Holy Week and Easter Day

Monday of Holy Week

8pm	Compline	St Lawrence Church
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Tuesday of Holy Week

8pm	Compline	St Lawrence Church
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Wednesday of Holy Week

8pm	Compline	St Lawrence Church
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Maundy Thursday

7.30pm	Communion	All Saints Church
7.30pm	Lent Talk & Communion	The Maltings

Good Friday

10am	Holy Week Story	St Lawrence Church
2pm	Last Hour Service	St Lawrence Church

**31st March
Easter Day**

6.30am	Sunrise Service	Old Park Farm, Beech GU34 4PA
8am	BCP Communion	St Lawrence Church
9.15am	Easter Communion	St Peter's Church
9.30am	Easter Communion	Holy Rood Church
10.30am	Easter Communion	All Saints Church
10.30am	Easter Family Communion	St Lawrence Church
10am	Easter Communion	St Mary's Church Bentworth
10am	Easter Communion	St Mary's Church, Lasham
10am	Easter Communion	St Peter & St Paul, Shalden

Revd David Chattell

We are looking forward to the arrival of our new Associate Vicar - Revd David Chattell. He will be licensed on **Monday 18th March at 7.30pm** in St Lawrence Church Alton. Everyone is very welcome to attend what will be a wonderful service of welcome for David, Ruth and their children. The Bishop of Winchester, Rt Revd Philip Mounstephen will be leading the service. There will be drinks and nibbles after the service.

As agreed with the Bishop, David will be taking some time to rest and take time out following their move and licensing and then will be on family holiday during the school Easter holiday so he will not be starting work in The Ministry Team until Monday 15th April.



Lent Lunches

Holyrood Church Holybourne

The Lent Lunches which are held annually at Holybourne Church will commence on Wednesday 21st February 2024 and will go on through Lent for five weeks. No need to book in, just come along and enjoy good food and good company.

Time: 12.30 pm to 2.00 pm

Come along and enjoy the company of our church family. For each lunch 3 soups will be available, and they are served with a bread roll and soft drinks and afterwards tea or coffee and cake and/or fruit.

Donations are welcome as all proceeds go to Karamoja, Uganda to provide ministry support in Karamoja Diocese.

LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE



THE LIGHTHOUSE

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

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we invite your children to worship with us at The
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References available

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Email c.may981@btinternet.com

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Thank you***

www.altonchoral.org.uk

Charity no. 900258

Alton Choral Society Presents

John Stainer: Crucifixion

Good Friday

29th March, 6pm

Alton Methodist Church

Admission free

Retiring collection for
St Michael's Hospice



News from Alton Methodist Church

Sunday services start at 10.00am.

Sunday 3rd March: Morning worship led by Rev Philip Simpkins

Sunday 10th March: Mothering Sunday service led by Mrs Terri White

Sunday 17th March: Morning worship led by Mrs Liz George

Sunday 24th March: Palm Sunday service with Holy Communion led by Rev Philip Simpkins

Sunday 31st March: Easter Day celebration led by Mr David Betts

On Good Friday, at 6pm, we welcome Alton Choral Society for a performance of *Crucifixion* by John Stainer. All are welcome. Admission free with a retiring collection for St Michael's Hospice.



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.

Bible Readings for the month of March 2024

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

Friday 1 st	Psalm 41 or 55	Genesis 45: 16 - end	Hebrews 3: 7 - end
Saturday 2 nd	Psalm 25 or 76	Genesis 46: 1 – 7, 28 - end	Hebrews 4: 1 - 13
Sunday 3rd Lent 3	Last Words - My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Psalm 22 Mark 15: 22-37		
Monday 4 th	Psalm 5 or 80	Genesis 47: 1 - 27	Hebrews 4: 14 – 5: 10
Tuesday 5 th	Psalm 9 or 89: 1 - 18	Genesis 47: 28 – end of 48	Hebrews 5: 11 – 6: 12
Wednesday 6 th	Psalm 38 Or 119: 105 - 128	Genesis 49: 1 - 32	Hebrews 6: 13 - end
Thursday 7 th	Psalm 56 or 92	Genesis 49: 33 – end of 50	Hebrews 7: 1 - 10
Friday 8 th	Psalm 22 or 88	Exodus 1: 1 - 14	Hebrews 7: 11 - end
Saturday 9 th	Psalm 31 or 97	Exodus 1: 22 – 2: 10	Hebrews 8
Sunday 10th Lent 4 Mothering Sunday	Last Words - Woman, here is your son Colossians 3: 12-17 John 19: 23-27		
Monday 11 th	Psalm 77 or 98	Exodus 2: 11 - 22	Hebrews 9: 1 - 14
Tuesday 12 th	Psalm 79 or 106	Exodus 2: 23 – 3: 20	Hebrews 9: 15 - end
Wednesday 13 th	Psalm 90 or 111	Exodus 4: 1 - 23	Hebrews 10: 1 - 18
Thursday 14 th	Psalm 86 or 115	Exodus 4: 27 – 6: 1	Hebrews 10: 19 - 25
Friday 15 th	Psalm 102 or 139	Exodus 6: 2 - 13	Hebrews 10: 26 - end
Saturday 16 th	Psalm 32 or 121	Exodus 7: 8 - end	Hebrews 11: 1 - 16
Sunday 17th Lent 5	Last Words - I am thirsty Isaiah 55: 1-5 John 19:28-30		
Monday 18 th	Psalm 73 or 126	Exodus 8: 1 - 19	Hebrews 11: 17 - 31
Tuesday 19 th	Psalm 25	Isaiah 11: 1 - 10	Matthew 13: 54 - end
Wednesday 20 th	Psalm 55 or 119: 153 - end	Exodus 9: 1 - 12	Hebrews 12: 3 - 13
Thursday 21 st	Psalm 40 or 143	Exodus 9: 13 - end	Hebrews 12: 14 - end
Friday 22 th	Psalm 22 or 144	Exodus 10	Hebrews 13: 1 - 16
Saturday 23 rd	Psalm 23 or 147	Exodus 11	Hebrews 13: 17 - end
Sunday 24th	Palm Sunday Psalm 118: 1-2, 19-24 Mark 11: 1-11		
Monday 25 th	Psalm 41	Lamentations 1: 1 – 12a	Luke 22: 1 - 23
Tuesday 26 th	Psalm 27	Lamentation 3: 1 - 18	Luke 22: 39 - 53
Wednesday 27 th	Psalm 102	Wisdom 1: 16 – 2: 1, 2: 12 - 22	Luke 22: 54 - end
Thursday 28 th	Psalm 42	Leviticus 16: 2 - 24	Luke 23: 1 - 25
Friday 29 th	Psalm 69	Genesis 22: 1 - 18	Hebrews 10: 1 - 10
Saturday 30 th	Psalm 142	Hosea 6: 1 - 6	John 2: 18 - 22
Sunday Easter Day	Easter Day Acts 10: 34-43 Mark 16: 1-8		



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2024 PROGRAMME



ALTON WALKING CHURCH FOR MEN

Wednesday 28th February 10.30am meeting at The Flower Pots Inn in Cheriton

Wednesday 17th April 6.00pm meeting at The Hen and Chicken in Froyle

Friday 7th June 6.00pm meeting at The Hawkley Inn

Wednesday 10th July 6pm meeting at the Sun in Bentworth

Saturday 10th August 2.30pm meeting at The White Hart in Holybourne with family & friends invited

Wednesday 18th September 6.00pm meeting at The Yew Tree in Lower Wield

Friday 1st November 10.30am meeting at The Three Horseshoes in East Worldham

ROBIN KEMP

familykemp@tiscali.co.uk

07957 653 403

A gentle 90 minute walk with time to pause and reflect. Refreshments after at the pub

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What's On . . .

Friday Coffee Morning

Friday 1st March

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 2nd March 9.00 to 12.30

In the Parish Centre,

Books, Puzzles, Produce & Cakes and much more!

St Lawrence Organ Concert

Tuesday 5th March

Joshua Stephens - Winchester Cathedral

Tuesday 2nd April

Gerard Brooks - Westminster Central Hall



GAP Ladies Lunch

Wednesday 27th March at 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 30th March** for our usual delicious 'full English' breakfast, all for just £10. Come and enjoy some lively banter and listen to our excellent speaker, Jerry Janes, whose talk is titled 'The Changing Writing of the First World War.' 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 27th March**

Church of the Holy Rood Holybourne Every Tuesday 10am until 12noon

Please join us and perhaps bring along a friend, for our time of coffee, tea, cake and chat from 10am, followed by a short time of prayer from 11:45 am to 12:00 noon. You will be assured of a warm welcome.

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.

Save the Date ***Anna Chaplaincy Spring Event***

I hope you are all pleased to see the snowdrops and daffodils arriving as it means spring is around the corner and, with that in mind, we would like to invite you to our Anna Chaplaincy Spring Event. It will follow a similar format to our previous Anna Chaplaincy Events and will be held in the Alton Methodist Church on Wednesday 22nd May from 2 – 4pm. We look forward to seeing you there!

Meanwhile, please don't hesitate to contact us if you feel you would like an Anna Chaplaincy visit or know someone who does.

With many thanks,

Kate & The Anna Chaplaincy Team

Email : annachaplainalton@gmail.com
Phone : 07539 026546



Resurrection Furniture is recruiting

Our charity is led by six trustees. Following Ruth Randall's retirement, we are looking to recruit a trustee for the specific role of Honorary Secretary to organise our meetings and be the main link with other organisations including the Charity Commission. The duties will be to arrange meetings, take minutes, deal with correspondence and RF policies and the like. We meet around six times per year and all trustees are also volunteers in some capacity.

For further information and a job description please go to our website www.resurrectionfurniture.co.uk. If this role interests you, please speak to either John Hubbard john.mkh@outlook.com or Robin Lees j.lees558@btinternet.com in the first instance.

Eco Corner

You may remember that, in October 2021, I wrote a piece called 'Time to go Electric ?'. This looked at the challenges of owning an electric car. Technology has moved on since then and you might think that many of the challenges would have been overcome.

Here are a few facts.

U.S. sales of Electric Vehicles (EVs) are well below their Government target, despite generous Government subsidies.

Given that 2035 has been set for sales of Petrol and Diesel cars to stop, it is interesting that only 2% of Europe's cars are electric.

Electric cars are 30% to 40% more expensive than Petrol and Diesel

A large U.S. rental car company has sold off 20,000 EVs because they are too expensive to repair.

Addison Lee, a London provider of business transport, has abandoned its dream of an all-electric fleet.

Despite the general high reliability of electronic and electric devices, EVs are less reliable than Petrol and Diesel.

Second hand EVs are hard to sell because their range is limited in comparison with the most recent new models

The high EV repair costs are reflected in higher insurance premiums.

On the positive side, charging problems that I mentioned before are being addressed and rapid charging points are appearing, particularly at Motorway service areas. I have even seen them at a local Garden Centre.

Electricity suppliers are offering deals for cheap overnight, off peak, home charging.

The development of the EV is only in its infancy, so watch and wait remains a good option. Or, you could sell your car and ride an e-bike instead.

Nigel Hughes



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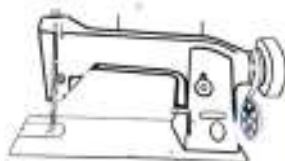
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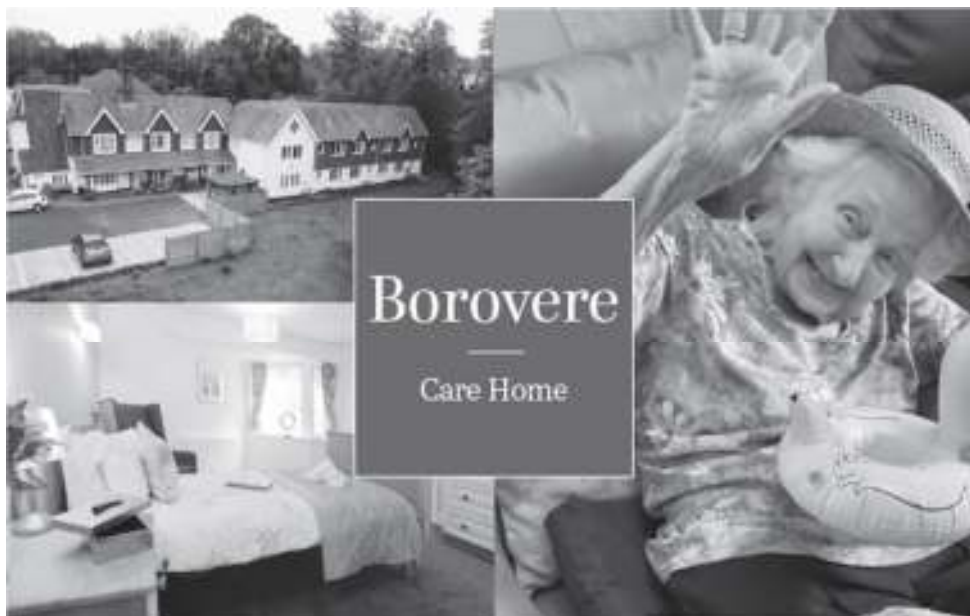
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Hard of Hearing Group – latest news

Lip Reading

Come and join us on Tuesday 5th March 2024, 2pm in the Church Hall for a session of Lip Reading with our tutor Maggie Short. You will be made very welcome!



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With all the latest bags of donations collected and on their way to our various charities, including the Chernobyl Childrens charity and groups that support refugee or displaced peoples' camps, there is now room to start collecting more again. It is thanks to all your generosity, compassion and craft skills we are able to continue to support these needy causes. Many thanks also to those who have been donating yarn, both new and unwanted balls, that can be recycled. Recently I was able to make a buggy blanket by combining a white ball of Arran wool with a cone of fine red machine knitting wool. Colourful balls of wool have also been used to make tiny teddies for the Bliss charity for premature babies, see photographs. All the knitters in the group, both known and anonymous, are most grateful for your support. The next meeting of the group is on Tuesday 19th March, 2.30pm in All Saints Church Hall. Why not come along to pick up some wool, find a new pattern or have a cup of tea and a chat. All welcome! For further details contact Kate 83514 kaddando@gmail.com

REMEMBER - The next monthly meeting of the Hard of Hearing Group will be held on **Tuesday 26th March 2pm** in the Church hall, when the speaker will be Joyce Meader talking about The History of Knitting, followed by a Raffle and a chat over a cup of tea. All welcome

For further details about the Group and a list of the speakers booked for the main monthly meetings contact Annette 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



ST LAWRENCE CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Hello again! This is Mathew (Head Boy), Emily (Head Girl), Ava (Deputy Head Girl) and Oliver (Deputy Head Boy) of St Lawrence CE Primary School.

Just recently, Fairtrade Fortnight was upon us. Our school was then “blitzed” with Fairtrade decorations. Within each class we did a quiz and the winner from each class collected a prize in front of the school. We learnt lots of facts about the different farmers, their lives and what we can do to help. Making small changes can make a big impact. We specifically looked at the Fairtrade premium which is where farmers set aside a little bit of their earnings to put towards hospitals, wells and homes.

Elin and Baxter recently went to a Church Council Meeting where they met up with other Church Council people from other schools. In Alton we have a cluster of Church of England Primary Schools and so each school has two Year 6 representatives who meet the other children. Each school takes it in turn to host. This time they visited Bentley CE Primary School and learnt about the elements of Collective Worship and also enjoyed doing games with their new friends. At the meeting they had some scrumptious biscuits! After that, Elin and Baxter paired up with a different school and talked about what they wanted to pray about. They loved listening to delightful worship music and we are sure they enjoyed themselves.

A few days ago, Y5 went to St Lawrence Church to meet Geoff Thorne who told them lots about the English Civil War. They did lots of fun activities including watching him (and Mrs Micklefield!) fire a gun, learning about different weapons and much more. They had lots of fun and Mr Thorne said he was really impressed with the knowledge they had already.



In October, you will remember that for our Harvest charity, we raised an incredible £400 to send school bags to Ukraine. Mrs Micklefield wanted to make sure that we were able to see the impact of our donations and so last week we met Simon (who runs the Lavender Farm) and Dennis (the CEO of the charity) They told us about the charity and how they have been helping children in Ukraine and Belarus since 2007. When the war started in Ukraine, there was even more of a need. The bags are driven over in mini buses from the Lavender Farm all the way to Poland and then at the border, other minibuses take the bags into the areas of Ukraine that are most in need. They showed us the bags and their contents: toothpaste, flannel, lunchbox, water bottle (for hot and cold drinks),

maths equipment, colouring pencils and books. We were able to ask them questions and Simon and Dennis talked about how the children are having some lessons underground.



One thing that really touched all of us was that when Dennis, the CEO, saw all the letters our children had written to the children of Ukraine, he became quite emotional. He said that they had received a message from someone saying that knowing that someone somewhere in the world loved them gave them hope to carry on. We really hope that our letters will make the Ukrainian children smile

and know that they are loved. Dennis is going to send us some photos when our bags and letters have been delivered to Ukraine. Thank you to all of you who have supported us; we really do want our children to know that they can "be the change" and can make a real difference in world right now.

Thank you for reading!

From Oliver and Ava, Matthew and Emily.



POTR Eco Church

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you - 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Working towards achieving Eco Church awards & embedding Eco Church principles in all that POTR does can seem like endless “doing” – setting up new activities and projects, etc. But the role of prayer is as, or in fact, more important than all the “doing”.

You will be aware of the monthly Eco Church prayer that is chosen by Jenny and included on the website, in Parish Matters & used weekly in our Intercessions. As with all prayer, these prayers aim to focus our thanksgiving for God’s amazing creation and to ask for God’s help in valuing and not undermining its benefits and beauty.

Praying without ceasing was the aim of the Lent Vigil for Climate Justice 2024, happening between 14th & 24th February. This 264-hour vigil took place in Parliament Square and was organised by a group of Christian charities (including Christian Aid, A Rocha & Tearfund) under the banner of No Faith in Fossil Fuels. Anyone who believes in the power of prayer could sign up to be there to pray for an hour, a day or longer – at the time of writing I am looking forward to being there on the 21st. Prayers focused on creation, global climate justice and positive political action.

When climate news all seems negative it is hard to believe prayer is being answered. Unearthed is the investigative journalism arm of Greenpeace which sends a regular email reporting on environmental justice; as well as the bad news, the email always includes one or two pieces of good news. And reports of Tearfund’s work in the global south is evidence that positive change is happening, all powered by prayer.

We can all pray, anywhere and at any time so please remember the work of Eco Church, here and throughout the world, the charities who work for the alleviation of the impact of climate injustice and for politicians who have the power to make the big decisions that affect the climate. And look & give thanks for the answers to those prayers.

Elsbeth Mackeggie Gurney – Eco Church Team

Notes from an Excited Choir

Do any of you watch the tv programme “Have I got news for you” Well this month in my blethering’s I certainly do have news for all of you! In a first for St Lawrence, in April (and in July) there will be a choral workshop with an invitation extended to you to come and sing Evensong! Yes, that pearl of the choral tradition can be yours! Tony has managed to book 2 wonderful musical directors to lead workshops for us where we will be singing responses, the canticles and anthems all in the name of Evensong joy and achievement! They are **Francesca Massey** for Sunday 21 April and **Katherine Dienes-Williams (Guildford Cathedral)** for Sunday 14 July (which is part of the Alton Arts Festival.) Francesca has performed brilliantly during two organ concerts here in Alton. She was formerly Director of Music at Rochester Cathedral and previously assistant organist at Durham and Peterborough Cathedrals. She is now freelance. Katherine was the first female to be appointed Organist & Master of the Choristers in the UK and note she retained the title, Master! Tony believes it was David Hill who encouraged her to move from her country of birth, New Zealand, to the UK because he recognised her talent and musical ability so we are most fortunate to study under these prestigious batons for a few hours!

The outline plan is to invite anyone who can sing and has a reasonable ability to read music to attend and to hold the rehearsals from 3.30 pm. Music will be provided. After a tea break, we will hold a 6.00 pm choral evensong and both organists have been invited to play the final organ voluntary. I might even ask the Canon if we could have a little glass of bubbles afterwards, all in the name of outreach, celebration and friendship, of course!

We are hoping to cover the cost of putting on the workshop using some funds we have available for choral activities but any small voluntary donations would be most appreciated. Essentially, it’s about giving people the chance to take part rather than just listening to the evensong service so if you were ever a chorister in a previous life or fancy being one for a day this is your opportunity to have a go. Tony will let you know how to sign up in due course. Please spread the word to anyone whom you think might be interested and we look forward to your company in the choir stalls!

Elaine Cook

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Lay Vocations Morning

Saturday 6 April, 9.30am to 12.30pm
All Saints Church Hall,
St Leonards & St Ives
BN 34 2LS

Do you think God might be calling you to use your gifts to serve Jesus Christ? But unsure of what your next step might be?

Join Bishop David and the Winchester School of Mission team, to find out more about lay vocations And the pathways available



For more info and to book contact Tracey Nicholls
tracey.nicholls@winchester.anglican.org / 01962 710983

ALTON'S TWIN IS DUE IN JUNE 2024 – DO JOIN US!

Our French friends from Pertuis will visit Alton in June 2024, to coincide with the Jane Austen Regency Week, and we are planning a full programme of events for them: would you like to join us? Alton is twinned with Montecchio Maggiore in Italy and Pertuis in Provence, France - that's why we have Montecchio Way and Pertuis Avenue! All three are long-established market towns with a light industrial base, and sit in beautiful countryside close to cities of historical and cultural importance. Montecchio and Pertuis have a tradition of wine making and Alton has its history of brewing. Each year we visit one of our twin towns and host the other – usually in our own homes - and we celebrated 25 years of twinning with Montecchio last year. A varied programme of cultural, tourist and social activities is organised for each visit, and many firm friendships have been forged. ATTA also encourages other visits and exchanges by clubs and special interest groups. We are independent of local councils, and are funded mainly by member subscriptions and profits on events. We also organise social events for our local ATTA members throughout the year and new members are very welcome. Interested?

Then please contact Patric Hinde via email at 209pcv@gmail.com

Current membership rates are £11 per person or £18 per couple/family.



And finally . . .

How nice to be thinking about March... warmer days, and drying the washing outside! So now I really appreciate how nice it is to see the washing blowing dry in the garden!

A Drying Day

The branches are swaying
Replete with their fresh-growing leaves
The wind-music playing –
The breeze singing soft in the breeze.

The sun on our faces
The first sunny warmth of the year;
The frost it displaces,
The first signs of spring now appear.

We won't need our drier
This day will be breezy but fine;
No rack by the fire –
We'll hang out our clothes on the line!

This day is a treasure,
We watch as our shirts dance and play;
There's no better pleasure
Than the breeze on a spring drying day!

The April Copy Deadline is Noon Sunday 24 March - 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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Donations towards printing costs will be much appreciated -- Thank you

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Will Nisbet

Head Server

Clive Muller 86064

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Matthew Watts 543886

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Annett Blackman 01420 543219

or Julia Poole 07840 066211

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Judy Brown 82289

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Headteacher

Fiona Micklefield 84400

Chair of Governors

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

March Services for POTR & BLS

3rd March Lent 3

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

10th March Mothering Sunday

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
10.30am	Butts Church Service	All Saints Church

Every Wednesday:

10.00am	Said Holy Communion	All Saints
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17th March Lent 5

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

24th March Palm Sunday

9.15am	Communion Service	St Peter's Church
10.30am	Communion Service	St Lawrence Church
6pm	Informal Evening Worship	St Lawrence Church
10.30am	Butts Church Service	All Saints Church
6.30pm	Butts Church Service	All Saints Church

Holy Week and Easter Day services are on Page 3