



## Parish Matters

### Welcome...

to our weekly edition of Parish Matters – we hope you enjoy catching up with news and prayers from the Parish.

**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> February**

**The First Sunday of Lent**

### This week's special prayers

#### The collect of the week

Heavenly Father, your Son  
battled with the powers of  
darkness, and grew closer to  
you in the desert: help us to use  
these days to grow in wisdom  
and prayer that we may  
witness to your saving love  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen

#### Eco Church Prayer for February

In this time of abstinence and  
reflection, help us to confront our  
weaknesses in the wilderness  
and perceive our place in your  
great universe. We give thanks for  
the green shoots of your presence  
in the waste places of the world.  
May we learn new habits of holy  
living in our relationship with the  
earth. Amen

### Welcome to today's service

#### Lent Sermon Series

Last Words - Father, forgive them

### Prayers

**Prayers & Readings:** Monthly prayers and the daily lectionary readings are available in Sunrise and on the parish website. [www.potr-alton.co.uk](http://www.potr-alton.co.uk)

**Prayer Cascade.** If you need prayer for any reason please contact [pray4potr@gmail.com](mailto:pray4potr@gmail.com). A prayer team will pray regularly for each request. Please pray for each person by name.

**Those who are ill and require prayer:** Bethan, Charlotte, Jenny Thompson, Sarah Broadbent, Sally Stoodley, Dennis Milns, Alex Cannon, Paddy Mendham, Jill, Jenny Lawrence, Judith Shadey, Ben, David, Barry Edwards and Wendy Smith.

If you or someone you know would like to be included here please let Philippa Penfold know ([office@potr-alton.co.uk](mailto:office@potr-alton.co.uk))

**Those who are bereaved – families and friends of** Gerald Peters, Gwen Pettigrew, Barry Williamson, Robin Haw, Audrey Heffernan, Patricia Wood, Jacqueline Joyce, Beryl Faulkner and Patricia Christmas.

## **Proclaiming the Risen Jesus, Steadfast in faith, Active in Service**

### **This week's extra Services**

- **Facebook Live Morning Prayer** Monday to Friday 9am @POTRALton
- **St Lawrence Teddies** Monday morning 9.30am in St Lawrence Church
- **GAP Traidcraft Coffee Morning**, every Tuesday from 10-12 at Alton Methodist Church
- **Holybourne Coffee morning** followed by Prayers on Tuesday 10am-11.45am (Prayers 11:45 am to 12 noon) at Church of the Holy Rood.
- **Holybourne Teddies** in Holybourne Church on Wednesday 9.45am
- **Holy Communion** at All Saints at 10am on Wednesday
- **Glow after school group** for children in years 3 to 6, 3.15pm Thursday in the Galilee Chapel in St Lawrence Church
- **No Lighthouse during Half Term**

Please see our website [www.potr-alton.co.uk](http://www.potr-alton.co.uk) for a full list of church services, news and events for this month.

## **News and notices**

Please note Evensong at **Shalden** this evening, Sunday 18th has been cancelled.

**Church@4** Come and join us in the Parish Centre at 4pm this afternoon for an all age family service with songs, craft, activities and cake. This month we are looking at the story of "Jesus in the Wilderness". We will join together for hot dogs after the service.

**Choral Evensong** this evening at 6pm at St Lawrence Church. Come and listen and sing with the wonderful St Lawrence Church Choir. They have been learning a new anthem – 'Do not be afraid' by Philip Stopford and using the Morley canticles. Hymns will be: Forty days and forty nights, Jesus, lover of my soul and Father of heaven whose love profound.

**Lent is coming** During Lent Christians come together from our different churches in Alton to share in worship and fellowship whilst exploring different themes within the Christian faith. This year the five-week Lent Course will be based on Acts 2.42-47 under the heading: **The Early Church Shaping Us Today**. Bishop Philip will be our first speaker. Other speakers will be Andrew Lawrence, Revd Philip Simpkins, Bishop David and Jason Clark. The Lent Course is held at The Maltings (Harvest Church) starting on **Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> February**. Arrive at 7.15

for refreshments, and a start at 7.30pm. We will finish each of the evenings before 9pm.

**Lent Lunches** The Lent Lunches which are held annually at Holybourne Church will this **Wednesday 21st February** 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. 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.

**Eco Church – Carbon Fasting for Lent 2024** Lent is traditionally a time for fasting or foregoing food we enjoy. Why not try fasting from carbon this Lent for a change! The aim is to increase understanding of our carbon footprint and how we can reduce it.

Climate Stewards (part of the A Rocha family) has a Carbon Fast programme for Lent 2024 which can be found using this link

<https://www.climatestewards.org/resources/carbon-fast/>

The Eco Church Team would love to hear how you get on if you decide to try the programme.

**Men's Breakfast** We will be meeting at the White Hart, Holybourne, at 8.30am on **Saturday 24th February** for our usual delicious full English breakfast, all for just £10. Come and enjoy some lively banter and listen to our excellent speaker, Mark Rumsby, whose talk is titled 'Astronomy and God.' If you have not attended the breakfast for a while or have never attended, we would love to see you. Please reply to Tim Codling by email: - tim.codling@hotmail.co.uk or telephone: 01420 80388 by **Wednesday 21st February**.

**Alton Walking Church for Men** the new timetable for 2024 is now available. They have new pubs and areas to explore this year. The first one is on **Wednesday 28th February at 10.30am** at the Flower Pots in Cheriton. Each walk will take about 90 minutes with time to pray and reflect followed by a light bite in the pub. Contact Robin on 07957 653403 or email him on [familykemp@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:familykemp@tiscali.co.uk)

**World Day of Prayer Service - Friday 1st March** This year's service will be held at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Alton on **Friday 1st March at 2pm**. It has been prepared by Christian women of Palestine, so it's particularly poignant at the moment with all that's happening there. Do come along and be a part of this service which will be followed around the world on this day. All are welcome and there will be chance for further fellowship over a cup of tea afterwards.

**Confirmation Service** Bishop David will be coming to the POTR service at 10.30am on **Sunday 3rd March** to baptise and confirm. There are already some names to go forward but if you or someone you know would like to be confirmed then do please speak to Andrew. It is always very good to celebrate people's faith and commitment to Jesus.

**Plant Based Diet** If you are interested in finding out more about following a plant based diet and the benefits to the environment, ACAN are organising a film and discussion evening on **Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> February** at the Community Centre, 7.30pm. Why not come along and find out more.

**Alton Foodbank** Thank you for your continuing support. If you would like to donate this January, they are in need of the following tinned meat (pies, stewing steak, hot dogs etc.), tinned vegetables, tinned custard, long life sponge puddings, tinned or instant potato, rice, pasta, jars of pasta sauce and baked beans. Thank you so much.

**Next Sunday Service 25<sup>th</sup> February**  
**Last Words - Today you will be with me in paradise**

9.15am	<b>Communion Service</b>	St Peter's Church, Beech
10.30am	<b>Communion Service</b>	St Lawrence Church
6pm	<b>Informal Evening Worship</b>	St Lawrence Church
10am	<b>Communion Service</b>	St Mary's, Bentworth

### The Ministry Team

**Vicar:** Revd Canon Andrew Micklefield [andrew@potr-alton.co.uk](mailto:andrew@potr-alton.co.uk) 88794  
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**Assistant Priest:** Revd Peter Brown [petelaine@btinternet.com](mailto:petelaine@btinternet.com) 01420 549943  
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**Assistant Priest:** Revd Martin East [martineast@btinternet.com](mailto:martineast@btinternet.com) 549595  
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**General Enquiries to the Parish Administrators** Philippa Penfold & Ellie Elder  
**Office email address** [office@potr-alton.co.uk](mailto:office@potr-alton.co.uk) **01420 513881**

**The Parish Office (in All Saints Church Hall) will be open Monday to Friday  
between 9am – 12pm.**

**QR CODE!** Your donation helps sustain our buildings, ministry, youth work and much more. Your donation can also be gift aided. Why not give it a go using this QR code. Thank you!

