

Sunrise

A monthly magazine for the Parish of the Resurrection, Alton



April 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

Revd David Chattell 07775 462029

davidchattell172@btinternet.com

Assistant Priests

Jon Rooke 07519 046593

Revd Martin East 549595

Revd Lynn Power 07850 232995

Revd Bruce Nicole 07974 021764

Revd Peter Brown 549943

Wendy Burnhams 07514 280362

Licensed Lay Minister

Elaine Brown 549943

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 . . .

Don't you hate knowing the end of a film before you have had the chance to see it for yourself? Having the clever twist, the final act, the big reveal known to us can change the way we approach and perceive the story. But of course that's how we see the Easter story today.

As the drama of Holy Week unfolds, as we see the storm gather around Jesus, we witness the biased and corrupt trial proceedings. We are horrified by the cruel and brutal punishment being meted out. Yet at all times in the back of our minds we have the knowledge of the resurrection. And we are now reading this after our own celebration of the great story of Easter.

This is one story that is enhanced by the knowledge of the final twist. For to have only part of the picture, an incomplete story, means we are left in a state of fear and paralysis. The freeing knowledge that God can conquer all things transforms the story, gives us all the strength and encouragement to tackle what we face in our lives.

In the immediate aftermath of Jesus' death the disciples themselves had no idea how the story would end. They were disillusioned and confused, running scared and in disarray. But the knowledge of the resurrection and power of the Holy Spirit enabled them to form themselves into a group equipped and empowered to spread the Gospel throughout the known world – to turn that world upside down.

There are many times in each of our lives when we might wish we know the end of a particular story or of a situation we're facing. When we could have the certainty that the decisions we will make will be right, just, and see our work come to a glorious end.. But sadly, so often we can feel in the Saturday gloom between the death of Good Friday and the empty tomb of Easter Day - looking back to defeat rather than forward towards hope.

Sadder still are the large numbers we encounter who have no idea that hope is even possible - who haven't heard what God can do, who haven't experienced his life enhancing, life transforming love. It is to them we as a church want to reach and introduce to Jesus.

In this parish that sense of hope can be offered in the work we do – pastoral care, supporting the Food Bank and Community Cupboard, volunteering in Resurrection Furniture and local charity shops, belonging to grant making bodies and fund raising groups, being concerned about the environment and God's creation, being part of our Eco-Church group, speaking up about the way our society should be led and should be shaped. What these things have in common is hope. Hope for the poor, hope for the lonely, hope for the vulnerable, hope for the scared.

We are empowered to make that difference because we know the story. We know it ends with the promise of the Spirit and the hope of eternal life. We can be difference-makers because we are part of the story. And we know how it ends.

As we turn from the great celebration of Easter, let us be great people of hope!

Andrew

Licensing of Revd Wendy Burnhams as Assistant Priest

We have been delighted that Wendy has undertaken her curacy within The Parish of the Resurrection - what a loyal, trusted member of our Ministry Team she has become. Officially now Wendy has been 'signed off' from her curacy and the good news is that she will stay with us in The Parish of the Resurrection. To enable that Wendy needs to be formally licensed. The Bishop of Basingstoke, David Williams has agreed to do this during the 10am Communion Service at All Saints on Wednesday 10th April. It would be good to give Wendy our usual POTR support and everyone is very welcome to attend. I think that will offer some refreshments after the service too! Well done Wendy!

Celebrating the Licensing of Revd David Chattell and welcoming Ruth as LLM

What a stunning service on the evening of Monday 18th March. We commissioned David Chattell as the new Associate Vicar of The Parish of the Resurrection, welcomed Ruth Chattell as LLM in Alton and also David was licensed as Assistant Area Dean of both Alton and Alresford. Andrew was licensed to be Acting Area Dean of Alresford. Quite a lot to fit into one service! David and Ruth are now taking some much needed time off to sort their new home in the Holybourne Vicarage and then to have a family holiday. David's first service in the parish will be on Sunday 14th April. David, Ruth, Will, Tim, Jono and Martha are all very much looking forward to being part of our parish family.

POTR APCM

Our annual meeting will take place on Thursday 18th April at 7pm in St Lawrence Church. This is the meeting where we hear on the life, mission and witness of the parish in the last year - particularly concentrating on 2023. We will receive reports from the PCC, Deanery Synod and other important areas of our life together. We will receive the 2023 accounts and think about our

generosity for future projects. Andrew will take time to explain the new Charity/ Mission Policy as agreed by the PCC. This year we need to elect new Deanery Synod Representatives and there is a vacancy for and All Saints PCC representative. Each year we elect churchwardens, so nominations are needed for these - please speak to Andrew if you are interested. We hope there will be a good number of people who can attend.

Bentworth, Lasham & Shalden

Finally on 1st April Bentworth, Lasham & Shalden legally becomes one parish - a process that we have been working towards for the last couple of years. Andrew Micklefield will become the vicar and they will form a new PCC. Legally BLS is one parish and altogether with POTR we are a new benefice. It is so good that we have seen some of the congregations of BLS worshipping in some POTR service and it also good to see some POTR congregation members in BLS services. It is our hope that more relationships will flourish and that we can become more and more united. The whole process to get to where we are has been full off grace and determination. We look forward to more and more friendships, co-operation and worship.



Bible Readings for the month of April 2024

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

Monday 1 st	Psalm 111	Exodus 12: 1 - 14	1 Corinthians 15: 1 - 11
Tuesday 2 nd	Psalm 112	Exodus 12: 14 - 36	1 Corinthians 15: 12 - 19
Wednesday 3 rd	Psalm 113	Exodus 12: 37 - end	1 Corinthians 15: 20 - 28
Thursday 4 th	Psalm 114	Exodus 13: 1 - 16	1 Corinthians 15: 29 - 34
Friday 5 th	Psalm 115	Exodus 13: 17 – 14: 14	1 Corinthians 15: 35 - 50
Saturday 6 th	Psalm 116	Exodus 14: 15 - end	1 Corinthians 15: 51 - end
Sunday 7th Easter 2	Walking in the Light 1 John 1.1 – 2.2 John 20.19-31		
Monday 8 th	Psalm 111, 113	1 Samuel 2: 1 - 10	Romans 5: 12 - end
Tuesday 9 th	Psalm 8 or 5	Exodus 15: 22 – 16: 10	Colossians 1: 15 - end
Wednesday 10 th	Psalm 30 or 119: 1 - 32	Exodus 16: 11 - end	Colossians 2: 1 - 15
Thursday 11 th	Psalm 28 or 15	Exodus 17	Colossians 2: 16 – 3: 11
Friday 12 th	Psalm 61 or 19	Exodus 18: 1 - 12	Colossians 3: 12 – 4:1
Saturday 13 th	Psalm 84 or 23	Exodus 18: 13 - end	Colossians 4: 2 - end
Sunday 14th Easter 3	Doing what is right 1 John 3.1-7 Luke 24.36b-48		
Monday 15 th	Psalm 96 or 30	Exodus 19	Luke 1: 1 -25
Tuesday 16 th	Psalm 98 or 36	Exodus 20: 1 - 21	Luke 1: 26 - 38
Wednesday 17 th	Psalm 105 or 34	Exodus 24	Luke 1: 39 - 56
Thursday 18 th	Psalm 136 or 37	Exodus 25: 1 - 22	Luke 1: 57 - end
Friday 19 th	Psalm 107 or 31	Exodus 28: 1 – 4a, 29 - 38	Luke 2: 1 - 20
Saturday 20 th	Psalm 110 or 42	Exodus 29: 1 - 9	Luke 2: 21 - 40
Sunday 21st Easter 4	Practising love 1 John 3.16-24 John 10.11-18		
Monday 22 nd	Psalm 103 or 44	Exodus 32: 1 - 14	Luke 2: 41 - end
Tuesday 23 rd	Psalm 5 or 146	Joshua 1: 1 - 9	Ephesians 6: 10 - 20
Wednesday 24 th	Psalm 135 or 119: 57 - 80	Exodus 33	Luke 3: 15 - 22
Thursday 25 th	Psalm 37:23 - end	Isaiah 62: 6 - 10	Acts 12: 25 – 13: 11
Friday 26 th	Psalm 33 or 51	Exodus 35: 20 – 36: 7	Luke 4: 14 - 30
Saturday 27 th	Psalm 34 or 68	Exodus 40: 17 - end	Luke 4: 31 - 37
Sunday 28th Easter 5	Living in love 1 John 4.7-21 John 15.1-8		
Monday 29 th	Psalm 145 or 71	Numbers 9: 15 – end, 10: 33 - end	Luke 4: 38 - end
Tuesday 30 th	Psalm 19 or 73	Numbers 11: 1 - 33	Luke 5: 1 - 11



GL^W

Year 3 to year 6
Thursdays 3:15pm-4:30pm
St Lawrence Church, Galilee
Chapel

Games | Toast | Bible Study |
Crafts | Fun

Contact the Parish Office on
office@potr-alton.co.uk

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
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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.

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References available

Tel Carol 07753178468

Email c.may981@btinternet.com

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

Trips to St Lawrence Church

I am writing this hoping that it will encourage some of you regular church-goers to lend a hand. Or a car as it happens!

I know we have several worshippers who are unable to make the journey without help. Some are more fortunate and are brought to Church regularly, but I am hearing about others who can't make it.

Years ago when I first arrived at St. Lawrence, we had a printed list of drivers and passengers which seemed to work quite well. It usually meant that each driver might only be needed once a month to collect someone.

That is what I have in mind now. If several drivers come forward it might work!

I am only too aware that it is a challenge, because I love to walk to Church through the Flood Meadows, as many others do. However, I am prepared to give up my walk now and then, to pick someone up, if I can persuade you to join me.

I would like the names of any who require a lift to Church as well. My telephone number and email address are below.

As I said earlier, hoping to hear from you!

Clare Kirby

Tel. 01420 544735

Email roynclare65@gmail.com



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.

News from Alton Methodist Church

Sunday Services – all start at 10.00am

Sunday 7th April: Morning Worship led by Alan Goldring

Sunday 14th April: Morning Worship led by Liz George

Sunday 21st April: Communion Service led by Rev Philip Simpkins

Sunday 28th April: Morning Worship led by Jennie Marlow

Our CAMEO group for older members living alone usually meets once a month on a Saturday afternoon to listen to a guest speaker and then enjoy tea and cake. The next meeting, at 2pm on Saturday 13th April, will be an Open Meeting when we will welcome the return of soprano Rebecca and her accompanist Claire for an afternoon of musical delights, followed by tea and cake. There will be a collection for Mission Aviation Fellowship, our charity of the year. All are welcome.

May Market – Saturday 11th May, 10am -12 noon at Alton Methodist Church

Come and browse the stalls of books, plants, cakes, art and bric-a-brac, then take a break with coffee and cake. Admission free.

ALTON WALKING CHURCH FOR MEN

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

ROBIN KEMP
familykemp@tiscall.co.uk
07957 653 403

A gentle 90 minute walk with time to
pause and reflect. Refreshments
after at the pub
www.potr-alton.co.uk



GOVERNORS REQUIRED

Bushy Leaze is one of three maintained nursery schools in Hampshire, offering places for 120 local children. Our nursery, with a specialism in SEND, the Family Support Team and our outreach staff are committed to working with families to build a happy, caring and inclusive environment where everyone is valued.

If you feel like an exciting challenge and, in the process, helping to shape the future of a unique setting why not become a governor at Bushy Leaze!

A Governing Body is designed to reflect the community in which the school is situated. Our Governors come from different backgrounds, but all with a common desire to take an active role in the life of the Centre. They encourage new ideas, support staff and act as critical friends to discuss issues relevant to the management of the nursery. We would particularly love applicants with a financial or HR background, but anyone can apply!

Governors are elected to serve for 4 years and meet twice a term, as well as carry out visits and training.

If you wish to find out how interesting and rewarding being a Governor can be, please visit

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/governors/volunteer>

Alternatively, please contact Natalie Wilson, Co-Chair of Governors chairofgovernors@bushyleaze.hants.sch.uk

Please take time to have a look at our website

www.bushyleaze.co.uk

Bushy Leaze Children & Families Centre, Eastbrooke Road, Ailton, HANTS, GU34 2DR

FAMILY CONCERT

presented by

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*“Mary Poppins”,
“The Greatest Showman”,
“Mission Impossible”,
“Pirates of the Caribbean”,
“Harry Potter”,
“Phantom of the Opera” & more!*



Saturday 13 April 2024 4.00pm
Alton Maltings, GU34 1DT

Tickets from www.ticketsource.co.uk or on the door



Tickets:

Adults **£10.00**

Teenagers (12-17) **£5**

Young children (0-11) **FREE**



A Rough Sleeper in the Churchyard at Holy Rood ! **Read On**

“It all started a few years ago on a visit to Edinburgh and going for a meal out. A homeless man caught my attention sitting on the bridge. On a cold wet November evening he was sitting against the wall of the bridge as so many people passed him by. He did not beg nor plead for help. He sat snuggled in his sleeping bag minding his own business. I heard someone proclaiming he was scum and should get out of people’s way. He wasn’t in anyone’s way, he looked like life was in his way. As the abuser moved on, I stopped to ask the man what his story was. The abridged version is he was an ex-serviceman down on his luck. His wife and children had moved on and away from him, no other family to speak of. He could not afford to keep a home as he was unable to find a job. With nowhere to go and no money he found himself alone on the streets feeling betrayed and angered by the country he had given his oath to protect.

The obvious thought is of drink, drugs or another addiction, but no, he had never done drugs and despised the very thought of them, he did used to drink, like most service personnel of their time, but now and since he was homeless, he assured me had not touched a drop. I asked him what he needed most; he said food! He said he was able to shelter from the elements in various places around the city. He chose to sit on the bridge or in bustling areas to see if passing people would leave him some change, food, or a drink, but he was too proud to beg and would only say thank you if some kind soul offered some change or food.

I offered to take him for food, I telephoned the restaurant to increase the table size by one and the man would become our guest. Whilst the restaurant said they could accommodate an extra person, when we arrived our guest was prevented from entering as he was an “undesirable”. This offended me and I was quick to chirp that if my friend’s money was no good, then neither was mine and we would seek dining elsewhere. Our friend was embarrassed, he did not want a commotion nor to spoil our evening out. I told him that this was no bother to me and we would find an alternate eatery. The next place we went to, we were allowed entry and we ate, we chatted some more, my only regret is I could not do more..... Whilst we bid our farewells, and I was told that I could never be repaid he asked me why I stopped..... my answer was simple – humanity, we all have a story to tell some need to be told to be understood. I was serving at the time, and to this day, if I see someone in need of a helping hand, no matter how small, my mantra is just make it better. I never did see Robert again, and I know not what became of him, what I do know is he is not alone. And whilst there are many homeless people around this great nation, I believe our service personnel deserve a helping hand.

I found The British Legion Industries charity by chance, and I could not think of a better reason to make a difference, however little that may be. I thank you from the bottom of my heart for allowing me to make my bed under the stars within

the church grounds at Holy Rood. Nikki, my partner is thankful that I have found a safe haven, rather than risk the perils of urban homelessness. I cannot thank you enough. On behalf of the homeless veterans, I hope to support and myself – thank you!!”

Since writing the above Neil, a former member of the Armed Forces and a relation of Dave and Gill Tull, has successfully completed his four nights rough sleeping in the Churchyard. Whilst doing so, he was overwhelmed by the support shown to him by both the congregation of POTR and the local community, many of whom stopped to chat to him whilst in the churchyard. To-date through his sleeping rough, Neil has raised around £850 for The British Legion Industries Tommy Appeal.



OPEN SIGHT

Open Sight is a club for those with visual impairment. It meets on the 3rd Monday of the month at All Saints Church Hall at 2.30pm The next meeting is on the 15th April. A brief AGM will be take place but the main event will be some of our members giving a short history of their lives and their experience of sight loss.

We have a variety of talks and social afternoons throughout the year, the one on 20th May will be Jane Hurst giving us some interesting tales of local history. The meetings provide an opportunity to make new friends. We also enjoy refreshments of tea, sandwich and cake and usually end with being told a joke or two!

Open Sight comes under the umbrella of Open Sight Hampshire where there are staff who can provide support and advice regarding equipment to assist with daily living. Several of our members have made use of this service and have found it invaluable.

We are in need of volunteers who can provide general help during the afternoon, and we would also welcome individuals with a visual impairment, who feel that they would like to join us. No commitment, just come along one Monday and see what happens!

If you would like further information regarding the group please contact:

Malcolm Cooper on 01420 549525

Lay Vocations Morning Saturday 6th April – POSTPONEMENT

Regretfully, due to low numbers we have decided to postpone this event until later in the year. Thank you for promoting this event through your communication channels. We would be very grateful if you could remove any notices/posters and communicate a postponement notice to your congregations. We will be in touch with details of the re-arranged event later in the year.

Thank you very much for your kind assistance in this matter. May I take this opportunity to wish you and those you hold dear a blessed Easter.

Tracey Nicholls

Team Administrator – Winchester School Of Mission

Meet and Eat - Women's group for Fun and Fellowship

Eighteen of the group had an enjoyable evening with Trina Walker (Volunteer at Resurrection Furniture shop and self taught florist). Trina made a lovely floral nest with some beautiful and unusual flowers. We then had the opportunity to make our own. We were all very pleased with the results! After all the hard work we were in need of a cuppa and some delicious cakes.



The next Meet and Eat will be on Monday 3rd June - Pub Walk and meal or just the meal. More details to follow.

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

What's On . . .

Friday Coffee Morning

Friday 5th April

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 6th April 9.00 to 12.30

In the Parish Centre,

Books, Puzzles, Produce & Cakes and much more!

St Lawrence Organ Concert

Tuesday 2nd April at 8pm

Gerard Brooks - Westminster Central Hall

Tuesday 7th May at 8.00pm

Tom Winpenny - Albans Cathedral



GAP Ladies Lunch

Wednesday 24th April 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 27th April** for our usual delicious 'full English' breakfast, all for just £10. Come and enjoy some lively banter and listen to our excellent speaker, Professor Julian Evans OBE, whose talk is titled 'God's Trees 3.' 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 24th April**.

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.



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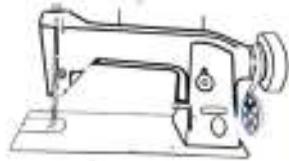
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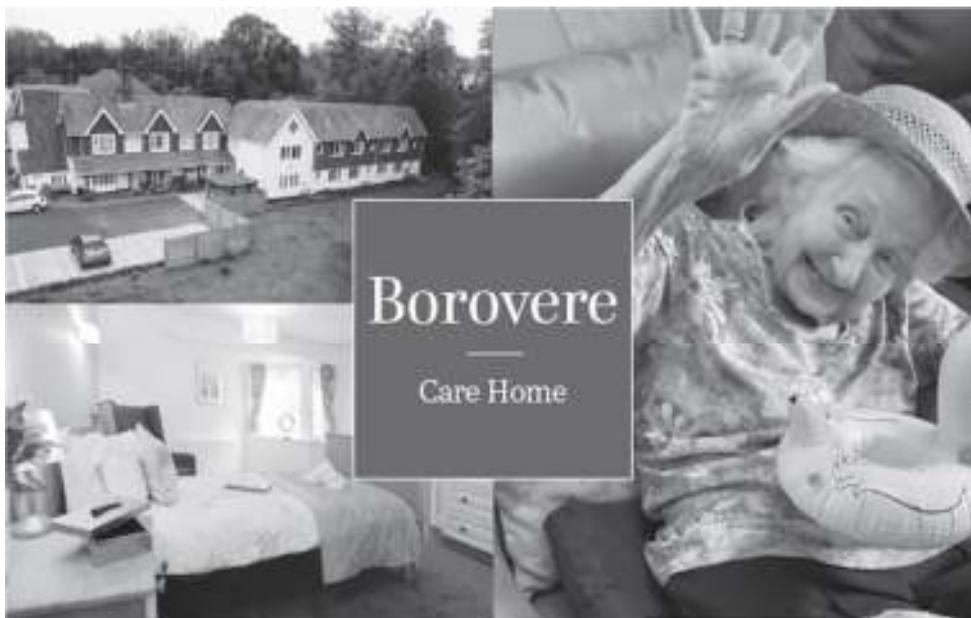
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Hard of Hearing Group – latest news



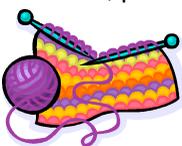
LIP READING

The Summer Term of Lip Reading in All Saints Church Hall starts on Tuesday 2nd April at 2pm. Come along to find out more about this useful skill that is so helpful to the hearing impaired. Led by Maggie Short, qualified lip Reading Tutor, followed by light refreshments with time to continue to practice skills learned during the session in relaxed surroundings. You will be most welcome!

kaddando@gmail.com

KNITTERS ANONYMOUS

Once more generous donations of knitted and crochet blankets, clothes and toys continue to find their way to the group. Many thanks to those who donated the huge bag of brightly coloured knitted squares, that was left in All Saints church last month, to be collected and sewn into blankets by the group. These are well on the way to completion and will be added to the many other generous donations ready to go to the Chernobyl Children's charity. Bliss, the charity for tiny babies were pleased to receive so many pastel-coloured diamond shaped blankets, plus the 4 ply baby jackets. The next meeting of the group is on



Tuesday 16th April 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

ALL SAINTS HARD OF HEARING GROUP Monthly Meeting at All Saints Church Hall

Please do come along if you have a hearing impairment and would like an 'experience' on the 4th Tuesday of the month! On April 23rd for your entertainment we have a group coming along called Chapter and Verse. What's that you cry!? Well it is a small theatre company that takes a light hearted look at topics through sketches, prose and poetry. The topic in April will be Animal Antics.

As well as entertainment we serve tea and biscuits, run a raffle and have lots of chat. Come along and make new friends! The afternoon starts at 2pm and finishes around 4pm. A small charge of £2 per meeting is made to cover costs.

We also have need of a volunteer or two to help make and serve the teas. If you are able to help or wish to know more about our meetings do let me know.

Contact: Annette Blackman 01420 543219 Email: ablackman4@googlemail.com

Notes from a “Workshop-ing” Choir

At the recent licensing service for our new associate vicar David Chattell and his wife Ruth, we were in the company of a lot of clergy including not one but two bishops. The bishop of Basingstoke said he wondered what the collective term for more than one bishop might be, so I did a bit of bishop-y research. It seems that there are several nouns to describe a bunch of bishops. A Bench of Bishops is the most common collective noun which is used to describe the group of bishops who are sitting together in a meeting or gathering. Next, we have a College of Bishops which is used to describe a group of bishops who are working together as a team. For instance, it is often used to describe a group of bishops who are working together to create a unified decision. Finally, and most grandly, we have a Convocation of Bishops, sometimes also referred to as a Synod of Bishops. This term is used to describe a group of bishops who are meeting together to discuss matters of faith and doctrine. So, looking at these definitions I reckon we either had a Bench or a Bunch at David’s service. Whichever it was, you can be sure that the choir “bunch” are very much looking forward to becoming acquainted with David and Ruth and supporting the music at Holybourne Church. Welcome both!

And now a little reminder about the Come and Sing Evensong that is taking place at St Lawrence on Sunday April 21st between 3.30 pm – 7pm with Francesca Massey.

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. If you would like to take part simply email our choir director Tony Willman at tony.willman@mac.com . Think of it as an ecclesiastical “Alton’s got Talent” without any judgement! This is purely for the joy of singing and keeping a much loved and beautiful age-old tradition alive and kicking! We hope you will join us.

***Now, I wonder what the collective noun is for a gathering of choristers?
“Trouble” says Andrew!***

Elaine Cook

News from St Lawrence CE Primary School

Hello there, welcome back. We would like to share with you all the wonderful experiences we have had in the last two weeks!

We were lucky enough to enjoy a fabulous performance of Alice in Wonderland as a treat for World Book Day (thank you to the PTA for paying for this). We then celebrated World Book Day itself with some new traditions started such as Decorate a Cake and then some old favourites like the Extreme Reading Challenge and the Door Competition. It was brilliant to see children, staff and parents all working hard together to create a wonderful book cover for each classroom door.

In Collective Worship on Monday when Mrs Micklefield gave out all the prizes, she said that it is so important that we learn to read and to have that love of reading which will stay with us forever. She said "If we lit a spark in the children on that day, we did our job." Thank you to Miss Jones for an inspirational day.

The children were each given a book and if they did not want any of the books, they got a £1 book token. We were allowed to come into school in our PJs. Here are some photos of the classroom doors:





Another new and exciting event for us this week was having a Science Day. We had the pleasure of welcoming Boffin John the Scientist to school who shared many mind blowing experiments and taught us lots! Thank you Mrs Nettle for organising a fun-filled day.



Spring-Clean your habits !

If you have a life-controlling habit such as **smoking, gambling, drinking, over-eating, internet addiction, shopping compulsions, drugs, etc.** – in fact any habit which once might have brought you comfort or fun, but is now spoiling your daily living - why not try a course called **Fresh Start** ?

Fresh Start is a 9-week course run by Harvest Church, Alton. It's based on principles from the Bible and the 12-steps-of-recovery process, backed by 1-to-1 coaching and a support group of others wanting to tackle their habits. And it's free and completely confidential. See <https://harvestchurch.uk/fresh-start>

After previous local courses, a man tackling a porn addiction said "I'd like to thank you...for putting on the Fresh Start course and helping me achieve my goals...I am very grateful for the work you did with us." Another, tackling a gambling addiction, said: "I was gambling to excess and constantly worried and anxious over money. I am now happier and am getting my priorities right... I can never say THANK YOU enough times as I never thought I could beat this addiction". A woman now in recovery from alcohol addiction said "I wouldn't be where I am today, if I hadn't come on Fresh Start".

The next course will start with an Introduction session **on Tuesday 30th April 2024**, 10:30am-12:00, at Alton Maltings, led by Trevor and Ann.

So if you, or anyone you know, needs a fresh start, register for the course by calling Mark Rumsby on 07769 030913 or freshstart@harvestchurch.uk.



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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POTR Eco Church

For we are God's handiwork,
created in Christ Jesus to do good
works, which God prepared in
advance for us to do. Ephesians 2: 10



Silver Award – the application for the Silver award has been submitted . . .so currently there are at least 5 people in Alton checking their inboxes more often than usual!

The Team will soon start planning the strategy for Gold & will share it with everyone in the Parish. We are enormously grateful to everyone who has supported the Eco Church Team since we started and particularly all of you who have volunteered at events; not forgetting the prayers that have been offered.

We always need more volunteers – if you would like to join the list of people who are happy to support the Eco Church work but haven't yet let us know, please email ecochurch@potr-alton.co.uk or speak to one of the Team – Martyn, Jenny, Julie, John or Elspeth, or Carol at Holy Rood or Angie at All Saints.

Toy Bonanza – Eco Church held its 5th successful Toy Bonanza in March – about 25 families came along and took away a huge number of toys, books, games and puzzles. Thank you to everyone who donated so generously.

We were really delighted to see a good deal of plastic find a new home. Toys, books etc. left at the end were taken to charity shops or retained for the next Toy Bonanza (June 29th) and books are to be offered to local schools & playgroups. If there are any still not rehomed, we are exploring whether they can be offered to less well-off parts of the Diocese.

Food Waste Action Week – I am writing this at the end of the 2024 **Food Waste Action Week**, the purpose of which is to highlight the horrifying amount of food wasted in the UK – 60% of all food waste in this country comes from our homes!

I am so aware that I am a repeat offender when it comes to binning bags of soggy salad leaves that looked so tempting when I bought them, then lay forgotten in the fridge.

So, what can be done to reduce the waste of all the precious resources that go into food production? Simple things such as:

1. making a weekly meal plan before doing the food shop & only buying what is needed for the meal plan;
2. storing food in cupboards & fridges in use by date order, oldest first;
2. knowing what is in the freezer.
4. download the Olio app which aims to share unwanted food in the local area.

Elspeth Mackeggie Gurney – Eco Church Team

Eco Church Prayer for April

**At this time of new life, we praise you
for the power of your creation.**

**The bodily resurrection of Christ
proclaims the promised re-creation of
the universe.**

**In the renewal of the natural world,
in the blossom of trees and the birth of
animals,**

**help us to celebrate your many gifts of
springing hope and fresh beginnings.**

Amen



"Police? This is St Mary's Ladies' Knitting & Vigilante Circle. We've detained two gents trying to nick the church silver."

Sunrise
IT'S PART OF THE GREAT BRITISH WAY

**The May Copy Deadline is Noon
Sunday 21 April - 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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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

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Sarah Neish 565696

Church of the Holy Rood

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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

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

April Services for POTR & BLS

7th April

8am	BCP Communion Service	St Lawrence Church
10.30am	POTR Altogether Communion Service	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

14th April

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
10am	Communion Service	St Mary's Church, Bentworth
10.30am	Butts Church Service	All Saints Church

21st April

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 April

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

Every Wednesday:

10.00am Said Holy Communion All Saints