

A monthly magazine for the Parish of the Resurrection, Alton





November 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 David@potr-alton.co.uk

Assistant Priests

 Revd Jon Rooke
 07519 046593

 Revd Martin East
 549595

 Revd Lynn Power
 07850 232995

 Revd Bruce Nicole
 07974 021764

 Revd Peter Brown
 07890 067198

Revd 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

 Magnus Weighton
 07902 877335

 Sarah Neish
 565696

Deanery Synod Representatives

Derek Gurney Tori Hewitt Keith Arrowsmith Oliver

PCC Special Interest Members

Robin Kemp (SL) Sarah Neish (St. P) Anne Mason (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

"We were all given one of these," my friend Ken said, passing me a small booklet. "It fitted into your army jacket, you see," he said, pretending to pop it into his left hand chest pocket. Ken served in the Royal Artillery in Europe after D Day. I opened the little booklet and inside was the poem that King George VI had used in his Christmas address to the nation in 1939. England was deep into what was called the phoney war. No one knew that Dunkirk and the Battle of Britain were just around the corner and that the summer of 1940 would be one of the nation's darkest hours. King George tried to inspire people and help them to face the unknown. No one knew where the future would lead but he knew people would be tested. At the end of the Christmas Speech on the radio, the King read these opening words from a little known poem called God Knows:

"I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year

"Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown."

And he replied. "Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God

That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way."

The author of the poem was Minnie Louise Haskins. She wasn't famous. She was a Sunday School teacher who became a missionary in India and then returned to teach at LSE in London. I understand every serviceman was given a copy of this poem to carry with them on campaign. It speaks deeply of trust and confidence in God in times of uncertainty and peril.

American soldiers were also given a poem to carry with them during their active service in Europe. It was composed by an American Christian pastor and theologian called Reinhold Niebuhr for a sermon at a village church in 1943. Niebuhr was deeply opposed to fascism and all the suffering it caused. The version Niebuhr's daughter uses begins:

God, give us grace to accept with serenity the things that cannot be changed, Courage to change the things which should be changed, and the Wisdom to distinguish the one from the other

The poem is really a prayer. It speaks of facing that which we cannot fully control ourselves. It has shades of pain, and loss but above all perhaps, acceptance and encouragement to walk through difficulties in life with grace, courage and wisdom...and with God as our companion. I think Niebuhr believed grace, courage and wisdom were gifts from God.

Both poems arise from the authors' deep faith in God and a belief that while we cannot know the future, God is with us, God is for us and we can accept the present with trust in him. He loves us.

King George ended his Christmas Day Speech saying, "May that Almighty hand

guide and uphold us all."

Reverend Jon Rooke

'God Knows' (Minnie Louise Haskins 1908)

And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year: "Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown". And he replied:

"Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way". So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night. And He led me towards the hills and the breaking of day in the lone East.

So heart be still:
What need our little life
our human life to know,
If God hath comprehension?
in all the dizzy strife
of things both high and low,
God hideth His intention.

God knows. His will is best. The stretch of years which wind ahead, so dim to our imperfect vision, Are clear to God. Our fears are premature; In Him, all time hath full provision.

Then rest: until
God moves to lift the veil
from our impatient eyes,
when, as the sweeter features
of Life's stern face we hail,
fair beyond all surmise
God's thought around His creatures
our mind shall fill.

All Souls Service

All Souls Service On Sunday 3rd November at 4pm in St Lawrence Church we will hold this poignant annual service at which we remember those who have recently died. We invite families who have had funerals led by our Ministry Team and everyone else is very welcome to attend. We will include names in a list for prayer and if you wish to add any then do please let us know emailing the Parish Office - office@potr-alton.co.uk

God of blessings,
the universe sings of your glory.
Deepen our gratitude for all you have made
and awaken in us a renewed commitment
to care for the earth and each other.
Inspire world leaders at COP29,
with openness to listen to those most
affected by climate change and with
courage to act urgently and wisely, so that
our common home may be healed and
restored and all people, and generations to
come, may delight in it.

Amen.

Safeguarding Statement

The PCC of PoTR has adopted the Church of England Safeguarding Policies and Practice Guidance, "Promoting a Safer Church: Safeguarding Policy Statement". We take very seriously the welfare and protection of everyone involved in any church activity and are committed to promoting a safe environment and culture for all. Access to all Parish Safeguarding policies is available through the POTR website. Each person who works within this church community will agree to abide by the Safeguarding Policy and the guidelines established by this church.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and business, but here it is overseen by the Parish Safeguarding Officer, Sally Kemp, in conjunction with the incumbent, Andrew Micklefield.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Sally Kemp, PSO, on 07944 587 597 or via potr.safeguarding.com or via the Parish Office.

| Bible Readings for the month of November 2024 | | | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| Taken from the Church of England lectionary – readings to use daily | | | | |
| Friday 1st | Psalm 31 | Judith 15: 1 - 13 | Titus 3 | |
| Saturday 2 nd | Psalm 42 | Judith 15: 14 – end | Philemon | |
| , | | of 16 | | |
| Sunday 3 rd | | ach other - Salvation c | | |
| All Saints Day | | Psalm 119: 1-8 Luke 19: 1-10 | | |
| Monday 4 th | Psalm 44 | Daniel 1 | Luke 9: 18 - 27 | |
| Tuesday 5 th | Psalm 5 or 48 | Daniel 2: 1 0 24 | Revelation 1 | |
| Wednesday 6th | Psalm 9 or 119:57-80 | Daniel 2: 25 - end | Revelation 2: 1 - 11 | |
| Thursday 7 th | Psalm 15 or 57 | Daniel 3: 1 - 18 | Revelation 2: 12 - end | |
| Friday 8 th | Psalm 16 or 51 | Daniel 3: 19 - end | Revelation 3: 14 - end | |
| Saturday 9 th | Psalm 18: 31 – end or | Daniel 4: 1 - 18 | Revelation 4 | |
| | 68 | | | |
| Sunday 10 th | | Remembrance Sunday | | |
| 3 before Advent | | ebrews 9.24-28 Mark 1 | I.14-20 | |
| Monday 11 th | Psalm 20 or 71 | Daniel 4: 19 - end | Revelation 5 | |
| Tuesday 12 th | Psalm 21 or 73 | Daniel 5: 1 - 12 | Revelation 6 | |
| Wednesday 13th | Psalm 23 or 77 | Daniel 5: 13 - end | Revelation 7: 1 – 4, 9 - end | |
| Thursday 14th | Psalm 26 or 78: 1 - 39 | Daniel 6 | Revelation 8 | |
| Friday 15 th | Psalm 32 or 55 | Daniel 7: 1 - 14 | Revelation 9: 1 - 12 | |
| Saturday 16 th | Psalms 33 or 76 | Daniel 7: 15 - end | Revelation 9: 13 - end | |
| Sunday 17 th 2 before Advent | He | Hebrews 10.11-25 & Mark 13.1-8 | | |
| Monday 18 th | Psalm 47 or 80 | Daniel 8: 1 - 14 | Revelation 10 | |
| Tuesday 19 th | Psalm 52 or 89: 1 - 18 | Daniel 8: 15 - end | Revelation 11: 1 - 14 | |
| Wednesday 20 th | Psalm 56 or 119: 105 - | Daniel 9: 1 - 19 | Revelation 11: 15 - end | |
| Thursday 21st | Psalm 62 or 92 | Daniel 9: 20 - end | Revelation 12 | |
| Friday 22 nd | Psalm 63 or 88 | Daniel 10: 1 – 11: 1 | Revelation 13: 1 - 10 | |
| Saturday 23 rd | Psalm 78: 1 – 39 or 97 | Daniel 12 | Revelation 13: 11 - end | |
| Sunday 24 th | | Sunday next before Ad | | |
| Christ the King | Revelation 1.4b-8 & John 18.33-37 | | | |
| Monday 25 th | Psalm 96 or 98 | Isaiah 40: 1 - 11 | Revelation 14: 1 - 13 | |
| Tuesday 26 th | Psalm 97 or 106 | Isaiah 40: 12 - 26 | Revelation 14: 14 – end of 15 | |
| Wednesday 27h | Psalm 112 or 111 | Isaiah 40: 27 – 41: 7 | Revelation 16: 1 - 11 | |
| Thursday 28 th | Psalm 125 or 115 | Isaiah 41: 8 - 20 | Revelation 16: 12 - end | |
| Friday 29 th | Psalm 139 | Isaiah 41: 21 – 42: 9 | Revelation 17 | |
| Saturday 30 th | Psalm 147 | Ezekiel 47: 1 - 12 | John 12: 20 - 32 | |



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The Rev. Canon Peter Doores

We were sad to learn of the death of Peter. This is a piece written by Elizabeth Dain. Peter came as Vicar in 2003 and retired in early 2013.

Peter Doores came to the Parish of St Lawrence (consisting of St Lawrence, Alton, and St Peter's, Beech) after a lengthy interregnum and the parish were looking forward eagerly to his arrival. He was a man with many varied and sometimes unexpected gifts. (How many people knew he was an artist until after his sabbatical some years later?) Many of these gifts were not immediately obvious but in a quiet, understated way were expressed in one-to-one relationships – vision for what could be achieved, administration, training and encouraging, reaching out to individuals and families in need, to name just a few.

The more I look back over those ten plus years, the more I recognise how deep and firm were the foundations he built (or should I say dug?) on which the future of the enlarged parish / benefice has been built. He worked tirelessly with the PCCs and others who were brought together finally as the Parish of the Resurrection in a working covenant with the Methodist Church. From this covenant relationship emerged the shared appointments of a Youth Worker, a chaplain for the Alton College and the appointment of what became the first Anna Chaplain. The latter has developed nationwide with over 400 chaplains ministering to the spiritual needs of older people and their carers. His was a 'consultative' style obtaining and testing ideas from both within and outside the parish. There are many other aspects of our life which had their beginnings in his vision and we owe him much. I am reminded of the verse in 1 Corinthians 3 v 6. " ..(Peter) planted, Andrew watered, but God gave the growth."

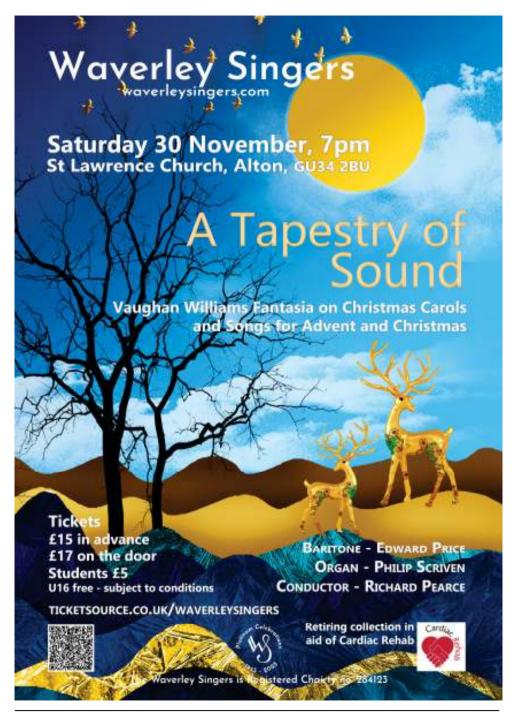
None of all this would have been possible, or as effective, without Margaret, his wife, by his side. Her warm, open and wise contributions made their partnership so important a part of extending God's kingdom here in Alton

I recently came across a prayer which I shall always associate with Peter. It seemed to me to embody his approach to his time with us from the day of his licencing to his farewell 'send-off',

Beyond Ourselves

Grant us a vision, Lord
To see what we can achieve
To reach beyond ourselves
To share our lives with others
To stretch our capabilities
To increase our sense of purpose
To be aware of where we can help
To be sensitive to your Presence
To give heed to your constant call.

Taken from Power Lines by David Adam, published by Triangle, 1992, and used by permission of their publishers.



New Book Release By a Local Author

Charles Shaylor, former resident in Lasham village from 1978-2016, now residing in Alton, began writing a novel back in 2000 when he retired from being a headteacher. Almost 25 years later Father Aloysius: The Heroic Priest, has been published and is now available as a Kindle edition (£4.99) or as a paperback (£18.99) through Amazon. Any royalties will go to the refurbishment of St Mary's Lasham, and the Anglican Dioceses of Karamoja and North Karamoja to be used to support the Diocesan Training Centre.

Here is a brief introduction to the story as featured on the back of the book: In Karamoja, a region of Uganda, a boy seeks solace up a thorn tree. His entire family has been murdered by Bandits. Rescued himself from being taken by one of the 5 big Cats prowling beneath him, the orphan is transported to Sulasmi's Mission station.

Little could the boy have forecast that from here he would travel to Northern Ireland for training into the priesthood before returning to Africa to serve as Father Aloysius. His return to Africa is short lived as , once again, his life is threatened this time by an altercation with Mugabe the Nationalist Leader of Zimbabwe.

And hence to a Cornish fishing village where he settles in the nineties in England. This exciting novel sees him dice with death yet again and follows his eventful ministry amongst endearing and colourful characters of all ages. Who could have wanted to murder this loveable priest in sleepy Pendon Bay? Read the book and find out!





CHRISTMAS UNLOCKED

A special carol event with

J.John

Author of Celebrating Christmas

Wednesday 4th December 7.30pm

The Maltings, Maltings Close, Alton.
GU34 1DT

£5 tickets [including mulled wine & Christmas cake] available from church representatives



for further details ring 07957 653403



News from Alton Methodist Church

Christmas Fair – Saturday 30th November, 10-12 at Alton Methodist Church

This lively annual fixture will host a wide variety of stalls including home baking, wood turning, jewellery & accessories, bric-a-brac & gifts, Pell Art, toys and a tombola – and, of course, refreshments.

So do come along to browse the varied stalls and take a break with coffee and cake.

Girls' and Boys' Brigade

Our Boy's Brigade company celebrated its 40th anniversary in February and our Girls' Brigade company was 40 years old in October. The girls organised a celebration coffee morning on Saturday 20th October which raised a magnificent £300 to be shared between company funds and GB central funds. The annual enrolment service for both boys and girls was held on Sunday 20th October, with boys and girls participating in the service and families filling the church. At the end of the summer term Kym and Pete Burgess stepped down from leading the GB and BB companies and were presented with a token of the church's appreciation for their years of service at the enrolment.

Sunday Services

Sunday 3rd: Morning Worship led by Annah Mwadiwa

Sunday 10th: Morning Worship with Holy Communion led by Rev Philip Simpkins

Sunday 17th: Morning Worship led by Deacon Joy Everingham

Sunday 24th: Morning Worship led by Liz George – Celebration of our Girls' Brigade company's 40th anniversary



The Christmas Tree Festival 2024

Roll up, roll up for the Thirteenth Christmas Tree Festival which takes place on Saturday December 7th and Sunday December 8th. Far from being unlucky for some, did you know that the angel number 13 holds spiritual significance, signalling a period of change and growth in your spiritual journey? It's a time when you might experience spiritual awakening and progress, discovering new opportunities for inner exploration and development. So, might I suggest that you awake your inner creativity and bring along your tree this year? You know it can be anything and everything tree related and I look forward to welcoming in your creations.

This year the charities that will benefit from any donations will be Becky Dell's Citizens of the World Choir, to support the refugees access to the healing power of singing and the Pink Place, which offers free support to those dealing with cancer in the Basingstoke and Alton areas.

As usual, set up is on Friday the 6th from 11am and take down on the following Monday at a time to suit you from when the church is open in the morning until around 4.30pm. Please try to come and take your tree home that day as there are a lot of carol services and schools using the church up until Christmas and it saves Andrew having to keep moving the trees that remain around the church. If you need to bring your tree in earlier and have your known spot from previous festivals, please just pop it there. Otherwise leave your tree where I will see it and I find a place for it.

I shall put up a Rota for help to serve the refreshments, on either day, on the pod at the back of the church and any donations of festive goodies will be very much appreciated. Also, anything you could donate for the tombola would be gladly received. I'll put a box at the back of the church. Thank you all in advance. Your generosity never fails to warm my heart.

Finally (for now!) if anyone would like to help me with publicity before the festival, setting up the kitchen and making us a cuppa on Friday, welcoming people in over the weekend, clearing and tidying the church on Monday morning and generally being very useful, please let me know. I think I may also need a few good souls to run the tombola on Saturday as my usual stalwarts will be involved across the road in the parish centre at the monthly market. My contact number is 07762 583821 and my email is elaine@loadmasters.plus.com
13 unlucky? ... Not on my watch!!

Elaine Cook

Anna Chaplaincy Update

As autumn sets in, it has been a particular joy to collaborate with Hook & Yarn (Alton's Crochet Club) to gift beautiful homemade blankets to older people around Alton, such as Mary in the photo. So far, I have gifted seven blankets and the group are busily crocheting more to allow me to continue spreading warmth around the town. What a lovely job I have!

In other news, the Anna Chaplaincy Team continue with their varied work - leading services in care & residential homes around Alton, making home visits to both church members and people who have been referred by other sources and supporting different community groups. Our latest initiative, which started in September, has been to set up a Brendoncare visiting service whereby we come alongside specific residents who have requested Anna Chaplaincy visits. It has been great working with the Brendoncare Wellbeing Team to get this initiative off the ground.

And, finally, The Anna Chaplaincy Team would like to invite you to our Anna Chaplaincy Christmas Event at the Alton Methodist Church from 2 – 4pm on Wednesday 4th December. Put the date in your diaries and we look forward to seeing you there!

Kate and The Anna Chaplaincy Team



What's On . . .

Friday Coffee Morning Friday 1st November 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 November 9.00 to 12.30 In the Parish Centre

Books, puzzles, toys, bric-a-brac, plants, garden produce.

We are looking for new items to boost our tables and give our customers a good shopping experience. If you have any unwanted items you wish to donate we are at the Parish Centre from 5pm - 6pm on the Friday evening before the sale or anytime after 8am on the morning of the sale. Your help would be much appreciated

We also serve refreshments including coffee, tea, hot chocolate with a biscuit for 50p. If your feeling peckish you can also purchase a bacon bap (brown/white) for £1.50p, cooked fresh to order.

St Lawrence Organ Concert

Tuesday 5 November at 7.30pm Mark Shepherd (formerly Head of Music, Chaterhouse)

GAP Ladies Lunch

Wednesday 27th November 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 November** for our usual delicious 'full English' breakfast, all for just £10. Come and enjoy some lively banter and listen to our excellent speaker, the Rt. Revd. Philip Mounstephen, Bishop of Winchester, who will be talking about 'Persecuted Christians Across the World'. If you have not attended the breakfast for a while we would love to see you again. Please reply to Tim Codling by email: <u>tim.codling@hotmail.co.uk</u> or telephone him on 01420 617293 by **Wednesday 27th November**.

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.

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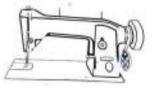
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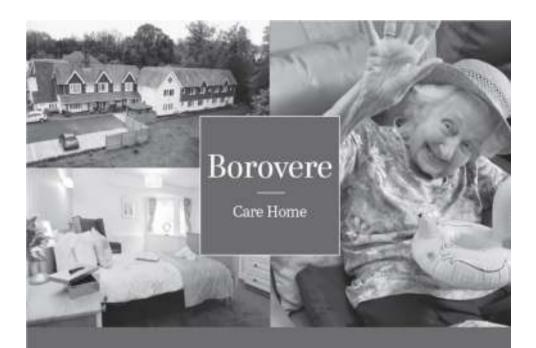
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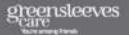
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All Saints Hard of Hearing Group

When you read this we will have enjoyed hearing all about birds in the Alton area. A talk given to us by Keith Betton, Chair of the Hampshire Ornithological Society. Our Harvest Festival in September was a joyous celebration. The photo shows Kate, who led the service, and Rita, with the abundant gifts of food, which were donated to the Food Bank.

In November – on the 26th at 2pm – we will be having our 'Pre – Christmassy' event. Basically, this is party time – with a buffet type spread of nibbles and maybe a glass of something bubbly! We are hoping that Robin Kemp and some of the Community Choir will be providing some musical entertainment – including, no doubt, some communal songs and carols. Our usual Raffle will be a bumper event with Christmas themed prizes.

And then – hey presto – it will be 2025, when our first meeting will take place on 28th January with a talk given by a representative of the Citizens Advice Bureau. We look forward to seeing you!

Contact: Annette Blackman 01420 543219 ablackman4@googlemail.com

Lip Reading

Observation, Interpretation, Concentration, Remembering, Anticipating, Gestures & Body Language, Facial Expression and Context - a combination of all these techniques, plus a willingness to ask for a phrase or sentence to be repeated will help towards improving understanding and communication. All



the skills are explored and practised at the monthly Lip Reading sessions held in All Saints Hall, Queens Road with Maggie Short, Lip Reading Tutor. Why not give it a try? **The next session is on Tuesday 5**th **November at 2pm.** You will be most welcome! *kaddando@amail.com* 01420 83514

Knitters Anonymous

Very many thanks to those of you who have taken up the "challenges" given over the last months, especially for the teenage sized jumpers, which are in great demand. We have also been able to send adult size warm hats to the intensive care unit and Basingstoke Hospital and the diamond shaped blankets to Bliss for premature babies. You are all the first link in the chain of people taking Comfort, Love and Support to very the needy and vulnerable. All your donations are valued and important!

Donations of knitted (and crochet) items can be brought to the next meeting on Tuesday 19th November 2pm in All Saints Hall, Queens Road or left in the box at the back of All Saints Church.

For further information contact Kate kaddando@gmail.com or 01420 83514



Spiritual Conversations

Would you like to be part of a new sort of group? A safe, accepting, inclusive space of freedom to discuss any questions about your spiritual beliefs? A sounding board to share new thoughts you have had and new ideas you have found? We are interested in forming a group of similar seekers who don't have the answers but who explore questions with ideas, experience and further questions. We come from a Christian background and are interested in all faiths. This is a group for members of faith groups, former members, never members and people of no faith at all to get support from being with other similar seekers. For those who are intrigued, puzzled, frustrated and maybe even fearful of posing questions.

Contact Peter Brown for more details: <u>1953petepete@gmail.com</u> or 07890067198

Leading Intercession Prayers Workshops

You are warmly invited to attend workshops about composing and leading intercession prayers during church services. Each workshop will last 75 minutes and we will share our knowledge, learn something new and take home some resources to help us.

If you lead intercessions at the moment, or think you would like to in the future, then please let us know. You will be most welcome.

The two workshops will be held at St Mary's Church, Bentworth Saturday 9th November 10.00-11.15 am Saturday 30th November 10.00-11.15 am Jonrooke@hotmail.co.uk

Christmas Unlocked 4th December

Flyers are now available in all our churches. Do take them to give to everyone you want to invite to this excellent event. Tickets at £5 [including mulled wine and Christmas cake] are available from Robin Kemp in person or on *familykemp@tiscali.co.uk* or phone 07957 653403.

We are also looking for volunteers to collect tickets, serve refreshments and form a small security team for this event. Contact Robin if you would like to help. We are planning to supplement the choir leading the carol singing including guest from other churches. Speak to Tony if you would like to do this.

Christmas is coming...... Tickets now available!

Utility Bill Review And / Or Pension Credit Application Support?

The utilities price cap went up by 10% on 1st October just as we head into the colder weather. At the same time, the government has removed the Winter Fuel Allowance from all of pension age, unless you are in receipt of Pension Credit – yet many who may qualify for Pension Credit don't know about it, or how to apply.

Comparing your own gas & electric costs or applying for Pension Credit can seem daunting. Everything is online and you need to know what to do and where to do it. That can be a barrier for some. So would anyone like some help; to review if you're on the best utility prices for your circumstances, and, if an older person whose sole income is the state pension, to see if you qualify for Pension Credit - and thus also the Winter Fuel Allowance?

If I can help, please reach out - either directly - or give your contact details to any of the POTR ministry team or our Anna Chaplains. They will then know where to find me! All conversations or meetings would be 100% confidential, safeguarded and follow data protection.

There is no catch and no charge. I am just a POTR parishioner offering support to others if it can be of benefit. I would be happy to speak with you.

Martyn Edwards



Notes from an "I can't believe it's almost Advent" Choir

From the Latin *Adventus* meaning an arrival or coming, Advent for many signifies the arrival of their advent calendar which seems to have moved on from its reputed origin .In 1908, a printer named Gerhard Lang produced a calendar that comprised small pictures that could be affixed to a cardboard calendar, one per day, throughout December. He got the idea from his mother, who would give him and his siblings one treat a day during the weeks leading up to Christmas. In the early 20th century, a Hamburg bookshop also published what it called a Christmas Clock. It was, to all intents and purposes, the first printed Advent calendar.

Here's another interesting fact - The town of Gengenbach in Baden-Württemberg, Germany, boasts what it calls the "Das weltgrößte Adventskalenderhaus" (the World's Largest Advent Calendar House). Every December for more than 15 years, the city's town hall is transformed into a two-story Advent calendar, with the structure's 24 windows (two rows of 11, plus two more in the roof) each decorated with a Christmas tableau, revealed one per day throughout the season. (Is this where Andrew got the idea for our Christmas window tradition around the town I wonder?) Germany seems to have had lots of ideas for Advent and Christmas Traditions. Glühwein is another good one!

But enough of door opening, for now. For the choir, Advent is all about the music and we will have a beautiful selection of seasonal treats for you at the **Advent Carol Concert on Sunday December 1**st **at 6pm.** Some will be old favourites but Tony always includes something new. You get a chance to sing your favourite Advent hymns too so do come along and bring your friends. It's a lovely start to the Christmas preparations.

These days you can have an advent calendar filled not only with chocolate but also with gin, cheese, beauty products or even diamonds. You can even get Lego and Barbie Advent calendars now! I'm not sure what any of them have to do with Christmas but , Hey Ho, 'tis the way of the world. However, It has to be said that our favourite Advent door is the one that opens across the road at the vicarage after the Advent concert! Andrew and Fiona generously treat us to sticky sausages, cheese and wine a-plenty. I suspect we manage to use up his entire social budget for the year! Well, all that singing makes us very, very thirsty. Come Shiraz, come Merlot, Rioja and Malbec!! (with apologies to the reindeer).

So Come, Oh Come St Lawrence people on December 1st and begin your Christmas preparations with an hour of joy and anticipation. Maybe this year you'll get the diamonds?!

Elaine Cook

Schools Worker Parish of the Resurrection, Alton

Can you inspire? Do you want to be part of a dynamic team?

We are looking for a Christian Children and Primary Schools Worker who can inspire children, young people and their families to flourish in their faith in Jesus and worship regularly within our community.

The Parish of the Resurrection is in the Winchester Diocese and in North East Hampshire. We are four churches with a variety of worship. Already we have a number of activities for children, schools and their families but want to see more and grow.

We are looking for someone who will work with our volunteers and give much needed strategic leadership so that we see more children & young people in our town living for Jesus and his mission.

We are seeking someone:

- to encourage children and young people to receive for themselves the gift of faith in Jesus Christ
- to seek God for a fresh vision for children, their families and primary schools in our parish
- to provide opportunities for children and young people within the parish to flourish in their faith in Jesus Christ
- to be inspiring and innovative in approach and the activities provided so that children and young people will be drawn in and nurtured
- to have responsibility, alongside the current leaders in the parish, for the pastoral care of children, young people and their families
- to build positive and fruitful relationships all the local primary schools providing resources and time for their curriculum.

This is post for someone with experience who will relish the challenge of growing our ministry and working in a large dynamic team.

25 hours a week.

£13 per hour rising to £15 after 3 months

Closing date: 4th November; Interviews likely towards the end of November. For conversation about the post, please contact Revd Andrew Micklefield on 01420 88794 or andrew@potr-alton.co.uk

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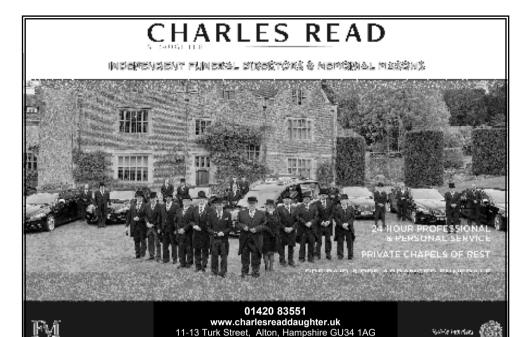


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News From St Lawrence Ce Primary School

Dear readers,

Hello! We are the new Deputy Head Boy and Deputy Head Girl (Edward and Eleanor) along with the two other Deputies who will introduce themselves next month.

We have been learning about "Golden Wonder" moments in Collective Worship. They are those times when you see something beautiful and you stop to look at it and think how amazing our world is. For example, the first conker you see in Autumn; a rainbow in the sky; the sunshine on your face. We had our very own Golden Wonder moment the other day after it had been raining and then the sun came out. There was a beautiful rainbow in the sky which was across our whole school and it looked like it was falling into Willow Class (Year R)! These moments remind us to be grateful for the wonderful world that God created and how we have to look after it.

At St Lawrence, we always want to make sure we are letting our light shine and as part of this, we have been asked to bring in paper starfish which celebrate something amazing we have done at home or outside of school. You can see that we are filling up the board in the hall very quickly! Examples on the starfish



have been: doing more piano practice without being asked; being kind to someone and achieving a new level in swimming!

Each term, Miss Jones has organised for classes to work together to write for pleasure for an afternoon. They can choose to write anything and can present it in any way they wish. Even the teachers have joined in! It is really good for us to have the opportunity and freedom to write what we want at times to encourage us to develop a love of writing. See Year 5 and 6 working together below in the photo.



This week, Sycamore Class spent the day at Fort Nelson for their school trip. It sounded like a brilliant day and they really showed the staff there how much they have learnt in class about World War 2. We even had a fantastic email sent from the Education Department about their trip – please see this further down.



Email from the Education Department:

"Dear Mrs Micklefield,

I just wanted to drop a quick email to let you know how brilliantly your year 5 class did today at Fort Nelson. They were all exceptionally polite, respectful, enthusiastic and came up with some good questions. I was also very impressed at their subject knowledge and willingness to have a go. Two students stood out further from this: one young lady in Able Squad who could tell me what ATS stands for (I did tell them in the introduction, but I have never had a pupil actually remember it before!) and another young lady in Charlie Squad who did the entire Home Guard Drill stood at either attention or at ease, eye's front as I had asked them, and she never dropped this position until I told them to fall out (only seen this a couple of times in my four years of facilitating this session).

The shop staff also commented that the whole class was one of the best-behaved and best-organized they have had in a very long time. The accompanying staff were fantastic too, the adults jumped right in with the activities and supported the children really well when needed. We wish you all the best for your academic year. Yours sincerely, Ruth Nye"

We look forward to writing to you again soon. Thank you for reading our article. From your new Deputy Head Boy and Deputy Head Girl,

Edward and Eleanor

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

At our last meeting on Monday 2nd September at Holy Rood Church we enjoyed a brilliant talk from Laura from the local Dogs for Autism Charity. The charity helps transform the lives of autistic people and their families. There were two moving stories on just how an assistance dogs helps young people and their families. The star of the evening was Arthur a gorgeous black labrador who felt very at home at Holy Rood! For more details of this amazing charity please go to www.dogsforautism.org.uk There are details on how you can sponsor a puppy or maybe even become a puppy parent.

The next Meet and Eat will be on Monday 2nd December in Holy Rood Church. More details will be 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



The December Copy Deadline is Noon Sunday 17 November - 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

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 02420 571508

Sacristan

Sarah Neish 565696

Church of the Holy Rood

Bellringing

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Flowers

Wendy Hunt 56505

Sacristan

Alan Armstrong

St Lawrence Organisations

Community Market

Clive Muller 86064

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 Whitty 84400

Andrews' Endowed CE Primary School

Headteacher

Mrs Gemma Gundry 83094

Chair of Governors

Caroline Wallis 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

November Services for POTR & BLS

3rd November

| 8am | BCP Communion Service | | St Lawrence Church |
|---------|-----------------------|--------|----------------------|
| 10.30am | POTR Communion Se | rvice | St Lawrence Church |
| 10am | Communion Service | | St Mary's, Lasham |
| 10am | Communion Service | St Pet | er & St Paul Shalden |
| 10.30am | Butts Church Service | | All Saints Church |
| 4pm | All Souls Service | | St Lawrence Church |

10th November

Remembrance Sunday

| 9.15am | Communion Service | St Peter's Church |
|---------|---|-------------------|
| 9.30am | Morning Worship | Holy Rood Church |
| 10.45am | Town Remembrance Service | The Cairn |
| 3pm | Afternoon Worship | All Saints Church |
| 6pm | Evening Prayer | St Lawrence Churc |
| 10.45am | Remembrance Service St Mary's Church, Bentworth | |
| 10.45am | Remembrance Service St Mary's Church, Lasham | |
| 6pm | Remembrance Evensong St Peter & St Paul, Shalden | |
| 10.30am | Butts Church Service All Sai | ints Church |
| | | |

17th November

| 9.30am | Communion Service | Holy Rood Church |
|---------|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| 10.30am | Communion Service | All Saints Church |
| 10.30am | Morning Worship | St Lawrence Church |
| 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 November

| 9.15am | Communion Service | St Peter's Church |
|---------|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 10.30am | Communion Service | St Lawrence Church |
| 4pm | Afternoon Worship | Holy Rood Church |
| 6pm | Informal Evening Worsh | nip 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 Church