

Sunrise

A monthly magazine for the Parish of the Resurrection, Alton

THE HOLLY



& THE IVY



December 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

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Anna Chaplain Pioneer

Debbie Thrower 07865 292401

Anna Chaplain

Kate Powell 07484 026546

Churchwardens

Matthew Bayliss 07920 002328

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Clive Muller 86064

Angie Briggs 544138

Magnus Weighton 07902 877335

Sarah Neish 565696

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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

Dear friends

A knee-high plastic Jesus (apparently) was on a shelf beside a similarly sized Santa Claus in September. I looked at them both, feeling rather nonplussed, the sun was shining, the leaves on the trees were still green and here were plastic reminders that Christmas was coming, though three months away!

Christmas is much nearer now and I expect we are getting caught up in the busyness of the season, probably involving fun, food and parties, present buying and wrapping. As we go through Advent toward Christmas Day we reflect on the promises of scripture that Messiah would come to his people to 'set them free', and look forward to celebrating the arrival of Jesus our saviour, on Christmas day.

Our Christian hope is based on the promises of God, fulfilled in Jesus Christ, that the babe in Bethlehem, the saviour we were given, is the one who rose from the dead, is alive and reigning now and whose expected return is a promise we know God will keep.

Of course, there are many views expressed on what "Christmas is all about..." For many it is about time off work with family to be together, through to those who attend a midnight service or go to church on Christmas Day to worship their saviour, 'born this happy morning'. The familiar nativity story tells the birth of the historical Jesus and, to our wonder, that this was God entering his world in human form.

Christians believe that Christmas is about the most wonderful and generous gift that has ever been given or offered to anyone. So much more than a plastic effigy! It is the true blessing of discovering God's love for you. I look forward to celebrating this wonderful truth of 'God among us', Immanuel, at our services as we sing carols and hear the angel's words again from the first Christmas, "this day a Saviour is born unto you, who is Christ the Lord".

Two gift ideas

Christmas is part of a story that began a long time ago and has not yet ended. If you are stuck for present ideas how about a book, here are a couple that you might like to give or receive!

From the author of the Bible and Romans Courses, Andrew Ollerton, *The Bible: A story that makes sense of Life*.

Rowan Williams – *Being Christian. An outline of the meaning of Baptism, Bible, Eucharist and Prayer* in only 84 pages! (Endorsed by PD James as "Elegant and Lucid".)

You might like to browse J John's website for seasonal books written for children at www.canonjjohn.com/children

Every blessing this Christmas and for the New Year.

David



Come and join us for
Alton Churches

POP-UP CAROLS

On a green space near
you 2024



Between Monday 9th December
and Friday 20th December





Eco Church Prayer for December
**We praise you for the Word made
flesh,**

**for heaven come down to earth and
earth raised up to heaven.**

**Being found in human form, Christ
embodied**

his love for the material world.

**Help us, like him, to care for the
earth of which we are part
and to give substance to our concern
for the environment.**

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 December 2024

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

Sunday 1st Advent Sunday	Fear not, Zechariah 1 Thessalonians 3: 9-13 Luke 1: 5-25		
Monday 2 nd	Psalm 50	Isaiah 42: 18 - end	Revelation 19
Tuesday 3 rd	Psalm 80 or 5	Isaiah 43: 1 - 13	Revelation 20
Wednesday 4 th	Psalm 7 or 119:1 - 32	Isaiah 43: 14 - end	Revelation 21: 1 - 8
Thursday 5 th	Psalm 42 or 15	Isaiah 44: 1 - 8	Revelation 21: 9 - 21
Friday 6 th	Psalm 25 or 19	Isaiah 44: 9 - 23	Revelation 21: 22 – 22: 5
Saturday 7 th	Psalm 9 or 23	Isaiah 44: 24 – 45: 13	Revelation 22: 6 - end
Sunday 8th Advent 2	Fear not, Mary Philippians 1: 3-11 Luke 1: 26-38 & 46-55		
Monday 9 th	Psalm 44 or 30	Isaiah 45: 14 - end	1 Thessalonians 1
Tuesday 10 th	Psalm 56 or 36	Isaiah 46	1 Thessalonians 2: 1 - 12
Wednesday 11 th	Psalm 62 or 34	Isaiah 47	1 Thessalonians 2: 13 - end
Thursday 12 th	Psalm 54 or 37	Isaiah 48: 1 - 11	1 Thessalonians 3
Friday 13 th	Psalm 86 or 31	Isaiah 48: 12 - end	1 Thessalonians 4: 1 - 12
Saturday 14 th	Psalms 145 or 42	Isaiah 49: 1 - 13	1 Thessalonians 4: 13 - end
Sunday 15th Advent 3	Fear not, Joseph Philippians 4: 4-7 Matthew 1: 18-25		
Monday 16 th	Psalm 40 or 44	Isaiah 49: 14 - 25	1 Thessalonians 5: 1 - 11
Tuesday 17 th	Psalm 70 or 48	Isaiah 50	1 Thessalonians 5: 12 - end
Wednesday 18 th	Psalm 75 or 119: 57 - 80	Isaiah 51: 1 - 8	2 Thessalonians 1
Thursday 19 th	Psalm 146	Isaiah 51: 9 - 16	2 Thessalonians 2
Friday 20 th	Psalm 46	Isaiah 51: 17 - end	2 Thessalonians 3
Saturday 21 st	Psalm 121	Isaiah 52: 1 - 12	Jude
Sunday 22nd Advent 4	Fear not, shepherds Hebrews 10: 5-10 Luke 2: 8-14		
Monday 23 rd	Psalm 130	Isaiah 52: 13 – end of 53	2 Peter 1: 1 - 15
Tuesday 24 th	Psalm 45	Isaiah 54	2 Peter 1: 16 – 2: 3
Wednesday 25 th	Psalm 110	Isaiah 62: 1 - 5	Matthew 1: 18 - end
Thursday 26 th	Psalm 13	Jeremiah 26: 12 - 15	Acts 6
Friday 27 th	Psalm 21	Exodus 33: 12 - end	1 John 2: 1 - 11
Saturday 28 th	Psalm 36	Baruch 4: 21 - 27	Matthew 18: 1 - 10
Sunday 29th Christmas 1	A festival in Jerusalem Colossians 3:12-17 & Luke 2:41-52		
Monday 30 th	Psalm 113	Isaiah 59: 1 – 15a	John 1: 19 - 28
Tuesday 31 st	Psalm 102	Isaiah 59: 15b - end	John 1: 29 - 34

The Christmas Kitchen

The kitchen is, at Christmas
A very busy room!
Lots of work in such a rush
Or Christmas Day will loom.

First there is the cake to bake
And many pastries too,
Mince pies and biscuits, festive fare
There is so much to do!

Then comes the day, the kitchen fills
With wondrous cooking smells,
As turkey roasts and parsnip toasts
The cooks must work their spells.

The dinner's on the table
We gather round and eat,
But someone has to wash the pots
And make the kitchen neat.

So have a happy Christmas,
Enjoy the festive fare,
But grab a towel and help the cook,
And show them that you care!

By Nigel Beeton

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Thank you***

Review of 'Music for an Autumn Afternoon' Alton Choral Society Concert: Saturday 26th October St Mary's Church Bentworth

Alton Choral society gave it's annual 'Music for an Autumn Afternoon' concert at St Mary's Church, Bentworth on Saturday 26th October. The concert was part of a series of events held to celebrate the recent refurbishment of St Mary's which includes a new kitchen, toilet facilities, state of the art lighting and new wooden flooring.

The choir directed by Wendy Busby and accompanied by Jane Palmer, delighted a large audience with a choral medley from Les Miserables by Claude Michel Schonberg and a collection of West end hits by Andrew Lloyd Webber.

There were also solo performances by Soprano Alison Crow singing 'Here amongst the Shady Woods' By Handel and 'By Strauss' by Gershwin. The second Handel aria 'How Beautiful are the Feet' from The Messiah was sung by alto Nancy Buck. In keeping with the autumn theme, Bass David Sheraton sang Vaughan William's arrangement of Linden Lea. Pianist Patrick Busby followed this with Franz Liszt's Concert Paraphrase on Rigoletto which is a stunning reinvention of the tune to the Verdi aria 'Bella figlia dell'amore'.

Over £700 was raised through the raffle and ticket sales. Some of the proceeds from the concert will be given to local charity 'Dementia Friendly Alton'.

Alton Choral Society's next concert will be 'The Wonder of Christmas' in The Alton Maltings Centre at 7pm on Saturday 7th December in aid of Homestart. They will be joined by Alton's excellent concert Band and Ancora female voice choir, for what promises to be a great and lively musical start to the Christmas period.

We are always looking for new members to join our friendly choir. No auditions are necessary, but a basic knowledge of reading music is recommended and a love of making music absolutely essential! We rehearse at the Salvation Army Hall on Wednesday evenings from 7.45pm.

For more details, please check out our website:

<https://www.altonchoral.org.uk/>

If you are interested in joining us, please come along to one of our rehearsals and contact our secretary at welcome@altonchoral.org.uk.





PLEASE COME TO THE ANNA CHAPLAINCY[®]
CHRISTMAS EVENT

ON: WEDNESDAY 4TH DECEMBER FROM 2-4PM
AT: ALTON METHODIST CHURCH

There will be Christmas shopping stalls,
Christmas carols, a delicious Christmas
tea and more!



We look forward to seeing you there!

Anna
Chaplaincy



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



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



Angels

In this magazine last month there was an article which mentioned angels and numbers; it evoked some conversation and thought. It seemed appropriate to me that I should do some of my own thinking and see what I understand as I read the Bible. Angels are mentioned a lot in the Bible - about 300 times - both in the Old and New Testament. The Bible is what drives our Christian Church culture. Our secular culture has an angel problem. Lots of people talk about angels - guardian angels, greetings card contain them, they get talked about on TV shows, they are given numbers, we call people 'an angel', we try and depict them in art. And all of this is often different to the picture of angels that emerges in the Bible.

So I thought I might clear up a few things - this is what I have discovered.

Angels are comforting. There's a reason nearly every time angels appear to humans in scripture, the angel begins by saying, "Be not afraid." They come to bring good news even in the midst of what might seem tragedy, confusion and disorder.

Angels are not cute winged-people, with lots of smiles and halos. So what do they look like? It depends on what form they take. Sometimes they look very much like a human being - I think Gabriel did that or we don't even recognise them as in Hebrews 13:2) - and other descriptions are a little more bizarre (read Ezekiel 1).

Angels are not dead people who have somehow got a promotion. Sometimes you hear people say something to the effect, of, "When so-and-so died, I'm sure they became an angel." No. Angels are beings in the created order, quite different from humans. Angels are as much like people as people are like dolphins. Sure, we're all made by God. But angels are heavenly beings with different tasks than those given to humans - read Psalm 8.

The Bible does not talk about guardian angels. Yes, angels sometimes help out humans. But they are doing this at God's bidding. God is the real guardian. There is certainly nothing in the Bible which would suggest that angels are assigned one-on-one to watch over particular people.

Angels lead worship. They sing a lot - mainly 'Holy, holy, holy' and in the very presence of God. In our worship we emulate them as we join our voices with angels and archangels in our celebrations of Communion. They sing out God's praise in the heavenly throng which is sometimes heard by certain people like the shepherds on the hillside in the Christmas story.

But the primary **task of angels on earth is to carry messages for God.** They are his messengers. Most of the time when angels appear, it's to bring news. Usually this is stunning news but also can be a warning. Think of the occasions

in our Nativity story! Gabriel with Mary and then Joseph and it just keeps on happening. Angels sometimes lead people on - think of Jesus leaving the temptation of the desert - "the Devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him". Angels seem to be appear in dreams quite a lot. So maybe we need to be more aware of those prompts and messages which come in our sleeping moments.

Next time you have a few minutes, read about angels. You'll find yourself in Genesis, Isaiah, the Psalms, Ezekiel, Daniel, the Gospels, and Revelation among other places.

Then please celebrate angels. They are not creatures for fear or for dark practices. They have amazing news. They deliver messages that tell us about God and his purposes. That is good news.

I am sure there is more, but for now I hope this helps.

Andrew

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The Christmas Tree Festival

Greetings my little Christmas puddings! Just a reminder about the Christmas tree festival at St. Lawrence on Saturday December 7th and Sunday December 8th . I hope you are all working on your trees!!

There is a rota at the back of the church to sign for anyone with a bit of spare time (oh how they laughed!) to help serve the refreshments. Any offers of festive fare are also gratefully received on either day. I'm always amazed at your generosity and baking skills for the festival and so are the folks who come to support us. So, thank you in advance.

In addition, I have put a box at the back for donations to the "Gwen Mackrell" Tombola. This is always popular and also gives us all an opportunity "re-gift" some items! Things for adults and children are needed.

I (or someone) will be in church from around 10.30am on Friday 6th to welcome in your trees and site them to their best advantage. The town Mayor is coming to officially open the festival at 10am on the Saturday and we want to give her the wow factor!

Finally, I hope you and your family and friends are all able to pop in over the weekend. You all know that there is no charge for entry or refreshments but all donations we do receive will go to support two very worthy charities: The Pink Place, that provides support for folks dealing with cancer and The Citizens of the World Refugee choir that The POTR has chosen as one of the charities to support this year.

I'm looking forward to another sparkly, magical Christmas Tree Festival! See you there.

Elaine Cook
The Christmas Tree fairy



2024

Christmas Tree Festival

St Lawrence Church Alton

Saturday 7th December 10 - 4pm

Sunday 8th December 12 - 4pm
(Christingle afterwards)



Free Entry & Refreshments



All Donations Will Support:

The Pink Place &
Citizens of the World Refugee Choir.

What's On . . .

Friday Coffee Morning

Friday 6th December

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 7th December 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 3rd December at 7.30pm

Simon Earl

Dir of Music, Christchurch Priory

***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
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Dear friends

This has been a traumatic time for the Church of England following the publication of the Makin Report into the appalling serial abuse done by John Smyth over a number of years before his death in 2018. The horror of reading what happened pales into insignificance when you consider the trauma of those who were abused and the ongoing scars both mental and physical it has left on the victims and survivors. We should be appalled that this was done in the name of God - a God we know as compassionate, gracious and abounding in steadfast love. The report makes abundantly clear that there were many failings by a number of people - they knew, had suspicions and were either silent, didn't follow correct safeguarding procedures or maintain a level of curiosity in what was happening. Consequently some have stood back from ministry, others are being asked to consider their positions and The Archbishop of Canterbury has resigned. Personally I think it is right that he has done so. He has taken the institutional blame as well as for his own inaction. Yet I ask you to remember him and his family in your prayers in what must be a really difficult time for them all. Please also pray for his colleagues at Lambeth and those Bishops and others who will need to take on extra duties. Please, particularly, pray for our own Bishop of Winchester as he leads us here in the Diocese where John Smyth's abuse took place before he left for Zimbabwe and South Africa. The absolute focus of our prayers need to be all those who have suffered abuse by John Smyth and those who are affected by this distressing situation.

How do we respond? First is to be join the call to prayer. Second is to repent for our own inactions and silence at injustice. Third is to stay vitally vigilant - watch, listen, have curiosity, report. Fourth is to regard safeguarding as everyone's responsibility - that's you and me. If you have any concerns then talk to Sally Kemp our Parish Safeguarding Officer (07944 587597 or potr.safeguarding@gmail.com) or to the Diocesan Safeguarding Team, (01962 737317 safeguarding@winchester.anglican.org) or local authority (0300 555 1386), or if an emergency call 999. Fifth is to remain steadfast in the faith - Jesus Christ is the Head of the Church and he hasn't resigned! He reigns in the everlasting Kingdom - Thanks be to Him! And lastly, is to keep that message of Jesus alive. Even though this is a turbulent time, with trauma and great sadness, Jesus is our hope and great is his faithfulness.

This is one of my favourite hymns and it seems appropriate.

*Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
there is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not;
as Thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be.*

*Great is Thy faithfulness!
Great is Thy faithfulness!*

*Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed Thy hand hath provided:
great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!*

*Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest;
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.*

*Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow:
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!*

Andrew



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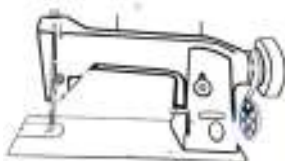
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All Saints Hard of Hearing Group



LIP READING – REMINDER! There will be **NO** Lip Reading session in December so why not make it your New Year Resolution to join us in on **7th January 2025**, 2pm in All Saints Church Hall?

WATCH MY LIPS! It will be the best decision that you make!!
kaddando@gmail.com 01420 83514

Knitters Anonymous



Happy Christmas to all our knitters, both known and unknown! Thank you, between you all you have all made this a bumper year for Knitters Anonymous! Such a variety and so many items in such bright cheerful colours all beautifully crafted and all so gratefully received by all our charities. As the December meeting would fall so close to Christmas we have decided not to meet this month (but that doesn't mean that you have to stop knitting!) so will meet again in the New Year on **Tuesday 21st January**, 2pm in All Saints Church Hall. After over ten years of collecting and passing our donations on to the Refugee charities, and more recently to the Ukraine, Susannah is sorry that, due to her work commitments, she is no longer able to continue as our contact. I, especially have been very grateful for her support and enthusiasm in that role and wish her all the best for the future. All is not lost though as we have been fortunate in making contact with a lady from Farnham, called Penny, who is happy to set all our donations off on their way to the Ukraine, so keep up your good work! Have a lovely Christmas and see you in January!

Hard of Hearing Group - All Saints Church Hall

When you read this we will have enjoyed our 'Pre Christmassy' event which took place on 26th November. Now we will have to wait until 2025 before our next meeting on 28th January, when we will hear about the work of the Citizens Advice Bureau, and the type of assistance that it can provide.

However, we hope to have a Hard of Hearing tree at the Christmas Tree Festival in St Lawrence Church on 7th and 8th December. Do come along to the church over that weekend, it is a very joyous occasion. We will have our Programme for 2025 available under the tree! – so please do take one. And contact me if you require any further information about our club!

We look forward to seeing you in 2025!
Wishing you a Happy New Year

Contact: Annette Blackman 01420 543219
ablackman4@googlemail.com

THE FRIENDLY ALTONu3a WINTER SALE IS NOW ON!

Are you are finding these long, damp winter days are getting you down? Then why not find new interests and friends with Altonu3a? There are now 65 different groups and activities, ranging from backgammon to bird-watching and crafts to current affairs, most of which can welcome new members mid-year: plus monthly coffee mornings at the Allen Gallery and monthly talks with tea at the Alton Community Centre, which are both open to all. We welcome all ages, and most groups meet in central Alton close to car-parking and bus-stops.

Reduced part-year membership rates of only £15 - £38 are available for January – August 2025, and you are welcome to have a free “taster” visit before joining (group size permitting). And, as we start to plan the 2025-6 programme, ideas for new groups are always welcome please. Do pick up a current 2024-5 “Blue Book” annual programme from the Allen Gallery, the Curtis Museum, the Library or the Community Centre; or visit our website at altonu3a.co.uk

WITH ALTON U3A YOU WILL “LEARN, LAUGH, LIVE!”



Donation To Anna Chaplaincy

Alton's Anna Chaplain, Kate Powell, was delighted to receive a donation of £1,000 from the GAP coffee morning which is held every Tuesday at Alton Methodist Church.

Making the presentation to Kate were Christine Allan and Angela Scott, two of the regular coffee makers, Revd. Andrew Micklefield and Revd. Philip Simpkins.



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Found them all and their names?
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News from St Lawrence CE Primary School

Dear readers,

Hello! We are the other pupils who make up the set of our Pupil Leadership Team: Isabelle and Hisham, Deputy Head Boy and Deputy Head Girl.

Just before our half term holiday, we all took part in our very first Poetry Slam organised by Miss Jones. Each class had a poem to memorise and then perform in the hall in front of the whole school. Mrs Lintott and Mrs Gaul were our judges for this one and the winners this time were Sycamore Class with their very poignant portrayal of "In Flanders Field." As the winners, they were able to order a book for their class. Well done everyone – a great effort and it was wonderful to see such enthusiasm for poetry.

The poems performed were:

Year R – Autumn Leaves;

Year 1- Hurt no living thing by Christina Rossetti;

Year 2 - Now we are six by AA Milne;

Year 3 - Please Mrs Butler by Allan Ahlberg;

Year 4 - Sick by Shel Silverstein;

Year 5 – In Flander’s Field;

Year 6 – Matilda by Hilaire Belloc.

We have been encouraging more pupil voice in school and Toby from Year 4 wrote to Mrs Micklefield to say that he was concerned about the effect climate change is having on endangered animals. She said that she would see what she could do and talked to Mrs Parks who is our Geography Leader. From this, the whole school had a Geography Day. The children are passionate about looking after our world. Each class had a different WWF 'Priority Place' to learn about and produced some fantastic work. Some of the classes mixed up to create an artwork inspired by the book 'The Crown' by Emily Kapff thinking about how we would want to leave the world. Year 4 had an informative biodiversity workshop from Scott Gudrich from Eco Streets Alton and they learnt so much. We also managed to raise £53 for the World Wildlife Fund which was fantastic.



Willow Class have loved their Autumn topic and have enjoyed many activities involving conkers, pine cones, paint and leaves!

Another example of Pupil Voice is that Mrs Brown is working with a new group of children called the Eco Champions. They are working on the Green Flag Award which we hope to achieve at the end of the summer. As part of this, they are going to be meeting and working with some members of the Eco Church Team from the Parish of the Resurrection. An exciting new partnership!

We have more classes having trips out and visitors in to enhance the curriculum. Year R had an exciting visit from Jason Barnes, the fireman; next week, Year 3 are going on a school trip to Butser Farm as part of their history topic and Year 5 will be enjoying a visit from the Spring Dance Company to kick off their topic on Narnia, the Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe.

We look forward to writing to you again soon. Thank you for reading our article.

*From your Deputy Head Boy and Deputy Head Girl,
Isabelle and Hisham*

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Notes from a “Manic” Christmas Choir

Not many sleeps until Christmas now folks! The first thing to note is that this year the Carol Service at St Lawrence has moved back to a Sunday and will take place on 22nd December at 6pm. (On the morning of the 22nd at 10am we will also be singing at the Bentworth Carol Service.) So here is a little challenge for you. Aim to have all your presents bought and wrapped, most of the food shopping done, all Christmas cards sent and, unless you're a Christmas eve traditionalist for putting your tree up, all decorations up and twinkling. I'm also going to attempt to achieve this happy state which is something I say every year! This will give you a little bit of “me” time where you can cross off nearly all of the lists in your head, leaving you free to attend the carol service and enjoy a glass of fizz afterwards.

In the run up to Christmas I find myself resembling *Manic Miner* in the Sinclair Spectrum computer game of the 80's. (we actually found a Spectrum in the loft the other day during our half-hearted attempt at clearing it out and Steve said “Don't throw that out! it's collectable now” What does that say about us? Will we be collectable soon too?! I've already had my Tupperware collection described as vintage!

Just to remind you, in *Manic Miner* you have to collect all the items from the cavern you are currently in to get to the next cavern (level). You must hurry, though, as the oxygen keeps running out, just like time in the run up to the celebrations. *Jet Set Willy* makes the game much more fun with the addition of various localities (e.g. the rooftop of your mansion, and the beach) and strange loonies who are out to ruin your day. Your task this time is to collect a given number of objects strewn about each of the mansion's rooms before Maria, your housekeeper, will let you go to bed. Ladies, does this sound a bit familiar...?!

Therefore, I feel it is time to take a stand, or at least a well-deserved sit down. Ignore the strange loonies (which can be tricky, I know. They're everywhere), get the family to do their own tidying up and set Maria on peeling the potatoes for Christmas roasties. It all gets just a little bit too frantic and yes chaps, I'm sorry, but bar a few exceptions, the bulk of the Christmas prep does appear to fall on us girls. The carol service provides the perfect opportunity to sit back, relax and “take a beat” as they say. The music will lift your spirits and soothe your restless souls with singing and candlelight, joy and celebration for an hour or so before you find yourselves in the queue for the turkey on Christmas Eve!

Wishing you all a Happy and less manic Christmas.

Elaine Cook and St Lawrence Choir



"I'm sorry Michael – even if you HAVE changed your ring-tone to 'Away In-A-Manger', it's still ALL mobiles OFF!"

Sunrise
IT'S YOURS TO ENJOY

**The January Copy Deadline is Noon
Sunday 15 December - 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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Hard of Hearing Group

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or Julia Poole 07840 066211

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David Allan 84739

December Services includes Christmas

1st December

8am	BCP Communion Service	St Lawrence Church
10am	GAP Advent Service	Alton Methodist Church
6pm	Advent Carol Service	St Lawrence Church
4pm	Service of Light	St Mary's, Lasham
10.30am	Butts Church Service	All Saints Church

8th December

9.15am	Communion Service	St Peter's Church
9.30am	Morning Worship	Holy Rood Church
10.30am	Communion Service	St Lawrence Church
3pm	Afternoon Carol Service	All Saints Church
4pm	Christingle Service	St Lawrence Church
10am	Communion Service	St Mary's Church, Bentworth
10.30am	Butts Church Service	All Saints Church

15th December

9.30am	Communion Service	Holy Rood Church
10.30am	Communion Service	All Saints Church
10.30am	Morning Worship	St Lawrence Church
5pm	Carol Service	St Mary's Church, Lasham
6.30pm	Butts Church Service	All Saints Church

22nd December

9.15am	Communion Service	St Peter's Church Beech
10.30am	Communion Service	St Lawrence Church
4pm	Carol Service	Holy Rood Church
6pm	Nine Lessons & Carols	St Lawrence Church
10am	Carol Service	St Mary's Church, Bentworth
5pm	Carol Service	St Peter & St Paul, Shalden

22nd December continued

10.30am	Butts Church Service	All Saints Church
6.30pm	Butts Church & All Saints Carol Service	All Saints Church

Christmas Eve

3pm	Crib Service	Holy Rood Church
4pm	Crib Service	St Lawrence Church
3pm	Christingle	St Mary's Church, Bentworth
11.15pm	Midnight Communion	St Mary's Church, Bentworth
11.15pm	Midnight Communion	St Lawrence Church
11.15pm	Midnight Communion	Holy Rood Church

Christmas Day

8am	BCP Communion Service	St Lawrence Church
9.15am	Christmas Communion Service	St Peter's Church Beech
9.30am	Christmas Communion Service	Holy Rood Church
10.30am	Christmas Family Communion	St Lawrence Church
11am	Christmas Traditional Communion	All Saints Church
10am	Christmas Communion	St Mary's Church, Lasham
10am	Christmas Communion	St Peter & St Paul, Shalden
9.30am	Butts Church	All Saints Church

29th December

8am	BCP Communion Service	St Lawrence Church
10.30am	GAP Communion Service	St Lawrence Church
10am	BLS Altogether Service	St Mary's Lasham

Wednesday, 10am, Holy Communion - All Saints Church