



## Parish Matters

### Welcome...

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

**Sunday 15th December 2024**

**The 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

### This week's special prayers

#### The collect of the week

God for whom we watch  
and wait, you sent John  
the Baptist to prepare the  
way of your Son:  
give us courage to speak  
the truth, to hunger for  
justice, and to suffer for  
the cause of right,  
with Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen

#### 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.

### Welcome to today's service

#### Fear not, Joseph

**Safeguarding** is at the heart of everything we do in PoTR and we take very seriously the welfare and protection of all those involved in church activities. Safeguarding is every one's responsibility, but here it is overseen by Sally Kemp, Parish Safeguarding Officer: 07944 587597 or [potr.safeguarding@gmail.com](mailto:potr.safeguarding@gmail.com) or via the Parish Office.

### Prayers

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

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

Please pray for each person by name.

**Those who are ill and require prayer:** Bethan, Charlotte, Sarah Broadbent, Sally Stoodley, Dennis Milns, Alex Cannon, Paddy Mendham, Jill, Judith Shadey, Barry Edwards, Ingrid Owen-Jones, Faye Ellen Compton, Tony Marchant, Sarah Emery, Patrick Hounsham and Judy Brown.

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

**Those who are bereaved – families and friends of** Joan Perry, Anne Jones, John Hanrahan and Mon Spiers

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

### This week's extra Services

- **Morning Prayer on Facebook** 9am Monday to Friday @potralton
- **Teddies** toddler group at St Lawrence Church 9.30am on Mondays
- **GAP Traidcraft Coffee Morning**, every Tuesday from 10-12 at Alton Methodist Church
- **Holybourne Coffee morning** followed by Prayers on Tuesday 10am-11.45am (Prayers 11:45 am to 12 noon) at Church of the Holy Rood.
- **Teddies** toddler group at Holybourne Church 9.45am on Wednesday
- **Holy Communion** at All Saints at 10am on Wednesday

## News and notices

Christmas Service Cards are available in our Churches. Please share these with your friends and neighbours and invite them along to our services across the Christmas period. Thank you.

**Christingle at St Lawrence** A big thank you to everyone who helped with the Christingle last week – making the Christingle bags, all who helped with the service and all who attended it. The donations received to date for the Children's Society is £93.14 with more coming in. Carol Williams

**13<sup>th</sup> St Lawrence Christmas Tree Festival** A huge thank you to all who supported the 13<sup>th</sup> Christmas tree festival in so many ways. There were 77 beautiful trees and such generous donations. We will announce the final amount next week. These donations will be divided between The Pink Place and The Citizens of the World choir.

No doubt there will be a 14<sup>th</sup> festival! Thank you all from the bottom of my Christmas fairy heart. Elaine

**Holy Rood Church Advent Sheep Trail** Find the Christmas Sheep all around Holybourne between 1<sup>st</sup> December to 30<sup>th</sup> December. Once you have found them all and their names, write them down and deliver the list to the Vicarage, 7 Church Lane, Holybourne or leave at Holy Rood church for your chance to win one of the knitted sheep. Don't forget to leave a contact email. Good luck!

**Pop Up Carols on a Green Space near you.** If you love traditional carol singing, why not come along to one of our Pop Up carol events? We have joined up with the Butts Church and Harvest Church to bring 16 different carol singing events around Alton, Holybourne and Beech; many with live musical accompaniment and mince pies. Please see our website for a list of the dates and locations. [www.potr-alton.co.uk/pop-up-carols-on-a-green-space-near-you/](http://www.potr-alton.co.uk/pop-up-carols-on-a-green-space-near-you/) Everyone is welcome to come along. Remember to wrap up warm and bring your torches.

**Alpha 2025** Alton area churches will be hosting another Alpha course. The next sessions will start on **Wednesday January 15<sup>th</sup>**, 7pm at Alton Maltings. The session starts with a free hot meal followed by a video and then a discussion. Alpha is open to everyone and is a chance to explore the Christian faith in a friendly, informal environment. Contact [altonplusalpha@gmail.com](mailto:altonplusalpha@gmail.com) to find out more.

**The Bereavement Journey** Are you grieving the death of a loved one or struggling with the long-term effects of loss? The Bereavement Journey is a seven week programme of short videos and focussed conversations, providing a safe space for you to process your bereavement and discern your next steps. Topics include attachment; separation and loss; difficult feelings; rites of passage; the impact and pain of bereavement; coping with others; coping with change; moving forward; and an optional session on questions of faith. Friday mornings 10am - 12 noon, **January 24<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> March** at The Alton Maltings Centre. Suggested voluntary contribution £20 (for the whole course). To book your place, or to find out more about it, please email [bereavement@potr-alton.co.uk](mailto:bereavement@potr-alton.co.uk) or phone Wendy Burnhams 07514280362

**Alton Foodbank** Thank you for your continuing support. If you would like to donate this December, they are in need of the following; breakfast cereal, tinned custard, tinned meat (eg hot dogs, stewing steak) tinned fish, long life sponge puddings, long life fruit juice, long life milk, tinned rice pudding.

**Note for 29<sup>th</sup> December** - POTR/BLS & Alton Methodist Church all meet together for one service at 10,30am in St Lawrence led by Andrew.

## Next Sunday Services 22nd December

### Fear not, shepherds

9.15am	<b>Communion Service</b>	St Peter's Church, Beech
10.30am	<b>Communion Service</b>	St Lawrence Church
4pm	<b>Carol Service</b>	Holybourne Church
6pm	<b>Service of Nine Carols and Lessons</b>	St Lawrence Church
10am	<b>Carol Service</b>	St Mary's Church, Bentworth
5pm	<b>Carol Service</b>	St Peter & St Paul's, Shalden

## The Ministry Team

**Vicar:** Revd Canon Andrew Micklefield [andrew@potr-alton.co.uk](mailto:andrew@potr-alton.co.uk) 01420 88794

**Associate Vicar:** Revd David Chattell [david@potr-alton.co.uk](mailto:david@potr-alton.co.uk) 01420 513555

**Assistant Priest:** Revd Bruce Nicole [revbrucenicole@gmail.com](mailto:revbrucenicole@gmail.com) 07974 021764

**Assistant Priest:** Revd Peter Brown [petelaine@btinternet.com](mailto:petelaine@btinternet.com) 07890 067198

**Assistant Priest:** Revd Lynn Power [revlynnpower@outlook.com](mailto:revlynnpower@outlook.com) 07850 232995

**Assistant Priest:** Revd Martin East [martineast@btinternet.com](mailto:martineast@btinternet.com) 01420 549595

**Assistant Priest:** Revd Jon Rooke [jonrooke@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jonrooke@hotmail.co.uk) 07519 046593

**Assistant Priest:** Revd Wendy Burnhams [wendy@burnhamsfamily.co.uk](mailto:wendy@burnhamsfamily.co.uk)  
07514280362

**LLM:** Elaine Brown [55elainebrown@gmail.com](mailto:55elainebrown@gmail.com) 07779 217053

**Anna Chaplain** Kate Powell [annachaplainalton@gmail.com](mailto:annachaplainalton@gmail.com) 07539 026546

**Anna Chaplain Pioneer & LLM:** Debbie Thrower  
[debbie.annachaplain@hotmail.com](mailto:debbie.annachaplain@hotmail.com)

**General Enquiries to the Parish Administrators** Philippa Penfold & Ellie Elder

**Office email address** [office@potr-alton.co.uk](mailto:office@potr-alton.co.uk) **01420 513881**

The Parish Office will be open Monday to Thursday 9am to 12pm.

**Please note the office will be shut for the Christmas period from Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December. We will reopen on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> January. We will be monitoring emails during this time**

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

