

# January 2024



*Happy New Year from Churches Together.*

If you see this in time don't forget the Boxing Day morning walk leaving St. Gregory's car park at 10.00 a.m. (2-3 hours "fairly flat")

## Looking Forward

- **The Week Of Prayer For Christian Unity Lunch** will be held at St Gregory's on **Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> January** (12.15 p.m. for 12.30 p.m.). **To book please** either sign the sheets in St John's, St Gregory's and Alresford Methodist Church (from 31<sup>st</sup> December) or email [wjrp@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:wjrp@hotmail.co.uk) or phone 01962 738 788 **on or before 14<sup>th</sup> January**. When booking please advise food allergies or intolerances or other dietary requirements. Please bring your own crockery, cutlery, drinking glass etc. (main course and dessert) and drink (if anything other than water is required). No charge but cash donations will be very welcome on the day.
- **Lent (14<sup>th</sup> February – 28<sup>th</sup> March) - Lectio Divina**  
This is an early warning of what we are planning: **The Lectio Course – How to hear God by Praying the Bible** – is a five-session video series with Pete Greig and guests exploring the ancient practice of Lectio Divina. For more information go to [www.24-7prayer.com/resource/lectio-course](http://www.24-7prayer.com/resource/lectio-course) Further information will be out in the New Year, and we hope to be able to provide course-time options for morning and evening as needed, either in people's homes or in church halls. For further information and to book early, please contact Piers Armstrong on 07908 689009 or [piers.armstrong@gmail.com](mailto:piers.armstrong@gmail.com)
- **Wintershall** – We are investigating the possibility of a group visit to "The Life of Christ" at the Wintershall estate on 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> or 22<sup>nd</sup> June. Quoting from <https://www.wintershall.org.uk/life-christ-2024> *"the greatest story of all time is movingly recreated with authentic detail, outstanding quality sound and music. The Life of Christ is a passion play not to be missed. It is both educational and entertaining, amusing and serious. Watch as a hundred actors bring the story of Jesus to life in an open-air epic production set in stunning Surrey countryside. Young and old from all walks of life will be mesmerised as the story unfolds across three captivating acts from 10am to 3.30pm. The retelling of this evocative story against the peaceful backdrop of the Wintershall grounds has a profound effect on visitors. Perfect for schools, families, faith groups or theatre lovers, The Life of Christ is highly entertaining and unforgettable"*.  
The adult ticket price is £30 (Family of 2 adults and 2 children £80). If attending this event appeals, please sign the lists at the back of St John's,

St Gregory's and Alresford Methodist Church (or contact any CTIA representative) on or before 21<sup>st</sup> January (specifying your preferred date if any) and if there is sufficient interest further enquiries will be made. At this stage all we are after is an expression of interest not a firm commitment. Wintershall is near Guildford (GU5 0LR) so the cost and logistics of travel would also need to be considered.

### **Looking Back**

Thanks to all who supported the inspirational Awayday on "Making Disciples" led by Revd. Cris Rogers at St Peter's Ropley on 21<sup>st</sup> October. If you weren't able to attend, or you were there and wish to explore the topic further have a look at <http://wearemakingdisciples.com/> for further information

### **CTIA Charity**

For some years CTIA has had a chosen charity towards which the proceeds of its modest fundraising efforts are directed during a two year period. Until last autumn Winchester Youth Counselling was the chosen charity, albeit because of the effect of the Covid pandemic for more than two years. From the autumn the chosen charity is Firefly International, a charity dear to CTIA's Chair Rosemary Chambers and her family. Rosemary's daughter Maria is Firefly International's Projects Co-Ordinator. Firefly believes the way to support children whose lives have been affected by war and its aftermath is to work with small, local projects and people who know what is needed on the ground making sure its work has the greatest impact. For further information see <https://fireflyinternational.org/> or ask Rosemary!

### **Christmas Shoeboxes 2023**

A final word to thank all who contributed in any way to Alresford Rotary being able in early November to deliver 451 boxes of gifts (and assorted knitted items) to the Rotary depot in Boscombe from where (with some 18,000 other boxes) they were sent to disadvantaged and displaced children in Moldova, Montenegro, Poland, Romania and Ukraine aged up to 15. This was a real community effort to which many local individuals and organisations contributed. With apologies for any omissions boxes of gifts were given by both Sun Hill schools and the Primary schools in West Meon, Ropley, Cheriton and Itchen Abbas and St.Peter's R.C. Primary school in Winchester, Northington and Swarraton and Alresford Womens' Institutes, Old Alresford Mothers Union, and CTIA/local churches as well as Rotary. Thank you on behalf of the children.

*James Pinniger*

*The CTIA Committee currently consists of:*

*St Gregory's: Rosemary Chambers (Chair), Piers Armstrong, and Laura Brill*

*Alresford Methodist Church: Jon Hughes, Jon Whale and Ruth Wintle*

*St John's: James Pinniger, Jackie Connell and Sarah Wilding*