

ARLE VALLEY BENEFICE

*St John's Church, New Alresford ♦ St Mary's Church, Old Alresford
St Peter's Church, Ovington ♦ All Saints Church, Bighton*

December 15th : Third Sunday of Advent

Welcome to our worship today. If you are a newcomer, please make yourself known to the Clergy or one of the Churchwardens after the service.

If you are hard of hearing, there is a hearing loop system in operation at St John's, St Peter's and St Mary's. If moving is difficult and you wish to have communion brought to you, please ask the Churchwarden on duty.

If you would like to use a Service booklet or hymn book, they are always available from the Sidespeople as you come into church.

We would encourage quiet time for 5 minutes before the start of each service.

You are welcome to take this pew sheet home with you.

Services this Sunday:

- 09.30: St John's: Parish Communion (Rev'd Heather)**
- 10.00: St Peter's: Morning Praise (Charlotte, Peter & Susan)**
- 11.00: St Mary's: Parish Communion (Rev'd Heather)**
- 16.30: All Saints: Carol Service (Ian Waring Green)**
- 18.00: St Gregory's: CTiA Carol Service**

Services in the coming Week:

Monday December 16th

09.00: *All Saints: Morning Prayer (Rev'd Heather)*

Tuesday December 17th

09.00: *St John's: Morning Prayer (Rev'd Heather)*

Wednesday December 18th

09.00: *St Mary's: Morning Prayer (Rev'd Heather)*

10.00: *St John's: Holy Communion (Rev'd Heather)*

followed by coffee in the John Pearson Hall

Thursday December 19th

09.00: *St Peter's: Morning Prayer (Rev'd Heather)*

Sunday December 22nd: Fourth Sunday of Advent

08.00: *St John's: Holy Communion BCP (Rev'd Heather)*

09.30: *St John's: Celtic Service of the Word*

(Jackie Connell & Angela Peel)

11.00: *All Saints: Parish Communion (Rev'd Heather)*

16.00: *St Peter's: Carols by Candlelight (Rev'd Heather)*

17.00: *St Mary's: Carol Service (Sue Armstrong)*

18.00: *St John's: Nine Lessons and Carols (Angela Peel)*

*God of hope and promise, be with us throughout this Advent season
and draw us even closer as we journey together
toward the stable and birth of your son, our saviour. Amen.*

This week's notices...

What's on this week:

Prayer Meeting for the parish and our community - every Friday at 10-11am in St John's Church - *feel free to drop in.* **Note:** this Friday 13th will be in the Vestry.

Solos Afternoon Tea - Sunday 15th December at 2.30pm in JPH *including...*

Sunshine Singers Christmas Musical (see notice on next page)

CTiA Carol Service - Sunday 15th December at 6pm at St Gregory's.

CTiA Carol Singing at Makins Court and Bailey House - Tues 17th December.

Wednesdays with Heather - Wednesday 18th December at 10.45am in JPH.

Chill Chat and Chomp! - Wednesday 18th December at 5pm in St John's Vestry.

Chatterbox - Thursday 19th December at 10-11am in JPH.

Gospel Collective Winter Concert - Thurs 19th December at 7pm in St John's.

Table Talk - Friday 20th December at 12 noon in JPH.

CTiA Carols Around Town - Sat 21st December 11am-1pm at Wessex Pharmacy.

Prayers around the Tree of Remembrance - Sat 21st December 12.30pm.



Live Streaming at St John's:

The link for the live-streaming of services at St John's is:

www.youtube.com/@thearlevalleybenefice5720/streams

It will come up under a Live heading with a green oblong with a small round picture of St John's underneath. Click on the oblong and it will open the live stream.

Prayer requests: If you would like the Prayer team to pray for you, your family, friends or any other situation, please contact Rosie Waring Green: rosie@22rwg.co.uk or 01962 733237. We of course always respect the confidentiality of your requests.



The Sunshine Singers are singing a short 20 minute Christmas Musical at St John's on Sunday 15th December at 2.30pm for the Solos Group and all are welcome to come and support the children as well as to hear their beautiful singing.

Further details from Rosie. No tickets required.

Solos: Our next Solos afternoon tea will be on Sunday 15th December 2024. We will meet in the Church at 2.30pm as we have been invited to the Sunshine Singers Christmas story which we all enjoyed last year. Afterwards we will go into the John Pearson hall for our Christmas Tea. *Do hope that you can join us for this.*

Information: Margaret 735185 Marion 733921 Roger 734045

Rector: Rev'd Heather Brearey Email: arlevalleyrector@gmail.com Tel: 01962 732105
Benefice website: www.arlevalleychurches.org.uk

This week's notices...

Bishop David is to be the next Bishop of Truro!

He and Helen will be moving to Cornwall sometime in the early spring. Bishop David is well known and loved in our Benefice and by way of a farewell will be preaching at a special service at St John's. On Sunday 2nd February 2025, 9.30am with a bring and share meal afterwards in the JPH. Please put the date in your diary.

Please keep Bishop David and Helen in your prayers as they prepare for this new chapter. *Revd. Heather*

CTiA Carol Service: Please join us for the Churches Together Community Carol Service at 6pm on Sunday 15th December at **St Gregory's**.

Next Tuesday, Churches Together will be carol singing at Makins Court at 6pm and at Bailey House at 7pm. We meet at 5:45pm in St Gregory's car park and would love it if you could be with us. We shall also be singing carols at the top of Broad St at 11:00 on Saturday 22nd December so please come and help us to make a really loud and joyful sound.

There will be a short service of Prayers round the Tree of Remembrance at 12:30pm in St John's on Saturday 21st December. This service is for anyone who will be especially missing a loved one this Christmas time.

Mid-week Communion: Please note there will be no mid week-communion service on Wednesday, 1st January at St. John's.

Festive Fun Quiz: £2.00, is now available from Six West, Oxley's Bookshop, St. John's or St. Mary's Churches.

St. Mary's is fundraising to provide a much-needed toilet and kitchenette inside the church. *Support for the Quiz and any donations would be greatly appreciated.*

A Christmas Message from Abuna Elias Chacour:

"Dear friends,

We are still living in a kind of miracles survival amidst the ongoing brutal war. We are all deeply affected with an almost daily course of rockets and of similar war machines against the neighbouring countries. Meanwhile, we are trying our utmost to keep calm, and as much as possible to keep living in peace.

In my name and in the name of all our students and staff, we wish you a real Happy Christmas and we thank you for your friendship and for your assistance directly to us, or through the good care of Pilgrims of Ibillin and Ashray."

The above is an extract from a longer letter from Abuna Elias Chacour.

Please direct:

- ▶ **Material for notices: please email Rob Attenborough at notices@arlevallychurches.org.uk Deadline: 3pm Thursday.**
- ▶ **Information about those in hospital to Jackie Connell 732056 or Patricia Todd 738408 or Keith Sweetland 735255.**
- ▶ **Information for Intercessions to the churchwardens.**

Ordinary people
doing extraordinary
things

GOSPEL COLLECTIVE ALRESFORD

Winter Concert
£10 per adult
Children under 16 free



ST. JOHN'S CHURCH
ALRESFORD

Thursday 19th December
7pm - 9pm including
refreshments



Scan for tickets or visit
gospelcollective.co.uk



This is the link for the Gospel Choir concert on 19th December:
www.gospelcollective.co.uk
then go to Events at the top and it comes up with the Alresford Winter concert.
Any problems, let Rosie know.



An opportunity to remember all our loved ones.

Saturday, 21st December at 12.30pm
St. John's Church, New Alresford

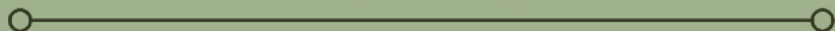
Prayers Around the Tree of Remembrance

You are warmly invited to come and place a star on this tree in memory of someone who will be especially in your thoughts this Christmas time.

Please write the name of the person you are remembering on a star and tie it onto the tree.



St. John's is open daily until dusk.



The Bereavement Journey...

Are you grieving the loss of a loved one, or struggling with the long-term effects of loss? A seven week course will soon be running in your area.



Friday mornings
10am - 12 noon,
January 24th - 7th March
at The Alton Maltings Centre.

To book your place, email
bereavement@potr-alton.co.uk

or phone Wendy Burnhams
on **07514 280 362**

Suggested Voluntary contribution
£20 for the whole course

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, an optional session on Questions of Faith

Collect and Readings for the Third Sunday of Advent

Collect:

O Lord Jesus Christ,
who at your first coming sent your messenger
to prepare your way before you:
grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries
may likewise so prepare and make ready your way
by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just,
that at your second coming to judge the world
we may be found an acceptable people in your sight;
for you are alive and reign with the Father
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen



First Reading: Philippians 4.4-7

To be announced as a Reading from the Epistle to the Philippians

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

*At the end the reader will say: **This is the Word of the Lord**
The response is: **Thanks be to God***

Gospel: Luke 3.7-18

When the Gospel is announced we respond with:

Glory to you, O Lord

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.'

And the crowds asked him, 'What then should we do?' In reply he said to them, 'Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.' Even tax-collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, 'Teacher, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.' Soldiers also asked him, 'And we, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.' As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

At the end the reader will say: This is the Gospel of the Lord

The response is: **Praise to you, O Christ**



Post Communion Prayer

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts;
kindle in us the fire of your Spirit
that when your Christ comes again
we may shine as lights before his face;
who is alive and reigns now and for ever.

Amen

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Post Communion (3rd of Advent) © Westcott House, Cambridge

For Prayer

Please pray for:

- Those who are in **hospital**
- Those who are ill **at home** or recovering from being in hospital
- Those **receiving on-going care**
- Those in **Nursing and Rest Homes**
- **Home Communicants**
- **R.I.P.** Those who have recently died. We pray too for their families.

Please pray for...

Abuna Elias Chacour and the staff and students of the Mar Elias Educational Institutions, Ibillin, Israel. (*please see the Christmas Message on page 3.*)

Our world and especially the Middle East where tensions are so rife. Pray that Syria will move into a more stable period following the ousting of President Bashar-al-Assad, that the ceasefire between Israel and Hezbollah will hold, and for the desperate people of Gaza, remembering the 35 killed this week in Israeli strikes. Pray for all world leaders that they may be filled with compassion and a yearning for peaceful negotiation.

All who are having to rebuild their lives and their homes following the two storms of recent weeks.

All who are having to work extra long hours trying to meet the additional demands of the Christmas season. Pray for those who are struggling financially because of the additional costs of Christmas, remembering especially parents desperate to give their children gifts they can ill afford.

The NHS, especially our hospitals which are already struggling because of the rising number of patients with flu. Pray that more will accept the vaccination against flu. Hold before God all who are feeling lonely, anxious or depressed at this time and those who find the Christmas season particularly difficult.

Bishop David and Helen as they prepare to move to Truro; for Heather and all preparing and leading Christmas services. Hold before God all who will come to services in the coming weeks that they will be filled with the wonder of this amazing birth.

*Lord, show us your paths, so we might walk with you more closely,
our hand in your hand, our feet in your footsteps
from the baby in the stable to eternity. Amen.*