Arle Valley Voice

March 2025 £1.60

Church & Community Magazine













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Editorial

Spring is at last on its way—we have seen snow-drops and the birds are beginning to nest in spite of the cold, wet weather. Personally I am fed up with mud and

having to wash my dog every day.

I hope some of us have been down to feed the ducks as Amy's table has been repaired and the food bags are available. This is now an important feature of Alresford.

This magazine is meant to be both a church and community magazine—I get quite a lot of material on the church side but it would be lovely if some of our readers could give us some non-church articles—books, walks, history, anything that is of interest so do send it to me.

I am a comparative newcomer to the area so there is lots I don't know and I am sure others would also like to hear about local events.

On the church side this month of March has so many events to remember that we can only look at a few. St Joseph—Mary's husband has his day and too often we forget his contribution to Jesus's life as his earthly Dad. Then there is Oscar Romero a brave man who spoke against injustice and was shot while celebrating Mass.

Please email contributions and comments to cstryton@gmail.com. The preferred format at the moment is Microsoft Publisher or Word otherwise a pdf. Please as plain as possible as formats do not transfer from one programme to another. Please copy in events@stjohnsalresford.org.uk for additional publicity on our Facebook page and inclusion in St John's online Events Diary. The deadline for each month is the 10th of the month before. And if you use some of the businesses advertising do tell them you saw them in this magazine. Please note that we do not endorse any advert

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Apologies for any mistakes. However we are all volunteers and not professional so, sorry, errors will happen.

This magazine only keeps going with the quality it has because people subscribe each year so please do consider that. Contact Caroline Hawkins chawkins826@sky.com

Each issue costs £1.60 but a year's subscription is an economic option at £15.00.

March Church Services for the Arle Valley Benefice

NEW ALRESFORD St John the Baptist

Sunday 2 March: Sunday next before Lent

09.30 Parish Communion

16.00 Families @ 4

Wednesday 5 March: Ash Wednesday

10.00 Ash Wednesday Communion with Ashing

Sunday 9 March: 1st Sunday of Lent

09.30 Breakfast Church

18.00 Sunday @ 6

Sunday 16 March: 2nd Sunday of Lent

09.30 Parish Communion

Sunday 23 March: 3rd Sunday of Lent

08.00 Holy Communion BCP

09.30 Celtic Service of the Word

Sunday 30 March: 4th Sunday of Lent: Mothering

Sunday

09.30 Mothering Sunday Communion Service

Every Tuesday 09.00 Morning Prayer

Every Wednesday 10.00 Midweek Holy Communion

OLD ALRESFORD

St Mary the Virgin

Sunday 2 March: Sunday next before Lent

11.00 Village Family Praise

Sunday 9 March: 1st Sunday of Lent

09.30 Morning Praise

Sunday 16 March: 2nd Sunday of Lent

11.00 Parish Communion CW

Sunday 23 March: 3rd Sunday of Lent

09.30 Holy Communion BCP

Sunday 30 March: 4th Sunday of Lent: Mothering

Sunday

11.00 Mothering Sunday Service

Every Wednesday 09.00 Morning Prayer



↑ Arle Valley ↑ Benefice ↓

OVINGTON St Peter's

Sunday 2 March: Sunday next before Lent

11.00 No service

Sunday 9 March: 1st Sunday of Lent

11.00 Parish Communion

Sunday 16 March: 2nd Sunday of Lent

10.00 Morning Praise

Sunday 23 March: 3rd Sunday of Lent

11.00 No service

Sunday 30 March: 4th Sunday of Lent: Mothering

Sunday

11.00 Mothering Sunday Café Church

Every Thursday 09.00 Morning Prayer

BIGHTON All Saints

Sunday 2 March: Sunday next before Lent

11.00 No service

Sunday 9 March: 1st Sunday of Lent

11.00 Morning Prayer

Sunday 16 March: 2nd Sunday of Lent

11.00 Morning Prayer

Sunday 23 March: 3rd Sunday of Lent

11.00 Parish Communion

Sunday 30 March: 4th Sunday of Lent: Mothering

Sunday

11.00 Mothering Sunday Service

Every Monday 09.00 Morning Prayer

Calendar

February 21st 12 noon Table Talk will show the film The Way to go with a forthcoming Lent group March 1st 7.00pm Old Alresford Pub Night 11.00am Family Sunday@ St Mary's March 2nd 11.00am Café Church @ St Peter's March 2nd March 2nd 7.00pm Toads Audition for Spring Show March 3rd 10.00am Mondays@ 10 in Old Alresford March 5th Ash Wednesday March 5th 7.30pm WI Right Plant Right Place 2.30pm World Day of Prayer @ Methodist Church March 7th March 8th 2.00pm Board Games Café March 9th Breakfast Church @ St John's 9.30am March 12th 7.30pm Alresford Horticultural Society March 15th 10.00am Safeguarding training @ St John's ◆ March 15th Marie Curie Daffodil Day 2.30pm Solos Sunday Tea March 16th March 23rd 9.30am Celtic Service @ St John's March 26th 2.00pm Book Group on Under the Greenwood Tree March 27th 2.30pm. Art Society. Big Cats in Acrylic March 29th 7.30pm Southern Voices in Winchester March 30th Mothering Sunday 11.00am Café Church @ St Peter's March 30th 10.30am Dog Walk in aid of Home Start April 4th School Easter Holidays start April 7th April 11th 6.30pm Alresford Rotary Quiz Night 9.00am. St John's Spring Clean April 12th April 13th Palm Sunday April 13th 12 noon St Peter's Ovington APCM April 18th Good Friday April 20th Easter Sunday April 27th 12 noon All Saints, Bighton APCM 8.00pm St John's New Alresford APCM April 29th



The Rector



I am writing this month's letter a week before Valentines Day in order to meet the deadline before I go away on holiday with my lovely family. (I'll be back home by the time you read this!!)

I don't know about you but I'm not really on board with the whole Valentine's day thing. I am very much on board with the command of Jesus for us to love one another. Fully signed up to that and if that was what Valentine's day was all about I would be it's biggest fan!

If music be the food of love, play on;...

These are the opening words from Act 1, Scene 1 of William Shakespeare's play Twelfth night. I wonder how important music is within your life? Is it just noise? The car radio set to come on when you start up. The radio goes on as soon as you walk in through the door. Or is it part of who you are? Something that runs throughout your life, whether you are a performer or an avid fan.

I wonder if you ever looked up the number one on the day you were born? Mine is 'Good Vibrations' by the Beach Boys. They had knocked Tom Jones off the top spot with his rendition of *The Green Green Grass of home!* You may remember it was a love song about a man and his Mary, and it transpires as the lyrics continue that he is dreaming whilst locked in a cell in prison!

I am sure there are many locked in cells in prisons as I write this who are dreaming of their loved ones and wanting to be with them.

Good vibrations sung beautifully by the Beach Boys is also a love song. It is much softer than Tom Jones's song, includes the lyrics 'I knew she was kind'.

The lyrics to songs can often have a profound effect on us and feel like an outpouring of the lyricist's heart. Throughout the bible there are songs, these too are an outpouring of human hearts directed to God – both in times of joy and celebration, and times of personal and global heartache. We don't know what the original tunes sounded like, but musicians and composers over the centuries have written tunes and scores to put these words to music and these too have a profound effect on the hearer.

Music and song are the heartbeat of creation and as we move into the spring and then summer months, every day we are given our own unique concert as we are woken by beautiful bird song.

We are fortunate to live in a community that provides lots of opportunities to attend concerts events or even, dare I say it, a church service. I hope we will all listen to our own heartbeat and that through that

which we hear, something will resonate profoundly within us that will encourage us to seek shared experiences in order to encourage a united world.

We can begin with little steps of trying our very best to love each other, to show kindness. Always.

With love

Revd. Heather



Official Business

St John's Electoral Roll

The Electoral Roll is revised every year prior to the Annual Meeting. In order to vote at the APCM, or to be elected to the PCC or any office, you must be on the Roll. Every six years the Roll has to undergo a complete revision and this means that, this year, 2025 all those currently on the Roll and anyone wishing to apply for the first time will need to complete a new application form. Should you be unsure if you are already on the Roll, there is a copy in the Parish Office or you can ask our Electoral Roll Officer, Janet Pooley. The closing date for entry on the Roll is <u>Tuesday 7th April</u>, after which no names may be added until the APCM has been held on Tuesday 22nd April. You can download a form from the Arle Valley Benefice web site (look under 'Our Churches – Electoral Roll) or apply with a paper form available at the back of the church or direct from Janet. Completed forms should be left in the Parish Office or be sent to the address below. If preferred, the completed form once signed and dated may be sent to the Parish office by email to arlevalleychurches@gmail.com.

Janet Pooley, 8 The Mulberries, Off Station Approach, Alresford SO24 9FL. Tel 01962 732779.

ST. JOHN'S ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING-TUESDAY APRIL 29th AT 8PM IN THE CHURCH

You are invited to attend this Annual Parochial Church Meeting. At the meeting, we will be electing or re-electing Churchwardens, and PCC members to serve from 2024, as well as the normal reporting functions of the annual meeting. To be eligible to stand for election, candidates must be aged 16 or over (21 for Churchwardens), be actual communicants, have been registered on the Electoral Roll for the previous 6 months, and have indicated a willingness to stand. Other considerations are contained in the Church Representational Rules--nomination forms for election to all roles are available at the rear of the church.

If you would like further information on what is involved in any of these roles, or to volunteer to stand for election, please speak to the Rector or the Churchwardens. The Annual Report and Financial Statements for 2023 will again be distributed by email this year. For those on the Electoral Roll who are not on email, printed (named and addressed) copies will be available at the rear of the church, from where they can be collected after March 29th Thank you.

All Saints APCM is Sunday 27th April at 12.00 noon.

St Mary's APCM is Sunday 11th March at 10.30am—provisional

St Peter's APCM is Sunday 13th April at 12 noon—after 11am service

Safeguarding Update

As you will be no doubt be aware there has been in much in the news lately regarding safeguarding within the Church of England, which has been difficult and upsetting to hear about.

Here in the Arle Valley Benefice we are working hard to ensure that we are following the guidance from the Diocese of Winchester with regards to the various elements of safeguarding for each of the four churches. This is not an easy task and is often very time consuming!

Anyone who holds a position of responsibility within the church, working with young people or vulnerable adults should undergo a DBS check. These need to be done every 3 years (this has recently changed from 5 years). A number of people from the four churches need to undergo a new DBS check and we are holding DBS drop-in sessions in the JPH for those who this applies to.

The dates are:

25th January 10am - 12pm

8th February 10am - 12pm

We will contact you if you need to do a DBS check and will be inviting you to attend one of these dates to complete the application. We can also undertake the ID check at the same time.

Everyone who has a DBS check must also undertake some safeguarding training. These are online packages that can be accessed via the safeguarding pages of the Diocese website, but we are also going to hold two training sessions in the JPH for those who would prefer to do this in person.

The dates for the training sessions are:

15th February 10am – 12.30pm

15th March 10am - 12.30pm

Alongside ensuring everyone who needs it has a DBS check and has undertaken training we also have a live dashboard that we maintain which generates an action plan for each of the churches. These can be downloaded and discussed at the PCC meetings.

We will be in touch with individuals soon with regards to DBS checks. Thank you for helping to maintain safeguarding in the Arle Valley Benefice.

Sarah Wilding and Alison Mayne

Benefice Safeguarding Officers

Lent



Lent Groups

Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, Is on 5th March this year. Various Lent groups are planned. Some will be run together with other churches through the CTIA. The book will be *Lentwise* by Paula Godden £5 which will be available through the church. Details of time and place will be in the notices shortly with sign up sheets at the back of the churches

There will also be one run on a Friday in place of the usual table talk. This will meet every Friday in Lent to watch and discuss a film, *The Way*, starring Martin Sheen which will be shown on Friday 21/2 in the JPH at 12.00. The film lasts about 2 hours and follows some pilgrims walking to Santiago de Compostela. As usual each meeting will start with a bring and share lunch. All welcome, further details from Jackie 732056, Miranda 732064 or Sue 733597



11:00am - 12:00pm, Sun 2nd March <u>.</u> St Mary's Church, S024 9DX



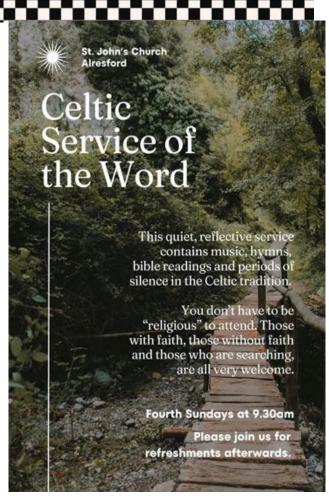
A service of Morning Praise for the whole family.



Next Café Church Mothering Sunday

30th March @ 11am







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 t. 01962 733237

We, of course, always respect the confidentiality of your requests

Prayer Meeting for the parish and our community - every Friday at 10-11am in church - feel free to drop in. And if you can't get down to the church then do join us in prayer wherever you are.



Sundays @ Six

ON
2ND SUNDAYS!
9th February
@ 6pm
St. John's

Do come and join us for a time of worship and reflection -

Come early at 5.45 and enjoy tea and some cake.



St John's Porch Prayer Tree and Prayer Cards

Please do spend some time praying the prayer requests on the Prayer tree as you go in or out of church or as you walk by. It is a privilege to support all those who have written these

Also there are prayer cards available in a display case which you are most welcome to take and use for yourself or friends and family.

Some of the titles are: Being Accepted, Looking for God, Worried about Someone, Finding Peace, Feeling alone, Grieving, Being thankful







Come and join us on the second Tuesday
of every month (10am—11.30am)
in the John Pearson Hall
for tea coffee and delicious homemade cakes!
This is for everyone across the local community
We'd love to see you
Feel free to invite family, friends and neighbours as well
The more the merrier!



For more information please contact

Angela Peel 01962 734 814

Solos Sunday Tea

A warm welcome.
sandwiches
homemade cakes and
conversation for those who
live alone.

Come and join us

Every Third Sunday 2.30pm—4.30pm

Next meeting: Sunday 16th March

John Pearson Hall St John's Church

We do hope to see you there.

Info: Marian 01962 733921

Margaret 01962 735185

Roger 01962 734045

Gluten free available



Table Talk

A chance to meet, eat and discuss issues of the day in an open, friendly and non-judgemental atmosphere.

12pm in the John Pearson Hall

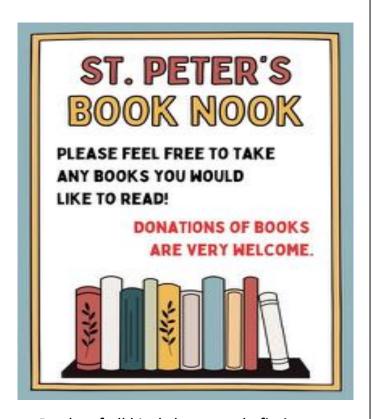
Bring and Share lunch

This month with a film

Friday 21st February

All Welcome





Books of all kinds but mostly fiction are available in

St Peter's in Ovington

St John's Walking Group

St John's Walking Group is an informal social group who do a walk of normally 6-7 miles on the first Saturday morning of each month.

We are relaxed, casual and aim to start walking at 9.30am and finish by 12.30pm – 1pm taking in some good English countryside – hills, valleys, woods, fields, flora, fauna, water... This will be followed by a publunch.

Different members of the group will take responsibility for planning each walk (and pub lunch).

New members are always welcome! If anyone is interested in joining the Walking Group or learning more about it, please send an email to notices@arlevalleychurches.org.uk.



St John's Church Spring Clean Saturday 12th April

This will take place on Saturday 12th April, from 9am until 12am.

Diann Adam will be leading it.

If you are able to help, bring your own dusters, mops and polish. Diann can be contacted on 734896, if you have any queries.

Refreshments will be served.

Hope you will come to help our lovely Church shine!



News from Old Alresford





Mondays @10 Come along to the Bernard Clarke Room in the Christy Hall on Monday 3rd March 10 -12

Toys for Toddlers and Coffee and for Everyone!

Pam Hatch

Beautiful flowers to remember Pam Hatch

Pam was school secretary at Old Alresford Village school and is remembered with great affection.

A service of remembrance was held in St Mary's on Thursday 30° January.



Book sales Our bookcase, bought from the wonderful Renovation shop in Alton (and well worth a visit), is packed with a wonderful selection of fiction and non-fiction. New additions every week and great value! All proceeds go towards our project to provide a toilet with easy access for all and a small kitchenette.







Snowdrops The churchyard has been a picture throughout February with its carpet of snowdrops.

TOADS

Auditions for By Royal Command the Spring Show Sunday 2nd March 7pm 2025 in the Christy Hall. Show week planned for Tuesday May 6nd-10nd.







Alresford Methodist Church March 2025

Saturday 1st March - Bacon Butties

Come and join us for Bacon Butties (also hot croissants and fresh coffee) and good conversation. No payment is asked for, but donations are accepted for the work of the church.

Breakfast is served from 9.30-11.00am.

Monday 3rd March - Memory Café - news update!

The Monday Memory Café was initially set up with the specific purpose of supporting those suffering memory loss and their carers. However, due to recent funding cuts, we have unfortunately lost the support of 'Andover Mind'.

Several people have approached us to enquire if they too might attend our café, as they would really welcome an additional social opportunity in their calendar. So, after some thought, we have decided to widen our remit to welcome anyone who would benefit from an afternoon of social interaction. If you would like to join us, you will find a warm welcome

awaiting you.

This month we will be celebrating an 'OUR PETS' theme together. Come along and join with us for an afternoon of fun, activities, fellowship, homemade cake and lots of tea – all for a cost of £2!

If you would like more information, or would like to attend, please contact us on: 07711066116.



Lunch Club

Every Thursday 12.00 to 2.00pm the Lunch Club meet in the Methodist Church hall.

New members are warmly welcomed so do come and enjoy a main course and dessert, followed by tea or coffee for just £10.00

Pre-booking is essential. For more details contact: 01962 736810

Thursday 13th March - Women's Fellowship

The 'Women's Fellowship' group will meet in the church hall at 2.30pm. The talk will be followed with tea and cake. A warm welcome is extended to everyone.



Friday 7th March
2.30pm
Alresford Methodist Church
All Welcome
Refreshments afterwards

This year the world day of prayer is being organised by the people of the Cook Islands in the Pacific. The prayer will start there and then go around the world as each community prays in their own language.

This used to be the Women's World Day of Prayer but now it is open to all.



St Catherine's Church, Littleton, Winchester Anna Chaplain

(P/T 16 hours per week, 3 years fixed term)



St Catherine's Church serves a semi-rural population on the edge of Winchester. An important part of that service is our ministry to the older members of our community and their families and carers, including those living and working in the nursing homes situated within the parish. Seeking to develop this ministry further, we appointed our first Anna Chaplain in 2022. The position is now vacant and we are now looking to the appointment of a new part-time, paid Anna Chaplain.

The Anna Chaplaincy is a pioneering role offering spiritual support to older people and their relatives and carers. It supports the wellbeing of people of all faiths or none, and encompasses a wider role within the community as an advocate and champion of the contribution older people make to society. At the same time, it encourages the wider church to celebrate and cherish older members of the congregation, as well as other members of the community.

The successful candidate will work in collaboration with the Rector and Ministry Team as well as the network of Parish Visitors for the parish and the wider Downs Benefice. He or she will also be part of the growing Anna Chaplaincy network, part of The Bible Reading Fellowship (BRF).

It is an occupational requirement for the person appointed to be a professing and practising Christian (Equality Act 2010).

For an application pack please contact: office@downsbenefice.org.uk

To apply, please submit cv and covering letter. Closing date for applications: Monday 10th March 2025

Interviews to be held on: Wednesday 2nd April 2025

St Catherine's Church, Littleton is affiliated to Anne Chaplaincy. The **Anna Chaplaincy**[©] name and logo are registered trademarks of Bible Reading Fellowship, a charity (233280) and company limited by guarantee (301324), registered in England and Wales.

Community Events

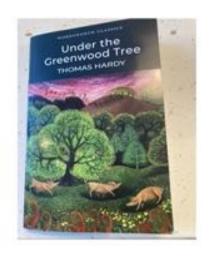


St John's Book Group

Our next meeting is on Wednesday March 26th in the John Pearson Hall at 2pm

We will be discussing Under the Greenwood Tree by Thomas Hardy

> New members are always welcome. Contact: Hilary Carr 735279 hilarycarr1@gmail.com







for guests with dementia and their carers

A relaxed and informal drop-in providing support for people with memory difficulties and their carers



Come and enjoy a cuppa, homemade cakes, music and activities

On the FIRST MONDAY of

every month
From 2 pm to 4 pm
With support from Andover MIND

For more details or information please ring 07711066116

Hampshire Libraries



Tuesday After School Passport Club with craft 3 –4.45

Thursday Rhyme Time—babies 10.45, toddlers 11.15

Friday Knit and Knatter 2-4pm
Friday Kids' Construction Club 3—4.45
Saturday—Arts and Crafts all morning

Alresford Art Society:



Jonathan Newy will demonstrate painting
Big Cats in acrylic

Thursday 27th March @2.30pm

in Bishop's Sutton Village Hall, Alresford Road (B3047), Bishops Sutton SO24 0AH.

Non-members welcome – admission £3. For further information: 01962 732043 or visit www.artsociety.alresford.org.



Alresford & District Horticultural Society



Wednesday 12 March
From 7.30pm to 9.30pm
At St Gregory's Parish Hall
Grange Road, Alresford
SO24 9HE

A talk from wild bird photographer,

Steve Oakes.

Everyone is welcome.

Visitors £3.00

Refreshments available.





NEW ALRESFORD WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Next Meeting Wednesday March 5th

'Right Plant, Right Place'

Presented by Chris Bird

from Sparsholt College



Meeting starts at 7.30pm At St Gregory's Church Hall, 1 Grange Road SO24 9HD

Visitors very welcome- please come and join us For further information contact Marian Baldwin 01962 732000 Jude Cowen 01962 738755

BOARD GAMES CAFE

SATURDAY 8TH MARCH

CHRISTY HALL, OLD ALRESFORD FROM 2PM - 5PM

Come along for a casual afternoon of games set up and ready to play including;

CHESS, MONOPOLY, LUDO, FORBIDDEN ISLAND, SETTLERS OF CATAN, HIVE, DRAUGHTS, CARDS, DUNGEONS & DRAGONS, PASS THE PIGS, SCRABBLE, SPLENDOR, EXPLODING KITTENS, BATTLESHIPS, CONNECT 4, GUESS WHO, JENGA, AND MORE!

Tea, coffee, and biscuits included

- A FREE BOARD GAMES EVENT RUN BY A LOCAL FAMILY
- REFRESHMENTS INCLUDING HOT DRINKS AND BISCUITS
- SUITABLE FOR ADULTS AND CHILDREN AGED 8 AND OVER
- CHILDREN UNDER 16 MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT
- BEGINNERS AND EXPERIENCED GAMERS WELCOME
- MEET FRIENDS AND NEIGHBOURS. TRY NEW GAMES OR PLAY CLASSIC GAMES
- FEEL FREE TO BRING YOUR OWN GAME
- · SCREEN-FREE FUN!



PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU'RE JOINING! EMAIL: CHRIS@CGODFREY.NET

MARIE CURIE DAFFODIL DAY

Saturday 15th March

If you can help for an hour with the street collection please call

Val Bond 01962 275196

There will be no cake stall this year.











Would you like to support local people who are grieving for the loss of a loved one?

Winchester Bereavement Support is delighted to offer a training opportunity between March-May 2025 to anyone who would like to join our team of empathic listeners.

For more information please telephone: 07803 855157

or email: info@wbs.org.uk

wbs.org.uk



Have you suffered a bereavement?

Would it help to talk?

If so, please email:

support@wbs.org.uk

or telephone: 07450 649679

Our support is confidential and <u>FREE</u>. It is carried out by trained Bereavement Visitors who are supervised by professionally qualified counsellors.

www.wbs.org.uk



If so, come along to our informal afternoons and meet likeminded people to share and discover more about living well and dying well over a cuppa and a slice of cake.

At the Alresford library on the 1st Wednesday of every month at 2 - 3pm

> For further information email; contact@befriendtheend.co.uk

Children's Activities





CHILL, CHAT & CHOMP

Youth Group Y7 upwards
St John's Church

Contact Rosie on 07891 120662



Chatterbox



is our parent/carer & baby/toddler group that meets every Thursday

(10am - 11am) in the John Pearson Hall.

Do come along and enjoy new friends (with refreshments) and fun activities for your little ones.

Please book a place with Vicki, t. 07907 035998.





10AM - 12PM
1ST MONDAY OF THE MONTH
CHRISTY HALL, OLD ALRESFORD

Old Alresford Family Mondays

TOYS FOR TODDLERS AND A CHANCE TO MEET AND CHAT TO OTHER FAMILIES.

REFRESHMENTS TOO!

EVERYONE IS WELCOME FROM 10AM - 12PM ON THE 1ST MONDAY OF EACH MONTH

> ORGANISED BY ST. MARY'S CHURCH, OLD ALRESFORD



CONTACTS: SUE ARMSTRONG TEL. 734542 ERICA SISK TEL. 732735

Join the Adventure











Bishop David's Farewell Service & Brunch







On the Sunday 2nd February Bishop David came to St John's to say 'goodbye' to the Arle Valley Benefice before he goes to be Bishop of Truro. We had a lovely service and a splendid brunch with a great spread of food. As it was Candlemas the bishop spoke on the witness of Simeon and Anna and urges us to pray as they had prayed. At the end of the service Heather presented him with some gifts suitable for the Cornish beach including a surf board!











Amy and her Duck Table.





Amy has lived in Alresford all her life and has significant learning difficulties, complex epilepsy and scoliosis.

After all educational placements finished for Amy and knowing she would never have a job, I wanted to create one for her in order to give her purpose, motivation, fulfilment and something to be proud of.

Since a toddler she has always loved feeding the ducks at the river in Alresford and I knew the importance of keeping our chalk streams and rivers clean and alive, so I felt this would be the ideal activity to explore. Hence Amy's Duck Food table was born.

We began filling a dozen bags with a natural, healthy feed on a Saturday and a Sunday, with Amy helping to fillthe bags and put a sticker on them. We take them to the river and put them out on a little camping table with a small donations box, using the donations to buy more food, bags and stickers to help keep us going.

The table became very popular very quickly and we found ourselves needing to make up more and more bags, eventually putting the table out every day.

As word spread we gained Facebook followers from all the world, have been interviewed on BBC radio, filmed talking about the table for the BBC Programme "Escape to the Country", received a National Animal Star Award, local society award, Mayor of Winchester award and even a letter from the Queen telling us that someone had written to her and told her about our table, thanking Amy for looking after the Swans!

It has not been plain sailing all the way; we have had our donations box stolen twice (now replaced with a strong safe box) and most recently on Christmas Day night the table was vandalized beyond repair. The community was appalled and rallied round to offer help to rebuild it. From the many offers, we went with the one from Perin's school to build us a new table, using the kind and generous donations from the people of Alresford to buy and supply all materials needed.

The kindness of people, businesses and organisations far outweigh the actions of those who chose selfishness and destructive behaviour.

Amy loves her table and not only does it make her happy, it has also benefited her cognitive and physical development. And it give many people enjoyment and teaches them something about how to care for nature. **Bob Barham**



















Where Exceptional Care Feels Like Home

Welcoming you with your 12th week free.

A vibrant community is awaiting you.

To find out more about our exclusive offers speak to us today!

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Stockbridge Road | Winchester | Hampshire | \$022.5JH

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How Do Plants Teach Us?

If we learn to listen, how much can plants teach us?



Annie L. Pressland, watercolour of delphiniums in the Combridge Cottage garden at Kew Gordens, printed by / Salmon. | Wikicommons

When American botany professor Robin Wall Kimmerer (1953-) takes her students out on fieldwork expeditions, she encourages them to listen to the 'teachings of plants'. Besides being a world expert on mosses, Kimmerer is steeped in the spiritual knowledge of the indigenous Potawatomi people. This makes her think in an interesting way about her work as a scientist. Rather than seeing herself as an allpowerful investigator who inspects inert specimens, she thinks about what the plants have to say to her. She thinks of humans and plants alike as lively beings, bound together in a single community.

Kimmerer's spiritual take on science is reflected in many religious traditions. The Hebrew and Christian Bibles say in the book of Job: 'Ask the plants of the earth, and they will teach you' (Job 12:8).

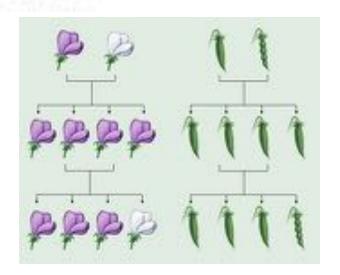
The Celtic tradition is an example of Christianity that has been taught by plants. Practising beyond the Western edges of the Roman Church (in modern-day Ireland, Scotland and Wales), its early-medieval monks were steeped in the love and study of nature. When Celtic monks established monasteries in Ireland, they often thought first about trees. It was important for monks to choose places for their holy settlements where the woods, especially oaks, remained. So deep was the monk St Colmcitie's feeling for oaks that, according to one story, he built his church facing the 'wrong' way, so as not to disturb an established group of the trees.

We will probably never know what specific research Colmcille and his monks did to learn from the many herbs in their gardens, and growing in nearby fields and woods. But we do have evidence, from the native names of plants, that the Celts often named plants for their uses, appearance, habitats, and their traditional and religious associations. These names sprang from deep acquaintance with the leafy world. Early writings by monks throughout Europe reveal a common focus on the power of green and growing things.

In the garden of St Thomas' Abbey, Bmo, Mendel listened to his peas. The Augustinian friar and biologist observed how traits passed from generation to generation – seed colour, seed coat, height and so on. He observed patterns in the inheritance of 'dominant' and 'recessive' factors, which led to the modern theory of genetics. Like Colmcille before him, Mendel's ideas were shaped by nature. His faith and his scientific practice were informed by the teaching of plants.

Some decades later, statisticians found that Mendel's results were too good to be true – as though a person had repeatedly tossed a coin 10 times and got exactly 5 heads in every single trial. Various explanations have been given for Mendel's results, such as deliberate misreporting. But perhaps we can place Mendel in that longer tradition of monastic study. Perhaps he 'knew' what the plants were trying to say and adjusted his human methods to best capture their truths.

The experiences of Mendel, Columba and Kimmerer all show us how much plants can teach us when we learn to listen.



We need to learn from plants and yet as we continue to pour pollution into our world the plants as well as the animals are at risk. When we lose them we lose what we can learn about them.

With thanks to ECLAS—Equipping Christian Leaders in an Age of Science

March 1st St David's Day

On 1st March Wales celebrates its patron saint, David – or, in Welsh, Dewi or Dafydd. He is revered wherever Welsh people have settled. As with most figures from the so-called 'Dark Ages' (he lived in the sixth century), reliable details about his life are scarce, but there are enough for us to form a picture of a formidably austere, disciplined, and charismatic leader, who led the Church in Wales through turbulent years and fought tenaciously for the faith.



It's likely that David was strengthened in his ministry by time spent in Ireland, where the Church was stronger and more confident. Early records tell of a meeting of Irish church leaders with three 'Britons', as they were described, among them 'Bishop David'. His mother, Non, is also celebrated as a saint in

Wales, where a number of churches are dedicated in her name.



That he founded a monastery at Menevia, in Pembrokeshire, seems beyond doubt. It later became the site of St David's cathedral and the settlement which is now the smallest city in the United Kingdom. From Menevia, David embarked on preaching and teaching missions across Wales, and probably beyond. His eloquence was legendary.

At a famous Synod of the Church, held at a Carmarthenshire village called Brefi, he preached passionately against the Arian heresy – indeed, so passionately that he was (according to some accounts) immediately named as Archbishop of Wales. The village is now known as Llandewi Brefi – brefi in Welsh is a hillock, and legend claims that it appeared miraculously, in order to provide the eloquent bishop with a pulpit.

His monks avoided wine and beer, drinking only water. Indeed, he and they lived lives of rigorous austerity and constant prayer, in the manner of the Desert Fathers of the Eastern Church. The date of David's death is disputed – either 589 or 601. It wasn't until the 12th century that he was generally accepted as the patron saint of Wales, and pilgrimages to St David's were highly regarded in the following centuries – including two made by English kings, William I and Henry II.

It's traditional for Welsh people to wear daffodils on St David's Day (Gwyl Dewi Sant in Welsh) – but there seems no particular reason for it, beyond the fact that they tend to make their early Spring appearance round about his day – oh, and they look nice! Shakespeare called this custom 'an honourable tradition begun upon an honourable request' – but nobody knows the reason. Why should anyone have ever 'requested' that the Welsh wear leeks or daffodils to honour their patron saint? It's a mystery! Another symbol was the leek which apparently was the main ingredient in St David's diet.



Shrove Tuesday—Pancake Day—4th March

Ever wonder why we eat pancakes just before Lent? The tradition dates back to Anglo-Saxon times, when Christians spent Lent in repentance and severe fasting.

So before the fast began everyone used up the food they were not allowed to eat so there used to be Egg Saturday, Collop Monday (collops being slices of meat) as well as Pancake Tuesday.

On the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday, the church bell would summon the people to confession, where they would be 'shriven', or absolved from their sins, which gives us Shrove Tuesday. Then. at home, they would then eat up their last eggs and fat, and making a pancake was the easiest way to do this. For the next forty-seven days, they pretty well starved themselves.

Pancakes feature in cookery books as far back as 1439, and today's pancake races are in remembrance of a panicked woman back in 1445 in Olney, Buckinghamshire. She was making pancakes when she heard the shriving bell calling her to confession. Afraid she'd be late, she ran to the church in a panic, still in her apron, and still holding the pan.



Flipping pancakes is also centuries old. A poem from Pasquil's Palin in 1619 runs: "And every man and maide doe take their turne, And tosse their Pancakes up for feare they burne."

Some people have noted that the ingredients of pancakes can be used to highlight four significant things about this time of year: eggs stand for creation, flour is the staff of life, while salt keeps things wholesome, and milk stands for purity.

Shrove Tuesday is always 47 days before Easter Sunday and falls between 3rd February and 9th March.

Classic Pancakes

Ingredients: 100g of plain flour, 2 large eggs, 300ml milk, tbsp sunflower oil or equivalent. This makes about twelve pancakes.

Method: Mix all the ingredients in a large bowl and whisk. It should have the consistency of single cream. Set aside for 30 mins if possible but you can start cooking right away. Wipe a frying pan with oiled kitchen paper and set it on a medium heat. Once the pan is hot pour a ladle full of the misture into the pan and cook for about one minute on each side until golden. Turn it by flipping or tossing if you dare. You can keep the pancakes warm in a low oven if you need to. Serve with lemon and sugar or maple syrup or whatever filling/ flavouring you fancy.



17th March St Patrick's Day

St Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland. If you've ever been in New York on St Patrick's Day, you'd think he was the patron saint of New York as well... the flamboyant parade is full of American/Irish razzmatazz.

It's all a far cry from the hard life of this 5th century humble Christian who became in time both bishop and apostle of Ireland. Patrick was born the son of a town councillor in the west of England, between the Severn



and the Clyde. But as a young man he was captured by Irish pirates, kidnapped to Ireland, and reduced to slavery. He was made to tend his master's herds.

Desolate and despairing, Patrick turned to prayer. He found God was there for him, even in such desperate circumstances. He spent much time in prayer, and his faith grew and deepened, in contrast to his earlier years, when he "knew not the true God".

Then, after six gruelling, lonely years he was told in a dream he would soon go to his own country. He either escaped or was freed, made his way to a port 200 miles away and eventually persuaded some sailors to take him with them away from Ireland.



After various adventures in other lands, including near-starvation, Patrick landed on English soil at last, and returned to his family. But he was much changed. He had enjoyed his life of plenty before; now he wanted to devote the rest of his life to Christ. Patrick received some form of training for the priesthood, but not the higher education he really wanted.

But by 435, well-educated or not, Patrick was badly needed. Palladius' mission to the Irish had failed, and so the Pope sent Patrick back to the land of his slavery. He set up his see at Armagh and worked principally in the north. He urged the Irish to greater spirituality, set up a school, and made several missionary journeys.

Patrick's writings are the first literature certainly identified from the British Church. They reveal sincere simplicity and a deep pastoral care. He wanted to abolish paganism, idolatry, and was ready for imprisonment or death in the following of Christ.

Patrick remains the most popular of the Irish saints. The principal cathedral of New York is dedicated to him, as, of course, is the Anglican cathedral of Dublin.

And the shamrock? Well traditionally it is believed that that is how St Patrick explained the Trinity. One leaf = One God, three lobes of the leaf = three persons of the Trinity.



25th March Lady Day— Annunciation

9 months or 275 days until Christmas!

Lady Day or the Feast of the Annunciation of Gabriel to Mary was when Jesus started his earthly life and as such is a major Christian festival when both Mary and Jesus are celebrated. It was one of the most popular subjects for medieval and Renaissance artists.



Until England changed from the Julian to the Gregorian calendar in 1752 Lady Day was New Year's Day as AD—

Anno Domini—the year of Our Lord was measured from the moment of Jesus's conception—when he took on human flesh and was incarnated inside Mary.

It was thus the first day of the financial year when taxes, rents, bills and so on all had to be settled. It was also the day when people moved house or changed jobs.

Then in 1752 they changed the calendar and realised that the year had been measured wrong and the seasons were shifting so they cut eleven days. (There were protests at losing eleven days as some



people thought it shortened their life by eleven days). That is why our economic year starts on 6th April as that is eleven days after 25th March. So your income tax is due on 6th April. For a long time 6th April was called Old Lady Day—in the same way that 12th January is called Old Christmas Day.

Lady Day is the first four quarter days when some short term rents were due—the others were Midsummer's Day (24th June), Michaelmas (29th September) and Christmas Day (25th December).

This is also around the time of the Vernal Equinox when day and night are equal in length, and so one of the ancient pagan festivals called in Scotland **Latha na Cailleach** the day of the old woman—Cailleach being one of the Celtic goddesses.

Lady Day or the Annunciation is one of the major festivals of the Christian year. It falls during Lent but as a major festival people were allowed to celebrate and not fast. It sometimes falls during Holy Week which the western church thought unlucky—the English saying was "If Our Lady falls in Our Lord's Lap we will suffer great mishap" Consequently when that happens the celebration of Our Lady is moved to the first Sunday after Easter.

Oddly enough the Eastern church think quite the opposite and if Easter and Lady Day coincide it is thought to be an even more wonderful day and they have extra celebrations. The concurrence of these two festivals is called **kyriopascha**.

Mothering Sunday

30th March - Mothering Sunday, 4th Sunday in Lent

There is an old Jewish saying: God could not be everywhere, and therefore He made mothers.

Mother Church, Mother Earth, Mother of the Gods – our human mothers – all of them have been part of the celebration of 'Mothering Sunday' – as the fourth Sunday in Lent is affectionately known. It has been celebrated in the UK since at least the 13th century.

In Roman times, great festivals were held every Spring to honour Cybele, Mother of all the Gods. Other pagan festivals in honour of Mother Earth were also celebrated. With the arrival of Christianity, the festival became one honouring Mother Church.

During the Middle Ages, the tradition was that the local parish church congregations would go, if they could, to the mother church of the diocese, i.e. the cathedral for a special service. It was also the tradition that people would travel back to visit their own mother church which was the church in which they were baptised.

Of course, naturally, when young people who had been apprenticed or sent to work as 'live-in' servants came to their baptismal church they visited their own birth mothers and that began to be the centre of the celebration.

Most people had very few days off and live-in servants had to work

on the major festivals like Christmas and Easter as their employers naturally wanted their special dinners. Often the servants had to work extra hard at those times when others were having fun.

Mothering Sunday, though, was in Lent with no major food preparation involved so servants were allowed to go home for that day and visit their families. This special day became a day of family rejoicing, and the Lenten fast was broken. In some places the day was called Simnel Day, because of the sweet cakes called simnel cakes traditionally eaten on that day.

In recent years the holiday has changed, and in many ways now resembles the American Mother's Day, with families going out to Sunday lunch and generally making a fuss of their mother on the day.

Why we do we insist on calling it 'Mothering' Sunday rather than Mothers' Day? We do that because the act of Mothering can be done by a whole range of people including fathers especially nowadays when many Dads are far more proactive than in the past. And of course it can include Grannies, Grandads, older siblings, aunt, uncles neighbours, teachers and so on.



Barbecue Quorn Mince and Beans

It's a time of year when funds can be low and the weather is still cold. Never mind – Spring is on the way. In the meantime, here's an economical, low-fat but satisfying easy recipe to try. Carnivores amongst us can substitute minced meat for the Quorn mince, cooked as per pack instructions. The quantity below should serve around 4 people.

Ingredients

2 teaspoons vegetable oil 1 onion, chopped 350g Quom mince 8 tablespoons barbecue sauce 2 tablespoons tomato puree 2 x 420g cans of baked beans

2 cloves of garlic (optional)

Salt and pepper



Method

Heat the oil in a saucepan and fry the onion until soft. Add the Quom minoe and garlic and cook for a couple of minutes.

Stir in the tomato puree and barbeque sauce.

Add the baked beans, cover the saucepan and simmer for 20 minutes. Season to taste and serve with rice or souds 'n' vegetables.

For a sprinkle of fairy-dust try:

Add some other ingredients at stage 2 for a bit of variety, according to what you've got or fancy. Sliced or cubed mushrooms and a drained tin of baby carrots go particularly well with this.



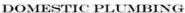
Time to fly! Fairy Cake





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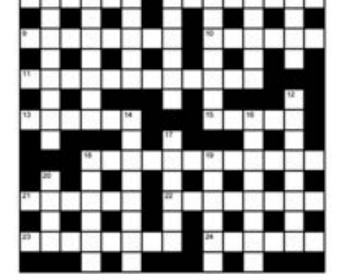
All youth groups including scouts and guides are In need of adult help—actually getting involved with the young people (and having the chance to learn and do some of the activities they do) on an occasional or regular basis, helping with kit, with administration, with transport. Whatever way you want to help you would be welcome.

N.B if you are actually with the young people you would need to be DBS checked by that organisation.

Puzzles

	4			1				8	
7	6	2	9		4				
	8	5	3	2	7		9		
6				4			1		
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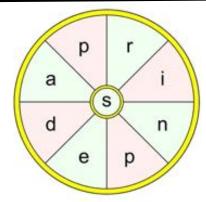


Acress

- 5 First English channel. (3,3)
- 7 Pretend stone for this Irish symbol (8)
- Reactor oddly decommissioned using rationale related to the environment (8)
- 10 Big guns we hear in church (6)
- 11 A quiet midweek after pancakes (12)
- 13 Salvation Army doctrine mainly dedicated to religious use (6)
- 15 Bacteria found right inside stones (5)
- 18 Underground decorating? (4.8)
- 21 Reportedly prohibited sex? It's criminal! (6)
- 22 Never quickly? (2,2,4)
- 23 Heather leading character doing hird (8)
- 24 The endless hurry for singer (6)

Down

- 1 Cow behind young horse, not a sheep! ((8)
- 2 Mixed dosage for ocean deity (3.3)
- 3 Observe, follow this guardian (8)
- 4 Attempt about finish to be fashionable (6)
- 6 Unpopular driver behind chair (8)
- 7 Acted like a vandal fired (6)
- 8 Small change in public entrance. (4)
- 12 Stun damage French friends making huge upheaval at sea (8)
- 14 Violated flyer's rear joint (8)
- 16 List politician is circulating (8)
- 17 Season to jump? (6)
- 18 Sacred Lebanon trees? (6)
- 19 Partly design it easily to set on fire (6)
- 20 Quick football saint. (4)



Find as many words of four letters or more using the centre letter but no plurals (mean as the centre letter is s!

120 word—genius

80 words—good

100 words—excellent

Whatever happened to the Flagpole?

Having been raising the St George flag up the flagpole of St John's for many years without incident, it came as a shock when the rope tumbled on top of me, followed shortly by the pulley landing next to me on the tower floor.

Twas the day before Advent Sunday last year. I had carefully climbed the ladders of the tower and arrived in the fresh December air with the St George flag under my arm. As usual I proceeded to tie the flag to the flagpole rope and pull the furled flag to the top. As the flag approached the top of the pole disaster struck.

It has happed before: -

In 2004 Rev Phil Collins thought it would be appropriate to honour the patron saint of Alresford Catholic church, St Gregory. His saint day is September 3rd. As the one in charge of putting the flag up at St Jonn's, for all the festivals and events, at the time, I duly climbed to the roof to put the St George flag up. However, as I pulled the rope tight with the furied flag at the top ready to

unfurl it, there was a crack, and something hit me on the head. More surprised than hurt, I realised the boss through which the rope runs had disintegrated. So, no way of flying any flag - rope and flag falling at

my feet. The St John's heavy mob managed

to lower the flagpole, so it lay across the roof and the rotten boss removed. Tony <u>Goater</u> came to the rescue as an extremely skilful wood turner and produced a beautiful double



pullied boss. Affixed it to the top of the pole rethreaded the ropes and the heavy mob re-erected the pole. – Elizabeth Johnson

Since then, Robert Sanders, Paul Whiffen and I, a reformed and revised St John's

heavy mob, lowered the flagpole and laid it across the tower. Rope was purchased to tie the flagpole in place so that it would not move during the recent extreme weather and storms. You may have noticed part of the flagpole stretching over the west end of the tower!

Having lowered the flagpole it was clear that the boss on top of the flagpole was completely rotten. Judging by the old photo (above) it was in a worse state than it had been last time. Raising the flag for Advent had been the last straw.



To fix the problem I have turned a new boss from a large chunk of European Oak which is being coated in 'Woodskin' flexible varnish.



We now have replacement pulleys and rope. The boss is nearly ready to be replaced. In fact, it may already be replaced by the time you read this. The remaining issue to resolve is how the flagpole is kept upright. The pole sits in a base structure on three sides. The fourth side is open and had a metal strap screwed to the base. This may not be reuseable as it has been damaged. Another approach will be needed. Once we have a solution for that then the flagpole will be raised again in time for Palm Sunday and Easter, the next time that the

flag is flying.

Let's hope that the new boss will last at least another twenty years for the next person taking on raising the flag for each occasion.

The St George flag is flown for most events, but we do have a Union flag when appropriate. Here is a list of the regular events when you will see the flag flying above St John's during the year: -

- Advent Sunday
- Christmas Eve
- Ash Wednesday
- Palm Sunday
- · Easter Day
- · St George's Day
- Ascension Day
- Kings Official Birthday
- St John the Baptist Day
- St Swithun's Day
- St Gregory the Great Day
- Battle of Britian
- King's Accession
- Harvest Festival
- Remembrance Day
- King's Birthday

Rex Corfield and Elizabeth Johnson

For Fun











Not of course what will happen in any of our churches!

PARENT'S DICTIONARY

Bottle feeding: An opportunity for Dad to also get up at 2 a.m.

Defense: What you'd better have around de garden if you're going to let de children play outside.

Family planning: The art of spacing your children the proper distance apart to keep you just on the edge of financial disaster.

Feedback: The inevitable result when the baby doesn't appreciate the strained carrots.

Grandparents: The people who think your children are wonderful even though they're sure you're not raising them right.

Independent: How we want our children to be as long as they do everything we say.

Puddle: A small body of water that draws other small bodies wearing dry shoes into it.

Show off: A child who is more talented than yours.

Sterilize: What you do to your first baby's pacifier by boiling it and to your last baby's pacifier by blowing on it.

Temper tantrums: What you should keep to a minimum so as to not upset the children.

Top bunk: Where you should never put a child wearing Superman jammies.

Two-minute warning: When the baby's face turns red and it begins to make those familiar grunting noises.



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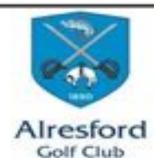
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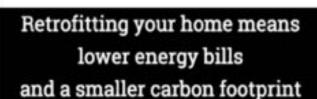
- Rats Mice
- · Wasps · Hornets
 - Cluster Flies
- Fleas Moths
- · Moles · Squirrels Birds



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10 Fraser Road, Kings Worthy, Winchester SO23 7PR david@worthypestcontrol.co.uk



Our Retrofit Plans give you detailed, tailored, independent advice on insulation, solar panels and heat pumps.

> "Having our house inspected and lan's report has given us the push to get on with making our house more eco-friendly." Chris & Lionel from Romsey



Visit www.superhomes.org.uk/winchester to find out more and register your interest

WinACC has been taking action on the climate crisis since 2008. This project is completely independent of installers and is to help local home owners find out how they can make their homes more energy efficient



Winchester Area SignerHomes is a non-profit project run by local registered churity, Winchester Action on the Climate Crisis. www.wisacc.org.ok







Septic Tank Owners register your interest in a fully-funded upgrade

Due to the Phosphate pollution in your local river catchment we are operating a septic tank replacement scheme using private funding.

We install wastewater treatment plants that remove almost all pollutants, with funding secured from planning applicants who need to create a positive impact on the environment.

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burrow-environmental.com 01935 507 508

Puzzle Answers

3	4	9	5	1	6	2	7	8
7	6	2	9	8	4	1	5	3
1	8	5	3	2	7	4	9	6
6	5	7	2	4	8	3	1	9
4	2	1	6	3	9	5	8	7
8	9	3	7	5	1	6	4	2
5	7	6	1	9	2	8	3	4
2	1	8	4	7	3	9	6	5
9	3	4	8	6	5	7	2	1



Word Wheel Words

aide, aider, aired, anise, aped, append, apprise, apprised, apse, arid, arise, arisen, aside, aspen, aspire, aspired, dais, dapper, dare, darn, dean, dear, despair, diaper, dinar, dine, diner, dipper, dire, drain, drape, drip, earn, idea, nadir, nape, napped, napper, nard, neap, near, nipped, nipper, padre, paid, pain, pained, pair, paired, pander, pane, paned, panier, paper, pard, pare, pared, parse, parsed, parsnip, pear, pend, pepsin, pied, pier, pine, pined, pipe, piped, piper, praise, praised, prepaid, pride, pried, prise, prised, raid, rain, rained, raise, raised, rapid, rapine, rapped, rasp, rasped, read, reap, rein, rend, repaid, resin, ride, rind, rinse, rinsed, ripe, ripen, ripped, rise, risen, said, sand, sandier, sandpiper, sane, saner, sapped, sapper, sardine, sari, sarnie, sear, sedan, send, sepia, side, sine, sipped, sipper, sire, sired, siren, snap, snapped, snapper, snappier, snare, snared, snide, snider, snip, snipe, sniped, sniper, snipped, snipper, spade, spar, spare, spared, spear, sped, spend, spider, spied, spin, spine, spire, sprain, sprained, spread

Registry

Funerals / Interments 20th January Colin Close Interment St. John's 23rd January Arthur Dewdney Graveside Service St. John's 30th January Betty Hatch Interment St. Mary's

Useful Local Information and Emergency Numbers

Defibrillators available for public use

Alresford Recreation Centre

Sun Hill Infant school gate

Alresford Community Centre

Linnets Road telephone box

Alresford Methodist Church

01962 732445

Wessex Pharmacies

Broad Street, Alresford

Stratton Bates Recreation Ground

Alresford Dental Care - The Dean Old Alresford Village telephone box

Alresford Bowling Club

Emergency Services—Police, Fire, Ambulance 999 or 112

Police non emergency 101

Electrical Emergency 08457 708090

Gas Emergency 0800 111 999

Water Emergency 0800 820 99

Floodline 0845 988 1188

Samaritans 116 123

Childline 0800 111

Health

Royal Hampshire County

Hospital, Winchester

01962 863535

Alresford Group Surgery,

Station Rd, Alresford 01962 732345

www.alresfordsurgery.co.uk

Other Useful Information

Cedar Veterinary Surgery 01962 732 535 (24hrs)

Alresford Library, 20 Broad Street, Alresford 0300 555 1387

New Alresford Town Trust minibus 07510 474231

Bus Information 0871 200 2233

MP for Alresford: Danny Chambers

Www.winchester.gov.uk

Councils East Hampshire District Council

Hampshire County Council 01730 266551

01962 841841 Www.easthant.gov.uk

Www.hants.gov.uk New Alresford Town Council

Winchester City Council 01962 732 079

01962 840222 Www.newalresford-tc.gov.uk

BENEFICE CONTACTS

BENEFICE OFFICE Tel. 01962 733545 Please leave a phone message or email the office. Office hours 10am to 12 noon Monday to Friday.

St. John The Baptist Church, West Street, New Alresford, Hampshire SO24 9AG

www.arlevalleychurches.org.uk email: arlevalleychurches@gmail.com Facebook/
StJohnsAlresford & ourplaceyouth Phone numbers unless otherwise stated are 01962

Rector

Revd. Heather Brearey

T. 732105

arlevalleyrector@gmail.com

Licensed Lay Ministers

Ian Waring Green

T. 733237

iwg@robinhoodmusic.com

Peter Colquhoun

T. 733035

pscolquhoun@googlemail.com

Sue Armstrong

T. 734542

susanarmstrong@btopenworld.com

Angela Peel

T 734814

sisterlollipop@aol.com

Charlotte Ryton

T723194

cstryton@gmail.com

Susan Roberts

T723194

susan penny@btinternet.com

Alresford: St. John's

Churchwardens

Rosie Waring Green

T. 733237

rosie@22rwg.co.uk

2nd church warden vacant

PCC Secretary

Jo Whiteman

joanna whiteman@yahoo.co.uk

Ovington: St. Peter's

Churchwarden

Vacant - Contact Benefice Office

T. 735455

arlevalleychurches@gmail.com

PCC Secretary

Vacant - Contact Benefice Office

T. 735455

arlevalleychurches@gmail.com

Old Alresford: St. Mary's

Churchwarden

Roger Parsons T. 734561

rwjparsons@gmail.com

Bighton: All Saints

Churchwardens

Bob Ellis T. 773427

robert.sally120@gmail.com

Chris James

T. 07974 927901

criathome@hotmail.com

Baptisms

Benefice Office T. 733545

arlevalleychurches@gmail.com

Funeral Enquiries

Kathryn Lockyer T. 809078

kathryn.lockyer@talktalk.net

Weddings

Paul and Sue Dix T. 734863

dix.house@btinternet.com

Bell Ringing
Elizabeth Johnson

T. 733266

•

Belfry Practice Fridays 7.30 -

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9.00pm

arlevalleyadverts@gmail.com

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Bookings: St. John's Church & John

Pearson Hall

Benefice Office T 733545

Churchyard Volunteer Co-ordinator

Ben Howlett

alresfordchurchyard@gmail.com

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Miranda Pinch T. 732064

events@stjohnsalresford.org.uk

Flower Co-Ordinator

Maureen Skayman

gskayman@gmail.com

Fundraising Co-ordinator

Miranda Pinch T. 732064

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Giving & Gift Aid Secretary

David Griffiths

T. 734408

Continued on next page

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Pastoral Visiting
St. John's Pastoral Team Leader
Jackie Connell T. 732056
Sue Clarke T 733597

Prayer Ministry Team Rosie Waring Green T. 733237 rosie@22rwg.co.uk

Safeguarding Officer (Benefice) Sarah Wilding Assistant Safe Guarding Alison Mayne T. 07900 884125 arlevalleysafeguarding@gmail.com

Treasurer
Jon Whale
T. 734941
stitreasurer@arlevalleychurches.org.uk

Youth Work Rosie Waring Green

T. 733237 e: rosie@22rwg.co.uk

Groups and Clubs in the John Pearson Hall

Seniors Health & Fitness Mondays, 9.45 - 11.15am

Coffee, Cake and Chat 2nd Tuesday, 10 - 11.30am

4th Alresford Brownies
Wednesdays, 6pm (term time)

Chatterbox (Toddlers) Thursdays, 10 - 11.30am

Alresford & Cheriton Cub Scouts Thursdays, 5.30 – 7.00pm (term time)

> Alresford Wine Circle 4th Thursday, 8pm

Table Talk3rd **Friday**, 12 - 2pm

Solos Sunday Tea 3rd Sunday, 2.30 – 4.30pm

Interested in booking St. John's Church or the John Pearson Hall?

St. John's Church - a large open space seating 300.

People have hired St. John's for a number of uses including:

- Choir Rehearsals.
- Concerts
- Community events



The John Pearson Hall (JPH)

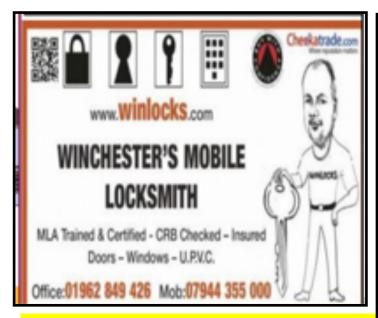
A newly refurbished venue that seats 80 in comfort with a modern kitchen.

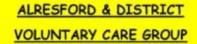
A flexible space for meetings, instruction classes, christening receptions and birthday parties.

Both St. John's and the JPH are open to everyone and you are assured a warm welcome.

For more information regarding regular and ad-hoc hiring of the church and hall, please call the Benefice office on 01962 733545 or email: arlevalleychurches@gmail.com









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"It's worth getting to church an hour early to grab a pew by the electric socket."

Young Joseph was asked what he had learned in Sunday school. "Well, Mum, God sent Moses behind enemy lines on a rescue mission to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. When Moses got to the Red Sea, his engineers built a pontoon bridge, and all the people walked across it safely. Then Moses radioed headquarters to send bombers to blow up the bridge, and so all the Israelites were saved."

"Did your teacher really say that?!" asked his mother, somewhat alarmed.

"Well, no, Mum. But if I told it the way the teacher did, you'd never believe it!"



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