



ARLE VALLEY BENEFICE

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

February 23rd **Second Sunday before Lent**

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:

- 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*)
09.30: St Mary's: Holy Communion BCP (*Rev'd Heather*)
11.00: All Saints: Parish Communion (*Rev'd Heather*)

Services in the coming Week:

Monday February 24th

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

Tuesday February 25th

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

Wednesday February 26th

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 February 27th

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

Sunday March 2nd: Sunday next before Lent

09.30: *St John's:* Parish Communion (*Rev'd Heather*)

11.00: *St Mary's:* Village Family Praise (*Sue Armstrong*)

16.00: *St John's:* Families at 4

Lord, so fill us with your love that it might cascade into the ordinariness of our daily lives and bring refreshment to all it touches. 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.*

Table Talk - Friday 21st February at 12 noon in JPH.

Monday Meet and Eat - Monday 24th February at 3.30pm in JPH.

Wednesdays with Heather - Wednesday 26th February at 10.45am in JPH.

Chill Chat and Chomp! - Wednesday 26th February at 5pm in St John's Vestry.

Chatterbox - Thursday 27th February at 10-11am in JPH.

Men's Supper Club (for widowers) - Thursday 27th February at 7pm.



Flowers in St John's:

The chancel flowers in St John's have been sponsored by
Zena Cass
"Remembering all Guiding Friends"

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.



Monday Meet and Eat: We now have 11 families who drop in for fellowship and a meal and we would be very grateful for some more occasional help. Either to make tea/coffee and wash up or to play games with the children or to cook a first course or a pudding.

Please contact Rosie Waring Green rosie@22rwg.co.uk or 07891120662 if you are able to help in any way or to ask for more details. Many thanks.

Men's Supper Club (for widowers):

We meet on the last Thursday of each month at 7pm for a meal. The next meal is on **Thursday February 27th**. *Please contact Roger Whiffen on 01962 734045 for more information.*

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

This week's notices...

Friday 28th February 1.30pm: There is a large funeral at St John's on the above date with 300+ people expected. Parking in the town will be challenging that day. The wake is also in Alresford after the service.

Table Talk: On **Friday 21st February** we shall be showing the film '**The Way**' which is our chosen study for Lent this year. The award winning film follows one man's journey, along with his fellow pilgrims, as they walk the Camino de Santiago. We shall start as usual at 12pm in the John Pearson Hall with a bring and share lunch and then watch the film, from about 12:20. It lasts for 123 minutes. You are very welcome to come and watch the film even if you do not intend to join the Lent discussion group.

Safeguarding: There will be the Foundation Session on Saturday March 15th at 10am in the John Pearson Hall. This is the follow on from the Basic Course run on February 15th or if you have done that part on line. These courses are required for anyone who has a DBS in order that we can feel confident in the Arle Valley Benefice that we are being rigorous in our approach to safeguarding in our churches. Please treat our amazing safeguarding volunteers who run these courses and who check our DBS certificates with respect.

The West Room in the JPH is being decorated beginning on **Tuesday 17th or Wednesday 18th next week**. This will take approximately 6 days. Please only enter the West Room if you need to go through to the kitchen for anything. *Thank you.*

Old Alresford Mothers' Union: Our next meeting is our annual Shrove Tuesday Soup and Pancakes lunch at the Christy Hall, Old Alresford on Tuesday 4th March from 12 to 1pm. Please join us, enjoy a lunch and help us to raise money for the Mothers' Union charity '*Make a Mother's Day*'.
Contact: Heather Galley 01962 732326.

Cleaner wanted at St John's: Do you like cleaning? If you would like to help maintain a lovely Church, we need you! A team of volunteers takes on a different section of the Church. You can clean weekly, fortnightly, or even once a month. Time to suit yourself, working around services and other events that take place.
If you are willing to help, contact Hefin Tudor on 733666.

This year's World Day of Prayer is prepared by the women of the Cook Islands. It will take place on Friday 7th March 2pm at Alresford Methodist Church. All are welcome and there will be tea/coffee afterwards. If anyone from St John's would like to read a part in this service please contact Karen Beecher on 732063.

Please direct:

- ▶ **Material for notices: please email Rob Attenborough at notices@arlevalleychurches.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.**

***Churches Together in Alresford 2025 Lent Studies:
Two opportunities:***



1) Lentwise: Spiritual essentials for real life, by Paula Gooder

As we journey through life, we face challenges - both big and small. What spiritual essentials will help us survive life's storms?

Lentwise is a five-session course which helps us to deal with the rigours of real life. Using fresh insights from John's gospel, it explores direction, nourishment, wisdom, refreshment and security.

There is a course book (one per person is recommended) available for £5.00: please contact your course leader for a copy.

Here in Alresford, in order to give maximum opportunity for taking part, the full course will be available in four different venues, as follows:

- **Alresford Methodist Church** at 7.30pm on Thursday, 13 March and then at the same time on the subsequent four Thursday evenings (20 & 27 March and 3 & 10 April); and led by the Reverend Heather Brearey, Rector: contact 01962 732105 or arlevalleyrector@gmail.com.
- **2 Grange Road, Alresford SO24 9HB** at 10.00am on Tuesday, 11 March and then at the same time on the subsequent four Tuesdays (18 & 25 March and 1 & 8 April); and led by Ian and Rosie Waring Green: contact 01962 733237 or rosie@22rwg.co.uk.
- **Walnut House, New Farm Road Alresford SO24 9QS**, at 10.00am on Thursday, 13 March and then at the same time on the subsequent four Thursdays (20 & 27 March and 3 & 10 April): and led by Piers Armstrong and Sue Trowbridge: contact 01962 734542 or piersmarmstrong@gmail.com.
- **12 Hawthorn Close, Alresford SO24 9LE**, beginning at 2.30pm on Monday 10 March and then at the same time on the subsequent four Mondays (17, 24 & 31 March and 7 April): and led by Kathryn and Roger Lockyer: contact 01962 809078 or roger.lockyer@talktalk.net.

Anyone wishing to enrol for one of the courses is invited to contact the course leader by telephone or email. *Should you wish to take part please apply asap, and preferably by Sunday 2 March.*

2) Table Talk

We will be running the usual Lenten Table Talk: this year we are showing the film ***The Way*** (based upon a pilgrim's walk along the Camino de Compostela) in the John Pearson Hall **this Friday 21 February**, then discussion groups on five Fridays (14, 21 & 28 March and 4 & 11 April): we will be discussing themes and ideas coming out of the film. Table Talk begins at 12.00 noon with a bring-and-share lunch, then discussions in small groups.

No need to sign up for Table Talk, just turn up! But if you have any queries please call either Sue Clarke (01962 733957) or Miranda Pinch (01962 732064) or Jackie Connell (01962 732056).

This week's notices...

Alresford Community Cinema - Tuesday 4th March at 7pm:

Alresford Community Cinema

Community Centre

Tuesday 4th March

7.00pm start



Licensed bar

Card or cash on

the door

Tickets £8

Bookings 01962 736282 or 07780 703543

Brought to you by the Friends of St John's

Set against the backdrop of pre-war London, "The Critic" is about the use and abuse of power, ambition, blackmail and intolerance in the 1930s. Sir Ian McKellen is the titular critic, a manipulative figure whose sharp tongue and keen insights mask a dark agenda. His approval can make or break careers.

It's interesting and entertaining, often funny and McKellen gives a great performance. It also provides fabulous Art Deco sets and music.

Collect and Readings for the Second Sunday before Lent

Collect:

Almighty God,
you have created the heavens and the earth
and made us in your own image:
teach us to discern your hand in all your works
and your likeness in all your children;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns supreme over all things,
now and for ever.

Amen



First Reading: Revelation 4

To be announced as a Reading from the Book of Revelation

I looked, and there in heaven a door stood open! And the first voice, which I had heard speaking to me like a trumpet, said, 'Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this.' At once I was in the spirit, and there in heaven stood a throne, with one seated on the throne! And the one seated there looks like jasper and cornelian, and around the throne is a rainbow that looks like an emerald. Around the throne are twenty-four thrones, and seated on the thrones are twenty-four elders, dressed in white robes, with golden crowns on their heads. Coming from the throne are flashes of lightning, and rumblings and peals of thunder, and in front of the throne burn seven flaming torches, which are the seven spirits of God; and in front of the throne there is something like a sea of glass, like crystal. Around the throne, and on each side of the throne, are four living creatures, full of eyes in front and behind: the first living creature like a lion, the second living creature like an ox, the third living creature with a face like a human face, and the fourth living creature like a flying eagle. And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and inside. Day and night without ceasing they sing,

'Holy, holy, holy,
the Lord God the Almighty,
who was and is and is to come.'

And whenever the living creatures give glory and honour and thanks to the one who is seated on the throne, who lives for ever and ever, the twenty-four elders fall before the one who is seated on the throne and worship the one who lives for ever and ever; they cast their crowns before the throne, singing,

'You are worthy, our Lord and God,
to receive glory and honour and power,
for you created all things,
and by your will they existed and were created.'

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

Gospel: Luke 8.22-25

When the Gospel is announced we respond with:

Glory to you, O Lord

One day Jesus got into a boat with his disciples, and he said to them, 'Let us go across to the other side of the lake.' So they put out, and while they were sailing he fell asleep. A gale swept down on the lake, and the boat was filling with water, and they were in danger. They went to him and woke him up, shouting, 'Master, Master, we are perishing!' And he woke up and rebuked the wind and the raging waves; they ceased, and there was a calm. He said to them, 'Where is your faith?' They were afraid and amazed, and said to one another, 'Who then is this, that he commands even the winds and the water, and they obey him?'

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

God our creator,

by your gift

the tree of life was set at the heart of the earthly paradise,

and the bread of life at the heart of your Church:

may we who have been nourished at your table on earth

be transformed by the glory of the Saviour's cross

and enjoy the delights of eternity;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen



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Post Communion (2nd before Lent) © 1980, 1986 Mowbray, a Cassell Imprint: Prayers for the Alternative Services comp. David Silk

Collect (2nd before Lent) © Oxford University Press: The Book of Common Worship of the Church of South India

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...

Our world where there is so much tension and uncertainty. Pray for the European leaders coming to terms with additional challenges and responsibilities and hold before God President Zelensky and the people of Ukraine as they face a very uncertain future. Hold before God the Israeli families receiving the bodies of the dead hostages and pray that the current truce between Israel and Gaza will hold and be further extended after further negotiation.

World leaders that they will be listeners, filled with wisdom, integrity and compassion for the most vulnerable. Hold before God our Prime Minister as he travels to America next week for discussions with the American President.

Those who cannot access their home because of the recent sink holes. Remember all whose homes have been damaged or destroyed as a result of extreme weather conditions.

Those who are finding it hard to manage their finances; the cold weather has meant higher fuel bills and food prices continue to rise. Pray for those struggling to maintain businesses and remember our local shopkeepers especially now when we see a growing number of vacant shops in the town.

Our NHS and staff working under pressure. Pray that the rising numbers of nori virus cases, which is seriously affecting hospitals, will start to decrease. Hold before God the lonely, the anxious and depressed and all who feel they are worthless and have nothing to live for.

Pope Francis in hospital with pneumonia that he makes a full recovery. Hold Heather before God as she returns from holiday and give thanks for all who work to keep our churches running smoothly. May we prepare ourselves well for the coming season of Lent.

Lord, be the life I live, be the love I give. Amen.