



ARLE VALLEY BENEFICE

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

March 30th : Fourth Sunday of Lent Mothering Sunday

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:** Mothering Sunday Communion (*Rev'd Heather*)
11.00: St Mary's: Mothering Sunday Service (*Sue Armstrong*)
11.00: St Peter's: Mothering Sunday Café Church (*Minna Bruce*)
11.00: All Saints: Mothering Sunday Service (*Ian Waring Green*)

Services in the coming Week:

Monday March 31st

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

Tuesday April 1st

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

Wednesday April 2nd

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 April 3rd

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

Sunday April 6th: Fifth Sunday of 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 Jesus Christ, you have come to us, You are one with us, Mary's Son.
Cleansing our souls from all their sin, pouring your love and goodness in,
Jesus, our love for you we sing, Living Lord.*

This week's notices...

What's on this week:

Lentwise Courses continue - see [page 4](#).

Prayer Meeting for the parish and our community - every Friday at 10-11am in St John's Church - *feel free to drop in.*

Churchyard cleanup at St John's - Saturday 29th March at 9am.

Monday Meet and Eat - Monday 31st March at 3.30pm in JPH.

Alresford Community Cinema - Tuesday 1st April at 7pm in Community Centre.

Wednesdays with Heather - Wednesday 2nd April at 10.45am in JPH.

Chill Chat and Chomp! - Wednesday 2nd April at 5pm in St John's Vestry.

Chatterbox - Thursday 3rd April at 10-11am in JPH.

Lent Lunch at St Mary's - Thursday 3rd April at 12.30pm in the Christy Hall.

Lent Table Talk - Friday 4th April at midday in JPH.

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.



St Mary's Lent Lunch - Thursday 3rd April, 12.30 -2.00pm in the Christy Hall.

Soup, bread and cheese. In aid of Trinity Winchester and St. Mary's Church kitchenette and toilet project. All welcome.

Any queries - please contact Sue Armstrong: 01962 734542.



Thanksgiving Services:

- Toni Booth's thanksgiving service will be at St Mary's on Wednesday 2nd April at 2pm. All welcome.
- Anne Hanson's thanksgiving service will be at St John's on Friday 16th May at 11.30am. All welcome.

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

Electoral Roll: * important *****

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 as well as anyone wishing to apply for the first time will need to complete a new application form.**

• **St John's:**

IMPORTANT – EVERYONE WHO IS ALREADY ON THE ELECTORAL ROLL WILL NEED TO RENEW THEIR REGISTRATION BY TUESDAY 8TH APRIL. The Roll will then be revised. Application forms are at the back of the Church or can be downloaded from the benefice website www.arlevalleychurches.org.uk (look under 'Our Churches – Electoral Roll, or use this [link](#)). Completed forms may be signed, scanned and returned to arlevalleychurches@gmail.com, to the Parish Office or to Janet Pooley at 8 The Mulberries, off Station Approach, SO24 9FL.

• **St Mary's:**

The closing date for entry on the St Mary's Roll is Monday 21st April, after which no names may be added until the APCM has been held on Sunday 11th May.

Forms will be enclosed with a letter sent to all those listed on the current Electoral Roll and once completed may be sent to the Electoral Roll Officer, Colin Pope, Meadow Cottage, 7a Southdowns, Old Alresford, SO24 9UR or can be scanned or photographed on a Smartphone and emailed to colin.pope29@btinternet.com. Alternatively, you may place the completed and signed form in the box on the table inside the church. Anyone not currently on the Roll is welcome to apply by collecting a form from the table in the church, taking note of the qualifying conditions and completing and signing the form and placing it in the box as outlined above. *Colin Pope 07802 361384.*

St John's Annual Parochial Church Meeting-- Tuesday April 29th 8pm in JPH:

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 2025, 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 2024 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.*

This week's notices...

Churches Together in Alresford 2025 Lent Studies:

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

Lentwise is a five-session course which is available in four different venues:

- **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 arlevallyrector@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 join one of the courses please contact the course leader.

2) Table Talk

This year we showed the film ***The Way*** (based upon a pilgrim's walk along the Camino de Compostela) in the John Pearson Hall on 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).

Recycling:

Sadly, the outlet we had for used pens at Rymans has closed. Rymans are currently seeking a new outlet, but for the time being please don't bring anymore into the office.

Boots now have a recycling scheme for a huge number of hard to recycle items from toothpaste tubes to pill blister packs (they don't need to have come from Boots). In addition they reward you with Boots Advantage Card points. It is quite easy to use once you get the hang of it. Start by downloading their app "Recycle at Boots" and follow the instructions. *Call Kathryn (809078) if you need help to get started.*

Blue This week's notices...

Alpha Course: There will be a new Alpha course starting on Thursday lunchtimes from **12 noon to 2pm from April 24th**. This is a 12 week course for new Christians, those exploring their faith and those who have been Christians for a long time who would like to refresh the basics. It is designed to be a safe place where you can ask questions, participate or just listen and reflect. A light lunch will be provided each week, this is followed by a short video and discussion time.

*Please contact Rosie Waring Green to sign up or for any further details...
rosie@22rwg.co.uk or 07891120662.*

The Tale of 3 Trees: You are invited to take part in or come and watch this short musical story. This story is based on a Christian folk tale about three little trees growing up on the mountaintop who have big dreams of what they want to become, but one by one those hopes are dashed as they are chopped down and turned into seemingly insignificant things. However, God has an amazing plan for each tree – a plan that goes beyond any of their wildest dreams as they find themselves at the heart of the story of Jesus. **Saturday 19th April in St John's Church**, Rehearsal 2-3.30pm followed by the performance at 3.30pm (approx 30 mins). Tea and cake in the Hall afterwards. No tickets are needed to come and watch. To take part and receive the song pack in advance (4 songs) details from Rosie Waring Green t.07891120662 or e.rosie@22rwg.co.uk.

Orange St John's Churchyard Clear Up:

Churchyard Clear Up @ St. John's **Saturday 29th March 9am - 12pm**. Please bring your garden tools and gloves and volunteer to help prepare the churchyard for the spring season. Refreshments will be provided.

*For any further details please contact James Lees on 01962 732574 or
via james@lees92.plus.com.*

Orange Volunteers needed for Church Spring Clean at St. John's Saturday, 12th April at 9am

Please come and help to dust, Hoover, polish and sweep in the church. Come for as long as you like or an hour or two would be lovely. Diann Adam will co-ordinate activities inside. Refreshments will be served to keep us going.

No previous experience is required: just a bit of elbow grease and a willingness to get your hands dirty!

Please direct:

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

This week's notices...

Alresford Community Cinema: Conclave - 1st April at 7pm.

CONCLAVE," is based on the book by Robert Harris, revealing the intricate machinations behind one of the most consequential appointments in the world: the papacy.

Electing a new pope spirals into a tale of tension, intrigue, threaded with politics, faith and ambition. Ralph Fiennes is masterful, weighing the choices before him: the internal conflict between unwavering faith and the seductive allure of human power. As Cardinal Benítez, Carlos Diez is youthful idealism tinged with the harsh realities of the power struggle within the Church. The supporting cast weave an intricate web of alliances and betrayals.



Collect and Readings for Mothering Sunday

Collect:

God of compassion,
whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary,
shared the life of a home in Nazareth,
and on the cross drew the whole human family to himself:
strengthen us in our daily living
that in joy and in sorrow
we may know the power of your presence to bind together and to heal;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen



Epistle: 2 Corinthians 1.3-7

To be announced as a Reading from the Second Epistle to the Corinthians

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all consolation, who consoles us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to console those who are in any affliction with the consolation with which we ourselves are consoled by God. For just as the sufferings of Christ are abundant for us, so also our consolation is abundant through Christ. If we are being afflicted, it is for your consolation and salvation; if we are being consoled, it is for your consolation, which you experience when you patiently endure the same sufferings that we are also suffering. Our hope for you is unshaken; for we know that as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our consolation.

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



Gospel: John 19.25-27

When the Gospel is announced we respond with:

Glory to you, O Lord

Standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, 'Woman, here is your son.' Then he said to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.' And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

*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

Loving God,
as a mother feeds her children at the breast
you feed us in this sacrament with the food and drink of eternal life:
help us who have tasted your goodness
to grow in grace within the household of faith;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

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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...

The children and staff in Pannai Family Village Farm in South India. St John's supports the charity, providing a safe environment and education for needy children in a Christian environment and gives freedom to a brighter future.

All mothers, fathers, foster parents and all who take parenting responsibility for children, including teachers. Remember all who are unable to have children, all who have difficult relationships with their mothers and all whose mothers died while they were young, depriving them of that special bond.

The world: for peace in Gaza and Israel as the ceasefire has ended, for a real ceasefire between Ukraine and Russia and for all demonstrating in Turkey against the imprisonment of the leader of the opposition. As planning begins for COP30 in Brazil, pray that world leaders may work together to save the planet from the effects of climate change.

All who are sick, at home or in hospital, and for all professional health workers, families and friends who care for them. Pray especially for any children who are suffering, especially if they are separated from their mothers.

The church, for those deciding who will be our next Archbishop and for all responsible for appointing clergy to parishes. Pray for Heather, for all the LLMs and for all who exercise pastoral ministry in this place. Pray that our Mothering Sunday services may reach out to families throughout the Benefice and to local residents who may enter our churches for the first time. May they all feel welcomed and appreciated.

***Lord Jesus Christ,
now and every day teach us how to pray,
Son of God. Amen.***