

ARLE VALLEY BENEFICE

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

April 20th : Easter 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:

- 08.00: St John's: Holy Communion (Rev'd Heather)**
09.30: St John's: Parish Communion (Rev'd Heather)
10.00: St Mary's: Parish Communion (Sue Armstrong by ext)
11.00: All Saints: Parish Communion (Ian Waring Green by ext)
11.15: St Peter's: Parish Communion (Rev'd Heather)

Services in the coming Week:

Tuesday April 22nd

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

Wednesday April 23rd

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 24th

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

Sunday April 27th: Second Sunday of Easter

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

09.30: *St John's: Celtic Service of the Word (Angela Peel)*

09.30: *St Mary's: Holy Communion BCP (Rev'd Heather)*

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

16.30: *St John's: Evening Prayer (Peter, Susan & Charlotte)*



Jesus Christ is risen today

What's on this week:

Good Friday 18th April

- 11.00am **Walk of Witness** starting at Alresford Methodist Church
The Walk of Witness is an event held each year on Good Friday designed to bring people from all the Churches of Alresford together to remember the Easter message.
- 12.00pm **Reflective Service** (All Saints)
- 2.00pm **Hour at the Cross** (St. John's)
Please join us as we examine the events of Good Friday through scripture and hymns.

Easter Saturday 19th April

Tale of 3 Trees - come and sing at 2pm or come and watch at 3.30pm for a profound Easter story.

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

Easter Monday Walk - 10am from St John's Church.

Wednesdays with Heather - Wednesday 23rd April at 10.45am in JPH.

Chill Chat and Chomp! - Wednesday 23rd April at 5pm in St John's Vestry.

Chatterbox - Thursday 24th April at 10-11am in JPH.

St John's Easter Flowers:

The chancel flowers in St John's have been sponsored by:

- **Graham and Gary Underwood:**
Remembering their Mum and Dad
- **Irene Parker:**
Remembering what would have been Irene and Hedley's 70th Wedding Anniversary (11th April)



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.



Thanksgiving Service: 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

This week's notices...

Easter Monday Walk: Churches Together in Alresford invite you to a walk in the Alresford Countryside. Four miles, two hours so a leisurely pace, suitable for all, and bring a choc bar or some other refreshment at the half-way break. We start at the West Door of St John's Church at 10.00am, Monday 21 April.

Solos: Unfortunately we are unable to meet in April as it is Easter Sunday or in May as that is Watercress festival. So our next Afternoon Tea will be Sunday 15th June at the usual time of 2.30pm when we look forward to seeing you all again. We wish you all a Happy Easter. *Margaret and team.*

St Gregory's invite you to lunch! Please join us for Soup and Pud at St Gregory's Church Hall (ample parking!) from 12.30pm to 2.00pm on Tuesday 29 April, and feast on home-made soups and puddings all in aid of The Boaz Project a registered charity (1121699) that supports adults with leading difficulties at their farm premises in Sutton Scotney. No advance notice of attendance is necessary.

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.**

St John's Chair Plan: Please note that there is a slight chair plan change and there are new master copies of the layout at the back of the church and on the piano / organ. This is information for those who kindly move the chairs around for any reason. Thank you.



ST JOHN'S CAFÉ at the Watercress Festival on Sunday 18th May.



We need to start gathering our wonderful army of volunteers who make this, our biggest fundraiser, the success it has always been in the past. Sign up sheets are now at the back of the Church.

There are many ways in which to help, so please have a look and add your name to one or maybe more of the boxes.

Encourage your friends to join us - many hands make light work!

The organising team look forward to sharing this exciting day with you.

It is important that all volunteers are risk aware. So please take a risk assessment sheet and tick the red box beside your name on the sign up sheet to indicate that you have one.

Electoral Roll:

• ***St John's:***

Thank you to all those who took the trouble to complete new enrolment forms. The new Roll is now complete and a copy is available for viewing in the church porch.

• ***St Mary's:***

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.*** 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.*

Please direct:

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

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. *Thank you.*

The St John's APCM on Tuesday 29th April at 8pm will be live streamed using this usual link www.youtube.com/@thearlevalleybenefice5720/streams.



Collect and Readings for Easter Sunday

Collect:

Lord of all life and power,
who through the mighty resurrection of your Son
overcame the old order of sin and death
to make all things new in him:
grant that we, being dead to sin
and alive to you in Jesus Christ,
may reign with him in glory;
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit
be praise and honour, glory and might,
now and in all eternity.

Amen



First Reading: Acts 10.34-43

To be announced as a Reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Peter began to speak to those assembled in the house of Cornelius. 'I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ – he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.'

*At the end the reader will say: **This is the Word of the Lord***

*The response is: **Thanks be to God***



Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15.19-26

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

If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ. But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, after he has destroyed every ruler and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

*At the end the reader will say: **This is the Word of the Lord***

*The response is: **Thanks be to God***



Gospel: Luke 24.1-12

When the Gospel is announced we respond with:

Glory to you, O Lord

On the first day of the week, at early dawn, the women who had accompanied Jesus came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground but the men said to them, 'Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.' Then they remembered Jesus' words, and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

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

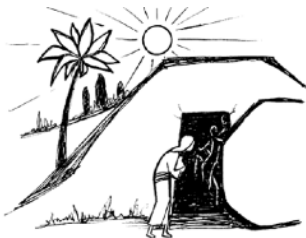
The response is: **Praise to you, O Christ**



Post Communion Prayer

God of Life,
who for our redemption gave your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross,
and by his glorious resurrection
have delivered us from the power of our enemy:
grant us so to die daily to sin,
that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his risen life;
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 Mar Elias Educational Institutions, Ibillin, Israel. In his latest newsletter Abuna Mar Elias urges everyone to pray for the children and staff as they “educate children to become faithful citizens and to reject every aspect of violence. The schools are a unique model of unity within diversity of religious or family affiliation, unity is possible with love, compassion and forgiveness”.

God’s World..... Pray for all who are struggling for peace; all who are longing for new hope and new life. Remember war torn places, especially Gaza, and places that have suffered from climate change or man-made disasters; those who are seeking to rebuild communities and those bringing new life and courage to oppressed people.

The Church..... Pray that the Good News of the Resurrection may fill us all with a vibrancy that must be shared with others. Give thanks that the message of Easter is proclaimed throughout the world and pray that all Christians are given the courage to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Our Homes and Relationships..... Bring before God all those who live in unhappy homes where there is hatred, violence or neglect. Pray that relationships can be helped and restored. Let us give thanks for the happiness and security we have and to help those less fortunate in whatever way we can.

Our Young People..... Bring before God all the young people in our town. Pray they may not be influenced by social media into doing what is wrong. Pray that going back to school or college after the Easter break will be a joyous occasion not one faced by fear. Ask God to help us as a church to encourage and help our young people to know about God’s love and the power of the Resurrection.

Heather and the Ministry Team..... Give thanks for all the teaching and guidance we receive in our Benefice. Pray that all involved in Ministry be given the wisdom, courage and patience to spread God’s love and welcome all to our fellowship.

Alleluia!