



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 28th : Fifth Sunday of Easter

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.

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 & Ian Waring Green*)

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

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

Breathe on me, Breath of God ...

Services this Week:

Monday April 29th

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

Tuesday April 30th

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

Wednesday May 1st

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

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

Thursday May 2nd

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

Sunday May 5th: Sixth Sunday of Easter

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

11.00: *St Peter's:* Café Church (*Minna Bruce*)

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

11.00: *All Saints:* No service

16.00: *St John's:* Families at 4pm (*Rev'd Heather*)

The Communion Service on Wednesday will be followed by coffee in the John Pearson Hall.

Please note: if you would like to use a Service booklet, they are always available from the Sidespeople as you come into church.

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.

What's on this week:

Prayer Meeting for the parish and our community - every Friday at 10-11am in church - *feel free to drop in.*

Monday Meet and Eat - Monday 29th April at 3.30pm.

Wednesdays with Heather - Wednesday 1st May at 10.45am in JPH.

Befriend the End - Wednesday 1st May at 2pm in the Library.

Chill Chat and Chomp! - Wed 1st May at 5pm in St John's Vestry.

The Collect and Readings for this Sunday start on [page 8](#)

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

This week's notices...



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

Zena Cass

"In memory of her parents"

The Michael Project:

Helen (Margaret Stewart's daughter) and Dave Hobbs, who started The Michael Project, are over from Zimbabwe and will be joining us and speaking at our 9.30 service at St John's on Sunday May 5th. St John's has given great support to the Michael Project and this is a wonderful opportunity to meet them and hear about the care for children in Harare which they initiated.

News from Shanthigramam:

We have received warm Easter greetings from Valsa Augustine, in which she wanted to convey the love and gratitude of all there for our support, to all the members of St John's. She attached some pictures of the residents in the village and on their Palm Sunday procession, which we will put on the website.

Saturday 27th April - Winchester College Quiristers in Concert at St. John the Baptist Church Alresford. West Street. SO24 9AG

The much acclaimed Quiristers will be in concert at St. John the Baptist Church on Saturday 27th April 2024. They will perform a mixture of musical pieces including sacred and popular items.

Tickets can be obtained from the St. John's Church website:

www.arlevalleychurches.org.uk email: arlevalleychurches@gmail.com

Tickets can also be obtained from:

ticketsource.co.uk/st-john-the-baptist-church-new-alresford

Tickets priced at £16.00 for adults, Quirister parents £12.00 and Students £8.00. Under 12's go free.

Each ticket includes a glass of wine/non-alcoholic drink and light refreshments.

Time 6.30pm - 8.30pm.

The choir will sell their latest CD after the concert (cash only please)

Enquiries: Email: lawrencewill@tiscali.co.uk

This week's notices...

ST JOHN'S CAFÉ at the Watercress Festival on Sunday 19th 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.

Monday Meet and Eat:

We would like to thank you for the financial help we have received towards funding Monday Meet and Eat. If anyone has a couple of hours on a Monday afternoon between 3.15 and 5.15pm to either help play games with the children, make drinks and wash up or cook a meal or pudding, please let Rosie Waring Green know as we are just compiling the summer rota and we would be grateful for a few more helpers.

Thank you. email: rosie@22rwg.co.uk or phone 07891120662.

New Wine Worship and Teaching Event :

Last year Jane and Rosie spent 5 days at the New Wine Worship and Teaching Event which we found really inspiring. This year 5 of us have booked to go for one day to the same event in Shepton Mallett and we wondered if anyone else would like to join us? We would leave about 7.30am and return by 10.45pm. The day would have 2 sessions of amazing worship and teaching in the big arena and 2 or 3 other small seminars. The cost is £50 for a day ticket and we can organise lifts.

Please speak to Rosie if you would be interested or would like further details. rosie@22rwg.co.uk or 07891120662.

We would like to encourage all of our church to pray together for our mission, and ministry in Alresford. You can join us on Fridays 10am-11am in St John's or you can pray wherever you might be on a Friday 10am-11am. Set an alarm on your phone and let's pray together wherever we might be on a Friday. *Revd. Heather.*

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.



Wednesdays @ St. John's Church

**Come and join
Rev Heather at 10.45am
for a brew and a chat
in the John Pearson Hall.**

Everyone Welcome



**EVERY WEDNESDAY IN THE
JOHN PEARSON HALL**

10.45AM

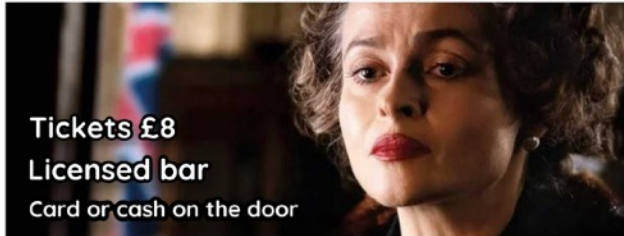
t. 01962 732105
e. arlevalleyrector@gmail.com
www.arlevalleychurches.org.uk

Alresford Community Cinema



Tuesday 7th May
7.00pm start
Community Centre

SAVE ONE LIFE. SAVE THE WORLD.



Tickets £8
Licensed bar
Card or cash on the door

ANTHONY HOPKINS JOHNNY FLYNN and HELENA BONHAM CARTER

ONE LIFE



Brought to you by the Friends of St John's

Bookings 01962 736282 or 07780 703543

The true story of Sir Nicholas 'Nicky' Winton, a young London broker who, in the months leading up to World War II, rescued 669 predominantly Jewish children before the Nazis closed the borders of Czechoslovakia. Nicky visited Prague in December 1938 and found families who had fled the rise of the Nazis in Germany and Austria, living in desperate conditions. A race against time: how many children could he and the team rescue before the borders closed?

Fifty years later, it's 1988 and Nicky lives haunted by the fate of the children he wasn't able to bring to safety in England, blaming himself for not doing more. It's not until a live BBC television show, 'That's Life', surprises him by introducing him to some surviving children - now adults - that he finally begins to come to terms with the grief he had carried for five decades.

This week's notices...

Cleaner wanted at St John's: If you have some free time, would you please consider joining the cleaning team for Church? There is a vacancy to clean part of Church, alongside a dedicated team. You can spend as little as 1/2 hour a week, fortnight or once a month, timing to suit yourself. *If interested, please contact Hefin Tudor. 733666.*

Giving in 2024!

Three ways you may donate to **St. John's by credit or debit card:**

1. At the back of the church is a unit where you can choose from different amounts or enter your own amount. Then just tap your card and it is done.
2. Scan this QR code with your phone or tablet. This takes you to the Parish Giving Scheme website for St. John's where you make your donation. This code can also be used to set up a regular donation.
3. Phone David Griffiths on 01962 734408



With all three options you can Gift Aid your donation.

Members can donate to **St. Mary's with their phone or tablet by scanning this QR code**

or by contacting Roger Parsons on 01962 734561



With many thanks for your generosity.

Please direct:

- ▶ **Material for notices:** please email Rob Attenborough at notices@arlevalleychurches.org.uk **Deadline: 3pm Thursday.**
- ▶ **Information about those in hospital** to Sue Greenway 732406 or Patricia Todd 738408 or Keith Sweetland 735255.
- ▶ **Information for Intercessions** to the churchwardens.

Collect and Readings for the Fifth Sunday of Easter

Collect:

Almighty God,
who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ
have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life:
grant that, as by your grace going before us
you put into our minds good desires,
so by your continual help
we may bring them to good effect;
through Jesus Christ our risen Lord.

Amen



First Reading: Acts 8.26-40

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

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Get up and go towards the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.' (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go over to this chariot and join it.' So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?' He replied, 'How can I, unless someone guides me?' And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

'Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.

In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.'

The eunuch asked Philip, 'About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?' Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, 'Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?' He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

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

The response is: Thanks be to God

Second Reading: 1 John 3.16-24

To be announced as a Reading from the First Epistle of John

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Saviour of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgement, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, 'I love God,' and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

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

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



Gospel: John 15.1-8

When the Gospel is announced we respond with:

Glory to you, O Lord

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.'

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

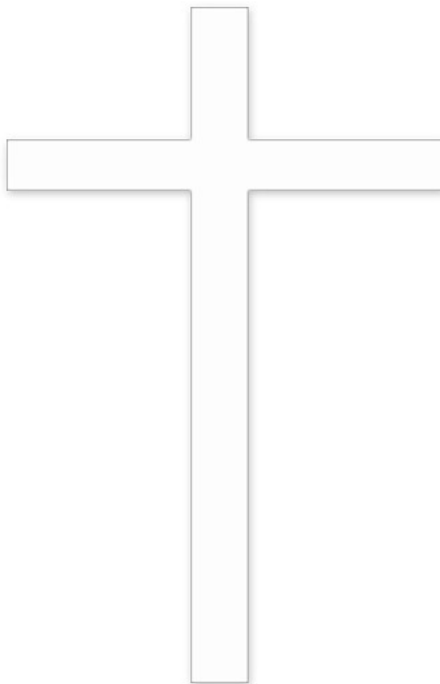
The response is: **Praise to you, O Christ**



Post Communion Prayer

Eternal God,
whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life:
grant us to walk in his way,
to rejoice in his truth,
and to share his risen life;
who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

Amen



Copyright Acknowledgement:

The readings in this service are copyright © 1989 National Council of the Churches of Christ, USA
Post Communion (5th of Easter) © The Archbishops' Council 2000
Collect (5th of Easter, Short) © The Archbishops' Council 2005

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...

Shanthigramam: Please continue to pray for the staff and residents, who so much appreciate our support, and for Valsa Augustine who runs the village.

The World: Pray for a world free from religious and political persecution, from racial bigotry and ethnic cleansing, from dictatorship and oppression. Bring before God all places where His presence is needed, especially... Gaza, Ukraine, Sudan and Afghanistan.

Climate Change: Ask God to give us all an awareness of our common humanity, of our responsibility towards the environment, and the consequences of our actions.

The NHS and all health organisations: Give thanks to God that we have the NHS to care for us. Pray that the Doctors and Nurses will have the energy and will to continue their work, given the stressful situation they find themselves in. Pray also for all Doctors and Nursing staff who risk their lives to help in war stricken places, especially in Gaza.

Our Young People: Bring before God all the young people in our town and surrounding villages. Pray that they may not be influenced by social media, television, peer pressure and newspapers to be led along the wrong path. Ask that we all be role models to all young people we meet; be ready to listen and give advice and not to be judgemental.

Our Benefice: Pray for Heather and the Ministry Team. Ask God to help them produce the Fruits of the Spirit needed to enable them to help us on our Christian Journey. Pray also that God may speak to people's hearts so that all the vacancies we have at St John's may be filled. Every job in the Church is important; all work done helps to spread the Love of God in our community.

... Fill me with life anew