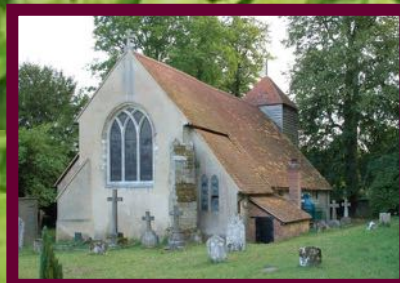


Arle Valley Voice

May 2024

£1.60

Church and Community Magazine





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Editorial

This month of May in Alresford is dominated by the Watercress Festival.. Although in the nineteenth century they celebrated the end of the harvest it wasn't until this century that the sort of festival we know now started.

This month also has several Christian festivals which are sadly largely forgotten by non church people—Ascension, Pentecost, Trinity and Corpus Christi. These used to be days of major celebration in the community with fairs, mystery plays and processions. However we remember some of them in this issue

Also we have some great photographs of Easter flowers and as usual some articles on ecology.

We are going to press too early to report on APCMs so that will come next month. Also next month we hope to have some good photos of the Watercress Festival . In the meantime enjoy the Spring.

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

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

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

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. That might seem early but it takes time to get it all together.

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May Church Services for the Arle Valley Benefice

NEW ALRESFORD

St John the Baptist

Sunday 5 May: 6th Sunday of Easter

09.30 Parish Communion

16.00 Sunday @ 4 Family Service

Sunday 12 May: 7th Sunday of Easter

09.30 Second Sunday All Age Service

18.00 Sunday @ 6

Sunday 19 May: Pentecost

08.30 Parish Communion (*earlier time because of the Watercress Festival*)

Sunday 26 May: Trinity Sunday

08.00 Holy Communion BCP

09.30 Service of the Word

Every Tuesday

09.00 Morning Prayer

Every Wednesday

10.00 Midweek Holy Communion

OLD ALRESFORD

St Mary the Virgin

Sunday 5 May: 6th Sunday of Easter

11.00 Village Family Praise

Sunday 12 May: 7th Sunday of Easter

09.30 Morning Praise

Sunday 19 May: Pentecost

11.00 *No Service because of the Watercress Festival*

Sunday 26 May: Trinity Sunday

09.30 Parish Communion CW

Every Wednesday

09.00 Morning Prayer



**Arle Valley
Benefice**



OVINGTON

St Peter's

Sunday 5 May: 6th Sunday of Easter

11.00 Café Church

Sunday 12 May: 7th Sunday of Easter

11.00 Parish Communion

Sunday 19 May: Pentecost

10.00 No service due to Watercress Festival

Sunday 26 May: Trinity Sunday

11.00 No service

Every Thursday

09.00 Morning Prayer

BIGHTON

All Saints

Sunday 5 May: 6th Sunday of Easter

11.00 No service

Sunday 12 May: 7th Sunday of Easter

11.00 Morning Prayer

Sunday 19 May: Pentecost

11.00 Morning Prayer

Sunday 26 May: Trinity Sunday

11.00 Parish Communion

Every Monday

09.00 Morning Prayer



Calendar

April 27th Old Alresford Lambs and Bluebells
 April 30th Citizen's Advice at Alresford Library
 May 1st WI on Eurovision
 May 4th Southern Voices Concert
 May 7th Community Cinema—One Life
 May 8th Winchester Gold Garden Fair
 May 8th Alresford Horticultural Society
 May 11th Bramdean Fete
 May 12th Sundays at Six
 May 15th Alresford Hist & Lit on Lord Mountbatten
 May 18th Cheriton Singers Concert
 May 19th **WATERCRESS FESTIVAL**
 MAY 19TH **ST JOHN'S WATERCRESS CAFÉ**
 May 22nd Book Club
 May 24th Table Talk
 May 30th Art Society
 June 7th—9th Big Help Out
 June 8th Table Top Sale
 June 8th Sunshine Singers Wind in the Willows
 June 16th Broad Street Open Gardens Day
 June 16th Solos Sunday Tea
 June 19th Alresford Hist & Lit—Americans in Alresford
 July 6th Alresford Community Choir Concert



Advance notice re Christmas

Nov 30th Angel Festival & Gift from St John's
 Dec 7th Rotary Christmas Tree Sale
 Dec 8th Christingle
 Dec 14th Alresford Community Choir Concert
 Dec 15th CTIA Community Carol Service

Dec 22nd St John's Carol Service

Dec 24th Crib Service

Dec 24th Midnight Mass

For the latest information please see either the weekly notices or the Benefice website:
www.arlevalleychurches.org.uk

From the Rector

Summer is on it's way! Well, it might be?!

May is often a time to celebrate that the weather is warmer and more settled. We can pack away those big jumpers and feel the sun warming us. It is also a time for exams for our young people, with revision and sitting in rows in silence trying to remember all that they need to in order to get the grades they need for the next level of education.

We can all recall those times of exams!



For our community May is especially wonderful because it is when we come together to celebrate all things Watercress! Yes, it is the Watercress festival on Sunday 19th May.

At St John's we will have our usual café, with the most delicious home-made cakes served with drinks all day long.

It will be extra special for us this year because we will be launching a wonderful glossy souvenir brochure all about St John's church, the church yard, and our lovely town. And if that wasn't enough the Bishop of Winchester, Bishop Philip will be here to help us launch this booklet in the church at 11.15am. We are so grateful to The Friends of St John's who are not only funding the print of this booklet but have also created and prepared it. We hope that many of us who live in this wonderful town will want a copy of the booklet to share with friends, family, and visitors.

Community is so important, and we are so very blessed to have such a wonderful community here in Alresford.

Jesus teaches us to live in community with one another with his command in John's gospel:

John 13:34–35: A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.

Do we love each other? Always? Even on social media? If Jesus were physically present today, would he use social media? And if so, to what end? What can we learn from the life and teachings of Jesus about how to "comment" well on social media?

I don't think Jesus would use social media as we often do because often it is self-centred and superficial.

And very often I see such hurtful and offensive comments on social media and yes from Christians too.

People often feel that they can say things on social media that they would never say to someone in person.

Looking at our Town Facebook page you will often see comments that are very unloving towards others!

So, when Jesus said 'Love thy neighbour' of course social media didn't exist as we know it, but Jesus did mean that we should love each other in all circumstances and in all forms of communication.

I decided to remove myself from Twitter a couple of years ago because I was fed up with seeing Christians being so unkind and rude to other Christians.

I'm not suggesting that we all need to turn our backs on social media, but we do need to hold tight to those Christian values which set us apart as disciples, as Christians and treat everyone with the respect, kindness and patience as we would if they were standing next to us!

Enjoy the milder weather, pray for our young people and their exams, be kind on social media!

Blessings *Rev. Heather*



Easter well behind us now, we focus on the next event in the CTiA calendar: a visit to Wintershall to attend the performance of The Life of Christ later in June. This is a new venture and one which had a very positive response; we are grateful to Piers Armstrong for overseeing its organisation.

Last year I was made aware through our Parish newsletter of a programme called The Chosen, which also portrays the life of Jesus. I was pleased to hear that it has been added to a streaming platform, which made accessing it easier than the app, and I have enjoyed watching the first few episodes over the Easter period.

Filmed completely in the US, it has nevertheless brought back strong and special memories of places we visited in our pilgrimage to the Holy Land, which we joined as a family back in 2011, and of the powerful prayerful moments we experienced there.

At this moment, hope in the power of prayer is our strength as fellow Christians. During Lent and after Easter, our Catholic Parish has offered the opportunity to receive daily emails which include reflections, music and appropriate links. At any time of the day, accessing them has offered the opportunity to pray and reflect upon the Gospel. One of the links listed recently is for a website called Hallow (<https://hallow.com/how-to-pray/>), which provides interesting suggestions and insights on how to pray.



Of course, alongside prayer, there is also the possibility to act, even by fundraising. CTiA is currently supporting Firefly International in its effort to support children in areas torn by war. A non-political and non-religious organisation, Firefly places at its centre the wellbeing of children, aiming to heal, teach and build peace. Anyone interested to know more about the work of this charity can visit its latest newsletter using this link

<https://mailchi.mp/fe8f3bb7c30d/spring-newsletter-march-2024>

We hope that Maria Chambers, Firefly Project Coordinator, will attend our AGM later this year and the date will be confirmed as soon as possible. Do come to hear about the work carried out by their team and the projects that our donations can enable.

(The CTiA Committee consists of James Pinniger (Chair), Jackie Connell and Sarah Wilding from St John's: Piers Armstrong, Rosemary Chambers and Laura Brill from St Gregory's: and Jon Hughes, Jon Whale and Ruth Wintle from the Methodist Church)



Children's Activities

Monday Meet + Eat

Come Join Us **Everyone Welcome** **Please inform us of any dietary requirements**
Ласкаво просимо всіх

Families with primary school children and under are invited to join the fun in the John Pearson Hall.

3.30pm | A drink and a snack to start.
Followed by Board Games, Puzzles, Word Searches and lots more fun!
4.45pm | Dinner - we share a FREE hot meal.

Let's Meet **Let's Eat** **Let's Play**

Organised by CTIA

Every Monday from 3.30pm @ St. John's Church, Alresford
Please book in your child or family at mondaymeetandeat@gmail.com

Families at 4pm

Everyone welcome

1st Sunday of the month
St. John's Church
Alresford

Story, craft, song, drinks and snacks

No more than an hour, very informal

CHILL, CHAT & CHOMP

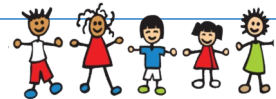
Youth Group Y7 upwards

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.



MONDAYS at 10.00

In the Christy Hall, Old Alresford
come & meet other families



REFRESHMENTS
TOO!



Toys for toddlers
and a chance to
chat.

Everyone is wel-
come from 10.00-
12 noon 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



Rhymetime



**New Rhymetime sessions at
Alresford Library!**
10.45 For Babies
11.15 For Toddlers

Sessions are free to join and drop in
or just message us via our facebook
page to guarantee your place!

Church Activities

8th June at St John's Church

Have a large table for £20 or a small table for £10 and **liberate the loft, clear the cupboards, declutter your life** and sell all your preloved items: books, bric-a-brac, clothes, cutlery, decorations, kitchenware, jewellery, ornaments, tools, toys...

Anything as long as it is legal and in good condition.

And come and buy from others

Tea and coffee available



The Arle Valley Benefice Education Fund

The Arle Valley Benefice Education Fund is available to parishioners in the Benefice, who would like to obtain a grant to further their religious education .

The fund was set up in 1990 by the Diocese of Winchester following the sale of the Old Alresford Church of England School. In 2012 it was agreed with the Charity Commission that the remit of the Fund could be extended to:

‘The provision within the Arle Valley Benefice of religious education in accordance within the tenets of the Church of England by means of Sunday Schools or otherwise.’

Trustees are appointed from the Electoral Role of the churches within the Benefice, the intent being that all churches are represented on the board. The Rector of the Benefice is also a trustee.

Grants are approved by the trustees and can be applied for by emailing avbef20@gmail.com for an application form. You will need the approval of a church warden before sending in your application.

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.



St John's Porch Prayer Tree: Please would you spend some time praying the prayer requests on the Prayer Tree as you go in or out of St John's or as you walk by St John's porch. It is a great privilege to be able to support all those who have written these.

New Explore Prayer Cards:

We have a new resource in the West Porch at St. John's...

A set of prayer cards in a display case are available for you to pick up when you are in need of a boost or want help. You are most welcome to take some for your friends and family as well.

The prayer cards include the following titles:

Being Accepted, Looking for God, Worried about Someone, Finding Peace, Wanting Guidance, Wanting forgiveness, Feeling anxious or sad, Feeling alone, Being thankful, Struggling with change, Feeling Hurt, Grieving.



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

St Peter' Ovington

Café Church

11.00

5th May



Sundays @ Six

ON

2ND SUNDAYS!

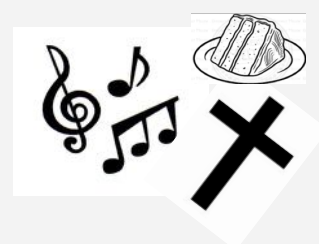
12th May

@ 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.



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

**Tuesday April 30
@ 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm
Advice at Alresford Library**

Alresford Library 20 Broad Street,
Alresford

Pop in to Alresford Library and speak to
a trained adviser from Citizens Advice
Winchester District.



Solos Sunday Tea

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

Come and
join us

Every Third Sunday 2.30pm—4.30pm

**Next meeting: Sunday 16th June
(No meeting May with Watercress Fete)**

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



Coffee, Cake & Chat @ St. John's

**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 neigh-
bours as well**

The more the merrier!



For more information please contact

Angela Peel 01962 734 814

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

Friday 24th May

All Welcome



Next Meeting Wednesday 1st May
"Pop, Politics & Parties"
Gordon Lewis takes us behind the
scenes at the

EURO♥vision

SONG CONTEST

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

St John's Book Group

The next meeting will be on
Wednesday May 22nd
2pm in the JPH

and the book is
The Nightingale
by Kristin Hannah

New members are always
welcome.

Contact: Hilary Carr 735279

hilarycarr1@gmail.com



Alresford Rugby Club presents

Community Fitness

FREE fitness sessions
every Tuesday

from 9th January 2024 19:00-20:00
@ the Natta Ground ARFC Rugby pitches.
With a qualified personal trainer.
Call Adam 07912 144521

BRAMDEAN FETE

Saturday 11th May
2-4.30pm

In the beautiful gardens of
Bramdean House SO24 0JU

£2.50 entry (under 16s free)
Cash preferred.
Only assistance dogs allowed.

Plants, Toys, Home Produce, Magpie,
Gifts, Books, Bottle Stall,
Bar, Teas, Children's
Games & Races and much more!
(All donations welcome)

For all inquiries, please contact Alex Hardie on 01962
771154 or email: family.hardie@gmail.com

Alresford Art Society:



**A demonstration of *Flowers in Mixed Media*
by Wendy Jelbert.**

***It will be held on Thursday 30th May 2024
starting at 7.30pm
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.***



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 pub lunch.

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.



Alresford and District Horticultural Society

Wednesday 8 May.
From 7:30 pm.

Venue: St Gregory's Parish Hall, Grange Road, Alresford.

Alan Horgan will give a talk on 'Pests and Diseases'.

Visitors welcome, £3.
Refreshments available.

Contact Stephen Morley
horti@allthemorleys.co.uk
for more information



Alresford Community Cinema



SAVE ONE LIFE. SAVE THE WORLD.



Brought to you by the Friends of St John's

Bookings 01962 736282 or 07780 703543

Community Events

Save the Date

The Wind in the Willows

The Sunshine Singers

St John's Church

8th June

@5pm

Further details contact Rosie Waring-Green

rwg@22rwg.co.uk

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



**Hampshire
Libraries**



Alresford Historical and Literary Society

The Alresford Historical and Literary Society holds its monthly meetings in the Methodist Church, Jacklyns Lane, Alresford SO24 9JJ, where a balanced programme of talks and presentations takes place in a friendly atmosphere. Meetings are normally held on the third Wednesday of the month, and it is not necessary to be a member to attend – visitors are welcome at the door for just £3.

Our current programme can be found at <https://alresfordhistandlit.co.uk/>

#Programm. Selected topics give an insight into the influence that the political, social and industrial heritage has had on our Community and Hampshire. To stimulate the literary interests of the members, lectures are chosen to illustrate the work of authors and artistic personalities. We also organise occasional group visits to interesting places, continue to produce new publications and sponsor memorials. Annual membership (January 1st - December 31st) is only £10. If you would like to join the society, know more about us or to send us a message, please e-mail secretary@alresfordhistandlit.co.uk

Wednesday 15 May 24 Lord Louis Mountbatten

Adrian Smith

Wednesday 19 Jun 24 Americans in Alresford

Glenn Gilbertson



SAVE THE DATE: WEDNESDAY 8TH MAY 2024, 10am to 4pm

Upper Farm, Down Farm Lane, Headbourne Worthy, SO23 7LA

Entrance £5 Ample Parking Available on site Sorry no dogs

A great day out in a beautiful private garden.

Come along for gardening inspiration and fantastic shopping with plant nurseries, artisan & homeware products, fashion accessories & delicious foods

Relax over coffee and home-made lunch in the Winchester Go LD Marquee

Please use this QR code to visit our website for more details:

<https://winchestergold.org.uk/get-involved/>

Living life to the full.

Winchester Go LD, The Arc, Jewry Street, Winchester, SO23 8BB
T: 01962 600281 W: winchestergold.org.uk E: info@winchestergold.org.uk
Patron: Lady Portal (Louise) MBE, DL Charity number: 1156536





Have you suffered a bereavement?

Would it help to talk?

If so, please telephone:

07450 649679

(24 hour answerphone)

Our support is confidential and free. It is carried out by trained Bereavement Visitors who are supervised by professionally qualified counsellors.

www.winchesterbereavementsupport.org.uk



BEFRIEND THE END

Are you curious?

Do you have questions about death and dying?

If so, come along to our informal afternoons and meet like-minded 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



What matters most to you – Choices

What does the word choice mean and by making them, what might that entail? Through adversity such as a health challenge or end of life, how might we best express our needs and how do we ensure our choices are implemented? We do have choices available throughout our lives including at the end of our lives too. The sooner we start to think about them, the better prepared we can be.

Choices (Oxford dictionary) 'The act of choosing between two or more possibilities.

Evaluating different alternatives and choosing the option that is deemed to be most suitable'.

How? Conscious or unconsciously

We may make our choices through pragmatic thought process asking advice, perhaps even seeking differing opinions, and exploring all avenues available.

We may make our decisions based on our belief system that has been made through our own filters and perceptions of the world around us. The sources of beliefs include environment, events, knowledge, past experiences and visualization, conditioning, religion etc.

Why do we make choices? It can be as simple as what we decide to eat (or not!) for lunch. Or they could be more pressing and could make all the difference between life or death. When do we make choices? Choices are made all the time. Sometimes unknowingly. Sometimes, we may have the luxury to take our time over them and others require more immediate action.

What Can Prevent Effective Decision Making?

Lacking relevant information: When you don't fully understand a situation, it's hard to make a good decision about it.

Misidentifying the problem: Be clear that your decision addresses a root cause, not just a symptom.

Failing to consider risks: Assess the consequences of each course of action before choosing one.

Letting bias cloud your judgment: View your choices with objectivity and seek feedback.

Not communicating: Many decisions involve more than one person, so make sure that anyone closely involved are in the know.

What Are the 7 Steps of Decision Making?

To avoid making a bad decision, you need to bring a range of decision-making skills together in a logical and ordered process. We recommend the following seven steps

Above all, choices that we make over our health and wellbeing require respect and compassion. Both from ourselves and by those we choose to surround ourselves by even if they do not agree.

It can require deep soul searching and can make us prioritize what is most important to us. Everyone is different and what is right for me, might not be right for you and vice versa. and that is ok.

Investigate the situation in detail.

Create a constructive environment.

Generate good alternatives.

Explore your options.

Select the best solution.

Evaluate your plan.

Communicate your decision, and take action.

It is also ok to change our minds. We might think we know what choices we would make if an event happened, but amid it all, we might feel very differently. It is important to be empowered and to feel we can change direction to better suit our needs.

News from the World Team:

the team's report for 2022 was printed by error in St John's Annual Report, this is the correct one for our activities in 2023.

These are the overseas projects we support:

Ashray UK: the organisation that supports the Mar Elias Educational Institutions, Ibillin, Israel, sends regular newsletters from Abuna Elias Chacour. Sadly the news has been grim since the continuing conflict in the Middle East but there is hope for a better future by praying and educating the children to be ambassadors of reconciliation.



Church Mission Society: our new partners are Sarah and Simon Cawdell who are in Gulu, Uganda. Sarah is head of a theological college and Simon leading a Rooted in Jesus course. We have had a Zoom session with them and have frequent updates via their Facebook page and CMS newsletters.

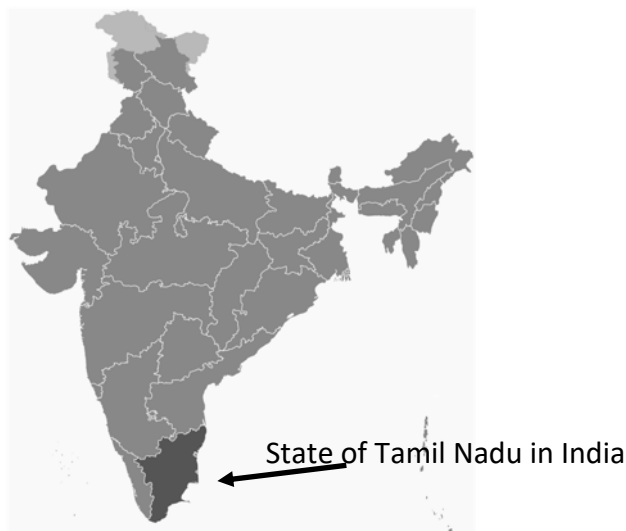
The Michael Project, Zimbabwe: there are 100 children at their preschools and they pay school fees for 25 children, 15 from Shalom home and 10 who have been reunited with their biological families or fostered but still require some financial support. They are so grateful to St John's for the love, support and prayers." You make our work lighter" We had a very successful coffee morning in the JPH in October which raised just under £1000.

Pannai Family Farm, Tamil Nadu, India: We receive regular updates from Anita the sponsorship secretary. St John's has continued supporting several children until their higher education for which they are very grateful.

Shanthigramam, Tamil Nadu: the home for elderly and destitute people continues to care for those damaged by leprosy. In the last year they have constructed new buildings including individual cottages for the residents.

Information on all our links can be found on the Arle Valley Benefice website under Community and Outreach/St John's World Team, and there are regular articles in the Arle Valley Voice magazine.

Sue Greenway.





2 CORINTHIANS 4:8-9

WE ARE HARD PRESSED ON EVERY
SIDE, BUT NOT CRUSHED; PERPLEXED,
BUT NOT IN DESPAIR; PERSECUTED,
BUT NOT ABANDONED; STRUCK DOWN,
BUT NOT DESTROYED.

PRAYER REQUESTS

April 2024

1 THANKSGIVING

Since the beginning of this year, we have faced numerous challenging situations, but we are deeply thankful for the immense support we have received. The prayers and practical assistance have been truly uplifting. As in 1 Thessalonians 5:11, we have found strength and encouragement through the unwavering faith and resilience of those who surround us.

2 PRESCHOOLS

We have initiated several building projects to enhance the learning experiences of the children we serve. These include 2 additional toilets and a septic tank for Chikurubi, a new fence, a storeroom and additional classroom for Wingate and an updated playground equipment for both sites. Your prayers for sustained provision are requested to ensure the timely completion of each project.



3 SHALOM HOME

Since the start of the year, we have welcomed 5 children ranging from 5 weeks to 4 years old to the Shalom family bringing the total of children in residential care to 21. Their backgrounds involve stories of abandonment, neglect, or abuse. Please pray for:

- Their complete recovery from both physical and emotional wounds
- God to guide a way towards reunification, adoption, or foster care for each of them as appropriate



4 SURGERY

Last year, two brothers were successfully reunited with their grandparents after a decade of separation. T&P remains committed to assisting the boys with their education and medical needs. One of the siblings has been diagnosed with glaucoma and is scheduled for surgery on April 10th. Please pray for financial resources so the operation can go ahead. Please also pray for a successful procedure and for complete healing and vision restoration.



Alresford Methodist Church May 2024

4th May 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.

PLANT SALE - Also on this morning, there will be a good selection of home-grown plants for sale – all ready to plant out in your summer beds and borders.

13th May Please note the change of date for our next Monday Memory Café. The cafe is usually held on the first Monday of the month, but has been moved to the second Monday in May to avoid the Bank Holiday.

We welcome anyone suffering the debilitating condition of memory loss, along with their carers. Two professional staff, from Andover 'MIND', attend each café to provide expert advice and information. As you would expect, the afternoon includes 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 Ruth on 07711066116

LAMBS AND BLUEBELLS

On Saturday 27th April, John and Elizabeth Britton welcome us to visit their fields of new-born lambs and to walk through the bluebell woods.

Coffee and homemade biscuits will be served from 10-12 noon and donations are welcomed for the cancer support charity, Maggie's Southampton.

Address: Dewpond Cottage, Barnfield Farm, Field Farm Lane, Colemore, GU34 3PX

Alresford Senior Citizens Lunch Club



Every Thursday 12 noon

**Meeting at the Methodist Church Hall
Jacklyns Lane**



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£10**

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Musical Events



Southern Voices are inviting local singers to come and sing with them in a choral workshop as part of their 40th Anniversary Season on Saturday 4th May, St. Paul's Church, Winchester, SO22 5AB

Find out what it's like to sing with the choir and their fabulous conductor, Jamal Sutton. The programme has a 'joyful' theme, with works from the English Choral Tradition by Finzi, Elgar and Wood with some Bob Chilcott thrown in to add even more fun. It's on the ambitious side, but all enjoyable music and you will have a good sing!

The accompanist will be the immensely talented George Castle and registration starts at 10am. Bring your own pack lunch and complimentary hot drinks and biscuits will be available. The day concludes with a free concert for your friends and family at 3pm in the church.

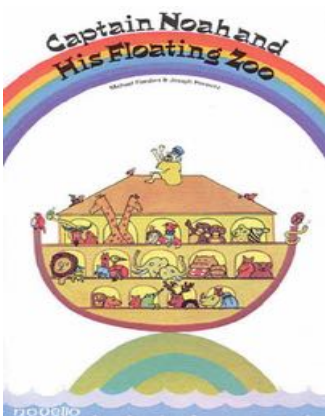
The workshop costs £20 (£10 for those 21 and under) including music; please buy your tickets at

<https://www.southernvoices.co.uk/ComeAndSing>

Car parking is limited at the church; please use nearby Winchester car parks and allow time to walk to the church.

**Cheriton Singers will be performing
a delightful combination of pieces on Saturday, May 18th, 2024:**

**"Captain Noah and his Floating Zoo"
by Flanders and Horovitz,
Bob Chilcott's "Little Jazz Mass,
and the "Litanies a la Vierge Noire" by Poulenc.**



**The concert will be at 7.30 pm in St Michael's Church,
Cheriton.**

**Tickets £10 for adults, under 16s free, available from
www.ticketsource.co.uk/cheritonsingers,
from Cheriton Village Stores, or on the door.**

Please make a note in your diary!



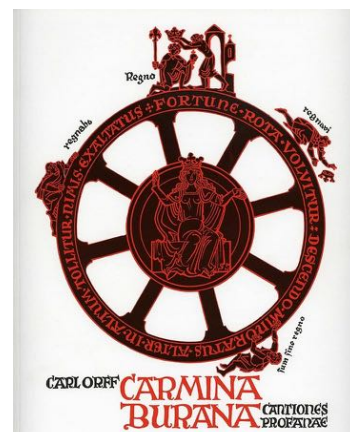
Juxtapositions:

Alresford Community Choir's Spring to Summer Programme

This year, ACC has a busy time, leading to the summer holidays. Having provided the musical entertainment for Winchester's *Mayor Making* ceremony in the Guildhall on May 15th, we will then enjoy the fun of presenting a strong selection of pieces from the choir's wide-ranging repertoire, for the *Watercress Festival* on May 19th. In the relaxed and informal setting that the festival offers, in the Nave of St John's Church, we will hear folksongs, arrangements of pop songs and from shows, sacred pieces, and several new songs mixed with our usual 'old favourites'.

On Saturday July 6th, the choir, supported by a range of wonderful professional artists, we will present a programme of compositions, all of which are less than 100 years old and some of the 21st Century.

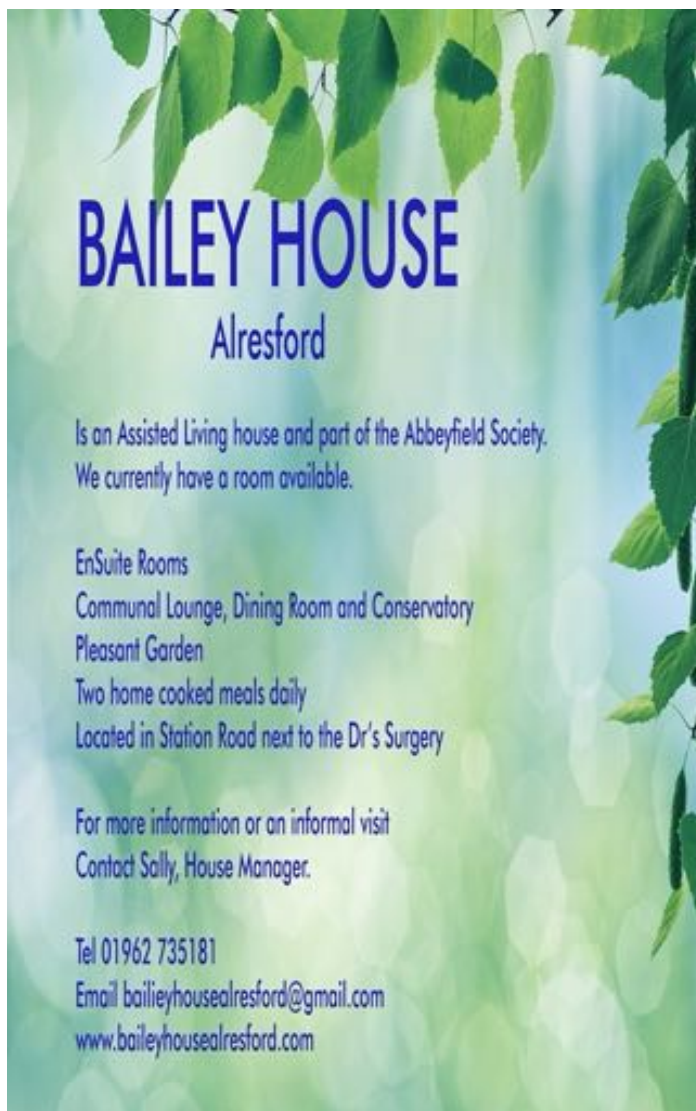
With two grand pianos, played by four hands, four vocal soloists, and a fabulous array of six percussionists, the culmination of the evening will be a performance of *Carmina Burana* by Karl Orff. This enigmatic cantata offers a very lively setting of words by medieval student monks, mostly focused on worldly pleasures. Some sections of the work have now passed into our everyday culture, used for television adverts (including the iconic Old Spice surfer!).



The evening will start with two shorter song cycles with words from Byron and Shakespeare, set to music by the brilliant jazz pianist George Shearing, and our very own ACC Honorary President Alexander L'Estrange, another jazz specialist.

Tickets will be on sale from May and you are recommended to purchase early to avoid disappointment!





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Volunteering

The Watercress Line hold regular volunteer events, and have various teams who are vital to the Watercress Line's continued operation and commercial success this year and next. All roles offer training, all the great personal benefits of at the Watercress Line, flexibility, social life, work experience and improved job prospects. Current roles that we are **urgently** looking for volunteers include the catering Team and Retail Team.:

We are also looking for anyone who can help with The Electronic Point of Sale system which is vital to the economic health of the railway by providing data on which all commercial decisions are made. We need people with IT experience to help support the operation of the system and those with experience of embedding such systems in a business to ensure the full potential is utilised. In time, people in this team may migrate to form a digital transformation team.

Email: volunteer@watercressline.co.uk or call 01962 587058 for further details.

May Day

May is the month when the Romans held their festival to honour the mother-goddess Maia, goddess of nature and growth. (May is named after her.) The early Celts celebrated the feast of Beltane, in honour of the sun god, Beli.

For centuries in 'Olde England' the people went mad in May. After the hardship of winter, and hunger of early Spring, May was a time of indulgence. Henry VIII went 'maying' on many occasions. Then folk would stay out all night in the dark rain-warm thickets and return in the morning for dancing on the green around the May pole, archery, vaulting, wrestling, and evening bonfires.

The Protestant reformers took a strong stand against May Day, and May Day was abolished altogether for twenty years when they were in power.

May Day to most people today brings vague folk memories of a young Queen of the May decorated with garlands and streamers and flowers, a May Pole to weave, and Morris dancing,.

Although May Day was a celebration of spring there was also sadness as the revelers reflected that these beautiful flowers would fade and that all the young people would grow old and die.

That is the difference between May Day and the celebrations of Easter, Ascension and Pentecost. Yes, we will all die but that is not the end for there is life after death and one day—who knows when—Jesus will come back and end this world or rather raise this world to new life as heaven and earth become one and there will be no



Here's a picture
of a maypole
dance to colour

Why the Ascension? *Charlotte Ryton*

In my career as an RS teacher every time I came to teach the Ascension a child would ask, “But why did Jesus have to go away again. Why couldn’t he stay with us?” And underneath that question was often a longing to see Jesus, to know him as Andrew, Simon, Mary , Martha and all those early disciples did. A longing that even St Paul for all he had been granted that vision on Damascus also felt.

Another question they asked is did Jesus really just fly up into the sky? And if so is he on another planet or turned himself into a sort of special star?



And how did I answer? Well, first I had to explain that heaven and earth are not two different places in space. John Polkinghorne who was both a priest and a physicist said that he thought that heaven was a different dimension within our space-time continuum which we at the moment are unable to access just as we can’t see radio waves although they are all around us. Another theologian suggests that the relation between heaven and earth is like the relation between the paper and ink that make up a book and the meaning of what is written. Like all images and analogies these are not exact.

One day we will all live in the heavenly and earthly dimension at the same time but at the moment only Jesus lives in both dimensions. So Jesus is still here in our dimension but we can’t see him though occasionally an individual will have a vision of him.

Another reason why Jesus cannot be with us as he was for those early disciples is that limits in time and space. I mean when he was in Galilee talking to his fishermen friends he wasn’t in Jerusalem teaching in the temple, but now he is in the heavenly as well as earthly dimension he is able to be in all places at all times.

Thirdly according to Jesus himself he had to leave so that the Holy Spirit could come and be with us, as indeed happened at Pentecost.

Day of Pentecost

This year the Day of Pentecost—the church’s birthday coincides with Alresford’s Watercress Festival so in between eating, buying and having fun we might remember the momentous event two thousand or so years ago

Actually the first Pentecost took place at a major Jewish festival—itsself called Pentecost—and thought there might not have been watercress and certainly no brass band there would have been special food, music, dancing and probably some street entertainment.



But in one upper room a group of people were hiding, frightened, confused, praying. They had been on a roller-coaster of emotion. Terrible grief when Jesus was crucified, stunned joy when he rose again and they saw him in the flesh, bewilderment when he ascended to heaven and now they waited for something that Jesus promised though they did not know exactly what..

They were not disappointed for that morning the Holy Spirit came upon that small group and transformed those men and women into the Church—Christ’s body on earth. They were filled with courage, hope and so went out to preach the gospel to the crowds flooding into Jerusalem for the festival.

Within thirty years the Gospel had spread throughout the Mediterranean countries. God was on the move.



Nowadays people outside the church have forgotten Pentecost but in the past it was a major festival. It was called Whit Sunday or White Sunday because in those days children wore something white and there were processions through the streets—the traditional day for the Walk of Witness. And the whole weekend would be a time for celebration and partying. Whit Monday was a bank holiday and there were often fairs held that day.

So perhaps it is fitting that the Watercress Festival coincides with Pentecost but do give the Holy Spirit a thought as you listen to the bands and choirs, watch the procession and eat the goodies on offer.



Watercress Festival



Nationally acclaimed Annual festival attracting thousands of visitors to New Alresford in Hampshire to celebrate all things watercress.

Every year on the third Sunday in May the streets of this Georgian town are closed to traffic to transform the town into a family-friendly **FREE** festival. (*parking charges apply).



From street markets, food & drink stalls, cookery demonstrations with renown world class chefs, the Hampshire Farmers Market, a "Kids Zone" featuring Falcon Displays and Circus Skills, there really is something for everyone. For many the highlight of the day is Watercress Eating Championship which takes place at 15:00 on the main stage - a must see event hosted by our very own redoubtable Paul Rees keeping the participants in order and the crowd in stitches.

The festival opens at 10:00 and closes at 16:00, with the streets of New Alresford being returned to normal within a few hours.

Alresford Watercress Festival is a not-for-profit enterprise raising money for many local

Watercress



Watercress has probably always grown wild in the streams of Hampshire and been eaten by local people. It is too perishable to be taken very far but in the 19C the railway arrived and so the cress could be packed up and sent up to London and other big cities. As a result places like Alresford flourished and of course the railway came to be called the Watercress Line

In ancient times it was thought to have many healing properties. The Romans believed in cured insanity and later in the middle ages it was thought to cure jaundice and kidney diseases. While it may not be such a cure it is certainly rich in vitamins—and has almost no calories!

Hampshire is still the main producer of watercress in this country and it depends on the clean, clear waters of the chalk stream though nowadays it is grown in specially managed beds. Nowadays the cress is mostly taken by lorry and the Watercress Line has become a heritage railway preserving old engines and providing a lot of fun.



Watercress Festival

A warm welcome
& delicious
homemade cake



The Café at St John's
The Watercress Festival

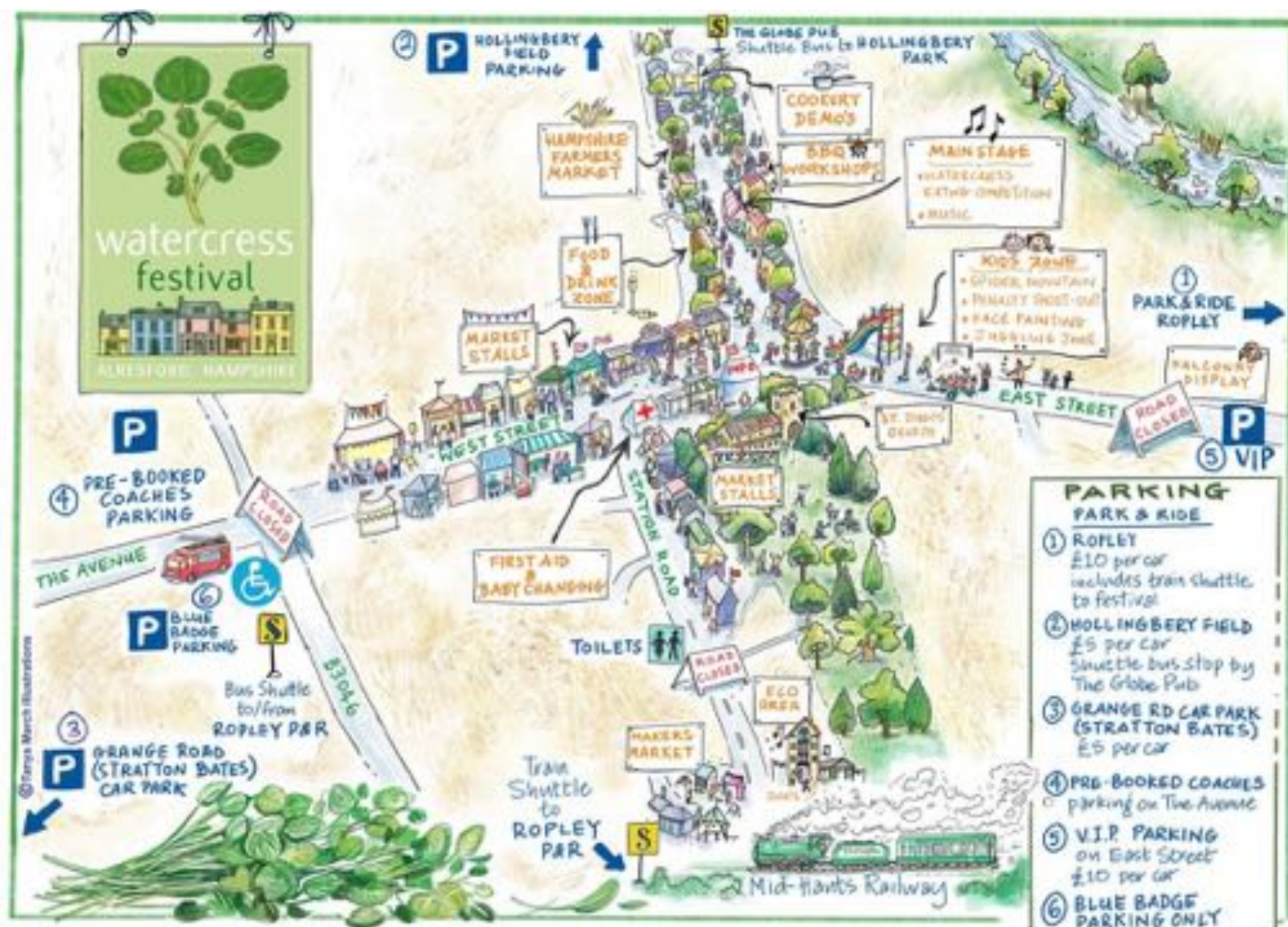
Sunday 19th May

10.00am - 4.00pm

in the Church Hall

(Outside tables if good weather)

Enjoy a cup of tea/coffee
with your choice of cake
Squash available for children



Vision Day

St John's PCC and others met for a Vision Day to pray, think and discuss the future of St John's and how we might try to grow the church in spirit and numbers. Various ideas were put forward of which the one that resonated with most people was having Café Church once a month.



Getting Ready for Easter

Any big service takes a deal of preparation as you can see here—getting the linen as it should be, arranging the flowers, polishing the silver, deciding on the music and so on.



Easter Flowers



Thank you

Many thanks to all those who make our churches look beautiful. Those who clean, those who arrange the flowers, those who launder the linen, those who polish the silverware and also thank to all those who enable the services to happen.. Heather of course as our rector but also all those who preach, pray, read, make music and ring the bells. And thanks to those who all those who do so much to maintain our church.

Lent and Easter at St Mary's Old | Alresford

The challenge was set for us 'COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS'. It stimulated much thought during Lent. Each day, except for Sundays, we were challenged to think how fortunate we are and how little others have. Each challenge meant a small donation for our project to raise funds for a much needed toilet and kitchen facility at the church. Little amounts mount up and we hope to have raised a good sum of money for the project as well as making us all think how very blessed we are.

Here are a few of the challenges:-

Many people sleep rough every night Give 3p for each bed in your home

Many people never have a holiday Give 20p for each holiday you had in 2023

Water is very precious in some parts of the world Give 3p for every tap in your home

It's a blessing to be a grandparent Give 3p for each member of your household who has a grandchild and 2p for each member who has a grandparent. There were 40 challenges and it gave us plenty to think about as we thankfully counted our blessings.

The church was beautifully decorated for Easter with baskets of spring flowers on all the window sills. Outside the lovely **Easter garden**, with the crosses and tomb, was a reminder to all who pass by of the Easter story.

Many **pilgrims** now visit St Mary's on their journey along the St James pilgrimage route to Santiago del Compostela and we are pleased to welcome them.

April Family Service Sunday 7th April In our theme, exploring Thomas, we considered trusting and believing and considered whether 'Doubting Thomas' was a fair nickname for one who needed to see to believe.

Family Praise Sunday May 5th 11 am Theme – Vines and vineyards- We have a vineyard here in Old Alresford. How does the vine feature in the teaching of Christ?

Hymns, prayers, a short activity and refreshments. Do come and enjoy this friendly service.



A date for your diary our next fundraising event
St. Mary's Church, Old Alresford.
Sunday 7th July at 3.00p.m.
Concert by the Basingstoke Hospital Male Voice Choir
More details in the June magazine.

An Event at Brighton

Dessert Island Discs



On Saturday evening the Church was turned into an amazing Dessert Island.

Yes, that's right Dessert, not Desert, Island when Joanna Gray presented her version of the famous radio show.

She interviewed eight local celebrities, teasing out unknown information and interesting facts about their lives and then inviting them to play a piece of music which had been important to them and explain the significance of the piece.

During the interval the Dessert part of the evening was enjoyed by all with many delicious puddings being provided to sample with a glass of wine.

Our special thanks go to Joanna for perfecting the idea and for organising an excellent evening's entertainment which was enjoyed by all who came.

Thanks are also due to William for his very effective lighting of the Church and for his sound system, to Ian for his assistance with the financial aspects and to Alison and Chris for their coordination.

And, of course to our castaways: Lauren Cutter; Ian Waring Green; Ally Allfrey; Geoff Buss; John Mayne; Tricia McCowen; Jonathan Booth and Gail Johnson; we hope that you landed safely back home.



Photos courtesy of Deborah Parritt

ALRESFORD BOWLING CLUB

Sponsored by
The Alresford Bowling Studio &
Garthwaite Garden Centre

A friendly bowling club, situated in Sun Lane, close to the centre of Alresford.

Lawn bowls is a great game for all ages, so please do come along and have a go!

Roll-ups are opportunities to meet, play and socialise with other members. These take place on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, 10.00 am to 12.00 noon, (we would ask you to come along at 9.30 am to allow for registration and picking of teams) and on Thursday evenings 8.00 pm to 9.00 pm (with a social element in the clubhouse). Visitors are always welcome at roll-ups and at other times when accompanied by a member. You can try out bowls of various sizes and can take advantage of 2 trial sessions before you decide if the game of bowls is for you. We offer a social membership too.

For further information please
contact Lindsey (Secretary)
at alresfordbowls@gmail.com
and visit our website:
www.alresfordbowlingclub.org.uk



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In loving memory of Norah Lillian Mitham

Norah, a long term resident of Alresford, passed away on 17 February 2024 at the age of 95.

Norah was dearly loved by her family and her friends, is sadly missed, and fondly remembered. She is especially missed by her 94 year old sister Pat, in Australia, who holds her very dear and is very sad at her passing.

She is remembered especially for her wit, honesty and generosity, her kind heart, independent spirit, and her strength of character. She was true to herself, and to others.

Norah lived an interesting and long life. She was born Norah Lillian Armstrong in Narrabeen, Australia, but returned with her parents to the South of England when she was three. She lived for some time in Brixham, before the family settled in Fareham. At thirteen, she lost her father in service during World War 2. At seventeen, she joined the Womens' Land Army. It was through this work that she met her beloved husband Arthur James Mitham (Jim) who was a farm manager. They married when she was 21, and lived an honest, hardworking farming life together. Norah embraced the many duties of a farmer's wife, cooking an early breakfast for the farm hands, tending chickens, plucking pheasants, doing the laundry by hand, and cooking the nightly meal. Of "country ways" as a "farmer's wife", she wrote:

"One was probably more aware of the seasons – their delights and frustrations. Spring was a busy time preparing the land for the sowing of crops and hoping the weather would be favourable. Lambing time with sometimes wintery conditions causing extra problems. Haytime, when the weather again played a great part – it could cause havoc. All through the year cows to be milked, sometimes difficult calving usually in the early hours needing the Vet.

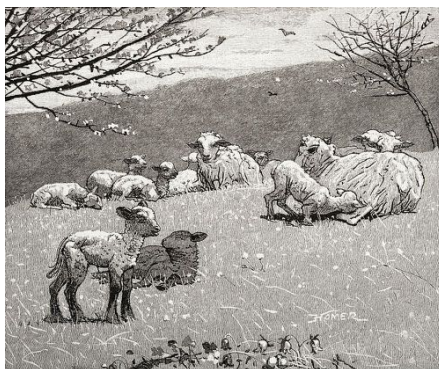
Harvest was a very busy time and then, when all was safely gathered in, a chance to relax thankfully with the darker evenings when one could close the door and sit by a log fire, though we still had to prepare for the autumn sowing and extra care for animals in the winter.

Although it was a very busy life there was peace and quiet. No rushing about – no trains for commuting. One felt close to nature, could see growth, many indications of the weather- wildlife, birds, flowers.... Villagers made their own entertainment and enjoyment and looked forward to the Village Fete, local cricket matches.... The Church played a big part in village life."

Sadly, Jim passed away in 1993. As a widow, Norah enjoyed the support of and supported others in the community, and eventually began to enjoy coach trips where she made solid friends.

Norah's love of the outdoors and nature never left her. Even in her final months, her window was kept firmly open to allow the fresh air and garden sounds in, and her gaze to travel out.

Vale Aunt Norah.



Andrew Johnson, Renowned Ringer

July 8th 1966 – February 20th 2024

Andrew was born in St Alban's City Hospital in 1966. I was working as a physiotherapist there. Roger working as a production engineer at Hawker Siddley in Hatfield. Our second son Martin was born in 1968. A new job with Lancing Bagnell in Basingstoke meant the family moved to Alresford in 1970.

Andrew and Martin had a happy childhood growing up on the new build estate of Sun Hill Crescent. Plenty of freedom to roam, ride bikes, and make friends.



His academic life began at the Stratton Bates Play Group. Moving to the newly built Sun Hill infant school, already starting to read, he flourished there. His special talents, and those of his friend, Adrian Kingwell, were recognized and nurtured by his teachers. Miss Wilson was a very much respected headmistress. At Sun Hill Junior School teacher Grace Strong was such an influence on Andrew's progress.

Perins School at that time didn't seem to be a good fit for Andrew so Montgomery of Alamein with Dennis Beacham as headmaster proved a good choice (the school is now King's having amalgamated with Danemark the girls' school on the same site). After 2 years with the encouragement of Dennis Beacham, Andrew sat the Winchester College entrance exam.

Gaining an open scholarship, he entered College and spent 5 happy years there. Excelling in maths and science, early programming on a Commodore Pet. Not excelling in spelling, sport or languages! Taking in all that was offered.

Andrew gained 4 grade A's at A level securing him a place at Trinity Hall, Cambridge. Before taking his place there he worked for a year at Ferranti in Bracknell.

In 1980, I took up ringing again after a break of many years. Son, Martin learnt to ring then. Intrigued by his brother working on the numbers for bellringing methods, Andrew quickly learned to handle a bell under the guidance of Rodney Skinner and Les Tremeer. Thus started his lifetime of bellringing. At Winchester, there was an active band of ringers – staff and pupils to man the 6 bells in the chapel. With ringing there, at the Cathedral and St John's when he was at home, he made rapid progress. In his three years at Cambridge, he made lifelong friends as an active member of the University Bell Ringing Society, joining in the social life to the full.

After graduating with a 1st in Electronic Engineering, Andrew secured a job with IBM at Hursley where he worked for 35 years. Working on Java Script, resolving a computer crisis at The Bank of Hong Kong, trips to the USA to fix bugs on new IBM products working on MQ (IBM Messenger functionality).

During a work trip to Raleigh, North Carolina he was able to ring bells. This is where he met Theo Parsons whose father Richard had installed the bells at Christchurch. A long-distance romance began, helped by a happy posting to work for three years in Austin, Texas meant that at least Andrew was on the same side of 'the pond' as Theo.

The wedding took place in Raleigh in 2002, after which Andrew and Theo moved to Twyford. In 2007, daughter Julia was born, Susanna in 2010. Family life was very important to Andrew. Sunday lunch his speciality, gardening, repairing all manner of household appliances, devising science experiments for the girls and of course ringing.

Bells and ringing were Andrew's passions along with numbers and mathematical problems. These two passions (obsessions?) came together when he solved a 300-year-old mathematical bellringing problem to do with getting 5040 different changes for a method on 7 bells called Stedman Triples. It was thought that this was only possible by using two different instructions to change the order of the bells to achieve 7 factorial. With the help of a Cambridge friend, Philip Saddleton, calculations on paper backed up with computer power, a fiendishly complicated solution was found using only one type of instruction. When the peal of 5040 Stedman Triples was rung at St John the Evangelist Waterloo using Bobs only on January 22nd 1995 taking 3 hours, 2 minutes the ringing fraternity was astounded. The feat was even featured in The Times colour supplement in July 1995.

Andrew continued to refine the concept even up to his last days in the hospice.

His last ringing was at St John's, New Alresford, on January 19th this year when he rang 'his' method of Stedman Triples. On January 22nd, Andrew drove himself to Southampton Hospital as he didn't feel well, not knowing he was on his final journey.

Andrew's diagnosis of multiple myeloma in November 2017 was a dreadful shock to us all. In the following years, he received fantastic treatment at Southampton General Hospital Radiotherapy, chemo and 2 stem cell transplant procedures. He always kept his consultant on his toes with his study of the drugs and knowledge of the working of MRI and CT scanners. This treatment gave him over 6 years of relatively normal life, be it plagued with nerve pain in his leg. Holidays in the USA and Europe and bell ringing, work almost continuous. IBM was very supportive giving him time off for treatment and working from home as needed.

His last 16 days were spent in the Countess Mountbatten Hospice where until the last two days he was able to enjoy visits from family and many friends — engaging enthusiastically with everyone, always with his signature smile.

Andrew was a ringer at St John's for over 40 years and Twyford for over 20. Using his practical skills to care for the bells, teach new ringers, run ringing practices but above all ring for Sunday services.

He rang 229 quarter peals here, his last ½ muffled on Remembrance Sunday last year and 12 full peals here.

St John's has lost one of its special ringers, 'The Ringing World' a renowned, respected and loved friend.

Andrew always had a smile. Modest and kind, intelligent with great practical skills but sometimes not very practical, a quirky sense of humour.

The family have lost a loved and loving husband, father, and son. So many have lost a loyal and special friend.

Elizabeth Johnson





World Bee Day

Do you know it will be World Bee day on 20th May?

We all depend on the survival of bees

Bees and other pollinators, such as butterflies, bats and hummingbirds, are increasingly under threat from human activities.

Pollination is, however, a fundamental process for the survival of our ecosystems. Nearly 90% of the world's wild flowering plant species depend, entirely, or at least in part, on animal pollination, along with more than 75% of the world's food crops and 35% of global agricultural land. Not only do pollinators contribute directly to food security, but they are key to conserving biodiversity.

To raise awareness of the importance of pollinators, the threats they face and their contribution to sustainable development, the UN designated 20 May as World Bee Day. The goal is to strengthen measures aimed at protecting bees and other pollinators, which would significantly contribute to solving problems related to the global food supply and eliminate hunger in developing countries.

We all depend on pollinators and it is, therefore, crucial to monitor their decline and halt the loss of biodiversity.

How can we do more?

Individually by:

- planting a diverse set of native plants, which flower at different times of the year;
- buying raw honey from local farmers;
- buying products from sustainable agricultural practices;
- avoiding pesticides, fungicides or herbicides in our gardens;
- protecting wild bee colonies when possible;
- sponsoring a hive;
- making a bee water fountain by leaving a water bowl outside;
- helping sustaining forest ecosystems;
- raising awareness around us by sharing this information within our communities and networks; The decline of bees affects us all!

<https://www.un.org/en/observances/bee-day>

No insects means no pollination means no plants means no food.



Grayling: The Lady of the Stream

If I asked you to name a chalk stream fish, which one would you choose? For many, the brown trout or Atlantic salmon will come to mind – the most famous fishy mascots of these rare freshwater habitats. But today we're looking at another amazing member of the salmonid family: the European grayling. Or, to use its wonderfully romantic nickname, the 'Lady of the Stream'.



Grayling by Paul Colley

The grayling belongs to the genus *Thymallus* – so named because its members exude a faint scent of thyme. Although widespread across Europe and native to England, this fish was not originally found in the Test and Itchen. Records suggest that it was introduced to these rivers in the early 19th and 20th centuries respectively, possibly by moving fish from the Hampshire Avon.

Ironically, grayling would later be routinely culled in many southern chalk streams, due to fears of them out-competing brown trout. This practice declined as studies showed key differences in the diet, growth, habitat, and spawning behaviour of the two species. Today, grayling are particularly popular with anglers, as they can be pursued in the winter when brown trout are prohibited.

The grayling can be recognised by its glittering pewter scales and red-fringed dorsal fin. This ruby colour is much brighter in the males, especially during the breeding season. From March to May each year, they attempt to woo females with a vibrating dance. Fertilised eggs are nestled in the gravelly stream bed and – if all goes well – two to four weeks later, the water is filled with baby grayling!

After hatching, juveniles stick to the slower-flowing stream margins until they get large enough to swim further out. As they grow, their diet expands to include worms, insect larvae, and small crustaceans like freshwater shrimp. Grayling can gain twice the weight that trout and salmon manage in their first year, but end up a little smaller – the largest adults weigh around two kilograms.

Grayling need cool, clean, oxygen-rich water, in addition to areas of silt-free gravel for spawning. If their homes aren't healthy, then sadly they can struggle to thrive. To learn how the Watercress and Winterbournes scheme is helping grayling, brown trout, and other chalk stream species, visit hiwwt.org.uk/winterbournes. Our work is made possible by the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

Free Events

'The Role of the River Keeper'

Often responsible for habitat management in fisheries, river keepers can play a crucial role in protecting our precious chalk streams. Online on 14th May at 7pm.

'Tales from the Riverbank Literature Festival'

Join us in Andover, Whitchurch, Overton, and Alresford this June. Hear from amazing nature authors and get creative with writing workshops for children and adults.

Book your tickets at hiwwt.org.uk/winterbournes.

KEEPING THE ARLE VALLEY BEAUTIFUL PROTECTING OUR WATERWAYS



FOLLOWING LAST MONTH'S ARTICLE ON SAVING WATER, THIS MONTH LOOKS AT
WAYS TO AVOID POLLUTING OUR RIVERS AND OCEANS WITH CHEMICALS AND PLASTIC

PERSONAL CARE



Consider using natural soap bars for washing, shaving, shampoo and conditioner
Try natural organic toothpaste which can be purchased in glass jars or make your own
Choose a plastic free natural deodorant, better for your skin & the environment
Switch to makeup brands that use natural organic ingredients & are ethically sourced
Never dispose of medications down the sink.



CLEANING

Switch to biodegradable, cleaning products & washing up liquid eg Method and Ecover
Use cleaning products less – often a damp cloth will suffice
Consider using plastic free, eco-friendly dishwasher tablets eg SMOL
Redecorating? see: [Clean Paint Brushes and Rollers Without Harming The Environment - Greenopedia](#)



LAUNDRY

Seek environmentally friendly laundry soap & fabric conditioner eg Ecover
Use less washing powder/liquid and let the agitation in the machine get clothes clean
Where possible choose natural fibre clothing which, when washed, won't shed microplastics like synthetic garments do
Maybe research how to capture microplastics and microfibres such as the Guppyfriend laundry bag, Cora Ball or microplastic filters for washing machines



GIVE THE SEWAGE SYSTEM A HELPING HAND

Don't flush wet wipes or anything other than toilet paper down the loo
Switch to bamboo unbleached toilet rolls eg Naked Sprout



WHY BAMBOO

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EVERY SMALL CHANGE MAKES A DIFFERENCE - NEED HELP TO GET STARTED?

There are many websites offering advice about products & how to help our waterways such as:

[Certified Organic Health & Beauty Brands | Soil Association](#) www.biggreensmile.com/
www.zerowasted.co.uk/ www.peacewiththewild.co.uk/ [Guide to Homemade Cleaning Products](#)
[New Leaf Alresford – Why its time to turn over a New Leaf](#)



Cleaning and beauty products certified by the Soil Association contain natural ingredients reducing chemicals & pollutants which affect air & water quality

St John's Creation Care & Bees Knees





Photo by Ross Hoddinott

Last chance to grab a community grant

Do you want to protect, enhance, or celebrate your local chalk stream? The Watercress and Winterbournes scheme offers grants of up to £5,000 for community-led projects focusing on the Candover Brook, Cheriton Stream, Bourne Rivulet, Pillhill Brook, River Arle, Upper Anton, or Upper Test. The grant scheme closes permanently this November, so now is the perfect time to take action!

Your project must focus on at least one of the above streams, and must have one of the following aims. It could improve the condition of locally important chalk stream habitats, or their associated built heritage. It could also enable people to explore, enjoy and learn about the streams' natural and cultural heritage. The proposed activities should be accessible to, or beneficial for, the public.

We'd love to hear from passionate groups of people who want to bring their project idea to life. You might be part of a school, a parish council, a registered charity, or a Community Interest Company. Voluntary and community groups are also welcome to apply, as long as you're constituted and have your own bank account. If successful, you'll have one year to complete your activities.

The projects we've funded so far have been varied. Grant recipients have included Hampshire Bat Group, New Alresford Town Trust, Andover Trees United, and Whitchurch Conservation Group. They've installed bat boxes, created information boards, published educational booklets, and run a range of engagement events. Since 2021, we've awarded almost £30,000 of funding.

The current funding round closes on **15th July**, and the final round closes on **4th November**. We recommend expressing interest **as soon as possible**, so that we can help with your application. You can find more information, including details of eligibility criteria, by visiting hiwwt.org.uk/winterbournes/communitygrants. Our work is made possible by the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

The Wildlife Trust has two new chalk stream activities! Both are completely free.



Firstly, a poetry competition for 7-18 year olds: they can win up to £75 in National Book Tokens and have their poem published in a commemorative booklet.

For help with writing a poem, there's a free poetry activity guide that you can download from the website and print at home. Good for families, youth groups etc! The competition closes at midnight on 31st July 2024.

Secondly, a literature festival in June with author talks plus writing workshops for children and adults.

Three of the events are happening in Alresford.

You can read more info here: www.hiwwt.org.uk/tales

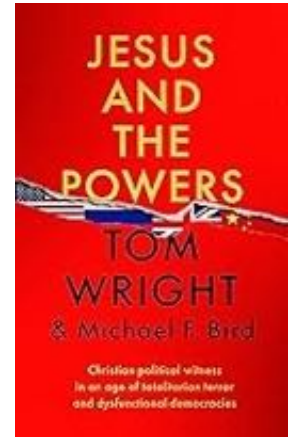


Book Review

Jesus and the Powers: Christian Political Witness in an Age of Totalitarian Terror and Dysfunctional Democracies

By Tom Wright and Michael Bird SPCK, £12.99

Tom Wright and Michael F. Bird join forces to ask: How can Christians engage with the turbulent politics of our times while remaining true to the teaching of Jesus? How do we respond to the growing problems of liberal democracies that seem to have lost their way? What can we do about the oppressive regimes that are increasingly violent and threatening?



They point out that Jesus himself lived in equally turbulent times. He lived, worked and died under the tyrannical oppressive power of Rome. Crucifixion was common and slavery endemic. The same was true for the whole early church so when they worked for God's kingdom even though that was not an ordinary earthly kingdom they knew they would be seen as rebellious, insurgent and dangerous enemies of the state, And as we well know many died for that reason including Jesus himself.

Another point is that the ancient world except for the Jews had no interest in caring for the weak and vulnerable., nor did they care that much about peace often glorying in war. We forget how revolutionary the ten commandments were and how even more world changing was Jesus' teaching about love

And though the biblical writers believed that all authority came from God and that we were meant to have some people to govern they also believed that it is right that we hold our governors to account for their actions and demand that they act with justice, care for the vulnerable and seek to enable all to live in peace.

They argue that Christians can embody a counter-cultural witness that upholds the biblical ideals of justice, mercy and truth, while opposing oppressive political schemes based on autocracy and nationalism.

The book goes on to challenge believers to take their stand against tyrannical forces wherever they may appear, and to help to cultivate flourishing liberal democracies that promote the freedom, dignity and well-being of all people.

And they remind us about people like Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Oscar Romero, and so many others who took their stand against oppressive governments and died for it. As Bonhoeffer maintained faith involves action. In following Jesus' command to love and that may well incur suffering.

As has been pointed out many times all that evil needs to flourish is for good people to do and say nothing.

It is not an easy read as it challenges us and takes us out of our comfort zone but it is apposite for our times.

Soggy Doggy by Sue Gentry

Fifty walkers strode out into the Hampshire countryside this month to raise funds for local family support charity Home-Start Winchester. Dogs of all shapes and sizes took part, from tiny Yorkshire terriers to a Doberman and, despite lowering skies, they took off full of beans to tackle walks of two different lengths. The short walk arrived back at base unscathed but the long walkers arrived drenched to the skin, as the clouds opened half a mile from home.

"It was just as well we had mugs of hot soup waiting back at Bighton Village Hall," said Event organizer Chrissie Barlow. "However, dog walkers are a tough breed and, as we were all glowing with the exercise, we dried off quickly."

Event sponsor Dan Bliss joined in with his friendly Lurcher called Cody and some of his colleagues from Gay Dog Boarding Kennels at Bradley. "It's always a good excuse for a different walk, as Home-Start ring the changes every year," said Dan, whose family business has been involved with the walk since 2018.

The £750 raised will support the charity's work in and around the city of Winchester, where Home-Start supports some 85 families each week, either in their own homes, or at their five family groups and drop-in centres.

"Every charity is finding life tough at the moment," said Home-Start Winchester Chair Stephanie Durrant, who called in for a well-earned ploughman's and a mug of soup. "What you have raised today will go towards our work with families in the area in the coming year."

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Home-Start Winchester supports young families who are struggling with issues like disability of a parent or child, mental health problems, homelessness, lone parenting, isolation or unemployment. Families are referred by GPs, health visitors and social workers and these families are supported in the home by weekly visits of trained volunteers.



1. Home-Start Trustee Chrissie Barlow with Reilly, the Irish Setter, who was keen to say hello to Dan Bliss' Lurcher, Cody.
2. Tiny Yorkies Patricia, Orwell and Barry.
3. Brenda Clarke, Joanna Earl with Lily the Lurcher and Sarah Speller with Flatcoat Retrievers Dougal and Razzel.
4. The long walkers.
5. Keen walkers from Beauworth.
6. Rose Rawles with friends and her Parsons Russell Terriers Patch and Ralph

ROYALS SPOTTED IN ALRESFORD

The Alresford Museum is celebrating the arrival of two new members of the Royal family. Obviously, the paparazzi were out in force to see them for the first time on Easter Monday at the museum in the town's Old Fire Station in Broad Street. Young Queen Victoria and Prince Albert are the latest acquisition for the Museum which is building a collection of the town's most famous exports.



"Word has got around," said Museum Trust Chairman Roy Gentry, "and we're being contacted from around the world by people who want to return Alresford Crafts toys to their rightful home. This latest acquisition of five dolls was given to us by the son of a lady from Lymington. She had an extensive collection, gathered over many years and, after her death, he wanted them to go to a good home."

John and Margaret Jones started Alresford Crafts trading from the two lower floors of the Town Mill, at the bottom of Mill Hill and, for around 25 years, it was a major business in the town, employing local people. Perhaps more than any other, this business promoted the name of Alresford to consumers across the world. The company adopted a logo that just used the word 'Alresford' - adding "...say it Alls-ford" to help with the problem of pronunciation, particularly for their Chinese and Japanese customers!

Originally the company made just soft toys, but in 1977 Alresford Crafts started planning a workshop where doll's heads, hands and feet could be produced. Initially these were made of bone china, but then production switched to using porcelain. They were proud of producing their dolls wholly in England, and did not call their dolls 'China dolls'.

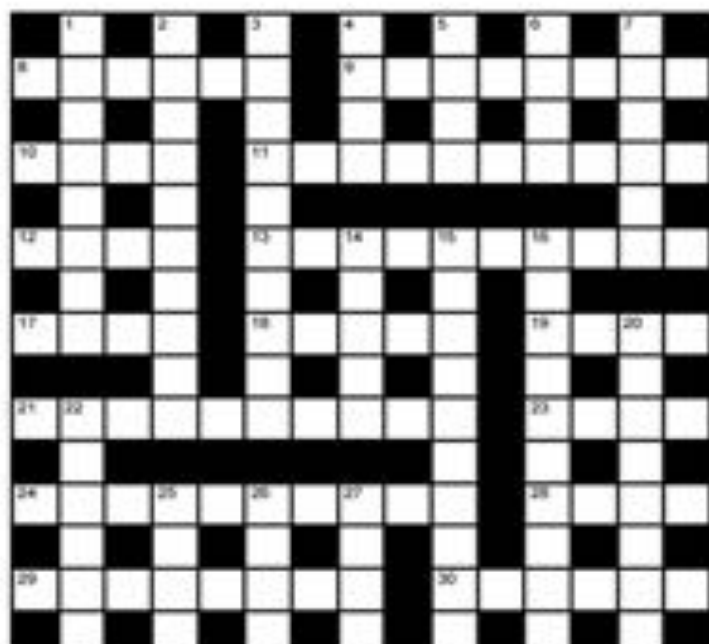
Alresford Crafts closed in 1992, but now the Museum is bringing these wonderful toys back to life for the people of Alresford and they will no doubt bring back many memories for the people who worked there. **The Museum will be open from 11-4 on the May and August Bank Holiday Mondays, entrance is free.**

--

Sue Gentry



Puzzles



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

© 2008 KrazyDad.com

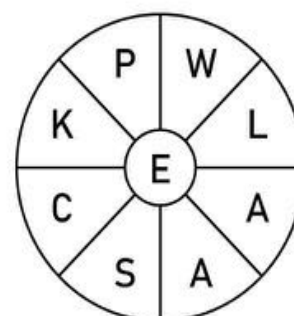
Across

- 8 Build in acre at Eastley (6)
- 9 May trumpet around thaw chaos (8)
- 10 Present initial good is found there (4)
- 11 Citric pasture for plant to repel insects (10)
- 12 Beautiful blond (4)
- 13 Confused caterers go initially west for this Alresford plant (10)
- 17 Use a messy hairy man (4)
- 18 Owned directions to hell. (5)
- 19 Manage a church robe (4)
- 21 This third sounds completely rum perhaps (4,6)
- 23 Worthy is this baby animal (4)
- 24 I hear I owe thanks. Just a jot (10)
- 28 Garden has eastern lair (4)
- 29 Ring under canvas? (4,4)
- 30 There's turmoil for this Persian Queen (6)

Down

- 1 Southern tsarina orders around crafts people (8)
- 2 Pilgrims gallop then inter this city (10)
- 3 Individual craft makes for camaraderie (10)
- 4 Fancy! William has idea. Modern first. (4)
- 5 I leave swain for royal bird. (4)
- 6 God takes end of spike. (4)
- 7 Relies on endlessly correct good people (6)
- 14 Edward? Elizabeth? Henry? Mary? (5)
- 15 Look on the bright side with these coloured specs. (4-6)
- 16 Remembers and gathers again. (10)
- 20 Cosseted thousand in papered chaos (8)
- 22 Peaceful fruits (6)
- 25 I will sound this bit of land (4)
- 26 Mean turn. So be it. (4)
- 27 I hear I owe thanks. Just a jot (4)

WORD WHEEL PUZZLE 1



HOW MANY WORDS CAN YOU MAKE WITH THESE LETTERS?
ALL WORDS MUST CONTAIN THE LETTER IN THE CENTRE CIRCLE

Inanimate objects are classified scientifically into three major categories: those that don't work, those that break down and those that get lost. - *Russell Baker*

No Mow May.



Spring was early this year; on our patch the magnolia tree and the daffodils bloomed when there might have been snow and frost to hold them back. The hedgerows had blossom early too and our first sticky bud opened so quickly in March that we almost missed the sticky bit. These signs followed a mild winter although temperatures did go up and down almost according to what day of the week it was. But the big difference must be the rain, relentless doesn't seem too harsh a word for day after day of wet weather in its many forms. The odd spot of sunshine and rising temperatures become more than welcome. Plants began to look fresh with new growth notably the lawn. Very quickly the grass looked like it belonged in a meadow and our small mower had no chance against the tangle. We don't mow in May and pretty much thereafter but we give a nice trim beforehand, often around Easter, to get things going. Neighbour has a big petrol mower and runs it about on a tilt for the first few cuts which does the same job as elbow grease and sharp blades but either method avoids that scalped and crushed look.

As daylight and warmth increase the grass may beckon you to cut it, but please don't, or perhaps don't cut all of it. "No Mow May" has been in our vocabulary for a while now, it's an initiative promoted by the Conservation charity **Plantlife** encouraging folk to leave their mowers be for the month. We follow it for longer but if you are itching to get back to cutting the grass consider mowing less throughout the year, say monthly.

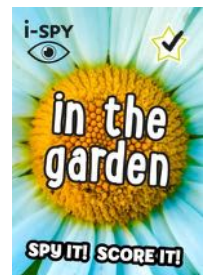


Reducing mowing at this time of year and giving lawn plants time to grow can result in more nectar for bees and other pollinators. They don't just visit cultivated flowers but love a lawn "weed". The images that come to mind are dandelion, lovely flowers and easy to stop seeding, honey tasting clovers, buttercups with their iridescent petals, daisies, violets which cast a purple blanket for a few weeks and more recently a few purple spotted orchids, goodness knows where they came from. Swathes of wildflowers that would be lost under a whirling blade. It's a joy to have them.



But don't stop there, our Top Tip is to plant bulbs in the lawn, a patch of crocus lifting their faces to the sun is uplifting to us and a source of food for insects as early foragers seek out a nectar and pollen feast.

Later in the year the grasses will go to seed creating a meadow of waving seed heads with a surprising number of varieties from what we had regarded as a flat green rather dull surface. The taller stems attract insects, the heads encourage birds and we love sitting watching the movement of wind through the stems. The Little Ones use their collection of "I Spy" books a lot more spotting plants and bugs we didn't know we had. But if the wild garden look is not for you make your meadow look neat and cared for by trimming or mowing the edges and mowing paths either through the middle to create boxes or weaving a more casual path perhaps to your favourite spot.



Be brave, there are lots of plusses; more sitting time, reducing your carbon footprint and certainly achieving a huge sense of wellbeing and all while helping nature along.

Rose Briar





FRENCH ONION SOUP

Now that the Olympic torch has been lit and is on its way to Paris, I am reminded of a very happy weekend in Paris that I spent with friends some years ago as a young fairy. We stopped in a small out-of-the way bistro not far from the Champs Elysees – most of us ordered frites of various descriptions, but I opted for one of the in-house specialities – the scalding-hot French Onion soup. It was absolutely delicious and here I offer a simple recipe which tastes a lot like the bistro version. The recipe below should serve four people. (Remember to only use metric OR imperial quantities though, and not a mix of the two).

Ingredients

A little cooking oil
5 large brown onions, thinly sliced
3 garlic cloves, thinly sliced (or the equivalent of garlic puree)
850ml (1½ pints) boiling vegetable stock
4 tablespoons Balsamic vinegar
2 teaspoons fresh or dried thyme leaves

Method

Put the cooking oil into a wide non-stick saucepan and over a low heat. Add the onions and garlic, cover and cook for 35 minutes or until browned, stirring occasionally.

Add the stock, vinegar and thyme and bring to the boil, then turn down the heat to low and simmer for 10 minutes.

Season to taste, divide between bowls and scatter over a little more fresh thyme, if desired.

For a sprinkle of fairy-dust try:

Cut slices diagonally from a French baguette loaf, top with Gruyere cheese and toast until the cheese is just melted. Place toasted slices into the bottom of each bowl before ladling over the soup. The cheese will partially melt into the soup and the bread soaks up the soup wonderfully.

Leftover bits of baguette going stale also make great croutons for this soup.

Bon appétit, et vive l'entente cordiale!

Time to fly! Fairy Cake



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Volunteering

Alresford Community Theatre Society has been entertaining the town and visitors with cabaret style shows to bigger drama productions for nearly 30 years.

For the company to continue they are looking for new, community minded committee members to fill the posts of:

- fundraising/social events
- treasurer
- membership secretary
- production assistant



They have exciting plans for an early summer event and a 2025 show. If you are interested please contact Debbie Markwick on debbie@holliday34.plus.com. Get involved with a company that make so many people happy and feel part of something special. Theatre brings people together in so many ways. Join them and be part of the fun.

-o0o-

Alresford Town Trust

Following the extensive refurbishment that doubled the size of the Museum we are now in a position to welcome visitors on a regular basis. Our aim is to open for at least two weekend days a month from Easter until the end of September but this will be dependent upon sufficient volunteers coming forward to act as stewards. As part of our work these last few months we have provided a refreshment and relaxation area for stewards. Ideally we would like a volunteer to undertake the co-ordination of the volunteers.

Help is also needed to prepare displays, undertake historical research and produce display material.

If you are able to assist please contact Roy Gentry on 01962 773185.

-o0o-

On Saturday 8th June all interested in volunteering to help make Alresford and its surrounding villages a better place to live and work are invited to come together and make a difference! The Big Help Out weekend is a national event from 7th to 9th June – for more information see <https://www.thebighelpout.org.uk/>.



Volunteering

Alresford Senior Citizens Lunch Club

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Do you have a few hours on a Thursday once a month to
come and help us at the Lunch Club

11.00am—2.00pm

Every Thursday we serve a two-course meal
which includes tea and coffee

If you would like to come along and see what
goes on then please contact the numbers below for more
information:

CHRIS HULFORD—01962 736810

MARGARET LUMB - 01962 732009



Volunteering Opportunities in Alresford

Are you looking for a fun and active volunteering role, that will give you training opportunities, get you outdoors trying new activities, whilst supporting the young people in your community? Then Scouts might be for you.

Our Cubs of 8 to 10 year olds meet on Tuesdays from 6-7.30pm and are looking for volunteers to help once a fortnight to support the existing team.

If you would like to know more contact
lucinda.seward@hampshirescouts.org.uk or
on use QR code to get in touch.



Volunteer with The Watercress Way and make a difference in Alresford!



Calling all volunteers! The Watercress Way has a brand new volunteering programme, and we need your help. We are currently seeking Volunteer Walk Leaders, Volunteer Walk Assistants, and Volunteer Events Assistants to plan and support a series of exciting events along the picturesque River Alre in Alresford as part of our Alre Together Project, supported by Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust.

Are you passionate about the great outdoors? Do you want to contribute to our mission of enabling access to nature? Then look no further! Currently we are looking for Events Coordinator Volunteers and Walk Leaders/supporters. To apply and learn more: <https://www.thewatercressway.org.uk/>

Volunteering

Alresford Voluntary Care Group

We are looking for a volunteer to join our Co-ordinator team.

This worthwhile role involves taking phone calls in your own home from people who need help with transport to their medical appointments, then arranging for one of our drivers to carry out the journey.

The team operates on a rota system, so each team member is only on duty for one week every eight. The service we provide is greatly appreciated by our local community, which makes this role very rewarding.

For more info, please call David Cooper on 07766 406704 or email alresfordvolcare@gmail.com



Alresford Lend and Tend is a volunteer-led project by New Leaf Alresford, which aims to connect like-minded, kind people who want to share gardens; both those without gardens and those who have gardens but want to share them.

If you are interested in being a lender or a tender email enquiries@newleafalresford.org to register for the garden sharing scheme. Provide as much relevant information about yourself as possible when you apply, so we can find you a suitable Patch-Match.

You can find out more here: <https://newleafalresford.org/alresfords-lend-and-tend.../>

We look forward to hearing from you!

Update on [New Leaf Alresford](#) community allotment 7th April

All hands on deck at the allotment this morning! We got a weatherproof coat on the shed and the plot is now almost level and ready for a delivery of well rotted manure to go on top and be planted into.

If you are able to contribute your time, or donate tools, seeds and plants, or indeed money, please support this community growing project. We don't have any funding for this initiative at present so every little will help, thank you

Email enquiries@newleafalresford.org to offer your time or any supplies.



Volunteering

Alresford Guides and Brownies needs your help!

Guides and Brownies are very full and very busy but sadly there are not enough Leaders/helpers to provide more of the activities the girls love or to offer places to the girls on the long waiting list.

There are different volunteering roles available from occasional unit helper to assistant Leader and commitment can be tailored to your availability.

Please have a think. Girlguiding gives girls a great opportunity to develop new skills, independence, friendships & life long experiences.

Please contact gwencclifford@btinternet.com for further information.



Hampshire Paws Animal Rescue (Ropley)

Volunteering roles available

We are looking to fill the following important roles to help our charity:

Fundraising

Fundraising is crucial to enable us to carry out our work and help rescue animals, particularly at the moment with extremely high veterinary bills. Those who wish to fundraise can do this in most forms, running raffles, organising sponsored runs, selling items, car boot sales etc, and for those who are creative, we would love to have some nice homemade items made to be sold either on social media or at stalls/events.



ei-

Fostering- Cats and Dogs

We are looking for dedicated fosters in an adult only household to join our small friendly team.

We are looking for caring people who can provide time, patience and a lot of love as some of the dogs have had negative life experiences and will take time to adjust, however these dogs are incredibly rewarding!

We will match the dog as best as we can to you and your home to help a successful foster period.

By fostering a dog you are saving the life of that dog and another who will fill their space in kennels.

We are also looking for foster homes for cats!

If you would be interested in taking part in one of these roles, please email hampshirepaws@outlook.com or <https://www.hampshirepaws.co.uk>

Chatterbox Toddlers, John Pearson Hall, Alresford



We are in desperate need of helpers to help open and close for us on a Thursday in order to continue. Commitment only needs to be once every couple of weeks. We are a wonderful friendly community group and we really need community members to keep us open and running. If you are a parent or grandparent of little ones and can help please email viga3121@hotmail.com



in Alresford on Saturday 8th June 2024

As part of the biggest mass volunteering event of the year, the "Big Help Out" weekend from 7th to 9th June 2024 "Co-ordinating Alresford" is encouraging everyone to make a difference to our local community on the morning of 8th June. Come along to the gazebo that will be in St John's churchyard between 9.00 a.m. and (at least) 1.00 p.m. armed with enthusiasm and suitable gardening tools to help tidy up currently neglected areas in the centre of town including Station Road, Broad Street and St John's churchyard or anywhere else you may wish to suggest. Co-ordinating Alresford is an informal group facilitating and encouraging the opportunities in and around Alresford for volunteers to make the area an even better place to live and work supported by local schools, New Alresford Town Trust, New Alresford Town Council, Alresford Rotary, the Alresford PIGS Association, Alresford Chamber of Commerce, the Men's Shed and Churches Together in Alresford amongst others. If you are interested in volunteering on other occasions please let us know. Representatives from many of the local volunteer groups will be available for a chat on the day. There's no need to register in advance – just turn up - but it would be helpful if you could let us know if you plan to help on 8th June so we can try and ensure best use is made of the available resources! If there is a suitable project that you wish to suggest please let us know! Refreshments and toilet facilities will be available in the John Pearson Hall. Please contact wjrp@hotmail.co.uk

Useful Local Information and Emergency Numbers

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

Defibrillators available for public use

Alresford Recreation Centre

Alresford Bowling Club

Sun Hill Infant school gate

Stratton Bates Recreation Ground

Alresford Community Centre

Alresford Dental Care - The Dean

Old Alresford Village telephone box

Linnets Road telephone box

Wessex Pharmacies

Broad Street, Alresford

01962 732445

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: Steve Brine 01962 791110 (Constituency Office) stever.brine.mp@parliament.uk

Councils

Hampshire County Council

01962 841841

Www.hants.gov.uk

Winchester City Council

01962 840222

Www.winchester.gov.uk

East Hampshire District Council

01730 266551

Www.easthant.gov.uk

New Alresford Town Council

01962 732 079

Www.newalresford-tc.gov.uk

Puzzle Answers

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

A	C	F	W	S	T	T		
C	R	E	A	T	E	H	A	W
T	N	L	I	A	O	U		
G	I	F	T	L	E	M	O	N
S	E	O						T
F	A	I	R	W	A	T	E	R
N	B	S	U	O	E			
E	S	A	U	H	A	D	E	S
	R	I	O	E	O	A		
H	O	L	Y	S	P	I	R	I
L								P
V	I	S	I	T	A	T	I	O
V	S	M	O	T	C	R		
B	E	L	T	E	N	T	E	S
S	E	N	A	D	S	D		

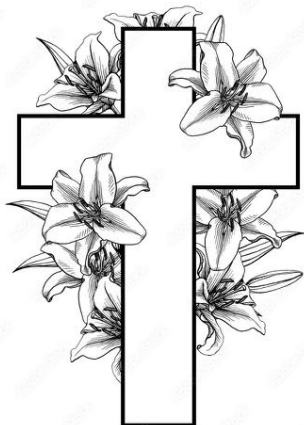
SPACEWALK, akela ,apace, apse, askew, awake, cake, cape, case , caselaw, kale, kelp, lace, lake, lapse, leak, leap, pace, palace, pale, peak, peal, peck, place, plea, sake, sale, scale, scape, seal, sepal, skelp, skew, slake, slew, space, spackle, spake, speak, spec, speck, spew, wake, weak,

Registry

Funerals / Interments

14 March 2024
Betty Page
St. John's
Funeral

20th March
Gladys Gosling
St. John's
Funeral



Some quotations to think about.

Hoping is disciplined waiting. - *E Hoffmann*

Humility is the hallmark of wisdom. -
J Collier

To be aware that you are ignorant is a great step to knowledge. - *Anon*

The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is now.-
Chinese Proverb

You never fail until you stop trying. -*Albert Einstein*

BENEFICE CONTACTS

BENEFICE OFFICE Tel. 01962 733545

Please leave a phone message or email

the office.

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**

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arlevalleyrector@gmail.com

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iwg@robinhoodmusic.co.uk

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Vacant

Ovington: St. Peter's

Churchwarden

Vacant - Contact Benefice Office

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Vacant - Contact Benefice Office

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Churchwarden

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rwjparsons@gmail.com

Bighton: All Saints

Churchwardens

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arlevalleychurches@gmail.com

Funeral Enquiries

Kathryn Lockyer T. 809078

kathryn.lockyer@talktalk.net

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Bell Ringing

Elizabeth Johnson

T. 733266

Belfry Practice Fridays 7.30 - 9.00pm

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Sue Greenway Patricia Todd

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Keith Sweetland

T. 735255

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Prayer Ministry Team

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rosie@22rwg.co.uk

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safeguarding@arlevalleychurches.org.uk

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Jon Whale

T. 734941

stjtreasurer@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 Talk
3rd Friday, 12 - 2pm

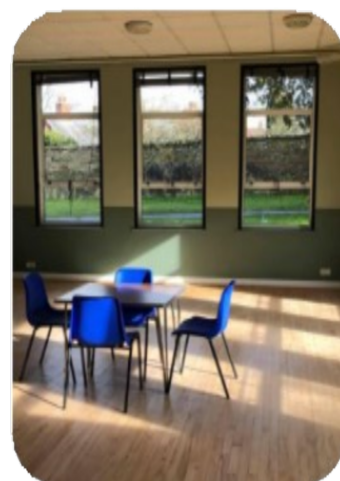
Solos Sunday Tea
3rd Sunday, 2.30 – 4.30pm

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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- www.hospitalofstcross.co.uk

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