



# ARLE VALLEY BENEFICE

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

## November 28th 2021 First Sunday of Advent

### *Services this Sunday:*

09.30: St John's: Service of the Word

09.30: St Mary's: Parish Communion

11.00: All Saints: Parish Communion

*We pray that we will all be ready to meet God face to face,  
whenever that will be.*

Rector: Rev'd Heather Brearey  
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## Services this Sunday:

This Sunday at **St John's** there is a **Service of the Word** at 9.30am taken by Peter Colquhoun. The service will be streamed live as usual, and the link to a recording of the service will be emailed out and will also be on the Benefice website.

At **St Mary's** and at **All Saints** there is Parish Communion, the celebrant at both being Rev'd Heather. There is no service today at **St Peter's**.

## Wednesday 10am Communion Service at St John's:



The next Wednesday service is on **Wednesday 1st December**, the celebrant being Rev'd Heather Brearey. The service will be followed by coffee in the John Pearson Hall.

**Morning Prayer** will be said by Heather at 9am in the Benefice Churches during the week. *Anyone is welcome to drop in.*

Monday - *All Saints, Bighton.* Tuesday - *St John's, New Alresford.* Wednesday - *St Mary's, Old Alresford.* Thursday - *St Peter's, Ovington.*

**Christingle Service:** There is a Christingle Service at St John's on Sunday 12th December at 5pm. *All are welcome.*



**Focal Ministry** has come about as part of the answer to ever-decreasing numbers of clergy looking after ever-increasing numbers of parishes. Focal Ministers are attached to a specific parish and are in effect the Incumbent's deputies, responsible for the churches and being a primary port of call for all parishioners in those places.

The first two Focal Ministers in the Winchester Diocese are to be commissioned by Bishop David on Sunday 5th December: Ian Waring Green will be commissioned as Focal Minister for Bighton at 2.30pm, and Sue Armstrong as Focal Minister for Old Alresford at 4pm. These services will be brief and all are welcome.

*Please hold Ian and Sue in your prayers as well as the communities they are to serve.*



**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](mailto:rosie@22rwg.co.uk) or 01962 733237. We of course always respect the confidentiality of your requests.

**Carol Beetham:** The Funeral Service for Carol will be held at St Mary's Church, Old Alresford on Monday 29th November 2021 at 10:30am followed by burial at about 11:15am. Family flowers only. Donations will benefit the Winchester Hospice Fundraising Charity.

## ***This week's notices...***

### ***To the very lovely people of The Arle Valley Benefice...***

Mick and I have been overwhelmed with the wonderful welcome that we have received from everyone in the Benefice.

Thank you for the Hamper full of delicious things, and thank you for all the cards, flowers and gifts that we have received at The Rectory. We feel very blessed.

*Thank you, with love from Heather and Mick.*

### ***A Gift from St John's 2021***

**Friday 3rd December 4-8pm & Saturday 4th December, 10am-4pm in the church.**

Do bring a Toy / Jigsaw and Book to swap • Drop in for Refreshments • Christmas themed activities for all ages • Nativity story trail • Treasure hunt in the church • Prayer wall.

*If you are able to help in any way at all, please contact Rosie Waring Green asap ([rosie@22rwg.co.uk](mailto:rosie@22rwg.co.uk) or 01962 733237). It will be wonderful if we can all play our part in either sparing an hour or two on the 3rd and 4th December and also by helping to publicise to our friends, family and neighbours.*

**Generosity:** Last year we asked you to donate food gifts which we gave out to schools, businesses etc as a sign of joy from St John's. This year we can still be a giving church but invite schools, businesses, shops etc in to church to share in the above events. We would suggest that instead of asking for actual gifts of biscuits, chocolates etc as we did last year, we would be grateful for money donations to pay for the giving of joy through these free activities, food and drinks. Any contributions would be really appreciated and gratefully received.

You can either pop an envelope into the Parish Office marked 'A Gift from St John's' or pay through a BACS transfer to PCC of New Alresford Parish Sort 51-61-09 Acc 04129849 and mark it *Gift from St John's*.

Thank you in advance for your help to share the much-needed love, joy and peace in our wonderful community.

*Please pray for all who are helping with and all those coming to 'A Gift from St John's'*

**Benefice Office:** We all appreciate the warm welcome Penny gives us when we visit, but we need to remember that the office is open from 10 until 12 daily, and that visits outside those times can impinge on all the other tasks Penny needs to do. This means that she often works beyond her proper finishing time. We are hugely grateful for the way Penny gives so unstintingly of her time, but we must ensure we don't take advantage of her generosity. *Jane and Rosie.*

**Thank you:** Many thanks to the Catering Team and all those who helped with refreshments at last Friday's Collation Service for Heather.

## ***This week's notices...***

**SUNDAY@6 is NOW on the FIRST Sunday of the month**

**6pm Sunday 5th December 2021 at St John's**



We would love you to join everyone for a service with a reflective informal contemporary feel.

*Worship, Readings, Prayer and a Talk.*

Time to chat with tea and cake from 5.45pm

***Please save the date***

### **CAROLS FOR ALL**

**Saturday 11th December 7.30pm**

**St John's Church**



**This year, Alresford Community Choir will be presenting its Carol Concert to a select audience!**

There will be items from the choir and a good selection of 'old favourites' for audience and choir to sing together.

To offer greater safety and comfort to all present, the choir and the audience will be smaller than for our usual Gala offerings and the concert will be shorter, with no interval. There will be more space, not only between groups and individual listeners but also between the performance area and the first row of the audience.

Although there will be no charge for tickets, we do ask that all ticket holders confirm that they have taken and received a negative flow-test result, within 24 hours before the event. You will be asked to wear an appropriate face mask on arrival, until you take your seat, and then as you leave.

***As tickets will be strictly limited in number, we ask that you apply as early as possible, to avoid disappointment. Please contact [alresfordchoir@hotmail.com](mailto:alresfordchoir@hotmail.com) or ask any choir member to reserve a ticket for you.***

***Giving at St John's:*** If you would like to make a contribution to church funds with a debit or credit card, this can usually be done at the back of the church after the main services, or phone David Griffiths on 734408.

***Cleaner required at St John's:*** Due to a house move, we are losing another Church cleaner. If you would like to help on a fortnightly rota to keep the Church clean, please contact Hefin Tudor, on 733666. It only takes about 1/2 hour to clean a section and would be suitable for gents or ladies. It can be done at a time to suit yourselves.

## ***This week's notices...***

### **St John's Christmas Card**

#### **Packs of 5 cards for £3.50**

An original artwork by Joanne Bunce (one of her lockdown sketches). It features the Nativity stable outside St John's Church during Christmas 2020. The animals in the foreground represent how the children would have been dressed up at the crib service in 'normal times'.



#### **Please direct:**

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

## **Collect and Readings for the First Sunday of Advent**

### **Collect**

Almighty God,  
give us grace to cast away the works of darkness  
and to put on the armour of light,  
now in the time of this mortal life,  
in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility;  
that on the last day,  
when he shall come again in his glorious majesty  
to judge the living and the dead,  
we may rise to the life immortal;  
through him who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**Amen**



### **First Reading: Jeremiah 33.14-16**

*To be announced as a Reading from the Book of Jeremiah*

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfil the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: 'The LORD is our righteousness.'

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



### **Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 3.9-13**

*To be announced as a Reading from the*  
*First Epistle to the Thessalonians*

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

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

### **Gospel: Luke 21.25-36**

Jesus said to his disciples: 'There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in a cloud" with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.'

Then he told them a parable: 'Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.'

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

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



### **Post Communion Prayer**

O Lord our God,  
make us watchful and keep us faithful  
as we await the coming of your Son our Lord;  
that, when he shall appear,  
he may not find us sleeping in sin  
but active in his service  
and joyful in his praise;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

#### **Copyright Acknowledgement:**

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## ***For Prayer***

### ***Please pray for:***

- Those who are in **hospital**
- Those who are ill **at home** or recovering from being in hospital
- Those **receiving on-going care**
- Those in **Nursing and Rest Homes**
- **Home Communicants**
- **R.I.P.** Those who have recently died. We pray too for their families.

### ***Please pray for...***

**The Arle Valley Benefice as we begin a new Church Year.** That we will all do our best to spread the Advent message of hope, and that Heather will help us to play our part in sharing God's love with all.

**All countries on the brink of starvation** due to war, tyranny or climate change. Pray that we may be ever thankful for the blessings we receive and mindful for those in need. Pray for the people who run the Basics Bank and those who deliver food parcels to the needy.

**For all migrants hoping for a better life.** Pray that people smuggling may be stopped; that migrants may be treated with respect and that more understanding and patience is forthcoming.

**For all those suffering from covid at this time;** for those awaiting treatment and for the NHS. Pray that in the coming winter months the vaccine programme will prove to be successful and that less people will need hospital treatment.

**Lynn Treneary, our CMS link in South Sudan,** where problems range from famine caused by drought, followed by damaging floods, to outbreaks of fighting between factions in the civil war. Nevertheless she says that the people of Maridi's faith is strong and "God's joy is in this place". Our support and prayers are much appreciated there.

***We look with hope to the fulfilment Lord of all you have done,  
and offer you our thanks and praise for all your love. Amen***