



ARLE VALLEY BENEFICE

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

January 23rd 2022 Third Sunday of Epiphany Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Services this Sunday:

09.30: St John's:	Service of the Word
09.30: St Mary's:	Parish Communion BCP
10.00: St Peter's:	No service
11.00: All Saints:	Parish Communion

*In this week of prayer for Christian unity,
grant us ways to praise your holy name together so that
we continue to seek reconciliation and grow towards unity.*

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

From the Rector:

Dear Friends,

Thank you for all your cards, gifts, prayers and good wishes following my accident last Friday.

I am sorry that I had to cancel the Holy Communion service at St John's on Sunday, and I am very grateful to Ian for standing in at such short notice. Thank you Ian !

It has been a difficult week but I hope to be able to take services this Sunday at St Mary's and All Saints - with some help.

The broken bone will take time to heal and the other injuries are also hindering me. I am not going to be able to drive for at least 3 weeks but I am hoping to be able to do most other things, and Mick will be my driver!

All will be well,

With love Heather

Services this Sunday: This Sunday at **St John's** is a **Service of the Word** at 9.30am with Ian Waring Green. 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.

The service at **All Saints** and at **St Mary's** is **Parish Communion** with Rev'd Heather officiating at both. There is no service at **St Peter's**.

Wednesday 10am Communion Service at St John's:

HOLY



COMMUNION

The next Wednesday service is on **Wednesday 26th January**, the celebrant being Rev'd Heather Brearey.



Morning Prayer: Heather will not be able to take Morning Prayer in the Benefice Churches this coming week. We will let you know when the services will return to their normal pattern.

Prayer requests: If you would like the Prayer team to pray for you, your family, friends or any other situation, please contact Rosie Waring Green:

rosie@22rwg.co.uk or 01962 733237. We of course always respect the confidentiality of your requests.



Flowers at St John's:

The chancel flowers have been sponsored by Vicky Mackintosh in loving memory of Ian.

To sponsor flowers during 2022 please contact Diana Robbins: 01420 565668 or dianarobbins@me.com.

This week's notices...

St John's Annual Report: If you are a member of a church group who do not yet write a short contribution to our Annual Report on your group's activities, then please contact the PCC Secretary, David Carr (david@drhcarr.com) before January 31st. Existing contributors have already been reminded.

Assistant treasurer's role at St John's:

Would you be interested in joining the St John's finance team?

We have a vacancy coming up in April when Dennis steps down after a fantastic three years. This is a voluntary role. The work can be done whenever suits you, so there is a lot of flexibility. It involves carrying out online banking transactions, payroll, working with the Treasurer on reports from our software (Finance Coordinator), and occasional meetings with the rest of the team. Dennis has kindly offered to do a full handover, including training on the software.

There's no need to make a commitment, but if you would like a chat, please contact Jon Whale on 07780 740493 or via email to jonwhale7@gmail.com or Dennis via stjohnsfinance51@gmail.com.

Rhiannon Dazeley:

There will be a short Thanksgiving Service for Rhiannon Dazeley on **Saturday 29th January** at 12 noon in St John's, preceding the interment of her ashes. Sue Armstrong is taking the service. Rhiannon was a member of the choir for many years and was also a pastoral visitor. Anyone who knew her is most welcome to attend.

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.

Help Please - Chatterbox is a group of babies and toddlers with their parents/carers who meet in the John Pearson Hall on a Thursday in term time from 10.00 - 11.00am. They would love some offers of help to be part of a team to welcome, set up and help pack away so that they can spend some quality time with their own children. They will of course still be part of a rota to help but it would mean that they don't have to be tied up each week with tasks. You don't have to have a DBS check as the children are always with the adults who bring them. It would be great to organise a team as part of our church welcome and would probably only mean being available once a month and maybe only once every 6 weeks depending on your availability.

Please contact Rosie rosie@22rwg.co.uk or 07891120662 for further details.

This week's notices...

St John's Treasurer's Update January 2022

We've just finished another financial year for St John's Church and the PCC wanted to give you a brief update on how we are doing. There will be a much fuller report at the APCM in April.

Your continued generosity and the receipt of several legacies has secured our short to medium term financial future. We end the year with £157k of available funds. In time we will need to decide on how to use this money to ensure future stability and just as importantly to further develop our mission in Alresford.

During the pandemic, we have understandably seen a reduction in income, and some increased expenditure. In very broad terms, our funds have reduced by approximately £37k during 2021; our regular giving through the Parish Giving Scheme has reduced by approx. £7k, but specific donations have increased by £8k so our congregation and the Friends remain incredibly generous. As previously reported, we have undertaken a number of improvements and some necessary maintenance to the fabric of the building totalling £26,000.

Any questions, please just ask!

Jon Whale

Please direct:

- ▶ **Material for notices: email notices@arlevallychurches.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 Third Sunday of Epiphany

Collect

Almighty God,
whose Son revealed in signs and miracles
the wonder of your saving presence:
renew your people with your heavenly grace,
and in all our weakness
sustain us by your mighty power;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen



First Reading: Nehemiah 8.1-3,5-6,8-10

To be announced as a Reading from the Book of Nehemiah

All the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had given to Israel. Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law.

And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God and all the people answered, 'Amen, Amen,' lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshipped the LORD with their faces to the ground.

So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, 'This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep.' For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. Then he said to them, 'Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our LORD; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.'

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

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



Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 12.12-31a

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

Just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body - Jews or Greeks, slaves or free – and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot would say, 'Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,' that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear would say, 'Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,' that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many members, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I have no need of you,' nor again the head to the feet, 'I have no need of you.' On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those members of the body that we think less honourable we clothe with greater honour, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honour to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honoured, all rejoice together with it.

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? But strive for the greater gifts.

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



Gospel: Luke 4.14-21

When the Gospel is announced we respond with:

Glory to you, O Lord

Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

‘The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,

to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour.’

And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, ‘Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.’

*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

Almighty Father,
whose Son our Saviour Jesus Christ is the light of the world:
may your people,
illumined by your word and sacraments,
shine with the radiance of his glory,
that he may be known, worshipped, and obeyed
to the ends of the earth;
for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

Amen

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Services

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...

Churches together in Alresford as we celebrate the week of prayer for Christian unity. Pray that we may reach out to Christians everywhere, especially those being persecuted for their faith. In our diocese we pray for those beginning the selection process for a new Bishop, and we pray for Heather as she returns to work.

The world, for all countries suffering the effects of a natural disaster, remembering the people of Tonga. Pray that the escalating situation between Russia and Ukraine may be resolved without loss of life. Remember countries where there is conflict causing suffering, hardship and starvation, Israel and Palestine, Afghanistan, places not mentioned in the News, and pray for all children caught up in situations they do not understand.

Our friends and neighbours as Covid restrictions are reduced, for all who are still anxious about the virus, all awaiting treatment in hospital for other illnesses, all who find this time of year depressing and difficult. Pray for our community, for shops, all who work in the surgery and all who maintain our town and villages.

All who are lonely, grieving or facing long term illness. Pray for all who have died recently, all whose anniversaries fall this week, all whom we love but see no longer.

The Mar Elias Educational Institutions, Ibillin, Israel and the founder Abuna Elias Chacour who wrote recently "I wish you to be a smile of hope around you, a smile to your community, a smile for your brothers and sisters, for those who are close by and those who are far away."

Lord, be a light to our path and a strength for our journey.