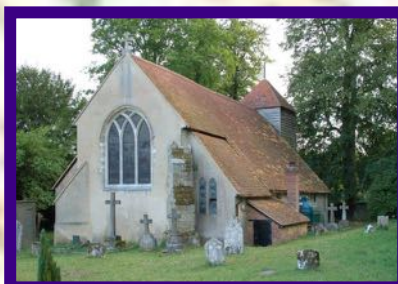
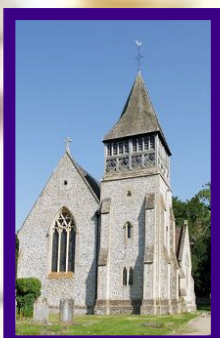


Arle Valley Voice

December 2023

£1.20

Church and Community Magazine





Hellards

*At home
in Hampshire*

Call 01962 736333 or email
alresford@hellards.co.uk
for a free market appraisal



Sales Property Management Lettings

11 Broad Street, Alresford | www.hellards.co.uk

Paget Will Writing



Wills
Powers of Attorney
Advance Decisions
Estate Planning Advice

Contact Catherine Paget

Email: catherine.paget@pagetwillwriting.co.uk

Tel: 01753 434471

Website: www.pagetwillwriting.co.uk



Checkatrade.com

www.winlocks.com

**WINCHESTER'S MOBILE
LOCKSMITH**

MLA Trained & Certified - CRB Checked - Insured
Doors - Windows - U.P.V.C.

Office: 01962 849 426 Mob: 07944 355 000



**Fencing | Gates | Pergolas | Trellis
Decking | Panels | Log Stores**

Call Andrew or Ashley on 01962 733990 installation service available



Prospect Fencing

Prospect Road, Alresford,
Hampshire SO24 9QF
www.prospectfencing.co.uk



Editorial

Christmas is a special time for many people including those who do not centre their celebration on Jesus as you can tell from all the cards that have robins, and snowmen.

Midwinter in Europe has always been a time of festival with Yule, Saturnalia and An Grianstad. All are festivals that celebrate Light in the Darkness and surely Christmas celebrates that more than most. Where those ancient faiths yearned for the coming of Light we have sure hope for it or rather know and trust that the Light is always there—that is the True Light that is Jesus.

We hope that you will know this true Light especially when the world seems dark.

A Happy Christmas to you all!

This magazine only keeps going with the quality it has because people subscribe each year so please do consider doing that.

Also unfortunately with the rise in the cost of printing we will have to increase the cost of each issue to £1.60 but a year's subscription will still be an economic option at £15.00.

The changes will take place next year.

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.

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

Contents

Services	page 4
Calendar	page 5
Leader	page 6
CTIA	page 7
Children's Activities	pages 8 to 11
Church Activities	pages 12 & 13
Community Activities	pages 14 & 15
Village News	pages 18 & 19
Knitted Nativity	page 20
Children's Things to Do	pages 21 to 23
Light Party	pages 26 & 27
Story of Love	pages 28 & 29
Christmas Card	pages 30 & 31
Light in Our Dark World	pages 32 & 33
St Nicholas/Santa/Fr Christmas	pages 34 & 35
The Innkeeper's Story	pages 36 to 38
Christmas Science	Pages 39 & 40
Music for Christmas	Page 41
Presents and Present Givers	Page 42
Wintry Chalk Stream Walks	Page 43
Ringling and Filming	Pages 44 & 45
Christmas Bells poem	Page 46
Puzzles	Page 47
Gardening Quiz	Page 48
Recipe	Page 49
Volunteering	Page 52
Charities	Page 53
Puzzle Answers	Page 54
Local Information	Page 55
Registry	Page 56
Benefice Contacts	Pages 57 & 58

December Church Services for the Arle Valley Benefice

NEW ALRESFORD St John the Baptist

Sunday 3 December: 1st Sunday of Advent

09.30 Parish Communion

16.00 Sunday@4 Family Christingle

Sunday 10 December: 2nd Sunday of Advent

09.30 Second Sunday Service

18.00 Carol Service

Sunday 17 December: 3rd Sunday of Advent

09.30 Parish Communion

Sunday 24 December: Christmas Eve

09.30 Benefice Communion at St Mary's

16.00 Crib Service

23.30 First Communion of Christmas

Monday 25 December: Christmas Day

08.00 Parish Communion

09.30 Christmas Family Communion

Sunday 31 December: 1st Sunday of Christmas

09.30 Benefice Communion at St John's

Every Tuesday

09.00 Morning Prayer

Every Wednesday

10.00 Midweek Holy Communion
(not 27th December)

OLD ALRESFORD

St Mary the Virgin

Sunday 3 December: 1st Sunday of Advent

11.00 Village Family Praise

Sunday 10 December: 2nd Sunday of Advent

09.30 Morning Praise

Sunday 17 December: 3rd Sunday of Advent

17.00 Carol Service

Sunday 24 December: Christmas Eve

09.30 Benefice Communion at St Mary's

Monday 25 December: Christmas Day

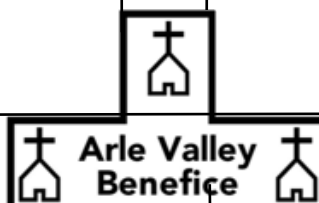
10.00 Christmas Family Communion

Sunday 31 December: 1st Sunday of Christmas

09.30 Benefice Communion at St John's

Every Wednesday

09.00 Morning Prayer



OVINGTON St Peter's

Sunday 3 December: 1st Sunday of Advent

11.00 Café Church

Sunday 10 December: 2nd Sunday of Advent

11.00 Parish Communion

Sunday 17 December: 3rd Sunday of Advent

16.00 Carol Service

Sunday 24 December: Christmas Eve

09.30 Benefice Communion at St Mary's

Monday 25 December: Christmas Day

11.00 Christmas Parish Communion

Sunday 31 December: 1st Sunday of Christmas

09.30 Benefice Communion at St John's

Every Thursday

09.00 Morning Prayer

BIGHTON All Saints

Sunday 3 December: 1st Sunday of Advent

11.00 No service

Sunday 10 December: 2nd Sunday of Advent

11.00 Morning Prayer

Sunday 17 December: 3rd Sunday of Advent

17.00 Carol Service

Sunday 24 December: Christmas Eve

09.30 Benefice Communion at St Mary's

23.30 First Communion of Christmas

Monday 25 December: Christmas Day

11.00 No service

Sunday 31 December: 1st Sunday of Christmas

09.30 Benefice Communion at St John's

Every Monday

09.00 Morning Prayer

Calendar

Nov 30th	Art Society	7.30pm
Dec 1st & 2nd	Gift from St John's Christmas Event	
Dec 2nd	Bacon Butties at the Methodist Church	9.30am
Dec 3rd	Village Praise Old Alresford	11.00am
Dec 3rd	Café Church Ovington	11.00am
Dec 3rd	Christingle at St John's	4.00pm
Dec 5th to 9th	TOADS Puss in Boots—see Adverts	
Dec 6th	Father Christmas comes to Alresford	
Dec 9th	Rotary Christmas Tree sale	8am
Dec 10th	Nine Lessons and Carols at St John's	
Dec 13th	St John's Book Group	
Dec 15th	Table Talk	
Dec 16th	CTIA carol singing outside Wessex Pharmacy	11am
Dec 16th	ACC Carol Concert—Gold and Silver	7.30pm
Dec 17th	Solo's Tea	
Dec 17th	Carol Service at Ovington	4.00pm
Dec 17th	Carol Service at Old Alresford	5.00pm
Dec 17th	CTIA Community Carol Service at St Gregory's	6.00pm
Dec 24th	Crib Service at St John's	4.00pm
Dec 24th	Midnight Mass at St John's	11.30pm
Dec 31st	Benefice Communion at St John's	
	9.30am	



For the latest information please see either the weekly notices or the Benefice website:

www.arlevalleychurches.org.uk

ST JOHN'S 100 CLUB

Would you like to contribute to St John's Church and have the chance of winning a prize? If so, then the St John's 100 Club might be just the thing for you - **launching soon!**

Look for details about how it works and how to sign up on the Arle Valley Benefice website, and in the Weekly Notices.

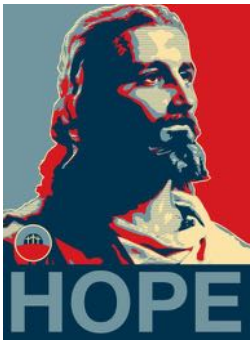
Hope



Dear Friends,

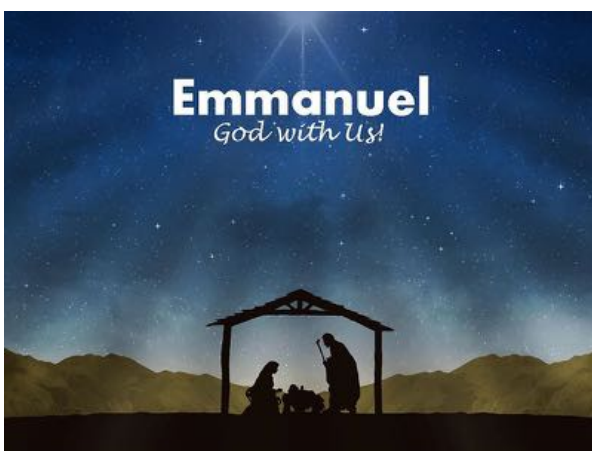
I expect we have all had a moment when we have watched or listened to the news of recent months about the situation in the Middle East and in Ukraine, where we have felt the absence of anything hopeful. We cannot see or sense that things are going to get better. As humans we all have that need to have **hope**.

If you do a google search for songs with a theme of Hope the list is a lot longer than you might expect. It does seem to be something that many of us need. Emelie Sande sings 'I just hope I'm not the only one', Jack Jackson sings 'you better hope you're not alone'. It is often said that the antidote to despair is or might be hope. It is one of the most powerful and essential human mindsets and possible to achieve even when it feels out of reach.



As we begin our journey through Advent this year with Christmas fast approaching. I wonder if we need to be reminded that the Hope that God, Our Heavenly Father offers us is much more robust and rooted in reality. Our God that came to earth in human form as a vulnerable baby to bring that reality. That is the Hope that we have.

As we enjoy catching up with friends and family over the next few weeks and over this Christmas time itself. Let us take the opportunity to be thankful that we here in this corner of Hampshire live in peace. In comparison to many others across the world and we do not fear for our lives. Let us take the opportunity to be generous with all that we have. So that those in more vulnerable situations financially and otherwise might have chance for that grounded hope to be nurtured in their situation and circumstance.



As we meet in our churches week by week during Advent, we will be praying for the Hope of the Christ child to stir afresh in our hearts and remind us that we are not alone. We draw strength knowing that Emmanuel - God is with us but we must take responsibility for our part in making our community a more hope filled place.

"I pray that the God who gives hope will fill you with much joy and peace while you trust in him. Then your hope will overflow by the power of the Holy Spirit." Romans 15:13

Blessings and Happy Christmas!! Revd. Heather

Peace, what does it mean?



The above picture is an artist's impression of the amazing event which took place during the First World War, over the Christmas period of 1914, when for 48 hours the fighting between the British and German armies ceased. On Christmas Eve the German soldiers, huddled in their trenches, were heard singing Christmas carols and after a short while the British soldiers joined in, in all probability each army singing in their own language, but the tune would be the same, so they had something in common they could share. Slowly heads popped up above the top of the trenches and greetings were exchanged. The opposing forces gradually rose out of the trenches and came together in "no man's land". Hands were shaken, small gifts (perhaps cigarettes or part of precious rations) were swapped and on Christmas day a game of football was played. It is amazing that in the carnage and horror of war, peace could reign, if only for a short while, as sadly the "peace" ended on the 27th December and war continued for nearly another four years. Perhaps the most amazing thing was that this ceasefire was spontaneous, it had not been negotiated, the senior officers on each side knew nothing about it – in fact when they heard what had happened, they were none too pleased and strict orders were given that such an event should not happen again.

Peace, at the moment seems a distant hope, as there appears to be no let-up in the violence and the suffering in the conflict in either Gaza or in Ukraine (even the media appears to have forgotten the latter). In both cases it seems any hope of a ceasefire, albeit a temporary one, can only be agreed when certain conditions are met, which at present seem very unlikely.

Does peace just mean an end to conflict or fighting? Surely will it have a different meaning depending on particular circumstances?

For a busy parent with young children, holding down a job and with so many other things that need doing, peace will mean having perhaps an hour to themselves, to do what they want, to have some "me time"

For a stressed employee, with targets to accomplish and deadlines to meet, peace might mean taking the food outside instead of eating a hurried lunch at the desk. Find tranquillity by sitting in a nearby park or go for a walk; something to break the business of an otherwise hectic day for a short while.

The soldiers in the trenches thought Christmas was special and worthy of doing something extraordinary to celebrate it. I hope all of us feel the same, whether we have a faith or not. Perhaps a good starting point might be to think about peace, not just on a global scale, but in our own lives, our families and the communities we live in. May you all find peace this Christmas time, but may it last beyond Boxing Day or the New Year and into 2024 and beyond.

If, like the soldiers in the First World War, you enjoy singing carols, then come along to the **CTIA Community Carol Service to be held at St. Gregory's at 6.00 p.m. on the 17th December**. Stay to enjoy some mulled wine and a mince pie afterwards. I look forward to seeing as many of you who can make it.

God Bless You All *Jon Hughes Lay Pastor, Alresford Methodist Church*

All also very welcome to sing carols outside Wessex Pharmacy at 11.00 a.m. on 16th December and to join CTIA's Boxing day walk leaving from St. Gregory's car park at 10.00 a.m. ... on Boxing Day! We will also be singing carols at various sheltered housing locations in Alresford probably on 18th and 19th December. Please look out for confirmation and details and come along!

The CTIA committee is currently: St Gregory's: Rosemary Chambers (Chair), Piers Armstrong and Laura Brill

St John's: James Pinnige, Sarah Wilding and Jackie Connell; Alresford Methodist Church: Jon Whale, Ruth Wintle and Jon Hughes; (St Mary's Old Alresford, All Saints Bighton and St Peter's Ovington – Churchwardens)



Fun for
the whole
community

YOU'RE INVITED TO:

A Gift from St. John's

FRIDAY 1ST DECEMBER

4 - 7PM

SATURDAY 2ND DECEMBER

10AM - 4PM

**You are invited to join us
at St. John's Church, Alresford
to share in FREE festive nibbles and
FREE Christmas themed activities.**

CAFE - JUST DROP IN!

FESTIVE ACTIVITIES

Children's Activities

Our Place

This Youth Group meets in the Upper Room
of Alresford Methodist Church on 1st and
3rd Sundays of the month

Year 6 to 9 from 6-7pm

Year 10 upwards 7-8pm

We have a small core of helpers but would love some more to help spread the load. If you love having fun with young people and would like to come along and help fortnightly, monthly or occasionally, please get in touch with Rosie Waring Green
rosie@22rwg.co.uk or 07891 120662.



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

Monday Meet + Eat

Come
Join Us

Everyone Welcome
Ласкаво просимо всіх

Please inform
us of any
dietary
requirements

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

THE SUNSHINE SINGERS PRESENTS

THE LANDLORD'S CAT

SUNDAY, 17TH DECEMBER
3.30PM - ST. JOHN'S CHURCH



A Nativity
by
Julia & Antony
Copus

Out of the Ark
Music

NO TICKETS NEEDED

JUST TURN UP AND
PREPARE TO BE
TRANSPORTED BACK
2000 YEARS AGO!

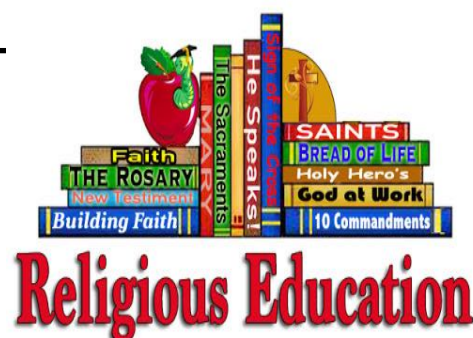
Further details:
Rosie Waring Green
rosie@22rwg.co.uk
or 07891 120662

This is a delightful
35 minute account
of the Nativity story from
the perspective of the
Landlord's Cat!!

This is a special
performance for Solos,
the Singers' families
and anyone else who
would like to come
and enjoy a little bit of
pre-Christmas calm.

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.



On Sunday 5 November our Families @4pm service welcomed 10 young families into St John's. We joined in with actions to share the story of Noah from the 'Act-Along Bible'. Children who had brought cuddly animals along marched them into our (cardboard box!) ark - don't worry, they got them back at the end! Then we searched for animal stickers hidden around the church and created our own paper-plate ark craft. We sang a song, had drinks and biscuits and met new friends. Someone visiting for the first time said: "this is absolutely lovely, so relaxed and accessible. It's great to see families enjoying the church". In December it's Christingle at 4pm on Sunday 3rd December, then on Sunday 7 January we'll be learning about baby Moses together. All are welcome from 4-5pm.



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.

Sundays @ Six

ON

2ND SUNDAYS!

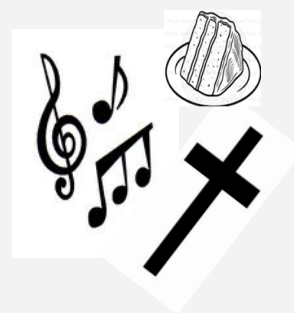
12th November

@ 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.**



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

Bible Study

If you are interested in exploring the Bible and having some help reading and understanding it do consider getting Bible notes. You can order notes from Pearl Page—her email is pearljpage@aol.com

**MORNING PRAYER
IN OUR
BENEFACTURE CHURCHES
at 9am**

Monday

All Saints, Brighton

Tuesday

St. John's, New Alresford

Wednesday

St. Mary's, Old Alresford

Thursday

St. Peter's, Ovington

*Please join us for a simple liturgy
and silence to nourish and uplift.*



Alresford Senior Citizens Lunch Club

Weekly on Thursdays

The Methodist Church Hall
Jacklyns Lane

At 12.00pm

£8.00 for two courses,
plus tea or coffee

If you would like to attend, please
contact

Janet Pooley 732779

or Chris Hulford 736810

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 17th December

John Pearson Hall St John's Church

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 neighbours
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.

December 15th

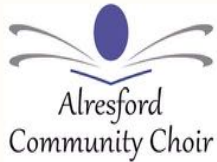
12 noon to 2 p.m.

Bring and share lunch

Come and join in.

All welcome





Gold and Silver



Alresford Community Choir present
a Concert for Christmas
with
The Royal Marine Association Band
in
St John's Church



at
7.30pm on Saturday 16th December

Doors open 6.45pm, refreshments available before the concert
and during the interval

Tickets: £15 (and £12 Concessions)
Available **from November 1st** from Alresford Gift Shop, West
Street, Alresford and on-line



Bacon butties

1st Saturday of every month

Saturday 2nd December

Alresford Methodist Church

9.30 - 11.30

Please come and join us



St Peter' Ovington

Café Church 11.00

3rd December



Community Activities



Rhymetime

Starts Thursday 7 September!



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!

St John's Book Group

Our next meeting is on
Wednesday December 13th at 2pm
In the John Pearson Hall
and we will be discussing
Lessons by Ian McEwan

Contact: Hilary Carr 735279
hilarycarr1@gmail.com



Alresford Rotary



December 2023

email: indri50@me.com Phone: 07743 698841 Website: <https://alresford-rotary.org>

Christmas shoeboxes

On 11th November Alresford Rotarians James Pinniger and Andrew Castillo (respectively members of the congregations of St. John's and St. Gregory's) transported 451 Christmas shoeboxes of presents, contributed by local groups (including Churches Together in Alresford), individuals and primary schools, to Boscombe where they joined thousands of other boxes originating from the Rotary Wessex district. A fuller report will follow next month but in the meantime thank you on behalf of 451 eastern European children (many of whom will never previously have received any present) whose Christmas this year will be that much more memorable and happy.

And don't forget to support **Alresford Rotary's Christmas tree sale** in Broad Street from 8.00 a.m. on **Saturday 9th December**. Come early to avoid disappointment!

James Pinniger

Join the Adventure



Community Events and Services

We are very lucky to still have a library in Alresford but if we don't use it then it will close. So do make use of their free services.

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 day



CHRISTMAS AT WEST LEA FARM SHOP

Come and visit your friendly
local farm shop near Alresford

Free range, bronze Turkeys

Handmade Hampers

Christmas Trees

Veg Boxes

Christmas Puddings
Mince Pies and Cakes

Handmade Wreaths

Christmas Flowers
Mistletoe and Holly

West Lea Farm Shop
Ladycroft, Itchen Stoke Rd,
Alresford SO24 0QS

01962 732 476
westleafarmshop@gmail.com





WILCAN
MOTOR COMPANY LTD

Repairs - Servicing



Retail Motor
Industry
Federation



- Servicing of new cars
- Repairs to any make
- MOT Preparation & Repair
- New Tyres Supplied & Fitted - Hankook etc all at competitive prices
- FREE Local Collection & Return
- FREE Courtesy Car (T&Cs apply)
- FREE Safety Checks
- Diagnostic Inspection & Repairs
- Air Conditioning Servicing & Repairs
- Accident/Insurance Bodywork Repairs

Please Ring Our Friendly Team

Tel: 01962 736186

Email: andy.wilcan@live.co.uk

www.wilcan.co.uk



MOTOR INDUSTRY
CODE OF PRACTICE
Service and Repair

The Long Barn
Winchester Road
Alresford SO24 9EZ

MOT ALRESFORD OR SERVICES

MOT TEST CENTRE

Petrol, Diesel and Motor Cycle

All makes serviced and

repaired to MOT standard

Factory trained in VW, Audi, Saab,

Volvo, Subaru, Landrover

Loyalty Scheme

Try us You are sure to be pleased

01962 733888



FREE Loan Cars
FREE Collection and Delivery
24 hour Recovery

Certified Road Transport Engineers

UNIT 5 SHELF HOUSE, NEW FARM ROAD

ALRESFORD, HANTS SO24 9QE

www.amsmotors.co.uk

IVC

Cars Chosen
With Care

Our good name means
everything to us

FOR FURTHER DETAILS

PLEASE CONTACT SIMON BROWN

OR TIM DEBUES ON

TELEPHONE: 01962 733097

IVCUK.COM

BELMONT HOUSE, THE DEAN, ALRESFORD, HAMPSHIRE, SO24 9BQ



Alresford
Golf Club

New to the area and need a club?
Looking to change golf club or just
starting out ?

We have something to suit everyone.

- 18 holes, 6017 yds, Par 69
- Course Ranked 9th best in Hampshire
- Stepped membership fees for 18-21 yrs
- 'Academy' membership scheme for Beginners
- Social Extra membership - use the best practice facilities in the area
- Performance Studio with Flight scope analysis
- Visitors and Societies welcome
- Well stocked Foremaster Golf Shop

Please contact the General Manager on 01962
733745 for further information or to take a look.
www.alresfordgolf.co.uk



Save the Date!



Thursday 21st December: Carol Singing Round the Village





And by special appointment:

A Visit from Father Christmas!

We hope that you and your family will be able to join us!
If you can and you have children, then please let us know by
contacting Big Gun News with the age/s so that we can pass your
request on to the Great Man.



IDEAL CHRISTMAS PRESENT!



Volume 2 of

The Bighton and Gundleton Cookbook

is still available to buy, priced at £7.

Email BigGun News if you would like one (or more!).





**In aid of St. Mary's Church,
Old Alresford**



£2

per copy

**We're fundraising to create a much-needed
kitchenette and toilet inside the church**

**copies of the Quiz will be available from Sunday 26th November in the following places:
St. Mary's Church, Six West, Alresford Surgery, Alresford Library and Oxleys**

November in Old Alresford

Twenty shoeboxes were packed and decorated at the Village Family Service and sent to the Churches Together in Alresford afternoon packing party. Thank you to everyone who donated gifts.



Bonfire Night on the Village Green was a great success with a super display of fireworks, hot dogs and hot soup and a lovely warm bonfire. Thank you and well done to all who made it possible.



St Mary's has been focusing on Remembrance with Tommy lit up at night on the tower. Did you see him?

And in December.....

TOADS It's that time of year again.... Oh no it isn't.... Oh yes it is! Pantomime rehearsals are well underway for Puss in Boots. Tuesday 5th to Saturday 9th December. See the advert for details of where to buy your tickets.

Advent Calendars and bells for the Christmas Tree The annual distribution funded by the Education Fund has taken place. This fund was created when Old Alresford Village School was closed. Please contact Roger Parsons, Churchwarden if you know of an Old Alresford Family who didn't receive a calendar. We do try to reach everyone. Please decorate your wooden bells and hang them on the church Christmas tree.



The Old Alresford Christmas Quiz. Festive fun for all the family!

It's back in a new format with a new team of question setters. Copies are available from St Mary's, The Library, The Surgery, Six West and Oxleys.

Mondays @10 On Monday 4th December will be held in the church as the hall is unavailable. Mince pies, hot coffee and a warm welcome for everyone.

Village Family Praise 11am Sunday 3rd December. A short family service with hymns and prayers and this time will be making the Advent Crown. A warm welcome and refreshments.

THE KNITTED NATIVITY

Christmas has always been a special time for me. My parents had very little money to spare but taught both my brother and me that the most important gift that can be given is love. It is a very sad state of affairs that today what most children think about at Christmas is what they will be given by way of presents! Many years ago I came across the following in a magazine. It is by someone called Dee Moss and I hope you will find it useful in understanding the true meaning of Christmas. Perhaps you could read it to your young relatives and make a difference!

She was not one you'd notice in a crowd. Not even on a crowded bus. A small plain woman in a knitted hat, her fingers busy with some coloured wools; while people round her chatted about local news or moaned about the crowded Christmas streets.

Knit one, purl two, purl the two together. I was tired of all the Christmas rush, spent and spent up in busy Advent shops. It all seemed such a waste of precious time and cash, buying for folk I hardly ever see. Christmas which used to be a special time had now become quite meaningless to me. And still the little woman's needles flew.

Knit one, slip one, pass the slip stitch over. But then on Christmas Eve, waiting for yet another local bus, I slipped into a little empty church for warmth, not looking to find something to lift my spirits, cheer my heart. I've seen so many lovely manger scenes, in city church, or abbeys whilst abroad. Costly, exotic, oft with inlaid gems....but here beneath a knitted stable roof [I ask you, knitted manger in a church!] were little knitted figures, fashioned just from wool.

Knit three, purl two, purl the two together. There were four shepherds in their rustic clothes; the garments proof against the cold night air. One of them held a white and curly lamb, whilst round them gathered knitted cows and hens. Bright in majesty, stood three noble kings, clad in fine purple, red and gleaming gold. Their precious presents held in darkish hands.....all fashioned with a woman's skill.

Knit four, slip one, pass the slip stitch over. I gazed in wonder at the tiny folk; but was enraptured by the pair who knelt beside the knitted manger. A man in homely garments and his wife, her face alight with joy; whilst in the crib a tiny knitted child stretched infant arms to me, who gazed in awe upon the scene. And suddenly, I knew that it is true. God came to simple people long ago in the form of a baby boy.....and still he comes. Forget the outward signs, the lights and feasting, Christmas trees and such. A simple woman, on a country bus had made it real for me that Christ was born to ordinary people long ago; and still he comes in simple human ways.

Use us, knit us, and blend us altogether

That final sentence could be our mantra as we face 2024 and all the challenges it is going to bring. I wish you a very peaceful Christmas and a hopeful New Year.

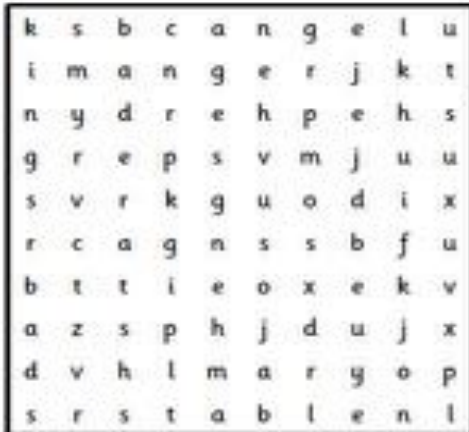
Angela Peel



Puzzles



Nativity Wordsearch



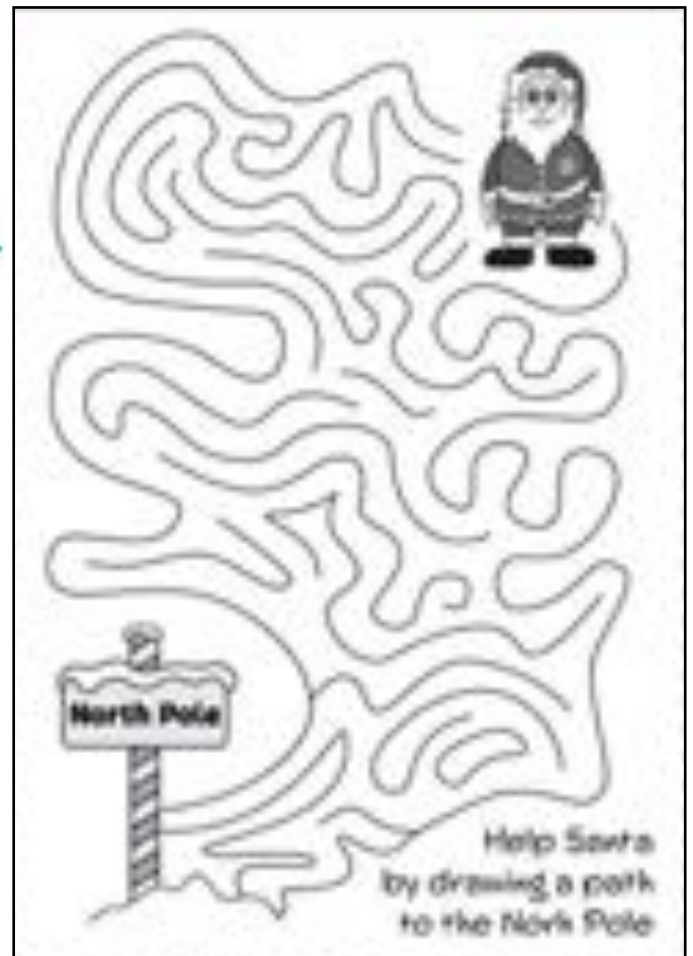
angel donkey Jesus Joseph

kings manger Mary

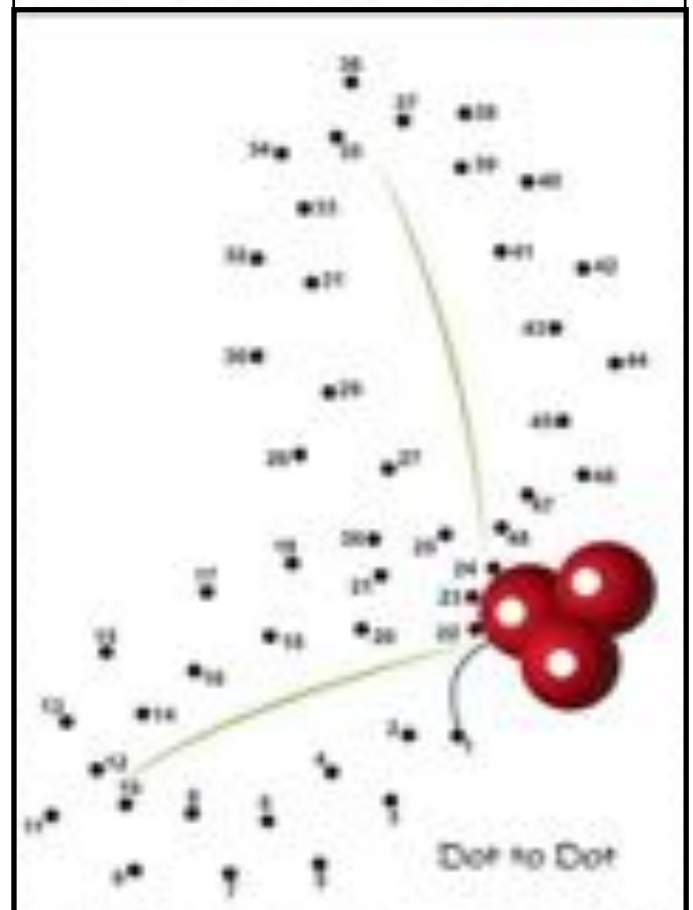
shepherd stable star



www.ActivityVillage.co.uk - Keeping Kids Busy



How Many Stars Can
You Count?





christmas Flowers



Did you know you can add some colour to white flowers using food colouring? Water is transported up the stem of a plant via a process called transpiration. It's a bit like water being sucked up a straw. This can be demonstrated by adding food colouring to the water a flower is placed in.

Materials!

Water
food colouring
White flowers such as
carnations



Method!



- Trim the flowers leaving a short stem
- Add water and food colouring to a jar or vase.
- Place your flowers into the water and wait.
- You should see colour reach the petals after a couple of hours.

Discuss!

can you try this with
celery?



extension Tasks...

- Try splitting the stem in half, place one half in red food colouring and one in green, what happens?

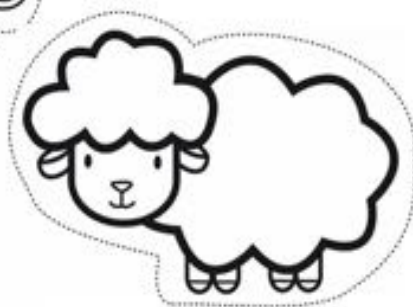
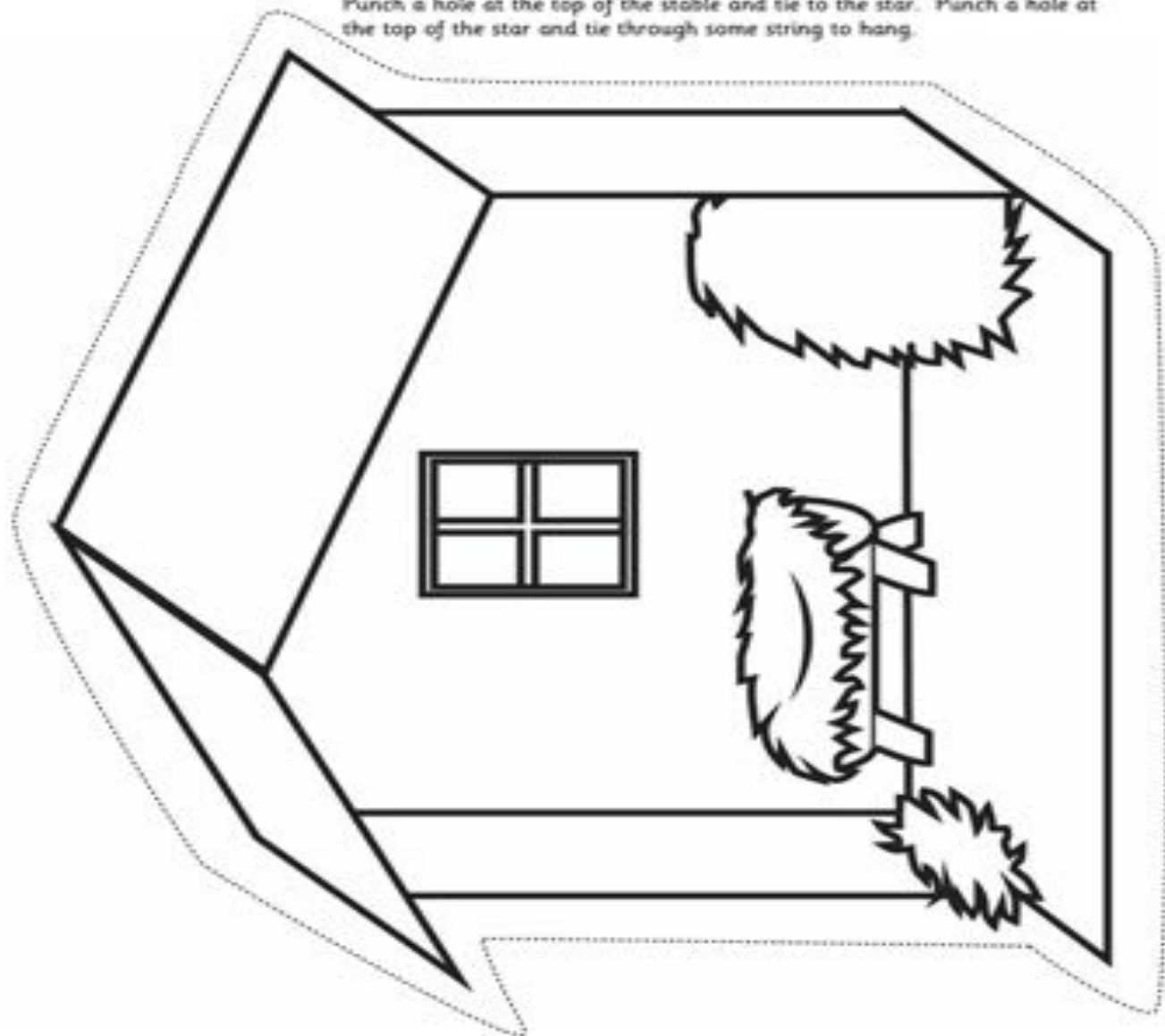


Notes: Natural food colourings do not work



Nativity Colouring Mobile

Print and colour the mobile. Cut along the dotted lines.
Punch a hole in each of the small pictures and seven holes along the bottom of the stable.
Use yarn or string to tie the small pictures apart from the star to the stable.
Punch a hole at the top of the stable and tie to the star. Punch a hole at the top of the star and tie through some string to hang.



Chilbolton Chair Company

Makers & Upholsterers of fine quality furniture



Unit 12B, Stoneford Park, Chilbolton
Stonebridge, Hants, SO29 6BL
Tel: 01264 801217
www.chilboltonchaircompany.co.uk

We offer a wide range of services:

- Bespoke hand made furniture
- Complete re-upholstery of antique or modern furniture
- Supply of a wide range of fabrics
- Curtains, blinds, soft furnishings
- Stock items available for sale

email: info@chilboltonchaircompany.co.uk
Mobile: 07862 800610
Mobile: 07862 800607

The Family Owned Pharmacy
for all your needs

**Wessex
Pharmacies**

- Dispensing NHS & Private Prescriptions
- Flu Vaccination Service
- Free Medication Reviews
- Free NHS Health Checks
- Free Blood Pressure Checks
- Free Disposal of Unwanted Medicines
- Advice on Healthy Living & Minor Ailments

Your Local Pharmacy You Can Trust For
Friendly & Professional Advice

2 Broad Street Alresford

Tel: 01962 722445

alresford@wessexpharmacies.co.uk



STORAGE made easy

- 24/7 access • Sizes to suit your needs •
- Short or long term • Easy to find, easy to use •
- On your doorstep •

01962 771993

www.barn-store.co.uk

Holden Farm Cheriton SO24 0NX

THE GILDED CABINET ☆

PAINT COLOUR CONSULTATIONS
UPHOLSTERY • FOOTSTOOLS
HEADBOARDS • CUSHIONS
BESPOKE LAMPSHADES
EXTENSIVE FABRIC RANGE

BEAUTIFUL CURTAINS & BLINDS TAILORED TO YOUR HOME FULL INTERIOR DESIGN SERVICE

Come and see us in our beautiful homewares shop and interior design studio (on the corner by Waitrose in Alton), where we will happily guide you in making the right choices to meet your needs, tastes and, most importantly, budget. From a small window dressing to a full interior design project we would be delighted to help you achieve a stunning interior.

29 Anstey Road, Alton GU34 2RD 01420 556585
www.thegildedcabinet.co.uk info@thegildedcabinet.co.uk

Advertisement



B OUTSIDE FOREST SCHOOL

provides high quality small group experiences

Woodland sites in Tichborne & Upham

Pre-school & school age children

Young adults & adults

Private clients & business

Stand alone or 10 weekly sessions

visit the website to book or to explore what is available

Holiday club

After school club

Birthday party

Drop-in group for adults

Corporate days and workplace wellbeing

www.boutsidefs.com



boutsidefs@gmail.com



boutside_forest_school



Boutside Forest School

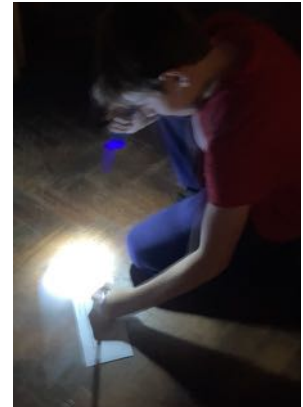


Light Party

On October 29th St John's held a Light Party with science experiments, crafts including candle making, bobbing for sticky donuts, toasting marshmallows on an open fire (in spite of the rain!), games such as whack the candle and much more, ending with a service to celebrate the one true Light—Jesus Christ.

St John's church, Alresford is a local church that is really trying their best to get families along weekly/monthly to get them to attend local events. We really enjoyed the Light Party and there were different activities for children to do while we were there and things to do inside and outside the church area, Toasting marshmallows is always a good activity for the children.

We also attend other groups that the church put on each month like families at 4, Monday meet and Eat each week. We try and support the church and their groups throughout the week which my two children love to meet other children at their age group. **Jo**



A great reminder of the fundamental Christian message that there is always light to be found in the darkness. Brilliant to show my kids that as Christians we can celebrate and embrace the light/good message. Everything was really well organised with a lovely range of well thought out crafts for all ages. My older daughter is 10 so the crafts exceeded her expectations which is high praise and a big win! The mix of hanging doughnut eating and writing a note for a rainy day meant both girls could enjoy having fun and making it their own way. I personally enjoyed not catching the candle (beautifully crocheted) and that it was very interactive. **Viv**

Keira aged 10: "Really good crafts especially the beeswax candles which I hadn't seen before. "

Leah aged 6: "It was lots more fun than I thought it would be I liked painting stones and melting marshmallows but the best but was the letter hunt in the dark church. There were lots of letters to find which was lots of fun".



Light Party



The light party was a great event for all ages, well organised and fun for both the adults and children. Lovely helpers, great activities, enjoyable food but also had a thoughtful element which was beautiful. A real community event and excellent atmosphere. Thoroughly enjoyable for all ages including adults
Rachel



We have attended the light party for the past 2 years with our 3 children, they all absolutely love it and enjoying taking part in all the crafts and talk about their day for ages afterwards. So much effort and thought is put into this event for the community and it is lovely to see so many families and different ages of children having fun together. **Sarah**

I just wanted to let you know that your light party was a great success!
I work in a nursery and a parent came in telling everyone how wonderful your church is and how she and her children loved the light party. She said she was a "staunch atheist" but she couldn't fault your church and what an asset to the community you are. Thank you! It made my day! **Sharon**

The Story of Love

This is the story of Love not human love like a parent for a child or between wives and husbands though human love is wonderful. This is about God's love that is even more wonderful as it is perfect.



In the beginning God created the universe out of love. People have always wondered **how** God made it and nowadays we think God created a blinding flash of light that scientists call the Big Bang that shot out piles of matter that became stars and planets. God thought they were lovely.



One star was the Sun and one of its planets the earth. But the earth was empty and lifeless, so God made microscopic bits of life and over million years they evolved into millions of different plants and animals. God loved them all.

One group of those animals were humans. God loved these humans a great deal and breathed his spirit into them so humans were made in His image.

But something went wrong—the Bible tells the story of how the first people, Adam and Eve, disobeyed God and ate a fruit that he had told them to leave alone.



Humans, then began doing horrible things, like killing and stealing. God was sad but God still loved them. So God sent messengers called prophets like Moses, Deborah, and Isaiah to tell people how they should live. They were to love God and love their neighbour. Some people listened but many went on doing horrible things like hurting and stealing. God was sad but God still loved them.

So God promised to send a Saviour to put things right. In fact He came himself to live among us as a human. But how can that happen? For God is surely everywhere and in all time? No-one exactly how this works but God is One but he is also Three: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. St Patrick said it is like a shamrock leaf – one leaf but also three leaves. And it was part of God we call the Son that came at Christmas as Jesus

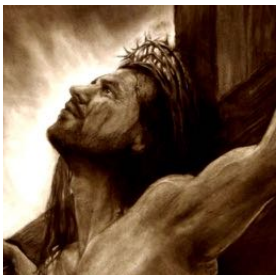


God sent the Angel Gabriel to ask Mary to give birth to Jesus and because she loved God she said 'yes'. Even though she was frightened as she was not yet married and did not know what her intended husband would think but he had a dream that told him that Jesus was the Son of God.



Jesus was born in Bethlehem, as we remember at Christmas. He was born in a stable and laid in a manger and shepherds and magi came to see him. He was a baby like any other baby who cried and needed his mother's milk. And yet He was far more.

Jesus grew up and taught people about love with stories like the Good Samaritan and the Prodigal Son. He loved everyone he met and healed those who were ill or hurt. In this picture he is healing a child. Some listened but many didn't. Jesus was sad but He still loved them.



But some powerful people didn't like being told to love. They wanted to hurt and steal so they captured Jesus and killed him on a cross. Even on the cross in great pain Jesus still showed his love as he prayed that His heavenly Father would forgive those who killed him. Jesus died. It seemed that love had ended.

But when on the third day after his death, the women who had followed and loved Jesus went to his tomb but they found it empty. Jesus had risen to life again. His perfect love had defeated death and evil. He then reminded his followers to love God and other people. He told them to carry on his work of loving.



Then Jesus went back to heaven, but he sent the Holy Spirit to fill his followers with love and strength, so they would work to make this world a better, more loving place until Jesus comes back.

For one day Jesus will come back and then the universe will be full of love and there will be no pain or sorrow.

WISHING YOU PEACE, JOY AND

Pearl

Stuart and Diana Robbins

Peter and Janet Pooley

Alresford Bellringers

John, Sue, Paul, Esther & Carmen

Sue Greenaway

Audrey Bales

Kathie, Chris and Maggie

Jilly and Graham Goodall

Sue Clarke

James, Sue, Tom and Brian Lane

Lee

Barbara Fennell

Peter Colquhoun

John and Paul

Pelham and Janet Allen

James, Clare and Issy

Margaret Stewart

Patricia

Ann and Joan Marshall

Margaret and George Skayman

Simon and Erica

Jackie Connell

Tony Stirling and family

Keith and Margaret Sweetland

Best wishes from Dennis, Keith & Caroline

EVERY BLESSING AT CHRISTMAS

Pat Ure

Robert and Frances Sanders

Merry Christmas from the Whiffen chaps

Keith and Cheryl Brundish

Joe, Susan, Hannah, George & Sally

Joan and Ianley

Val Bond

Beryl Stephenson

Geoff and Mary Simonds

Malcolm and Ruth Atkinson

David Wallacott

Alma

Angus and Jane

John and Peter Cullen

David and Diana Adams

Eric Bellamy

John and Maureen Mackrill

John Pearson

Paul and Sue Dix

Mary and David Carr

Miranda and Steve Pinch

Anna Cane

Iain and Carol Reid

Roger and Kathryn Lockyer

Graham and Liz Trasler

Angela and

Charlotte and Susan

Light in Our Dark World

The light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it. So says St John's gospel, and yet there seems to be so much darkness still around us. How can we sing about a Prince of Peace and how Jesus saved the world when there is so much violence, hate, greed, fear going on? What is the point of Christmas when the world continues its dark way?



Bethlehem is a small insignificant place high in the hills, though the Jews knew it as the place where King David was born. It is only about five miles from Jerusalem, but you can't drive direct from one to the other. Not now and not then. Now you can't because there is a wall with razor wire between the Israelites and Palestinians with Israeli soldiers with machine guns. Then because



there were Roman soldiers with swords and spears keeping the local people in their control. Soldiers would be marching right by the place where Jesus was born.

The Prince of Peace was not born in a quiet, peaceful land but in a land occupied by brutal rulers and torn apart by freedom fighters. A land where crucifixion was common, and roads were lined by crosses.

And into this troubled town came a man and his pregnant betrothed looking for shelter. Where did they go? Probably to Joseph's family home – remember he came from Bethlehem – but there was no room in the upper room. Upper or guest room not inn. The word '**kataluma**' we usually translate as 'inn' is exactly the same word that Luke uses later when he tells us about the Last Supper (Luke 22 v11)

Jesus was born in the downstairs room and yes that was where the animals were kept so our pictures of a stable are not so far out. It was also the main room where the family lived, worked and cooked.



He was born in darkness. The Light of the World came in darkness. And that dark would be greater than we in our electrified world understand. There would have only been starlight and a flickering oil lamp to help the midwife and Mary. There would be a woman to help Mary as no-one would let a young girl—even one they despised—go through the danger of childbirth alone.

It is quite possible that there was space for them in the guest room, but Mary was not yet married and though Joseph had accepted her, so some of his relations may have refused to have her in the main part of the house.



So, Jesus was born in the dark, in a violent place and was probably rejected because he was illegitimate. And that is the point. Jesus does not do things the easy way. He could have done what the Jews expected – be born in a palace, live a princely life, call up battalions of angels to drive his enemies away and end by sitting comfortably on his throne. But Jesus' throne was the cross and his crown – a crown of thorns.

Christmas does deal with violence, greed, fear and hate. It is a promise that all that evil will come to an end when the wolf will lie down with the lamb. And Jesus' birth is the beginning of that end. It is the beginning of the new heaven and new earth, but they are not here yet. Jesus ensured that the end of evil will come by his death and resurrection and he will complete the



work when He returns at the end of time. And before you ask no-one has any idea when or how that will happen. It could be in the next few seconds or the next few million years.

We are living in the between times when the work has started and before it is finished —and we are commanded to continue Jesus's work with His grace.

But has Jesus birth, life, death and resurrection made any real difference? After all we still have war, disease and other disasters.

Yet from the moment Mary said 'yes' to bearing Jesus the world was a different place for God had entered it in a new way. Before Jesus God was a distant, remote figure who was in essence unknowable—Moses could not approach God's face because such an encounter would kill him.



Also before Jesus, with one or two exceptions, only the Jews cared about strangers. In the ancient world you helped your kith and kin but not an outsider. Outsiders you left alone and walked by on the other side. After all, were foreigners, outsiders really human? Jesus by his life and teaching included everyone –



Romans, Canaanites, Samaritans as well as Jews. After Jesus all those who took on board any bit of his teaching – and though Christians led the way Muslims, Sikhs and others followed – began to care for outsiders. And that led to the schools, hospitals, care homes, welfare organisations that we have today.

So, Christmas is a time to rejoice. It is a time when we can celebrate. The world has changed and one day will finally be made new. And we have our part to play for Jesus left us the task of helping bring in his kingdom of love by following the commandments to love one another as Jesus loved us.



St Nicholas—Santa Claus—Father Christmas— Sir Christemas



St Nicholas 4th Century



Santa Claus 20th Century



Father Christmas 19th Century

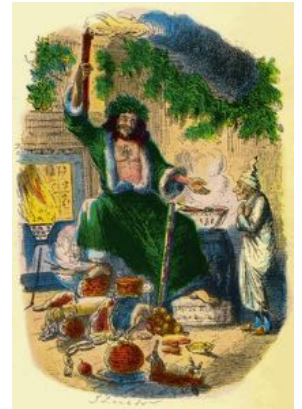
Possible Evolution of Father Christmas



Nineteenth century English children knew about Father Christmas but he did not bring presents for them. No, he was the spirit of Christmas and the provider of food and drink at that season. Earlier he was called Sir Christemas or Lord Christemas as mentioned in a medieval Christmas carol. Folklorists argue that he was a close relation of the forest spirit—The Green Man., especially as early pictures of him show him dressed in green not red. Of course they suggest a purely pagan origin connecting him to the Norse god Odin who rode threw the sky bringing gifts of food to his followers.

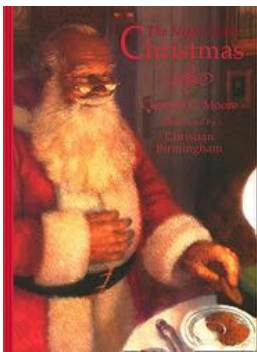
Father Christmas disappeared in the 17th century when Oliver Cromwell banned Christmas as a wicked, pagan festival and forbade any celebrations.

In the nineteenth century Father Christmas came back in a revival with the help of Charles Dickens's novel *A Christmas Carol*. His Spirit of Christmas past was the image of the old Father Christmas with his green robe and jollity.



In the nineteenth century it was in Germany and Holland and then in America that the gift-giving Santa Claus was known. He was the 'descendant' of the 4th Century bishop St Nicholas. The Dutch version of St Nicholas being Santa Claus. He was the one who brought presents to children (if they were good)

St Nicholas was known for his generosity to the poor and there are stories about him secretly giving presents to help children. His assistants copied him so when St Nicholas died the present giving continued. He was supposed to use a donkey to help him carry his gifts. And he hid his presents in children's stockings and shoes.



It is in the late 19th and 20th centuries that these two different figures coalesced and became one. Even then Santa Claus/Father Christmas could wear red or green or white. Some say it was Coca-Cola advert that made him wear red but in fact he was seen in his distinctive red, white and black much earlier in Clement Moore's poem 'The Night before Christmas



The 'Innkeeper's' Story

It's not fair! I'm always shown as the bad guy in Nativity plays – the innkeeper who wouldn't take a young couple in and her heavy with the coming child. But I did take them in – it says so in the Bible, in Luke's gospel. Chapter Two Verse seven: *And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.*



Those wretched plays get everything wrong. I don't own an inn – not even sure what an inn is but I think it is somewhere in big cities where strangers can pay to stay. We don't have anything like that in Bethlehem – place is too small.

No, what we have are some guest rooms upstairs in our houses where relatives and friends or friends of friends can stay. Some of the newer versions have it right as they call it an upper room or guest room.

I would have given one of those room to Joseph and Mary – Joseph's my cousin after all – but with that Roman emperor ordering everyone to go to their native town so he can get them registered to pay tax the place was packed.



So when Joe and Mary turned up I gave them the only place I had left – the stable. Actually it is our living room most of the time. Yes, we do live next to our animals as it keeps us beautifully warm—it gets cold up in these mountains.

Anyway Mary wouldn't want all those strangers when she was giving birth – we were crowding them in ten to a room by then. And before you start turning up your noses we keep our living room clean, thank you very much. We muck out the stable part at least once a day..

We gave them blankets, hot water, good food and scrubbed out one of the wooden mangers and filled it with new hay so the baby could sleep safe and warm. Or as safe as anyone



can be nowadays with those brutes of Roman soldiers strutting around causing trouble.

And before you ask, my wife stayed with Mary throughout – after all she’s had our five youngsters herself and helped several girls when their time came so she knew what to do.

It was around midnight that she sent our eldest girl through demanding more cloths and hot water.

“Baby is on its way,” Leah said.

“Typical! Turning up when it’s dark and cold”

“Not totally dark,” said Leah, “look there’s that big star up there.”



Come to think of it I had noticed that there was a star shining more brightly than usual. One of the moving stars – they often change how bright they are though I did agree that this one was really bright.

I didn’t have time to think about stars or babies then as some of the people staying were asking for blankets, food, and drink.

A bit later I heard singing – probably some of Reuben’s drunken friends drinking and singing the night away. Bit more tuneful than usual I thought but I wished they’d shut up so a chap could get some sleep.

Then half a dozen bleary-eyed, ragged shepherds turned up. I kept a close eye on them of course. Shepherds aren’t respectable folk so who knows what they’d steal. I thought they were drunk as they talked about angels and singing.



We haven’t had any angels turning up for centuries though my goodness we could use them – an army of them to drive those beastly Romans away.

“We’ve come to see the new baby,” they said and I was about to send them away with a few choice words but something in the way they looked sent shivers down my spine . Anyway, I don’t know why but it made me change my mind.

“All right,” I said, “but no noise and if Joe tells you to go away you go away.”

Then they gave me that look again. The one that made me shiver. And they went as quiet and gentle as drifting feathers to the stable.

I followed them. I couldn’t help myself.



The shepherds just stood gazing like they were looking at a king, at Solomon in all his glory. I looked too. Just an ordinary baby in Mary's arms. Nothing to go all starry eyed about.

"It really is him," said one shepherd.

"At last," said another, "at long last. And for ordinary people like us."

What on earth were they talking about?

"Who's come?" I asked, rather grumpily I confess.



Everyone looked at me as if I were stupidest person alive – even my wife.

"The Messiah, of course," she said, "the promised Saviour."

"You must be joking. A baby. The Messiah will be a king or a warrior or... and he'll come leading an army of angels and...."

But then I looked again at the baby. There was something but... and I looked at Mary and her face seemed to shine like a star.

"He is," she said to me, "he really is."

Joe grinned at me, "It's true, Ben. I found it hard to believe but he really is the promised one."

"Well, then," I said, "in that case he's going to need all his strength. Saving us lot will be a tough job. It's cold. I'll get another blanket."

So there you have it. That's the real version of Jesus' birth. He might have been rejected and thrown out later but not by me and my wife. We welcomed him as best we could.



Christmas Science

Christmas Pudding

When you light the brandy over the Christmas pudding why is the flame blue not yellow. It is blue because, when there is enough oxygen, brandy, like other spirits, burns up completely giving off only water and carbon dioxide. Other substances don't burn so well so they produce soot and carbon monoxide as well.

Reindeer

Rudolf the red-nosed reindeer had a very shiny nose – did he?

Reindeers do have red noses as there are a lot of blood vessels in their noses but they are definitely not shiny as they have fur there – an adaptation to help them cope with the icy cold of the North Pole. Also Rudolf has antlers in December so he or rather she is female as male deer will have lost their antlers by then.



Snow

The Christmas cards show snow – how often is there snow on Christmas Day and would there have been snow in Bethlehem? Snow is not very likely on Christmas Day – it is much more likely in January and February. And snow in Bethlehem? Well according to the statistics

Bethlehem, as it is high in the Judean mountains, gets about 530mm of snow each year.



Snow in Bethlehem

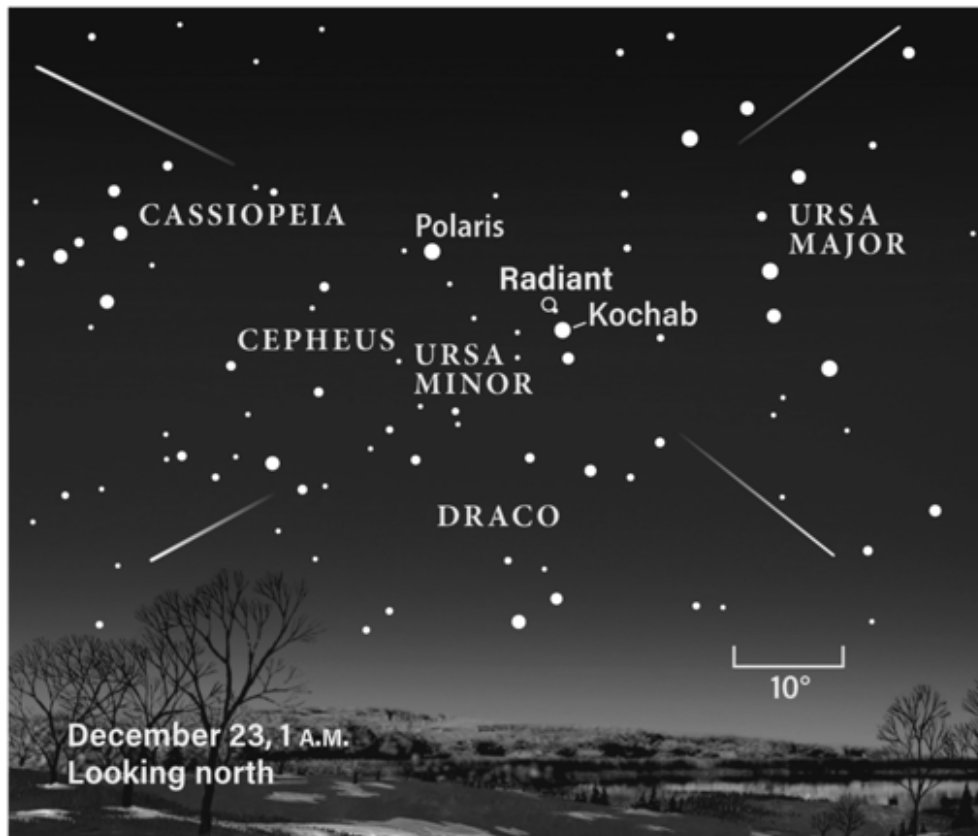
Snowflakes



Is it true that no two snowflakes are the same? Almost certainly as snowflakes are made of 10,000,000,000,000,000,000 water molecules that can arrange themselves in an almost infinite number of ways. That means the odds of two identical snowflakes

are so low that I haven't room to write the number if I filled this whole magazine.

Christmas Science



Though you won't alas see the Star of Bethlehem, it is still worth going out on a clear night to look at the sky and see the stars. Even with your naked eye there is lots to see especially if you get a good star guide. Remember Polaris is always in the north, Ursa Major looks like a saucepan, Cassiopeia like a W and Orion has his three bright belt star.

Make Salt Crystal Snowflakes

You will need:

- A4 paper - blue if possible
- side plate for drawing around
- pencil
- scissors
- measuring jug
- salt
- hot water
- tablespoon
- wide bowl

Follow these instructions to make a pretty snow crystal snowflake which you can use as a decoration afterwards.

Instructions:

1. Draw around the side plate on the paper and cut out the circle.
2. Fold your circle in half. Now fold in half again and again until you have a pizza-shaped wedge.
3. Cut out some small shapes from each side of your pizza slice to make a snowflake.
4. Open your snowflake up and flatten it out.
5. Make as many snowflakes as you want.
6. Put 2 tablespoons of salt into the measuring jug.
7. Run the hot tap until it is hot and then pour in just enough to cover the salt.
8. Stir until the salt has dissolved.
9. Add a bit more salt and stir until it stops dissolving. If you want to speed up this process, you could use boiling water, but ask your adult to do this.
10. Place your snowflake in the wide bowl and carefully pour over just enough of the salt solution to cover it.
11. Set your bowl on a windowsill for a few days and watch what happens!

The Science

The water eventually evaporates - it turns to gas. The salt crystals have formed into tiny cubes. The salt is made from sodium and chloride. When the water evaporates, the sodium and chloride atoms bond together to create the salt cubes.

Silver and Gold - Choosing Music for Christmas by Keith Clark

As someone who does their best to avoid 'piped music' at any time of the year, I have been known to moan loudly in shops when Christmas songs and music are played on never-ending loops... in November. When there are only one or two selections being played from opening time to closing, how do people working in such environments cope, without losing their marbles? I just can't imagine.

When much younger, I loved hearing going down the lane close to my home and seeing snow really glistening. Well, it did in 1962/3, in a very real country-wide Winter Wonderland and lasted for weeks! So, if I'm honest, I should confess to loving all things of the season, including tinsel, decorated trees, and most especially some well-sung songs and carols, even those on the 'lighter' side. It's just that I like to enjoy them in the couple of weeks leading up to Christmas and not for a month before that.



As I have written before, Christmas starts on the day itself and then continues for quite a time... As a child, I really hated taking down our very simple decorations on Boxing Day, although by then the bulbs on our Christmas tree would have given up their glow, as one by one they had 'blown'.



Even now, I'm saddened by seeing a deflated 'pretend' Father Christmas, gradually losing the will to climb a roof or to 'bop' about on a front lawn, as they gradually lose their puff. The trees put up around our town are a delight and the town looks wonderful at Christmas - right through the 12 days of Christmas is very pleasing. What a magnificent job those Elves do!

For many years, it has fallen to me to put forward Christmas songs and carols for concert programmes and for Carol Services in Alresford. I'm still trying to find the balance for programmes that might be 'just right', not too long or too short, not too traditional, or too modern, whilst giving the audience enough to join in, without wearing out their vocal cords! The phrase: "You can't please all of the people all of the time" seems to work, but don't think I'm complaining. The continuing drive to do better next time always spurs me on.

This year, Alresford Community Choir has its very special guests, The Royal Marines Association, who are providing an ensemble of players, all present or past players of the Royal Marines Band, Our Christmas concert, entitled *Gold and Silver*, enables them to accompany some of the Carols and songs and also to provide two pieces of their own choosing. We hope that you will be with us in **St John's Church** at 7.30pm on Saturday 16th December. Tickets are all £12 with a limited number of free seats for accompanied children, from Alresford Gift Shop. If you are busy on that date, we are also performing the concert on Saturday 9th December in **Romsey Abbey**, at the earlier time 6.30pm and tickets can be bought online from Maggie's Southampton.



Presents and Present Givers

Children in England wake on Christmas Day hoping that Father Christmas/Santa has filled their stocking with presents, and expect to eat turkey and Christmas pud for their dinner. In other countries Christmas is different.



In Ukraine for example children get their presents from St Nicholas on the day they celebrate the saint's feast—19th December, and their special meal is eaten after the first star appears on Christmas Eve and consists of 12 dishes—one for each apostle. They decorate their trees with shiny spider's webs as they remember the story of how some poor children could not afford to decorate their tree but God sent a spider to weave shining webs all over it.



In some other countries children do not expect presents on Christmas Day because the three Magi are bringing their presents and will deliver them on Epiphany—6th January. Elsewhere it is an old woman who carries the presents in her basket or sack to the children. And for others it is the Christ child himself who fills their shoes with sweets and presents.



Nowadays children get a load of presents but if you read accounts of nineteenth century Christmases they concentrate on having time of work, being with friends and family and having special food. And the holiday was longer often as much as a month. Presents were not that important. Laura Ingalls Wilder for example in the Little House books was delighted to get a rag doll, a tin cup, a stick of candy and sugar cake and bright shiny new penny.

Victorian children's books often urged their readers to give to the poor at Christmas, even though the same poor were often forgotten for the rest of the year. Even in the workhouse where people who were homeless and destitute might live they had a decent Christmas dinner. The rest of the time they had bread and porridge.

Up until the Second World War landowners were expected to give a Christmas feast to their tenants and give, at least their tenants' children, a present usually of food or clothing following the example of Good King Wenceslas.



Granddad to his granddaughter, "When I was a boy all we got for Christmas was an apple and an orange."

"Brilliant," said his granddaughter, "I'd love a new computer and a new mobile."

Wintery Chalk Stream Walks

As the weather grows colder, it's easy to heed the call of the sofa cushions. But if you do venture out on a chilly day, our chalk streams are lovely places for a stroll. Even in the wintertime, these precious habitats are brimming with life and colour. For those places that have a winterbourne, regular rain could see their stream return to the landscape after months of hiding below the ground.

Take a walk in the early morning for the chance to catch a veil of mist lifting from the stream's surface – a magical effect caused by water rising from the chalk aquifer and meeting the frigid air. This is the ideal time of day to see and hear birds like wrens, robins, goldcrests, and kingfishers. You might even glimpse bats darting by, heading home after a night of hunting insects.

Winter is also the perfect season to spot brown trout and Atlantic salmon engaging in their courtship rituals. If you're lucky, you could witness males getting into tiffs over potential partners. No fish in sight? Look for patches of paler gravel on the stream bed; these might be freshly made nests, or 'redds'. These nests are easily disturbed, so check the area if your dog is going for a paddle.

Along the water's edge, you may see clumps of watercress and water crowfoot. While they flower in the springtime, these plants give shelter to small fish during the colder months. Up on the stream banks, you might find the dry remains of umbellifers like hogweed and cow parsley. Though past their best for beauty, these plants have hollow stems that make great hibernation spaces for insects.

If the ground is wet or frosty, study it for signs of animals passing through. You might be surprised by what you find, from the cloven-hooved tracks of deer to the star-shaped prints of water voles. Get to know your local wildlife – the number of toes, length of stride, and pattern of movement are all key. Fox tracks, for instance, look similar to those of dogs but tend to be in a straighter line.

The Watercress and Winterbournes scheme stays busy over the winter months - our intrepid volunteers are out surveying fish redds and monitoring riverflies. For a good excuse to visit charming places at their most peaceful, become a volunteer by visiting www.hiwwt.org.uk/winterbournes. Our work is made possible by the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

Free Online Talks

'Chalk Stream Moths and Butterflies'

5th December, 7pm

Ashley Whitlock from Butterfly Conservation details the amazing lives of the moths and butterflies that frequent chalk streams, and their immense value to those ecosystems.

'Photography for Chalk Stream Conservation'

11th January, 7pm

Award-winning photographer Paul Colley shares his chalk stream images, explains the techniques behind them, and explores how they are used in chalk stream conservation.

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



Ringling and Filming

By Elizabeth Johnson

In the 1980's I was involved in making a TV advert for Condor Tobacco. The TV footage is no longer shown since all tobacco advertising is banned.

The filming took place at Binstead, the pretty church near Alton, surrounded by a large graveyard strangely at the time full of daffodils; it was not springtime.



The scenario was that ringers are seen hurrying to the church. They enter the church and start to ring the bells. The men look round totally puzzled as no sound emanates from any of the six bells above them. The next shot is of a comfortable looking study with a view of the church tower, on the desk 6 bell clappers and a contented looking man smoking a pipe "A Condor Moment".

As with most films the end results of a very short duration but this one took at least 2 days to produce.

As well as fake daffodils, the churchyard was full of camper vans, huge vehicles for the cameras and sound equipment, and most important a chuck wagon to supply the crew with sustenance. The ringers were able to take advantage of the excellent food that was on endless supply.

Due to equity regulations paid up members had to be filmed ringing the bells, ready-made ringers were not permitted. As it usually takes many weeks to teach anyone to handle a bell safely it took a bit of ingenuity to get sufficient footage of actors ringing the bells without hanging themselves. Some of the footage was of the ropes being safely handled by real ringers but not in shot. Occasionally a shot of an actor pulling a rope. No actor or ringer was harmed during filming and the daffodils and vans disappeared; the clappers replaced in the bells ready to ring for the next service.



In October 2001 a call went out from Winchester Cathedral for ringers to take part in filming in the tower by a US production company "Pulse" making a film entitled a Stomp Odyssey to be shown in iMax cinemas. The theme was percussion and rhythm – taking music (in the widest possible sense) and sounds from around the world. Welly boot dancing from Gold Reef City Johannesburg, South Africa, Steel pans from the Caribbean, South American music and dancing and English 'Church Bell Ringing'.

Being retired so having free time and being familiar with the Cathedral bells it sounded a fun thing to do. Several Southampton University students were also lured by the £40 fee we would all be paid.

Filming took place over several days. The production crew having to manhandle huge cameras, sound equipment, smoke machines, reflecting screens, even railway lines for the cameras to run on, up into the ringing room.



Photo above with permission of the Hampshire Chronical

All the ringers had to do was sit around for hours doing not much but watch all the crew rushing about moving equipment, taking orders. At various stages ringing was required so bells were rung, sometimes randomly, sometimes more organized. Some filming was done from St Catherine's Hill.

Food was provided outside the West Doors but disappointingly not nearly up to the standard of catering we enjoyed while taking part in the Condor Advert!

Eventually in 2003, the film was launched in iMax cinemas – there were only 8 in the UK at the time. The screens as high as 5 double decker buses. I managed to see the film at the Waterloo venue opposite the station on the roundabout. The production was amazing, exciting, noisy and interesting. The piece about bell ringing included a shot of Winchester Cathedral's tenor bell weighing 32 cwt filling the screen it seemed as though it would crash right down on to the audience. As it turned, I think I ducked! There were shots of the bells ringing all misty from the smoke machine, sounds of bells ringing randomly and in regular ringing. Then the most astonishing shot was of ME filling the whole screen ringing a bell – a fleeting moment of fame!



Christmas Bells by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

This poem was written during the American Civil War in which Longfellow's son was seriously injured. Though he supported the abolition of slavery and so was the North's side Longfellow wrote in his diary @I have only one desire, and that is for harmony, and a frank and honest understanding between North and South

At this time when there is war in the Holy Land, in Ukraine and numerous other places this poem expresses how many of us feel.



I heard the bells on Christmas Day
Their old, familiar carols play,
and mild and sweet
The words repeat
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

And thought how, as the day had come,
The belfries of all Christendom
Had rolled along
The unbroken song
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

Till ringing, singing on its way,
The world revolved from night to day,
A voice, a chime,
A chant sublime
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!



Then from each black, accursed mouth
The cannon thundered in the South,
And with the sound
The carols drowned
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

It was as if an earthquake rent
The hearth-stones of a continent,
And made forlorn
The households born
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

And in despair I bowed my head;
"There is no peace on earth," I said;
"For hate is strong,
And mocks the song
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!"



Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:
"God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;
The Wrong shall fail,
The Right prevail,
With peace on earth, good-will to men."

Puzzles

Answers on page 54

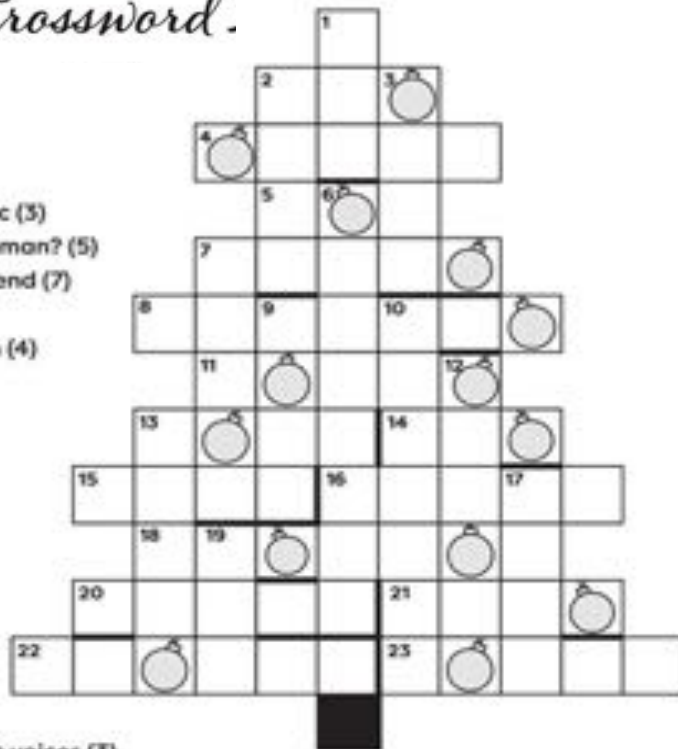
Christmas Cryptic Crossword.

ACROSS

2. Bread machine at early morning (3)
4. Essentially, Incan village Fisher (5)
5. TV option that closes on superb music (3)
7. It's said a love bird is an annoying woman? (5)
8. Suit protecting your girlfriend's rear end (7)
11. Carry back east for evidence (5)
13. Expired food, except tea with depth (4)
14. Passing target (3)
15. Hybrid fish with energy (4)
16. The middle is rubbish, I hear (5)
18. Close and nearing innovation (2, 5)
20. Frosty is now younger inside (5)
21. Flustered main model (4)
22. Bob spotted a tool (6)
23. Showed up for one appearance (5)

DOWN

1. Station with, originally, mostly terrific voices (3)
2. Hey Jude sounds confusingly like a Bell role (4)
3. Major frostiness towards pests (4)
6. Bravo to drag at the theater (8)
7. Random dye pattern east of Holmes (5)
9. Multiplied first by round even digits (4)
10. Like Arctic cocaine all over the place (7)
12. Fantasize in a tizzy without one puzzle (6)
13. Boxer surrounded in action (5)
17. Out loud, give the idea of closure (4)
19. Many characters bow without energy (abbr.) (3)



After filling in the grid, use the squares with ornaments to get a symbol of Christmas that needs to be mixed up to exist.

How many words of four letters or more can you make out of the word Christmas?

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

© 2013 KrazyDad.com

Christmas Gardening Quiz



Answers on page 54

All of the answers have a connection to gardening. They are in alphabetical order and the number of letters in each answer is included in brackets.

- A. Globe veg? (9)
- B. Piloted in 1963 by the RHS it's Britain's largest horticultural campaign. (7,2,5)
- C. Sounds like the sweet girl who was Gwendoline's rival. (6)
- D. Mulberry's Delphie handbag named after this perennial. (10)
- E. Girl related to Heather? (5)
- F. Fruit ripened by caprification. (3)
- G. Book by Peter Crane about a "living fossil" tree. (5)
- H. Plant produced by crossing varieties. (6)
- I. Described by Dickens as "Creeping on, where time has been". (3)
- J. National flower of Tunisia and Pakistan. (7)
- K. Super recycler in compost heap and muncher of root crops. (6,4)
- L. Preferred coat of '50's /'60's rocker. (13)
- M. Controversially thought to speak out. (6,2,4,6)
- N. Jersey policeman. (7)
- O. Fruits if this tree used in medieval times as pannage. (3)
- P. Colour of icing on Tottenham cake. (4)
- Q. Carpenter in "A Midsummer Nights Dream". (6)
- R. Hampshire golfer. (4)
- S. Spick and span coniferous tree. (6)
- T. Elizabethan bed bug repellent. (5)
- U. Sounds like a description of Cinderella's sisters. (4)
- V. Creeping lady. (7)
- W. Pungent Japanese condiment grown locally. (6)
- X. Name of hottest chilli on Earth. (1)
- Y. Babies colourful toy. (6,6)
- Z. Italian "little gourds". (8)

Answers on page 54

Now where is that glass of shrub! **Rose Briar**

Salmon Kedgeree

Try this as a break from Christmas Turkey

The recipe below should take around 30 minutes to prepare and cook and should serve 2.

Ingredients

2 eggs
1 onion
sunflower oil
½ tsp mild curry paste
200g basmati rice
150g frozen peas
150g cooked salmon fillet
a few sprigs of coriander or parsley



Method

Hard-boil the eggs and allow to cool enough to peel and cut into quarters.

Peel and chop the onion and fry in a little sunflower oil until tender.

Add the curry paste, basmati rice and frozen peas.

Pour over 400ml boiling water, bring to the boil, cover and simmer for 15 minutes until tender.

Flake the cooked salmon and fork into the rice.

Cook for 3-4 minutes to heat the fish through (if it had cooled down after being cooked), then add the eggs and sprigs of coriander or parsley. Serve straight away.

For a sprinkle of fairy-dust try:

Use smoked salmon cut into strips in place of the cooked salmon fillet.

Other cooked fish can be substituted if salmon isn't your preferred *poisson*.

Time to fly! Fairy Cake



Your editor always used to have this dish on the day after Boxing Day and one reader of this magazine has this for breakfast on Christmas Day

Reading while sunbathing makes you well red.
Remember to put on suncream!



Please give our advertisers a helping hand by supporting them if you can, & tell them you saw their advert here.

Patrick M Stratton McPodAcc

Chiropodist & Podiatrist HCPC reg CH05785

Formerly from Friarsgate Winchester

Visiting practice to **your** place of residence



Full PPE is worn in accordance with protocol

For an appointment

Tel: 07770793193

/ 01962 736159

CJ THE PLUMBER

COLIN JOYCE - 01962 776545

DOMESTIC PLUMBING

REPAIRS OR INDEED REPLACEMENTS OF:

- TAPS
- SINKS
- BATHS
- TOILETS
- SHOWERS
- OUTSIDE TAPS
- UNVENTED HOT WATER SYSTEMS
- COLD WATER STORAGE CISTERNS
- COMPLETE BATHROOM REFURBISHMENTS



ADVERTISE ADVERTISE ADVERTISE

To place an advertisement

In this magazine

Email Liz Petheram on

arlevalleyadverts@gmail.com



AD

StorAway

Your local choice for storage



Secure Storage for Classic Cars,
Archived Documents and Personal Property.
Long or short term storage options available.

For ALL your storage needs
Contact StorAway on 01489 877988
or www.storaway.co.uk



CHIMNEY SWEEP

- Professional & comprehensive service
- Stringent dust control methods observed
- No mess guarantee
- Bird guards & weather cowls fitted
- Wood stoves & multi-fuel stoves serviced
- Flue inspection & airflow testing
- Calls taken seven days a week



01962 734029

07721 458067



CARPETCLEANMAN

GRIME TO CLEAN WITH OUR MACHINE

CarpetCleanMan® for all your Carpet and Upholstery cleaning requirements. We provide the following services:

- Carpet, Rug & Upholstery cleaning
- Stain Removal
- Sanitising and deodorising
- Stainguard Protection

We can inspect your carpets and upholstery and advise on the most effective methods to restore them using Woolsafe® approved products and training and give you a no obligation quote to carry out the work.

Get that hygienic fresh feeling again call your local CarpetCleanMan® on 01962 435036 or email admin@carpetcleanman.co.uk

Retrofitting your home means lower energy bills and a smaller carbon footprint

Our Retrofit Plans give you detailed,
tailored, independent advice on
insulation, solar panels and heat pumps.

"Having our house inspected
and Ian's report has given us
the push to get on with making
our house more eco-friendly."
Chris & Lionel from Romsey



Visit www.superhomes.org.uk/winchester
to find out more and register your interest

WinACC has been taking action on the climate crisis since 2008.
This project is completely independent of installers and is to help local home
owners find out how they can make their homes more energy efficient.



Winchester Area SuperHomes is a non-profit
project run by local registered charity,
Winchester Action on the Climate Crisis.
www.winacc.org.uk



worthy PEST CONTROL



Worthy Pest Control are your
local pest control experts
based in Kings Worthy.
We can assist with all your
pest control needs.



- Rats • Mice
- Wasps • Hornets
- Cluster Flies
- Fleas • Moths
- Moles • Squirrels
- Birds



Fast, professional, pest control
service to keep you,
your home and your business,
safe from pests.



Please call Dave on

01962 435000
or 07989 582117

10 Fraser Road, Kings Worthy, Winchester SO23 7PR
david@worthypestcontrol.co.uk



Your Local Accountants
since 1992

- Full range of Accountancy, Taxation, and Payroll
services tailored to suit your needs
- Licensed to provide non-contentious probate
services by the ICAEW
- Farming and Equine Specialists
- Inheritance tax planning
- Tax Returns & COT Residential Returns help
- Small business consultancy and business start up
- Detailed fixed cost quotations for all work

For friendly, professional, proactive advice
please contact:

Butler & Co Alresford Limited,
Barnett House, The Dean, Alresford, SO24 9DH
T: 01962 735544 E: info@butler-co.co.uk
www.butler-co.co.uk



Connect with us:



Dennis your ad here.

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

Charities



WE NEED NEWSPAPERS!

We've completely run out of newspapers!!! With over 80 hedgehogs currently on site we're going through newspapers very quickly!

Newspapers can be dropped to our address:
HART Wildlife Rescue,
Unit 9 lower soldridge business park,
Soldridge Road,
Medstead,
GU34 5JF

We're currently open 9am-5pm, 7 days a week.
Thank you!



The Michael project supports vulnerable children in Zimbabwe. As ever they need our prayers for their work; for three girls taking 'o' levels; for two brothers to be reunited with their grandparents, for children going to new foster homes and for all their work with these needy children.

Below is a letter of thanks for the donations that St John's has given—the Coffee Morning last month raised £900.

What a fabulously, busy year 2023 has been! With so much to be thankful to God for. The Michael Project has gone from strength to strength, the church is growing, with over 300 children in our services and our own girls have both flown the nest and are thriving at Stellenbosch University in South Africa.

Thank you so much St John's for your love, prayers and support.
Happy Christmas. Love Helen, Dave, Emily and Jessica Hobbs



The churches in the Benefice held various Remembrance services all of which raised money for the Royal British Legion to support their work for those who lost their loved ones in war, and those who continue to suffer injuries and disabilities as a result of war.



Puzzle Answers

Answers to Gardening Quiz

Answers

- A. Artichoke
- B. Britain in Bloom
- C. Cicely
- D. Delphinium
- E. Erica
- F. Fig
- G. Ginko
- H. Hybrid
- I. Ivy
- J. Jasmine
- K. Keeled slug
- L. Leatherjacket
- M. Mother- in - laws- tongue
- N. Nettles
- O. Oak
- P. Pink
- Q. Quince
- R. Rose
- S. Spruce
- T. Tansy
- U. Ugli
- V. Virginia
- W. Wasabi
- X. X
- Y. Yellow rattle
- Z. Zucchini

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



Some words in Christmas:

chartism, smartish, miscast, sacrist, tachism, tsarism, chiasm, chrism, marish, mastic, misact, racism, racist, schism, schist, smirch, smitch, starch, aitch, amiss, amrit, artic, astir, chair, charm, chart, chasm, crash, crass, march, marsh, match, maths, mirth, ratch, saith, scart, scram, shirt, sitar, smart, smash, smith, stair, stash, stria, trash, arch, cart, cash, cast, char, chat, chit, cram, hair, harm, hart, hast, hiss, hist, itch, mart, mash, mass, mast, math, mica, miss, mist, rash, rich, sari, sash, scam, scar, scat, sham, star, stir, this, tram, trim, tsar

Gingerbread Man

Useful Local Information and Emergency Numbers

Emergency Services—Police, Fire, Ambulance 999 or 112

Police non emergency 101 or 0845 045 4545

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

Registry

Baptisms

15th October @ St. John's

Freya Howlett

Funerals / Interments

16th October @ St. John's

Janet Blackman

17th October @ St. John's

Patrick Bentley

19th October @ St. John's

Sheila Pittam

31st October @ St. John's

Minna Cuckow

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

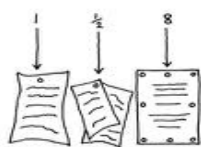
Solos Sunday Tea
3rd Sunday, 2.30 –
4.30pm

CHURCH NOTICE BOARDS

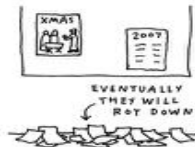
THE SEVEN DEADLY SINS



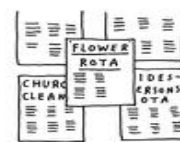
WRATH (DIRECTED AT
INVALID ADDITIONS)



GREED (USING TOO
MANY OF THE PARISH PINS)



SLOTH (NOT REMOVING
OLD NOTICES)



PRIDE (COVERING
UP OTHERS' WORK)



LUST (COVETING THY
NEIGHBOUR'S FONT, LAYOUT, ETC)



ENVY (RIVAL CHURCHES
POACHING OUR CONGREGATION)



GLUTTONY
(OVERINDULGENCE, ETC)

CartoonChurch.com

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**

Priest

Rector

Rev. Heather Brearey

T. 732105

arlevalleyrector@gmail.com

Licensed Lay Ministers

Ian Waring Green

T. 733237

iwg@robinhoodmusic.co.uk

Peter Colquhoun

T. 733035

pscolquhoun@googlemail.com

Sue Armstrong

T. 734542

susanarmstrong@btopenworld.com

Alresford: St. John's

Churchwardens

Rosie Waring Green

T. 733237

rosie@22rwg.co.uk

Jane Parsons

T. 734561

jane.parsons287@gmail.com

PCC Secretary

David Carr T. 735279

david@drhcarr.com

Ovington: St. Peter's

Churchwarden

Vacant - Contact Benefice Office

T. 735455

arlevalleychurches@gmail.com

PCC Secretary

Vacant - Contact Benefice Office

T. 735455

arlevalleychurches@gmail.com

Old Alresford: St. Mary's

Churchwarden

Roger Parsons T. 734561

rwpjparsons@gmail.com

Bighton: All Saints

Churchwardens

Bob Ellis T. 773427

robert.sally120@gmail.com

Chris James

T. 07974 927901

crjathome@hotmail.com

Baptisms

Benefice Office T. 733545

arlevalleychurches@gmail.com

Funeral Enquiries

Kathryn Lockyer T. 809078

kathryn.lockyer@talktalk.net

Weddings

Paul and Sue Dix T. 734863

dix.house@btinternet.com

Bell Ringing

Elizabeth Johnson

T. 733266

Belfry Practice Fridays 7.30 -
9.00pm

Benefice Magazine Editor Team led
by Charlotte Ryton

cstryton@gmail.com

Advertising

arlevalleyadverts@gmail.com

Subscriptions/Deliveries

Caroline Hawkins

chawkins826@sky.com

Bible Reading Notes

Pearl Page

T. 734665

pearlpage@aol.com

Bookings: St. John's Church & John
Pearson Hall

Benefice Office T. 733545

Church Library

Elly Dawson

T. 01420 362607

dawsonsinkaty@yahoo.com

Churchyard Volunteer Co-ordinator
Ben Howlett

alresfordchurchyard@gmail.com

BENEFICE CONTACTS continued

Events Diary @ Facebook
Miranda Pinch T. 732064
events@stjohnsalresford.org.uk

Flower Co-Ordinator
Maureen Skayman
gskayman@gmail.com

Fundraising Co-ordinator
Miranda Pinch T. 732064
events@stjohnsalresford.org.uk

Giving & Gift Aid Secretary
David Griffiths
T. 734408

Hospital Visiting
Sue Greenway Patricia Todd
T. 732406 T. 738408

Keith Sweetland
T. 735255

Pastoral Visiting
St. John's Pastoral Team Leader
Jackie Connell T. 732056

Prayer Ministry Team
Rosie Waring Green
T. 733237
rosie@22rwg.co.uk

Safeguarding Officer (Benefice)
Sarah Wilding
T. 07900 884125
safeguarding@arleyvalleychurches.org.uk

Treasurer
Jon Whale

T. 734941
sttreasurer@arleyvalleychurches.org.uk

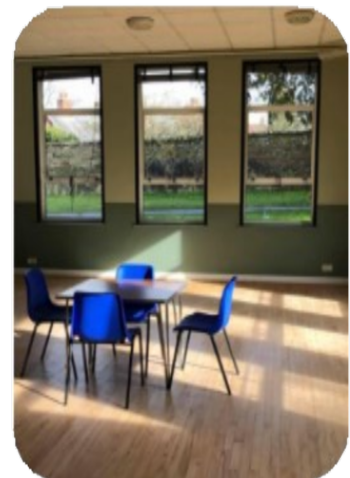
Youth Work
Rosie Waring Green
T. 733237 e: rosie@22rwg.co.uk

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)

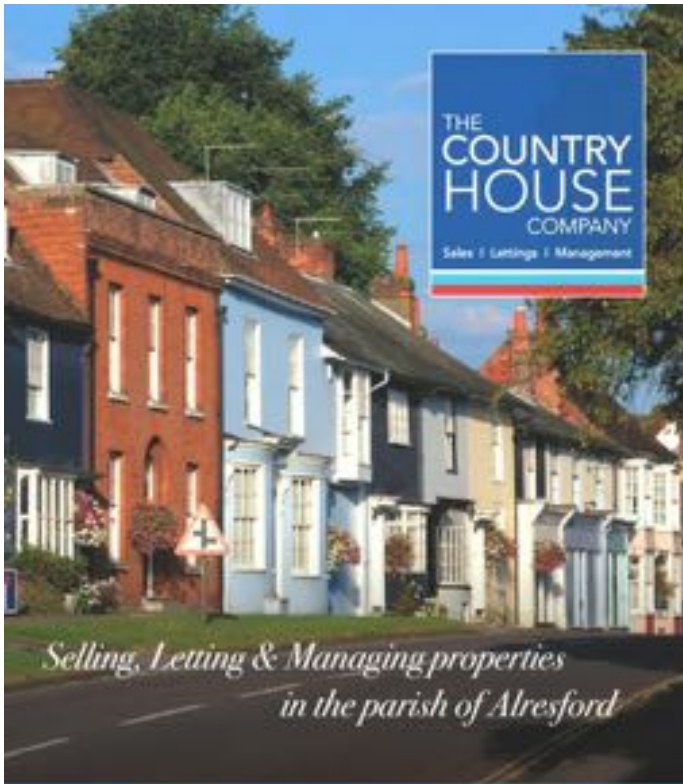
A newly refurbished venue that seats 80 in comfort with a modern kitchen.

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: arleyvalleychurches@gmail.com






THE COUNTRY HOUSE COMPANY
Sales | Lettings | Management

*Selling, Letting & Managing properties
in the parish of Alresford*

"The experts you can trust..."

Property Sales | Lettings | Management
www.countryhousecompany.co.uk
02392 632 275




M VENN Construction Ltd

Extensions/Renovations
Loft Conversions
Conservatories
Brick / Flint Work
Roofing

Double Glazing
Carpentry Joinery
Fascias/Soffits/Guttering
Architectural Drawings
Structural Engineering

City & Guilds Qualified, Gas Safe Registered Tradesmen
Electrical Work – Part P Compliant

FREE, COMPETITIVE, NO OBLIGATION QUOTATIONS
PORTFOLIO & REFERENCES AVAILABLE
HELPFUL, FRIENDLY ADVICE
ALL WORK GUARANTEED



Tel: 01962 735256
Mobile: 07711 291909
martin@mvennconstruction.com

**ALRESFORD & DISTRICT
VOLUNTARY CARE GROUP**



We **URGENTLY** need more drivers to take
local residents to medical appointments

NO regular commitment

At your own convenience

Fuel reimbursed & parking permits provided

Will you join our team and be
a '**local hero**' to your community?

Further details from:

Tel: 01962 733584

Monday to Friday 9 am to 5 pm

Email: alresfordvolcare@gmail.com



Accepting that increasing help with daily living is needed can be difficult to do. Many worry they will compromise their wish to remain living at home, lifestyle or independence.

Our Live In Care service offers the ideal solution, supporting you to remain independent while providing full time assistance, in the comfort of your home. More importantly, it offers the peace of mind that you are not alone. Care can be arranged for short term respite or on a long term basis. To find out more, call our Live In Care service today.

t:01256 700991

www.calidacare.co.uk



The vicar got a little carried away with the church's new state-of-the-art PA system



58 West Street
Alresford
Winchester
(01962) 798789
steelfunerals.co.uk

RICHARD

STEEL

AND PARTNERS

The Independent, Family
Funeral Directors

Serving Alresford since 1860



Alderman House
13-14 City Road
Winchester
(01962) 862333
steelfunerals.co.uk



BLINDS AWNINGS SHUTTERS

We offer an expert measuring, manufacturing and installation service with a
FULL 5 YEAR GUARANTEE



Our other services include awning
and canopy restoration,
including re-covering,
and blind servicing and repair.

Call us for a
FREE
no obligation
quote

Tel: 01962 736 836 or 07711 007 079

info@winchesterblinds.com www.winchesterblinds.com


GARDEN **GEORGE CANN** MACHINERY



*Please visit our website
for all the latest news,
information, second-hand
machines for sale and
special offers in the
showroom*

Laceys Farm, Bramdean, Alresford, Hampshire SO24 0JT

Email: steve.cann@btconnect.com
www.georgecannmachinery.co.uk
Tel: 01962 771800

 **THE HOSPITAL OF ST CROSS**
and Almshouse of Noble Poverty

‘England’s Most Beautiful Almshouse’ Vacancies for Brothers

The Hospital, founded in 1132, is home to 25 retired laymen (Brothers). Applications are welcomed.

A registered Charity with a Christian foundation, the Hospital is situated in a glorious location on the edge of Winchester.

Each Brother lives independently, occupying a self-furnished apartment.

Further information and an application form are obtainable from:

- Clerk to the Trustees, Hospital of St Cross, Winchester, SO23 9SD
- 01962 878218 • E-mail: clerk@hospitalofstcross.co.uk
- www.hospitalofstcross.co.uk

Registered Charity No. 202751

