

# Arle Valley Voice

May 2025

£1.60

Church & Community Magazine





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## Editorial

The month of May has so many major saints that I could have made this magazine twice as long but with local news and VE day they will have to wait for another year—sorry St Joseph (Jesus foster father), St Philip, St James, St Matthias, Our Lady (three dates for her), St Augustine of Canterbury and St Joan. Of course those are only the well-known ones if you look up any date there are dozens.

But this year we are devoting some time to VE day 80th anniversary as it is probably the last major anniversary that will be many people alive who remember it.. They all cried at the end of World War Two ‘never again’ especially when they discovered the horrors of the death camps. Sadly humanity continues its horrific inhumane behaviour. With this anniversary let us renew our prayers and efforts for peace.

On a more positive note we have the Watercress Festival to look forward to—do sign up to help if you can. And there are fetes and concerts and plays to enjoy. Happy May

This magazine only keeps going with the quality it has because people subscribe each year so please do consider that. Contact Caroline Hawkins [chawkins826@sky.com](mailto:chawkins826@sky.com)  
Each issue costs £1.60 but a year's subscription is an economic option at £15.00.

**Please email contributions and comments to [cstryton@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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. 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**

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Apologies for any mistakes. However we are all volunteers and not professional so, sorry, errors will happen.

## April Church Services for the Arle Valley Benefice

### **NEW ALRESFORD St John the Baptist**

**Sunday 4 May:** 3rd Sunday of Easter

09.30 Parish Communion

16.00 Families @ 4

**Sunday 11 May : 4th Sunday of Easter**

09.30 Breakfast Church

18.00 Sunday @ 6

**Sunday 18 May: 5th Sunday of Easter**

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

**Sunday 25 May: 6th Sunday of Easter**

08.00 Holy Communion BCP

09.30 Celtic Service of the Word

16.30 Evening Prayer

**Every Tuesday**

09.00 Morning Prayer

**Every Wednesday**

10.00 Midweek Holy Communion

### **OLD ALRESFORD St Mary the Virgin**

**Sunday 4 May: 3rd Sunday of Easter**

11.00 Village Family Praise

**Sunday 11 May : 4th Sunday of Easter**

09.30 Morning Praise

**Sunday 18 May: 5th Sunday of Easter**

11.00 No service because of the Watercress Festival

**Sunday 25 May: 6th Sunday of Easter**

09.30 Holy Communion BCP

**Every Wednesday**

09.00 Morning Prayer



### **OVINGTON St Peter's**

**Sunday 4 May: 3rd Sunday of Easter**

11.00 Café Church

**Sunday 11 May : 4th Sunday of Easter**

11.00 Parish Communion

**Sunday 18 May: 5th Sunday of Easter**

11.00 No service because of the Watercress Festival

**Sunday 25 May: 6th Sunday of Easter**

11.00 No service

**Every Thursday**

09.00 Morning Prayer

### **BIGHTON All Saints**

**Sunday 4 May: 3rd Sunday of Easter**

11.00 No service

**Sunday 11 May : 4th Sunday of Easter**

11.00 Morning Prayer

**Sunday 18 May: 5th Sunday of Easter**

11.00 Morning Prayer

**Sunday 25 May: 6th Sunday of Easter**

11.00 Parish Communion

**Every Monday**

09.00 Morning Prayer



# Calendar

- ♦ April 24th                    12 noon Alpha course at St John's starts
- ♦ April 27th                    12 noon All Saints, Bighton APCM
- ♦ April 29th                    8.00pm St John's New Alresford APCM
- ♦ April 30th                    2.00pm Book group
- ♦ May 3rd                        9.30 Bacon Butties in the Methodist Church
- ♦ May 3rd                        10.00am Plant Sale and Seed Swap in Alresford Community Centre
- ♦ May 5th                        Memory Lane Café in the afternoon at the Methodist Church
- ♦ May 6th to May 10th    Toads Spring Show: By Royal Command
- ♦ **May 8th**                    **VE Day 80 years anniversary**
- ♦ May 8th                        2.30 Methodist Women's Fellowship
- ♦ May 8th                        Feast Day for Julian of Norwich
- ♦ May 9th                        7.00pm Historical Insights with Alistair Bruce at St Peter's Ovington
- ♦ May 10th                      10.00am First Aid Course in John Pearson Hall
- ♦ May 10th                      7.30 pm Cheriton Singers concert at St Michael's Cheriton
- ♦ May 11th                      10.30am St Mary's APCM
- ♦ May 12th                      10.00am Old Alresford May coffee morning
- ♦ May 13th                      10.00am Coffee, Cake and Chat in the John Pearson Hall
- ♦ May 16th                      12 noon Table Talk in the John Pearson Hall
- ♦ May 17th                      10.00am Church Prayers at the Methodist Church
- ♦ **May 18th**                    **10.00am Watercress Festival with Café @ St John's**
- ♦ May 24th                      7.30 pm Alresford Community Choir Gala Concert at St Swithun's
- ♦ May 27th                      7.30pm Alresford Art Society Abstract Mark Making
- ♦ May 30th                      **Ascension Day**
- ♦ June 1st                        9.30 @ St John's Church Environment Service
- ♦ June 6th                        5.30pm Arlebury Park. Twinning Association Pétanque Picnic
- ♦ June 6th                        6.00pm Organ Recital at St Mary's Old Alresford
- ♦ June 15th                      2.30pm Solos Sunday Tea in the John Pearson Hall
- ♦ June 22nd                      2.00pm Itchen Stoke & Ovington Fete @ Itchen Stoke Mill, 2024 0RA
- ♦ June 22nd                      3.30 pm St John's Patronal Cream Tea followed by Songs of Praise
- ♦ June 28th                      2.00pm **Unless:** fun with the Lorax @ St John's

## The Rector



How is it possible that it is May already!

May is the 5th month of the year, we really are in spring and looking summer in right the face. May has 2 bank holidays, and traditionally it was a time for May Day fayres and May pole dancing. I can remember holding tight to a colourful ribbon and dancing round a may pole when I was a child.

This year May has a significance in another way too.

**Thursday 8 May 2025** marks 80 years since VE (Victory in Europe) Day when the Second World War came to an end in Europe.

The long anticipated news resulted in spontaneous celebrations breaking out across the nation. A national holiday was declared and people from all walks of life came together to mark the moment.

We all know that there was dancing and joy in our streets to celebrate, war was over, loved ones would be returning home. Although for many it was too late and their loved ones would not be returning home they would be resting with God.



And there we have our promise from God that through the death of His Son Jesus on a cross, we all have salvation and eternity with God, and with those we have loved but no longer see.

I was asked once in an interview if I believed in hell.

I don't believe that there is a fiery place where we live in pain and suffering -Our God created us all, loves us all we are all precious to him whether we follow Christ or not.

But I do believe that there is a place that is not heaven and where God will not be. A place like that WOULD be hell for Christians because it would be without God. I cannot and do not want to think of my life on earth or in heaven without my loving Father.

As I write this we have not yet celebrated the great feast of Easter, as everyone keeps saying 'It's late this year!'

As I think ahead to after Easter, I can't help but think of the disciples. They have seen their beloved Jesus die on the cross and they are left alone and in fear for their own lives. They don't yet understand that Jesus' death means that they will see him again. They didn't know anything about the resurrection.

We do.

We know that Jesus died for us, all of us regardless of who we are, where in the world we live and even who we might be worshipping. He died for every single person.

Will there only be Christians in heaven? Well, I believe that we will be surprised by who we see in heaven. Many children and vulnerable people won't have had the chance to turn to Christ before they die, but will they be in heaven? I believe they will.



I believe that we all have a chance to choose Christ right up until we leave this earth. The bible tells us that Jesus will come on the day of judgement. I believe that this means we do all get a chance at the last to repent and turn to Christ.

But why would we wait until we die to turn to Christ!! That to me does not make any sense. We can have Christ in our life, a relationship with God right now in our earthly life.

We can have Jesus with us guiding, encouraging and comforting us all day every day if we choose to accept him as our Saviour and follow Him.

So as you enjoy the sunshine and warmth of spring, look at the sun and all of creation, think of our God who made everything and choose to follow His Son our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

With Love

***Revd. Heather***



## **ST. JOHN'S ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**

**TUESDAY APRIL 29th AT 8PM IN THE CHURCH**

**You are invited to attend this Annual Parochial Church Meeting.** At the meeting, we will be electing or re-electing Churchwardens, and PCC members to serve from 2025, as well as the normal reporting functions of the annual meeting. To be eligible to stand for election, candidates must be aged 16 or over (21 for Churchwardens), be actual communicants, have been registered on the Electoral Roll for the previous 6 months, and have indicated a willingness to stand. Other considerations are contained in the Church Representational Rules--nomination forms for election to all roles are available at the rear of the church.

If you would like further information on what is involved in any of these roles, or to volunteer to stand for election, please speak to the Rector or the Churchwardens. The Annual Report and Financial Statements for 2024 has been distributed by email. To those without email, printed copies have been delivered by hand. Thank you .

**All Saints APCM is Sunday 27th April at 12.00 noon.**

**St Mary's APCM is Sunday 11th May at 10.30am**



## Prayers for the month of May

Please pray this month for:

**For God's beautiful creation** that we may learn to care for this planet, for those affected by climate change, for farmers who are struggling to adapt to changing weather so that they can grow enough food for us all.

**For a just peace in the troubled places of the world.** In Ukraine that the peace will not mean the end of their independence. In Palestine and Israel that there may be at least a lasting ceasefire so that the desperately needed aid can get in. Also in Lebanon and Syria. In the civil wars in Myanmar, Sudan and Ethiopia. And in so many other places across the world.

**For those in authority** that they may know that the ultimate authority is God. May they be filled with God's wisdom and compassion so they may act with justice and compassion and truly aim for peace.

**For our young people** as so many face the examination season. May they be aware of God's loving presence and not be too stressed or burdened by the work.

**For all those who work especially those in Alresford.** May they work in just and supportive environments and may they be able to earn enough to support themselves and their families in this time of economic uncertainty.

**For all who suffer** whether it is illness, injury, frailty of age, loss of a loved one, financial hardship, mental distress, loneliness, temptation or any other adversity. May they feel God's healing touch on their lives. And for the many who do so much to make others lives a little better and happier.

**For our benefice** and for all the activities planned, for Heather and all who work to enable the work, worship and witness of our churches to continue. For each church to find the right way forward for its mission.

*Eternal God in this month of May may we seek a fresh out-pouring of your Spirit in our lives. As the flowers and trees around us bloom may your love and truth bloom in our troubled world. Help us all to work for your kingdom of peace, justice and plenty so that the whole earth is filled with your glory through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen*

# Church Events and Activities

11:00am - 12:00pm,  
Sun 4th May.  
St Mary's Church, SO24 9DX



A service of Morning Praise for  
the whole family.

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

NEW ALRESFORD

**IT'S TIME FOR  
BREAKFAST  
CHURCH.**

**11th May**

**2ND  
SUNDAYS  
@ 9.30AM**

**FAMILY FRIENDLY  
WORSHIP + FUN**

**AGES 0 - 100!**

St. John's Church  
Alresford

**Celtic  
Service of  
the Word**

This quiet, reflective service contains music, hymns, bible readings and periods of silence in the Celtic tradition.

You don't have to be "religious" to attend. Those with faith, those without faith and those who are searching, are all very welcome.

**Fourth Sundays at 9.30am**

**Please join us for refreshments afterwards.**

St. Peter's Church  
Ovington

**START  
YOUR  
MORNING**

*with Café Church*

**11am  
1st Sunday  
every other month**

Join us for good conversation about faith and life in a friendly, informal setting at St. Peter's Church, Ovington. Coffee, tea and homemade treats.

Next Café Church Mothering Sunday

4th May @11am






**You're invited  
Try Alpha**

**Alpha Daytime Summer Course**  
Thursdays at Lunchtime - 12pm - 2pm

**New Course Starts Thursday, 24<sup>th</sup> April**

This is a 12-week course for new Christians, those exploring their faith and those who have been Christians for a long time, who would like to refresh the basics.

It is designed to be a safe place where one can ask questions, participate or just listen and reflect.

**A light lunch will be provided each week, this is followed by a short video and discussion time.**

**A meal, a conversation and friendly chat.**

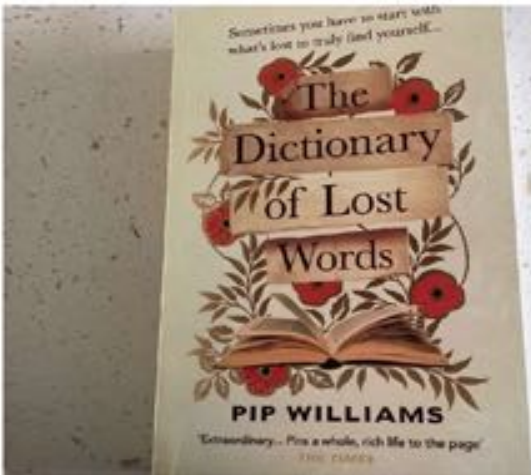
Please contact Rosie Waring Green to sign up or for any further details.  
e. [rosie@22rwg.co.uk](mailto:rosie@22rwg.co.uk) or t. 07891 120662

**St John's Book Group**

Our next meeting is on **Wednesday April 30th** in the John Pearson Hall at 2pm

We will be discussing  
**The Dictionary of Lost Words by Pip Williams**

New members are always welcome.  
Contact: Hilary Carr 735279  
[hilarycarr1@gmail.com](mailto:hilarycarr1@gmail.com)



## Mothers' Union

The Mothers' Union is a worldwide Christian organisation dedicated to promoting marriage and family life. It has 3.6 million members in 76 countries.



The Mothers' Union was started in 1876 by Mary Sumner, the wife of an Anglican vicar. It is open to all baptised men and women and encourages all members to attend church and to read the Bible regularly.

**Joining the Mothers' Union**

If you are interested in joining the Mothers' Union, please contact Stephanie Durrant, t. 01962 732318 or email [stephanie.durrant@hotmail.com](mailto:stephanie.durrant@hotmail.com)

**New Members are always welcome.**

We look forward to welcoming you to be a part of a wonderful worldwide organisation.



## Church Events and Activities



### 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

**Prayer Meeting** for the parish and our community - **every Friday at 10-11am** in church - feel free to drop in. And if you can't get down to the church then do join us in prayer wherever you are.

### Sundays @ Six

ON

2ND SUNDAYS!

11th May

@ 6pm

St. John's

Do come and join us for a time of worship and reflection -

Come early at 5.45 and enjoy tea and some cake.



### St John's Porch Prayer Tree and Prayer Cards

Please do spend some time praying the prayer requests on the Prayer tree as you go in or out of church or as you walk by. It is a privilege to support all those who have written these

Also there are prayer cards available in a display case which you are most welcome to take and use for yourself or friends and family.

Some of the titles are: Being Accepted, Looking for God, Worried about Someone, Finding Peace, Feeling alone, Grieving, Being thankful



**Wednesdays @**  
**St. John's Church**

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

 & 

**EVERY WEDNESDAY IN THE**  
**JOHN PEARSON HALL**

**10.45AM**

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

## Church Events and Activities

### Table Talk

A chance to meet, eat and discuss issues of the day in an open, friendly and non-judgemental atmosphere.

**12pm in the John Pearson Hall**

Bring and Share lunch

Every third Friday

**Friday 16th May**

**All Welcome**



### 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**



**For more information please contact**

**Angela Peel 01962 734 814**

### Solos Sunday Tea

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

Come and  
join us

Every Third Sunday 2.30pm—4.30pm

**Next meeting:**

**Sunday 15th June**

John Pearson Hall St John's Church

We do hope to see you there.

Info: Marian 01962 733921

Margaret 01962 735185

Roger 01962 734045

Gluten free  
available



### St John's Walking Group

St John's Walking Group is an informal social group who do a walk of normally 6-7 miles on the first Saturday morning of each month.

We are relaxed, casual and aim to start walking at 9.30am and finish by 12.30pm – 1pm taking in some good English countryside – hills, valleys, woods, fields, flora, fauna, water... This will be followed by a pub lunch.

Different members of the group will take responsibility for planning each walk (and pub lunch).

**New members are always welcome! If anyone is interested in joining the Walking Group or learning more about it, please send an email**



# Community Events



## Senior Citizens' Lunch Club

The Lunch Club meet  
in the Methodist Church Hall  
every Thursday from 12.00 to 2.00pm.

New members are warmly welcomed so  
do come and enjoy a main course and  
dessert, followed by tea or coffee for just  
£10.

Social events are organised from time to  
time and transport is available.

Pre-booking is essential.

For more details contact: **01962 736810**.



## Cheriton Singers

invite you to a concert of very romantic songs

at 7.30 pm on Saturday, May 10th,

in St Michael's Church, Cheriton.

Tickets £15 for adults (under 18s free),

available from [www.ticketsource.co.uk](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk),

Cheriton Village Stores, The Flower Pots, and on

the door. Please make a note in your diary!





## Alresford Art Society:



*Rebecca Hurst will be demonstrating  
Abstract Mark Making in mixed media*

*Thursday 22nd May @7.30pm*

*in Bishop's Sutton Village Hall, Alresford Road  
(B3047), Bishops Sutton SO24 0AH.*

*Non-members welcome –  
admission £3 + donation for refreshments.  
For further information: 01962 732043  
or visit [www.artsociety.alresford.org](http://www.artsociety.alresford.org).*



## Alresford & District Horticultural Society



Saturday 3rd May

From 10am to 12 noon

At Alresford Community Centre

Plant Sale and Seed Swap

Tea, coffee and homemade cakes for sale



theWI  
INSPIRING WOMEN



NEW ALRESFORD  
WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

**This friendly group of ladies meets on  
the first Wednesday evening of each  
month with a varied program of  
events.**

Visitors very welcome -  
please come and join us  
For further information contact  
Marian Baldwin 01962 732000  
Jude Cowen 01962 738755



## Hampshire Libraries



**Tuesday After School Passport Club  
with craft 3 –4.45**

**Thursday Rhyme Time—babies 10.45,  
toddlers 11.15**

**Friday Knit and Knatter 2-4pm**

**Friday Kids' Construction Club 3—4.45**

**Saturday—Arts and Crafts all morning**



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**WHERE ?** ..... St John's Church  
**WHAT time ?** ..... 2 pm — 4 pm

**EVERYBODY WELCOME** Ages 0 — 100 !

**TOGETHER** we can make a difference !



**TICKETS £15**

**Friday, 9th May**  
7PM FOR 7.30PM

## HISTORICAL INSIGHTS

### A talk by Alastair Bruce Soldier and Broadcaster

Join Alastair at St. Peter's Church, Ovington for a delightful evening of personal insights and entertaining reflections on various events in history.

Tickets £15 to include drinks and nibbles



Tickets available from:  
[www.ticketsource.co.uk/ovington](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/ovington)  
and the Parish Office at  
St John's Church, New Alresford

St. Peter's Church  
Ovington  
SO24 0RB

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BY

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If Henry VIII was on Blind Date, would he lose his head?  
Would Alfred survive Bake Off and would Queen Victoria be amused?  
Join us for a royally funny night as history's kings and queens take on the modern world – with hilarious results!



**SHOWS**

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> – Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm  
Christy Hall, Old Alresford

**BUY TICKETS**  
[ticketsource.co.uk/toads](http://ticketsource.co.uk/toads) or [boxoffice@oa-toads.org.uk](mailto:boxoffice@oa-toads.org.uk)

The Old Alresford Dramatic Society [www.aa-toads.org.uk](http://www.aa-toads.org.uk)

**TICKETS £10**  
NO BOOKING FEE





**Have you suffered a  
bereavement?**

**Would it help to talk?**

If so, please email:  
[support@wbs.org.uk](mailto:support@wbs.org.uk)  
or telephone:  
**07450 649679**

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

[www.wbs.org.uk](http://www.wbs.org.uk)



## **BEFRIEND THE END**

**Are you curious?  
Do you have questions  
about death and dying?**

If so, come along to our informal afternoons and meet like-  
minded people to share and discover more about living well  
and dying well over a cuppa and a slice of cake.

**At the Alresford library on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of every  
month at 2 - 3pm**

For further information email;  
[contact@befriendtheend.co.uk](mailto:contact@befriendtheend.co.uk)

## **ST. PETER'S BOOK NOOK**

**PLEASE FEEL FREE TO TAKE  
ANY BOOKS YOU WOULD  
LIKE TO READ!**

**DONATIONS OF BOOKS  
ARE VERY WELCOME.**







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**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](http://www.alresfordgolf.co.uk)

# Children's Activities

## Monday Meet + Eat

**Join Us** Mondays @ 3.30pm  
**Everyone Welcome** Organised by CTA

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**

Please inform us of any dietary requirements.

Please book a place at:  
e. [rosie@22rwg.co.uk](mailto:rosie@22rwg.co.uk)  
or t. 07891 120662

## Families

### at 4pm

Everyone welcome

**1st Sunday of the month**

St. John's Church  
Alresford

**Story, craft, song,  
drinks and snacks**

No more than an hour, very informal

## CHILL, CHAT & CHOMP

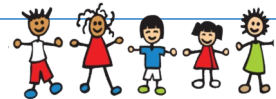
Youth Group Y7 upwards

St John's Church

Contact Rosie on 07891 120662



### Chatterbox



is our parent/carer & baby/toddler group that meets every Thursday (10am - 11am) in the John Pearson Hall.

Do come along and enjoy new friends (with refreshments) and fun activities for your little ones.

**Please book a place with Vicki,  
t. 07907 035998.**







10AM - 12PM  
1ST MONDAY OF THE MONTH  
CHRISTY HALL, OLD ALRESFORD

## Old Alresford Family Mondays

TOYS FOR TODDLERS AND A CHANCE TO  
MEET AND CHAT TO OTHER FAMILIES.

REFRESHMENTS TOO!

EVERYONE IS WELCOME FROM 10AM - 12PM  
ON THE 1ST MONDAY OF EACH MONTH

ORGANISED BY ST. MARY'S CHURCH,  
OLD ALRESFORD



CONTACTS:  
SUE ARMSTRONG  
TEL. 734542  
ERICA SISK  
TEL. 732735



# Rhymetime

Thursdays



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!

## Join the Adventure



## soul children

### Youth Gospel Choir in Alresford

#### Taster Session:

Thursday 13th February  
4:00pm - 6:00pm  
St. John's Church, Alresford, SO24 9AG  
For young people aged 10-18

Email Tim to find out more  
hello@timuffindell.co.uk

soulchildrenuk.com



## News from Old Alresford



The Lent Lunch organised by the PCC raised £300 to be shared between Trinity Winchester and our project to raise funds for a much-needed toilet with disabled access and servery.

St Mary's churchyard has looked really beautiful throughout March and April with droves of daffodils and primroses.

The Electoral Roll is about to be updated. Please return your forms. There is a collection box at the back of the church. **The Annual Parish Meeting** will be held in the church on Sunday May 11<sup>th</sup> @ 10.30am.

During Lent our **Family services** have been following a Pathway through Lent with stepping stones taking us to Easter.

**Mondays @ Ten**, continue to be popular with toddlers playing with the toys and everyone enjoying meeting up for coffee in the Bernard Clarke Room. Come along and join us!

Please note a change of date for our May coffee morning. We will be in the hall on **Monday 12<sup>th</sup> of May** as on the previous Monday the hall is booked for preparations for the TOADS Spring Show.

**TOADS** Have you booked your tickets for the Spring Show **Tuesday May 6<sup>th</sup> to Saturday May 10<sup>th</sup>**?



**TOADS By Royal Command** will be an evening of comedy, sketches and music and a romp through the Kings and Queens of Britain. Written and performed by local talent it will be a great show and lots of fun.



**VE Day 80 On Sunday May 4<sup>th</sup> at 11am** There will be a special family service of thanksgiving for all the village to mark the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE Day and to honour all who served their country both at home and abroad and celebrate the peace we have treasured.

**ORGAN CONCERT** And we have a real treat instore! On **Friday June 6<sup>th</sup> at 6pm** **Andrew Lumsden** will give an organ concert in St Mary's church. Tickets will be on sale from Six West £15.

Proceeds for our project to provide a much-needed toilet with disabled access and a servery



This last Sunday, March 30th, we celebrated Mothering Sunday at Ovington during a Café Church service.. and we had 22 people there, of whom 4 were little people.

The theme was **“STICKY BUDS & STICKY BUNS”**



The idea was to get everyone's hands sticky while enjoying the buns before the service began.. this worked perfectly and we had to use the wet wipes to clean up the sticky mess.

I had also made spray cans of 'Sticky Remover' (out of loo rolls!).



We talked about how lucky we are if we are living in a loving family—how much we appreciate our parents and particularly focussed on the care and support our mothers give us. But even so we were realistic enough to recognise that family life can get quite 'STICKY' at times .... And we sometimes need help to remove the stickiness and to clean up the sticky circumstances!! We grow in our families like the leaves that grow out of sticky buds and if we are lucky we get nourishment like the sticky buns to enable us to grow.

But in all 'sticky ' situations God is there to help if we call on him... so we need to remember to pray and He can bring love, kindness, patience, forgiveness and peace to the situation.



*Minna Bruce*

## Table Talk

Table Talk usually meets on the third Friday of each month. We enjoy a leisurely 'Bring and Share' lunch and then have a good-natured, tolerant discussion on whatever topic is the month's choice.

During Lent we meet weekly on Fridays and usually watch and discuss a film. This year we watched 'the Way.' It's an excellent film about four very diverse people who walk the Camino, the pilgrim way of some 480 miles that leads to Santiago de Compostela.

As these pilgrims walk the Camino, it gives a very good picture of the rigours of the walk, the salient points along the route, and the film shows us some stunning scenery. We journeyed with the pilgrims confronting with them their personal issues with relationships and prejudices. (I'm trying not to tell you the whole film narrative or there would be no point in anyone else watching it!)

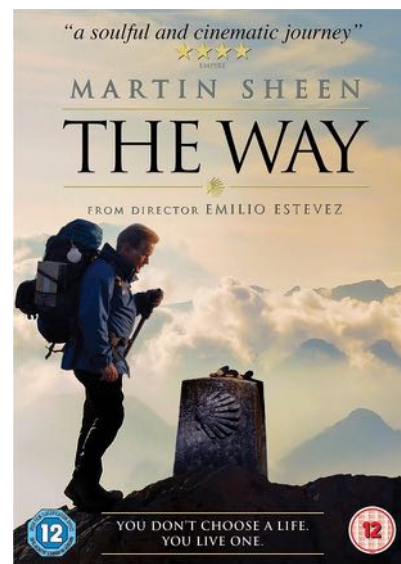
We had discussion questions for each part of the film we watched, such as:

- Why do you think each of the people went on the walk?
- Do you think doing the walk changed them?
- Life as pilgrimage
- Prejudice and bias
- Do you believe in life after death?
- What's your picture of heaven?

We have a range of views and I thoroughly enjoyed our discussions. Hearing opposing points of view often widened our understanding even if we did not totally agree with each other.

Discussions are always open to all views with no judgement involved. We aim to be a safe place where anyone can say anything (providing they respect other points of view).

We are always glad to have new people join us to add to the diversity of opinions. No need to come each



### It's how you say it....

- Time flies like an arrow; fruit flies like a banana.
- A backward poet writes inverse.
- In a democracy it's your vote that counts; in feudalism, it's your Count that votes
- A chicken crossing the road: poultry in motion.
- If you don't pay your exorcist you can get repossessed.
- Marathon runners with bad shoes suffer the agony of de feet.





# Alresford Methodist Church

## Saturday May 3rd Bacon Butties

Come and join us for Bacon Butties (also hot croissants and fresh coffee) and good conversation. No payment is asked for, but donations are accepted for the work of the church.



Breakfast is served from 9.30-11.00am.

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

## Monday 5th May Memory Lane Café

The Monday Memory Café was initially set up with the specific purpose of supporting those suffering memory loss and their carers. However, due to recent funding cuts, we have unfortunately lost the support of 'Andover Mind'. Several people have approached us to enquire if they too might attend our café, as they would really welcome an additional social opportunity in their calendar. So, after some thought, we have decided to widen our remit to welcome anyone who would benefit from an afternoon of social interaction. If you would like to join us, you will find a warm welcome awaiting you.

This month we will be celebrating a 'GARDEN' theme together. Come along and join with us for an afternoon of fun, activities, fellowship, homemade cake and lots of tea – all for a cost of £2!

If you would like more information, or would like to attend, please contact us on: 07711066116.

## Thursday 8th May - Women's Fellowship

The 'Women's Fellowship' group will meet in the church hall at 2.30pm. Mrs Elizabeth Britton will be sharing her experiences of a visit to Nepal. This will be followed with tea and cake. A warm welcome is extended to everyone.



## Saturday 17th May—Church Prayers

The church is open on the third Saturday of each month from 10–11am. All are welcome to join us in a time of reflective prayer, as we share concerns both local and worldwide. At the close of prayer time, we invite everyone to stay and chat over a coffee and biscuits in the coffee lounge.



## Volunteers needed



### The Murray Parish Trust

At The Murray Parish Trust, we believe that every child with a serious illness, along with their family, should have access to the mental health and emotional support they need so they can embrace a brighter and more joyful future.

Volunteering for The Murray Parish Trust is always fun. You'll meet new people, enjoy a wide variety of events and there is often a chance to dress up! The Murray Parish Trust are looking for people who can Volunteer to shake a collection bucket, man a stall, sell some raffle tickets, carry things around or help set up/clear away a variety of music festivals, concerts, fêtes and other fun events in Hampshire and beyond. So, if you can spare a few hours of your time every so often to help out then please do get in touch.

Contact us at [volunteers@themurrayparishtrust.com](mailto:volunteers@themurrayparishtrust.com).

[www.themurrayparishtrust.com](http://www.themurrayparishtrust.com)



There is an ideal opportunity to come and celebrate the wildlife and environment at the Eel House - we are **looking for volunteers** to help with the open day from 11 til 5pm.



Interested in the wildlife of the Arle? Why not volunteer at the Eel House Open Days? Just come along for an hour or two, to welcome visitors and chat about the river. All info is provided and experts are there to help. It's fun and fascinating. Open over the summer on various dates from April to September.

There is an ideal opportunity to come and celebrate the wildlife and environment at the Eel House - we are looking for volunteers to help with the open day from 11 til 5pm. Email [clerk@towntrust.org.uk](mailto:clerk@towntrust.org.uk) for further details



Service provided by:



**Telephone Support Volunteers** provide friendly phone calls to improve wellbeing and reduce loneliness and isolation. As part of this role family you can support in the following activities. To volunteer you will need to be over 18 and have a smartphone to take part as you will be unable to receive task requests without the GoodSam app.

There are opportunities for both a Check In and Chat Call and Companion Calls.

To sign up go to <https://nhscarevolunteerresponders.org/>

# Plants for St John's

## Sponsor a plant

👁👁 Look out for the plant in St John's Church. 👁👁



(Dracaena Angustifolia)

**Let's have more plants in church.** Bring more of God's Creation into the church.

Would like to buy, look after and regularly water a **plant** for the church?

Here is a list of plants that are suitable for the light and temperature of the church environment: -

- Calathea (aka prayer plant)
- Heartleaf philodendron (trailing)
- Aglaonema
- Aspidistra (cast iron plant)



- Monstera (Swiss cheese plant)
- Palms e.g. Howea
- Sansaveria (Mother-in-law's tongue or snake plant)



Please let Heather, a Church Warden or a member of the Creation Care Team know so we can agree a suitable place for it to **thrive**.



# Whatever you want to store... ...and for whatever reason

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#### DOMESTIC PLUMBING

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

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/ 01962 736159

# ALRESFORD BOWLING CLUB



## Have you ever thought about joining a Bowling Club?

The outdoor season is in full swing and it's the perfect time to come along and enjoy two free trial sessions at this very friendly club. Situated within walking distance of the town, we have members with varying levels of bowling skills who are only too willing to support and guide you through your bowling journey. You only need a pair of flat soled shoes, as the club has bowls that you are able to use until you purchase your own. Roll-ups are on Tuesday and Thursday mornings between 10.00 a.m. – noon with a break for refreshments at 11.00 a.m. and Thursday evenings between 6.00 p.m. – 8.00 p.m. The club offers non-playing memberships too. If you would like more details please email the Secretary: [alresfordbowls@gmail.com](mailto:alresfordbowls@gmail.com) she would love to hear from you. A warm welcome awaits!



Alresford Bowling Club are proud to be sponsored by: Alresford Hearing Studio, Garthowen Garden Centre, New Farm Motor Services Ltd, Rawlings Opticians and Hearing Care, RBC Brewin Dolphin and Richard Steel and Partners.



### ALRESFORD TWINNING ASSOCIATION



Alresford has been twinned with Briquebec in Normandy since 1982 and the link between the two towns remains strong.

A group from Alresford will be going to Briquebec on an exchange visit on 9th - 11th May.

As well as the exchange visits we also organise social events for members and friends.

Our next two events are :-

A Pétanque Picnic on Friday 6th June.  
( in Alrebury Park from 5.30 pm open to all)

A Summer Wine Evening on Friday 11th July.

**We would love to have you join us**  
**For further information contact Alison on 07933 298323.**



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& delicious  
homemade cake



## The Café at St John's The Watercress Festival

Sunday 18th May

10.00am - 4.00pm

in the Church Hall

(outside tables if good weather)

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



### ST JOHN'S CAFÉ at the Watercress Festival on Sunday 18th May.



We need to start gathering our wonderful army of volunteers who make this, our biggest fundraiser, the success it has always been in the past. Sign up sheets are now at the back of the Church.

There are many ways in which to help, so please have a look and add your name to one or maybe more of the boxes.

Encourage your friends to join us - many hands make light work!

The organising team look forward to sharing this exciting day with you.

**It is important that all volunteers are risk aware. So please take a risk assessment sheet and tick the red box beside your name on the sign up sheet to indicate that you have one.**







## Church Clean @ St John's

A large group of stalwart men and women came to the church on Saturday 12th April to clean, polish and spruce up the church ready for Holy Week and Easter. Our thanks to them all for all their hard work. As usual workers were refreshed with tea and coffee. Thanks for that to Margaret.

The church was shining and bright on Palm Sunday!





## Palm Sunday at Breakfast Church

Breakfast Church began in the usual way with—well—with breakfast. Then there was the opening liturgy before we held up our palms to be blessed and then paraded out of the church following George Skayman on the flugelhorn. After that the Rector told the story of Palm Sunday when we had to make donkey noise and cheer before there was more breakfast and a bit of a grown-up talk while the children got on with their craft and other activities.





## PAWFECT DAY FOR A WALK IN THE SUNSHINE

Dozens of two legged and four pawed friends enjoyed an exhilarating walk around Itchen Abbas on the hottest day of the year. The Home-Start Winchester annual dog walk is a firm fixture in the charity's fundraising calendar but on some occasions, it has been the scene of torrential rain and muddy wellies.

"The weather was glorious and the walk near the Avington Estate and by the river was delightful and the magnolia and cherry blossom just wonderful," said Home-Start Winchester's events organiser and Trustee, Chrissie Barlow. "Last year we all got drenched and needed warming up with soup, this year was like a summer's day and we all needed cooling down, especially the dogs."

"Special thanks must go to walk sponsors Gay Dog Boarding Kennels for their continued support and to all the volunteers who mapped the walks, made home-made soup and ploughman's lunches," said Chrissie. "An added bonus was that we raised £1,000 for our work with young families in and around the city."

VIP guests taking part in the day included Sue Elton, the new High Sherrieff of Hampshire with Springer Spaniel, Lola and Winchester MP Danny Chambers with his partner Emma and their black labrador Moose. The Mayor and Mayoress of Winchester saw the crowd off, but feared their 16 year-old dog Hillie would find it all a bit too much.

"The weather made a huge difference," said event sponsor Daniel Bliss, "and I think this was the best walk so far. It's such a great happy, healthy way to raise funds and we're very pleased to be able to support Home-Start in this way."

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



## Rory Explores Bluebell Woods



It is that time of year when some of the lovely woodlands we are lucky enough to enjoy in this part of the country take on a whole new, short-lived, exquisite aspect. Beautiful blue carpets appear to bathe the woods in colour and restore some joy to the soul.



The tranquillity of an English bluebell wood is a treat for the senses, both human and canine.

Around half of the world's bluebells can be found in the UK; they are relatively rare elsewhere. It's against the law to pick or uproot them and they are very sensitive. Bulbs can lie dormant underground for hundreds of years, until conditions become favourable for growth, such as a shift in the forest canopy or disturbance of the soil. They bloom for a few short, brilliant weeks, and then disappear, waiting for their next turn in the following spring. They have a sweet, natural scent. Other names for bluebells through the years have included crowtoes, cuckoo's boots, wood hyacinth, lady's nightcap and witches' thimbles. Personally, I like them best because they grow to just the right height to tickle my belly as I run through them.



My favourite places to see bluebells are:

**Crab Wood, Winchester** (see above photos). Park carefully along Lanham Lane (SO22 5QS – What3Words: pegs.skins.scavenger), or continue along Sarum Road and over the crossroads to the Crab Wood Car Park (SO21 5JE – What3Words: glorious.waistcoat.ember). Easy-to-follow circular paths can take you through some spectacular areas of abundant bluebells, with primroses and wood anemones adding to the mix. The nearby Beechcroft Farm tea barn (open Thurs – Sun 10 – 4) on Sarum Road does great tea, coffee and cake, and humans are allowed to accompany their dogs, which is always helpful.

**Micheldever Wood, between Alresford and Winchester.** A dedicated Forestry England car park is located at approx. SO21 1PP (What3Words: loose.squish.sprinkler). There are waymarked trails through the woods, both long and short, and the terrain is easy.



Refreshments can be had at the Woolpack Inn in Totford, SO24 9TJ.

In recent years, the showings of bluebells at Micheldever haven't been quite as impressive as those of Crab Wood, but they are still worth a visit.



**The National Trust at Hinton Ampner** – (SO24 0LA or What3Words: guideline.supreme.shook) – also has lovely bluebell woods to explore as part of the estate. A map can be obtained from the entry kiosk. There is an entry fee to the house, gardens and café (parkland is free; there's a map on the board by the church). The nearby Hinton Arms is also good for refreshments when visiting the bluebells there, just three minutes away from the National Trust entrance.

Whether you cherish best the sight or scent of the bluebells, or the soft tickling sensation across your belly as you scamper gleefully through them, I hope that you get the chance to explore at least one bluebell wood this year.

**NEXT TIME IN THE MAGAZINE** – the second part of the account of my unfortunate holiday on Dartmoor, with more twists in the tale than the twists of my tail when confronted with a lovely bluebell wood...

With joy, RORY GAMIN de PYCOMBE







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# Alresford Community Choir

## Presents Fauré and Beethoven with Full Orchestra



Gabriel Fauré

1907

Fauré's Requiem Mass is well known for its beautifully gentle and thoughtful mood, providing a wonderful first half for our gala concert on May 24th and a very apt counterbalance to the drama and exuberance of the second half of the programme – Beethoven's Ninth Symphony.

On that day, I will be ticking off two of my 'bucket list' musical selections - I have always wanted to direct the Fauré with an orchestral accompaniment and cannot wait to perform Beethoven's stunning 9th with The Hanover Band. This symphony orchestra specialising in playing authentic period instruments will be continuing to enjoy

celebrating the master over 250 years since his birth in concerts and recordings.



Ludwig Van Beethoven

1820

For many musicians, Beethoven's 9th Symphony, "The Choral", is a masterpiece and probably the most important music ever composed. It is possibly the essence of Beethoven's musical life, is extraordinary in its complexity, freely exploring extremes of dynamics (loud and quiet) and tempi (speeds). It is exquisitely beautiful and very difficult!

Beethoven's infamous deafness was possibly a result of being mistreated by his father and regularly 'boxed about the ears' as a child. His father, a rather rough and ill-mannered drunkard, recognised Ludwig's abilities as a very young pianist and did all he could to make money from him, presenting him as a 'second Mozart'. The fact that Beethoven continued to develop musically had very little to do with his father's bullying. His deafness caused

melancholia and loneliness, but he became even more determined that he 'had to' get his music down on paper, not for money or fame, but simply because he 'had to...'

One of the best-known stories about Beethoven concerns the first performance of the Ninth Symphony. Already famous in his lifetime, this premiere was bound to be very well-attended. However, the great composer had no idea how this new and challenging piece would be received. Never before had a choir made an appearance in a symphony nor had voices been used as if instrumental resources! Not being able to hear much of the detail of the performance, Beethoven nevertheless had a sense of where the performers were in the score from his place near the conductor. He wasn't aware that the symphony had properly ended and it took Caroline Unger, the Mezzo-Soprano soloist to come down to him, turn him around and show him the ecstatic applause for his work. There were five standing ovations and the audience, aware that he could not hear their praise, made sure that Ludwig saw their arms waving and hats being thrown into the air. It was a triumph!

The tune of "Ode to Joy" is known around the world





and is often used on big occasions to lift spirits. The Ninth Symphony is not only great for its musical innovations but also because of its striking and driving reminder that all peoples are able to achieve more together. The text of the choral finale, from Schiller's poem, asks us to lift our eyes, to consider who we are in the world, and what we are here for... Certainly, the text encourages us to see that we can and should go beyond ourselves as individuals. The final words of Schiller's poem demand:

**Brothers, above the starry canopy**

**There must dwell a loving Father.**

**Be embraced, millions!**

**Do you sense the creator, world?**

**Seek him above the starry canopy!**

**Above the stars must He dwell.**



We invite you to join us on Saturday May 24th to be part of the presentation of Gabriel Fauré's Requiem Mass and Ludwig van Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, with The Hanover Band, conducted by Ben Hoffnung (son of the wonderful Gerard Hoffnung).

Harvey Hall, St Swithun's School, gives us a wonderful setting for the event with ample room for The Hanover Band, the wonderful authentic-instrument symphony orchestra, and our large choir! There is ample space for parking and, with doors open from 6.30pm. A bar in the foyer will serve wine and light refreshments before the performance and also at the interval.

Tickets, priced from £12 to £35, are available from Ticket Source:

ALRESFORD community CHOIR  
The HANOVER Band  
present  
**BEETHOVEN**  
9<sup>th</sup> Symphony  
"The Choral"  
Conductor Ben Hoffnung

FAURÉ  
Requiem Mass  
Conductor Keith Clark

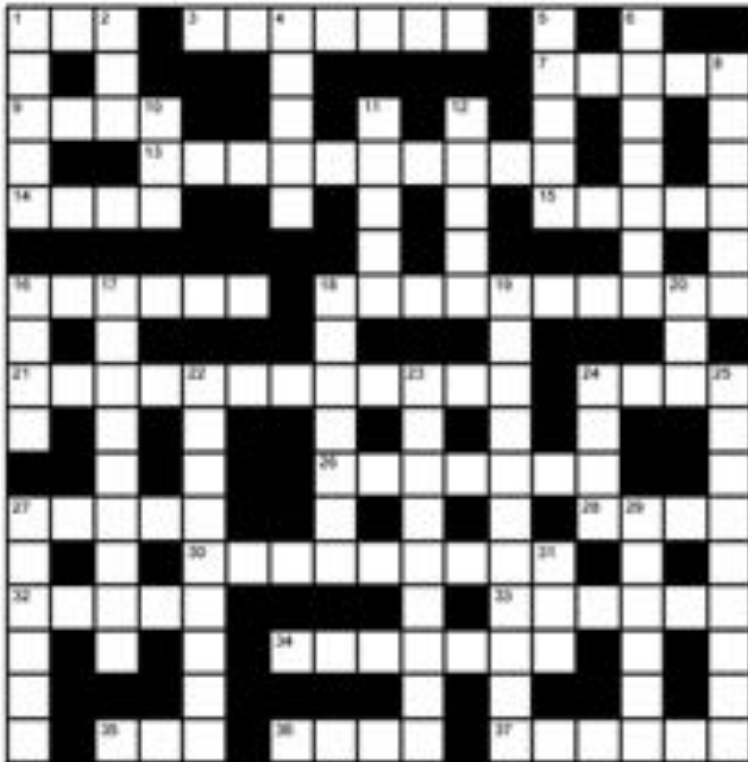
Soloists: Anna Sideris, Amy Williamson, Ed Hawkins, Oliver Johnston  
Harvey Hall Auditorium, St Swithun's School, Winchester  
**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2025**  
7.30pm (doors open 6.30pm) Tickets from £12 - £35  
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Registered Charity: 1148708



# Puzzles



# Puzzles



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

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Fill in the numbers in the Sudoku so every square, every column and every row has the numbers 1 to 9.

## Across

- 1 Paddle we hear is alternative (3)
- 3 Triumph for Nelson's ship (7)
- 7 Tilts 51 saints (5)
- 9 Starburst is new egg (4)
- 13 Leaves war secrets out (10)
- 14 Eels mix-up threatens after alternative (4)
- 15 Wise being that errs? (5)
- 16 River blossom (6)
- 18 Document carriers won't last long in court (10)
- 21 Neither piano is moved outdoors (2,3,4,3)
- 24 On in Belize building (4)

- 26 Supports but not for long (7)

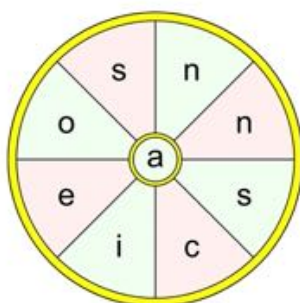
- 27 Cleaner energy in Cat's comment (5)
- 28 Hydrogen in container. Flimsy! (4)
- 30 Born and eats final dogs of poverty (9)
- 32 A wee drink before a show (5)
- 33 Endless stir drink. Enough (6)
- 34 Many different troubled Saviour (7)
- 35 Hawthorn permitted (3)
- 36 One in vehicle is proud (4)
- 37 Many different frogmen (6)

## Down

- 1 Bounced out to say "Wait!" (5)
- 2 Vicar turns engine over (3)
- 4 Belief initially consider real eternal ethereal deity (5)
- 5 Conflict when left in the money (5)
- 6 This eccentric American owns narrow strip of land (7)
- 8 Heavenly kind of cleaned up stairs (6)
- 10 Disciples stand in this (3)
- 11 One who works in 32 across (5)
- 12 We hear a bit of quiet (5)
- 16 Just blonde? (4)

- 17 Extended alfresco picnic (9)

- 18 Fortunate not so many in out (7)
- 19 Executers sacking team (6,5)
- 20 Drop in salt water (3)
- 22 Nearly let out always (9)
- 23 Atlantic island rising to heaven (9)
- 24 Eagerness found in mouse train (4)
- 25 We all agree peacekeepers love stopping hatred (9)
- 27 Sells we hear parts of a piano or bicycle (6)
- 29 Injured the French rush (6)
- 31 Southern states briefly suspicious (3)



Find as many words as you can 4 letters or more and all must have the centre letter. No plurals and no repeated letter unless the letter appears twice in the wheel

30+ brilliant 20 + good



# THIS IS VE-DAY

## Premier Is To Broadcast At 3 p.m.: Two Days' Holiday

**A**N official announcement will be broadcast by the Prime Minister at three o'clock this afternoon. In view of this fact, to-day will be treated as Victory in Europe Day and will be regarded as a holiday. Tomorrow will also be a holiday.

The King will broadcast to the peoples of the British Empire and Commonwealth to-day at 9 p.m. D.B.S.T. Parliament will meet at the usual time to-day.

The Ministry of Information issued this announcement yesterday evening after a day of suspense and excitement as the world waited for the official end of the war in Europe.

### Jodl Signs At Eisenhower's H.Q.

For Germany the war ended at 2.41 a.m. yesterday when General Jodl, German Army Chief of Staff, signed the first instrument, signifying his country's unconditional surrender at the Big Red School House in Rheims where is General Eisenhower's headquarters.

General Bedell Smith, Eisenhower's Chief of Staff, signed for the Supreme Allied Command, according to an account of the ceremony broadcast by New York radio. General Ivan Gouzenkov signed for Russia and General Francisco Franco for France.

The German emissaries were asked several times if they understood the significance of the signing of the terms, and each time said they did.

When the signing was completed General Jodl said: "With this signature the German people, be they in the West, are delivered into the victor's hands."

TURN TO BACK PAGE, COLUMN ONE

### THE KING SAYS: Crushing Victory

**T**HE King last night was this victory telegram to General Eisenhower, the Supreme Commander in the West:

Eleven months ago you led the Allied Expeditionary Force across the English Channel, carrying with you the hopes and prayers of millions of men and women in many nations.

It was entrusted to the task of constituting the German Armies in Western Europe, and thus liberating the people whom they had enslaved.

All the world now knows that, after fierce and continuous warfare, this Force has accomplished its mission with a finality achieved by no other such expedition in history.

On behalf of all my people, I ask that you, as Supreme Commander, will tell my people how deeply grateful we are to them, and how unbounded is our admiration for the courage and determination

which, under wise leadership, have brought them to their goal of complete and crushing victory.

I would ask you also to convey a special message of congratulation to my own Forces now under your command. Throughout the campaign they have acquitted themselves, in all Services, with a valour and distinction for which their fellow countrymen will forever hold them in esteem.

### WORLD MAKES WHOOPEE

All over the world the report of the German surrender gave men everywhere much excitement yesterday. Here is an account of how the news was received as told by cables from all over the globe.

**LONDON:** Thousands flocked to town after the first news of Germany's surrender. Police and Fire-brigades were the dominating sights for thousands of onlookers. For story on Page Three.

**NEW YORK:** Police men and firemen were seen at various points along Broadway where the celebrating crowds for thousands of onlookers. For story on Page Three.

**CHICAGO:** Streets of the city were filled with cheering crowds. People celebrated and shouting, singing and waving flags.

**STOCKHOLM:** Streets of the city were filled with cheering crowds. People celebrated and shouting, singing and waving flags.

**PARIS:** Streets of the city were filled with cheering crowds. People celebrated and shouting, singing and waving flags.

**ROME:** Streets of the city were filled with cheering crowds. People celebrated and shouting, singing and waving flags.

**JOHANNESBURG:** Streets of the city were filled with cheering crowds. People celebrated and shouting, singing and waving flags.

**THIRTY WORDS OF FAITH:** Thanks were the Father... He kept delivered us from the power of darkness. Colossians, 1:12-13.



Cheering crowds were as thick in and around Piccadilly Circus last night that the traffic came to a standstill. Here people are cheering on the launch of a boat and a man is seen as a lonely wanderer.



## One man's memory of VE Day by G.B.

When the war with Germany ended on 8 May 1945 I was a twelve-year-old schoolboy. VE Day, 8th May 1945, and the next day were declared public holidays and I did not have to go to school.

In the back garden of the house in south west London where we had a flat there was an Anderson air raid shelter, a hillock some 4 feet high, ideal for erecting a gibbet to suspend an effigy of Hitler for burning in the style of a November Guy. We used an old suit of school uniform - a hated black jacket and waistcoat and striped trousers - to dress our Hitler, and he had a newspaper ball head complete with toothbrush moustache and black cowlick hair. Hung up over a tin bath in which the fire was lit he was consumed by the fire all too quickly, but that was the highlight of the day.

On V E plus 1- Day my older brother was eager to go up to Central London to join in the public celebrations. In the late afternoon we set out by tram from Battersea Town Hall to Westminster, getting off on the Embankment, opposite Big Ben. We joined a great crowd of people making for Parliament Street. Turning the corner to go up to Whitehall the crowd filled the whole width of the road and we went with the general movement toward the end of Downing Street. Just as we arrived opposite the Cenotaph, a large black car came out of Downing Street. Winston Churchill was reclining on the roof, with his legs through the sunroof. He was grinning broadly and giving his familiar V for Victory sign. Slowly the car turned towards Trafalgar Square and was swallowed up in the mass of people. The movement in the crowd was to follow the car. Progress up Whitehall was very slow because of the crush of people. The crowd was jolly and friendly - there was plenty of singing, dancing and high spirits – and no doubt plenty of alcohol, but I don't recall anyone being drunk or unruly.



At last we reached the space in front of the Palace, and youngsters were let through the crowd to the front. We all yelled "we want the King" - "we want the King" - and after some time the King in naval uniform and the Queen, with Princess Elizabeth in ATS uniform and Princess Margaret appeared on the



floodlit balcony. They were joined by Winston Churchill, and we all shouted and cheered until we were hoarse and the royal party went back into the Palace. Then we all shouted for them to come out again and again. And they did. This was repeated several times before my mother became concerned about how late it was, now past midnight, and reminded me that I had to be in school by 9 o'clock in the morning. So reluctantly we set off for Victoria but by

the time we got there the trams had stopped running for the night. We trudged wearily off down Vauxhall Bridge Road along the tram route, just in case one should come along, but none did. It was a walk of more than four miles to get home. By this time, I was very weary. I sat down on the dwarf wall in front of a house and swore I could not walk any further. I was cajoled, bullied and eventually persuaded to go on. We arrived home well into the early hours of the morning and collapsed into bed.

I did get up that morning in time to get to school, but I fell asleep in the Latin class and the kindly form master left me to sleep through to the end of the lesson.

## Remembering VE Day – 80 years on

80 years ago, on 8th May 1945, VE Day took place – marking Victory in Europe at the end of World War 2. It was celebrated as a public holiday, and came exactly a week after German radio announced the death in action of Adolf Hitler.

In reality, Hitler had committed suicide on 30th April. His successor, Grand Admiral Karl Dönitz, quickly negotiated an end to the war with the Allies – at the same time trying with some success to prevent as many Germans as possible from falling into Soviet hands.

Field Marshal Montgomery accepted the unconditional surrender of German forces in the Netherlands, north-west Germany and Denmark at a ceremony near Hamburg on 4th May. All German forces then surrendered to Supreme Allied Commander General Eisenhower on 7th May at Reims, France. Soviet leader Josef Stalin had his own ceremony, in Berlin.

The announcement that the war had ended in Europe was broadcast to the British people by the BBC late on 7th May. It was decreed that there would be a national holiday the next day, and the stage was set for huge celebrations. Prime Minister Churchill had been assured that there was enough beer in the capital, and commemorative items, including VE Day mugs, were quickly produced.

St Paul's Cathedral held ten consecutive services giving thanks for peace, each one attended by thousands of people, and churches throughout the country rang their bells. The Royal Family played a central role, appearing eight times on the balcony of Buckingham Palace while huge numbers of people flocked down The Mall.

In the United States, VE Day coincided with President Harry S Truman's 61st birthday: he dedicated the victory to the memory of his predecessor, Franklin D Roosevelt, who had died of a stroke less than a month earlier. But both Truman and Churchill pointed out that the war against Japan had not yet been won. That final victory was still more than three months away.

Of course, the end of a war could never be neat. In Europe the last known shots on the Eastern Front were actually fired on 11th May, and on 25th May the battle of Odžak ended in a Yugoslav Partisan victory.



Children celebrating VE Day on a bombsite in London



## Remembering VE Day—a selection of memories



I can't remember VE day itself, but I do remember the day after when a party was thrown for all us children. It was held in a barn next to the Sands House Hotel (now a private house) In Brampton.

Even in Bermuda they celebrated VE Day for though far away from Europe they had had rationing and restrictions with the Battle of the Atlantic. I remember shouting along with other children 'We have won the war. We have won the war.'

"It was wonderful to hear the war in Europe was over, but it made no difference to my work, I was still working towards the efforts in the Far East.

We went up to London and joined the party in Trafalgar Square, and danced and sang all evening. We ended up sleeping on the station as we were too late for any trains but we didn't care. It was the best day ever.

There were some American GIs near us—recovering I think from injuries from D-Day and they threw a party for us with CAKE and SWEETS and ORANGES and other stuff I'd never tasted before but was wonderful. And they showed us a film but I fell asleep so missed that. The next day we were back to rationing of course.

My sister and I were asleep in bed when we were woken by people shouting and singing outside. At first we were scared but then Mum came in. She was crying and laughing all at once. 'Get up! Get up! The war's over.' And we went down to where there was a big bonfire and everyone had scraped together some treat food so we had a midnight feast. "Will Daddy come home now."

"Oh, I do hope so. I do hope so."

We were lucky. Daddy did come home.

All I remember is that suddenly Mum and Gran sounded happier and hopeful though I did not really know why.

And many of the people I asked were vague about what was happening as they were very young but they do remember food, and the parties in the days following..



## War, Peace and Bells by Elizabeth Johnson

Bells have sounded through the ages for a myriad of reasons – not just for church services but local, country and world events sometimes heralding war or invasion.

The most welcome bells must be those signalling the end of conflicts. So, it was on May 8<sup>th</sup> 1945 St John's bells rang out to celebrate Victory in Europe.

We know that teenagers, John Curtis, Malcolm McCutcheon and Len Lower rang that day, doubtless Harry Newnham (Aldersford Station Master) in charge as Tower Captain.

The day would have also had great sadness – 18 Aldersford men had been killed. Some still fighting in the Far East, prisoners or wounded. Ringers Les Tremear had not yet returned and Flying Officer JCO Allan had been killed, bailing out of a stricken Mosquito East of Ramsgate on June 4<sup>th</sup> 1944 (Source: Not Just a Name by Glenn Gilbertson).



The Hampshire Chronicle of May 12<sup>th</sup> 1945, had extensive reports of all the festivities that took place in the Winchester area.

On October 6<sup>th</sup> 1945, a peal was rung at St John's commemorating the end of WW II.





The band included 3 St John's ringers – Harry Newnham, Les Tremear and George Allen. A replica peal was rung for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary on October 7<sup>th</sup> 1995. This band included 5 St John's ringers. The conductor was R Chris Kippin whose father had conducted the 1945 peal.

The 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE day was special as St John's ringers were joined by John Curtis, Len Lewer and Malcolm McCutcheon although they didn't ring, they joined the celebration and passed on memories.



1 Paul Beresford  
2 David Richards  
3 Robin McKinley Dickinson  
4 Wendy Ling

5 Andrew Johnson  
6 Alec Fry  
7 Rodney Skinner  
8 Elizabeth Johnson

9 Malcolm McCutcheon  
10 Len Lewer  
11 John Curtis  
12 Theo Johnson

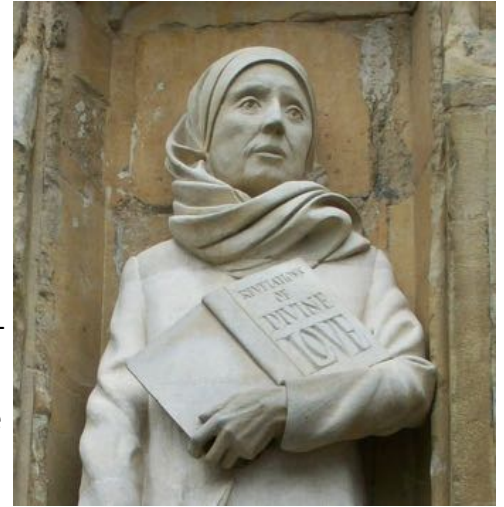
This May, lots of ringing is planned by Alresford Ringers in several nearby towers.

## 8th May - Julian of Norwich, a voice from a distant cell

by Canon David Winter (Parish Pump)

Many years ago, studying English literature at university, I was intrigued to be introduced to the work of Julian of Norwich. She was writing at the end of the 14th century, when our modern English language was slowly emerging from its origins in Anglo-Saxon and Middle English.

Our lecturer was mainly concerned with her importance in the history of the language (she was the first woman, and the first significant writer, to write in English). But I was more intrigued by the ideas she was expressing. She was an anchoress – someone who had committed herself to a life of solitude, giving herself to prayer and fasting. St Julian's, Norwich was the church where she had her 'cell'.



She spent her life in a cell attached to a church and never left. An anchoress's life was austere and limited but not harsh. She had someone who came to clean for her, people brought her food and other necessities and many people came to talk to her. They spent their time in prayer, in sewing for the church and in writing. In Julian's case she wrote an account of her visions.

Her masterpiece, Revelations of Divine Love, reveals a mystic of such depth and insight that today up and down Britain there are hundreds, possibly thousands, of 'Julian Groups' who meet regularly to study her writings and try to put them into practice.

She is honoured this month in the Lutheran and Anglican Churches, but although she is held in high regard by many Roman Catholics, her own Church has never felt able to recognise her as a 'saint'. This is probably because she spoke of God as embracing both male and female qualities. Revelations is an account of the visions she received in her tiny room, which thousands of pilgrims visit every year.



Her most famous saying, quoted by T S Eliot in one of his poems, is 'All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well.' These words have brought comfort and strength to many a soul in distress. Some have dismissed these words as meaningless as she lived safe and secure in her cell. This is not true as she was born early in 1340s and the Black Death came in 1348 and after devastating the population then was endemic in the country. She lived through the peasants' revolt in 1381 and saw the brutal suppression so she knew about suffering.

And that famous saying is almost never finished. "All shall be well and all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well saith sweet Mother Jesus"



# 1,700 years of The Creed from the Parish Pump

Every Sunday Christians around the world recite in one form or another a creed. The most frequently used creed is the Nicene Creed which was written by the First Council of Nicaea 1700 years ago. That council began on **20th May 325** and was the first ecumenical council of the church.

The Council was called by the Roman Emperor Constantine the Great—the first emperor to become Christian. He called it because he was fed up with the various factions in the church arguing about the nature of Jesus, the date of Easter and which books should be in the Bible. He wanted a united church so that his empire would be united.

The main issue was Jesus. Was he divine who pretended to be human? Was he human who was made divine by God? If he was both divine and human how did that work?

One side led by the Archbishop of Alexandria taught that Jesus as God the Son was eternally generated from the Father so like the Father had no beginning and no end. The Son, they said, was equal to the Father. A priest called Arius on the other hand asserted that the Father alone was eternal, and that the Son was created or begotten by the Father, and thus had a defined point of origin and was subordinate to the Father.

Over two hundred bishops gathered at Constantine's expense to debate the issue. Constantine announced that anyone who did not agree with the conclusions of the council would be exiled and should be excommunicated. There was a lot of highly technical debate but in the end the view of the Archbishop of Alexandria was accepted by all but two bishops. These two were exiled from the Roman Empire along with their followers.

The clauses of the creed concerning Jesus' nature as originally written.

And in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the Son of God,  
begotten from the Father, only-begotten,  
that is, from the substance of the Father,  
God from God, light from light,  
true God from true God, begotten not made,  
of one substance with the Father,  
through Whom all things came into being,  
things in heaven and things on earth,



There was a lot of argument about the use of the images of 'Father' and 'Son', which continues to this day, as it implies the Son's subservience to the Father and made the 'Father' too much like an old man rather than a Being about whom nothing exact can be said. And even in those patriarchal days there were some that worried that using the words 'Father' and 'Son' made God too masculine and excluded the feminine. St Augustine wanted the church to change the words to Lover, Beloved with the Spirit being Love.



## 30th May - Ascension Day: 40 Days with the Risen Christ

40 days after Easter comes Ascension Day. These are the 40 days during which the Risen Christ appeared again and again to His disciples, following His death and resurrection. (Matthew 28; Mark 16; Luke 24; and John 20.)



The Gospels give us little of Christ's teachings and deeds during those 40 days. Jesus was seen by numerous of His disciples: on the road to Emmaus, by the Sea of Galilee, in houses, etc. He strengthened and encouraged His disciples, and at last opened their eyes to all that the Scriptures had promised about the Messiah. Jesus also told them that as the Father had sent Him, He was now going to send them - to all corners of the earth, as His witnesses.

Surely the most tender, moving 'farewell' in history took place on Ascension Day. Luke records the story with great poignancy: "When Jesus had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, He lifted up His hands - and blessed them."

As Christmas began the story of Jesus' life on earth, so Ascension Day completes it, with His return to His Father in heaven. Jesus' last act on earth was to bless His disciples. He and they had a bond as close as could be: they had just lived through three tumultuous years of public ministry and miracles – persecution and death – and resurrection! Just as we part from our nearest and dearest by still looking at them with love and memories in our eyes, so exactly did Jesus: 'While He was blessing them, He left them and was taken up into heaven.' (Luke 24:50-1) He was not forsaking them, but merely going on ahead to a kingdom which would also be theirs one day: 'I am ascending to my Father and to your Father, to my God and your God...' (John 20:17)

The disciples were surely the most favoured folk in history. Imagine being one of the last few people on earth to be face to face with Jesus, and have Him look on you with love. No wonder then that Luke goes on: 'they worshipped Him - and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.' (Luke 24:52,53)

No wonder they praised God! They knew they would see Jesus again one day! 'I am going to prepare a place for you... I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.' (John 14:2,3) In the meantime, Jesus had work for them to do: to take the Gospel to every nation on earth. And we are supposed to continue that work today.





## CHOCOLATE CRAFT

Based in Old Alresford in the heart of Hampshire, Chocolate Craft has enjoyed success over the last 21 years developing a range of handmade chocolates, chocolate making workshops and chocolate-based team building events

As a former NHS Nursing Sister, Pippa's love of chocolate and entrepreneurial spirit led her to take over the business in 2019 to expand and evolve the business. Pippa multi-tasks in most aspects of the business and enjoys nothing more than working with the team and making or packing thousands of chocolates in one day! In one of the busiest months, more than 60,000 truffles were produced with each process being made by hand.

Chocolate Craft is now a leading producer of hand decorated chocolate products to many happy and loyal

customers. Using only the finest ingredients including Belgian Chocolate, fresh Hampshire cream and the expertise of our Chocolatiers, Chocolate Craft can pride themselves with Fortnum & Mason being just one of their most prestigious customers.

Amongst their many loyal customers are various national premium flower companies who offer chocolates as luxury additions for their online flower sales. These have been individually created for them and branded to suit their needs.

Chocolate Craft also offers bespoke branded chocolates for individuals and companies as gifts or

promotions. Any logo or design can be incorporated onto individually designed chocolate products and packaging which is beautifully presented to give that wow factor to your customers or staff.

Enjoying recognition as an artisan supplier, Chocolate Craft employs experienced Chocolatiers and a large 'Events Team' to host chocolate making events both locally and nationally. Chocolate making workshops and parties are available at their beautiful rural setting in Hampshire or at a venue of your choice. Here you can learn the art of chocolate making from their friendly and experienced chocolatiers.

Corporate Team Building Events are a large part of Chocolate Crafts portfolio and take their experienced Events Team all over the UK. A trip to Berlin to present a large team building event for Google was one of their highlights! A fantastic opportunity to get your team together as part of a corporate training day or as a special treat for your employees to be indulged whilst focusing on team building. "We simply love what we do and love sharing our passion for chocolate making with everyone that we meet in the variety of chocolate workshops, private parties and corporate team building events!"

Workshops run almost every weekend, and sometimes on a Friday and Sunday.... However if you can get a group of 8 together you can also enjoy a private workshop!!

**Pippa**



## Alresford Golf Club .....135 years old!

It's often said that 'Golf is a good walk spoilt'. Surely not! Certainly not a sentiment held by the members past and present of Alresford Golf Club for whom golf offers so much more than a good walk! When I say 'members' that represents a very wide spectrum of players, not just the ambitious low handicapper with nothing less than The Open in their sights. Along with the impassioned devotees of the game, there are young, middle aged and old, high low or medium handicappers and the strugglers! When the golf is not going well many members resort to bird watching, railing against runaway dogs and a genuine appreciation of nature around them.

There are some lovely views of chalk downland on the course it is true! It's a very sociable game and the clubhouse offers such opportunities on a daily basis. All these various members have one characteristic in common ... they are all challenged by the frustrations of a game which demands you hit a small white ball towards a small hole in the ground, all yards away (sometimes out of sight) and by some miracle putt the wayward ball! Unbelievably enjoyable to so many!



However challenging a game, it was not enough to deter certain residents of Alresford to form a golf club on land off the Cheriton road in 1890. Historical context necessary here! Queen Victoria was on the throne and Lord Salisbury was the Conservative Prime Minister. Amongst the founding fathers of the club were two doctors and a solicitor all living locally. Dr William Moore had moved into The Lawn on Broad St and shared the practice with Dr C E Covey. The solicitor J Ridley Shield lived in the house which was to become The Co-Operative Society House and worked as junior partner at a solicitor in East Street. The newly formed golf club was mainly a club for middle-class professionals, and gentry of the county. In 1894 the 30 members paid an entrance fee of 5 shillings (£20 in today's values) and a

yearly subscription of £1 and 1 shilling. It costs a little more nowadays if you are considering joining the ranks! A rent for the land was paid to a Mr Stubbs, the farmer tenant of that part of the Tichborne Estate. It is with some pride I can include the fact that by the turn of the century there were some lady members! The lady members requested and got a separate meeting room in the clubhouse. Who can blame them striking out for independence in what was probably an unequal position to the men in the golf club and continued like that for many years. 'Clubhouse' might be overstating it somewhat .... the club HQ was in fact in an upstairs room of the original Cricketers pub which was then situated on the sharp bend from Tichborne Down onto Sun Lane, later a laundry and now a private residence.



The club during the 20th century continues to grow despite some difficult times. However it survived the effects of two world wars. Between 1914 and 1918 much of the course was dug up for growing produce and the clubhouse was offered to the government as a possible hospital! The Second World War brought financial difficulties from which it took the club some years to recover. Interestingly there was an attempt to set up a combined Golf and Tennis club to bring in more revenue. Two grass



tennis courts were built on land near the Cricketers pub (land now taken up by the bypass) However in 1950 the scheme was abandoned.

In early 1953 a clubhouse was set up on the Tichborne estate near the first tee ....in an old railway carriage proudly thatched and timber clad. Of course a bar was set up for those 19th hole necessities under the conscientious management of the wine committee! In 1969 a new clubhouse was built on a stretch of the Cheriton road where it is now.



The club extended to 18 holes twice in its history, the second time as a direct benefit of the construction of the Alresford bypass. The redesigned course similar to how we know and love it now was opened officially in 1993 by John Jacobs friend of the club and former Ryder Cup Captain.

Many of us remember the grand 125years celebrations at the club in 2015 and this year the club celebrates its 135th anniversary a little more quietly.

Alresford Golf Club now, after the problems associated with the Covid lockdowns 2020 to 2022, seems to be thriving. It is an 18 hole, 6017yard, par 69 course ranked ninth best in Hampshire. The course is well managed and is very scenic as one plays the course. There is, as some of you may know, an extensive practice area, a performance studio with flight scope analysis, and mercifully a professional to show you how to use the above state of the art equipment. He also runs a well-stocked shop. It's a very friendly and welcoming club just in case you are tempted to extend and enhance that 'good walk' to include 18 holes of golf.

LP



## Danger on rural roads

Did you know that driving on rural roads is more dangerous than driving on urban ones?

According to the NFU Mutual's Rural Road Safety report for 2023, the number of lives lost on rural roads was a staggering **70% higher than on urban highways**. Also, collisions on rural roads were around four times more likely to result in a fatality than on an urban one.

The reasons as to why this should be include: changing speed limits, blind corners, field entrances, narrow carriage-ways, single lanes with no hard shoulders, limited or no road lighting, mud and debris on the road, livestock and wild animals on the road, no pavement or walkway for pedestrians, no bicycle lanes and agricultural vehicles.



And of course one major hazard around here as everyone knows are potholes. Not only can they damage your car but cyclist, horse riders and pedestrians may well step into the road to avoid potholes on the edge.

One new problem that has arisen in the last few years is the problem of electric cars. They are silent and pedestrians and cyclist do not hear them so they can come round corners and totally surprise other road users.

And so it is that the National Farmers' Union has campaigned to improve rural road safety, and it has now published its 'Code for Countryside Roads' to guide people as to how to drive safely.

More info at: <https://www.nfumutual.co.uk>

Much of the code is obvious—going slower, watching out for people or vehicles emerging from hidden tracks and so on.

I knew most of the advice for pedestrians and cyclists e.g. wearing high vis clothes, keeping as close to the edge as I can, not wearing ear phones to hear music and not the traffic, in a group going in single file etc. One I hadn't thought of was being aware of where the sun is. Obvious once I thought about it as low sun can blind a driver.

The main message of the code we all know but too often forget go more slowly, and use all your senses to know what is going on around you. Better as they say to be late for an appointment than someone early into the hereafter.





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## ASPARAGUS BITES

Here's a light, fresh and tasty savoury option, good for packed lunches and picnics. The recipe below should make eight bites.

### Ingredients

2 medium potatoes, cut into 1cm cubes  
500g asparagus tips, cut into 3cm pieces  
10 large eggs  
Handful fresh tarragon leaves, finely chopped  
Low-calorie cooking spray  
2 garlic cloves, finely chopped  
1 large onion, finely chopped  
200g roasted red peppers in brine from a jar, drained and finely chopped



### Method

Boil the potatoes for 8-10 minutes, or until tender. Remove from the boiling water with a slotted spoon and set aside, then blanch the asparagus in the same pan for 2 minutes. Drain and set aside.

In a large bowl, whisk the eggs, season lightly and stir in the tarragon. Spray a 28cm ovenproof non-stick frying pan\* with low-calorie cooking spray and place over a medium heat. Stir-fry the garlic and onion for 6-8 minutes, or until soft. Add the potatoes and half the asparagus and stir-fry for a further 2-3 minutes.

Pour in the eggs and spread them out evenly. Scatter over the remaining asparagus and the red peppers. Turn the heat to medium-low and cook for 12-15 minutes, or until the base has started to set.

Preheat your grill to high. Slide the frittata under the grill in the frying pan and cook for 4-5 minutes, or until the top is golden and set. Remove from the heat and allow to cool, then loosen the edges with a spatula and carefully turn out onto a large chopping board. Cut into bite-size squares and serve at room temperature.

*\*do not use a frying pan with a plastic handle!*

### For a sprinkle of fairy-dust try:

Serve with a leafy green salad. Can be stored in the fridge for a few days to take out and eat on the go.



### Time to fly! Fairy Cake



## Puzzle Answers



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

acne, aeon, anion, anise, anon, ascension, cain, cane, canine, canine, cannie, canoe, canon, canones, canonise, canonises, case, casein, casino, ciao, eonian, inane, inca, insane, nano, nans, naoi, oasis, ocean, ossia, sane, scan, scansion, scena, season, senna, sonance

This is one wordwheel where there are loads of words but far too many of them do not have an 'a'.

1. Pheasant
2. Curlew
3. corn bunting
4. nightingale
5. spoonbill
6. Kittiwake
7. toucan
8. kingfisher
9. nightjar
10. waxwing
11. Nuthatch
12. Magpie



# Artificial Intelligence?

## *From Education Christian Leaders in an Age of Science*

### AI deep fakes and the Pope - should we worry?

In 2023, images of Pope Francis wearing a Balenciaga puffer jacket circulated widely on the Internet. Quickly revealed as a fake, the pictures were a humorous reminder of a serious theme: the ability of AI to manipulate data (in this case pictorial) and to distribute it in a manner that manipulates the beliefs and opinions of many. Thousands believed the image and were shocked to find out it was an AI fake



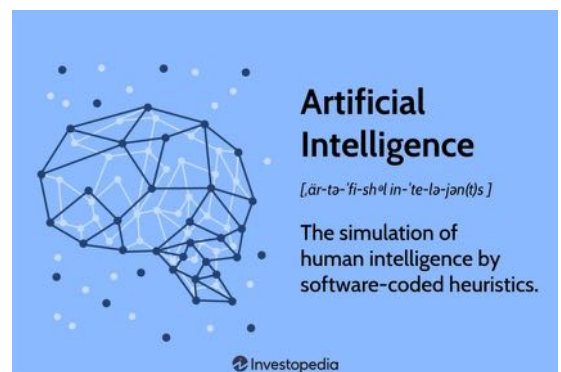
Two years later, the Vatican warned that AI carries "the shadow of evil" due to its potential to spread misinformation and destabilize societies. At the same time, many people truly believe that AI will solve many if not most of the world's problems.

In his message to the World Economic Forum in 2025, Pope Francis expressed additional concern about AI's role in the "crisis of truth." He warned that AI-generated content, which can be indistinguishable from human-produced work, has the potential to erode trust and distort public discourse

Despite his words of warning, Pope Francis has been a vocal advocate for the ethical development of technology. In a historic address at the G7 summit of 2024, he stressed the need for human oversight of AI systems, urging world leaders to ensure that technology serves humanity and never dominates it.

Why should religious leaders get involved in AI ethics?

People often say that the problem with technology does not lie in its invention but rather how it is used. This does not seem to be the case with AI, as ethicist Timnit Gebru has demonstrated. Before being forced out of her role as co-leader of Google's ethical AI team, Gebru warned that the Large Language Models (LLMs) used by Google and other companies were inherently predisposed to prejudice. In other words, AI replicates the biases of its creators. The software was written by white technically savvy males so AI reproduces the mindset of white technically savvy males.



Gebru's co-written 2018 study, Gender Shades, revealed that AI-driven facial recognition products were trained on biased data. Gebru and her co-author, Joy Buolamwini, found that while facial recognition systems could identify light-skinned male subjects with nearly 100% accuracy, the error rate for dark-skinned female subjects ranged from 23% to 36%. **Error rates, in real life, are false arrests and miscarriages of justice.**

The trouble is people tend to think that what a machine says or decides is infallible as was recently shown in the Post Office scandal where most people assumed that the evidence of a computer program could not be wrong.



Another example concerns something that has been called ‘surveillance capitalism’. Without our knowledge, personal data is constantly being hoovered up from our tens of thousands of online clicks: what we put into Google, what images cause us to pause for a moment on Instagram, what songs we listen to. Even our mood at different times of day may be revealed. AI companies process this data in order to create a profile of our hopes, needs and desires, so that we can be constantly targeted by advertisers .

Surveillance capitalism shades into surveillance politics when voters are similarly profiled and targeted in deceitful ways.

Regardless of whether a particular AI system is intended for ethical use, Gebru and others have demonstrated a fundamental truth: when AI is developed unethically, it is likely to be used unethically. This is the “shadow of evil” the Vati-

can has warned against, allowing discrimination and exploitation to be embedded into systems governing human life. It is not that most people who work in AI want to control our lives but like so many scientist and technologists if they can do it they want to do it without reference to possible outcomes

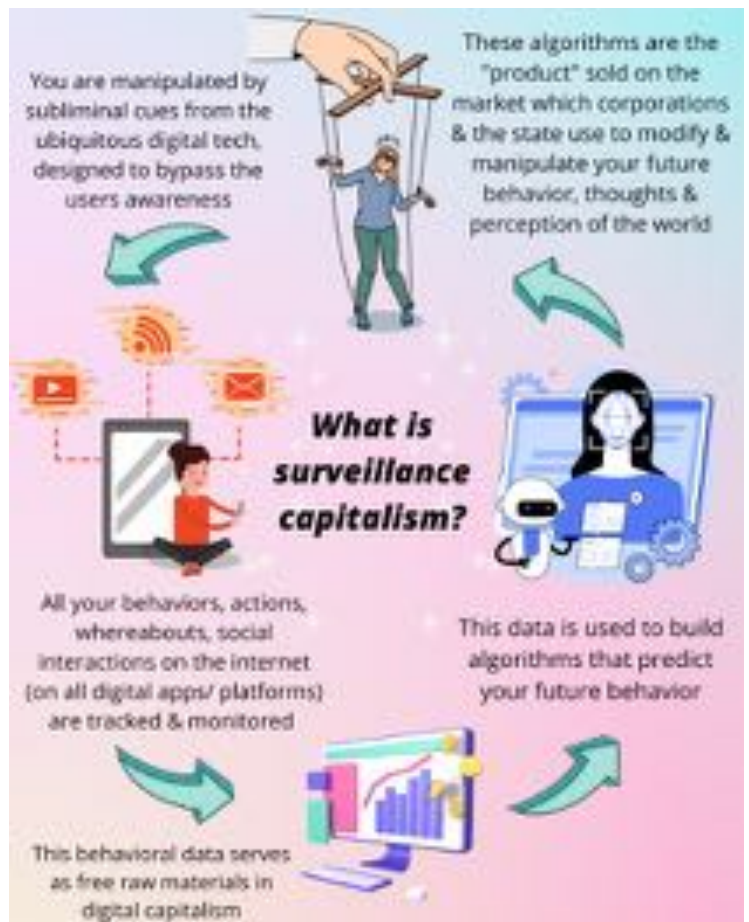
A collaborative path forward. Religious leaders, often acting through non-governmental organizations, play an increasingly important role in discussions surrounding the global governance of technology. Their input is essential in shaping ethical standards for the use of emerging technologies, ensuring that the development of AI and other digital tools remains grounded in respect for human dignity and the promotion of justice.

The Vatican's document *Antiqua et Nova* is one example, exploring the relationship between artificial and human intelligence, and advocating for a balanced approach that respects human dignity and ethical principles.

We are barreling toward a future where AI governs hiring, automated drones make life-and-death decisions, and tech giants wield more power than Presidents. The pace of innovation is exhilarating—but also dangerous. Who is calling for wisdom and restraint?

When AI deepfakes manipulate elections and China’s social credit system assigns “trust scores” to citizens, the ethical stakes are real—and urgent.

The future of AI is not just a technical problem but a moral one and everyone should be concerned and engaged. Those with influence and a voice such as religious leaders but other leaders as well—unions, business, politics, local government etc—should be entering the debate and making their voice heard and acted upon.





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St. John's

16th March

Felicity Humphrey

St. John's

26th March

Eileen Jones

Committal

Basingstoke Crem

2nd April

Antonia Booth

Thanksgiving Service

St. Mary's

## INTERMENT / FUNERALS

18th March

Joan Holland

Committal

Basingstoke Crem

3rd April

Jennifer Young

Graveside Service

Alton Cemetery

24th March

Alan Crockford

Interment

St. John's

7th April

Anne Hanson

Committal

Test Valley Crem



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Water Emergency 0800 820 99

Floodline 0845 988 1188

Samaritans 116 123

Childline 0800 111

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**Alresford Group Surgery,**

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01962 732345

[www.alresfordsurgery.co.uk](http://www.alresfordsurgery.co.uk)

## Other Useful Information

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**New Alresford Town Trust minibus** 07510 474231

**Bus Information** 0871 200 2233

**MP for Alresford: Danny Chambers**

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Alresford Dental Care - The Dean

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## East Hampshire District Council

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## New Alresford Town Council

01962 732 079

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# BENEFICE CONTACTS

**BENEFICE OFFICE** Tel. 01962 733545 *Please leave a phone message or email the office.*  
*Office hours 10am to 12 noon Monday to Friday.*

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**StJohnsAlresford** & **ourplaceyouth** Phone numbers unless otherwise stated are 01962

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[arlevalleyrector@gmail.com](mailto:arlevalleyrector@gmail.com)

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 2nd church warden vacant

PCC Secretary

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**Ovington: St. Peter's**

Churchwarden  
 Vacant - Contact Benefice Office  
 T. 735455

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 PCC Secretary  
 Vacant - Contact Benefice Office  
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[arlevalleychurches@gmail.com](mailto:arlevalleychurches@gmail.com)

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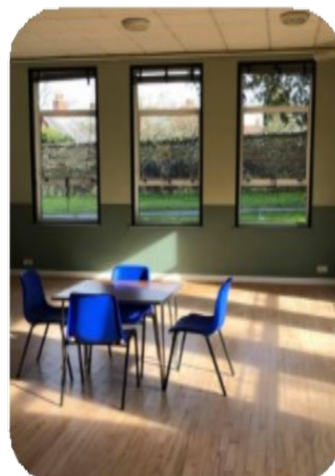
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
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