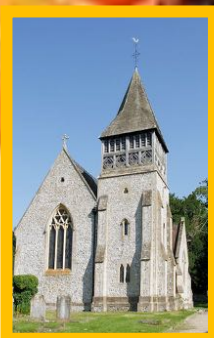


# Arle Valley Voice

**July & August  
2025**

**Church & Community Magazine**

**£1.60**





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## Editorial

One of my cubs said to me, “Akela the news is so scary”.

Well, yes it is, and as an historian I know that our world has had many many previous scary moments. My aunt who is ninety eight remembers the dread that everyone felt in 1939. And what about when Jesus was alive? Sadly there was just as much horror in Palestine in his day as there is today. The roads around Jerusalem were lined with crosses. Yet Jesus still talks about peace and love prevailing. That surely is part of our calling to do all we can to spread peace and love both in our own communities and world wide.

And all is not doom and gloom. There are wonderful people doing fantastic work to make this world a better place. There is also fun to be had with holidays, fetes, fairs and outings—plenty on offer in this magazine.

So in spite of what is on the news I wish you all a happy summer until the next issue in September.

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.

# July Church Services for the Arle Valley Benefice

## NEW ALRESFORD

### St John the Baptist

#### Sunday 6 July: 3rd Sunday after Trinity

09.30 Parish Communion

16.00 Families @ 4

#### Sunday 13 July : 4th Sunday after Trinity

09.30 Breakfast Church

18.00 Sunday @ 6

#### Sunday 20 July: 5th Sunday after Trinity

09.30 Parish Communion

#### Sunday 27 July: 6th Sunday after Trinity

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 6 July: 3rd Sunday after Trinity

11.00 Village Family Praise

#### Sunday 13 July : 4th Sunday after Trinity

09.30 Morning Praise

#### Sunday 20 July: 5th Sunday after Trinity

11.00 Parish Communion

#### Sunday 27 July: 6th Sunday after Trinity

09.30 Holy Communion BCP

#### Every Wednesday

09.00 Morning Prayer



Arle Valley  
Benefice



## OVINGTON

### St Peter's

#### Sunday 6 July: 3rd Sunday after Trinity

11.00 Café Church

#### Sunday 13 July : 4th Sunday after Trinity

11.00 Parish Communion

#### Sunday 20 July: 5th Sunday after Trinity

10.00 Morning Prayer

#### Sunday 27 July: 6th Sunday after Trinity

11.00 No service

#### Every Thursday

09.00 Morning Prayer



## BIGHTON

### All Saints

#### Sunday 6 July: 3rd Sunday after Trinity

11.00 No service

#### Sunday 13 July : 4th Sunday after Trinity

11.00 Morning Prayer

#### Sunday 20 July: 5th Sunday after Trinity

11.00 Morning Prayer

#### Sunday 27 July: 6th Sunday after Trinity

11.00 Parish Communion

#### Every Monday

09.00 Morning Prayer



## August Church Services for the Arle Valley Benefice

### NEW ALRESFORD

**St John the Baptist**

**Sunday 3 August: 7th Sunday after Trinity**

09.30 Parish Communion

16.00 Families @ 4

**Sunday 10 August : 8th Sunday after Trinity**

09.30 Breakfast Church

18.00 Sunday @ 6

**Sunday 17 August: 9th Sunday after Trinity**

09.30 Parish Communion

**Sunday 24 August: 10th Sunday after Trinity**

08.00 Holy Communion BCP

09.30 Celtic Service of the Word

16.30 Evening Prayer

**Sunday 31 August: 11th Sunday after Trinity**

11.00 Benefice Service at Bighton

**Every Tuesday**

09.00 Morning Prayer

**Every Wednesday**

10.00 Midweek Holy Communion

### OLD ALRESFORD

**St Mary the Virgin**

**Sunday 3 August: 7th Sunday after Trinity**

11.00 Village Family Praise

**Sunday 10 August : 8th Sunday after Trinity**

09.30 Morning Praise

**Sunday 17 August: 9th Sunday after Trinity**

11.00 Parish Communion

**Sunday 24 August: 10th Sunday after Trinity**

09.30 Holy Communion BCP

**Sunday 31 August: 11th Sunday after Trinity**

11.00 Benefice Service at Bighton

**Every Wednesday**

09.00 Morning Prayer



**Arle Valley  
Benefice**



### OVINGTON St Peter's

**Sunday 3 August: 7th Sunday after Trinity**

11.00 *No service*

**Sunday 10 August : 8th Sunday after Trinity**

11.00 Parish Communion

**Sunday 17 August: 9th Sunday after Trinity**

10.00 Morning Prayer

**Sunday 24 August: 10th Sunday after Trinity**

11.00 *No service*

**Sunday 31 August: 11th Sunday after Trinity**

11.00 Benefice Service at Bighton

**Every Thursday**

09.00 Morning Prayer



### BIGHTON All Saints

**Sunday 3 August: 7th Sunday after Trinity**

11.00 *No service*

**Sunday 10 August : 8th Sunday after Trinity**

11.00 Morning Prayer

**Sunday 17 August: 9th Sunday after Trinity**

11.00 Morning Prayer

**Sunday 24 August: 10th Sunday after Trinity**

11.00 Parish Communion

**Sunday 31 August: 11th Sunday after Trinity**

11.00 Benefice Service

**Every Monday**

09.00 Morning Prayer

# Calendar

- ♦ June 28th                    2.00pm **Unless:** fun with the Lorax @ St John's
- ♦ June 29th                    10.00am Garden and Green Fair in Broad Street
- ♦ July 2nd                      7.30pm WI Women in Saxon & Viking Culture @ St Gregory's
- ♦ July 4th to 6th              10.00 am Alresford Art Annual Exhibition
- ♦ July 8th                      10.00 am Coffee, Cake and Chat @ St John's
- ♦ July 11th                    Summer Wine Evening by Twinning Association
- ♦ July 11th                    7.00pm Historical Insights with Alastair Bruce @ St Peter's Ovington.
- ♦ July 12th                    7.30pm Southern Voice Canticles of Light at St John's Church
- ♦ July 13th                    9.30am Breakfast Church @ St John's
- ♦ July 16th                    7.30 Hist and Lit @ St Gregory's Those Magnificent Women in their Flyting Machines.
- ♦ July 18th                    12 noon Table talk @ St John's
- ♦ July 18th                    7.30pm Summer Gospel Concert @ St John's
- ♦ July 19th                    2.30 pm Solos Sunday Tea
- ♦ July 23rd                    2.00pm Book Group @ St John's
- ♦ July 26th                    10am Alresford Fete and Jumble Sale
- ♦ August 5th to 10th        10am Days Out With Thomas New Alresford Station
- ♦ August 15th                12 noon Table talk
- ♦ August 17th                2.30pm Solos Sunday Tea
- ♦ August 20th                7.30 Hist and Lit @St Gregory's Richard III and his Mother
- ♦ August 25th                12 noon. Heritage Open Day—Eel House, Alresford Museum and Medieval Bridge
- ♦ Sept 6th                    8.30am Alresford Agricultural Show
- ♦ Sept 13th                    10 am Churches Together in Alresford Awayday in Alresford Place
- ♦ Sept 14th                    Brighton Fete Provisional Date
- ♦ Sept 25th                    6.30pm Wine Tasting for Broadlands Equine Centre RDA

## And some thoughts on power to consider

Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man's character, give him power. - *Abraham Lincoln*

Only those who do not desire power are fit to hold it. - *Plato*

It's dangerous to try and be number one, because it's next to nothing. - *Anon*



## The Rector



I'm sure you have heard the saying

'If you want to make God laugh, tell Him your plans'

We might want to be in control of our lives, we might think we are in control of our lives, but the truth is that it is God who plans the path our life will take.

Proverbs 16 clearly lays out the relationship between our plans and God's involvement or response to those plans!

God knows what is best for us, always. We often will pray and ask God for something, but our prayer will be answered in a completely different and unexpected way. This is because God has the whole picture of our lives and knows what is better for us. Of course we all make decisions all day everyday and this makes us feel as if we are in control, but if we go the wrong way our Heavenly Father will find a way to steer us back to where we should be.

As I write this we have just celebrated Pentecost, sometimes this festival is known as the birthday of the church. It is a time when we think about the Holy Spirit. Jesus died on the cross but rose again and saved us from our sins. But Jesus also promised that he would send a helper. That helper is the Holy Spirit and it is the Holy Spirit who will guide us throughout our lives.

In order for us to be guided by the Holy Spirit we need to submit to God's will. This is the tricky bit.

Submitting to the Holy Spirit means allowing the Spirit's influence to guide our thoughts, words, and actions, empowering us to live a life aligned with God's will. It involves giving the Holy Spirit complete control of our life and trusting His leadership, even when it may not align with our own preferences or plans.

Sometimes following God's plan for us is scary, and it really is a leap of faith to follow wherever God is leading us. I was given a bible verse by a friend some years ago when I was feeling called to ordination. Joshua 1:9 *I hereby command you: be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.*

This verse has been with me on many occasions in the last few years and has encouraged and strengthened me.



Have you let go? Have you submitted to God? Will you submit and allow God to direct you, guide you, encourage you and comfort you?



Jeremiah 29:11 tells us *For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.*

God's plans for us are perfect, and His love for us is unwavering. This is not a promise of material wealth or a life free of challenges; rather, it is a promise of growth, peace, and spiritual well-being.



Even when trials come our way, we can rest in the knowledge that God permits them for our ultimate good. As Romans 8:28 reminds us, "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose." His plans may take us through dark valleys, but those valleys often lead to greater spiritual heights.

In moments of doubt, let us remember that God’s plans are always for our good, His love is always steadfast, and His promises are always true.

May we trust Him with our whole hearts, seek Him with all our souls, and walk confidently in the hope and future He has prepared for us.

Blessings

**Revd.Heather**

### Our Church Finances – an update     July 2025

After our accounts were approved at the APCM in April, it seemed a good time to let you know how our finances are doing.

In short, although our regular giving was down compared to previous years, your continued generosity, together with some very kind legacies, means that we overspent by £10,000 in 2024. To balance the books, we had to withdraw this amount from our reserves. While £10,000 is still a great deal of money, when we dig a bit deeper into the reasons, the situation is slowly improving.


Year	Income	Expenditure	Overspend
2022	£152,000	£189,000	£37,000
2023	£162,000	£179,000	£17,000
2024	£170,000	£180,000	£ 10,000

In fact, we would have just about broken even last year except for using money from one of our legacies to buy the new chairs.

It is very much the aim of the PCC for our income to balance with our expenditure in the next 2 years. Then we can keep our reserves to fund our mission work and for emergencies.

Thank you for your giving, your fund raising and all your help with collecting gift aid and with banking the money every week. And a special mention to Jane and Penny who do so much. It really is a team effort.

**Jon Whale**



**ST JOHN'S CAFE at the Watercress Festival on Sunday 18th May.**

For those who haven't heard we took the amazing sum of £3,415. The Co-ordinating Team would like to thank everyone who helped in any way. The Cafe was a tremendous collaborative effort and many hands did make light work (over 70 volunteers on the day plus all those who donated cakes) - it wouldn't have been the success it was without all your wonderful help. **THANKYOU!**

# Church Events and Activities

11:00am - 12:00pm,  
Sun 6th July & 3rd August  
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

13th July  
10th August

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.

+

WEDNESDAY  
MIDWEEK  
HOLY COMMUNION

10am  
St. John's, Alresford

*An oasis of calm  
during the busy week.*

Coffee, cake and  
fellowship following  
the service.

## 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!

13th July

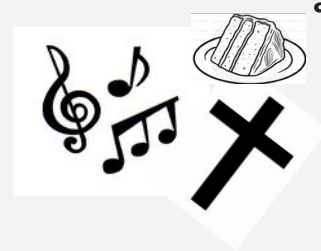
10th August

@ 6pm

St. John's

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

Come early and enjoy and some cake.



at 5.45 tea

### 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**

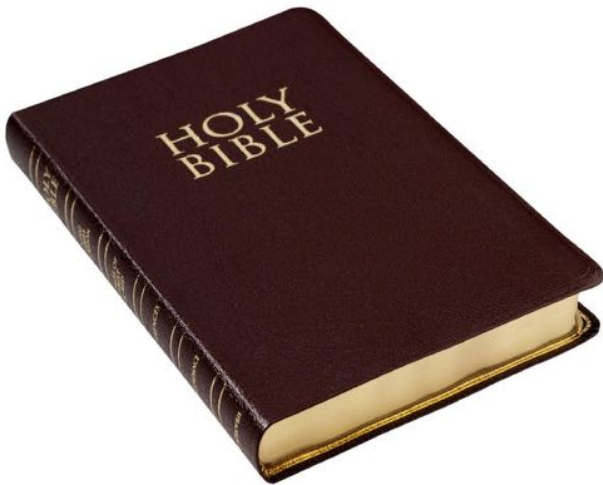
**10.45AM**

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



## Bible Study

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



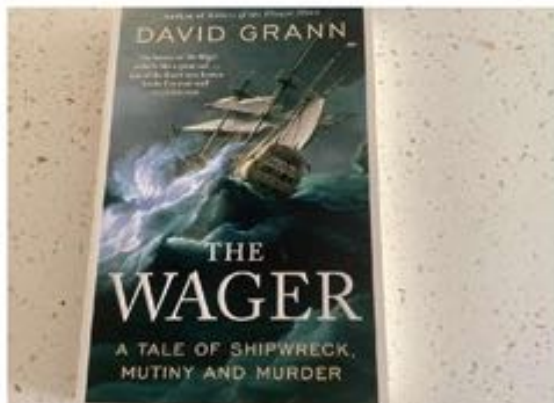
## St John's Book Group

Our next meeting is on **Wednesday July 23<sup>rd</sup> 2pm**

We will be discussing  
**The Wager by David Grann**

For details of the location please  
contact: Hilary Carr 735279  
[hilarycarr1@gmail.com](mailto:hilarycarr1@gmail.com)

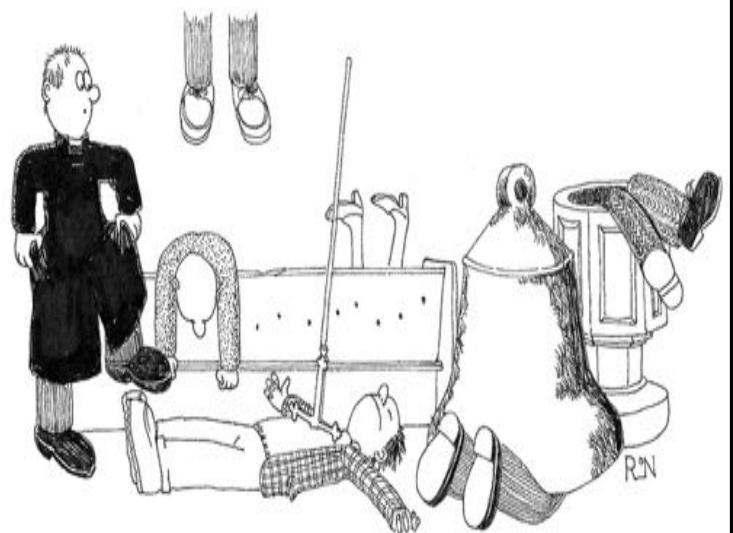
New members are always welcome.



Churches Together in Alresford Awayday  
Saturday 13th September 10-4  
Old Alresford Place, Old Alresford.

10-1 guest speaker  
1-2 lunch  
2-2.30 AGM  
2-30 -3.30 Celebration service  
3.30- 4 tea, cake and fun in the garden

ALL Welcome for the whole day or just some of it.



It was a normal Sunday Morning in Midsomer Parish Church

## 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 18th July**

**Friday 15th August**

**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**

**The more the merrier!**



**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 20th July & 17th August**

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



### 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.

# Community Events

ALRESFORD & DISTRICT COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION  
FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

**FRIDAY MORNINGS  
AT YOUR  
COMMUNITY CENTRE**



**TEA/COFFEE & BISCUITS**

**WEEKLY MEAT RAFFLE  
BOOK SALE  
EGGS LOCAL PRODUCE**

Proceeds for the maintenance of Alresford Community Centre, Charity No. 201122

 **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.**

## 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.**



## ALRESFORD ART SOCIETY

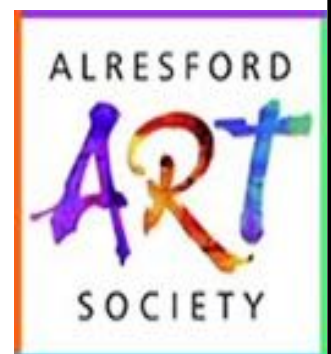
### Annual Exhibition

Friday 4th & Saturday 5th  
July 10-5

Sunday 6th July 10-4

Admission free

Over 100 original works for  
sale



[www.artsociety.alresford.org](http://www.artsociety.alresford.org)







# SUMMER GOSPEL CONCERT

GOSPEL COLLECTIVE ALRESFORD  
GOSPEL COLLECTIVE FARNHAM  
THE WEY COMMUNITY GOSPEL CHOIR

£10 PER ADULT



SCAN THE QR CODE FOR A TICKET OR  
VISIT [GOSPELCOLLECTIVE.CO.UK](http://GOSPELCOLLECTIVE.CO.UK)

## 18 JULY '25

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, ALRESFORD  
7.30PM

THE WEY COMMUNITY GOSPEL CHOIR

The Sunshine Singers of Sun Hill Infants and Juniors  
invite you to a concert performance of



by Mark, Helen & Naomi Johnson. Script by Sue Langwade © Out of the Ark Music

**Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> July 4.00pm**

**St John's Church Alresford**

**Tea and cake from 3pm in JPH**

**Tickets: £5 per adult / £2.50 Secondary Age Pupils**

**Primary Age Pupils Free - book Ticket in ADVANCE**

**TICKETS from Rosie Waring Green – [rosie@22rwg.co.uk](mailto:rosie@22rwg.co.uk)**

**Tel: 07891120662 / 2, Grange Road, Alresford**

**Cash or BACS**

**Payment details - Ian Waring Green, Lloyds Bank Alresford  
Sort code 309971 Acc Number 7784 0760**



NEW ALRESFORD  
WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

**Next Meeting**  
**Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July**  
**Women in the Saxon and**  
**Viking cultures in Britain**  
**A talk by Lynsey Nowik**



**Meeting starts at 7.30pm**  
**At St Gregory's Church Hall,**  
**1 Grange Road**  
**SO24 9HD**

**Visitors very welcome- please come and join us**  
**For further information contact**  
**Sue Dinnis 01962 732309**  
**Jude Cowen 01962 738755**



**ALRESFORD FETE & JUMBLE SALE**  
*Saturday 16th July*  
**10AM-4PM**

**Craft stalls & local businesses**  
**Food, drink, fun & games**  
**jumble stalls & garage sales**  
**Fun for all the family!**

**ALL PROCEEDS GO TO LOCAL SCHOOLS**  
\*Sun Hill infants & juniors, Ropley, Chertson, Itchen Abbas  
£10 to have a stall, £1 for stall map  
Welcome to all from surrounding villages too,  
if you have a friend or family in Alresford, ask them  
if you can use their driveway -  
Maps will be available nearer the time.

Call or text Becky on **07920 427 776** for further information



**SOUTHERN VOICES**  
Jamal Sutton, Director

**Saturday 12th July - 7:30pm**  
St John's Church, New Alresford

**Bob Chilcott:** *Canticles of Light*  
**Morten Lauridsen:** *Lux Aeterna*  
accompanied by **Southern Voices Consort**

Part songs by **Finzi** and **Whitacre**,  
folk songs settings by **Chilcott**

*Canticles of Light*

Book now  [southernvoices.co.uk](https://southernvoices.co.uk)  
0333 666 3366  
booking fees apply registered charity 1086868

**Tickets: £18**  
ages 21 and under: £10

## Southern Voices – Summer Concert in Alresford

A fabulous evening of choral music with instruments and tubular bells!

A varied midsummer programme, evoking all the joy of an English high summer with songs by **Gerald Finzi** and follows with a fun mix including: an Appalachian spiritual *As I went down to the river to pray*, an energetic piece by American composer **Eric Whitacre** and three highly entertaining arrangements by **Bob Chilcott** including a traditional Newfoundland fishing song with a dizzying mix of vocal spaghetti!

At the heart of the programme are two modern classics: *The Canticles of Light* by **Bob Chilcott** (and *Lux Aeterna* (eternal light) by **Morten Lauridsen**, with all his sumptuous, signature harmonies. Full programme at: [www.southernvoices.co.uk](https://www.southernvoices.co.uk)



### Regular Activities at Alresford Library

**Stay and Play** Tuesdays 1.15pm - 2.30pm  
A free drop-in play session with toys and games.  
For under 5s. Suggested donation £1

**Befriend the End** First Wednesday of the month  
Informal group for those with questions about death and dying. 2pm-3pm  
contact@befriend.co.uk

**Rhymetime** Thursdays 11.15am - 11.45am  
Nursery rhymes for under 5s. Stick around for play afterwards 11.45-12.00

**Knit & Knatter** Fridays 2pm-4pm  
Bring your own knitting/crochet and enjoy great company

**Construction Club** Saturdays 10am-12pm  
Free club for budding builders to get creative with Lego. For over 4s. Suggested donation £1

**Children's Crafts** Saturdays 10am-1pm  
Join us each week for a different children's craft activity. £1/child

**Toddler Time** Last Saturday of the month 10.30-11am  
Come along for some interactive play and stories  
Free drop-in for under 5s and their grownups.

 @hampshirelibraries [hants.gov.uk/library](https://hants.gov.uk/library)



**GARDEN & GREEN fair**

JOIN US ON BROAD STREET  
ALRESFORD

**Sun 29 June | 10am-3pm**

 **new leaf**  
CRAFTS  
FOOD & DRINK  
PLANTS & SEEDS  
BICYCLE REPAIRS  
LOCAL PRODUCERS  
COMMUNITY GROUPS

 **TOWN TRUST**

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**WHEN?** - - - - - **Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> June**

**WHERE?** - - - - - **St John's Church**

**WHAT time?** - - - - - **2 pm — 4 pm**

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**[andy@wilcan.co.uk](mailto:andy@wilcan.co.uk)**



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# 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

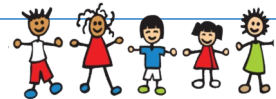
Youth Group Y7 upwards

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



We run full day activity camps during the school holidays for children aged 5-12. Children can sign up for one day or multiple days, the woods offer something different every day!

<https://hampshirebushcraft.com>

## 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  
[helio@timuffindell.co.uk](mailto:helio@timuffindell.co.uk)

[soulchildrenuk.com](http://soulchildrenuk.com)





## **Volunteers needed**

### **Blind Veterans UK**

We support anyone who has served in the forces, or who has done National Service, and is now living with significant sight loss.

We have a veteran who lives in Alresford who would love to have a volunteer who could visit her on a regular basis, helping to reduce the feelings of loneliness. If so please follow this link, [www.volunteer.blindveterans.org.uk/opportunities/3353-home-visitor-alresford-2019-03-18](http://www.volunteer.blindveterans.org.uk/opportunities/3353-home-visitor-alresford-2019-03-18)

### **Keeping the Churchyard looking good.**

You may not be aware that the Churchyard is entirely maintained by a team of volunteers from all sections of the community. Some give a lot of time to mow large areas of grass, others help by picking up dead flowers, litter, etc We need your help whether it be just for 10 minutes now and again or to undertake a regular task If you feel you have any time free, no matter how little, we would be very pleased to have your help.

Benefice Administrator, 01962 733545 or [email](#):

### **New Alresford Town Trustees**

#### **DRIVERS WANTED FOR THE ALRESFORD MINI-BUS**

The bus is owned and operated by the Town Trustees to provide a valuable service for the elderly and infirm residents of Alresford. The service provided includes shopping trips as well as trips to Winchester and Alton. During the summer months a series of afternoon and evening leisure drives take place. Volunteers drive the bus and the Town Trustees are looking for more drivers who are over 21 years of age with a full driving licence and some spare time.

Trust Clerk, The Old Fire Station, 54 Broad Street, Alresford, SO24 9AN or [Trust Clerk](#)

### **ALRESFORD AND DISTRICT VOLUNTARY CARE GROUP**

We are in desperate need of further volunteer drivers to come forward, mileage is paid.

Beryl Yeldham on 01962 732695



At **Ovington Fete** there was a stand for Broadlands (with a pony Barney). This is a charity which uses horses and ponies to help people especially disabled children (they are affiliated with Riding for the Disabled). Like all charities they are in need of funds and volunteers.



RDA Application Information  
 RDA Group Name - Broadlands Equine Therapy & RDA  
 Charity Number - 117098  
 Group Contact Name - Paige Parsons  
 Contact Address - Lower Paice Lane, Medstead,  
 GU34 5PX  
 Contact Email Address -  
[office@broadlandsgrouprda.org.uk](mailto:office@broadlandsgrouprda.org.uk)

Contact Telephone Number - 01420  
 375767



Autumn Wine Tasting

In aid of Broadlands

25th September

6.30pm for 7.00pm

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*Wine and cheese  
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[www.broadlandsgrouprda.org.uk/event](http://www.broadlandsgrouprda.org.uk/event)



## Alresford Methodist Church

**7<sup>th</sup> July – Memory Lane Café (table games and community singing)**

**4<sup>th</sup> August – Memory Lane Café (The theme is weddings)**

The Monday Memory Café was initially set up with the specific purpose of supporting those suffering memory loss and their carers. However, we also welcome anyone who finds life a little lonely and would therefore welcome an additional social opportunity in their diary. If you would like to join us, you will find a warm welcome awaiting you. Each month we have a different theme to focus on. 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.

**5<sup>th</sup> July and 2<sup>nd</sup> August - Bacon Butties**

The first Saturday of each month is a definite date for your diary! 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.



**6<sup>th</sup> July – Music for a Summer Evening**

*The Candover Valley Choir* will be giving a summer concert at St. John's Church Northington. Starting at 6.30pm, a varied programme promises entertainment "from the sublime to the ridiculous!"

Tickets £10 at the door (cash only and under 18's free) include a glass of fruit punch and home-made biscuits. Proceeds are in aid of Alresford Methodist Church and St John's Church Northington.

**10<sup>th</sup> July and 14<sup>th</sup> August - Women's Fellowship**

The 'Women's Fellowship' group will meet in the church hall at 2.30pm. The guest speaker in July will be Derrick Speed. The talk will be followed with tea and cake. A warm welcome is extended to everyone.

**19<sup>th</sup> July and 16<sup>th</sup> August – 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. The written prayers that have been hung on our Prayer Tree are also included in our intercessions at this time. At the close of prayer time, we invite everyone to stay and chat over a coffee and biscuits in the coffee lounge.





# Bananas and Bees in Danger

## **Bananas could be lost to climate change, Christian Aid warns**

Bananas are in danger. Almost half of the world's banana-growing regions may be lost to climate change in the next 50 years, a new report has warned.

Bananas are the world's fourth most important food crop globally — but rising temperatures, droughts, and fungal infections are threatening where most of the world's crops grow, in Latin America and the Caribbean.

A recent study by Christian Aid found that 80 per cent of global banana exports come from this region, but that 60 per cent of the land currently used for the crop will be unsuitable, due to climate change, by 2080.

The director of policy and campaigns at Christian Aid, Osai Ojigbo, said: "Bananas are not just the world's favourite fruit, but they are also an essential food for millions of people. We need to wake up to the danger posed by climate change to this vital crop."

UK consumers eat more bananas than any other European country, eating on average about 85 bananas a year each.



## **Don't Step on a Bee Day – 10<sup>th</sup> July**

Have you ever wanted to step on a bee? Hopefully most of us haven't – but the eye-catching name of this annual event aims to remind people of how important bees are in our ecosystem, and of the need to promote their protection.

Don't Step on a Bee Day highlights the crucial role bees play in pollination, and also that their populations are declining, because of habitat loss, pesticides, and climate change.

If you want to help the bees, here is what you can do:

***Plant Bee-Friendly Flowers:*** Grow a variety of flowers in your garden that attract and support bees, such as lavender, sunflowers, and marigolds.

***Avoid Using Pesticides:*** Reduce or eliminate these in your garden, to create a safer environment for bees.

***Support Local Beekeepers:*** Purchase honey from local beekeepers, to help support sustainable beekeeping practices.

***Create a Bee Bath:*** Place a shallow dish of water with stones in your garden to provide bees with a safe place to drink.

***Educate Others:*** Share information about the importance of bees and how you protect them with friends, family, and on social media.



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# Gospel Music; the journey from West Africa to Alresford.



Gospel music is one of the most powerful musical traditions to emerge from West Africa through the African American experience in the United States. Rooted in the deep suffering of slavery and the enduring hope of Christian faith, gospel music began to take shape in the 19th century as enslaved Africans blended African rhythms, spirituals, and hymns to express sorrow, joy, resilience, and belief in divine deliverance. These “Spirituals” laid the foundation for what would become gospel music.

In the early 20th century, gospel evolved further through the influence of blues and jazz. A key figure in this transformation was Thomas A. Dorsey, known as the “Father of Gospel Music.” Once a blues musician, Dorsey began writing sacred songs with the emotional intensity and rhythmic drive of secular Black music. His compositions, like *Take My Hand, Precious Lord*, combined heartfelt lyrics with rich harmonies and a distinctive vocal style that has become synonymous with gospel.

By the mid-20th century, gospel music had become a major force in American culture, inspiring generations of singers such as Mahalia Jackson, Aretha Franklin, and later, contemporary artists like Kirk Franklin. It shaped soul, R&B, and pop music, leaving a profound mark on global musical traditions.



Gospel’s influence reached the UK through the Windrush generation and growing links between Black British communities and American culture. It flourished in churches and community choirs, especially in cities like London, Birmingham, and Manchester. The British gospel scene has produced renowned choirs like The London Community Gospel Choir and influenced mainstream artists such as Stormzy, who proudly weaves gospel sounds into his music.

Today, gospel is more than a musical style—it’s a living expression of faith, community, and hope that continues to bring people together across cultural lines in the UK and beyond.

Gospel music has reached Alresford, Hampshire. ‘Gospel Collective’ choir, led by Tim Uffindell is a community gospel choir open to anyone. Hosted by St. John’s Church, the choir sings a range of slow and upbeat gospel songs and focuses on vocal technique to create a true ‘gospel sound’. The choir also focuses heavily on fellowship and community. With social time and dinner provided at every rehearsal for the singers.

Singing in a choir is a powerful tool for wellness. Singing lowers cortisol, increases oxytocin and produces dopamine. Singing biochemically makes you happy! The joy of singing gospel music is that the harmonies are often very easy to pick up, and by teaching in the traditional ‘call and response’ method, you don’t have to be able to read music, and you learn everything by ear.

If you’re curious to find out more about singing gospel music in Alresford, get in touch with Tim at [office@gospelcollective.co.uk](mailto:office@gospelcollective.co.uk).





### 3<sup>rd</sup> July St Thomas the Apostle – confused and doubting



Thomas, one of Jesus' 12 apostles, was an impulsive, confused, honest sceptic. Jesus could understand and work with such a man. Thomas' impulsiveness was evident when Jesus prepared to visit Lazarus in Bethany. It was a dangerous trip to make, because of the Jews, but Thomas urged his fellow disciples: "Let us also go, that we may die with Him." (John 11:16) Instead, Jesus brought Lazarus back to life.

Thomas' confusion is shown in later talks with Jesus. He was not really sure where Jesus was going long-term (John 14:5). But Jesus accepted this confused commitment, and began to untangle it, patiently explaining: "I am going to my Father", and "No one comes unto the Father but by me."

Finally, Thomas' honest scepticism is revealed after the Resurrection, which he flatly refused to believe - unless he could touch the wounds of the risen Jesus. Sure enough, Jesus appears - but instead of scolding him, shows him the wounds. Thomas responds: "My Lord and my God" (John 20:26ff). So he is one of the first people to acknowledge that Jesus is not only the Messiah but also God.

Thus Doubting Thomas' honest doubts, turned to honest faith, have become a reassurance for thousands of men and women across the centuries, who also want to follow Jesus, but who require some proof of this amazing event - the Resurrection. In Doubting Thomas' complete affirmation of faith, after meeting the risen, crucified Christ, they can find support for their own faith.

Ancient legends tell how Thomas went on to India as a missionary. There are rumours that Thomas even built a palace for a king's daughter in India, and thus he is the patron saint of architects.

The Church of Southern India trace their history back to St Thomas and though many British missionaries in the 19C doubted this there is some good evidence that he did go to Muziris in Kerala in about AD 52.

Southern India was not as remote from the Holy Land and the Roman Empire as we sometimes think. The Romans traded there in the 1st century for spices and slaves. We also know there was a colony of Jews there so it is perfectly possible that St Thomas sailed to Karala on a Roman trading ship.



In the literature there is a consistent stream of accounts of Christianity in Southern India which speaks of Thomas as the founder from the 3rd century onwards and some of the accounts refer to Indian rulers whose archaeological records can be dated to the 1st century AD.

Finally the oral tradition of Southern India celebrates St Thomas as the founder and anthropologists have found that oral tradition is far more accurate than most people imagine.

So perhaps, like St Thomas, historians need to put their doubts aside and believe.



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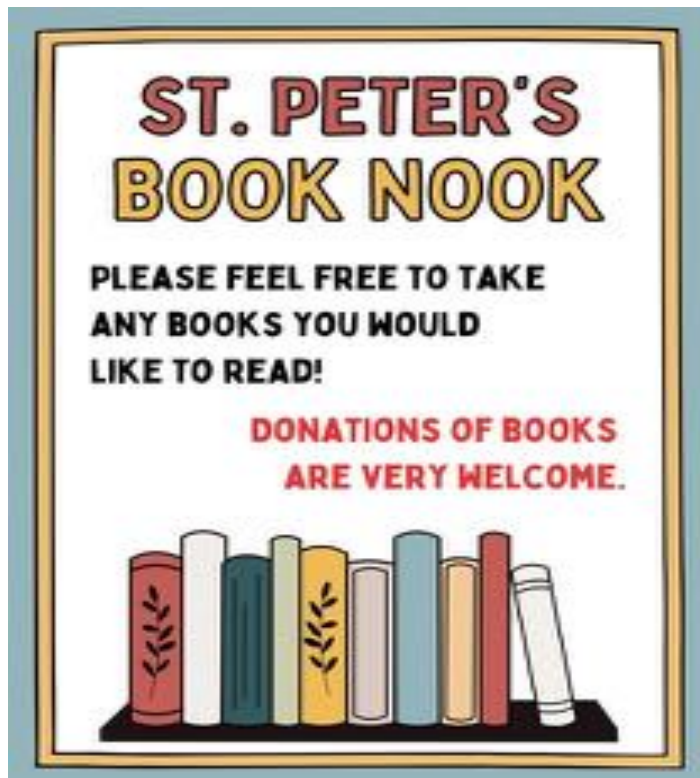
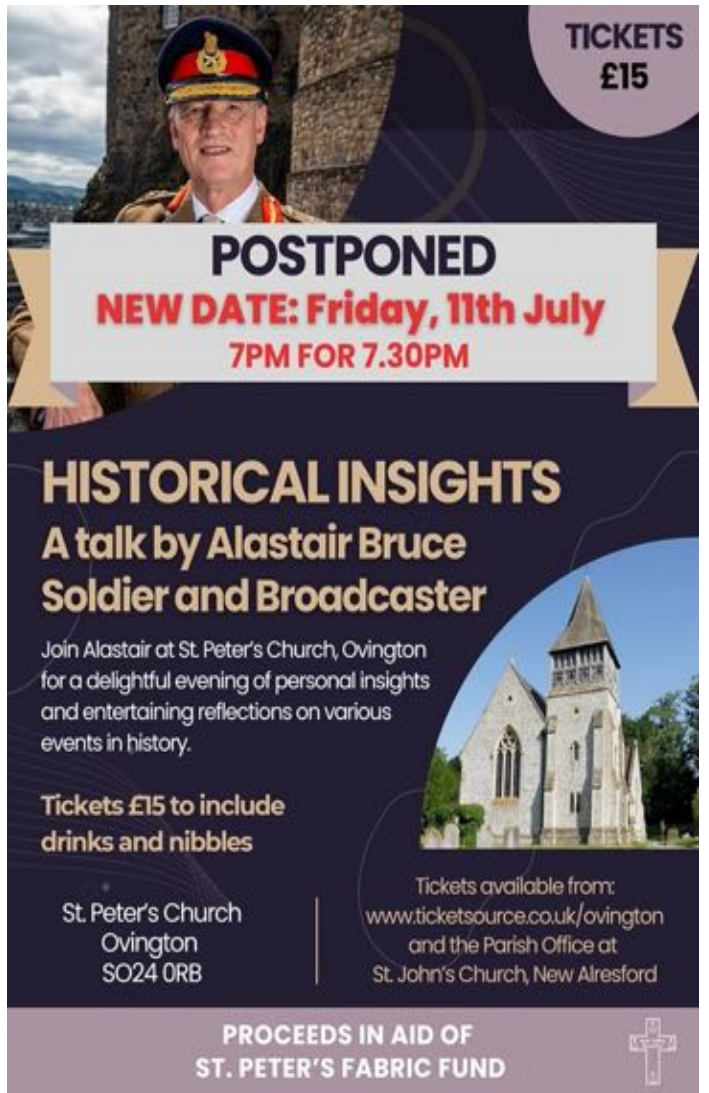
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# St Peter's Ovington



## Next Café Church 6th July





# Ovington and Itchen Stoke Village Fete





## St John's Patronal Festival

In the morning service there was the procession of symbols of some of what we do in St John's: Mothers' Union, pastoral care, cleaning, flowers, concern for the world, table talk etc (sorry not all the photos of symbols I took came out). In the afternoon we had cream tea with some lovely scones and then Songs of Praise with ten favourite hymns.





## News from Old Alresford

### Village Family Praise June 1st

The theme for our service was FRIENDSHIP. We read about Ruth and Naomi, David and Jonathan, Paul and Timothy and Jesus' friends, Martha, Mary, Peter and his disciples and the qualities needed to make good friendships. Everyone was given a bag labelled with a different ingredient needed to sustain friendships: trust, loyalty, kindness, humour, caring, empathy, sincerity etc. These were then poured into a large bowl and stirred to make a FRIENDSHIP SOUP. At the end of the service we shared the 'soup' (sweets) and everyone had a bag to take home to share with their friends. There was time to enjoy chatting over refreshments in the Mary Sumner chapel.



### Mondays @ 10 June 2nd

There was a lively gathering in the Bernard Clarke room. With plenty of toys for the under fives and coffee for everyone it was a very happy morning. Everyone is welcome. Just pop in on the first Monday of the month 10-12.



### Music for a Summer's Evening Friday 6th June



We were delighted to welcome Andrew Lumsden to St Mary's for a wonderful musical evening. Since leaving Winchester Cathedral in 2024, Andrew has been in great demand as a recitalist and choir trainer, and playing for services in cathedrals across the country. He has been to the USA twice, running a course for choir directors in New York and working with three cathedral choirs. With such a busy diary we were so lucky that Andrew could find space for Old



Alresford. So with all 100 tickets sold we were extremely fortunate to enjoy a super programme of organ music which began with the Toccata and Fugue in D minor BWV565 Bach and ended with Walton's majestic Crown Imperial. Andrew chose Andante in F K616 Mozart for his second piece and this was followed by Clair de Lune and Carillon de Westminster by Vierne. We were also treated to Elgar's Chanson de Matin and the Star Wars Suite by John Williams. After hearty, appreciative applause we enjoyed an encore of the theme music for Wimbledon in preparation for the tennis at SW19. Refreshments were served in the church and the audience enjoyed the chance to socialise and to meet and talk with Andrew.

The concert is part of our programme to raise the necessary funds to provide a toilet with disabled access and a small kitchen servery at the back of the church on the south side. We hope to have raised over £1,000 from this very happy and enjoyable musical evening.



### **Coming to Old Alresford Soon!**

Look out for a small yellow wheelie bin in the Car Park of the Village hall, We will soon be able to recycle aluminium drink cans and at the same time raise funds for a very good cause, the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance. Our bin will arrive soon. Please save your cans.

**Old Alresford Traditional Village Fair** Come and enjoy our splendid village fair in this beautiful setting. Why not take the Vintage bus ride from new Alresford station to the Village Green? **Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> June 1pm-4pm.** Delicious homemade teas, BBQ, Book Stall, Bric a Brac, Plants, Village Pantry, may be win £100 a Grand Raffle and be sure to visit the famous Old Alresford bottle stall. There will be lots of fun and games and sideshows. Bring your dog for the Dog Show and stay for the duck race on the Brook. Proceeds to be shared between The Christy Hall, St Mary's Church and Homestart.



We have raised a lot of money already (thanks to all who have contributed) but we still have a way to go to meet our target—so look out for further fund-raising events!

### OUR CHURCH

St Mary's is much loved both by members of the local community as well as by many further afield. The Mothers' Union was founded in this church and members from across the globe come to visit. It is also on the St James' Way, from Reading to Southampton, one of the UK Camino routes and many pilgrims call into the church to rest and have refreshment.

Services are held at St Mary's every week throughout the year. In addition, baptisms, weddings and funerals also take place. The church is also used regularly by local bellringers as a training and practice venue as well as before or after our services.

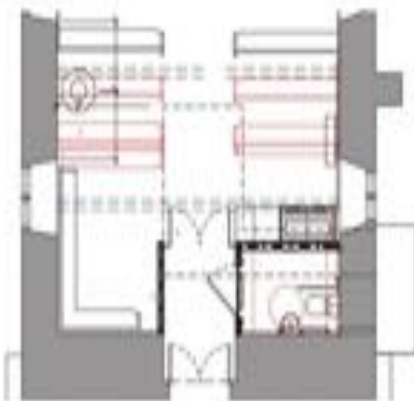


New accessible toilet facilities

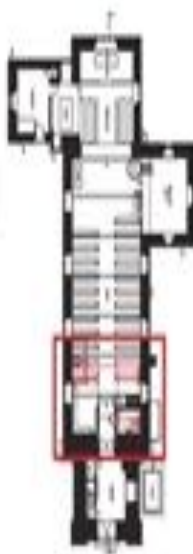
### OUR PLANS

We now have approval to put our hopes into reality. The font will be moved to the North side of the church, close to its current location. The new facilities will be within the existing church building and require only minimal change to the back of the nave.

We have started to raise the necessary funds to complete our project and are now looking for some grant funding as well as further local support.



Architect's drawings of planned works



### OUR HOPES

We wish to welcome and provide for all those who come here, whether from far afield or whether they are our neighbours.

To be able to do this, we are seeking to provide a disabled access toilet and a small kitchen servery at the back of the church on the south side.



New glass doored inner foyer and kitchen servery





# ALRESFORD BOWLING CLUB



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

Situated within walking distance of the town, this very friendly club is not only offering you two free trial sessions to come along and have a go, but as from 1 August membership will be half price! (Your membership will cease on 31 December 2025.)

Whether you are an experienced bowler or an absolute beginner, we have members who are only too willing to support and guide you through your bowling journey. Dress is informal (unless you wish to play in a match) and you only need a pair of flat soled shoes to get you started, as the club has bowls which you can use until you purchase your own. Roll-ups (practice sessions) 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. and 8.00 p.m. at a cost of £3 once a member.

If you would like more details please email Lindsey, Secretary: [alresfordbowls@gmail.com](mailto:alresfordbowls@gmail.com) she would love to hear from you. Please visit our website too for more information about the club, its history and sponsors: [www.alresfordbowlingclub.org.uk](http://www.alresfordbowlingclub.org.uk)

A warm welcome awaits!



Alresford Bowling Club is 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.

Please collect cold water run-off and use to water the garden, fill the kettle or flush the loo



Please help me & my friends by planting flowers that we love





## 15<sup>th</sup> July St Swithun (or Swithin) - saint for a rainy day

St Swithun is apparently the saint you can blame for rainy summers. It is said that if it rains on his special day, 15<sup>th</sup> July, it will then rain for 40 days after that. It all began when Swithun was made Bishop of Winchester in 852 by King Ethelwulf of Wessex. It was an important posting: Winchester was the capital of Wessex, and during the 10 years Swithun was there, Wessex became the most important kingdom of England.

During his life, instead of washing out people's summer holidays, and damping down their spirits, Swithun seems to have done a lot of good. He was famous for his charitable gifts and for his energy in getting churches built. He also supposed to have performed miracles including making good a basket of eggs for a poor women when muggers had destroyed them.

When he was dying in 862, he asked that he be buried in the cemetery of the Old Minster, just outside the west door so, according to legend, that people's feet and the rain might fall upon him. This was a sign of his humility.

If he had been left there in peace, who knows how many rainy summers the English may have been spared over the last 1000 years. But, no, it was decided to move Swithun. By now, the 960s, Winchester had become the first monastic cathedral chapter in England, and the newly installed monks wanted Swithun in the cathedral with them. So finally, on 15 July 971, his bones were dug up and Swithun was translated into the cathedral.

That same day many people claimed to have had miraculous cures. Certainly everyone got wet, for the heavens opened. The unusually heavy rain that day, and on the days following, was attributed to the power of St Swithun. There is a scientific basis to the weather pattern behind the legend of St. Swithun's day. Around the middle of July, the jet stream settles into a pattern which, in the majority of years, holds reasonably steady until the end of August. When the jet stream lies north of the British Isles then continental high pressure is able to move in; when it lies across or south of the British Isles, Arctic air and Atlantic weather systems predominate. The most false that the prediction has been, according to the Guinness Book of Records, was in 1924 when 13.5 hours of sunshine in London were followed by 30 of the next 40 days being wet, and in 1913 when a 15-hour rainstorm was followed by 30 dry days out of 40

Swithun was moved again in 1093, into the new Winchester cathedral. His shrine was a popular place of pilgrimage throughout the middle ages. There were many miracles in fact so many that the monks, who had to give thanks for each one, got tired and went on strike.

The shrine was destroyed during the Reformation and restored in 1962.

There are 58 ancient dedications to Swithun in England. And of course down the road we have St Swithun's School for Girls.

St. Swithun's day if thou dost rain  
For forty days it will remain  
St. Swithun's day if thou be fair  
For forty days 'twill rain nae mare



## 22<sup>nd</sup> July What do we really know about Mary Magdalene?

Fake news is not new. Perhaps one old example is the assertion that Mary Magdalene was a prostitute.

Back in the 6th Century, Pope Gregory is said to have confused her with two other women in the Bible.

It is possible he was trying to cut down the number of women saints as he said that the Mary of Bethany (sister of Lazarus and Martha) and the unidentified sinful woman who washed Jesus' feet were all the same women.



Other western medieval Bible scholars also attempted to name this unidentified sinful woman. As Mary Magdalene is mentioned in the next chapter, they regarded her as the same person! After this, many classical artists painted Mary in various states of undress, perpetuating a falsehood. At least in that was happened in the Western Church. The Eastern churches have never subscribed to this false hood as they regard Mary Magdalene as the Apostle to the Apostles as she took the first news of Jesus' resurrection to the twelve.

So what do we really know about Mary? The Gospels tell us that she came from Magdala, a town in Galilee, and Jesus healed her by casting out seven evil spirits. After this she followed Jesus, with other women, on His ministry providing resources. Later, Mary watched Jesus die on the cross, and having cared for His needs while He was alive, wanted to care for Him after His death.

It was when Mary went to anoint the body of Jesus at the tomb that the risen Jesus appeared to her. He told Mary to go to His disciples and tell them about His return to Heaven. She was obedient and became the first emissary of the resurrection. In those days, the witness of a woman was worthless. Despite ridicule, Mary had the courage to speak about Jesus in a place of great disbelief. We have to ask ourselves do we have the same courage as Mary? How prepared are we to stand our ground to share Jesus with others in the face of those who mock and scoff at us?

And before anyone starts thinking romantic ideas like in the Da Vinci code it was likely that all the women who were able to go around with Jesus, including Mary Magdalene, were past the age of child-bearing as in the sort of society that the Jews were then those were the only women who had that sort of freedom. She was also probably a wealthy widow which would have given her even more freedom. So all those paintings of a lovely girl are false.

Although we usually associate Mary with the Easter story, this month on 22<sup>nd</sup> July, the Church celebrates her Feast Day. In this snapshot of Mary's life we know she had experienced great distress and suffering. After Jesus healed her, Mary expressed her gratitude by being utterly committed and devoted to Him.



## August 6th The Transfiguration



The **Transfiguration of Jesus** is an event described in the New Testament where Jesus is transfigured and becomes radiant in glory upon a mountain. The Synoptic Gospels (Matthew 17:1–8, Mark 9:2–13, Luke 9:28–36) recount the occasion, and the Second Epistle of Peter also refers to it.

In the gospel accounts, Jesus and three of his apostles, perhaps his closest friends, Simon Peter, James, and John, go to a mountain (later referred to as the Mount of Transfiguration) to pray. On the mountaintop, Jesus begins to shine with bright rays of light. Then the Old Testament figures Moses and Elijah appear, and he speaks with them. Moses represents the Law and Elijah the prophets, respectively. Jesus is then called "Son" by the voice of God the Father, as in the Baptism of Jesus.

Peter in his usual 'foot in mouth' way gabbles on about building booths as the Jews did at their festival of Sukkot., which in one way is quite comic but in another way shows how gob-smacked the disciples were at such an amazing vision. And then after this epitome of spiritual experience they go back down the mountain to the banality of their everyday lives but they were changed. They had seen Jesus as in one way he really is not just human but divine. And they need this experience as they move on to Jesus' being persecuted, arrested and killed. And the fact he has Moses and Elijah on his right and his left affirms that he is fulfilling the Old Testament. He is the Messiah.

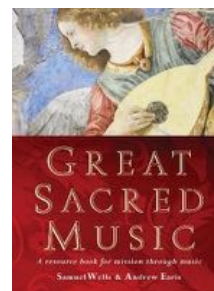
The transfiguration is one of the great milestones in Jesus' life (the others being his baptism, crucifixion, resurrection and ascension).



## Two Book Reviews

### **Great Sacred Music – a resource book for mission through music**

**By Samuel Wells & Andrew Earis, Canterbury Press, £18.99**



*Great Sacred Music*, a free lunchtime event of spoken word and music for choirs and congregations, is a regular feature of the life and witness of St Martin-in-the-Fields.

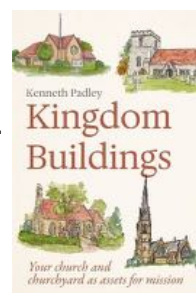
Each week, a themed programme is offered which combines music with stories of how the pieces came to be written and some reflections on the theme. As well as a celebration of music, it has proved to be instrumental in the mission of St Martin's, attracting many people to the church.

*Great Sacred Music* offers 52 complete and ready-to-use choral music-themed programmes for occasional celebrations in local churches, or as an alternative to evensong. All the sheet music chosen is available from the RSCM, or recordings can be downloaded from YouTube for churches which do not have choirs. Scripts about the music are included.

*Great Sacred Music* could support the missional work of your church, by drawing in people who would not ordinarily attend a service, but who still enjoy its rich musical heritage.

### **Kingdom Buildings - your church and churchyard as assets for mission**

**By Kenneth Padley, Canterbury Press, £20**



Kingdom Buildings sees the potential of church buildings and grounds as tools for mission and growth. Too often seen as burdens, this practical guide helps church communities rediscover them as gifts – as spaces that can enrich both congregational life and the wider community.

Blending theology, ecclesiology and hands-on advice, Kingdom Buildings offers practical steps with how to tackle even the most daunting challenges. Small, affordable changes can spark momentum and create lasting impact, while making wise, long-term decisions can be for the good of future generations.

It's all there in this book: planning permissions, welcome signs, unstaffed opening, accessibility, carbon reduction, ecological stewardship, heating, lighting, solar panels, EV charging, community spaces, toilets, kitchenettes, cafes, children's corners, church halls, and how to transform your churchyard from a jungle to a sacred space.

## **Be Prepared for Crises**

I am sure we have all seen the empty supermarket shelves as a result of cyber attacks and it is likely that these attacks may continue. They may not only attack the food supply but also the computers that control our power stations, water plants and other essential infrastructures. Also we all know the problems with lack of water with climate change and an increasing population.

We also all remember the problems with the Covid epidemic and this scenario could be repeated with another virus. And, without being a scare monger we live in a world of increasing tension so the possibility of war which was remote has come closer. So we need to prepare.

Recently at deanery synod we had a talk from an army chaplain about being ready for war and other emergencies. The first thing he said was in fact comforting—that there are preparations being made with stores of food, emergency generators and so on but he also said that as individuals and churches we need to prepare. He suggested that all households should have a week's supply of food, toiletries, medical supplies and water to last us until the government's emergency plans can kick in.

He also said that if war came—and it is still a fairly remote possibility—it will come in the form cyber attacks, propaganda and drones.

The Red Cross do a list of supplies for emergencies. This doesn't just cover extreme events like war or pandemics but short term difficulties such as power cuts (remember what happened in Spain a couple of months ago?)

- Have a paper copy of essential information as your computer may not be working
- Battery operated torches and spare batteries. Also consider a wind-up torch as well.
- Battery operated radio and spare batteries. Again consider a wind-up radio
- A first aid kit and essential medicines including your prescription medicine
- Hygiene supplies—toilet paper, bucket, bin bags, disinfectant, soap, toothpaste etc
- A week's food that is ready-to-eat and does not need cooking.
- A camping stove with sufficient fuel and a kettle so you can make a hot drink.
- A week's supply of bottled water enough to drink and essential washing—20 litres per person
- Copies of important documents such as birth certificates, passports, insurance policies, copies of prescriptions. Keep them in a waterproof bag.
- Back-up copies of all that is important on your computer/tablet/phone
- A basic tool /repair kit including things like cable ties, duct tape, safety pins as well as more traditional tools
- Paper and pencil
- Remember to think about what your baby or pet needs as well
- Spare keys to your home and car
- Spare glasses or contact lenses.

**In the meantime let us pray that none of this will ever be needed.**



## Diamond Ring

By *Elizabeth Johnson née Rogers*

St Mary the Virgin Church in the tiny village of Little Chart, situated about five miles north-West of Ashford in Kent, is where Roger and I were married 60 years again on June 12th, 1965



The church was just nine years old then, a replacement for the medieval one which was destroyed by a “doodlebug”, a flying bomb, on August 16th 1944. All that remains now of the Kentish Ragstone building is a romantic-looking ruined tower and part of the East Wall, still standing a mile away from the village.

A decision was made in 1953 to build a replacement church not on the old site but opposite The Swan Pub in the heart of the village in a corner of parkland.

Some of the beautiful monuments to the Darell family, dating from 1509, and the font were rescued from the ruins and were re-erected in the new church. The Darells were a Catholic family and had their own chapel within the old church (as in Tichborne). This was not replicated in the new church.

The six bells were saved and stored. Unfortunately, one of the bells was stolen during these ten years.

Finally, Taylors of Loughborough were contracted to carry out the job of installing a ring of bells. By re-casting 5 bells into 6, replicating the inscription on the old, a lovely little ring came to life.

With the prospect of a new church and a new peal of bells, Joseph Batchelor, owner of the specialist paper mill in the village, set about recruiting and teaching new ringers. I was 14 at the time, the perfect age to learn. I first touched a bell rope on May 11th 1956 at Egerton under the strict eye of Alex Waddington until the Little Chart bells were ready.

On September 29th 1956 the new church was complete. The Archbishop of Canterbury, Geoffrey Fisher, consecrated the building. I had the very special privilege to be one of the six ringers who sounded the bells for the first time as the archbishop signed and placed the sentences of consecration on the altar.

The whole service was immensely moving with so many symbolic acts; from the formal procession of choir and clergy round the outside of the church led by the Archbishop, his knocking here times on the closed south door with his crozier, blessing the font (retrieved from the old church), hallowing the altar, made by a local craftsman, receiving the communion silver and bible to the acceptance of a mallet and chisel from the Master mason to mark on stone the cross of consecration.

Our marriage of sixty years has fared better than the church, which has been designated a 'closed church'. A victim of waning congregation and being one of the seven others in the group of parishes.

An immediate post-war build, the lack of good materials had made the building difficult to heat and maintain, an impossible to repurpose.

My ringing career has spanned nearly seventy years, a break while I was training as a physio in London, then bringing up two boys. Since then, I have clocked up 45 years at St Johns' New Alresford, not quite as active as in the 1980s and 1990s but still with the same priority of ringing for services and church events.

Roger has never learnt to ring but always supported my ringing. Joining many ringing tours in the UK and around the world. Steam trains and an allotment are his interests. The aircraft industry was where he started his career—DeHavillands then Hawker Siddley in Hatfield. A job at Lancing Bagnall in Basingstoke meant we moved to Alresford in 1970. The AA was his final job.

A lasting marriage based on love, sharing and tolerance. We have experienced the joys of children and the heartbreak of losing our son, Andrew, last year. However with our four wonderful grandchildren, son Martin and Daughter-in-law, Theo, not forgetting all our many friends in Alresford we hope to celebrate a few more anniversaries.

We were honoured with a card from the King, a peal of Grandsire Caters at Bishopstoke on June 11, a hand peal of 5060 Plain Bob Major in our home on June 12th, and a quarter peal of Diamond Anniversary Doubles at Elsham in Lincolnshire.

So many great friends, so many happy memories but still sadness son Andrew is not here to celebrate with us.





## **JOAN HOLLAND**



Joan was a wife, a mother, a grandmother and friend. She was an only child and lived almost her entire life in Alresford - apart from a brief time in Four Marks. Her working life began as a hair-dresser, then as an assistant in County News, and later in the town pharmacy.

Joan's first husband, and father of her two children Reece and Naomi, was Alan, who died in a tragic car accident in 1998.

Joan and Monty had known each other for over 55 years and there had been numerous proposals in the last four years. When they announced to family and friends that they were getting married there was a lot of surprise - not least from Monty! Last October saw the joyful occasion of their marriage in St John's church. It was the most beautiful day and they both looked radiant.

Joan loved going out with Monty to all sorts of places, but particularly Lyme Regis and the

Cotswolds. She collected anything to do with

Micky Mouse or Wallace and Gromit. She loved reading and shopping, and she loved their holidays in Devon. She adored her granddaughters, Ellie and Mo.

Joan was very caring and would do anything for anybody. She was a good cook and thoroughly looked after Monty. Shortly after she died a mysterious parcel arrived addressed to Monty. It was a trolley to help him around the house and Joan must have ordered it before the accident. She was thinking of Monty and getting him something that he would find useful.

Monty and Joan only had four months of married life as husband and wife, but it was the most joyful time for them both. There was a new lightness in Joan, a real aura of happiness.

Joan had a strong faith which helped her to cope with the tragic loss in her life, not just of her first husband, but also the devastating loss of her grandson Ryan, at the age of 12.

# Duck Races



Duck Races are now very popular as fund-raisers. And in case any reader does not know these are not real ducks (so animal rights people may not worry) but rubber ducks. No-one is quite sure where and when the first rubber duck race took place. Some say Ottawa in Canada in 1987 but Dyserth in Wales claim that their first race was in 1980.

One legend has it that it was inspired by someone watching their twins race their rubber ducks in the bath when they were supposed to be washing themselves.

The biggest rubber duck race to date was on the River Thames in London on 31 August 20008. It was called the Great British Duck Race with 250, 0000 blue rubber duck in use.



Now of course their use as enjoyable fund raisers is worldwide. Nowadays the ducks are plastic not rubber.



The Alresford Duck Race—organised by the Pigs—seems to have begun in 1993 and was held in the Globe's back garden with the ducks racing on Alresford Pond. But the event grew and outgrew the Globe so in 2001 George and Janette Hollingbery generously offered their home—Weir House where the event has been enjoyed ever since.

32 brightly coloured plastic ducks are 'raced' down the river cheered on by a frenzied crowd with all the action covered by our race commentator. You can place a bet at the Betting Tent with backers of 1st & 2nd place ducks winning a cash prize. All the ducks and races are sponsored by local businesses or families. And as at many other racing events there is lots of other activities and stalls to enjoy.





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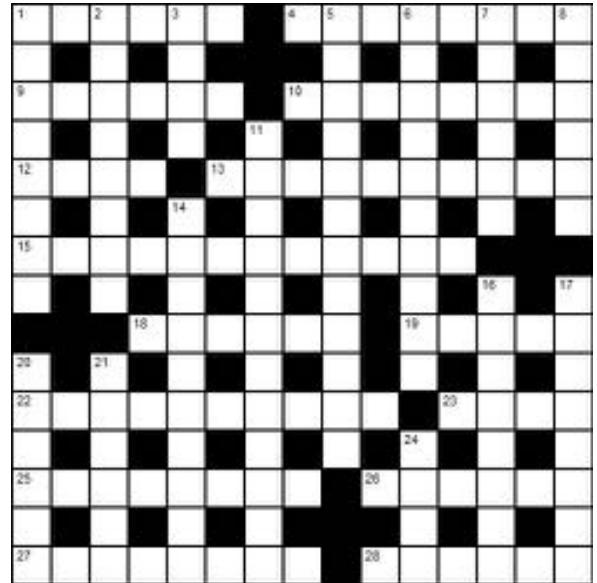
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# Puzzles

## Across

- 1 Young sheep, say, initially after such first fruits festival (6)
- 4 Wheat destroyed by hail and hot weather (4,4)
- 9 Lorax's cryptic message for planet saving (6)
- 10 Fearful, with missing millions fast accumulating? (8)
- 12 Chaps may get burnt with fireworks (4)
- 13 Reach GIs in manoeuvres, dismissing disgraced officers (10)
- 15 Old people swimming near Shetland (12)
- 18 Go aboard old ship after half them British (6)
- 19 Money returned to the south for implements (5)
- 22 The hot and cold shoe shuffle? (3,7)
- 23 Laid-back face (4)
- 25 Oceans beg for spindrift (3,5)
- 26 Begin fantasy holding little one (6)
- 27 Blue study getting Edward depressed (8)
- 28 Pursued for being pure, say (6)

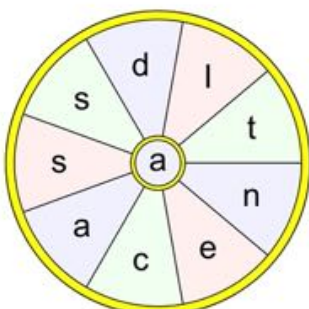


## Down

- 1 Circle in thrusting then reclining comfortably (8)
- 2 Bar for the stars? (5,3)
- 3 Place in church programmes for audience (4)
- 5 Heart broken, a monarch's after quiet. Shattering importance (12)
- 6 Heart broken, monarch's touring quiet area of great importance (10)
- 7 Crime stories elsewhere (6)
- 8 Take part in English season (6)
- 11 Patrick endlessly consumed around bridge for fatherly rule (12)
- 14 First man's forbidden fruit gives lump in the throat (10)
- 16 Leaves with dry grasses fringe round cap (8)
- 17 One too tardy before journalist quarantined. (8)
- 20 Still holy one exactly the same (6)
- 21 Rise country to the hills (6)
- 24 Small measure of mucky chin. (4)

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

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How many words of four letters or more—all using the central letter can you make. No plurals allowed

90 brilliant 70 good 50 fair

## God and Art

### **'He gave us eyes to see them': John Martin's 'Manfred on the Jungfrau'**

This month's artist had a gift for creating paintings that expressed this epic quality of landscapes. John Martin was born in 1789, and as an artist was drawn to religious and historical scenes on the grand scale. He illustrated the Bible and Milton, and his final works were on the theme of the Last Judgement. These are in the Tate Gallery in London, but for this July we visit the Art Gallery in Birmingham with its amazing collection of over half a million items, including many Pre-Raphaelite treasures. The entrance to this Victorian building is beneath the clock tower known as Old Brum.

The Art Gallery is home to John Martin's watercolour of 1837, 'Manfred on the Jungfrau.' It is a large work, almost 5 feet by 3 feet, capturing the rugged, imposing glory of the Jungfrau. Now a railway takes tourists to the summit in the Bernese Alps in Switzerland. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century climbers had to navigate glaciers, high passes and steep precipices. John Martin captures the grandeur of all this in his painting of snow and sky, crags and torrents, mountains and pine trees. Against that immensity we see two characters: Manfred, tortured by guilt and about to throw himself off the edge, and the mysterious hunter who leads him to safety.

Byron's poem 'Manfred' inspired the music of Tchaikovsky and Schumann, as it inspired John Martin. They were each attracted by the romanticism of man and nature in the poem. Like Manfred and the hunter in the watercolour, we look at this grace and nobility and feel humble and insignificant. Byron wrote:

'How beautiful is all this visible world!

How glorious in its action and itself!'

Manfred seeks redemption, but, sadly, finds only the solace of death. As we look at this painting, we see reflections of the landscapes we shall visit on our holidays. Such beauty, such glory, evoke for us those feelings of wonder and awe that inspired John Martin.

Manfred sees life in its true perspective as he gazes on the majestic scenery of the Bernese Alps. Holidays help us to put life into perspective. Away from the pressure of responsibility and duty, we often realise what is essential in our lives and with those around. We behold the majesty and glory of creation; we see this world as the handiwork of God; and we ask ourselves how we might make our way through it and be always alert to its mystery and its beauty.



### Holiday Fun with Rory – Part Three



In the last magazine edition, our first Dartmoor holiday, already seemingly cursed with various unfortunate missteps, took a sudden and deeply disheartening turn, when a plotted six mile walk deep into the North moorland wilderness descended into the stuff of nightmares. A snapped lead saw Rory Gamin de Pycombe disappear with neither trace nor scent, taking with him the pack containing my mobile phone AND car key, entwined in his trailing lead. An hours' frantic searching drew no sign of any beasts, save for the quietly grazing sheep. Stumbling back to the remote car park in despair, I found four army officers from the nearby Okehampton Battle Camp in a Landrover, overseeing a mass training exercise for Ukrainians volunteering for their country's ongoing war. These wonderful officers swung immediately into action.

Before I could even finish expressing my heartfelt thanks, some of the officers started - and it was like a REAL military operation; I was mortified - going over the moor in a sweeping motion, whilst summoning their colleagues in other locations to do the same. I could see at least eight of them on my side of the hill and knew that others elsewhere were similarly mobilised. It was surreal - like something that you might see on television - those police searches where they are combing an area for a missing person or evidence - looking everywhere quickly and meticulously for any sign of Rory or the missing pack. They moved so fast and so thoroughly, covering the distance it had taken me an hour to traverse in what seemed like minutes.

The officer in charge, as soon as I had explained my predicament, had got straight onto his walkie-talkie radio to communicate with his colleagues. Now that I am on the other end of this sorry episode, and knowing that it had a better outcome than at the time seemed likely, I can see the tacit, or inadvertent humour in the situation (certainly not at the time though). The officer's radio dialogue with his unseen colleagues elsewhere on the moor went as follows:

Officer: "Alpha Command to all units - real-world situation here. We've got a civilian who's just approached us; she's lost her dog..."

Radio: "...schkkkkk... Real-world situation. Lost dog. Description. Over. schkkkkk..."

Officer: "Staffie cross French bulldog. Gunmetal grey. Wearing red harness with black straps, trailing black lead. Over."

Radio: "schkkkkk ... [repeated description]. Over. schkkkkk..."

Officer: "Additionally, the dog lead was attached to pack. Was green with black straps..."

Radio: "schkkkkk... green with black straps pack. Over. schkkkkk..."

Officer: "No, wait, there's more. Inside the pack were the civilian's mobile phone and car key. Over."

Radio: "schkkkkk... ..schkkkkk... ..schkkkkk... \*\*\*\*ing h\*ll...schkkkkk..."

He wasn't wrong. I'd said similar myself.

We waited by the vehicle for quite a while, as officers swept the moor. All the time sat alongside my car, which I could not get into. It was almost as if it was sitting there mocking me.

Another officer telephoned the RAC. They were useless - they first denied all knowledge of me (I've been a paid-up member since 1998) or my vehicle. Then, once they'd identified me, could not help beyond saying that they'd texted a link to my phone and "all" I needed to do was to follow the link and help would be on its way. They were utterly unable to cope with the concept of not having access to a mobile phone. When the officer testily explained to them (again) that the phone was gone and unavailable he was met with incomprehension and silence. Similarly the car insurance company. They were unable to suggest anything that might help in the moment, beyond "isn't there anyone local who might be able to help you out?" and "we can email you something but if you put in a claim, your premiums will go up..." Yes. Thanks for that.

All the while I was feeling sicker and sicker. Wondering how on earth I was going to get out of this predicament - and how I was going to have to go back to the hotel and ultimately home to Airedale without Rory, never knowing what had happened to him and what harm and havoc he had caused.



The military officers were so very kind. They had not found Rory or the pack but, equally, they had not found any maimed livestock, so that was some small reassurance. They stressed that, sadly they regularly saw such things on the moor; they knew the signs generally present and the all-too-obvious grim evidence, but in this case, there was absolutely nothing. They then needed to get back to their base. They did ask of their superiors, but understandably I was not allowed to go to wait within the battle camp for any further developments - but they did say that I could sit in the guard room, so they took me down there by vehicle (that was heart-wrenching; being driven down, away from my stricken car and from where I had last seen Rory). Once there, they phoned the hotel and said "We've got your guest here, can you arrange a taxi for her from the Okehampton military camp?" The hotel staff (who were truly lovely, but who did not have English as their first language) said that they would sort that out, so there I sat and waited.



The officer tasked with looking after me, Luke, had said that, generally, dogs lost in the area eventually made their own way to the military camp. It was the only thing around for miles, and when lost dogs became hungry and tired, they could smell food and signs of human habitation and arrived at the guard house of their own volition. Although this was reassuring to hear, my hopes weren't high. I really believed that I would never see Rory again.

After at least another hour (possibly more) had passed, the 'phone in the guard room rang. It was a member of the public who said they'd found a dog - miles away on the other side of the hill - loose and running about. It was clear from the lady's description that it was the fugitive Rory, unharmed and without any evidence of having killed/injured anything. She drove down in a gold-coloured Volvo 4x4 - with Rory sitting on her lap in the driver's seat with his head poking out of the window, grinning like an idiot. Thank all goodness, I thought I'd never see him again. I was so grateful; the lady was glad to have been the means of reuniting us and said that it was her firm belief that he had not been involved in the harassment of livestock. The officers concurred. Had he caused harm, the physical evidence on him, on his harness and in his mouth would have been clear for all to see. I was doubly thankful for that.

So Rory was back - but he was no longer attached to the waist-pack. I mean, I knew from the outset that it was gone. There was that faint glimmer of hope that it MIGHT still have been entangled in his lead - but in my heart I knew that it was long gone.



One of the early and repeated questions from the military officers was "do you know roughly the area where you were when you lost the dog?" Not without a cruel sense of irony was I able to say "I can tell you exactly where I was - down to the last inch practically." Because it was Waypoint One on my GPS device, on which I had just spent a fortune and was using for the very first time (see part two in the last magazine). I had been clutching it in my hand throughout the whole ordeal. So I knew exactly where to guide them - as well as the route we'd taken to get there, the length of time it had taken AND how high above sea-level it was... But it didn't help. Rory had been gone for hours; he could

have gone anywhere between there and Princetown so goodness knows where he and the waist-pack had finally parted ways. The gorse, heather and the bracken were above waist-height in parts. The officers had, of course, been calling my 'phone all the while. It rang, but was never heard. You could have been just a foot away from the pack and walked unheedingly right past it.

Luke was kind and offered as much calm sense as he could in the situation, telling me that the dog was back unharmed, everything else could be replaced, it would all be alright. Of course, he was right. Everything else COULD be replaced, and Rory was safely back and clearly innocent of wildlife or livestock destruction (I wonder what he DID do all that time? Probably found himself a shady nook and had a jolly good kip, the lazy git).

Once back in the guard room, Luke brought me a cup of water, and another cup for Rory. We were both very grateful. He also brought me a Snickers bar, God bless him, to cheer me up. Unfortunately, I'm allergic to nuts so I had to say thank you very much and hide it in my pack when he wasn't looking. I managed to achieve that without anyone noticing. This would prove to be an unfortunate grim foreshadowing of what was yet to come. **NEXT TIME: Getting off the moor at last - and the Chicken of Mortification crows in my face once more.**

## Walking is amazing – here's how to get started

Walking is simply good for you. Even a casual stroll can give your overall physical and mental health a boost.

So says Britain's leading walking charity, Ramblers.

It also says that the current mantra of 'ten thousand steps a day' need not daunt you, as "you don't need to adhere to this to feel the benefits of getting outside and stretching your legs." Even walking for just 30 minutes five times a week can help ward off back pain, according to a recent study.

Do you need to go to a special place? No. Research had people walking round and round an inner city school playground and their physical and mental health improved. However most of us would prefer to walk somewhere green and attractive. And there are plenty of green, attractive walks around Alresford.



So – here's five ways to get going....

Walk in the morning – you are more likely to fit it in before the day takes off.

Start gently, set an easy pace.

Keep it short, to start with. Build up your distances gradually.

Aim to build it up to last for at least half an hour.

Work out some simple local routes that suit you.



Walk alone (but if you venture further afield make sure someone knows where you are going and take a mobile with you). Walk with a group. Walk with your dog.

Doctors tell us that 'movement is medicine', and this medicine is certainly cost-free.

And if you start to feel more adventurous do learn how to use a map and compass, carry some water and snacks, wear decent footwear, have a jersey and waterproofs, and check the weather forecast.

There are also loads of walking holidays you can join either on your own or with a partner or friend. Companies that run them include Ramblers, Explore, On Foot,



## MY CRAFT HOLIDAY IN DEVON

Just before Christmas 2024 I saw an advert on the television for 'The Manor and Ashbury Resort' in Devon, where you could enjoy spa treatments, sports, crafts and golf. I spoke to a friend and booked a four night break for us in May this year. Little did I know I was going to suffer greatly with my feet beforehand, and how important this break was going to be for me. As many of you know, I am an avid card maker [making cards for 'Winchester Hospice' and 'Home Start Winchester'] Going somewhere to learn new crafts was both exciting and daunting.

We could not have gone to a nicer place. The staff were the kindest people you could ask to meet. Without having to ask, our accommodation was changed to suit my mobility needs and nothing was too much trouble. The patience shown by the tutors was wonderful and everyone left a class with something to be proud of; everyone felt they had something of value to share, and everyone helped each other.

The views we shared everyday was of North Dartmoor which was magnificent, especially in the beautiful weather we enjoyed.

I learned how to mix and use resin with wild flowers, making two little



trinket dishes. [I only have one now, my Grand-daughter has the other!] I fell in love with pyrography, and am going to do more of it at home. My 'cheeky' owl will be live in my porch. Glass fusion was challenging; the coaster I made is too nice to use! String and pin was



hard on your hands, but great fun. [It took me ninety minutes just to hammer in the nails!] The most incredible thing I did was make a silver pendant from silver clay. The process was fascinating and the result pure joy. [Will forget about stain glass; me and a soldering iron did not go together!]



As I said at the beginning, after my feet problems I was in need of something. This break and using my brain and hands to achieve such lovely things taught me that whatever happens there is always hope in the future. We were surrounded by God's creation, reminding me of God's love for His people, and that everyone both young and old can work and help each other even when they are complete strangers. I came away renewed and refreshed, giving thanks for my healed feet and with memories that will last forever. It was so great a break that we are going again in December!



**Angela Peel**



This is a spiced broad bean dish from Morocco. You can either thin it out for a tasty soup, or leave it thick as a delicious dip for pitta bread, tortilla chips or crudité veg. This recipe should make four to six servings:

## Broad Bean Bissara

### Ingredients



- 1 large onion, finely chopped
- 2 medium leeks, thinly sliced
- 4 celery sticks, thinly sliced
- 1 litre/1½ pints hot vegetable stock
- 1kg fresh podded or frozen broad beans
- 6 garlic cloves, crushed
- ½ tbsp ground cumin, plus extra for sprinkling
- 1 tsp paprika, plus extra for sprinkling
- ¼ tsp cayenne pepper
- 2 x 400g cans of butter beans, drained and rinsed
- Lemon wedges, to serve



### Method

Put the onion, leeks and celery, plus 200ml stock in a large saucepan over a medium-low heat. Cover and cook for 10 minutes or until the vegetables are soft.

At the same time, bring a large saucepan of water to the boil over a high heat. Add the broad beans, then bring back to the boil and cook for 2 minutes. Drain and cool under running water. Take the green beans out of their skins, discarding the skins, and set aside (or see fairy dust tip (a) below).

Stir the garlic, cumin, paprika and cayenne pepper into the leek/stock pan, cover again and cook for a further 5 minutes. Add the butter beans and remaining stock and bring to the boil over a high heat. Cover, reduce the heat to medium-low and simmer for 10 minutes.

Add the broad beans to the mix and blitz until very smooth, either in the pan with a stick blender or in a food processor (returning the blended mix to the pan afterwards). Gently reheat while stirring then season to taste (or see fairy dust tip (b) below).

Ladle into bowls, sprinkle with the extra cumin and paprika and serve with the lemon wedges for squeezing over.

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

- (a) Taking the beans out of their jackets will improve the colour, texture and flavour of the soup, but it can be a bit of a hassle. This step is not essential.
- (b) If you would like to serve this as a soup instead of a dip, add more boiling water or vegetable stock at point (b) above, to your preferred consistency.



### Time to fly! Fairy Cake

## Puzzle Answers

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

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

### Wordwheel words

aced, acne, acted, alas, ante, ascend, ascent, aslant, assent, asset, atlas, cadent, cadet, canal, candle, cane, caned, canted, cantle, case, cased, cast, caste, castle, clad, clade, clan, class, classed, clean, cleat, dace, dale, dance, data, date, deal, dealt, dean, decant, declass, delta, dental, descant, east, eland, enact, lace, laced, lactase, laden, lance, lanced, lancet, land, lane, lass, last, lasted, late, lead, lean, leant, least, nasal, natal, neat, salad, sale, salsa, salt, salted, sand, sandal, **sandcastle**, sane, sanest, sated, scald, scale, scaled, scan, scandal, scant, scanted, scat, seal, sealant, seat, secant, sedan, slant, slanted, slat, slate, slated, stale, stance, stand, stead, steal, stela, talc, tale, tassel, teal

# **Prayers for the months of July and August**

## **Let us pray for:**

Our fragile world and all countries that are involved in conflict and war remembering the Holy Land, Iran, Russia and the United States, and those other countries the news has forgotten. Hold before God the people of Gaza where the people facing starvation cry out for food, shelter, medical aid and peace. Pray that somehow there may be an end to this crisis. Pray also for the de-escalation of the war against Iran.

World leaders especially those who have turn to military action. Pray that they may have a heart for peace. Pray for all those in positions of power that may act justly, have compassion, love mercy and work for peace.

Hold before God all those who suffer due to war, conflict, injustice and the devastation brought about by climate change.

Our planet and its need for us all to tackle the issue of climate change and pollution. Pray for all farmers across the world and in our own community who face the challenge of changing climate and unpredictable weather as they try to provide people with food.

This summer we pray for all young people who are changing school, leaving education and starting a new phase in their lives. May they have courage and wisdom for what lies ahead. And we pray for the parents, teachers and counsellors who advise them.

Remember all who suffer in body, mind or spirit. Let us pray for those who are ill or injured at home, in hospital or in care homes. We pray for those who are on their last journey and for those who mourn. May those who struggle with relationships or finances or mental issue get the help and strength they need.

And in this holiday season we pray that all may have the rest and relaxation they need, that all may travel safely and return home refreshed.

And we pray for our benefice and we prepare to face a new era with the interregnum and the search for a new priest. Help us to be the Light of Christ in our communities. We pray also for Heather as she too faces a new chapter in her life.

**Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer**





## Registry

### Funerals

16th May  
**Thanksgiving Service & Interment**  
Anne Hanson  
St. John's

16th May  
**Interment**  
Eileen Jones  
St. John's

28th May  
**Memorial Service**  
Winifred Hack  
St. John's

17th June  
**Funeral**  
Joyce Kent  
St. John's

### Weddings

10th May  
Emma Sullivan and James Bowes  
St. Mary's

24th May  
Mia Skeet and James Serle  
St. John's

25th May  
Ellen Trayhurn and Charles Avent  
St. John's

### Baptism

31st May  
William Curtis  
Parents - Tim and Aimee Curtis  
St. John's



**Have you suffered a  
bereavement?**

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**If so, please email:**  
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**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)

# Useful Local Information and Emergency Numbers

Emergency Services—Police, Fire, Ambulance 999 or 112

Police non emergency 101

Electrical Emergency 08457 708090

Gas Emergency 0800 111 999

Water Emergency 0800 820 99

Floodline 0845 988 1188

Samaritans 116 123

Childline 0800 111

## Health

Royal Hampshire County

Hospital, Winchester

01962 863535

**Alresford Group Surgery,**

Station Rd, Alresford

01962 732345

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

## Other Useful Information

**Cedar Veterinary Surgery** 01962 732 535 (24hrs)

**Alresford Library, 20 Broad Street, Alresford 0300 555 1387**

**New Alresford Town Trust minibus** 07510 474231

**Bus Information** 0871 200 2233

**MP for Alresford: Danny Chambers**

## Defibrillators available for public use

Alresford Recreation Centre

Alresford Bowling Club

Sun Hill Infant school gate

Stratton Bates Recreation Ground

Alresford Community Centre

Alresford Dental Care - The Dean

Old Alresford Village telephone box

Linnets Road telephone box

Alresford Methodist Church

## Wessex Pharmacies

Broad Street, Alresford

**01962 732445**

## Councils

Hampshire County Council

01962 841841

[Www.hants.gov.uk](http://www.hants.gov.uk)

**Winchester City Council**

01962 840222

[Www.winchester.gov.uk](http://www.winchester.gov.uk)

## East Hampshire District Council

01730 266551

[Www.easthant.gov.uk](http://www.easthant.gov.uk)

## New Alresford Town Council

01962 732 079

[Www.newalresford-tc.gov.uk](http://www.newalresford-tc.gov.uk)

## BENEFICE CONTACTS

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*Office hours 10am to 12 noon Monday to Friday.*

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StJohns Alresford & ourplaceyouth Phone numbers unless otherwise stated are 01962

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[events@stjohnsalresford.org.uk](mailto:events@stjohnsalresford.org.uk)

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Sue Clarke T 733597

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T. 733237 e: [rosie@22rwg.co.uk](mailto:rosie@22rwg.co.uk)

### **Groups and Clubs in the John Pearson Hall**

#### **Seniors Health & Fitness**

Mondays, 9.45 - 11.15am

#### **Coffee, Cake and Chat**

2nd Tuesday, 10 - 11.30am

#### **4th Alresford Brownies**

Wednesdays, 6pm (term time)

#### **Chatterbox (Toddlers)**

Thursdays, 10 - 11.30am

#### **Alresford & Cheriton Cub Scouts**

Thursdays, 5.30 – 7.00pm (term time)

#### **Alresford Wine Circle**

4th Thursday, 8pm

#### **Table Talk**

3rd Friday, 12 - 2pm

#### **Solos Sunday Tea**

3rd Sunday, 2.30 – 4.30pm

### **Interested in booking St. John's Church or the John Pearson Hall?**

**St. John's Church** - a large open space seating 300.

People have hired St. John's for a number of uses including:

- Choir Rehearsals,
- Concerts
- Community events



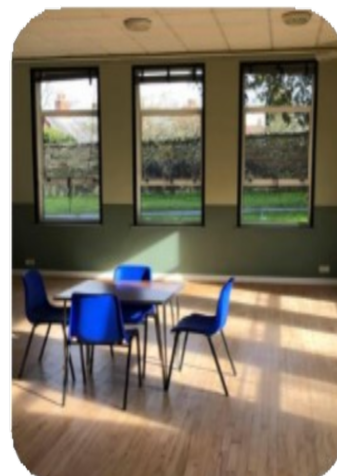
### **The John Pearson Hall (JPH)**







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

A flexible space for meetings, instruction classes, christening receptions and birthday parties.

**Both St. John's and the JPH are open to everyone and you are assured a warm welcome.**

**For more information regarding regular and ad-hoc hiring of the church and hall, please call the Benefice office on 01962 733545 or email: [arlevalleychurches@gmail.com](mailto:arlevalleychurches@gmail.com)**











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### Getting ready

Two children watched their grandmother reading her Bible. "Why does she do that?" whispered one. "I expect she's studying for her final exams," came the reply.

### Life choice

A small boy returned from Sunday School in tears. When questioned by his mother for the reason of his distress, he gulped: "Jesus wants me for a sunbeam, but I want to be an engine driver."





RICHARD

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
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t: 01256 700991

e: [enquiries@calidacare.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@calidacare.co.uk)  
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