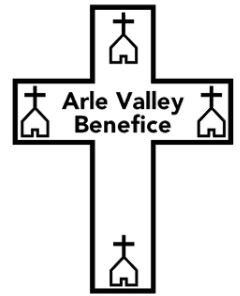


# The Arle Valley Benefice

St. John's Church, New Alresford + St. Peter's Church, Ovington  
St. Mary's Church, Old Alresford + All Saints Church, Bighton



**6 July 2025 - Third Sunday after Trinity**

**Welcome to our worship today. Good to have you with us.**

Please make yourself known to the Clergy or one of the Churchwardens after the service.

## Services this Sunday:

### This morning's Bible Readings:

Galatians 6:1-6, 7-16 p. 188

Luke 10:1-11, 16-20 p. 68

### St. John's

9.30am Parish Communion

4pm Families @ 4pm

### St. Mary's

11am Village Family Praise

### St. Peter's

11am Café Church

### All Saints

No Service

## Live Streaming at St. John's

The link for the live-streaming of services is:

[www.youtube.com/@thearlevalleybenefice5720/streams](https://www.youtube.com/@thearlevalleybenefice5720/streams)

It will come up under a Live heading with a green oblong with a small round picture of St John's underneath.

Click on the oblong and it will open the live stream.

## Collect for Today

Almighty God,  
you have broken the tyranny of sin  
and have sent the Spirit of your Son  
into our hearts  
whereby we call you Father:  
give us grace to dedicate our freedom  
to your service,  
that we and all creation may be brought  
to the glorious liberty of the children of God;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**Amen**

## Post Communion Prayer

O God, whose beauty is beyond our  
imagining and whose power we  
cannot comprehend:  
show us your glory as far as we can  
grasp it,  
and shield us from knowing more than  
we can bear  
until we may look upon you without fear;  
through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

**Amen**

**Children are welcome at all services here.**

**A hearing aid 'loop' system operates at St John's, St Peter's & St Mary's.**

**If moving is difficult** and you wish to have communion brought to you,  
please ask the Churchwarden on duty.

**If you require a gluten-free wafer**, please inform us before the service begins.

**Know of anyone who'd appreciate reading this notice sheet?**

Please feel free to forward it to them.



## THIS WEEK (7<sup>th</sup> June - 11<sup>th</sup> July)

<b>Mon 7<sup>th</sup></b>	9am 10am 3.30pm	All Saints Christy Hall, Old Alresford John Pearson Hall	Morning Prayer <b>Old Alresford Mondays at 10.00</b> Monday Meet & Eat
<b>Tues 8<sup>th</sup></b>	9am 10am 3pm	St. John's John Pearson Hall St. John's	Morning Prayer <b>Coffee, Cake &amp; Chat</b> <b>Funeral - Michael Atterton</b>
<b>Wed 9<sup>th</sup></b>	9am 10am 10.45am 5pm	St. Mary's St. John's John Pearson Hall Vestry - St. John's	Morning Prayer Midweek Holy Communion Wednesdays with Heather Chill, Chat & Chomp (Youth Group)
<b>Thurs 10<sup>th</sup></b>	9am 9am 10am 3pm	St. Peter's Zoom - Online John Pearson Hall St. John's	Morning Prayer Zoom Morning Prayer Chatterbox Baby & Toddler Group <b>Funeral - Carol Reid</b>
<b>Fri 11<sup>th</sup></b>	10am 7pm	St. John's St. Peter's	Parish Outreach Prayer Meeting <b>Historical Insights - Alastair Bruce</b>

## NEXT SUNDAY (13<sup>th</sup> July) - Fourth Sunday after Trinity

9.30am 9.30am 11am 11am 6pm	St. John's St. Mary's St. Peter's All Saints St. John's	Breakfast Church Morning Praise Parish Communion Morning Prayer Sundays at Six
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### PRAYERS FOR:

Barbara G, Bec G, Audrey C, Les W, Rosemary F, Sylvia P, Hazel G, Pearl C, Val L, John L, Alan B, Tony H, Ian V, Jilly C, Sarah G, Dennis, David O, David H, Robina S, Meg R, Roger and Jocelyn F, Monica D, Moira J, Robin G, Audrey S, Joy F, Pearl C and those who attend worship at Wayfarer's Place, Bailey House and Makins Court.

### THOSE WHO HAVE RECENTLY DIED:

Geoff Simonds, Carol Reid, Michael Atterton and Joyce Kent

### ZOOM MORNING PRAYER - THURSDAYS

**Thursday mornings at 9am** there is a Lay-led Morning Prayer via zoom, with a short address and discussion. For details and Zoom invite contact Miranda Pinch via [miranda.pinch@gmail.com](mailto:miranda.pinch@gmail.com)

**Our Prayers for the Week** are in the **St. John's Prayer Space** and on the **Arle Valley Benefice website (links):**

['Our Faith / Prayer / This Week's Prayers'](#)  
['What's On / Weekly Notices and Prayers'](#)

### 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: e. [rosie@22rwg.co.uk](mailto:rosie@22rwg.co.uk) or t. 01962 733237.

***We, of course, always respect the confidentiality of your requests.***

# Notices

## ST JOHN'S FLOWERS

The chancel flowers in St John's have been sponsored by:  
**Peter and Hefin Tudor: *Celebrating our Wedding Anniversary***



## FUNERAL SERVICES

**Michael Atterton Funeral Service** - St. John's on Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> July at 3pm  
**Carol Reid Funeral Service** - St. John's on Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> July at 3pm

## HELP NEEDED FOR CAROL REID'S FUNERAL TEA - THURSDAY, 10<sup>th</sup> JULY

Can anyone help with baking cakes and serving tea in the JPH after Carol's funeral service (3pm)? Thank you. Rosie: [rosie@22rwg.co.uk](mailto:rosie@22rwg.co.uk) or t. 07891 120662.

## Sunday Services - 6<sup>th</sup> July

### CAFE CHURCH @ ST. PETER'S

**11am - 1st Sunday every *other* month.** Join us for good conversation about faith and life in a friendly, informal setting at St. Peter's. Coffee, tea + homemade treats!



### FAMILIES AT 4PM @ ST. JOHN'S

We gather together in St. John's on the **1st Sunday of every month** for fun interactive storytelling, songs, a great craft session and a cuppa. We have babies and toddlers to teens and all in between. Everyone welcome!



### VILLAGE FAMILY PRAISE @ ST. MARY'S

**11am - 1st Sunday every month.**

A service of Morning Praise at St. Mary's for the whole family. Please stay for refreshments after the service. All welcome.

## COFFEE, CAKE & CHAT @ ST JOHN'S

**Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> July (10 - 11.30am) in the John Pearson Hall**

**Come and join us on the second Tuesday of each month** 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 friends, family and neighbours as well...the more the merrier!

## OLD ALRESFORD MOTHERS' UNION MEETING - WEDNESDAY, 16<sup>TH</sup> JULY

Our next meeting is a visit to Bishops Waltham MU. For further details, please contact Heather Galley on t. 01962 732326. New members always welcome.

## SOLOS

**Looking forward to seeing you on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> July from 2.30pm in the John Pearson Hall** for sandwiches, tea and homemade cakes conversation and friendship. For more information: t. 01962 733545.

## JPH REFRESH

We would like to touch up and refresh some of the paint work in the JPH over the summer when the hall is not used so much. ***Could you spare some time to help?*** Thank you. Please contact Rosie: [rosie@22rwg.co.uk](mailto:rosie@22rwg.co.uk) or t. 07891 120662.

# Notices

## Upcoming Events - Don't miss the fun!

### **HISTORICAL INSIGHTS BY ALASTAIR BRUCE AT ST. PETER'S** **Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> July (Doors open at 7pm for 7.30pm start)**

Join us at St. Peter's, Ovington for a fascinating talk about Historical Insights by Alastair Bruce. Tickets £15 (including a drink and nibbles) are available on [www.ticketsource.co.uk/ovington](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/ovington) or in the Parish Office (10am - 12pm M-F) at St. John's. **Proceeds to St. Peter's Fabric Fund.**



### **SUMMER GOSPEL CONCERT**

#### **Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> July at 7.30pm at St. John's**

Join us for an evening of uplifting and inspiring gospel music with the Alresford and Farnham Gospel Collective choirs and The Wey Community Gospel Choir. Tickets £10 (under 16s free). <https://buytickets.at/gospelcollectiveuk/1741457>

### **THE SUNSHINE SINGERS PRESENTS ALICE THE MUSICAL**

#### **Saturday, 19<sup>th</sup> July at 4pm at St. John's. Tea & cake from 3pm (JPH)**

The Sunshine Singers of Sun Hill Infants and Juniors invite you to a concert performance of Alice the Musical. **Tickets: £5 per adult / £2.50 Secondary age pupils, Primary age pupils free. Book tickets in ADVANCE** from Rosie Waring Green e. [rosie@22rwg.co.uk](mailto:rosie@22rwg.co.uk), t. 07891 120662, 2 Grange Road, Alresford. Cash or BACS.

## **FRIENDS OF ST. JOHN'S (FOSJ) - NEW TREASURER NEEDED - COULD IT BE YOU?**

The volunteer role involves no financial expertise in the professional sense - more an orderly approach to things and an eye for detail. Set up in 2018, our secular membership group raises funds to support the maintenance and improvement of this important Grade 2\* church, the John Pearson Hall alongside and the church yard, for the enjoyment of all.



Our income is from the ticket sales for Alresford Community Cinema. The responsibilities are to ensure the accounts are kept up to date and made ready for filing annually.

For more information, please email Jan Field, Chairman of FOSJ, e: [jan@alresford.f9.co.uk](mailto:jan@alresford.f9.co.uk)



Our Facebook page  
Our Instagram page

<https://www.facebook.com/StJohnsAlresford>  
[the\\_alresford\\_area\\_churches](https://www.instagram.com/the_alresford_area_churches)

### **Material for notices:**

please email Penny Forbes at  
[notices@arlevalleychurches.org.uk](mailto:notices@arlevalleychurches.org.uk)

### **Deadline: 12pm Wednesday**

### **Information about those in hospital to:**

Jackie Connell 732056 or  
Patricia Todd 738408

**Urgent information for Intercessions  
to the churchwardens.**

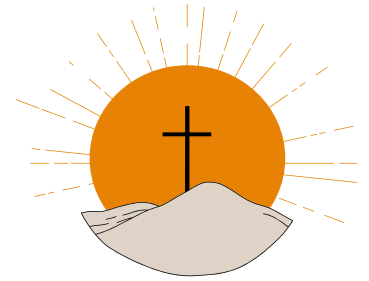
### **Rector: Rev'd Heather Brearey**

e: [arlevalleyrector@gmail.com](mailto:arlevalleyrector@gmail.com)  
t: 01962 732105

### **Benefice Office**

**Open Monday - Friday 10am - 12pm**  
t. 01962 733545  
e. [arlevalleychurches@gmail.com](mailto:arlevalleychurches@gmail.com)  
[www.arlevalleychurches.org.uk](http://www.arlevalleychurches.org.uk)

# Prayers for the coming week (6<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> July)



## ***Please pray for***

**We pray for God's broken world.** Bring before God the state of his beautiful world. Pray for everywhere there is conflict, injustice and terror. Pray especially for the people of Ukraine and those of Gaza. Pray that leader's hearts may be turned from hatred to love; that food and aid will be allowed into Gaza, and that all come to see the futility of war.

**Bring before God the damage that is being done by Climate Change.** Give thanks for the people who came to The Lorax Day and learned how we can all help the planet. Pray that we may all now understand the effects of Climate Change as we experience the rising heat and its effects.

**Pray for those worrying about benefits and how to make ends meet.** Pray for all disabled people who are finding life difficult because of financial problems. Bring before God all those who are forced to use Food Banks and feel guilty that they cannot provide for their families. Pray that we may all be more sympathetic to other people's problems and do whatever we can to help.

**As the Summer Holidays draw near, pray that our young people do not become too stressed awaiting exam results;** that families enjoy time together and that all teaching staff are refreshed and renewed in readiness for the Autumn Term.

**Pray for our Benefice as we enter a period of uncertainty.** Pray that all our Church Wardens will be granted wisdom and patience in the coming months. Ask God to inspire us all to work together as The Church of God to support each other and work together. Pray for Heather as she plans her departure.

***Go forth for God; go forth in the world in peace.***

# WAY FORWARD: MOVING INTO INTERREGNUM

**Benefice meeting Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> June 2025**

The day began with prayer we then moved into the JPH and Heather began by saying:

‘There comes a time for all of us when we have to stand down from our post. What then happens to the church? Do I just ‘leave them to it’, or do I actively engage in planning the process of transition? The traditional way is that the Rector leaves them to it!

But I want to help, if I can.

The term ‘interregnum’ is an unfortunate expression - it implies that the king has departed. The truth is that the King never leaves!

*This could be a most significant time for our congregation. It is a time when you can review the past with its symbols and images of identity and purpose as well as its losses and disappointments. You can begin to glimpse new opportunities made possible because of the fact that your rector has left. Above all, as a congregation, you can take responsibility for identifying new directions for your church’s ministry, a new vision for your church’s mission and a ‘grassroots’ definition of the church’s purpose. This is and has always been your church.*

I believe that for the sake of the ongoing well-being of our benefice It would be helpful to share my experience before I end my ministry here.

Heather explained that here has never been a typical day for her:

But that 60-70 hrs per week is normal, often more, rarely less.

Much of what I do feeds me and is life giving.

But.... There is a great deal that I have had to deal with and still encounter that drains the very life from me.

**The biggest distraction for me has been people complaining, being self-centred, disagreeing and me needing to mediate and placate.**

We do not come to church to worship anyone other than God. It is God we should be striving to please not ourselves.

What can you, the people of this church do to relieve pressure on the Rector?

What can you the people of this church STOP doing to relieve the pressure on the Rector?

Expectations of Rector and Rectors spouse need to be realistic and lowered.

This is not the 1980's or 1990's anymore. Church has changed.

Church changed after covid. Methodists and Catholics are also thin on ministers.

Covid changed the way in which we and our community live.

We cannot keep referring to the past.

The past is in the past.

We must look to the future not the past.

Our Benefice needs to look out to the community, not be concerned with ourselves.

The Diocese is not giving more priests there aren't more priests.

We often if not always at PCC and other meetings and gatherings spend more time focusing on ourselves and not on others. We MUST be OUTWARD looking.

But crucially, This Benefice will not fall down just because I go. This Benefice is so much more than me. I am just a tiny bit.

**YOU** are the Benefice and it will continue because of **you**.

*We must celebrate all that we are, all that we have done and all that you will continue to do. The Interregnum is an opportunity for everyone to continue to support each other and to build on our achievements. We can flourish in our new challenges by asking God for direction, grace, love and kindness.'*

**There then followed a period of questions to Heather about the time of vacancy.**

The most pertinent of which was 'will there be the same problem with tenants in the Rectory delaying the arrival of a new Rector'

No there will not. Because the Diocese will be letting the Rectory on 2 month long contracts.

We then watched a video recording of a sermon given by Pete Greig in early June.

The video is available on YouTube **Pete Greig Awakening: A word to the church.**

The sermon is 45 minutes long but we only watched the first 20 minutes.

Pete referred to a new report that has been in the news called **A Quiet Revival**, you can download the report for free from the Bible Society website.

Pete spoke of the need for our Church to WAKE UP.

## **Heather then explained the church of England Five marks of Mission**

### **5 Marks of Mission**

To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom **TELL**

To teach, baptise and nurture new believers **TEACH**

To respond to human need by loving service **TEND**

To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation **TRANSFORM**

To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth **TREASURE**

## **Missio Dei: God's mission not ours**

**Rosie and James then led us in answering some missional questions.**

**The questions and the answers given are recorded below.**

**Six missional questions a church can ask:**

**Q1: Do we provide opportunities for people to explore the Christian faith?**

We are the ones serving not receiving.

Things we do, many were mentioned including: Alpha, Bible study, services, magazine, information in our porches, sermons, chatting to people, gossiping the gospel, social media, coffee cake and chat, visiting, and random acts of kindness.

**Q2: Are we a learning community where members grow in the knowledge of God and the scriptures, a deepening life of prayer and worship, acts of loving service and witness?**

What does it mean to us in our actual life and the way we live? People need to understand that being a Christian is life changing. Deanery synod speakers recently were excellent and gave a different perspective, we should get them and other speakers to our churches.

Minister/give to people where they are.

How do we learn to witness to our faith? Witness is being with people so that they want what we have. People will not want to find out about church and God if we are miserable and always complaining about church and falling out with each other.

Could we have stewards in church every day to greet people as we do on Thursdays in St John's? How about a Christian/church stall on market day?

We need to make more use of coffee time after church to talk about faith/the sermon.

What about a testimony slot, not just in services.

EVERYTHING must be under pinned by prayer and scripture.

**Q3: Are we growing relationships that are loving and honest, able to work through conflict, celebrating unity in diversity? Where is our love overflowing naturally? How will this be visible and accessible?**

We are not good at being honest in our feelings and working through conflict. We need to be better.

When we ask 'how are you?' we need to mean it and listen to the response. Respect each other. Listen to each other. Respect each other's opinions and the outcome.

Relationships have got to be reflective of the relationship that we have with God.

Must put our relationship with Jesus first.

There is a difference between hierarchy and grassroots church.

How do we disassociate ourselves from those who bring the church into disrepute.

**Q4: Are we a welcoming and hospitable community?**

All our churches in the benefice are welcoming and show hospitality. We do funerals well, welcoming people as they arrive. Not everyone stays to coffee after church.

Many wonderful comments in our visitors' books.

**Q5: Where does the church actively engage with the wider community?**

So many events both regular and one offs: Gift from St John's, Harvest suppers, Monday meet and eat, coffee mornings, being part of the community, talking to people at community events we attend. Magazine.

Be alive to what people are saying. Ask who are you not, what do you do. The wider community is The World; we give to and pray for places in the wider world.

Mission partners - we need to know more about them.

Could we have more social activities in the churches like the barn dance, quiz and advertise widely.

**Q6: What is one thing we could do to make a difference to the lives of the people living in the parish?**

The note taker did not hear/record any answers to this question as we moved on to 3 further questions, for the vacancy and to help our church wardens.

1. What do we do already?
2. Who does it?
3. How do we share the load?

We need to get some of our younger members to help more.

Suggestion to ask for volunteers for a task and promise you will only have to do the task once a year. Hope that many people volunteer!

We ended the morning with a song – In Christ Alone and prayer:

Dear Heavenly Father,

As we face the future as a community of your people in this place,  
May we know afresh your faithful love, and see afresh your loving faithfulness.  
May it be these – may it be You –  
For whom we yearn in every season.  
May it be your words of life for which we listen, and by which alone we live.

With lightly-held reverence for our past, and with hearts full, help us with courage and wisdom and freedom to welcome and to pursue and to participate in the new things you are doing in and around and despite us, and beyond.  
Continue to raise up those who will serve your people with humility, and with deep humanity bear witness to your Good News.  
May we dare to dream and to risk what we have never imagined – free, unencumbered, joyous, just, obedient.  
And along the way, save us from empty slogans, from senseless controversies, and from the delusion that we are at the centre of your work around here.

God before and God behind,  
For all that has been – thanks.  
For all that will be – Yes!

We pray in the name of Jesus, in whom we see you a little more fully and ourselves a little more clearly. Amen.

## **Feedback**

We had many comments as we tidied away,

‘this has been great’

‘It has been really positive’

‘Thank you it has been very helpful’

‘Thank you very much for the meeting this morning. I was very apprehensive about it, wondering what on earth would be discussed. I wasn't even sure that Heather should be involved. But I am now really glad you were there, Heather, and it turned out so much better than I expected. Very positive. Lots to think about. Thank you’

**We would welcome any further feedback to the churchwardens or to Heather.**