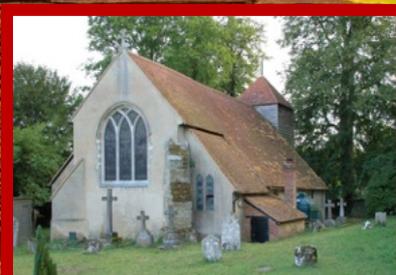


Arle Valley Voice

October 2025

£1.60

Church & Community Magazine





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Editorial

First of all we have to say a sad goodbye to Heather— I have had so many tributes and thanks sent to me as you will see but I hope I haven't missed any.

As many of you know we came back from a super holiday in Spain looking at Moorish architecture to find that our spaniel, Alfie, had developed fast growing cataracts. So I am afraid I got a bit distracted from the magazine as we or-

ganised him to go to a specialist eye vet to have them removed. He is fine and recovering well so I am back on track



And now I am already getting material for Christmas—and we haven't had harvest yet!

But still do sign up for the Christmas card as it has to be finished in November.

In the meantime enjoy the activities going on in Alresford and don't forget to come to Heather's leaving service and brunch on September 28th

Please email contributions and comments to cstryton@gmail.com. The preferred format at the moment is Microsoft Publisher or Word otherwise a pdf. Please as plain as possible as formats do not transfer from one programme to another. Please copy in events@stjohnsalresford.org.uk for additional publicity on our Facebook page and inclusion in St John's online Events Diary. The deadline for each month is the 10th of the month before. 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.

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
Each issue costs £1.60 but a year's subscription is an economic option at £15.00.

October Church Services for the Arle Valley Benefice

NEW ALRESFORD

St John the Baptist

Sunday 5 October: 16th Sunday after Trinity

09.30 Parish Communion

16.00 Families @ 4

Sunday 12 October : 17th Sunday after Trinity

09.30 Breakfast Church **Harvest Festival**

18.00 Sunday @ 6

Sunday 19 October: 18th Sunday after Trinity

09.30 Parish Communion

Sunday 26 October: Last Sunday after Trinity

09.30 Celtic Service of the Word

Every Tuesday

09.00 Morning Prayer

Every Wednesday

10.00 Midweek Service

OLD ALRESFORD

St Mary the Virgin

Sunday 5 October: 16th Sunday after

Trinity

11.00 Village Family Praise

Sunday 12 October : 17th Sunday after

Trinity

09.30 Morning Praise

Sunday 19 October: 18th Sunday after

Trinity

11.00 Parish Communion

Sunday 26 October: Last Sunday after

Trinity

09.30 Holy Communion

Every Wednesday

09.00 Morning Prayer



OVINGTON

St Peter's

Sunday 5 October: 16th Sunday after Trinity

11.00 *No service*

Sunday 12 October : 17th Sunday after Trinity

11.00 Parish Communion

Sunday 19 October: 18th Sunday after Trinity

10.00 Morning Prayer

Sunday 26 October: Last Sunday after Trinity

09.30 *No service*

Every Thursday

09.00 Morning Prayer



BIGHTON

All Saints

Sunday 5 October: 16th Sunday after Trinity

11.00 *No service*

Sunday 12 October : 17th Sunday after

Trinity

11.00 Harvest Festival

Sunday 19 October: 18th Sunday after Trinity

11.00 Morning Prayer

Sunday 26 October: Last Sunday after Trinity

09.30 Parish Communion

Every Monday

09.00 Morning Prayer

Calendar

- ◆ **Sept 28th** **9.30am Heather's last service followed by Farewell Brunch**
- ◆ Oct 4th 9.30am Bacon Butties in the Methodist Church
- ◆ Oct 6th Memory Lane Café
- ◆ Oct 8th 7.30 Alresford Horticultural
- ◆ Oct 9th 2.30pm Methodist Women's Fellowship
- ◆ Oct 10th 10.00am Methodist Church Prayers
- ◆ Oct 11th 6.30pm Harvest Supper in the JPH
- ◆ Oct 12th 9.30am Harvest Festival @ St John's
- ◆ Oct 16th 3.00pm Michaelmas Fair in Broad Street
- ◆ Oct 17th 12 noon Table Talk in the JPH
- ◆ Oct 19th 11am. Shoeboxes at St Mary's
- ◆ Oct 19th 2.30 Solos Sunday Tea
- ◆ Oct 24th 7.30pm Alresford Art Society
- ◆ Oct 29th 7.30pm Flower Club
- ◆ Oct 30th 7.00pm Men's Supper Club
- ◆ Nov 1st 12noon Michael Project Coffee Morning in JPH
- ◆ Nov 1st 4.00pm Light Party in the JPH.
- ◆ Nov 2nd Service of Comfort and Hope @ St Johns
- ◆ Nov 7th 7pm Rotary Fireworks and Bonfire
- ◆ Nov 8th 10.00am Table Top Sale at the Methodist Church
- ◆ Nov 8th 7.30 ACC Remembrance Concert
- ◆ Nov 9th Last date to give names for Benefice Christmas Card

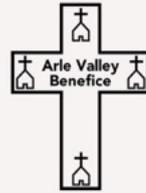


Cars idling in driveways or at the roadside drive me wild!! It causes so much unnecessary pollution air!



"A huge thank you to everyone who has supported us through the last few weeks since David died with your lovely cards, flowers, phone calls and messages. It is wonderful to feel so enveloped at this time of great loss. Hilary, Ed, Emily and their families." Hilary Carr

Sunday | 28th September
St. John's Church
9.30am service
followed by brunch in the JPH



Heather's Final Benefice Service

All are welcome to this service of Holy Communion which is a celebration of Heather's time with us as well as a goodbye and thank you.

Wishing you all the best!
We will miss you.



The Arle Valley Benefice



Send your Christmas Greetings to all readers of The Arle Valley Voice!

Make sure your name appears in our special 'Benefice Christmas Card' centre spread in the December edition of The Arle Valley Voice during Advent and twelve days of Christmas.



Fill in the form below and put it - with your charity donation (**£5 for a single name, £8 for couples or families/groups**) in an envelope - in the box at the back of St. John's (the box is gift wrapped). Cheques should be made payable to **PCC of New Alresford**. The charity you nominate on your form could be the one to benefit from the proceeds – Rory the dog will draw one from the pile randomly when all have been received.

Don't miss out on a church community initiative – it's a lot cheaper than sending out a multitude of cards yourself!

The box and forms will be **in the Benefice office at St. John's on Monday - Friday (10am - 12pm) and during the Sunday service until Sunday, Nov 9th.**

Benefice Christmas Card 2025

Name(s) to appear on the card:

.....

Suggested charity to benefit from the money raised:

.....

Your telephone number:



Put this form in an envelope with your donation (**£5 or £8 for couples or families/groups**).

Post in the box in the Benefice office (Mondays – Fridays 10am – 12pm) & at the Sunday service from October 12th to November 9th.

Any cheques should be made payable to **PCC of New Alresford**.

Church Events and Activities

11:00am - 12:00pm,
5th October
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**
12th October
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



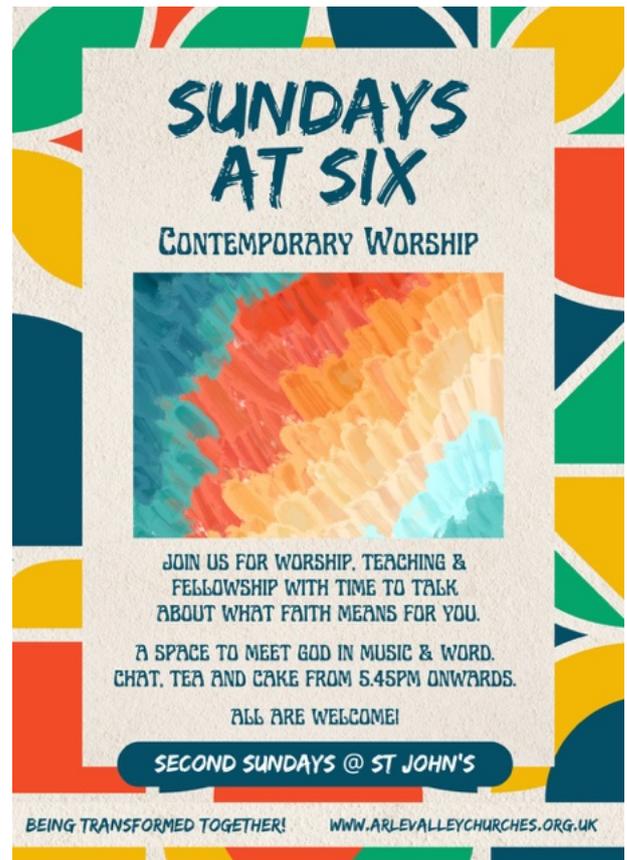
Prayer requests:

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.



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



SERVICE OF COMFORT & HOPE

St John's Parish Church, Alresford
Sunday 2nd November at 2pm

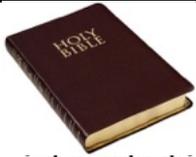
Everyone is warmly invited to this simple and reflective service, in which we remember loved ones who have died.

Bring a flower, one for each person remembered, to add to the Bouquet of Memories. There will be a few in the Church for those unable to bring one.

A Memorial card, on which to write the names of loved ones, can be picked up from the back of the Church. During the service you will be invited to bring this, with your flower, to the front and a prayer will be said for those who have died. There will also be an opportunity to light a candle.

Refreshments will be served after the service in the John Pearson Hall.

If you live in Alresford & need a lift to enable you to get to the service, please call the Parish Office 733545



Bible Study

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

There will be an Alpha and a Youth Alpha course running in the Autumn.

These courses are designed to help you grow in your Christian faith, to give you an opportunity to ask any questions you have and to enjoy friendship and good food!! For more information and discussion about dates please contact Rosie Waring Green rosie@22rwg.co.uk or 07891120662



Saturday November 1st
4-6pm

in the John Pearson Hall
and finishing in the church.

This is a fun alternative to Halloween involving crafts, fire-pit, friendship, food and a torchlight treasure hunt in the church.

Please sign up via the Parish Office stating any dietary requirements - arlevallychurches@gmail.com

Free entry with an optional donation. Children need to be accompanied by an adult.

Flower Club

Last Wednesday in the month @7.30

Next meeting

29th October

St Gregory's Church Hall

Contact Maureen on
gskayman@gmail.com



MEN'S SUPPER CLUB

FOR WIDOWERS

WE MEET ON THE LAST THURSDAY
OF THE MONTH AT 7PM

IF INTERESTED, PLEASE CONTACT
ROGER WHIFFEN ON 01962 734045



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 17th October

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 19th October

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



Michael Project Coffee Morning

Saturday 1st November

10am to 12 noon

John Pearson Hall

Do join us for coffee, tea, scones and cakes

Also sale tables and a Raffle

Further information Margaret

On 01962 735 185

Our mission is to advocate for orphans and children at risk by mobilizing the church to biblically care for vulnerable children.



Community Events

ALRESFORD & DISTRICT COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

**FRIDAY MORNINGS
AT YOUR
COMMUNITY CENTRE**



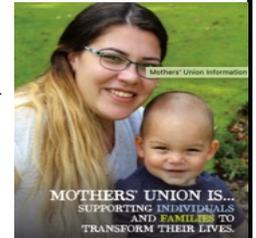
TEA/COFFEE & BISCUITS

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

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

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

New Members are always welcome.

We look forward to welcoming you to be a part

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 FIREWORKS AND BONFIRE FRIDAY 7 NOVEMBER



TORCHLIGHT PROCESSION FROM THE TOP OF BROAD STREET AT 7 PM

BONFIRE & FIREWORKS AT 7:45 AT ALREBURY PARK

BUY TICKETS EARLY AND SAVE!

ORDER ONLINE FROM [HTTPS://TICKETSOURCE.CO.UK/ALRESFORD-ROTARY](https://ticketsource.co.uk/alresford-rotary)

.....
UNDER 5's FREE
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CHILD £ 4.50
ADULTS £ 9

.....
NOVEMBER
CHILD £ 6
ADULTS £ 12

Alresford

Rotary



www.alresford-rotary.org

Supporting local and Rotary charities

Charity no: 1014447

Community Events

Alresford & District Horticultural Society Talk



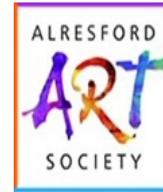
Wednesday 8 October
From 7.30pm to 9.30pm
St Gregory's Parish Hall,
Grange Road, Alresford, SO24 9HE

A talk on Garden Birds
by Steve Oakes, wild bird photographer.



Visitors welcome, £3.
Refreshments available.
Further information
at www.alresfordhorticultural.org

ALRESFORD SOCIETY



ART

7.30pm

Bishop Sutton's Village Hall
Alresford Road SO24 0AH

October 23rd

Alison Board: Animal study in pastel & gouache

Non-members welcome –
admission £3 and a small do-
nation requested for refresh-
ments.



For further information:
01962 732043 or visit

www.artsociety.alresford.org

Alresford and District Horticultural Society Show report.

The Alresford and District Horticultural Society held their Annual Show as part of the Alresford Agricultural Society's Show at Tichborne Park on Saturday 6th September. After months of preparation, undefeated by the weather, we expected fewer entries than previous years but it seemed that some fruit, flowers and vegetables had thrived on a cold winter followed by a wet spring, drought and then torrential rain!

As usual, the Culinary classes were popular and there were some skilled lacemaking and needlework entries. The children's entries were well supported and, although there were fewer photographs than usual, the entries were of an overall high standard.

The Horticultural Committee is very grateful to all those who supported the Show with their entries, gave their time on the day and contributed prizes for the tombola and children's lucky dip – our only source of income.



Remembrance Concert

performed by
Alresford Community Choir

St. John the Baptist, New Alresford
Saturday 8 November 2025
7.30pm

All tickets: £10.00 available online at
www.ticketsource.co.uk/alresford-community-choir

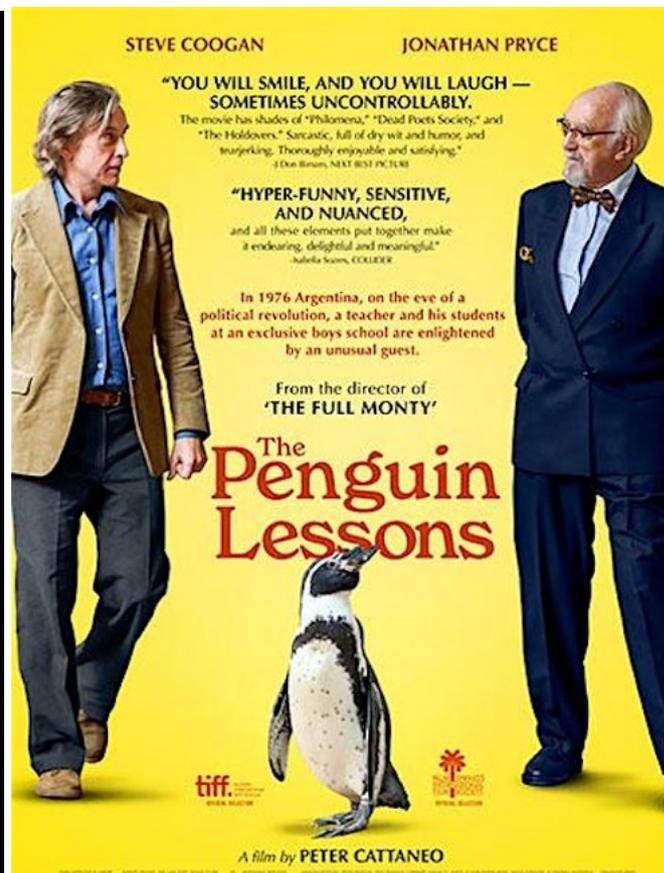
or call 01962 776476

RETIRING COLLECTION in aid of the
Royal British Legion and
SSAFA The Armed Forces Charity



PAYING BAR AVAILABLE
before the Concert and
during the interval

This is not a Remembrance Service but a Concert in memory of times past and people we will not forget. There will be songs such as Crossing The Bar and Let Us Now Praise Famous Men, as well as less solemn pieces such as The Bold Grenadier, La Mer and Moon River.



ALRESFORD COMMUNITY CINEMA The Penguin Lessons - Tuesday, 7 Oct at 7pm, Tickets £10 (card or cash on the door) This is a comedy-drama starring Steve Coogan as a disillusioned Englishman who goes to work in a school in a divided Argentina in 1976, and finds his life transformed when he rescues an orphaned penguin from the beach. Bookings t. 01962 736282 or t. 07780 703543.

Community Lunch on Christmas Day at Makins Court 2025

Those living in or around Alresford who would otherwise be on their own are invited to a Traditional Christmas Day lunch at Makins Court

Please book your place by phoning Patricia Walker on 01962 732629

Lifts will be available to and from Makins Court if required

A contribution of £5 per person is requested

We also need Volunteers to help

preparing vegetables on Christmas Eve, help with setting up the table, taking guests to their seats, serving lunch, washing up, putting away, leaving Makins Court clean and tidy.

Please telephone or message Patricia on 07704 723 888.



Children's Activities

Monday Meet + Eat

Join Us

Mondays @ 3.30pm
Everyone Welcome

Organised by
CTIA

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.



Please inform us of any dietary requirements

Please book a place at:
e. 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

Thursdays
 4.00pm to 6.00pm
 St John's Church Alresford
 For young people aged 10-18
 hello@timuffindell.co.uk

soulchildreuk.com

News from Old Alresford

The Churchyard Wall The work to repair the churchyard wall was completed in September. It looks so strong with the knapped flints, limestone mortar and the coping stones top it off beautifully. Thank you everyone for your patience whilst the traffic lights were in place and thanks as well to the builders who had some challenging showers to deal with and still completed on time.



Mondays @10 Nought to 90+ everyone is welcome at our popular gathering in the Bernard Clarke room of the Christy Hall on the first Monday of each month. Next gathering- Monday 6th October,



September



Family Service Moses the baby in the bullrushes and the burning bush

October Family Service Sunday 5th October @ 9.30am **Moses the Leader**

St Mary's Appeal Fund News We are continuing to raise funds for a toilet with disability access and a kitchen servery. We have received a grant of £6,000 from Benefact Trust and are most grateful for this and the donations received to date, which have raised another £6,000 since we launched the appeal in August. Can you help? We would be delighted to hear from you if you are able to support this project. We have a very well stocked **Book Stall** in the church porch and will be launching our annual **Christmas Quiz** in November to boost our fundraising.



Harvest Thanksgiving Service Sunday 21st September at 11am

The church will be beautifully decorated to Harvest. Gifts of tins and packet foods and household goods will be gratefully received and donated to the Basics Bank.

The Harvest Lunch will held in Pinglestone Barn from 12.15. Everyone is most welcome to this buffet lunch and gathering to say farewell to Rev. Heather, our Rector.

Shoeboxes We plan to pack shoeboxes for the Rotary Christmas Appeal after the 11 am service on Sunday 19th October. There will be a box, at the back of the church from the 12th for donations of toys, stationery, colouring pens etc, soap, toothbrushes and other suitable gifts. Please come along and help us pack.

Village Quiz in the Christy Hall Saturday 27th September 8pm. Nick Lipton will be question master. Free entry Bar available. Tables of 8 max. **TOADS Pantomime** casting and rehearsals are underway for the 2025 production of Pinocchio.

More details next month.

St Peter's Ovington



On Tuesday 16th September Minna Bruce was licensed in St Peter's Church Ovington to serve as the focal minister for Ovington and Itchen Stoke. As the Area Dean David Chattell explained a focal minister represents the community to the church and the church to the community, which Minna is very well placed to do.

We wish Minna every blessing in her ministry.

ST. PETER'S BOOK NOOK

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

**DONATIONS OF BOOKS
ARE VERY WELCOME.**



St. Peter's Church
Ovington

START YOUR MORNING

with Café Church

11am
1st Sunday
every other month

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



CAN YOU HELP US SUPPORT A CHILDREN AND FAMILIES WORKER?

The churches of St. John's, New Alresford, St. Mary's, Old Alresford, St. Peter's, Ovington and All Saints, Bighton are seeking to appoint a Children and Families Worker to help them realise a vision of seeing their existing ministries grow and flourish in the midst of their local communities.



Our Benefice has to pay for this. Of course we have applied for various grants and charitable funding but need YOU to help as well. Can you either make a one-off donation or give a regular monthly amount. If everyone in the Benefice gave a little we would soon raise the money and it wouldn't cost any individual that much. To find out more contact Penny on arlevallychurches@gmail.com. Thanks.

Christmas shoeboxes!

Although the “traditional” Churches Together Shoebox Packing Party is not taking place this year Alresford Rotary remains fully committed to making a significant contribution to the 2025 Wessex Rotary Scheme bringing happiness at Christmas to disadvantaged & displaced children in Moldova, Montenegro, Romania and, via Poland, Ukraine. Please help!

Full details and instructions are on the scheme leaflet - see www.wessexrotaryshoebox.org.uk or request a copy from me (wjrp@hotmail.co.uk – 01962 738788). The leaflet includes the important list of what items cannot be included – most importantly No Food, No Sweets, No Liquids. All items must be for education, health and hygiene purposes and be new or “as new”.

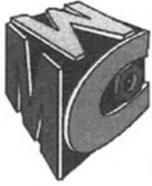
It is now mandatory for a supplied standard size box to be used, available upon request (contact details above). Because of the current unrest in eastern Europe the deadline for this scheme is earlier than it used to be and all involved are asked to have their boxes available for collection or delivered by **18th October**. Please get involved and don't delay! If you're unable to make up one or more boxes but have a few small items you wish to donate please let us have them and we'll make sure they're put to good use. The scheme does ask that everyone who makes up a box also donates £2 towards transportation and administration costs. While most do, there is normally a shortfall so any donations are also welcome upon the basis that any surplus will be used by Wessex Rotary for the benefit of disadvantaged children worldwide.

Thank you – remember your gift may be the first gift the recipient ever receives!

James Pinniger

Please note that St Mary's Old Alresford are packing shoeboxes after their 11 o'clock service on Sunday 19th October. They will have a box at the back of the church for items to go in the boxes from 12th October





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- FREE Safety Checks
- Diagnostic Inspection & Repairs
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Please Ring Our Friendly Team

Tel: 01962 736186

Email: andy.wilcan@live.co.uk

andy@wilcan.co.uk



MOTOR INDUSTRY
CODE OF PRACTICE
Service and Repair

The Long Barn
Winchester Road
Alresford SO24 9EZ

MOT ALRESFORD OR SERVICES

MOT TEST CENTRE

Petrol, Diesel and Motor Cycle

All makes serviced and

repaired to MOT standard

Factory trained in VW, Audi, Saab,

Volvo, Subaru, Landrover

Loyalty Scheme

Try us You are sure to be pleased

01962 733888



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FREE Collection and Delivery
24 hour Recovery

Certified Road Transport Engineers

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Thank you Heather

Thank you so much for looking after us in the surrounding villages so very well. Ovington were very appreciative and will really miss you. All love and very best wishes from us all.

Pip and Liz

'Heather stepped up in our hour of need and provided invaluable support, both in hospital and at home. We are so grateful. Nothing was too much trouble and her pastoral care was exemplary.' Janet and Peter Pooley

Thanks Heather. I'm grateful that you embraced the climate change issues, and your sermon including tearing up your mum's drawing was very powerful. I'm sure I'm not alone in remembering that! I quote it to anyone who will listen. Enjoy your retirement and whatever else God has in mind for you. Love Sue Clarke

Thank you Rev Heather for being so enthusiastic about welcoming young families into St John's. We have truly felt welcomed and celebrated by you. It's been wonderful to develop Families at 4pm and Breakfast Church with you. We will miss you. Love, the Slinger family x

"Heather is a warm, caring and spiritual priest - always ready to listen with an understanding heart. She has a genuine care and concern for others. Thank you Heather for your ministry to us, we will miss you and are very sorry you have had to leave" Roger and Kathryn

we were so very grateful when before George's big op she came and did "Laying on of Hands with Prayer and Anointing". This was a great comfort to both of us and will be something we will never forget. We very much appreciated her support during this very stressful time. George and Maureen Skayman



Heather's work and support of the small but enthusiastic congregation at St Peter's has given us real impetus, and optimism for the future. We are so grateful.

Thanks Heather for all you have done to help this Benefice and especially St Johns, I think the way you have organised the services has been really special, a good mix and all very thoughtful. Wishing you every blessing for the future for you, Mike and the family.
Love Margaret Stewart



Baptisms will never be the same again without Heather. You are always friendly relaxed and welcoming to the families and their friends. We always wait to see if the plastic duck will swim. Then there's the luggage labels on which we all write or draw messages of love to those baptised. We must of course mention the prayer teddy bears who lurk around the font waiting to go to their new home. Finally the names you sew on your stole. What will we do without you?

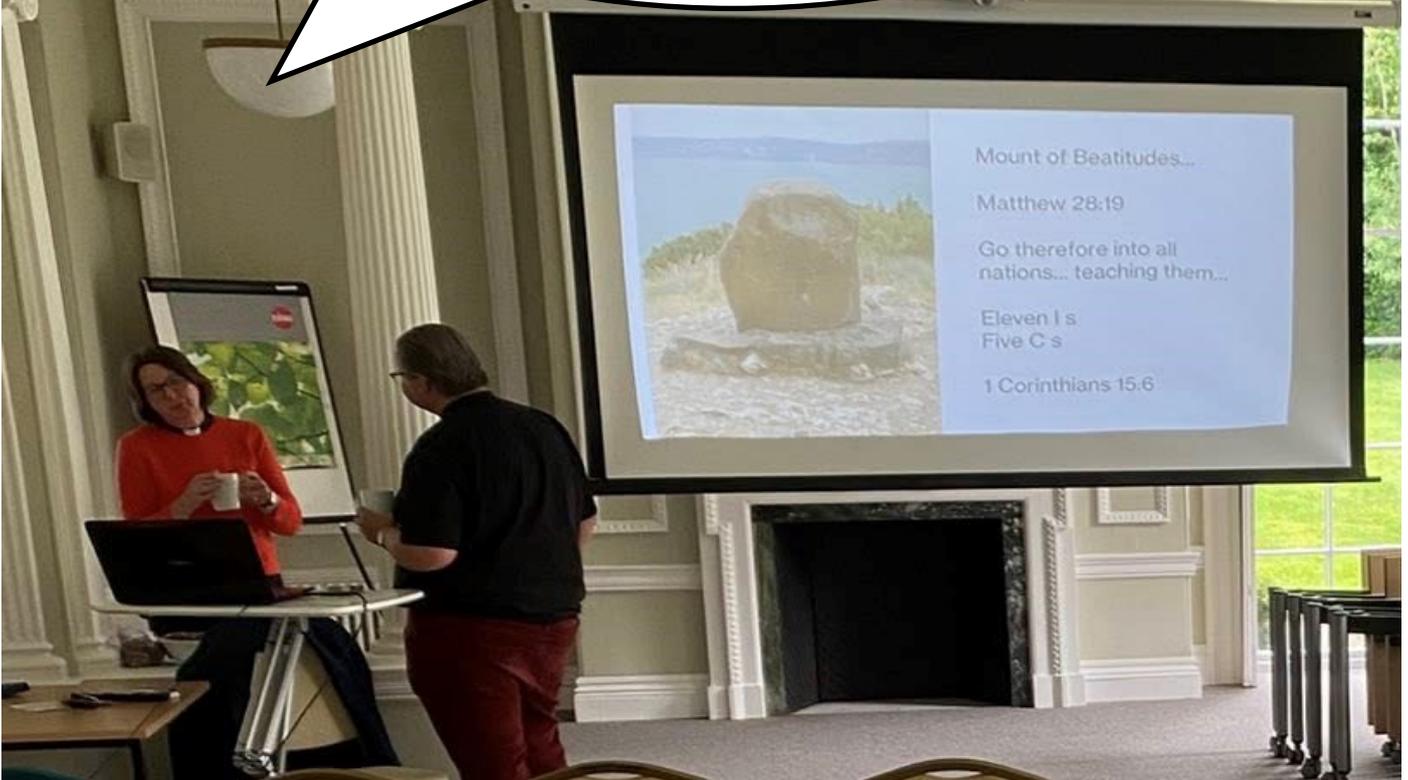
And personally we will miss you enormously in so many ways.

Charlotte and Susan

And Confirmations too



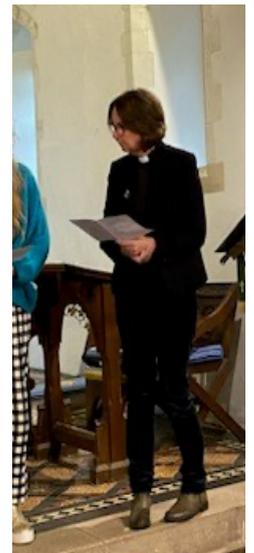
Heather's enthusiasm for Churches Together has been an inspiration for the committee members and we've been left in no doubt that she sees ecumenism as a very important part of her ministry. She's been encouraging, bringing in new ideas, and has been a keen advocate of the Lent discussion groups. The recent CTiA Away Day was mainly planned and arranged by Heather and will be long remembered as a very successful, informative and happy day. Thank you



Heather was always very supportive of bell ringing from the start, chiming the service bell for her Induction service competently 12 times so we hoped she would stay 12 years but that wasn't to be
 Heather has attended our Annual tower meetings and tower dinners and was very generous with gifts of boxes of biscuits at Christmas
 Service ringing was very important to Heather always appreciative of our efforts If a ringer was unavailable to chime a bell for an 8 AM Sunday or 10 AM Wednesday communion Heather would do it !
 All Alresford ringers are grateful for Heathers interest in our ringing and the wellbeing of the band hoping she has a happy and fulfilling retirement



Heather in Many Guises!



More Thanks

I would like to say that it is notable that the attendance at the PCCs at St Peter's Ovington has been 100%. No one misses a meeting! Says it all, I think

With Heather in charge, the meetings were taken well, they were interesting.

She will be greatly missed by all the members of St Peter's PCC

Under her encouragement and just before she leaves we have a new focal minister (Minna Bruce) and a new churchwarden (Roger Harrison) for the villages of Ovington and Itchen Stoke .

So Much to be thankful for I speak for us all. Elizabeth Ribeira



Heather

Some five years ago my husband Ken suffering from Parkinsons and dementia was admitted to a nursing home. Heather new to her role at St Johns and enormously busy offered to come with me to the nursing home and give communion to Ken. He was very confused and low. Ken was a retired policeman with the Metropolitan police and Heather a retired policewoman. Heather totally got through to Ken and I just sat and listened to them exchange stories – it was lovely. Heather continued seeing Ken until his death last year. Without me asking or even thinking of it she also asked around to check out the nursing home as to its quality of care, so much appreciated by me. Heather has continued to care for me and I will miss her very much.

Jennifer Miller

Thank you, Heather for your prayerful leadership and inspirational preaching. Since arriving in Alresford shortly after you, we have enjoyed and admired the energy and encouragement you have brought to St John's. We will miss you and wish you every success in the continuation of your ministry. With love. Pelham and Janet

“Very grateful to Heather for her mentoring and support during our meetings, these were very valuable and greatly appreciated. Heather's insight, love for Jesus and care for people are very evident and she'll be missed by all in Alresford.”

And of course Heather's work with children and families.



All Welcome - St.Johns Families at 4, 1st Sunday of the 4th

"At St.Johns no-one expects you to be at Church for every service, you fit it in around the football games and dance classes and family time, but every time we are back, we are welcomed with open arms"

"It is so relaxed and friendly, I love that the children are encouraged to run and play in the church, not just told to sit quietly, and I get a chance to have a cuppa and make new friends"

"I thought we all had to be Christians or have a strong Faith already to come to church. I didn't realise everyone is welcome to come and just be in the space or to ask questions and explore their faith ideas as a family if they want"



OUR FAMILY TRIP TO WESTMINSTER ABBEY

When Heather mentioned one day in Church that she was going to be at Westminster Abbey for one week in August I made a note and determined to take the family. I'm so pleased I did, it was a truly memorable visit and so easy with our free parish tickets. As it was a beautiful day we walked along the South Bank from Waterloo to cross Westminster Bridge and head for the Abbey. No queues for us, we felt very privileged, doubly so when Heather greeted us inside. The audio guide meant we could go at our own pace to marvel at all the history, beauty and skills of the craftsmanship. I felt it was much smaller than I had imagined but so majestic. Heather took us up to the Jubilee gallery where we had a very memorable view of the nave not to mention the models made in wood of various monarchs for their tombs. We were then treated to prayers with Heather which felt very personal although shared with many.



After 3 hrs in the Abbey, our day was not over, we continued our walk with a trip down memory lane finishing at Covent Garden with its entertainment and refreshment. Home by 10pm with a lot of memories and very sore feet!

The tickets for the Abbey are always available from the church office and I can strongly recommend the experience.

Jude Cowen



Before starting off on our journey to Westminster Abbey we had to get the tickets from the church office. They are very easy to grab and each ticket can be used for 6 trips. At the Abbey we saw loads of amazing tombs of Kings and Queens some tucked away, others right next the pathway. There are amazing carvings of people and animals all over the magnificent building. The carvings are so lifelike and beautiful. After exploring the ground floor, we were able to go up to the upper floors where you could see the whole of the Abbey laid before you. You could see all of the little people moving around beneath you. If you walked around, you could also see some of the funeral effigies and some paintings. As you walked down the stairs you could see all the different materials that they used to make the Abbey. After this we looked around Poet's Corner seeing memorials and tombs of some famous poets like Lord Byron and William Shakespeare. We then walked down the corridor seeing other memorials. We continued our day with late lunch in the crypt cafe at

St.Martin-in-the-Field and visited the National Portrait Gallery. Then we took the train home. It was a wonderful day and we all had so much fun.

Amelia Turner

Our trip to Westminster Abbey by Heather's invitation was really special as Amelia has beautifully described. I particularly enjoyed how special it was to meet up with Heather in the Cathedral, to feel invited to share the immense space at her and the Church's invitation felt very unique. We were very lucky to hear Heather read prayers and I was particularly touched to hear her familiar voice projected throughout the Cathedral and blessed to receive her prayers alongside hundreds of visitors from across the world. The audio tour guide taught us a great deal about the building and its history but mostly just being in such a significant place that I have only ever seen on television for the spectacular weddings, coronations and funerals was very humbling. I would highly recommend a trip to Westminster Abbey to anyone in our congregation. Many thanks again to Heather for making it possible.

Kirstie Turner



Bells Books and Spies by Elizabeth Johnson

Monday August 25th was the 75th anniversary of the opening of Laurence Oxley's bookshop in Broad Street.

To add to the celebrations St John's bells rang out over the town for about half an hour around mid-day. Nine Alresford ringers took it in turns to ring Call Changes, Plain Hunt Triples and Grandsire Triples.

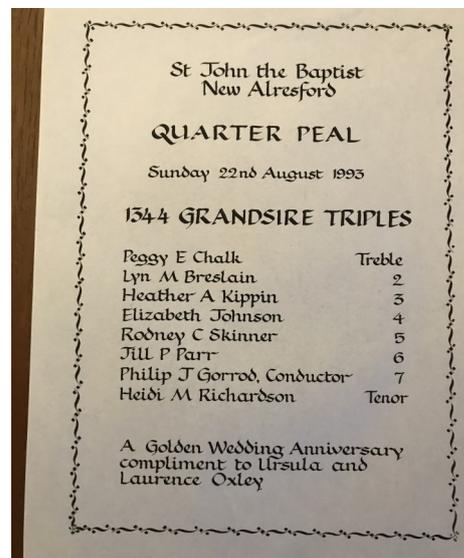
In need of refreshments on such a hot day the ringers descended on the book shop for a very generous and welcome glass of fizz. A chance to chat with Anthony Oxley and his daughter Imogen.

We discovered that the certificate for ringing a Quarter Peal for Laurence and Ursula's Golden Wedding Anniversary in 1993 was still hanging in the downstairs loo!!

The Oxley family has always been supportive of St John's Bellringing



Laurence and Ursula Oxley



The shop will also be remembered for its unintended and unbeknown part in the 1953-1961 Portland Spy Story. Peter Kroger spy and antiquarian book dealer used the shop as his cover for visiting Alresford. Kroger would retrieve secret documents in microdot format stolen from Admiralty Underwater Research Establishment based on the Isle of Portland by Harry Houghton who worked there with fellow spy Ethel Gee.

Using the cistern in the Gents toilet in Station Road as a dead letter drop Kroger would take the information back to his bungalow in Ruislip and transmit the material by covert radio transmission to Russia.

Peter Kroger also passed secret information to Russia hidden in the spines of antiquarian books.



Guardian Angels and Personal Tempters.



Many children especially Catholics believe the picture above. It certainly sometimes feels like it as there are two voices in your head one urging you in the right way; the other wrong way.

The belief in Guardian angels comes from Jesus himself as he said 'See that you do not look down on one of the little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven.' (Matthew 18.10)

Of course the existence of angels generally is well attested in scripture the most famous being the Angel Gabriel who visits Mary in the Annunciation. Christians through the centuries have believed in angels and some believe they have seen or heard angels. The great American evangelist Billy Graham has written an entire book on the existence and work of angels.

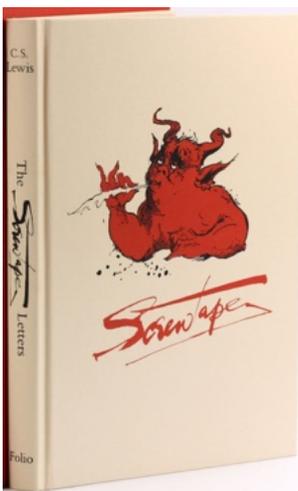
For many centuries angels were included in the feast day of St Michael and All Angels but in 1607 Pope Clement X gave the guardian angels their own feast day on October 2nd.

The Victorians were keen on the idea of Guardian angels and painted several pictures of them as shown.



There is no biblical evidence for a personal tempter though it seems logical. This

idea was of course developed by C.S. Lewis in his bestselling book ***The Screwtape Letters*** in which the minor devil, Wormwood, is tasked with tempting his 'patient' to sin and thus make him food for hell. He is guided by his 'uncle' Screwtape. If you haven't read this book it is well worth reading and is very easy to get into as well.



Under Christ, as the Head, angels are the guardians of the Church. – John Calvin

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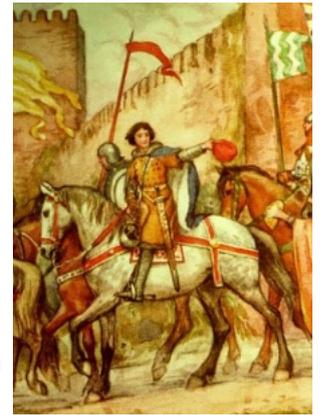
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St Francis of Assisi - love for the Creation

St Francis (1181 - 1226) is surely one of the most attractive and best-loved of all the saints. But he began by being anything but a saint. Born the son of a wealthy cloth-merchant of Assisi, Francis' youth was spent in fast-living, parties and on fast horses as a leader of the young society of the town. Then he went to the war between Assisi and Perugia, and was taken prisoner for a year.



By the time of his release, Francis had changed. Perhaps his own suffering had awakened him to that of others. In any case, he abandoned warfare and carousing, and began to help the poor and the lepers of his area. Then one day a voice which seemed to come from the crucifix in the small, semi-derelict church of Damiano Assisi 'Go and repair my house, which you see is falling down'.

This religious experience was a vital turning point in Francis' life: Jesus Christ became very real and immediate to him. His first action was to begin repairing the church, having sold some of his father's cloth to pay for materials. His father was not amused, in fact he was furious - until Francis renounced his inheritance and even his clothes by his dramatic stripping off in the public square of the town. The Bishop of Assisi provided him with simple garments, and Francis began his new life.



His inspiration was always religious, not social, and the object of his quest was always the Crucified Christ, not Lady Poverty for her own sake. Francis rebuilt San Samiano, and then travelled as a pilgrim. His compassion for the poor and lepers became famous. Soon disciples joined him, and they set up a communal life in simple wattle and daub huts. They went on occasional preaching tours. (Not until later did they become an Order whose theologians won fame in the Universities.)

In 1219 Francis visited the Holy Land, and his illusions about the Crusaders were shattered. He went on to seek out the Sultan, and tried to convert him.

Back home, he found his Order was now 5,000 strong, and growing. Francis stepped down as head, but continued to preach and was immensely popular. He died after a prolonged illness at the age of 45, and was canonised in 1228.

Francis' close rapport with the animal creation was well known. The story of his preaching to the birds has always been a favourite scene from his life. He also tamed the wolf of Gubbio. This affinity emphasises his consideration for, and sense of identity with, all elements of the physical universe, as seen in his Canticle of the Sun. This makes him an apt patron of nature conservation.

The 20th century witnessed a widespread revival of interest in Francis. Sadly, some films and books caricatured him as only a sentimental nature-lover or a hippie drop out from society. This ignores the real sternness of his character, and his all-pervasive love of God and identification with Christ's sufferings, which alone make sense of his life.



Elizabeth Fry, prison reformer 12th October

Elizabeth Fry had endless compassion and endless energy – and together with a steadfast determination to do God’s work, this outstanding philanthropist became one of the foremost promoters of prison reform – not just in Britain, but in all of Europe.

Elizabeth was born in 1780, far from any prison. The family lived in Norwich, where her father was a wealthy Quaker banker and merchant. In 1800 she married a London merchant, Joseph Fry.

Elizabeth could have spent her life safely at home, raising her many children. But instead, she felt compelled to help the desperate social needs of the time.

There was a good reason for this. Back in 1798, when she had been attending a Quaker meeting in Norwich, someone had spoken what Elizabeth felt was a prophetic word for her life. As she noted in her diary at the time:

‘Deborah Darby then spoke... she addressed part of it to me; I only fear she says too much of what I am to be. A light to the blind; speech to the dumb; and feet to the lame; can it be? She seems as if she thought I was to be a minister of Christ. Can I ever be one? If I am obedient I believe I shall.’

And she was.

Elizabeth was accepted as a Quaker ‘minister’, and her good works in London began.

But it was not until one day in 1813, when she visited Newgate Prison in London, that Elizabeth’s life changed forever. That day she witnessed such horrors of the circumstances in which women and children were kept, that she knew she had found the focus for her life’s work.

Soon her daily visits to the prison, where she read the Bible and taught the women to sew, grew into a campaign to achieve basic rights for the women prisoners. She fought for the classification of criminals, the segregation of the sexes, female supervision of women, and some provision for education

In 1817 she created the Association for the Improvement of Female Prisoners, and then lobbied Parliament. By 1818 Elizabeth had raised such a storm that she was called to give evidence to a Parliamentary Select Committee who was examining conditions in prison. They accepted many of her proposed reforms.

In 1820 Elizabeth tackled the huge problem of destitution in London. She opened a ‘Nightly Shelter for the Homeless in London’, which became the first of many. She founded a society to help released prisoners with rehabilitation. And she was certainly a ‘hands-on’ sort of lady; it was said that for the next 20 years she personally inspected every single ship containing women convicts before it sailed to Australia.

Between 1838 and 1842 Elizabeth visited all the prisons in France, reporting to the Interior Minister. She then inspected prisons in Belgium, Holland, Switzerland, Germany, Denmark, Scotland and Ireland.

Elizabeth also founded schools for poor girls, soup kitchens for the hungry, better housing for the poor, and also investigated mental asylums. She even established a nursing school, which influenced her distant relative, Florence Nightingale.

By the time Elizabeth died in 1845, she had helped tens of thousands of helpless people to find some relief from their suffering. She had indeed lived her life as a ‘minister of Christ’.



Some Other October Feast Days

St Luke the Evangelist – linking the sacred and the profane *October 18th*

To St Luke, a Gentile, we owe the beautifully written Gospel of Luke, and the Book of Acts. He was a Greek physician, a disciple of St Paul, a companion on some of his missionary journeys, and an inspired writer.

Luke's gospel focuses on the compassion of Christ. His gospel contains some of the most moving parables, such as the Good Samaritan and Prodigal Son. This, with his emphasis on poverty, prayer and purity of heart, make up much of his appeal to the Gentiles, for whom he wrote.

Women figure more prominently in Luke's gospel than any other: look out for the extended story of the Virgin Birth, and stories of Mary, Elizabeth, and the woman who was a sinner. His account of Jesus's birth is believed by many to have come from Mary herself.

In Acts, Luke is remarkably good at linking sacred and profane history, as subsequent archaeology has shown. A principal theme of his Acts is how the early Christians moved away from Jerusalem into the pagan world, and especially on to Rome.

Luke is the patron saint of doctors, surgeons and artists (due to his picturesque style of writing though legend has it that he painted Our Lady). His symbol is an ox, sometimes explained by reference to the sacrifice in the Temple at the beginning of his Gospel.



Alfred the Great, King of the West Saxons, scholar, d AD 899 *October 26th*



Can you think of a politician who deserves to be called a saint? If no one currently living politician comes to mind, never mind – there is always King Alfred of Wessex (871-99).

This remarkable and best known of all the Anglo-Saxon rulers may have dozed off and let some cakes burn while a peasant woman was hiding him from the Vikings, but he did so much else which was of lasting good for the Anglo-Saxon people.

It was a desperate time for the Anglo-Saxons – the kingdoms of Northumbria, East Anglia and Mercia had fallen to the Vikings. Only Alfred's province remained free. Through some inspired military manoeuvring, Alfred managed to keep them at bay. As a Christian, he became the defender of all Christian Anglo-Saxons against the pagan Vikings. (His son and grandsons went on to conquer the Vikings, and thus ensured the future unity of England.)

Alfred was also a scholar, and admired certain writings which had laid down models of ideal Christian kingship. He tried to put these principles into practice, such as producing a law-code. Alfred believed strongly that anyone in authority should have to study in order to learn how to govern. Not such a bad idea for leaders today!

Alfred was never canonised by the Church, but his translation of *Consolation of Philosophy* by Boethius is often thought to be a fitting epitaph: *I desired to live worthily as long as I lived, and to leave after my life, to the men who should come after me, the memory of me in good works.*

A Moving Church—Kiruna

I wonder how many of you saw the extraordinary pictures of the large wooden church being moved on wheels in Kiruna in mid August. I have had the privilege of visiting this northern Swedish town which is over 100 miles inside the Arctic Circle. Apart from the startling beauty of the landscape, particularly in winter, the town is home to a vast iron ore mine.

It was started in 1898 and originally surface mining techniques were used, but by 2020, the main extraction levels were 1365m (4478 feet) below the original surface level!

Part of the problem is that it isn't a conveniently straight vertical seam, but slants at about 30 degrees; while it was originally a comfortable distance away from the town centre it has been inexorably getting closer to being right underneath the town, posing a real risk of subsidence (in 2020, there was actually an earthquake caused by the mining activity!).

It was therefore decided in 2004 to move the whole centre some 2 miles east, with 21 of the most important buildings to be moved. Many historic buildings are being demolished and rebuilt in the new centre, but in the case of the 100 year-old wooden church, it was decided to jack it up, put it on huge motorised "roller skates" and drive it along a specially widened road to its new home. This was no light task: built between 1909 and 1912, this is at 40m x 40m x 37m high, one of Sweden's largest wooden buildings, having a nave and 2 side aisles and weighing in at over 600 tonnes. The total distance travelled was some 5km (about 3 miles), and took 2 days. The route taken was based on an ordinary road, but to enable something of this size to pass, not only was the road widened hugely, but traffic lights, power lines and all other obstructions were removed.

There is very surreal footage of the move available online, showing this very substantial building drifting gracefully but determinedly past trees and houses. It is now safe on its new foundations and no longer in danger of disappearing down some abyss.

An interesting thing was the reaction of the Kirunans to its move: many were delighted that their church was to be saved for future generations, and that the risk of extinction was averted, but some were simply sad because the church was no longer where it used to be.

I couldn't help seeing a parallel with what happens when churches move to embrace a different future to survive and flourish. There are those who will understand the sometimes substantial effort to make the move, along new roads, and flattening some things along that way – they will be excited about the new secure foundations, the new vistas and the new possibilities. Others will simply lament the fact that the church is no longer where they remember it, in spite of the risk of subsidence and oblivion being very real.

Ian Waring-Green



Alresford Methodist Church



October 4th - Bacon Butties

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

Breakfast is served from 9.30-11.00am.



October 6th – Memory Lane Café

The Monday Memory Café was initially set up with the specific purpose of supporting those suffering memory loss and their carers. However, 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. We offer 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.

October 9th - Women's Fellowship

The 'Women's Fellowship' group will meet in the Methodist church hall at 2.30pm. This meeting will be followed with tea and cake. A warm welcome is extended to everyone.



October 10th – Church Prayers

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

November 8th - Table Top Sale

Saturday, 8th November From 10.00am to 2.00pm

Alresford Methodist Church, Jacklyns Lane, Alresford. SO24 9JJ

Tables £10 each. Half tables available

Coffee and biscuits

To book a table please ring 01962 734481

DEVON APPLE DUMPLINGS



Inspired by a recent holiday to the West Country, here's a tasty and comforting treat to try. The recipe makes six dumplings and can be prepared and chilled in the fridge for up to 24 hours before baking, if needed.

Ingredients

50g butter, finely diced
50g demerara sugar
50g raisins
½ tsp ground cinnamon
6 medium Bramley apples (each about 200g)
500g ready-made shortcrust pastry
flour for dusting
1 egg white, lightly beaten
6 tsp caster sugar
cream or custard, to serve



Method

Mix the butter, sugar, raisins and cinnamon in a small bowl. Peel the apples, then remove the core from each with a corer or a teaspoon, leaving the apple whole.

Preheat the oven to 200°C, fan 180°C, gas 6. Put a baking tray in the oven to heat.

Remove the shortcrust pastry from the fridge and cut in half, then cut each piece into 3 equal rectangles. Flatten each piece with your hand and shape roughly into a circle shape, then roll out thinly on a work surface lightly dusted with flour until it forms a rough circle large enough to wrap completely around an apple (about 20cm in diameter). Place one apple in the centre of one piece of pastry and spoon a little of the butter and sugar mixture inside the apple (where the core used to be), packing it in tightly. Brush the edges of the pastry with a pastry brush slightly wet with water, then gather the pastry up over the apple, pleating the pastry all the way around to enclose it, pinching the pastry tightly together at the top. The pastry will be quite thick at the top, so pinch off a little – enough to roll thinly into a leaf – and set aside. Repeat with all the apples.

Gather the pastry trimmings together and roll out thinly then cut out 6 small oval leaf shapes, score with the back of a knife, brush the back of each with a damp pastry brush and place one leaf on each apple.

Brush the apples with the egg white, sprinkle with sugar; put on the hot baking tray. Bake for 30 minutes until golden and the apples are tender. Serve hot with cream or custard.

For a sprinkle of fairy-dust try:

For the full West Country experience, serve with a generous addition of clotted cream!



Time to fly! Fairy Cake



Volunteers needed

VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES - LOTS OF CHOICES TO SUIT...



A variety of help needed please for St John's - It is the time of year when we are beginning to do rotas for the autumn!!!

If you or anyone you know would be able to help with any of the below it would be VERY much appreciated.

Please contact Rosie 07891 120662 rosie@22rwg.co.uk.
(All below occur approximately once every 6 weeks or so.)

Church Locking - the church needs locking, lights out etc at about 5pm each night for a week at a time.

Monday, Meet and Eat in term time - Either making tea, washing up or playing games with the children or cooking a simple meal for approx 15.

Chatterbox on a Thursday in term time - Time to welcome and chat to families of children under 5.

St John's Tech Team - Help needed to either control the sound or click on the service overheads or set the livestream on the camera. *Full training given.*

St Michael's Hospice (North Hampshire)

We are looking for volunteers to help us in our shop in Four Marks on Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays. By volunteering with us, not only will you be working with a great team, you'll be making a big difference to your local Hospice. Find out more and apply on our website: <https://www.stmichaels Hospice.org.uk/get-involved/support-us/volunteer/volunteer-vacancies> or telephone 01420 568096

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

VOLUNTEER NEEDED



Clock Caretaker Vacancy

If you have an interest in churches, clocks or other historical buildings, this vacancy might be for you!

- Can you spare 30 minutes twice a week?
- Are you fit and happy enough to climb steep stairs up to the clock winding room?
- Training will be provided.
- Do you live in the Alresford area and would like more information?

JOIN US!

If you are interested, please contact arlevallychurches@gmail.com for more details.



The Poppy Appeal – could you help by giving some time this autumn?

The 2025 Poppy Appeal will be launched this month.

The Poppy is a powerful symbol worn by people right across the UK to commemorate the sacrifices of our Armed Forces and to show support to those still serving today.



The Royal British Legion was first set up to help those returning from the First World War. Almost a century on, they're still helping today's Service people, veterans, and their families coping with bereavement, living with disability or finding employment.

However, the Poppy Appeal would not be able to continue without the dedication of the teams of volunteers who stand in the streets, shops and supermarkets. Each town and village has their own Poppy Appeal Organiser - also a volunteer - who runs these teams, arranges for cover, drops off and collects the boxes.



The Poppy Appeal is always grateful for the work of these dedicated people, but the volunteers say they are proud to be selling Poppies to show support for those who sacrificed their lives for us.

If you want to volunteer, or if you would like a visit from a local volunteer who can speak to your community/church group, please go to: <https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/get-involved/volunteer>.

Why we wear a poppy - remembering at the library

Alresford library will be remembering in November with a special window display by the Craft and Conversation group, in conjunction with the library staff.

Why do we wear poppies and who are we remembering? If you do not already know, come and find out.

Come in and join the library, if you are not already a member, there is no charge and the service is friendly and helpful. Borrow a book or two, or more, or just browse for something of interest. If you cannot find what you are looking for, ask the knowledgeable library staff.

On a Friday between 2 and 4 pm, meet the group members, learn to knit or crochet or just chat. No age limit, everybody welcome. We should love to hear your experiences, whether you are a military or a civilian survivor.

Remember with us.



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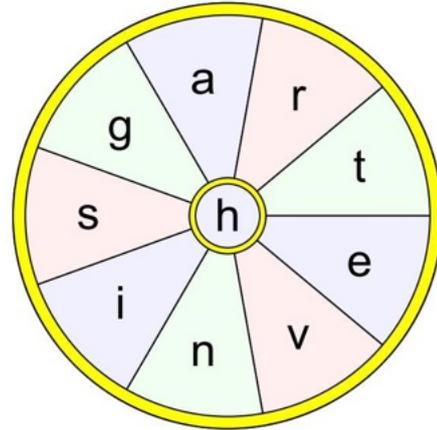
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Life without God is like an unsharpened pencil – it has no point. – *Billy Graham*

Puzzles

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

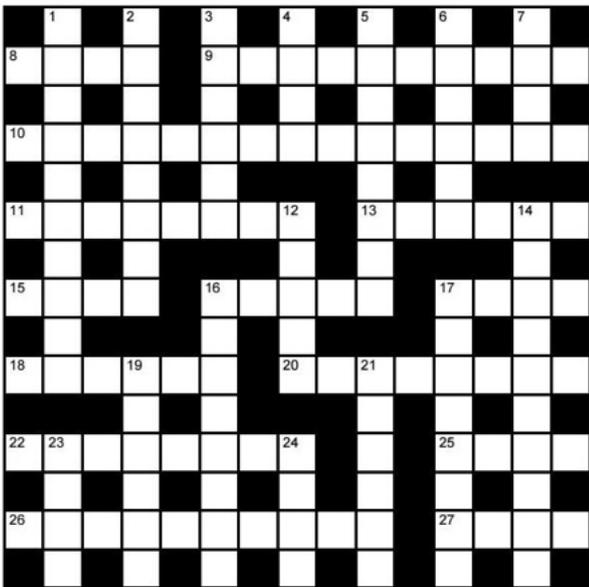
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How many words can you find of four letters or more? All letters may be used once and all words must include the centre letter. No plurals.

90 amazing, 70 good 50 okay

Fill in numbers so all squares, rows and



Across

- 8 Hairy creature one's pursuing still (4)
- 9 Email edited to make speech better (10)
- 10 Disappeared when Gale came like Wizard of Oz? Wrong film (15)
- 11 Aunt injured with a partial lump in fall (8)
- 13 Good physician initially soothes the large ulcerated knee entirely (6)
- 15 Tough, cord like. (4)
- 16 Entirely depend on joint (5)
- 17 Keys disappear (4)

Down

- 18 Produce article in Rome after this month? (6)
- 20 Shaving tool noticed for cutting stone not hair (5,3)
- 22 Make me turn sharp and sour (8)
- 25 Blow up in worthy people (4)
- 26 College, one in France, it is very organised (10)
- 27 Not a single religious woman so we hear (4)

Down continued

- 2 Stir biofuel with unknown to save life (4,4)
- 3 Rodent one gets on allowance (6)
- 4 Fit together in same shed (4)
- 5 Spot the diocese? Like a tourist? (8)
- 6 Drying cloth wrapped round right tool (6)
- 7 Mad to go back and surprise (4)
- 12 Ship coming from the River Nile (5)
- 14 Child slept when taken hostage (10)
- 16 Rope choking female - Mary's initially no time for lesson (8)
- 17 Court action on behalf of European worker (8)
- 19 That is Victor in the nick (6)
- 21 Old car? Just a breeze (6)
- 23 Pit belonging to me (4)
- 24 Endlessly regretting destruction (4)

As you tidy your garden for winter think about climate change ...

Gardens are preparing to go to sleep, but next Spring will soon be here. So why not consider some changes now:



~ Install a water butt now, to store up the winter rain for the Spring.

~ Reduce the hard standing in your garden. Instead, let rain soak into the soil, rather than go down a drain and if you do need hard standing how about paving which has holes in it so water can drain into the soil.

~ Plant something tall to create shade in your garden next year – the soil will remain wetter. Trees and plants help to remove carbon dioxide from the air. They reduce the threat of flooding by slowing down rainwater runoff.

~ Make your property greener if you can. Planting on roofs and having climbing plants on walls makes the inside cooler in summer and preserves heat in winter. A hedge between you and the road helps to reduce noise and captures some of the particulates that cars produce that pollute our environment

~ Put in more plants – the more you have, the more protection they give the ground. Try to use native species, as your local wildlife depends on them. Have a variety of plants that cope with different temperatures and like different amounts of water so you will always have something pretty. And try to get plants that are recommended to help insects—we have lost 70% of insects worldwide. And as the slogan goes: no insects, no food, no humans.

~ Consider adding a pond – it will be a great boost to your local wildlife!



~ Be ecological—don't use peat based compost as peat is one of the biggest stores of carbon. Use non-peat compost and how about making your own—all those outer leaves, grass cuttings, carrot peelings, shredded paper make good compost. You don't need some fancy kit as you can build your own out of a few planks. And avoid chemicals as much as possible—there are organic, climate friendly alternatives.

~ As you tidy don't get rid of all the ivy— the RHS call it an ecological super plant that can survive almost any conditions and attracts loads of pollinators. They do far less damage to fences and buildings than most people imagine.

~ Consider growing more vegetables and fruit—that reduces your carbon footprint enormously. It also produces food that tastes far better than the stuff you buy in the supermarket plus the vitamin content is far higher as it is so fresh.





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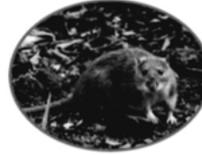
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1	3	9	7	8	5	6	2	4
4	8	7	6	2	9	1	5	3
7	5	3	2	9	6	8	4	1
9	6	1	4	5	8	3	7	2
8	4	2	3	7	1	5	6	9
3	9	4	5	6	2	7	1	8
2	7	5	8	1	3	4	9	6
6	1	8	9	4	7	2	3	5

anther, aright, ashen, ashet, ashier, ashine, ashing, earth, eight, garish, garnish, garth, gash, gather, geisha, girth, gnash, hair, hairnet, hang, hanger, hare, haring, hart, harvest, harvesting, hast, haste, hasten, hastier, hasting, hate, hater, hating, have, haven, havens, haver, havering, having, hear, hearing, heart, hearting, heat, heating, heaving, hegari, heir, heist, hernia, hinge, hint, hire, hist, hive, ingather, nearish, neath, neigh, nigh, nighest, night, rash, rath, rathe, ravish, rehang, resight, right, righten, saith, shag, share, sharing, shave, shaven, shaver, shaving, shear, shearing, sheaving, shier, shin, shine, shiner, shire, shirt, shiver, shrine, shrive, shriven, sigh, sigher, sight, sighter, tarnish, than, thane, their, then, thin, thine, thing, this, thrive, thriven, trash, trashing, vanish, vanisher, varnish.

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



Let us pray

Lord of Life we pray for our world, your creation, with all the issues of climate change and pollution. Guide us all especially those with power and influence to put the needs of the planet and its people before profit and short term success.

Prince of Peace we pray for our war-torn world. We look with tears at the devastation in Gaza and Ukraine and elsewhere. Give our leaders a real heart for peace that they may put aside their anger, their fear, their greed and turn to negotiation rather than violence. Be with all those who suffer the devastation of war. Remember the refugees and all fleeing war. Help us all not to see those who are different as enemies but as friends yet to be.

Loving God as Jesus you lived and worked as a member of a family and community be with families today as they settle back into work, or education especially be with those who face new challenges in new places with new people. Guide them to follow the right path and keep them safe.

Lord of All you have planted the seed of longing for you in all our hearts. Help us to come closer to you and know you better whatever our faith or lack of it. We pray especially for those who suffer for their faith give them your strength and wisdom. This month we pray especially for Heather as she moved to a new stage in her ministry and for this Benefice as we face the vacancy.

Healing God we pray for all who suffer. We pray for the sick and injured asking for your presence with them. We pray for those facing financial difficulties, for the homeless and the unemployed. We raise to you those who face the consequence of wrong decisions. Give strength to all who work to end suffering wherever it may be.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer



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For further information email;
contact@befriendtheend.co.uk

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Water Emergency 0800 820 99

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Childline 0800 111

Health

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Hospital, Winchester

01962 863535

Alresford Group Surgery,

Station Rd, Alresford

01962 732345

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

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Wessex Pharmacies

Broad Street, Alresford

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Councils

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Winchester City Council

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East Hampshire District Council

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

New Alresford Town Council

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

BENEFICE CONTACTS

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

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Pearson Hall

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Flower Co-Ordinator

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Giving & Gift Aid Secretary

David Griffiths

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T. 733237 e: rosie@22rwg.co.uk

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Alresford Wine Circle
4th Thursday, 8pm

Table Talk
3rd Friday, 12 - 2pm

Solos Sunday Tea
3rd Sunday, 2.30 – 4.30pm

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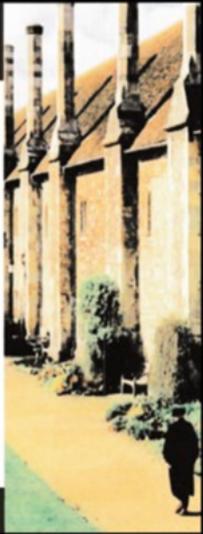
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