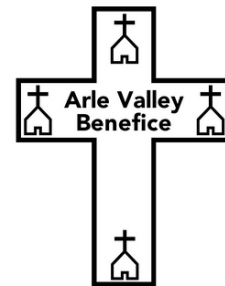


# The Arle Valley Benefice

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



**7<sup>th</sup> December 2025 - Second Sunday of Advent**

**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:**

**Amos 7** p. 870-1 or **Isaiah 11.1-10** p. 650-1

**Romans 15.4-13** p. 159-60

**Matthew 3.1-12** p. 2-3

### St. John's

9.30am Parish Communion

**4pm Christingle + Families @ 4pm**

### St. Mary's

11am Village Family Praise

### St. Peter's

No Service

### All Saints

No Service



## Collect for Today

Almighty God,  
give us grace to cast away the works  
of darkness  
and to put on the armour of light,  
now in the time of this mortal life,  
in which your Son Jesus Christ came  
to us in great humility;  
that on the last day,  
when he shall come again in his glorious  
majesty to judge the living and the dead,  
we may rise to the life immortal;  
through him who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**Amen**

## Post Communion Prayer

Father in heaven,  
who sent your Son to redeem the world  
and will send him again to be our judge:  
give us grace so to imitate him in the  
humility and purity of his first coming  
that, when he comes again,  
we may be ready to greet him  
with joyful love and firm faith;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**



## 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.

***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.

**The Arle Valley Benefice takes its duty  
and obligation to protect everyone, extremely  
seriously. If you have any safeguarding concerns  
or issues of a safeguarding nature  
our Safeguarding Officers are:  
Sarah Wilding (St. John's) or  
Alison Mayne (St. Mary's/All Saints/St. Peter's)  
e-mail: [arlevalleysafeguarding@gmail.com](mailto:arlevalleysafeguarding@gmail.com)**

## THIS WEEK (8<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> December)

Mon 8 <sup>th</sup>	9am 3.30pm	All Saints John Pearson Hall	Morning Prayer Monday Meet & Eat (Families)
Tues 9 <sup>th</sup>	9am 10am	St. John's John Pearson Hall	Morning Prayer <b>Coffee, Cake &amp; Chat</b>
Wed 10 <sup>th</sup>	9am 10am 5pm	St. Mary's St. John's Vestry in St. John's	Morning Prayer Midweek Holy Communion Chill, Chat and Chomp (Youth Group)
Thurs 11 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Paused</b> 10am 7.30pm	<b>St. Peter's</b> John Pearson Hall St. John's	<b>Morning Prayer (PAUSED UNTIL MARCH)</b> <b>Chatterbox Baby and Toddler Group</b> <b>Gospel Collective Winter Concert</b>
Fri 12 <sup>th</sup>	9am 10am	Zoom - Online <b>Vestry - St. John's</b>	Zoom Morning Prayer Parish Prayer Meeting <u>in the Vestry</u> .
Sat 13 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	St. John's	<b>ACC Christmas Concert - Deck The Halls!</b>

## SUNDAY (14<sup>th</sup> December) - Third Sunday of Advent

9.30am	St. John's	Breakfast Church	
9.30am	St. Mary's	Morning Praise	
4pm	All Saints	<b>Carols @ Bighton</b>	
4pm	St. Peter's	<b>Carols by Candlelight at St. Peter's</b>	
6pm	St. John's	<b>Sundays @ Six</b>	

### PRAYERS FOR:

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

### THOSE WHO HAVE RECENTLY DIED:

Wendy Hill, Anne George, John Rabjohns, and Michael Baron



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.***



### ST. JOHN'S CHURCH CLOCK

The church clock is being repaired and will not show the correct time for at least 3 months, so please don't worry if you see it is incorrect.



### ADVENT VIDEO

This is a great introduction to our preparation for Advent by Pete Grieg, the author of How to Pray and How to Hear God  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=8JrmaEjNaAk&t=1352s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8JrmaEjNaAk&t=1352s)

# Notices

## UPCOMING WEDDING

Please pray for our wedding couple who will be married soon:

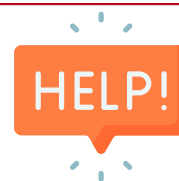
Thomas Sanderson and Francesca Wood on Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm in St. Peter's



## HELP NEEDED THIS SUNDAY

Families@4 Team would be grateful for some **help to put out a few tables and move some chairs after the 9.30am St. John's service ready for Christingle** on Sunday at 4pm.

Also, **help to prepare the oranges for the candles** would be most appreciated.



## St John's Christingle Service - Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> December @ 4pm

Join us at our Christingle to celebrate Jesus, the Light of the World

## TINSEL AND TEA TOWELS NATIVITY MUSICAL - 5<sup>TH</sup> & 6<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER (6PM)



Please join us at 6pm (both nights) in St. John's for a funny musical take on the nativity story with a backstage insight into putting on a performance children from ACTS and the Sunshine Singers.

Tickets available online: £5 Adults / Over 5's £3 / Under 5's Free  
[www.ticketsource.co.uk/alresford-community-theatre-society](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/alresford-community-theatre-society)  
Bar and Cakes will be available before and after the show.



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

Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> December (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!



## Churches Together Carol Singing Around the Homes

On December 9<sup>th</sup>, we shall be singing carols at Wayfarer Place and Makins Court and on December 16<sup>th</sup> at Ellingham Court and Bailey House. This year we plan to have 4 groups of singers, one for each of the homes. Each group will start singing at 6:30. There will be a sign up sheet at the back of St. John's because we really want to make sure each venue has a good number of singers.

**VOLUNTEERS  
NEEDED**

This is a wonderful opportunity to sing favourite carols and to reach out into the community so please do join us for one or both evenings. *Names can also be given to Jackie Connell email :jackie.connell@btinternet.com or Diann Adam email: diannfadam@gmail.com*

## OLD ALRESFORD MOTHERS' UNION MEETING - TUESDAY, 16<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER

Old Alresford Mothers' Union: Our next meeting is our Christmas meal on Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> Dec at 12 noon at The Swan. *Don't forget your Secret Santa gift!* Contact: Heather Galley, Branch Leader on 01962 732326.



## A Christmas Film with the TableTalk Gang...

### The Nativity - BBC film

On December 19<sup>th</sup> at TableTalk we will be showing the BBC film The Nativity in the hall. It's a beautiful film which follows the story of the first Christmas. We shall start with our usual **Bring and Share lunch at 12pm** and begin showing the film at 12:15. *All are very welcome to join us in the JP Hall.*

# Notices

## ST JOHN'S FLOWER SPONSORSHIP ROTA 2026

The Flower Sponsorship Rota for 2026 is now available at the back of church. Thank you to all of you who sponsored flowers in 2025 and for the sponsorship to come for 2026. If you would like to sponsor a pedestal next year in remembrance of someone special or for a special event then please sign up to ensure that you get the specific date you want. The Church Flower Arranging Team are all volunteers who, whilst not professionals, enjoy flower arranging and will do their best to produce a lovely arrangement for you.



When sponsoring an arrangement **payment of £30 may be made directly into the following account (preferred method) Payee: PCC of New Alresford Flower Fund, Sort Code: 51-61-09, Account Number 70002223**. Alternatively, drop a cheque or cash (with a note to say who you are and who you have sponsored) into the church office for the attention of Jane Parsons, cheques should be made payable to PCC of New Alresford Flower Fund in an envelope marked 'FLOWERS'. **Very many thanks.**

## Thank you!

Thank you to everyone who came and everyone who helped make this year's Gift from St John's such a success.

Lots of hard work was rewarded by many smiles and grateful thanks and some families staying 2 or 3 hours enjoying themselves.



## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY HEALTH & SAFETY VOLUNTEER

St. John's Churchwardens are looking for someone who can look after our maintenance programme for our church. The role would involve booking regular outside agencies and overseeing risk assessments.

*If you could help, it would be VERY much appreciated.*

**Rosie: 07891 120662 [rosie@22rwg.co.uk](mailto:rosie@22rwg.co.uk)**

## MONDAYS AT 10.00 COFFEE (1<sup>ST</sup> Mondays in the Christy Hall)

At the December 1st Monday@10 coffee we drew the raffle for the beautiful rosette made by Louise Ludlow (Colin and Carole Pope's daughter) The winner was Judith Taylor. Thank you to everyone who took part. We raised £90 for our project to improve facilities at St Mary's.



## OLD ALRESFORD'S ANNUAL FESTIVE CHRISTMAS QUIZ IS BACK!!

**On sale (£2.50 a copy) at P&G Wells, Six West, Oxley's Bookshop, Walkers Hairdressers, The Surgery and St. John's & St. Mary's.**

**Closing date: Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

Answers / Prize winners / Funds raised details available from Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup> January at St. Mary's Church and all points of sale or request a copy by giving your email address on your returned entry. We are raising funds for a much needed kitchen servery & toilet. **Thank you for your support!**



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 01962 732056 or  
Patricia Todd 07810 723973

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

**Rector: Position Vacant**

**Benefice Office**

**Open Monday - Friday 9 - 11am**

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 (7<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> December)



*O come O come Emmanuel.*

*Please pray for .....*

**The troubled world.** Pray for a genuine peace deal between Russia and Ukraine. Pray that aid into Gaza will increase to relieve the suffering of so many, especially children. Pray for all affected by the apartments fire in Hong Kong, for families worried about their loved ones, all who are injured, all who have lost their homes.

**All countries affected by climate change currently experiencing floods, drought or other extreme weather conditions.** Pray that progress may be made as a result of COP 30 to reduce the effects of climate change and that we may all act responsibly to reduce our carbon footprints.

**Our town and all who serve us in shops, pubs, cafes and restaurants.** *Pray for those who will find Christmas difficult this year, all who will spend Christmas alone without their loved ones. Pray for all who are unwell, in hospital or at home and for all who care for them, doctors, nurses and families and friends.*

**Our churches as we begin the season of Advent.** Pray that we will use this time to prepare reflectively for Christmas. Pray for all who will lead services here during the Vacancy and for all church wardens who have taken extra responsibility. Pray that the Gift from St John's day is an enjoyable day for all involved.

**O come thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits  
by thine advent here; disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
and deaths dark shadows put to flight.**

***Rejoice, rejoice Emmanuel.***