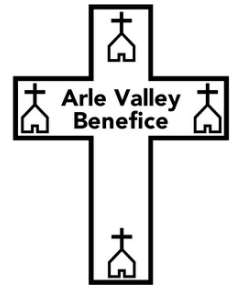


# The Arle Valley Benefice

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



**14<sup>th</sup> December 2025 - Third 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:**

**Isaiah 35.1-10** p. 673

**James 5.7-10** p. 228-9

**Matthew 11.2-11** p. 10-11

### St. John's

9.30am Breakfast Church

6pm Sundays@Six

### St. Mary's

9.30am Morning Praise

### St. Peter's

***4pm Carols by Candlelight***

### All Saints

***4pm Carol Service***



## Collect for Today

O Lord Jesus Christ,  
who at your first coming sent your  
messenger to prepare your way before you:  
grant that the ministers and stewards of  
your mysteries may likewise so prepare  
and make ready your way  
by turning the hearts of the disobedient  
to the wisdom of the just,  
that at your second coming to judge  
the world we may be found an acceptable  
people in your sight;  
for you are alive and reign with the Father  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**Amen**

## Post Communion Prayer

We give you thanks, O Lord,  
for these heavenly gifts;  
kindle in us the fire of your Spirit  
that when your Christ comes again  
we may shine as lights before his face;  
who is alive and reigns now and for ever.

**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 (15<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> December)

Mon 15 <sup>th</sup>	9am	All Saints	Morning Prayer
Tues 16 <sup>th</sup>	9am	St. John's	Morning Prayer
Wed 17 <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 18 <sup>th</sup>	Paused 10am 4pm	St. Peter's John Pearson Hall St. John's	Morning Prayer (PAUSED UNTIL MARCH) Chatterbox Baby and Toddler Group Soul Children
Fri 19 <sup>th</sup>	9am 10am 12pm	Zoom - Online St. John's John Pearson Hall	Zoom Morning Prayer Parish Prayer Meeting Table Talk - The Nativity Film
Sat 20 <sup>th</sup>	11am 12pm 2pm	Wessex Pharmacy St. John's St. Peter's	CTiA Carols Around Town Prayers Around the Tree of Remembrance Wedding - Thomas Sanderson & Francesca Wood

## SUNDAY (21<sup>st</sup> December) - Fourth Sunday of Advent

9.30am 10am 11am 2.30pm 5pm 6pm	St. John's St. Peter's All Saints John Pearson Hall St. Mary's St. John's	Parish Communion Morning Praise Morning Prayer Solos Sunday Tea Carol Service Nine Lessons & Carols	
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### 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)

# Advent and Christmas Services



## The Arle Valley Benefice Services for December

### Our churches:

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

DECEMBER	TIME	SERVICE	CHURCH
<b>7th December</b> (Second Sunday of Advent)	9.30am 11am 4pm	Parish Communion Village Family Praise Christingle	St. John's St. Mary's St. John's
<b>14th December</b> (Third Sunday of Advent)	9.30am 9.30am 4pm 4pm 6pm	Breakfast Church Morning Praise with Sue Carols at Bighton Carols by Candlelight Sundays @ Six	St. John's St. Mary's All Saints St. Peter's St. John's
<b>20th December</b> (Saturday)	11am 12pm	CTiA Carols Around the Town Prayers Around the Tree of Remembrance	Wessex Pharmacy St. John's
<b>21st December</b> (Fourth Sunday of Advent)	9.30am 10am 11am 2.30pm 5pm 6pm	Parish Communion Morning Praise Morning Prayer Sunshine Singers Christmas Event Carol Service Nine Lessons and Carols	St. John's St. Peter's All Saints St. John's St. Mary's St. John's
<b>23rd December</b> (Tuesday)	6pm	Carol Singing @ Itchen Stoke Green	Itchen Stoke Green
<b>Christmas Eve</b>	4pm 6pm 11.30pm 11.30pm	Crib Service Carols Around Ovington First Communion of Christmas First Communion of Christmas	St. John's St. Peter's All Saints St. John's
<b>Christmas Day</b>	8am 9.30am 10am 11am	Christmas Holy Communion Christmas Family Communion Christmas Family Communion Christmas Parish Communion	St. John's St. John's St. Mary's St. Peter's
<b>28th December</b>	9.30am	Benefice Communion Service	St. John's

Wednesday Midweek Communions (St. John's): 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> December at 10am  
Wednesday Service of the Word (St. John's): 31<sup>st</sup> December at 10am

For further details or to ask any questions,  
please call 01962 733545 or  
email: [arlevallychurches@gmail.com](mailto:arlevallychurches@gmail.com)  
[www.arlevallychurches.org.uk](http://www.arlevallychurches.org.uk)

[www.facebook.com/StJohnsAlresford](https://www.facebook.com/StJohnsAlresford)  
[www.youtube.com/@thearlevalleybenefice5720](https://www.youtube.com/@thearlevalleybenefice5720)  
Instagram: [the\\_alresford\\_area\\_churches](https://www.instagram.com/the_alresford_area_churches)



# 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



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

Old Alresford Mothers' Union: **Our next meeting is our Christmas meal on Tuesday, 16th 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 19th** 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.**

## 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!**



## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY CHURCH MAINTAINENCE COORDINATOR

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)**

## A variety of help needed please for St John's...

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](mailto:rosie@22rwg.co.uk). (All below occur approx once every 6 weeks)**

**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.*



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 (14<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> December)



*Peace on the earth, goodwill to men from Heavens all gracious king.  
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.*

**Please pray for...**

**The world torn apart by war and conflict.** Pray for Ukraine, Gaza, Sudan, all countries where peace is not a reality. Pray for world leaders involved in negotiating peace settlements that they may show wisdom, integrity and compassion. As climate change causes problems in so many countries pray for those affected by storm Bram, for all fearing that their homes or livelihoods will be destroyed.

**Our community as we prepare for Christmas celebrations.** Pray for those who work in our shops, all who have made our town so attractive with trees and other decorations. Pray for all facing homelessness, all who will spend Christmas alone without food or shelter, all families unable to afford presents or festive food for their children.

**All who are sick, at home or in hospital and all suffering with their mental health.** Pray for doctors, nurses and carers, for all who work to support vulnerable people in their own homes. Pray for all teachers and school staff as they approach the end of term and our young people as they look forward to Christmas.

**Our churches during the Vacancy,** giving thanks for our hardworking church wardens, for Penny and for all clergy taking services during the Christmas period. Pray for all the special services planned during Advent and for all who will attend our churches, some for the first time. Pray that those who visit our churches feel welcome and valued.

*Yet with the woes of sin and strife the world has suffered long  
Beneath the angel strain have rolled two thousand years of wrong.  
And man at war with man, hears not the love song which they bring.  
O hush the noise, ye men of strife, and hear the angels sing. Amen.*