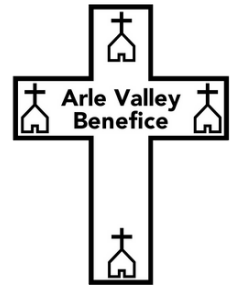


# The Arle Valley Benefice

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



**21<sup>st</sup> December 2025 - Fourth 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 7.10-16** p. 646

**Romans 1.1-7** p. 147

**Matthew 1.18-end** p. 1

### St. John's

9.30am Parish Communion

**2.30pm Sunshine Singers for Solos**

**6pm Nine Lessons and Carols**

### St. Peter's

10am Morning Praise

### All Saints

11am Morning Prayer

### St. Mary's

**5pm Carol Service**

## Collect for Today

God our redeemer,  
who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary  
to be the mother of your Son:  
grant that, as she looked for his coming  
as our saviour,  
so we may be ready to greet him  
when he comes again as our judge;  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**Amen**

## Post Communion Prayer

Heavenly Father,  
who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary  
to be the mother of the promised saviour:  
fill us your servants with your grace,  
that in all things we may embrace your  
holy will and with her rejoice in  
your salvation;  
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 (22<sup>nd</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> December)

Mon 22 <sup>nd</sup>	9am	All Saints	Morning Prayer	
Tues 23 <sup>rd</sup>	9am	St. John's	Morning Prayer	
Wed 24 <sup>th</sup> <b>Christmas Eve</b>	9am 10am 4pm 11.30pm 11.30pm	St. Mary's St. John's St. John's St. John's All Saints	<b>CANCELLED - Morning Prayer</b> <b>CANCELLED - Midweek Communion</b> <b>Crib Service</b> <b>First Communion of Christmas</b> <b>First Communion of Christmas</b>	
Thurs 25 <sup>th</sup> <b>Christmas Day</b>	8am 9.30am 10am 11am	St. John's St. John's St. Mary's St. Peter's	<b>Christmas Holy Communion (BCP)</b> <b>Christmas Family Communion</b> <b>Christmas Family Communion</b> <b>Christmas Family Communion</b>	

## SUNDAY (28<sup>th</sup> December) - Christmas 1

**Note: (No 8am BCP at St. John's)**



**Benefice Service**  
*St. John's Church*

**SUNDAY, 28<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER  
AT 9.30AM**

Please join us as all four churches meet at St. John's to celebrate a service of Holy Communion.

### CHRISTMAS OFFICE CLOSURE + TWO WEEK NOTICES:

Please note that the **office** will be closed from 11am on **Tuesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> December** until **Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> January**.

Next week's notices (dated 28<sup>th</sup> December) will cover a two-week period.

**Happy  
Christmas**



### CRIB SERVICE - CHRISTMAS EVE SET UP HELP NEEDED

Help for Crib Service at St. John's please: **To set up at 10am** on Christmas Eve and to help clear up after the service at approximately 4.45pm.



### 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 and Anne George



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.**

# 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
20th December (Saturday)	11am 12pm	CTiA Carols Around the Town Prayers Around the Tree of Remembrance	Wessex Pharmacy St. John's
21st December (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
23rd December (Tuesday)	6pm	Carol Singing @ Itchen Stoke Green	Itchen Stoke Green
Christmas Eve	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
Christmas Day	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
28th December	9.30am	Benefice Communion Service	St. John's

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



Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup> December at 12pm  
St. John's Church, New Alresford  
**Prayers Around the  
Tree of Remembrance**

A short service of Prayers  
Around the Tree of Remembrance  
for those who find Christmas difficult.

You are warmly invited to come and  
place a star on this tree in memory  
of someone who will be especially  
in your thoughts this Christmas time.

There will be stars in church, next to the tree,  
and you simply need to write the name of  
the person you are remembering on one of them.

St. John's is open daily until dusk.



**DON'T MISS...**

**Sunshine Singers**

**Special Christmas Show for Solos  
Sun, 21<sup>st</sup> Dec at 2.30pm (St. John's)**



This is a free special performance  
(25 mins) for the Solos,  
the Singers' families and  
**anyone else** who would  
like to enjoy a little bit of  
pre-Christmas calm.

**No tickets required, just turn up!**



**Crib Service**  
**St. John's Church**

**CHRISTMAS EVE AT 4PM**



CHILDREN ARE INVITED TO DRESS UP  
AS NATIVITY CHARACTERS / ANIMALS



# Notices

## ST JOHN'S FLOWERS

The chancel flowers in St. John's have been sponsored by:

**Angela Court and Janette Rix: *Thinking of their mother Pearl with much love.***



## 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



## 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.*

## CHRISTMAS LUNCH:

### Are you home alone for Christmas Day?

**Would you like to join us at Makins Court for Christmas Day Lunch?**

A contribution of £5 is requested.

**Please book your place by phoning Patricia Walker on 01962 732629**

Please leave a message if no reply.

Lifts will be available to & from Makins Court.



## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY CHURCH MAINTENANCE 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 next week: 12pm Monday**

## 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 (21<sup>st</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> December)



**Please pray for...**

***Pray for all those who were caught up in the gun attack at Bondi Beach in Australia last Sunday;*** the injured, the bereaved; those who tried to save lives and those traumatised by the whole experience. Hold before God all Jews who live in fear of an attack. Pray that world faith leaders will start to communicate with one another and sow the seeds of religious tolerance so that respect and acceptance will grow as a result of a better understanding of other faiths.

***Pray for the on-going negotiations for peace between Ukraine and Russia.*** May the hearts of the leaders be committed to finding the best way forward for people they serve. Pray that the fragile ceasefire between Israel and Gaza will be strengthened into something more permanent and that the attacks on villages in the West Bank will be halted. Remember before God all places where there is war, bloodshed and famine.

***Pray for all those who are working long hours in order to help us all prepare for Christmas.*** Hold before God those who will find Christmas difficult since it comes with so many high expectations. Remember those living on a limited budget who cannot afford the additional costs and families where the Christmas period puts additional strain on relationships already under pressure.

***Pray that the Resident Doctors' strike will not cause excessive disruption and that an acceptable agreement to end the strike can be found.*** Hold before God the Doctors and nurses who will be working over Christmas and pray for all who are in hospital or unwell at home. Remember those in care homes and pray for the bereaved as they grieve the loss of a loved one at this poignant time.

***Pray for Bishops, Priests and all who will be leading worship over the Christmas period.*** Bring before God all who will be attending the special Christmas services praying that the birth of the Christ child will touch the hearts and lives of many. May this humble birth bring light, hope and joy into this dark world.

***O child of promise come, O come Emanuel,  
Come , Prince of Peace, to David's throne,  
Come, God with us to dwell.***