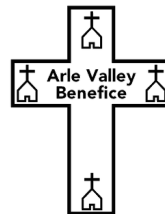


# The Arle Valley Benefice



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

**28<sup>th</sup> December & 4<sup>th</sup> January 2026 - 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Sundays after Christmas**

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

*Please feel free to introduce yourself to the Clergy or a Churchwarden after the service.*

## Services this Sunday:

### Bible Readings:

**28th December**

**Matthew 2.13-end p. 2**

**Isaiah 63.7-9 p. 704**

### Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup> December



**Service schedule for Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> January (p. 2)**

### Collect - 28<sup>th</sup> December

Heavenly Father,  
whose children suffered at the hands of Herod,  
though they had done no wrong:  
by the suffering of your Son  
and by the innocence of our lives  
frustrate all evil designs  
and establish your reign of justice and peace;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.  
**Amen**



### Rejoice!

**The whole earth shout for joy.  
A child is born and The Light  
has come into the world.  
The saviour of the world is here.  
Hallelujah!**

### Post Communion Prayer - 28<sup>th</sup> Dec

Lord Jesus Christ,  
in your humility you have stooped to share our  
human life  
with the most defenceless of your children:  
may we who have received these gifts of  
your passion  
rejoice in celebrating the witness of the  
Holy Innocents  
to the purity of your sacrifice  
made once for all upon the cross;  
for you are alive and reign, now and for ever.

**Amen**

### Collect - 4<sup>th</sup> January

Almighty God,  
in the birth of your Son  
you have poured on us the new light of your  
incarnate Word,  
and shown us the fullness of your love:  
help us to walk in his light and dwell in his love  
that we may know the fullness of his joy;  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**Amen**

### Post Communion Prayer - 4<sup>th</sup> Jan

All praise to you,  
almighty God and heavenly king,  
who sent your Son into the world  
to take our nature upon him  
and to be born of a pure virgin:  
grant that, as we are born again in him,  
so he may continually dwell in us  
and reign on earth as he reigns in heaven,  
now and for ever.

### Live Streaming at St. John's

**LIVE**

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.

## Two Week Diary (2<sup>nd</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> January)

JANUARY 2026 - HAPPY NEW YEAR!			
Fri 2 <sup>nd</sup>	10am	St. John's	Parish Prayer Meeting
Mon 5 <sup>th</sup>	9am	All Saints	Morning Prayer
Tues 6 <sup>th</sup>	9am	St. John's	Morning Prayer
Wed 7 <sup>th</sup>	9am	St. Mary's - Vestry	Morning Prayer
	10am	St. John's	Midweek Holy Communion
	2pm	Alresford Library	Befriend the End
Thurs 8 <sup>th</sup>	10am	John Pearson Hall	Chatterbox Baby & Toddler Group
Fri 9 <sup>th</sup>	10am	St. John's	Parish Prayer Meeting

## SUNDAY (4<sup>th</sup> January) - Second Sunday after Christmas

9.30am	St. John's	Parish Communion
11am	St. Peter's	Café Church
11am	Christy Hall	Village Family Praise (St. Mary's)
4pm	St. John's	Families @ 4pm

## SUNDAY (11<sup>th</sup> January) - Baptism of Christ

9.30am	St. John's	Breakfast Church
9.30am	Old Alresford Place	Morning Praise (St. Mary's)
11am	All Saints	Morning Prayer
11am	St. Peter's	Parish Communion
6pm	St. John's	Sundays @ 6

## NEWS FROM ST MARY'S

### CLOSURE for 3 months (exciting renovation works!)

Thanks to the wonderful generosity of so many people locally, we will be starting the work to put in the kitchen servery and disabled access toilet from early January. This should take around 3 months and so the church will be closed during that time.

With the exception of 4<sup>th</sup> January, when the Family Praise Service will be held at 11am at the Christy Hall, services on Sundays will be held at Old Alresford Place at their usual times during this period. All are most welcome.

We will, of course, let you know when St. Mary's with its new facilities will reopen.



# Notices

## ST JOHN'S FLOWERS - 9<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY

The chancel flowers in St. John's have been sponsored by:  
**Maureen Skayman: Remembering her Mother's birthday.**



### UPCOMING BAPTISM

Please pray for **Beau Harris** who will be baptised at St. John's on **Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> January at 9.30am (in-service)** and his parents, **Jessica and Thomas**.

### 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.



### CHRISTMAS OFFICE CLOSURE + TWO WEEK NOTICES:

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

This week's notices covers a two-week period.



### BOXING DAY WALK

Churches Together in Alresford invite everybody to the Annual Boxing Day Walk on the **morning of Friday 26<sup>th</sup> December, starting at 10.00am from the car park of St Gregory's Church on Grange Road**: the walk, led by Piers Armstrong will last around two hours/four miles along well-trodden footpaths, There will be a short break half way so bring some refreshment. **No need to book.**



### Sunday Services - 4<sup>th</sup> January

#### PARISH COMMUNION @ ST. JOHN'S (1<sup>ST</sup> AND 3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAYS)

**9.30am** Our service of Holy Communion from Common Worship. Refreshments afterwards in the JPH.

#### VILLAGE FAMILY PRAISE (ST. MARY'S) - NOTE: THIS WEEK AT THE CHRISTY HALL

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

A service of Morning Praise for the whole family. Please stay for refreshments after the service.

#### CAFÉ CHURCH @ ST. PETER'S

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

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

**4pm - 1st Sunday of the month.** We gather together in St. John's for fun interactive **storytelling, songs, a great craft session and a cuppa.** We have babies and toddlers to teens and all in between.

### 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

**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.**



## Sunday Services - 11<sup>th</sup> January

### BREAKFAST CHURCH AT ST. JOHN'S

9.30am Family Friendly Worship + Fun! Come along for sausage baps, toast and brioche along with an array of hot & cold drinks. Gluten free, dairy free & vegetarian options available.



### MORNING PRAISE (ST. MARY'S) @ OLD ALRESFORD PLACE

9.30am A simple morning prayer service with Sue.

### PARISH COMMUNION @ ST. PETERS (2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAYS)

11am Our service of Holy Communion from Common Worship.

### MORNING PRAYER @ ALL SAINTS (2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAYS)

11am This service incorporates readings from the Bible, a talk and prayers.

### SUNDAYS @ SIX AT ST. JOHN'S (2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAYS)

*An evening of reflection on the readings for today and time to worship.*

We would love you to join everyone for a service with a reflective informal contemporary feel.

**Worship, Readings, Prayer and a Talk. Time to chat with tea and cake from 5.45pm.**



## 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: 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 two-week period (28<sup>th</sup> December - 10<sup>th</sup> January)***



**Please pray for...**

**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 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.

**Pray for the Arle Valley Benefice.** As we continue in prayer for the interregnum may we all work together to ensure the work of the church continues in our benefice. Pray for those responsible for organising worship; members of the PCC; Churchwardens', the Ministry Team and all who will be involved in the selection and interview process.

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