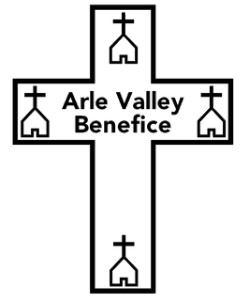


# The Arle Valley Benefice

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



**15<sup>th</sup> February 2026 - Sunday Next before Lent**

**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:**

**Exodus 24.12-end**

**2 Peter 1.16-end**

**Matthew 17.1-9**

**St. John's**

**9.30am Parish Communion**

**St. Peter's**

**10am Morning Praise**

**St. Mary's**

***Services will held in Old Alresford Place.***

**11am Parish Communion**

**All Saints**

**11am Morning Prayer**

## Collect for Today

Almighty Father,  
whose Son was revealed in majesty  
before he suffered death upon the cross:  
give us grace to perceive his glory,  
that we may be strengthened to suffer with him  
and be changed into his likeness, from  
glory to glory;  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.  
**Amen**

## Post Communion Prayer

Holy God,  
we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ:  
may we who are partakers at his table  
reflect his life in word and deed,  
that all the world may know his power  
to change and save.  
This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen**

## 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.

**Have a look at our  
new and updated  
Benefice website!**

**[www.arlevalleychurches.org.uk](http://www.arlevalleychurches.org.uk)**

We have updated our Benefice website  
with a fresh new look. We hope you like it!

**NEW!**

**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.



## THIS WEEK (16<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> February)

Mon 16 <sup>th</sup>	9am 11.30am	All Saints St. John's	Morning Prayer <b>Funeral - Julia Champion</b>
Tues 17 <sup>th</sup> (Shrove Tuesday)	9am 2pm	St. John's John Pearson Hall	PAUSED - Morning Prayer <b>Mothers' Union Meeting</b>
Wed 18 <sup>th</sup> (Ash Wednesday)	9am 10am	<b>Vestry at St. Mary's</b> St. John's	Morning Prayer <b>Ash Wednesday Service - Midweek Communion</b>
Thurs 19 <sup>th</sup>	9am	<b>St. Peter's</b>	Morning Prayer (PAUSED UNTIL MARCH)
Fri 20 <sup>th</sup>	10am 12pm	St. John's John Pearson Hall	Parish Prayer Meeting <b>Table Talk- Lent Series - 'Wicked' Film Screening</b>

## NEXT SUNDAY (22<sup>nd</sup> February) - 1st Sunday of Lent

8am 9.30am 9.30am 11am	St. John's St. John's <b>Old Alresford Place (St. Mary's)</b> All Saints	Holy Communion (BCP) Celtic Service of the Word Parish Communion (BCP) Parish Communion
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### PRAYERS FOR:

Ken R, Peter P, Gareth C, Peter C, Roderick O-E, Paul D, Sue C, Janet P, Audrey S, Marion M, Shirley W, Margaret Se, Barbara G, Audrey C, Les W, Rosemary F, Hazel G, Val 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:

Clive Earthy, John Lynne and Sylvia Percival

### 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.*

### FUNERAL SERVICE

#### Julia Champion Funeral Service

St. John's Church on  
Monday, 16th February at 11.30am.



### SAVE THE DATE:

**Tuesday, 28<sup>th</sup> April at 8pm**  
**ST. JOHN'S APCM**  
John Pearson Hall



### BREAKFAST CHURCH

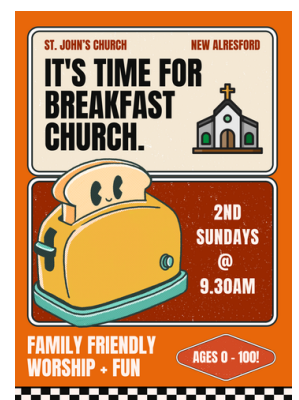
Breakfast church has gone from strength to strength and I would like to increase the number of volunteers so that the same people, if they choose, are not committed every month.

We usually set up at 5pm on Saturday which takes no longer than a half hour and then it is helping at the service and clearing up afterwards.



If you could volunteer for a Saturday set up or a Sunday or both, I would love to hear from you.

Please email me and I will be in contact.  
[joanna.whiteman@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:joanna.whiteman@yahoo.co.uk)  
Thanks Jo



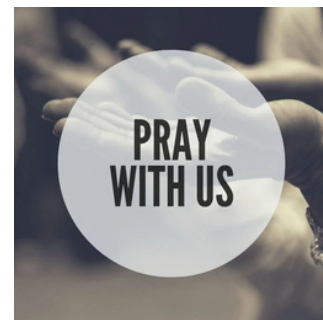
# Notices

## RECTOR VACANCY UPDATE

You are invited to come into any of our churches to **collect a booklet in order to pray specifically for the advert for the new Rector of the Arle Valley Benefice.**

The advert for the post of Rector of the Arle Valley Benefice is now live on the **Diocese of Winchester Vacancies page.**

Please click this link **Rector Vacancy** on our website to take you to our helpful prayer booklet, Benefice Profile and the advert. 'Rector Vacancy' can also be accessed on our website under the 'About Us' tab.



The season of Lent starts on  
**Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> February | 10:00 a.m.**



## Ash Wednesday

**Holy Communion with  
the imposition of ashes**

**A time of prayer, reflection,  
and the receiving of ashes.**  
Join us in stillness as we  
begin the Lenten journey.

**St. John's Church,  
New Alresford**



## St John's Lent Lunch

**Wednesday, 1st April at 12.15pm**  
**John Pearson Hall**

£5 per person payable on the door  
or reserve your place in advance by  
emailing: [pippa@chocolatecraft.co.uk](mailto:pippa@chocolatecraft.co.uk)  
or signing the list at the back  
of St. John's.

**Homemade soup, bread, cheese  
and chutneys. Raffle £1 strip.**



## UPCOMING GROUPS MARK YOUR CALENDARS...

### SOLOS @ ST. JOHN'S

Looking forward to seeing you on  
**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> February from 2.30pm** in the JPH  
for sandwiches, tea and homemade cakes,  
conversation & friendship. **Details: t. 01962 733545.**

### MEN'S SUPPER CLUB (FOR WIDOWERS) (LAST THURSDAY OF THE MONTH)

**Our next meeting is on Thursday,  
26<sup>th</sup> February at 7pm in the Swan Hotel**  
A very pleasant evening meal to meet men in a  
similar situation with light-hearted chatter/banter.  
**Please contact Roger Whiffen on 01962 734045  
for further details.**

## YOU ARE INVITED TO TAKE PART IN THE TALE OF THREE TREES

'THE TALE OF THREE TREES' MUSICAL BY  
ANN BERESFORD IS A RETELLING OF THE  
TRADITIONAL CHRISTIAN FOLKTALE OF THREE TREES.

**Sunday, 29<sup>th</sup> March**  
**St. John's Church**

**Rehearsal 2.30pm - 3.30pm**  
**Performance at 4pm (approx. 20 mins)**  
**Everyone invited, no tickets needed!**

**Tea and cake afterwards!**

To take part and receive the song pack in advance  
(4 songs), details from Rosie Waring Green,  
t. 07891 120662 / e. [rosie@22rwg.co.uk](mailto:rosie@22rwg.co.uk)



# Notices

## ST JOHN'S FLOWERS

The chancel flowers in St. John's have been sponsored by:  
**Roger Whiffen: Remembering Anita with much love.**



## OLD ALRESFORD MOTHERS' UNION

Our next meeting is on:  
**Tuesday, 17th February, 2 for 2.30pm**  
**John Pearson Hall**

Our next meeting is **Knit, Chat and Prayers**  
**New members always welcome.**

Contact Heather Galley  
t. 01962 732326



## Churches Together in Alresford

### LENT STUDIES 2026

*Two opportunities for study.*

#### Joy of the Gospel by Paula Gooder

This six-part course for parishes and Lent groups is based on Pope Francis' much acclaimed reflections on mission and evangelism, published as *Evangelii Gaudium* ('The Joy of the Gospel').

Widely recognised as offering wisdom and vision for all Christians in a culture that is often hostile to the church, *Evangelii Gaudium* offers a positive and realistic approach to sharing faith in the modern world.

There is a course book (one per person is recommended) available for around £9.00: please contact your course leader for a copy.

Here in Alresford, in order to give maximum opportunity for taking part, the full course will be available in three different venues, as follows:

**Alresford Methodist Church at 2.30pm on Wednesday 18 February and then at the same time on the next five Wednesdays (25 February and 4, 11, 18 & 25 March):** and led by Jonathan Hughes, Local Lay Pastor at Alresford Methodist Church: contact 07858 528379 or [dandjhughes79@virginmedia.com](mailto:dandjhughes79@virginmedia.com)

**Alresford Methodist Church at 7.00 pm on Tuesday, 24 February and then at the same time on the next five Tuesdays (3, 10, 17, 24 & 31 March)** and led by Susan Armstrong, Licensed Lay Minister: 01962 734542 or [susanarmstrong50@icloud.com](mailto:susanarmstrong50@icloud.com)

**12 Hawthorn Close, Alresford SO24 9LE, beginning at 3.00pm on Thursday 19 February and then at the same time on the next five Thursdays (26 February and 5, 12, 19 & 26 March)** and led by Kathryn and Roger Lockyer: contact 01962 809078 or [lockerkathryn@gmail.com](mailto:lockerkathryn@gmail.com)

Anyone wishing to enrol for one of the courses is invited to contact the course leader by telephone or email.



Should you wish to take part please apply asap, and preferably by Sunday 15 February.

#### Table Talk

We will be running the usual Lenten Table talk: this year we are showing the film *Wicked in the John Pearson Hall* on Friday 20 February, then on the subsequent four Fridays (27 February and 6, 13 & 20 March): we will be discussing themes and ideas coming out of the film.



Table Talk begins at 12.00 noon with a bring-and-share lunch, then discussions in small groups.

If you would like to take part, please call Jackie Connell on 01962 732056 or [jackie.connell@btinternet.com](mailto:jackie.connell@btinternet.com) preferably before Sunday 15 Feb.

For Lent the Creation Care Team would like to encourage everyone to register for the Big Plastic Count.

Sign up | The Big Plastic Count Sign up  
**March 9th –15th**

Join the UK's biggest people-powered investigation into plastic waste.

For one week in March, thousands of us will count our plastic waste to reveal the true scale of the UK's plastic problem.

*Together, we'll call for a fair future  
that's free from the impacts  
of the plastics crisis.*

**THE BIG  
PLASTIC  
COUNT  
9-15 MARCH**

**SIGN UP TODAY**



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 01962 738408

**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 (15<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> February)



**Please pray for.....**

**Pray for our world where there is so much conflict and unrest.** Hold before God all countries where there is on-going war, remembering Ukraine/Russia, Sudan, and the many wars in places which no longer make the news. Pray that nations will have courage to work together to resolve the divisions within the Holy Land. Remember before God those who suffer abuse or torture in their country of birth and are desperate to flee to a place of safety.

**Pray for our government that they will be filled with wisdom, integrity and compassion for the people they serve.** Remember our local councillors as they try to manage budgets which never stretch far enough. Pray for King Charles, and the Royal family, as the desire to serve this country is over-shadowed by the constant news about Andrew.

**As the rain continues pray for those whose homes have been flooded and for those whose homes have become inaccessible.** Remember those who have nowhere to call home and are saturated, having to sleep rough. Hold before God those whose mental health has been affected by the continual rain and lack of sunshine. May we all recognise this weather as a sign of climate change and do all we can to reduce our carbon footprint.

**Give thanks for the dedicated care given by the staff at the surgery and our local hospitals.** Pray for those who are sick within our local community and hold before God those in hospital or receiving treatment at home. Hold before God those suffering from a long-term illness or having to make difficult decisions about their future.

**Pray for Archbishop Sarah as she begins her new role and pray that the person God is calling to be our next Rector will be alert to His call.** As Lent begins pray for the Lent groups and that we will all use this time to help us to know Jesus better and to grow on our Christian journey.

**Lord, you are the whisper in the breeze, the calm voice within each storm, the lamp inside my darkness and guidance along the road.**

**You are the one who occupies the God shaped hole within my life,  
that no one can ever fill.**