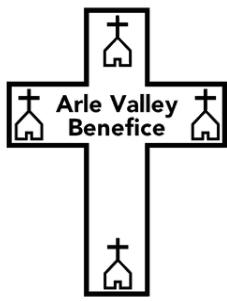


The Arle Valley Benefice

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



15th 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/@thearlevalleybenefice5720streams
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

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.



All are welcome!

THIS WEEK (16th - 20th February)

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

NEXT SUNDAY (22nd February) - 1st Sunday of Lent

| | | |
|---------------------------------|---|--|
| 8am 9.30am 9.30am 11am | St. John's St. John's Old Alresford Place (St. Mary's) All Saints | Holy Communion (BCP) Celtic Service of the Word Parish Communion (BCP) Parish Communion |
|---------------------------------|---|--|

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 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.



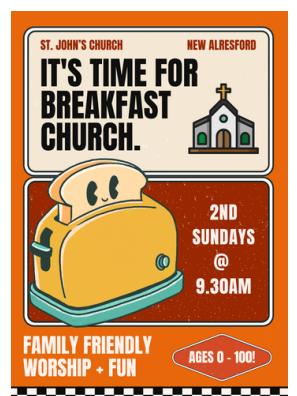
SAVE THE DATE:
Tuesday, 28th April at 8pm
ST. JOHN'S APCM
John Pearson Hall



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.
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, 18th 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**



UPCOMING GROUPS MARK YOUR CALENDARS...

SOLOS @ ST. JOHN'S

Looking forward to seeing you on **Sunday 15th 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,
26th 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.

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@chocolatcraft.co.uk or signing the list at the back of St. John's.

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



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, 29th 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

Notices

ST JOHN'S FLOWERS

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

Roger Whiffen: Remembering Anita with much love.



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.

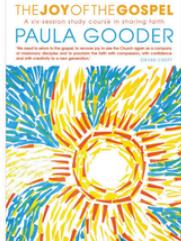
There is a course book (one per person is recommended) available for around £9.00: please contact your course leader for a copy.

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

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

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



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.

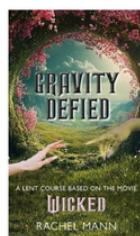


Table Talk begins at 12.00 noon with a bring-and-share lunch, then discussions in small groups.

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

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



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

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
www.arlevalleychurches.org.uk

Prayers for the coming week

(15th- 21st 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.