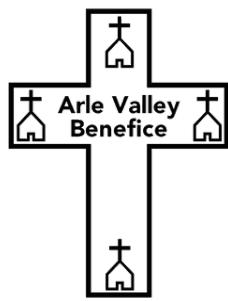


The Arle Valley Benefice

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



22nd February 2026 - First Sunday of 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:

Genesis 2.15-17, 3.1-7

Romans 5.12-19

Matthew 4.1-11

St. John's

8am Holy Communion (BCP)

9.30am Celtic Service of the Word

St. Mary's

Services will held in Old Alresford Place.

9.30am Parish Communion (BCP)

All Saints

11am Parish Communion



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.

Collect for Today

Almighty God,
whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days
in the wilderness,
and was tempted as we are, yet without sin:
give us grace to discipline ourselves in
obedience to your Spirit;
and, as you know our weakness,
so may we know your power to save;
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

Post Communion Prayer

Lord God,
you have renewed us with
the living bread from heaven;
by it you nourish our faith, increase our hope,
and strengthen our love:
teach us always to hunger for him
who is the true and living bread,
and enable us to live by every word that
proceeds from out of your mouth;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

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

CLICK HERE!

NEW!

www.arlevalleychurches.org.uk

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

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 (23rd - 27th February)

Mon 23 rd	9am 3.30pm	All Saints John Pearson Hall	Morning Prayer Monday Meet & Eat
Tues 24 th	9am 7.30pm	St. John's John Pearson Hall	PAUSED - Morning Prayer St. John's PCC Meeting
Wed 25 th	9am 10am 5pm	Vestry at St. Mary's St. John's Vestry in St. John's	Morning Prayer Wednesday Service of the Word Chill, Chat & Chomp
Thurs 26 th	9am 10am 4pm 7pm	St. Peter's John Pearson Hall St. John's Swan Hotel	Morning Prayer (PAUSED UNTIL MARCH) Chatterbox Soul Children Men's Supper Club for Widowers
Fri 27 th	10am 12pm	St. John's St. John's	Parish Prayer Meeting Table Talk- Lent Series

NEXT SUNDAY (1st March) - 2nd Sunday of Lent

9.30am 11am 4pm	St. John's Old Alresford Place (St. Mary's) St. John's	Parish Communion Village Family Praise Families @ 4pm
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PRAYERS FOR:

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:

Ken R, 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.*

JOHN PEARSON HALL NEWS

Apologises that the JPH will be **out of action**
on Friday 27th and Saturday 28th February
for work on the kitchen ceiling.

It will also be **out of action** after coffee on
Wednesday, 4th March and after 11.30am
on **Thursday, 5th March** for decorating.



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



Exciting News - St. John's Church Clock

The St. John's church clock has been repaired
and will be **installed back in the tower on**
Thursday, 26th February so the tower will be
out of bounds on that day.



Notices

RECTOR VACANCY UPDATE

Please **save the date** **March 14th** from 12 am to midnight for a 24 hour **quiet prayer** day with reflections preparing us for Easter and also praying for the process of choosing a new Rector. **Details to follow.**

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.



FOR EVERYONE IN THE ARLE VALLEY BENEFICE:

You are invited to come and meet **Bishop Kelly** on **Sunday 8th March** between **2 and 4pm** in the **John Pearson Hall** followed by **Sundays@4** service (normally **Sundays @6**) with Bishop Kelly in St John's Church.

This will be an opportunity for an informal time with tea and cake for the parishioners of the Arle Valley Benefice to have time to chat together as well as with Bishop Kelly.

Please stagger the times you will be coming and plan to stay for approximately 30-40 minutes to ensure the hall doesn't get too crowded.



St John's Lent Lunch

Wednesday, 1st April

12.15pm in the John Pearson Hall



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

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

MONDAY, 9TH MARCH
12.30 - 2PM
IN THE CHRISTY HALL, OLD ALRESFORD

Lent Lunch
Soup, Bread and Cheese

In aid of St. Mary's Church servery and toilet project



Any queries, please contact
Sue Armstrong t. 01962 734542

CHURCHES TOGETHER - LENT STUDIES 2026

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.

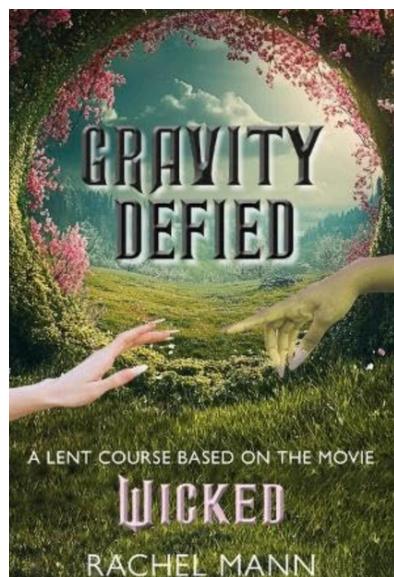
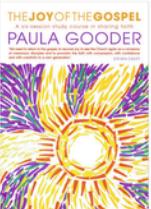


TABLE TALK Lent Course 2026

The John Pearson Hall
St. John's Church

This year the Table Talk group will follow the Lent course "Gravity Defied" based on the film "Wicked".
Everyone is welcome. Bring your friends.

Friday 20th February: Film Screening

Lent Course: We'll watch clips and then break into discussion groups.

Starting at 12pm on Fridays with a Bring and Share Lunch.

Friday 27th February
Friday 6th March
Friday 13th March
Friday 20th March

For more information,
please contact
Jackie, t. 01962 732056,
email: jackie.connell@btinternet.com



Notices

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.



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!

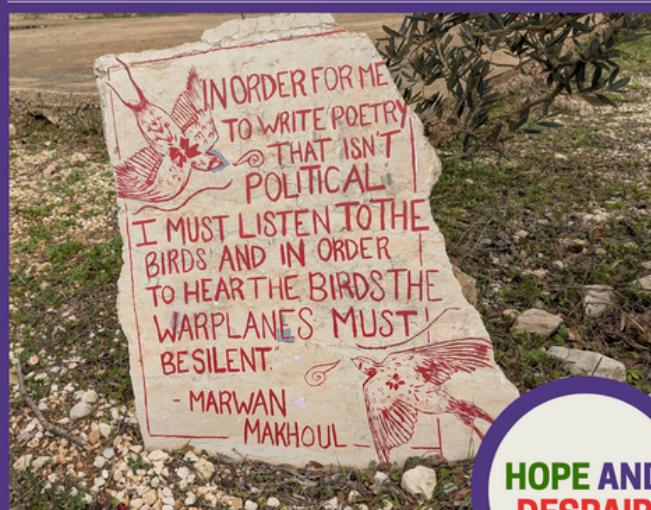
To take part and receive the song pack in advance (4 songs), details from Rosie Waring Green, t. 07891 120662 / e. rosie@22rwg.co.uk

MEN'S SUPPER CLUB (FOR WIDOWERS)
(Last Thursday of the month)

*Our next meeting:
Thursday, 26th Feb 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.



HOPE AND DESPAIR

ENCOUNTERS IN

ISRAEL AND PALESTINE

WHEN:
Saturday, 7th March
10am - 12pm

WHERE:
The John Pearson Hall
St. John's Church

A Talk by Miranda Pinch following her visit to Israel and Palestine in January 2026

Q & A afterwards



Our Facebook page
Our Instagram page

<https://www.facebook.com/StJohnsAlresford>
[the_alresford_area_churches](https://www.facebook.com/StJohnsAlresford/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 (22nd - 28th February)



Please pray for.....

Pray for our fractured world where there is so much confusion and unhappiness.

Hold before God countries which are at war; Ukraine, Russia, Sudan, Myanmar and Israel/Palestine and remember the many countries where there are internal tribal conflicts.

Pray for those trying to negotiate peace agreements that they may be inspired with wisdom and justice. Pray for all who hold global positions of power and authority that they be filled with integrity, compassion and a desire to bring peace to the whole world.

Give thanks that we have seen some days of sunshine after the continual rain of recent weeks. Pray for those who are still affected by flooding, remembering especially those whose homes are no longer habitable. As new shoots begin to appear give thanks for this wonderful creation and do all we can to preserve and protect it.

Pray for young people who are seeking work. There are currently so many aged between 18 and 24 who are continually applying for jobs, but without success because there are few vacancies, the consequence of AI and increased employment costs. Hold before God those who despair following countless rejections.

Pray for those who are the victims of bullying; at work, at school or within the home. May they have the courage and the opportunities to seek help. Pray too for those who live in fear of a knife attack and that there will be a determined effort to try to reduce the number of knives currently being carried.

Pray for all who are sick at the present time remembering those in hospital and those who are having to come to terms with a life-changing diagnosis. Pray for all who are awaiting treatment or surgery and hold before God those who are lonely, anxious, or suffering from a mental illness.

Pray for the LLM's, Churchwardens and visiting clergy during this time of vacancy. May we use this season of Lent to grow our faith and to deepen our relationship with the Lord and also with one another. Hold before God the Lent discussion groups, their leaders and all who will attend the sessions.

**Lord we are easily distracted in the wilderness of our lives
by calls which urge us to go this way or that.**

**Forgive us when we ignore you and are distracted by the voices of this world.
Help us to listen and be guided by you alone. Amen.**