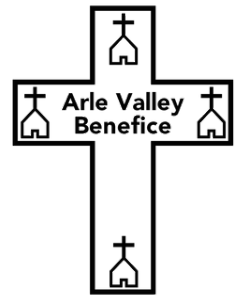


# The Arle Valley Benefice

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



**22<sup>nd</sup> 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**



## 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**

## 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!**

**CLICK HERE!**

**NEW!**

[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!

**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 (23<sup>rd</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> February)

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

## NEXT SUNDAY (1<sup>st</sup> March) - 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent

9.30am 11am 4pm	St. John's <b>Old Alesford Place (St. Mary's)</b> 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 Eathy, 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.*

## JOHN PEARSON HALL NEWS

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

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

**SORRY WE'RE  
CLOSED**



### 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, 26<sup>th</sup> February** so the tower will be out of bounds on that day.



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

# Notices

## RECTOR VACANCY UPDATE

Please **save the date March 14<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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, 1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:pippa@chocolatecraft.co.uk) or signing the list at the back of St. John's.

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

## 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](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.



**MONDAY, 9<sup>TH</sup> MARCH  
12.30 - 2PM**

IN THE CHRISTY HALL, OLD ALRESFORD

**Lent Lunch  
Soup, Bread and Cheese**

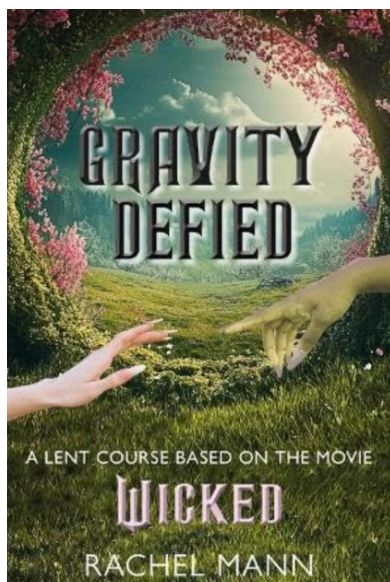
In aid of St. Mary's Church servery and toilet project



All  
Welcome



Any queries, please contact  
Sue Armstrong t. 01962 734542



## 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](mailto: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 9<sup>th</sup> –15<sup>th</sup>](#)

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.*

**PLASTIC  
COUNT  
9-15 MARCH**

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

**Our next meeting:**  
**Thursday, 26<sup>th</sup> 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.



YOU ARE INVITED TO TAKE PART IN

## THE TALE OF THREE TREES

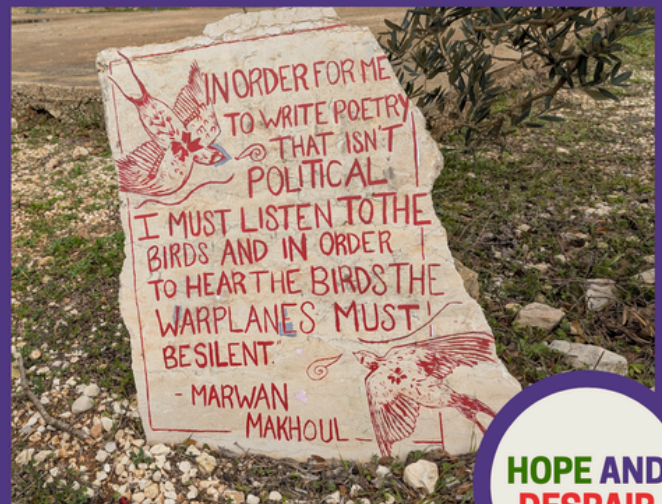
'THE TALE OF THREE TREES' MUSICAL BY ANN BERESFORD IS A RETELLING OF THE TRADITIONAL CHRISTIAN FOLKTALE OF THREE TREES.

**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)



**HOPE AND  
DESPAIR**

## ENCOUNTERS IN

## ISRAEL AND PALESTINE

### WHEN:

Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup> 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/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 (22<sup>nd</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> 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.**