Arle Valley Voice

October 2026

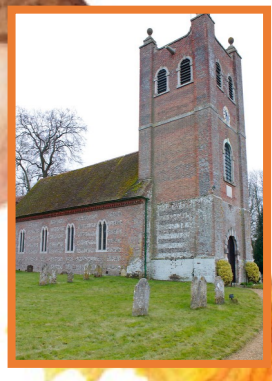
Church & Community Magazine

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Editorial

Autumn here with leaves falling and—at last some rain—so the garden and the fields look a bit greener. Naturally all the growers want more rain but I must admit I am enjoying the autumn sunshine. Warm enough to eat outside but not sweltering.

But in Autumn in church we have to start thinking of the 'C' word. People who plan have probably already sorted presents, cards and started ordering food but I am not quite that far ahead. However please note that the sign up sheet for the Benefice Christmas card is on page 8 and needs to be done by November 8th.. Also it is time to get going on the Christmas Shoebox appeal—see page 40 for that

In the meantime there is plenty to enjoy in Autumn. For those who like that sort of thing there is the Michaelmas Fair and then there is the Light Party in St John's where we make candles and lanterns, sing songs, toast marshmallows and have all sorts of other fun. It is for all ages 0 to 100+ so do come along.

Charlotte Ryton

Apologies for any mistakes. However we are all volunteers and not professional so, sorry, errors will happen.

Please email contributions and comments to cstryton@gmail.com. The preferred format at the moment is Microsoft Publisher or Word otherwise a pdf. Please as plain as possible as formats do not transfer from one programme to another. Please copy in events@stjohnsalresford.org.uk for additional publicity on our Facebook page and inclusion in St John's online Events Diary.
The deadline for each month is the 10th of the month before. And if you use some of the businesses advertising do tell them you saw them in this magazine. Please note that we do not endorse any advert

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This magazine only keeps going with the quality it has because people subscribe each year so please do consider that. Contact Caroline Hawkins chawkins826@sky.com
Each issue costs £1.60 but a year's subscription is an economic option at £15.00.

October Church Services for the Arle Valley Benefice

NEW ALRESFORD
St John the Baptist

Sunday 4 October: Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity
09.30 Parish Communion
16.00 Families at 4

Sunday 11 October: Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity
09.30 Breakfast Church
18.00 Sunday @ 6

Sunday 18 October: Twentieth Sunday after Trinity
09.30 Parish Communion

Sunday 25 October: Last Sunday after Trinity
08.00 Holy Communion
09.30 Celtic Service of the Word

Every Tuesday
09.00 Morning Prayer

Every Wednesday
10.00 Midweek Holy Communion / Service after the Word

OLD ALRESFORD
St Mary the Virgin

Sunday 4 October: Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity
11.00 Village Family Praise

Sunday 11 October: Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity
09.30 Morning Praise

Sunday 18 October: Twentieth Sunday after Trinity
11.00 Parish Communion

Sunday 25 October: Last Sunday after Trinity
09.30 Holy Communion BCP

Every Wednesday
09.00 Morning Prayer

Arle Valley Benefice

OVINGTON
St Peter's

Sunday 4 October: Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity
11.00 Café Church

Sunday 11 October: Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity
11.00 Parish Communion

Sunday 18 October: Twentieth Sunday after Trinity
10.00 Morning Prayer

Sunday 25 October: Last Sunday after Trinity
11.00 *No Service*

Every Thursday
09.00 Morning Prayer

BIGHTON
All Saints

Sunday 4 October: Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity
16.00 First Sunday Evening Service

Sunday 11 October: Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity
11.00 Harvest Festival

Sunday 18 October: Twentieth Sunday after Trinity
11.00 Morning Prayer

Sunday 25 October: Last Sunday after Trinity
11.00 Parish Communion

Calendar

- Sept 26th 6.00pm Barn Dance @ St John's
- Sept 26th 7.30pm Harvest Supper @ St John's
- Sept 27th 6.00pm Ovington Community Drinks
- Sept 30th 7.30pm Flower Group @ St Gregory's
- Oct 2nd to 4th Watercress Line Steam Gala
- Oct 4th 11.00am Café Church @ St Peter's
- Oct 7th 10.00am Samaritans at St Gregory's Food Bank
- Oct 11th Harvest Service and Lunch @ All Saint's
- Oct 14th Michaelmas Fair Broad Street
- Oct 14th 7.30 Alresford Horticultural at St Gregory's
- Oct 15th 7.30 Alresford Art Society
- Oct 16th 12 noon Table Talk St John's JPH
- Oct 18th 2.30pm Solos Tea St John's JPH
- Oct 21st 10am Winchester Council at St Gregory's Food Bank
- Oct 21st 7.30 Alresford Hist & Lit Society
- Oct 24th 9.00am Churchyard Tidy Up @ St John's
- Oct 24th 7.30pm Gospel Experience in Winchester Cathedral
- Oct 24th 6.00pm Italian Opera at St John's
- Oct 31st 10am Michael Project Coffee Morning in the JPH
- Oct 31st 4pm Light Party @ St John's
- Nov 6th 7pm Rotary Club Fireworks and Bonfire Broad Street & Arlebury Park
- Nov 8th Last date for Benefice Christmas Card
- Nov 13th 7.30 Quiz Night at Itchen Abbas
- Nov 14th 9 am Pre Christmas Table Top and Craft Sale

Peter Colquhoun



Angela Peel: When I started my training to be a Licensed Lay Minister 21 years ago, Peter was already an LLM at St John's. I wouldn't say he took me 'under his wing'' but he certainly was available for any help needed and certainly gave me encouragement and advice along the way. It has been a pleasure to work alongside him and know he was always in the background when things got difficult. Over the years we have become friends and I am certainly going to miss him. [I will miss the cinema afternoons at his house with tea and custard tarts in the interval!] St John's has had the pleasure of listening to so many memorable sermons; the humorous asides and many 'quotes'. Peter has been an advisor to many and his quiet ministry will be certainly missed.

Miranda Pinch: I have known Peter for much of the time he has lived in Alresford, but it has been in the last 12 years or so years that we developed a 'theological' relationship!!

No matter what was going on in our lives, Peter would engage me in a discussion about theology over coffee in the JPH. He expressed interest in my perspective and seemed to enjoy a to and fro of ideas. I have always been interested in theology and have been a member of the U3A Winchester theology group for many years. Peter joined that as well.

At some point, I am not sure when, Peter asked me if I would like to join him for a sort of 'alternative' theology group in Alresford. The idea was that we would read and discuss the sort of books that most of the House Groups would not touch with a barge pole. It enabled us to openly question everything and express views that are rare in more traditional groups. At its height there were eight of us and books included, 'Unbelievable' by John Shelby Spong, 'The Jesus Myth' by Chris Scott and 'Faith After Doubt' by Brian McLaren.

Unfortunately, due to people moving away or becoming frail, the group disbanded, but the theology continued and Peter still came to the U3A theology group meetings with me until his last one this September.

Peter was also a regular attender of our weekly online prayer service, which includes a short address on the Bible reading followed by a brief discussion. That all began in Old Alresford Place, and when that closed, due to Covid, transferred to Zoom on a Thursday morning. It is now on a Friday morning and we share the leadership. Peter has been part of it for several years and took his turn to lead and address us.

I will miss our theological sparring a great deal as well as his sermons and addresses which had a unique style and always included a joke.

I hope that others will be able to benefit from Peter's theological explorations in years to come.

Pip, Liz and the Ovington people: Thank you for looking after us in Ovington for many years. We really appreciated it and wish you all the best in your move. We hope you manage to enjoy life in a new area. Love from us all.

Charlotte: When Susan and I arrived in Alresford seven years ago Peter was one of the people who welcomed us and helped us settle in. Theological discussions followed and though we often disagreed the debate was invigorating and fun. Peter, we will miss you.

Church Notices

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.

Live Streaming at St. John's

LIVE

The link for the live-streaming of services is:
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.

The Arle Valley Benefice takes its duty and obligation to protect everyone, extremely seriously. If you have any safeguarding concerns or issues of a safeguarding nature our Safeguarding Officers are: Sarah Wilding (St. John's) or Alison Mayne (St. Mary's/All Saints/St. Peter's) e-mail: arlevalleysafeguarding@gmail.com

Children's & Families Worker Project – Summer Update 2026

It has now been 6 months since the official start of our Benefice's involvement with the Growing Rural Parishes Project, so it seems like a good point to update you all.

Here's where we are now:

When the project began, we were 6 months into vacancy, but, as you know, the good news is that we are now awaiting the arrival of our new priest who had been appointed and we hope will be joining us in the autumn.

We have used the time since February to get everything as ready as we can for the recruitment of a Children's & Families Worker hopefully in the next 3-4 months. This includes:

Preparing a role profile
Establishing close working arrangements with Amber and the team at Ropley
Agreeing the administration and management arrangements for the new post
Establishing a GRPP working group representing all the 4 parishes
Collecting baseline data
Making GRPP a standing item on PCC agendas
Planning a budget

The key challenges we are facing is finding the right person for the post – someone who has a strong faith and commitment to C&F work, and is also flexible enough to work across both our Benefice and Ropley

We know that there is a real enthusiasm for growth in our churches, and the congregations are prepared to give generously of their time and money to support GRPP

Indeed, when we held a Benefice wide GRPP giving day last August we raised £9k in one off donations, plus commitments of £10 k pa in regular giving. This is amazing, and the money is being held in a separate account until the new person is appointed

So we have laid the foundations and hopefully will have someone in post by the end of the year. Thanks for all you support,

Jon Whale, Chris James, Roger Parsons and Minna Bruce

Send your Christmas Greetings to all readers of The Arle Valley Voice!



Make sure your name appears in our special 'Benefice Christmas Card' centre spread in the December/January edition of The Arle Valley Voice during Advent and twelve days of Christmas.

Fill in the form below and put it - with your charity donation **(£5 for a single name, £8 for couples or families/groups**) in an envelope - in the box at the back of St. John's (the box is gift wrapped). Cheques should be made payable to **PCC of New Alresford**. Bank transfers to PCC New Alresford FL Account number 70002223 Sort code 516109
The charity you nominate on your form could be the one to benefit from the proceeds – Rory the dog will draw one from the pile randomly when all have been received.

Don't miss out on a church community initiative –
it's a lot cheaper than sending out a multitude of cards yourself!

The box and forms will be **in the Benefice office at St. John's on Monday - Friday (10am - 12pm) and during the Sunday service until Sunday, Nov 8th.**

Benefice Christmas Card 2026

Name(s) to appear on the card: .....

.....

Suggested charity to benefit from the money raised:

.....

Your telephone number: .....

Put this form in an envelope with your donation **(£5 or £8 for couples or families/groups**).

Post in the box in the Benefice office (Mondays – Fridays 10am – 12pm) & at the Sunday service **from October 11th to November 8th**.

Any cheques should be made payable to **PCC of New Alresford**.

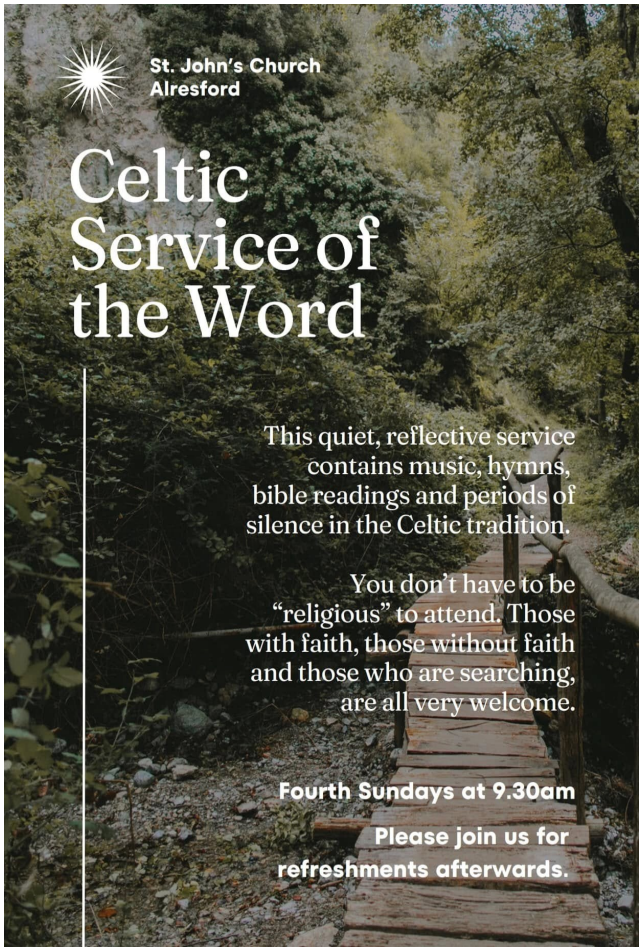
Church Events and Activities

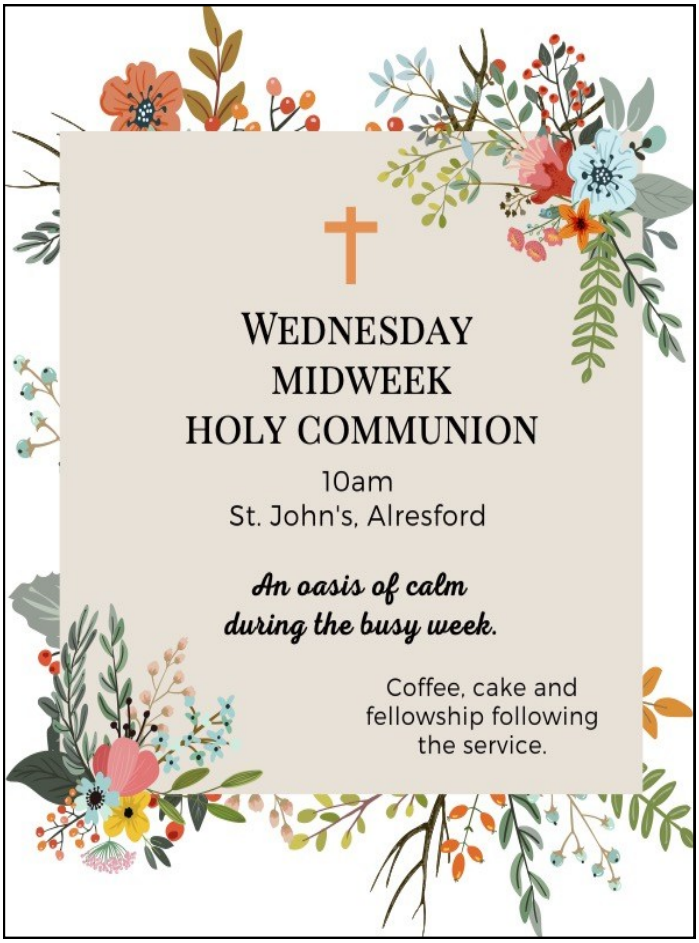
11:00am - 12:00pm,
4th October
St Mary's Church, SO24 9DX



A service of Morning Praise for the whole family.







Church Events and Activities



Prayer requests:

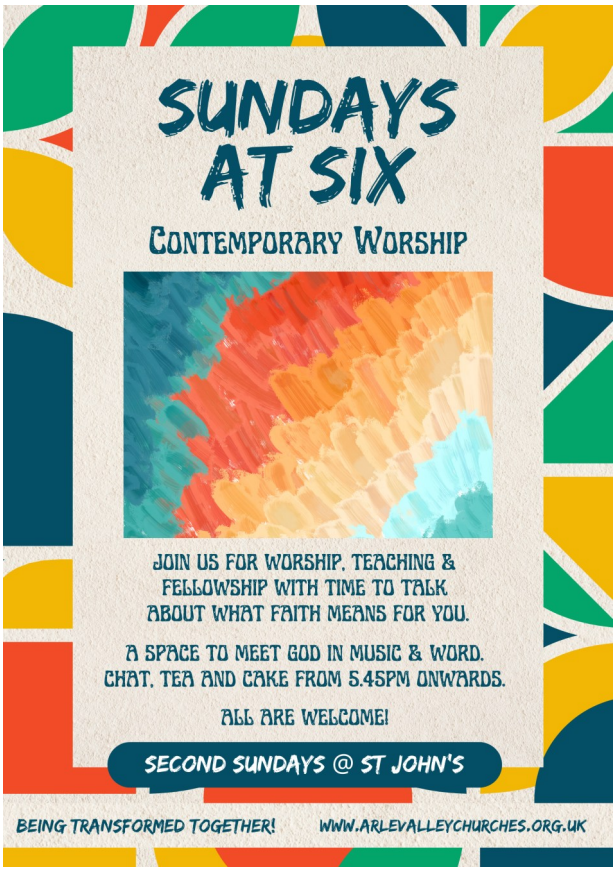
If you would like the Prayer team to pray for you, your family, friends or any other situation, please contact:

Rosie Waring Green
rosie@22rwg.co.uk

t. 01962 733237

We, of course, always respect the confidentiality of your requests

Prayer Meeting for the parish and our community - **every Friday at 10-11am** in church - feel free to drop in. And if you can't get down to the church then do join us in prayer wherever you are.



St John's Porch Prayer Tree and Prayer Cards

Please do spend some time praying the prayer requests on the Prayer tree as you go in or out of church or as you walk by. It is a privilege to support all those who have written these

Also there are prayer cards available in a display case which you are most welcome to take and use for yourself or friends and family.



Some of the titles are: Being Accepted, Looking for God, Worried about Someone, Finding Peace, Feeling alone, Grieving, Being thankful

Bible Study

If you are interested in exploring the Bible and having some help reading and understanding it do consider getting Bible notes. You can order notes from Pearl Page—her email is pearljpage@aol.com

Church Activities

Alpha Course Autumn 2026

Following 5 successful and encouraging Alpha courses, we will be holding another course this Autumn. Alpha is a 12-week series of group conversations with a video that freely explore the basics of the Christian faith in an open, friendly environment. You can ask questions, join in with discussions or enjoy listening to others. There is no pressure, come and take part in the most comfortable way for you.

Supper is provided each week and we meet in Rosie and Ian Waring Green's comfortable living room so everyone can relax and get to know each other. 3 follow up Home Groups have now formed to carry on exploring faith together as well as deepening friendships.

Dates and times to suit the group. Please contact Rosie rosie@22rwg.co.uk or 07891120662 to sign up or for further details. 2 Grange Road Alresford.

Below are some of the comments from people who have taken part.

The Alpha course is great! What it does is cover the foundations of Christianity in a simple, accessible and engaging way that helps it all to make sense and join the dots. Combining short videos, discussion and socialising over some food this course is well worth your time to attend - it's a recommend from me ***P***

I had heard so much about the Alpha Course and had long wanted to participate in it. I was not disappointed and found it to be inspiring and stimulating. I loved the comradeship with others and making new friends. ***C***

I was hugely encouraged by the Alpha course I did recently. I found it very strengthening to hear well-grounded reasoning, strong witness and Biblical teaching to back up what, for me, had been an 'organic' growing of my faith over a number of years. ***J***

Thank you so much for the Alpha course and your hospitality.
It has certainly changed my way of thinking (and feeling), and I am looking forward to the friendship group. Thank you both once again for the experience. ***C***

Youth Alpha Autumn 2026

There will also be a Youth Alpha for Year 7 upwards. This is a great place to ask those awkward and challenging questions about the Christian faith in a safe and affirming environment. There are great activities as well inspiring videos and lots of friendship time. Youth Aloha runs for 8 weeks and of course involves food!! More details or to sign up from Rosie WG. rosie@22rwg.co.uk or 07891120662. 2 Grange Road Alresford.



Church Events and Activities

Table Talk

A chance to meet, eat and discuss
issues raised
in an open , friendly
and non-judgemental atmosphere.

12pm in the John Pearson Hall

Bring and Share lunch

3rd Friday in the month

Friday 16th October

All Welcome



Coffee, Cake & Chat @ St. John's

Come and join us on the second Tuesday of every month (10am—11.30am) in the John Pearson Hall for tea coffee and delicious homemade cakes!

This is for everyone across the local community
We'd love to see you
Feel free to invite family, friends and neighbours as well



For more information please contact

Angela Peel 01962 734 814

Solos Sunday Tea

A warm welcome.
sandwiches
homemade cakes and
conversation for those who
live alone.

Come and join us

Every Third Sunday 2.30pm—4.30pm

Next meeting:

Sunday 18th October

John Pearson Hall St John's Church

We do hope to see you there.

Info:

Margaret 01962 735185
Roger 01962 734045

Gluten free available



MEN'S SUPPER CLUB

FOR WIDOWERS

WE MEET ON THE LAST THURSDAY
OF THE MONTH AT 7PM

IF INTERESTED, PLEASE CONTACT
ROGER WHIFFEN ON 01962 734045



Children's Activities





CHILL, CHAT & CHOMP

Youth Group Y7 upwards

St John's Church

Contact Rosie on 07891 120662



Chatterbox



is our parent/carer & baby/toddler group that meets every Thursday
(10am - 11am) in the John Pearson Hall.

Do come along and enjoy new friends (with refreshments) and fun activities for your little ones.

Please book a place with Vicki,
t. 07907 035998.





10AM - 12PM
1ST MONDAY OF THE MONTH
CHRISTY HALL, OLD ALRESFORD

Old Alresford Family Mondays

TOYS FOR TODDLERS AND A CHANCE TO MEET AND CHAT TO OTHER FAMILIES.

REFRESHMENTS TOO!

EVERYONE IS WELCOME FROM 10AM - 12PM ON THE 1ST MONDAY OF EACH MONTH

ORGANISED BY ST. MARY'S CHURCH, OLD ALRESFORD

CONTACTS:
SUE ARMSTRONG
TEL. 734542
ERICA SISK
TEL. 732735



Join the Adventure

WE DISCOVER, WE GROW
Girlguiding

scouts
be prepared . . .



ST. JOHN'S LIGHT Party

A FUN ALTERNATIVE TO HALLOWEEN!

A whole lot of fun for the whole family

Children must be accompanied by their parent/carer

31 OCT | DON'T FORGET YOUR TORCH! | 4-6 PM

GAMES · CRAFTS · FOOD · ACTIVITIES

To book your place and more information (along with any dietary requirements) please email Rosie: rosie@22rwg.co.uk

Free entry (Donations welcome)

HAMPSHIRE BUSHCRAFT

We run full day activity camps during the school holidays for children aged 5-12. Children can sign up for one day or multiple days, the woods offer something different every day!

https://hampshirebushcraft.com

Community Events

ALRESFORD & DISTRICT COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

FRIDAY MORNINGS at YOUR COMMUNITY CENTRE



TEA/COFFEE & BISCUITS

Weekly Meat Raffle
Books Sale
Jigsaw Puzzles

Mothers' Union



The Mothers' Union is a worldwide Christian organisation dedicated to promoting marriage and family life. It has 3.6 million members in 76 countries.

The Mothers' Union was started in 1876 by Mary Sumner, the wife of an Anglican vicar. It is open to all baptised men and women and encourages all members to attend church and to read the Bible regularly.

Joining the Mothers' Union
If you are interested in joining the Mothers' Union, please contact Stephanie Durrant,
t. 01962 732318
or email stephanie.durrant@hotmail.com

New Members are always welcome.

We look forward to welcoming you to be a part of a wonderful worldwide organisation.

STROKE SUPPORT GROUP ALRESFORD & VILLAGES

1st Tuesday of Month
2pm – 3.30pm

Cardiac Rehab, Chawton Park Rd, Alton GU34 1RQ

easthampshirestrokesupport.org/

07340 739251

Town Trust Community Transport

Stroke Support

FOR STROKE SURVIVORS, SUPPORTERS & FAMILIES.

ALL WELCOME

JOIN US FOR

- Information & Support
- Health
- Activities
- Gatherings & Events
- Shared Experience
- Friendship & Fun

Royal Air Forces Association
Alresford & District Branch

We are the local branch of the RAFA and we are looking for new members to join our team. Whether you are an ex serving member of the RAF or not you are welcome to join us. We are an active team of people holding many social events and we meet in Alresford each month.

For more information or details of how to join please call Mike Trevelyan on 07920772781 email yann_221@yahoo.co.uk

Registered Charity 1071073 (England & Wales)



Alresford Historical & Literary Society

Wednesday 21st October

7.30pm

Methodist Church, Jacklyn's Lane

The Wit and Satire of

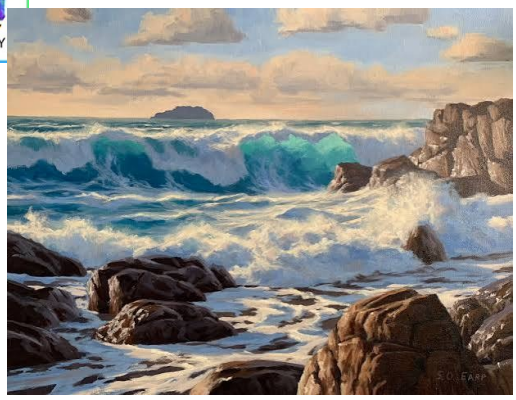
Gilbert & Sullivan Act 1

Dr Stephen Goss



Further information from
secretary@alresfordhistandlit.co.uk

ALRESFORD ART SOCIETY



A demonstration

Seascape, Colour & Light in Acrylic

by Mark Warmer.

Thursday 15 October at 7:30pm
at Bishops Sutton Village Hall, Alresford, SO24 0AH.

Non-members welcome, admission £5.
For further information: 01962 733031 or visit www.artsociety.alresford.org

Chatty Cafe Scheme

At a loose end?
Fancy a cuppa?

The 'Chatter & Natter table' is a wonderful way of encouraging people of all ages to talk to others. During the day and time below, the table will be hosted by a friendly volunteer. Do come along and sit for a chat.

Where: **The Arlebury Cafe**
Arlebury Park, The Avenue,
New Alresford,
Alresford, SO24 9EP

When: **Every Monday**
1:30pm - 3pm

Men's Shed Progress Update

Work is continuing to move forward on the new Alresford Men's Shed at Arlebury Park, and it's great to see just how much progress has been made since our last update.

The structure is now really taking shape, with the roof, internal framework and insulation all going in. It's starting to look much more like the space that will eventually become a new home for the Men's Shed community.

There is still work to be done, but it's lovely to see the project moving on and the building beginning to come together.

We'll continue to share updates as work progresses.







THE GOSPEL EXPERIENCE

is an evening where an entire audience learns a song together in harmony, rehearses it, and performs it live.

Along the way, Tim shares the history behind Gospel music: where it came from, what it carries, and why it matters. The teaching is warm, clear, and genuinely fun. You don't have to read music and nobody is left behind.

This is a great night out if you want to have a proper sing with your friends. You don't have to be a confident singer, and everyone is welcome. It works equally well for choirs looking for something a bit different, or for churchgoers who want to experience Cathedrals in a fresh way.

By the end of the evening, you will have achieved something you will be proud of. People consistently leave these events uplifted by the music, the history, and the community connection.

Tickets available from timuffindell.co.uk/events



ITALIAN OPERA Gala

An enchanting evening of the finest Italian opera

SOPRANO · TENOR · PIANIST

Followed by optional Gala Dinner

Join us for a memorable evening of Italian opera, beautiful music and exceptional voices in the atmospheric setting of the Church of St John the Baptist, New Alresford. This special gala will bring together some of the most loved and celebrated music from the Italian operatic repertoire. Expect an evening filled with passion, romance, drama and beautiful melodies, performed live in the wonderful acoustics of this historic Hampshire Church.

Saturday 24th October - 6.00pm

Church of St John the Baptist, New Alresford

ITALIAN OPERA


Sara Guidi
Soprano


Joseph Spratt
Tenor


Guy Murgatroyd
Pianist

Optional Gala Dinner

Following the spectacular Italian Opera Gala, there are a limited number of places to join us for an intimate and elegant Italian inspired dinner, hosted in the private Vault at The Swan Hotel, New Alresford. Includes a welcome glass of Prosecco, three course dinner with a choice of 3 dishes, still and sparkling water. Plus a special musical interlude by our singers during dinner and an opportunity to meet and chat with them after the performance.

£25 Gala Opera-Only Tickets

£99 Gala Opera + Dinner Tickets

To book tickets e-mail info@italianopera.co.uk or scan the QR code

Saturday 24th October - 6.00pm

facebook.com/share/1C5yVhvPuR/
@Italian_Opera_Gala

Beautiful music, Italian passion an Unforgettable evening

The Watercress Line brings back the Golden Age of railways at its Autumn Steam Gala

Ivatt Class 2, 41313, will be one of the highlights at The Watercress Line's Autumn Steam Gala.



Photo: John Faulkner.

Steam enthusiasts and families are invited to step back in time when the thrilling Autumn Steam Gala returns to The Watercress Line in Hampshire, from 2 to 4 October.
Highlights include a spectacular line-up of steam locomotives, unlimited train rides on an enhanced timetable, and behind-the-scenes experiences at the heritage railway – promising a packed programme of steam action across its 10-mile route between Alresford and Alton.

There will be a nostalgic vibe to The Watercress Line's period stations as they host locomotives familiar to anyone who travelled by steam in the 1950s and 1960s. There will be a rare opportunity to see together three of the great workhorses of steam branch line travel: Ivatt locomotives 41312, 41313 and 46447. A highlight of each day will be the sight of a 'triple-header' when all three Ivatts will couple up to pull a single train.

Leading the visiting line-up is **Ivatt Class 2, 41313**, courtesy of the Isle of Wight Steam Railway. She is particularly special for The Watercress Line, as she is the sister locomotive to the railway's own 41312. The Autumn Steam Gala will be the final appearance for 41312 before she is withdrawn for overhaul, making the presence of her sister locomotive a fitting way to mark the occasion.

Completing the trio line-up is **46447**, courtesy of the East Somerset Railway. The Ivatt Class 2 2-6-2 tank locomotive enjoyed a working life across the north of England and Wales before being withdrawn in 1966 and rescued from Woodham Brothers' scrapyard.

The third visiting locomotive will be **6989 W*ightwick Hall***, courtesy of Buckinghamshire Railway Centre. The BR (WR) 4-6-0 5MT locomotive was rescued from a Welsh scrapyard by volunteers in January 1978 and her meticulous restoration has taken more than four decades, transforming a locomotive once destined to become scrap metal into a working piece of Britain's railway heritage.

Joining her will be **GWR 4247**, a heavy freight tank locomotive courtesy of Paignton & Dartmouth Steam Railway. Built at Swindon in 1916, 4247 was delivered new to South Wales, where she spent virtually all her working life, apart from a spell in Cornwall between 1952 and 1957.

The visiting locomotives will join The Watercress Line's own steam fleet for an intensive programme, with the opportunity to explore the heritage stations, enjoy delicious refreshments, visit the railway's workshops and experience the sights, sounds and smells of steam in action.

For a hands-on experience, visitors aged 18+ can take the controls of **1788 *Kilmersdon*** at Ropley Yard, under the guidance of a driver and fireman. Experiences run from 10.30am–3pm each day, lasting around 5 to 7 minutes. A Gala ticket is required, and places must be booked in advance.

Find out more and book tickets at: **https://watercressline.co.uk/autumn-steam-gala/**

Alresford & District Horticultural Society Meeting

Wednesday 14th October
From 7.30pm to 9.30pm
St Gregory's Parish Hall, Grange Road, Alresford

'Beauty and the Beast -- Dilemmas as we Garden for Nature'.
A talk by Steve and Jane Page.

Visitors welcome, £3.
Refreshments available.
Further information at www.alresfordhorticultural.org



QUIZ NIGHT

Friday 13th November – 7.30pm

Itchen Abbas Village Hall

Bring a team of eight or join a team on the night *(pre-booking is essential)*
There is a raffle and prizes for the winning team

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Local School News

Vita Multi Academy Trust appoints Claire Copeland as Interim Executive Headteacher



Vita Multi Academy Trust has appointed experienced education leader Claire Copeland as Interim Executive Headteacher, following the departure of Steve Jones from the role.
Claire will provide executive leadership across Vita's schools, including Perins School, Sun Hill Junior School and Perins Pre-School. She brings extensive experience of school and trust improvement, organisational transformation, governance and strategic education delivery across multi-academy trust environments.

Most recently, Claire served as Executive Headteacher and Education Director for Salterns Academy Trust in Portsmouth, where she held executive responsibility for educational performance, school improvement, quality assurance, inclusion, SEND, safeguarding and leadership development across the Trust. During her time at Salterns, Claire also undertook the role of Co-CEO, gaining significant experience in trust strategy, governance, organisational development and stakeholder engagement.

Claire will be working full-time across the Trust and will have a strong presence in each of our schools as we begin the new academic year.

"I am delighted to have joined Vita Multi Academy Trust as Executive Headteacher. This is an exciting opportunity to work alongside our talented staff, supportive families and wonderful pupils to build on the many strengths of our schools. I am looking forward to listening, learning and working in partnership with our whole community as we begin this next chapter together."

The Board of Trustees would like to thank Steve for his years of service and his contribution to pupils, staff and the wider community, and wish him every success for the future.
Alongside the appointment of Claire, Lex Western, previously Deputy Head at Perins School, has been appointed as Interim Head of School at Perins.

At Sun Hill Junior School, Marie Woods, previously Deputy Head, has been appointed Interim Head of School for the coming term.

Both appointments provide continuity and strong existing knowledge of their respective schools, while supporting the Trust's wider leadership team during this period of change.

The Trust sees this as an opportunity to build on its existing strengths, strengthen collaboration across its schools and maintain a clear focus on educational outcomes and opportunities for its pupils.

JANET POOLEY OBITUARY



Janet Pearson was born in Northampton on November 2nd 1943. She grew up on a busy family farm, the eldest of three children. Janet aced her 11 plus exam, and won a place at Banbury Grammar School, which involved a long bus journey there and back each day, plus a mountain of homework. But, on top of all of that, Janet – like everyone in the family – was expected to help out on the farm by milking the cows and checking the fields first thing in the morning during lambing season to see if any of the sheep were in trouble. Is it any wonder she grew up to be so incredibly capable?



Janet's father didn't think a university education was necessary for girls, but Janet didn't want to stay on the farm until she caught the eye of a local farmer, so she secretly sat the Civil Service exams.

Janet landed a job with the Ministry of Agriculture, and became the first member of her family to leave the countryside and head for the bright lights of London. One day, the office messenger delivered a letter to Janet from Peter Pooley, a good-looking, high-flying Civil Servant, asking her to the Savoy for dinner. They were married for almost exactly sixty years.

Peter and Janet settled in East Molesey and had two children – Clare and James. Then, in 1979, Peter was seconded to the Foreign Office, and the family moved to Brussels, where they were to stay for nearly twenty years.

Janet threw herself into life, and never did anything by halves. She started helping with arts and crafts at the British School, where she was known as the 'clay lady'. She ended up being on the Management Board. She decided to help out with the cub scouts troop, became Akela, and ended up running scouting for the entire Benelux countries, taking hundreds of boys on a camp, to re-enact the Battle of Waterloo. When the BBC threatened to remove Radio 4 from longwave, she organised a march on parliament.

In 1996, the Pooleys moved to Alresford. Janet was always the first to put up her hand when volunteers were asked for. She quickly threw herself into the church, the WI, the Arts Society, the Horticultural Society, the Itchen Valley Gardeners, The Historical and Literary Society, Meals on Wheels, Volunteering at Winchester Cathedral, and pretty much everything else. She was a First Responder, carrying her own defibrillator around town, and became Chairman of the Horticultural Society, Area Chairman of the Arts Society and Editor of this magazine.



Janet's greatest joy was her grandchildren – Eliza, Jemma, Charlie, Alice, Matilda and Lauren. She is hugely missed by them, by her children, and by the church and the town of Alresford.

Audrey Bales. Tribute



Mum was born on 26th Sept 1929. So, when the Second World War started she was only 10 and when it ended she was 16 – these were very formative years that moulded her approach to life until she died on the 14th June 2026. Never waste anything. Count every penny. Always be trustworthy. Also, importantly, it made her fiercely patriotic.
She lived with my Nan and Grandad at Welling in Kent – a suburb of South East London. She witnessed first-hand The Blitz – daily and nightly bombing raids by the German Luftwaffe. She saw the Battle for Britain take place above her home – over her head.

She saw the houses at the bottom of her garden blown to bits – nothing but a crater left – the neighbours gone. She was there when the bomb dropped and blew all the windows in – bringing down the ceilings. Nights in the Anderson shelter, outside the kitchen door – or hiding under the dining room table.

On one occasion – her Father looked out of the shelter doorway and she heard him exclaim – "Oh Christ – this one's for us". Imagine a little girl hearing her Dad say those words. Having done some checking – I believe this was a Messerschmidt which had been hit and was on fire.

Most of her time at school was spent in the school's air raid shelter – doing spelling bees – her English was faultless. Lack of education meant that she was always at a disadvantage with people – this, coupled with her London accent, meant that she felt she wasn't quite good enough. Something I tried to correct her on many times.

Watching young men die above her in the sky - seeing the newsreels at the pictures of men killed in ground battles made her determined to speak up – and not let their deaths be a meaningless waste. She knew what they had given enabled us to live in a free country.

Consequently, she was appalled by the state of our Country now. It is important that I write that down – she was truly appalled. All those tens of thousands died to protect our Country and she saw that being undone on a daily basis – a betrayal as she listened to the excuses of both politicians and the Church. She witnessed the gradual erosion of the free speech they fought for – even as I write this on her behalf – I wonder if it will be printed.

After the War my Mum married and I was born in 1953. The marriage was not a happy one though and by the late '60's she had divorced and later she married Charlie Bales (Dad) – whom many of you may remember. She had visited Alresford a number of times and always dreamed of living there – it being her vision of a rural and very English town.

They moved to Alresford in about 1981 and set up home at 3, Bramble Hill. 6 years later Dad died – leaving Mum on her own and for some reason (although she was still young) she never met anyone else – living alone until she died this year.

She didn't give up! She had excellent friends and neighbours in Bramble Hill – indeed, she had friends dotted all over Alresford - caring deeply for all of them. She joined clubs – the walking group and line dancing (!) come to mind. She also became involved in life at St John's – getting confirmed and working in the Church office. Indeed, she was still delivering the Church magazine virtually up until the day she died.

I have tried to give a picture of my Mum's life, but if one word were to sum it up it would be "stoicism". She never, ever gave up – no matter what life threw at her. Being bombed, a bad marriage, husband dying too young – she wouldn't even give up against the cancer. In that case her stoicism did her no favours. When she did go she was pleased. She'd seen enough and done enough of life.

I hope that in some way she was there at her funeral – to see all the people that cared for her.



Shelagh May Gilding

29th October 1930- 19th June 2026

Florence May and Thomas Percival Bright welcomed Shelagh May Bright into this world on 29th October 1930. She was born in Sutton Scotney, in what was then the County of Southampton. She was the third of four siblings, preceded by her sister June and brother John, and followed by her younger sister Daphne. The family moved to New Farm Road in Alresford.

She studied at Winchester County High School for Girls. She was proud to say that she was always in the top 3 of all her classes in every subject, so not just BRIGHT by name….

On leaving school she started work in 1948 as a secretary for the National Social Security working in Alresford and surrounding areas. She held this position for nine years, leaving to start a family.

Shelagh married John Desmond Gilding at the Church of St. John the Baptist, Alresford on 10th September 1955. The newlyweds couldn't afford their own place so began married life living with his parents in Church Cottages in Alresford. They moved to 7 Station Approach in March 1957; a place Shelagh would call home for the next 69 years.

They had 4 children, daughters Sue and Sara, and sons Mike and Chris.

In February 1971 Shelagh returned to work as a part-time sales assistant at Jackman's Electrical Shop in West Street. In April 1974 she moved to Taylor of London perfumers in The Dean as bookkeeper, retiring in December 1990.

In her quiet times she liked to knit, specialising in knitted toys. She also enjoyed needlework and cross-stitch patterns. She was very adept at making fancy dress costumes and dance class costumes for the girls.

In later life, due to hearing loss, she found it more difficult to hear conversations and she would just smile. Smile and wave, that's what she did. She was very good at that.

Shelagh was at her happiest in her own home surrounded by her family of 4 children, 12 Grandchildren and 14 Great Grandchildren, all of whom she adored. Every visit brought out her warm smile.

Accommodation – Ovington



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(formerly NADFAS)

THE ARTS SOCIETY ALRESFORD

We are looking for someone to help with the set-up and operation of our AV projection and audio system for our monthly lectures, held on the 4th Tuesday of each month (not August and December) at 2.15pm at Itchen Abbas Hall.

Full training will be provided. Once trained, you would share the role with our existing projectionist, taking responsibility for every other lecture.

You would need to:

- Arrive at the hall at 12.30pm to set up the equipment and liaise with the lecturer.
- Operate the laptop, projector and audio equipment during the lecture.
- Pack away the equipment afterwards, normally finishing by 4.00pm.

You should be comfortable using and updating a Windows laptop and have some familiarity with PowerPoint and connecting a laptop to a projector. You don't need to be an AV expert - full training will be given.

We currently pay our projectionists £55 per lecture, and you get to watch a superb lecture for free.

If you are interested in helping The Arts Society Alresford, please contact: Julia Kerby on 01962 734768 or by email juliamkerby@outlook.com

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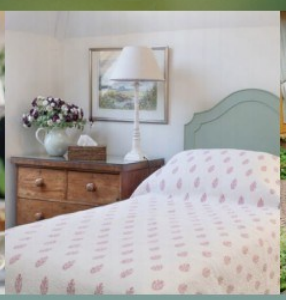
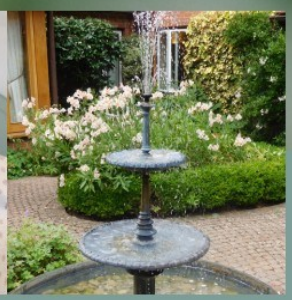
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Care Home Residents, Families and Local Community Enjoy Open-Air Performance of *Romeo & Juliet* in Quintessential English Garden



Residents, families and members of the wider community gathered in the beautiful grounds of The Dower House in Winchester to enjoy a wonderful open-air performance of Shakespeare's timeless classic, *Romeo & Juliet*.

The performance was brought to The Dower House by The Open Bar Theatre and The Dot Collective, who are touring the South of England this summer as part of celebrations marking ten years of bringing accessible outdoor theatre to communities far and wide.

Set against the backdrop of the home's stunning gardens, residents and guests were immersed in a vibrant production filled with music, colour, drama and theatrical magic as Shakespeare's iconic tale unfolded before them.

Chris Golding, Chief Operating Officer at The Dower House, said:

"Whilst some residents still enjoy trips to the theatre, others are no longer able to attend performances in the traditional way, so it is a real pleasure to bring the theatre to them. The cast truly embraced the spirit of the day – Romeo and Juliet even sang a duet for one of our residents in their room, creating a very special moment that will be remembered for a long time."

The cast's enthusiasm and engagement extended beyond the stage, with residents and staff encouraged to dance, sing and become part of the performance itself.

Christine Farmery, Activities Co-ordinator at The Dower House, said:

"The cast were absolutely wonderful. Seeing our residents and staff encouraged to get up, dance and become part of the production was fabulous. The two residents who received personal visits from the cast in their rooms were especially touched by the experience. It brought such joy to everyone involved."

With a smile on her face, Resident Mrs Read, recalled the experience, saying, "This young, good-looking man came into my room, took hold of my hand and sang to me. I was so thrilled! I've never had anyone sing like that to me before. He had a powerful and a beautiful voice!"

The event formed part of The Dower House's ongoing commitment to providing meaningful and enriching experiences for residents, ensuring access to arts, culture and community events within the comfort of their own home.



Pictures show cast and residents interacting


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The problem with Hallowe'en

Hallowe'en is now celebrated across the world on the night of 31st October. Modern day celebrations generally involve groups of children dressed in scary costumes roaming from house to house, demanding "trick-or-treat". Though actually it is only in England that the costumes have to be 'scary' as in other countries children dress as pirates, clowns, animals or whatever. The origins of these celebrations however date back thousands of years, to pagan times.



Halloween can be traced back to the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain. Until 2,000 years ago, the Celts were a farming and agricultural people, the Pre-Christian Celtic year was determined by the growing seasons and Samhain marked the end of summer, the apple harvest and the beginning of the dark cold winter.

The festival also symbolized the boundary between the world of the living and the world of the dead.



Celts believed that on the night of 31st October, spirits of their dead would revisit the mortal world and large bonfires were lit in each village in order to welcome friendly spirits and ward off any evil spirits that may also be at large. Celtic priests or druids ensured that the hearth fire of each house was re-lit from the glowing embers of the sacred bonfire, in order to help protect the people and keep them warm through the forthcoming long, dark winter months.

Around AD 400 Christianity arrived and the evangelists did what they often did they Christianised the local festivals. Thus they used the season of Hallowe'en as All Saints. This festival had been kept on 13th May to tie in with a Roman festival but Pope Gregory moved it to 1st November.



The night or evening of Samhain therefore became known as *All-hallows-even* then *Hallow Eve*, still later *Hallowe'en* . Some churches in the middle ages to demonstrate the power of good over evil had a play enacted based on the story of how Archangel Michael defeated Satan in the Book of Revelation. People dressed up and acted out a 'battle' between the baddies – witches, demons etc and the 'goodies' – angels and saints which of course the 'goodies' won and it ended with an effigy of Satan being burnt on the bonfire. (It was James 1 who put poor Guy Fawkes in place of Satan but one village where I lived some people still called the guy 'Satan')

Unfortunately the modern world has forgotten the 'goodie' side of the tradition and only concentrates on the bad and scary side. And this has led some people to worry about children getting either frightened or being attracted to the occult. They are being led to think that evil is exciting and goodness boring.

This is why many churches, including St John's, hold a Light Party instead of Hallowe'en so we can focus on light, goodness and ultimately of course Christ.

St Francis of Assisi and World Animal Day



Eight hundred years ago, on 3rd October 1226, St Francis of Assisi, the Italian friar, deacon and mystic, died. One of the most venerated religious figures in Christianity, he founded the Franciscan Order.

He died at the age of about 44 of severe illness, including eye disease, malaria and exhaustion, possibly following a 40-day fast. He was declared a saint by Pope Gregory IX two years later.

Francis' father was a wealthy silk merchant and his mother a noblewoman from Provence. He was one of seven children. At first, he behaved as a typical son of a wealthy merchant, but several things changed his attitude – one of which was his capture and imprisonment for nearly a year after fighting in a war against Perugia.

He also had visions and underwent a change in character leading him to a strong commitment to help the poor – an attitude which led to estrangement from his father, whom he eventually renounced. He aligned himself strongly with the poor, on one occasion begging with them at St Peter's Basilica in Rome. He also spent times in lonely places, seeking divine illumination, and was said to have received the stigmata during an angelic vision.



Often pictured wearing a plain brown habit tied with a rope of three knots, symbolising poverty, chastity and obedience, St Francis is one of the most honoured people in Christianity.

And, of course, St Francis has a close connection with animals – he is their patron saint which is why his feast day 4th October is **World Animal Day – helping animals in dire need**

How did World Animal Day start?

World Animal Day was started by Heinrich Zimmermann, a cytologist, who organised the first celebration at the Sports Palace in Berlin, which was reportedly attended by over 5,000 people. It was first celebrated on 24th March 1925 in Germany.

The aim is to end needless suffering globally and to recognise that animals (that includes not just mammals but birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish, insects etc) are all God's creatures and that God cares about them as Jesus said, "Yet not one sparrow falls to the ground outside the Father's care"

2026 Theme: "**Changing Our Perspective,"** which invites people to slow down and see the world through the eyes of animals to improve welfare choices. One example of how to help animals through the way they see things Is in Australia where they use lights like predators' eyes to keep wildlife off the road. Thus reducing

roadkill—think how many fox, badger, hedgehog and other corpses we see by the roadside.



Here in the UK we have a good network of animal charities devoted to the rescue, medical care, and wildlife conservation. The leading one is the RSPCA, but there are also many others below – to name just a few:

Dogs & Cats

***Dogs Trust**:* Operates 22 rehoming centres to care for and re-home stray or abandoned dogs.

***Cats Protection**:* UK's largest feline charity, offering rehoming, neutering, and advice.

***Battersea Dogs & Cats Home**:* Rescues, heals, and rehomes thousands of pets each year.

***Blue Cross**:* Veterinary treatment, rehoming and behavioural support for vulnerable pets.

Veterinary & Working Animal Support

***PDSA**:* Offers free and low-cost medical pet care to low-income owners.

***Donkey Sanctuary**:* Gives veterinary care, and a retirement home to donkeys and mules.

***British Horse Society**:* Improves equine welfare by education, rescue, and campaigns.

***Horse Trust**:* Provides retirement and respite care for working horses, ponies, and donkeys.

Wildlife Conservation

***Wildlife Trusts**:* Network of 47 local charities protecting and restoring natural habitats including our own Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust.

Hart Wildlife Trust: a local charity that provides rescue, treatment and rehabilitation for injured animals.

More details at: https://www.worldanimalday.org/get-involved/



A baby hedgehog being fed at Hart Wildlife Trust

LITTLE RAYS OF SUNSHINE



50 adults and 80 children revelled in the sunshine at Home-Start Winchester's annual Summer Fun Club at St Paul's Church, Winchester. Held over two three-day weeks in August, families enjoyed face painting, arts and crafts, messy play, singing, stories and workshops as well as yummy lunches. With ages ranging from six months to 10 years, there was something for everyone, and mums and dads were kept busy too. There were even guest appearances by Pudsey, Punch and Judy and Fredericka, a 65 year -old tortoise.

"We are very conscious that the prospect of six weeks without being able to access our family groups is a daunting prospect for the young families we support, and we felt it was vital to offer them a fun mini break to keep everyone occupied and to combat feelings of isolation," said Liz Standard, Service Manager for Home-Start Winchester, "and, for many families, this will be the only holiday they will have."

"We are particularly grateful to all our Home-Start volunteers and supporters who baked cakes, helped with lunches or came along to lend a hand on some of the hottest days of the year," she said. "In addition, we were delighted to receive numerous financial donations which enabled us to sponsor each and every family and also our thanks to Tesco, who helped us with our shopping lists. I think it is safe to say that everyone went home exhausted and happy after days packed full of fun and laughter."

Home-Start Winchester is a local charity which provides friendship and emotional and practical help to parents with at least one child under five years old. Home-Start volunteers visit families at home each week or encourage families to join nurturing family groups to support parents in situations as diverse as isolation, bereavement, illness, disability or who are just finding parenting a struggle. They provide non-judgemental practical and emotional support and help build the family's confidence and ability to cope.

Sue Gentry 01962 773185 07802 354444



Messy Play

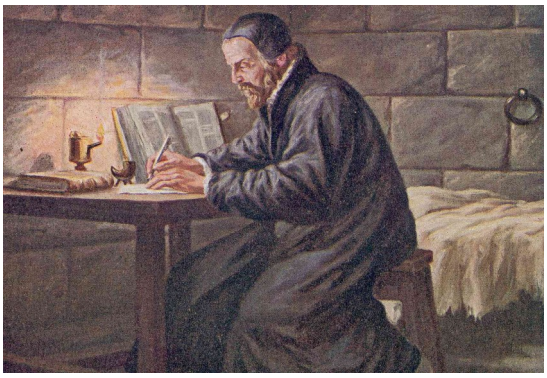


Hi Pudsey!



Lunch is served

How Tyndale affects what you say - today



It is 500 years since William Tyndale printed the very first English translation of the New Testament.

And hundreds of millions of people today are still quoting him, though they don't know it. For in 1526 Tyndale invented what would become some of the most famous idioms in the English-speaking world.

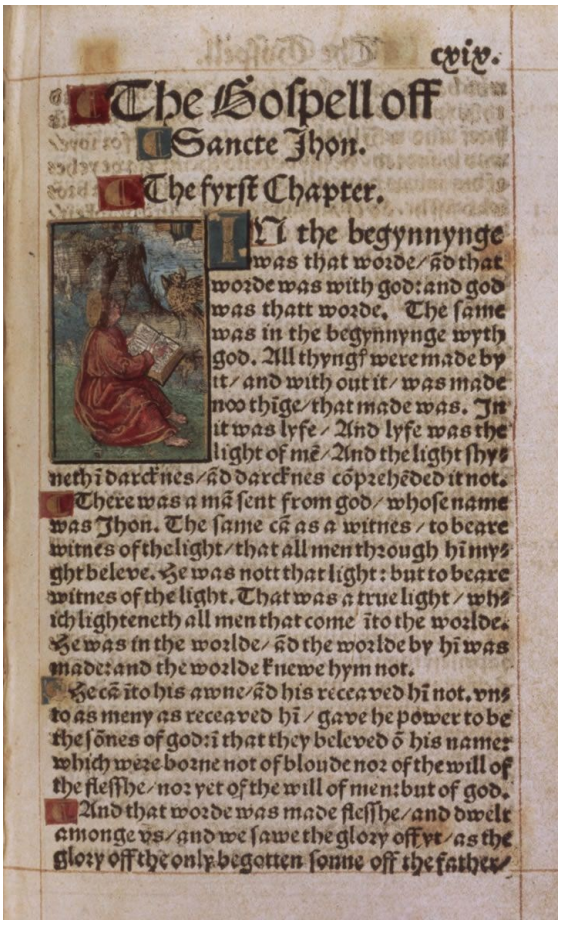
For instance –

"The salt of the earth"; "Go the extra mile"; "The powers that be"; "Eat, drink and be merry"; "A city on a hill"; "The apple of his eye"; "In the twinkling of an eye"; "Signs of the times"; "My brother's keeper"; "Fight the good fight"; "Broken-hearted"; "Fallen flat on his face.

These phrases were all invented by Tyndale, during his translation from the original Greek of the New Testament.

As a young Catholic priest in England, Tyndale had been inspired by Martin Luther's groundbreaking translation of the Bible into German, and he went to work doing the same for English speakers. No wonder that the Bible Society describes Tyndale as a 'background radical' during Henry VIII's reign (he's mentioned in *Wolf Hall* but doesn't get involved in the action).

Tyndale invented words, too, when he couldn't find a direct English equivalent for a Greek or Hebrew concept. He built them from other well-known words. Here are just some:


cxiy.

The Gospell off Sancte Jhon.

The fyrst Chapter.

IN the begynnynge was that worde/ & that worde was with god: and god was thatt worde. The same was in the begynnynge wyth god. All thyngs were made by it/ and with out it/ was made noo thige/ that made was. In it was lyfe/ And lyfe was the light of me/ And the light shyneth in darcknes/ & darcknes cõprehẽded it not.

There was a mã sent from god/ whose name was Jhon. The same cã as a witnes/ to beare witnes of the light/ that all men through hĩ myght beleve. He was nott that light: but to beare witnes of the light. That was a true light/ which lighteneth all men that come ito the worlde. He was in the worlde/ & the worlde by hi was made: and the worlde knewe hym not.

He cã ito his awne/ & his receaved hĩ not. vns to as meny as receaved hĩ/ gave he power to be the sõnes of god: i that they beleved õ his name: which were borne not of blonde nor of the will of the flesshe/ nor yet of the will of men: but of god.

And that worde was made flesshe/ and dwelt amonge vs/ and we sawe the glory off yt/ as the glory off the only begotten sonne off the father/

Scapegoat: To describe the goat burdened with the sins of the people and sent into the wilderness.
Atonement: Literally "at-one-ment", created to describe being at one with God.
Passover: Coined to describe the Jewish holiday where the angel of death passed over the homes of the Israelites.
Busybody: Invented to describe someone who meddles in other people's business.

Maybe some modern translators could copy him in building words from other words when they can't find an exact translation.

Tyndale's work has survived multiple revisions of the Bible down the centuries. It is found in the Authorised Version of the Bible, the RSV, the ASV, the ESV, and the NIV among many others.

And by the way Tyndale uses the pronoun 'it' rather than 'him' as the Greek pronoun is neuter—literally 'this one'

More at Bible Society's website: https://www.biblesociety.org.uk Just type 'Tyndale' into its 'search'

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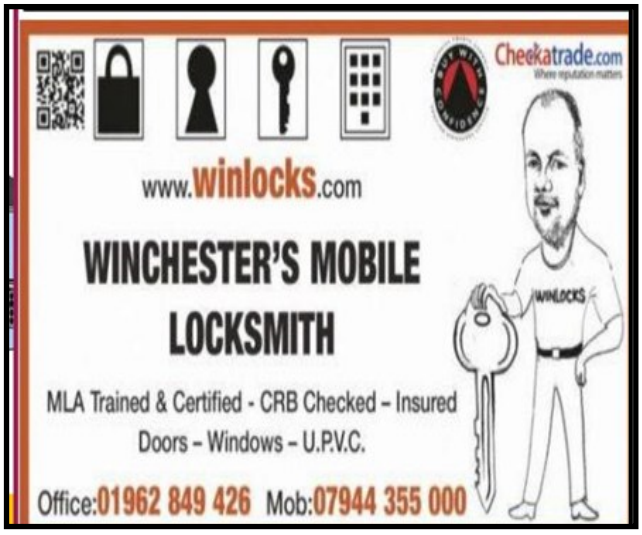
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St. John's Churchwardens are looking for someone who can look after our maintenance programme for our church. The role would involve booking regular outside agencies and overseeing risk assessments. If you could you help, it would be **VERY** much appreciated. Please contact Rosie: 07891 120662 or rosie@22rwg.co.uk.

We have been so grateful to Paul Whiffen who has done an outstanding job over the last few years.

Thank you, Paul.

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To place an advertisement

In this magazine

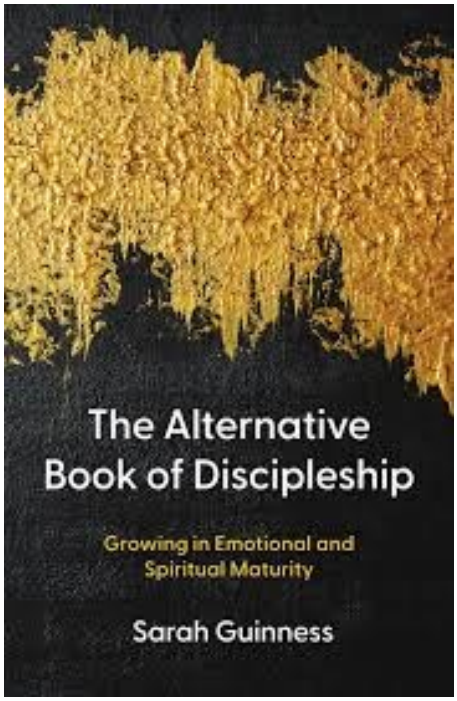
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A

Could sleep be spiritual?



"Sleep is spiritual," is the claim made in a newly-published guide to discipleship, written by London-based Church of England vicar, Sarah Guinness.

Although over-looked by many, 'The Alternative Guide to Discipleship' places sleep firmly at the core of growing in Christian spirituality.

Sarah Guinness writes, "Sleep is not wasted time. It is an opportunity for God to seal our dreams, and to deposit things and ideas in our hearts and minds.

"I'd like to imagine that at night God, who knit our brains and bodies together, stands by our beds, ready to sort through the day that we've had, patching the holes, processing that conversation, mending the tears in our armour so that we wake up feeling repaired, refreshed and ready for another day."

Guinness, the Vicar of Brentford, West London, believes that sleep can be creative, an opportunity for God to speak to us, a place to be vulnerable and a practice run for our Christian lives.

She cites how Adam fell into a deep sleep, and wakes to find Eve, how God speaks to a sleeping Abram about His promises and seals a covenant with him, and how Jesus sleeps and then wakes with clarity to curse a fig tree and clear the temple.

In Matthew's gospel the angel speaks to Joseph about Mary in a dream.

In Mark 1, Jesus goes to bed, sleeps and awakes early to pray, and later in the day tells the disciples they need to move on to other towns. "It's as though," says Guinness, Jesus "goes to sleep, has a divine download and feels focused on His priorities."

It's in our dreams that God speaks to us most powerfully, she explains. "God, being God, can do far more in our sleeping than we can do in our waking. He uses dreams to get our attention.

"People talk about being woken in the night with a strong urge to pray for a person or a situation. Why? Because sleep isn't dead space when our bodies reboot. Sleep is spiritual."



In 'The Alternative Book of Discipleship,' Sarah Guinness goes beyond the importance of sleep to map out a route to spiritual growth based on managing boundaries, embracing emotions, learning to play, surrendering outcomes, and other insights. It is founded on the author's experiences as a parish priest and, before that, 12 years as an occupational therapist.

I think I'll go and take a nap .

12th October - Edith Cavell, nurse



Edith Cavell is a good saint for NHS workers: she cared for the sick despite the danger to her own safety.

Edith was a vicar's daughter from Swardeston in Norfolk, where she was born in 1865. She became a governess, but her heart was for nursing, so she went on to train at the London Hospital, before nursing in various hospitals such as St Pancras and Manchester.

When Edith was 42, she decided to go abroad, and was appointed matron of a large training centre for nurses in Brussels. She was still there seven years later, when the First World War broke out and German troops invaded Belgium on their way to Paris and the Channel Ports.

Edith's nursing school became a Red Cross hospital, and she turned down the opportunity to return to the safety of England. Instead, her nurses tended wounded soldiers from both German and Allied armies.

Sadly, in 1915, when the Germans began their occupation of Brussels, they took a dim view of Edith's work. But they would have been even more unhappy had they known she was helping to smuggle 200 British soldiers across the border into the Netherlands!

Finally, the Germans arrested Edith in August 1915, and put her into solitary confinement. They tricked her into confessing to a charge which carried the death penalty. But Edith refused to show either regret at what she had done, or any fear or bitterness towards her captors.

On 11th October 1915, the night before her execution, Edith was visited by the Anglican chaplain to Brussels, the Revd Stirling Gahan. Together they said the words of *Abide with Me*, and Edith received her last Holy Communion.

She told Gahan: "I am thankful to have had these ten weeks of quiet to get ready. Now I have had them and have been kindly treated here. I expected my sentence and I believe it was just. **Standing, as I do, in view of God and eternity, I realise that patriotism is not enough. I must have no hatred or bitterness to anyone."**

Edith was shot by a firing squad next day, on 12th October 1915.

After the war her body was exhumed and buried in Norwich Cathedral. Her memorial service in Westminster Abbey attracted thousands. A commemorative statue of her stands near Trafalgar Square.

18th October - Thank you, Dr Luke! *By David Winter (Parish Pump)*

'Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, bless the bed that I lie on' - my grandma taught me that one. At least it meant I never forgot the names of the writers of the four Gospels. This month Luke, the writer of the third of them, has his feast day – 18th October.

He was, we learn from the letters of St Paul, a 'physician' - an educated man and probably the only one of the writers of the New Testament who was not a Jew. In modern terms, he was Turkish. Paul took him as one of his missionary team on a long journey around the Middle East, and they clearly became close friends. Under house arrest later in his life Paul could write, 'only Luke is with me'.

However, it is his Gospel which has established him as a major figure in the history of the Christian Church. Mark's Gospel may have more drama, Matthew's more prophetic background and John's a more profound sense of the mystery of the divine, but Luke offers us a Jesus who is utterly and believably real. This man turned no one away, reserved his harshest words for hypocrites and religious grandees, cared for the marginalised, the poor, the persecuted, the handicapped and the sinful. His Gospel is full of people we can recognise - indeed, in whom we can often recognise ourselves.

He was also a masterly storyteller. Try, for instance, the story of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32). Read it (this time) not as a sacred text but as a brilliant piece of story-telling: subtle repetitions ('your son, this brother of yours'), believable characters, drama and profound emotion. There is the older brother, so cynical about his sibling's alleged reformation, the 'prodigal' himself, so hesitant about throwing himself on his father's mercy after the folly of his earlier behaviour, and there is the father, of course, abandoning the dignity of his role in the family and actually running to welcome his wretched son's return.

There are more women in Luke's Gospel than in any of the others, but also more poor people, more lepers, more 'sinners' and tax-collectors, more 'outsiders' who are shown to be 'inside' the love of Christ. This, for many of us, is the great Gospel of inclusion and compassion. Here is a Jesus for the whole world and for every one of us.

St Luke is also known as the historian and he is supposed to be an artist. Who painted Mary the Mother of Jesus when she was in Ephesus with St John in around 60AD There are four icons that are believed to have been 'written' by him (the Orthodox churches use that verb for painting icons). The one in Rome is believed to be the original rather than a copy. This is the one on the bottom right though others argue that the one on the bottom left is more accurate.



12th October - Elizabeth Fry, prison reformer



Elizabeth Fry had endless compassion and endless energy – and together with a steadfast determination to do God's work, this outstanding philanthropist became one of the foremost promoters of prison reform – not just in Britain, but in all of Europe.

Elizabeth was born in 1780, far from any prison. The family lived in Norwich, where her father was a wealthy Quaker banker and merchant. In 1800 she married a London merchant, Joseph Fry.

Elizabeth could have spent her life safely at home, raising her many children. But instead, she felt compelled to help the desperate social needs of the time.

There was a good reason for this. Back in 1798, when she had been attending a Quaker meeting in Norwich, someone had spoken what Elizabeth felt was a prophetic word for her life. As she noted in her diary at the time:

'Deborah Darby then spoke… she addressed part of it to me; I only fear she says too much of what I am to be. A light to the blind; speech to the dumb; and feet to the lame; can it be? She seems as if she thought I was to be a minister of Christ. Can I ever be one? If I am obedient, I believe I shall.'

And she was.

Elizabeth was accepted as a Quaker 'minister', and her good works in London began.
But it was not until one day in 1813, when she visited Newgate Prison in London, that Elizabeth's life changed forever. That day she witnessed such horrors of the circumstances in which women and children were kept, that she knew she had found the focus for her life's work.

Soon her daily visits to the prison, where she read the Bible and taught the women to sew, grew into a campaign to achieve basic rights for the women prisoners. She fought for the classification of criminals, the segregation of the sexes, female supervision of women, and some provision for education.

In 1817 she created the Association for the Improvement of Female Prisoners, and then lobbied Parliament. By 1818 Elizabeth had raised such a storm that she was called to give evidence to a Parliamentary Select Committee who was examining conditions in prison. They accepted many of her proposed reforms.

In 1820 Elizabeth tackled the huge problem of destitution in London. She opened a 'Nightly Shelter for the Homeless in London', which became the first of many. She founded a society to help released prisoners with rehabilitation. And she was certainly a 'hands-on' sort of lady; it was said that for the next 20 years she personally inspected every single ship containing women convicts before it sailed to Australia.

Between 1838 and 1842 Elizabeth visited all the prisons in France, reporting to the Interior Minister. She then inspected prisons in Belgium, Holland, Switzerland, Germany, Denmark, Scotland and Ireland.


Inside Newgate prison

Elizabeth also founded schools for poor girls, soup kitchens for the hungry, better housing for the poor, and also investigated mental asylums. She even established a nursing school, which influenced her distant relative, Florence Nightingale.

By the time Elizabeth died in 1845, she had helped tens of thousands of helpless people to find some relief from their suffering. She had indeed lived her life as a 'minister of Christ'.

Prisons week

'Now in its sixth decade, Prisons Week began life in 1975 when an ecumenical committee was formed to encourage Christians to focus their thoughts and prayers on prisoners, their families, victims of crime, and those working across the justice system.'

Prisons Week 2026 in the UK takes place from 11 to 17 October 2026, beginning with Prisoners' Sunday on 11 October.

The purpose of prisons week is to raise awareness of those in prison and to ask people to pray for offenders, their families and victims of crime. Prisoners are often considered to be the lowest in society and their families often experience not only financial hardship because a family member is in prison but also are deeply ashamed of the offender's actions. Children and young people, who have a parent in prison often underachieve at school and suffer from mental health problems.

Before we start judging we must remember that we are fortunate in that many of our sins—lying, adultery, swearing etc are not crimes in this country. We are also fortunate that our circumstances are not such that we have turned to crime as the only way out of our difficulties. For example many have little or no education and if they get some training it gives them more of a chance to go straight.

Theologians have argued that if you and your family were starving and you asked someone with lots of food to give you some but they refused then taking a little of their food did not count as stealing! I wonder how many magistrates know that.

Also we must not forget that some people in prison are innocent but through someone else's lies or a miscarriage of justice they have been incarcerated.

The theme of this year's prisons week is 'all are invited' and is drawn from the story of the wedding banquet in Matthew 22:1–14, where the servants are sent out "into the streets and gathered all the people they could find, the bad as well as the good, and the wedding hall was filled with guests."

The theme reminds us that God loves us all and that everyone, including those who break the law are welcome in God's kingdom. As Tom Wright says, 'Jesus's love reaches people wherever they are but refuses to leave them as they are.'



Christmas 2026 Shoebox Scheme



Countries mentioned are in red on this picture.

This year, as in previous years, CTIA (churches together in Alresford) are supporting the Wessex Rotary Shoebox Scheme. The scheme collects and sends shoeboxes filled with gifts to disadvantaged children in Moldova, Montenegro, Romania and Ukraine (via Poland), ensuring they receive them in time for Christmas.

How you can support it:

- Make up your own gift box for a child, using the box template provided by Wessex Rotary
- Contribute some fits than, along with others, be included in a Shoebox
- Donate some money to cover the cost of transport (£2.00 per box), or that can be used to buy gifts to be included in a box.
- Join the "Shoebox Packing Party" arranged for after the morning service at **St Mary's Parish Church, Old Alresford from 11.45am onward on 4th October**
- Join the Alresford Mother's Union "Shoebox Packing Party" on **Tuesday 20th October in the John Pearson Hall.**

St Mary's have been a very keen supporters of this amazing cause in the past—last year they contributed 25 boxes. An amazing effort by such a small Church family, it therefore feels only right they should take the lead on behalf of the CTIA this year, with the other churches supporting any way they can.



Some suggested items: **Check the official lists!**

Toys, puzzles and games—nothing to do with war, needing electric power

Personal care items (not soap) e.g. toothbrush, comb, flannel

School supplies: e.g. crayons, notebook, pencil sharpener, ruler

Small clothing items: scarf, cap, gloves

Outdoor adventure: compass, torch, water bottle



Volunteers needed

Alresford & District Voluntary Care Group

Alresford & District Voluntary Care Group (ADVCG) is looking for a volunteer to join the **Co-ordinator Team** – these are the volunteers who answer the central telephone line which people ring when they need help with transport to their medical appointments; the line is diverted to the landline or mobile of the duty Co-ordinator, so it can all be done from home.

Co-ordinators carry out a week manning the telephone line on a rota basis, once every seven weeks or so.
Details of requested journeys are recorded on our web-based computer system, and the Co-ordinator then
allocates the journey to one of our pool of approximately seventy volunteer drivers.

Co-ordinators carry out a very important and rewarding role for ADVCG, as they are the 'bridge' between members of the public who need assistance, and our volunteer drivers; so if you can spare some time, please either email us at alresfordvolcare@gmail.com or contact David Cooper, Chairman, on 07766 406704

Keeping the Churchyard looking good.

You may not be aware that the Churchyard is entirely maintained by a team of volunteers from all sections of the community. Some give a lot of time to mow large areas of grass, others help by picking up dead flowers, litter, etc We need vour help whether it be just for 10 minutes now and again or to undertake a regular task If you feel you have any time free, no matter how little, we would be very pleased to have your help.

Benefice Administrator, 01962 733545 or email:

New Alresford Town Trustees
DRIVERS WANTED FOR THE ALRESFORD MINI-BUS

The bus is owned and operated by the Town Trustees to provide a valuable service for the elderly and infirm residents of Alresford. The service provided includes shopping trips as well as trips to Winchester and Alton. During the summer months a series of afternoon and evening leisure drives take place. Volunteers drive the bus and the Town Trustees are looking for more drivers who are over 21 years of age with a full driving licence and some spare time.



Volunteers needed

HELP THE AGED
Broad Street
Alresford,
Volunteers are needed to help in the Charity Shop in Broad Street, Alresford.
Lesley 01962 735242 or Come in and see us for an application form

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THE ARTHRITIS AND RHEUMATISM COUNCIL FOR RESEARCH

We need energetic people with new ideas for this small and friendly committee.

Winchester Hospice

Volunteering inside our hospice gives you the opportunity to make a real difference to those using our services.

In Hospice volunteer - Our wonderful in-hospice volunteers support in many areas of our hospice, including helping out on our reception and providing support to our staff who care for our patients.

Garden Volunteer - Our hospice garden design was originally created as part of the RHS Chelsea Flower Show in 2021! Gifted by the Bible Society to our hospice, the design was lifted and re-constructed in our very own grounds to provide a beautiful outdoor space for our patients, staff and visitors to enjoy.

These grounds require lots of care and attention, and our volunteer gardeners generously give up their time to help to maintain them with practical tasks such as watering, putting in bedding plants, keeping gardens free of litter, pruning and more.

Our volunteer gardeners also tend to the grounds in front of our hospice, ensuring the space is kept beautiful all year round.

Volunteering times for this role are very flexible.

For further information on both roles please Email winchester.hospice@hhft.nhs.uk or phone 01962 828353.

--o0o—

Volunteer Retail Assistants needed for the new **St Michael's Hospice shop** in Alresford.

Are you friendly, enthusiastic and love meeting new people?

Please call in at the shop for further details

Puzzles

Every column, every row and every block have all the numbers 1 to 9

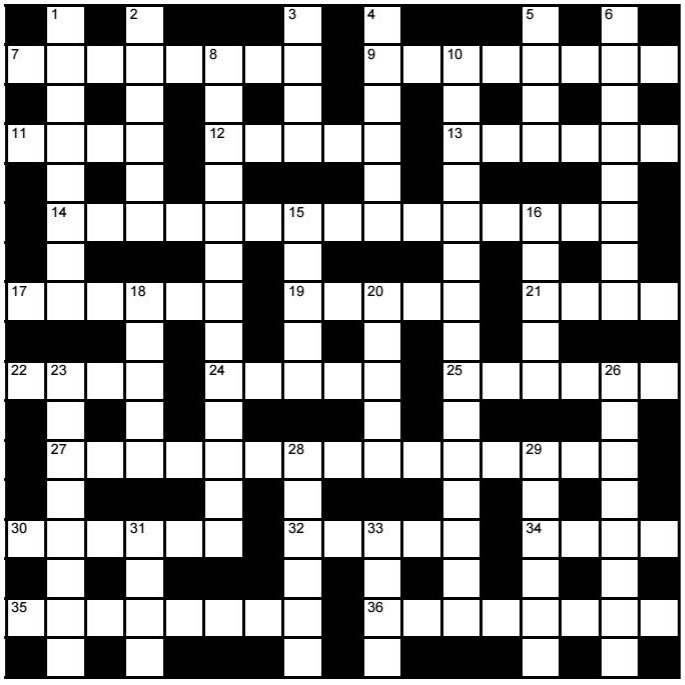
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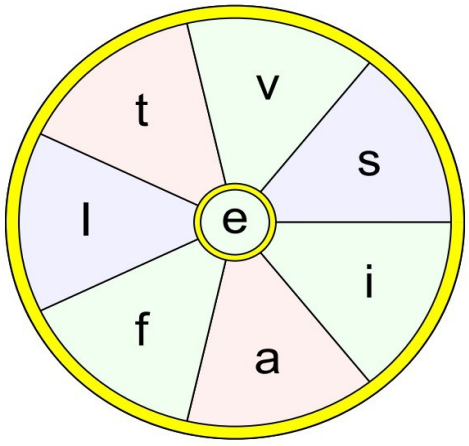
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Find these words to do with St Luke in the grid

Acts, Christians, Compassion, Day, Early, Faithful, Feast, Good, Gospel, Greek, Jerusalem, Lepers, Luke, Pagan, Parables, Paul, Physician, Poor, Prodigal, Rome, Samaritan, Sinners, Son, Travelling, Women, Written

L	P	F	Y	A	A	M	P	O	P	G	I	M	Y
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S	A	M	A	R	I	T	A	N	N	S	H	O	R
E	L	C	E	T	L	A	N	E	M	O	W	D	A





Across

7 Did work on the farm -- we had traps in now (8)
9 Compelled mixed corn feed. (8)
11 Loud, confusing game I play in Latin (4)
12 Homes for north-eastern saints? (5)
13 Fools accepting top principal strengths (6)
14 Consider of interest old story put on hold (4,4,7)
17 Commercial division is off course (6)
19 Flits around elevators (5)
21 Last order for sailor (4)
22 Minor - no it's the largest (4)
24 Twice Ed went North before it was finished (5)
25 Overweight, the woman's dad (6)
27 Tiny playground fixture in biology lab (10,5)
30 Eat around a fire (6)
32 "Old King" cycling with international gets bug (1,4)
34 Heard price of ticket reasonable (4)
35 Tissue brought in to university, much obliged (5,3)
36 Move abroad good coming into Arab state (8)

Down

1 Statue I'd foolishly positioned (8)
2 Open northern pass up in Britain (6)
3 Not even the slightest of slim chances (4)
4 Communist character, say, from body of water (3,3)
5 Hand holders (4)
6 Eighteen on a course that is dry (8)
8 Teddy's option, when he and I will get drunk (13)
10 Female rushed around - is old female endless help, one lover of nature? (7,2,6)
15 Bound to include length, like many roofs. (5)
16 Shock result somewhat late, Spurs climbing (5)
18 Sarah's son's two different accounts (5)
20 Not hungry? - but annoyed (3,2)
23 Doctor hasty to claim unknown politician shows compassion (8)
26 Poets needing English, for example in schedules (8)
28 Sees her cub as a little angel! (6)
29 Provide education for current class (6)
31 Zero says sister. (4)
33 Finished hovering around (4)

How many words can you make from the wheel above all using the 'e' with no plurals.

50—brilliant

40—good

30—fair

Prayers for this month



Lord you bathe us in your forgiveness, grace and love. You satisfy all who thirst and give us the life only you can give.

Currently this is a Season of Creation, celebrated in all churches, and this year's theme is Living Water. Let us give thanks for our beautiful local chalk streams and pray that they will always be regarded as a treasured resource to be protected from harmful future development. Pray that all who see water as a readily available commodity will come to recognise it as a precious gift.

Pray for all countries at war and that world leaders will do all in their power to bring these conflicts to an end. Hold before God the people of Ukraine where the attacks on Kiev have intensified and pray for a calming of tension between Israel and Palestine. We pray for justice for the people of Palestine and Ukraine.

Pray for King Charles as he commences the 5th year of his reign and for the Queen and members of the Royal family who support him. We pray for all people with authority and power that they may do justice, love mercy and have compassion.

Pray for all who are struggling financially at the moment, especially as the Middle East war is causing a significant rise in fuel prices. Give thanks for the food banks which support those in desperate need, especially remembering the Winchester food bank. Pray for a good response to our Harvest collection of food.

Pray for those who are sick at the present time especially remembering those who are coming to terms with a recent diagnosis. Hold before God those receiving treatment and give thanks for the skills of doctors, nurses and researchers who work in the medical profession.

Pray for those in this community who feel anxious, lonely or depressed and for those now living in care homes. Pray for young people as they start new classes, new schools, apprenticeships, college, university or are looking to start work. We pray for all people who are looking for work or feel that their job is not secure.

Pray for the person who is to be our next Rector and give thanks for all the visiting clergy who are taking services during the time of vacancy.

Lord, like a mountain stream exuberant in its flow you carry us in the river of your love, and transport us gloriously, effortlessly to the ocean of your grace.

In your mercy hear our prayer. Amen

Leek and Smoked Cheese Pithivier

This is a comforting and tasty dish to enjoy as the evenings get darker and cooler. The recipe makes a pithivier that serves two. If you want to make it for more people, double the filling and use two larger sheets of pastry, one for the bottom, one for the top. The pie can be made in advance up to the final baking stage and kept in the fridge.



Ingredients

25g butter
Oil for frying
1 large or 2-3 smaller leeks, depending on size, shredded
50g smoked Cheddar cheese, grated
1 good tablespoon chopped chives, or try parsley or chervil
1 good tablespoon crème fraîche
2 tablespoons plain flour
1 sheet ready-rolled all butter puff pastry (or roll out a block to a rectangle, approx. ½ cm thick
1 egg
1 tablespoon poppy seeds
Salt and pepper

Method

Melt the butter in a large pan, with a splash of oil (approx. 1 tsp). Add the leeks and fry gently for 10 mins, until softened, stirring now and then.

Take the softened leeks off the heat. Stir in the smoked cheddar, chives and crème fraîche. Season with salt and pepper to taste. Leave to cool.

Meanwhile, preheat your oven to 200°C/Gas 6. Dust your work surface and rolling pin with flour. Lay out the pastry. Trace and cut around using a side plate, twice, to make two pastry circles. Roll 1 circle 2-3 cm larger than the other, all around. Pop both circles on a non-stick baking tray and transfer to the fridge to chill.

Crack the egg into a cup. Add a splash of water (approx. 1 tsp) and use a fork to whisk it together, to make an egg wash.

Once the leek mix is cooled, take the pastry out of the fridge. Pile the leeks onto the smaller pastry circle, leaving a gap of 2-3cm around the edge. Brush the pastry edge with a little of the egg wash.

Carefully lay the larger pastry circle over the top. Press the edges down to seal it. Fold over the edges to neaten them up a little, if you like (this helps to give it an extra seal, too). Brush with egg wash. For a proper pithivier look, score curved lines on top of the pie, without cutting all the way through the pastry (see the picture to give you an idea). This isn't essential, so don't worry if you're not confident doing this.

Scatter over the poppy seeds. Bake for approx. 25-30 mins, until the top is golden brown and puffed up. Serve cut into wedges.

For a sprinkle of fairy-dust try:

If you're not vegetarian, you could add cooked chopped up ham, fried bacon pieces or leftover shredded chicken or turkey to the leek mixture.

Time to fly! Fairy Cake







3	5	9	6	2	8	4	7	1
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7	2	8	4	3	5	1	6	9
5	4	1	2	9	6	3	8	7
9	6	3	8	7	1	2	4	5



Word wheel words

aisle, alive, east, evil, false, fate, feast, feat, felt, festal, festival, fiesta, file, filet, five, flea, isle, islet, itself, late, lave, leaf, least, left, lest, life, live, safe, sale, salve, sate, save, seal, sealift, seat, self, site, slate, slave, stale, stave, steal, stifle, stile, tale, teal, tile, vale, valet, valise, vase, veal, veil, vest, vestal, vile, vilest

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Electrical Emergency 08457 708090

Gas Emergency 0800 111 999

Water Emergency 0800 820 99

Floodline 0845 988 1188

Samaritans 116 123

Childline 0800 111

Health

Royal Hampshire County Hospital, Winchester
01962 863535

Alresford Group Surgery,
Station Rd, Alresford
01962 732345
www.alresfordsurgery.co.uk

Defibrillators available for public use

Alresford Recreation Centre
Alresford Bowling Club
Sun Hill Infant school gate
Stratton Bates Recreation Ground
Alresford Community Centre
Alresford Dental Care - The Dean
Old Alresford Village telephone box
Linnets Road telephone box
Alresford Methodist Church

Wessex Pharmacies
Broad Street, Alresford
01962 732445

Other Useful Information

Cedar Veterinary Surgery 01962 732 535 (24hrs)

Alresford Library, 20 Broad Street, Alresford 0300 555 1387

New Alresford Town Trust minibus 07510 474231

Bus Information 0871 200 2233

MP for Alresford: Danny Chambers

Councils

Hampshire County Council
01962 841841

Www.hants.gov.uk

Winchester City Council
01962 840222

Www.winchester.gov.uk

East Hampshire District Council
01730 266551

Www.easthant.gov.uk

New Alresford Town Council
01962 732 079

Www.newalresford-tc.gov.uk

2026 Calendar

Open Days at the Museum, Bridge and Eel House



Sunday 19th April
Monday 4th May
Sunday 7th June
Sunday 21st June
Sunday 19th July
Sunday 16th August
Sunday 20th September
Sunday 27th September

Markets and Fairs in Broad Street

Street Market
every Thursday, 8am to 1pm

Farmers Market
3rd Sunday of the Month, 10am to 2pm

Brocante Art & Antiques Fair
4th May and 27th September, 9.30am to 3.30pm

EcoFair
Sunday 7th June, 10am to 3pm

Funfair
Thursday 15th October, 3pm to 10pm

For more information contact clerk@towntrust.org.uk

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Registry

Funeral & Interments

Funeral
Kit Pinner
6th August
St. Mary's

Interment
Kenneth Richmond
6th August
St. John's

Interment
Ken Blowes
7th August
St. John's

Interment
Mary Gray
10th August
St. John's

Funeral
Aaron Hough
11th August
St. John's

Thanksgiving Service
Carole Pope
14th August
St. Mary's

Interment
Martin Sutton
17th August
St. John's

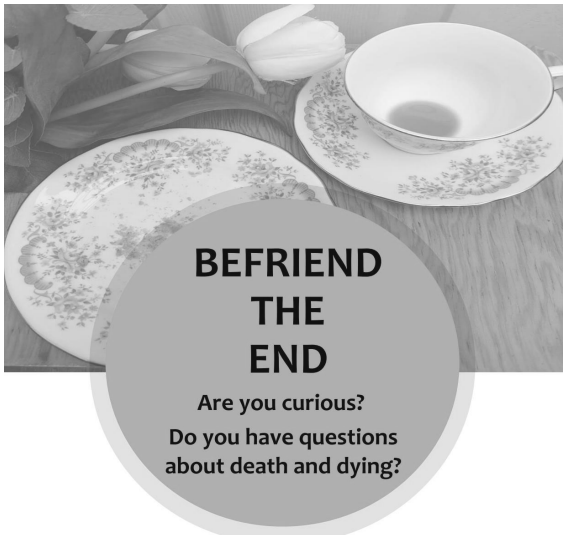
Memorial Service
Arthur Maule
24th August
St. John's



Wedding:

Jack Hancock & Georgia Trussler
8th August
St. Mary's





If so, come along to our informal afternoons and meet like-minded people to share and discover more about living well and dying well over a cuppa and a slice of cake.

At the Alresford library on the 1st Wednesday of every month at 2 - 3pm

For further information email;
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BENEFICE CONTACTS

BENEFICE OFFICE Tel. 01962 733545 ***Please leave a phone message or email the office.***
Office hours 9am to 11am Monday to Friday.

St. John The Baptist Church, West Street, New Alresford, Hampshire SO24 9AG

www.arlevalleychurches.org.uk email: arlevalleychurches@gmail.com Facebook/ StJohns Alresford & ourplaceyouth Phone numbers unless otherwise stated are 01962

Rector
VACANCY
arlevalleyrector@gmail.com

Licensed Lay Ministers
Ian Waring Green
T. 733237
iwg@robinhoodmusic.com

Peter Colquhoun
T. 733035
pscolquhoun@googlemail.com

Sue Armstrong
T. 734542
susanarmstrong@btopenworld.com

Angela Peel
T 734814
Angelapeel420@gmail.com

Charlotte Ryton
T732194
cstryton@gmail.com

Susan Roberts
T732194
susan_penny@btinternet.com

Alresford: St. John's
Churchwardens
Rosie Waring Green
T. 733237
rosie@22rwg.co.uk

James Lees
jameslees2022@hotmail.com
01962 732574

PCC Secretary
Jo Whiteman
joanna_whiteman@yahoo.co.uk

Ovington: St. Peter's
Churchwarden
Roger Harrison
T 732761

arlevalleychurches@gmail.com
PCC Secretary
Vacant - Contact Benefice Office
T. 735455
arlevalleychurches@gmail.com

Old Alresford: St. Mary's
Churchwarden
Roger Parsons T. 734561
rwjparsons@gmail.com

Bighton: All Saints
Churchwardens
Bob Ellis T. 773427
robert.sally120@gmail.com

Chris James
T. 07974 927901
crjathome@hotmail.com

Baptisms
Benefice Office T. 733545
arlevalleychurches@gmail.com

Funeral Enquiries
Kathryn Lockyer T. 809078
lockyerkathryn@gmail.com

Weddings
Paul and Sue Dix T. 734863
dix.house@btinternet.com

Bell Ringing
Elizabeth Johnson
T. 733266
Belfry Practice Fridays 7.30 - 9.00pm

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cstryton@gmail.com

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arlevalleyadverts@gmail.com

Subscriptions/Deliveries
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T. 734665
pearljpage@aol.com

Bookings: St. John's Church & John Pearson Hall
Benefice Office T. 733545

Churchyard Volunteer Co-ordinator
Ben Howlett
alresfordchurchyard@gmail.com

Events Diary @ Facebook
Miranda Pinch T. 732064
events@stjohnsalresford.org.uk

Flower Co-Ordinator
Maureen Skayman
gskayman@gmail.com

Fundraising Co-ordinator
Miranda Pinch T. 732064
events@stjohnsalresford.org.uk

Giving & Gift Aid Secretary

BENEFICE CONTACTS continued

David Griffiths
T. 734408

Continued on next page

Hospital Visiting
Patricia Todd
T. 07810 723973

Pastoral Visiting
St. John's Pastoral Team Leader
Jackie Connell T. 732056
Sue Clarke T 733597

Prayer Ministry Team
Rosie Waring Green
T. 733237
rosie@22rwg.co.uk

Safeguarding Officer (Benefice) **Sarah Wilding**
Assistant Safe Guarding **Alison Mayne**
T. 07900 884125
arlevalleysafeguarding@gmail.com

Treasurer
Jon Whale
T. 734941
stjtreasurer@arlevalleychurches.org.uk

Youth Work
Rosie Waring Green
T. 733237 e: rosie@22rwg.co.uk

Groups and Clubs in the John Pearson Hall

Seniors Health & Fitness
Mondays, 9.45 - 11.15am

Coffee, Cake and Chat
2nd Tuesday, 10 - 11.30am

Chatterbox (Toddlers)
Thursdays, 10 - 11.30am

Alresford & Cheriton Cub Scouts
Thursdays, 5.30 – 7.15pm (term time)

Alresford Wine Circle
4th Thursday, 8pm

Table Talk
3rd Friday, 12 - 2pm

Solos Sunday Tea
3rd Sunday, 2.30 – 4.30pm

Interested in booking St. John's Church or the John Pearson Hall?

St. John's Church - a large open space seating 300.



People have hired St. John's for a number of uses including:

- Choir Rehearsals,
- Concerts
- Community events

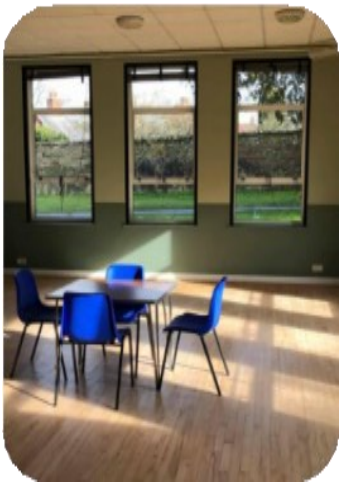
The John Pearson Hall (JPH)

A newly refurbished venue that seats 80 in comfort with a modern kitchen.

A flexible space for meetings, instruction classes, christening receptions and birthday parties.

Both St. John's and the JPH are open to everyone and you are assured a warm welcome.

For more information regarding regular and ad-hoc hiring of the church and hall, please call the Benefice office on 01962 733545 or email: arlevalleychurches@gmail.com



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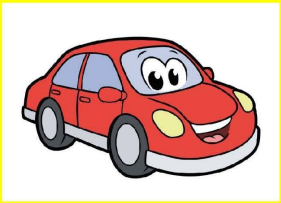
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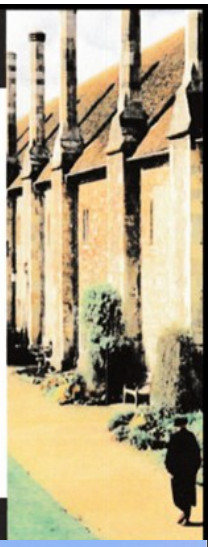
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• www.hospitalofstcross.co.uk

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