The Arle Valley Benefice

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

29th November 2026 - First Sunday of Advent

Welcome to our worship today.
Please make yourself known to the Clergy or one of the Churchwardens after the service.

Services this Sunday:

This morning's Bible Readings:

1 Corinthians 1.3 - 9

Mark 13.24 - 37



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.

Collect for Today



Almighty God,
give us grace to cast away
the works of darkness
and to put on the armour of light,
now in the time of this mortal life,
in which your Son Jesus Christ
came to us in great humility;
that on the last day,
when he shall come again in his glorious
majesty to judge the living and the dead,
we may rise to the life immortal;
through him who is alive and reigns
with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen

Post Communion Prayer

O Lord our God,
make us watchful and keep us faithful
as we await the coming of your
Son our Lord;
that, when he shall appear,
he may not find us sleeping in sin
but active in his service
and joyful in his praise;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen



Children are welcome at all services here.

A hearing aid 'loop' system operates at St. John's, St. Peter's & St. Mary's.

If moving is difficult and you wish to have communion brought to you, please ask the Churchwarden on duty.

If you require a gluten-free wafer, please inform us before the service begins.

Know of anyone who'd appreciate reading this notice sheet?
Please feel free to forward it to them.

THIS WEEK (30th November - 5th December)

Mon 30th	**9am** **3.30pm**	All Saints John Pearson Hall	**Morning Prayer** **Monday Meet & Eat**
Wed 2nd	**9am** **10am** **2pm** **4.45pm**	St. Mary's St. John's Alresford Library 2 Grange Road	**Morning Prayer** **Wednesday Midweek Communion** **Befriend the End** **Youth Alpha**
Thurs 3rd	**10am** **12pm**	John Pearson Hall St. John's	**Chatterbox Baby & Toddler Group** **Funeral - Audrey Chalk**
Fri 4th	**9.30am****	Prayer Space @ St. John's	**Parish Prayer Meeting - ** New Time****
Sat 5th	**7.30pm**	St. John's	**Gospel Choir Christmas Concert**

SUNDAY 6th DECEMBER - Second Sunday of Advent

9.30am	St. John's	**Parish Communion**
11am	St. Peter's	**Café Church**
11am	Mary's	**Village Family Praise**
4pm	St. John's	**Christingle + Families @ 4**
4pm	All Saints	**Evening Service - See Page 4 for details!**



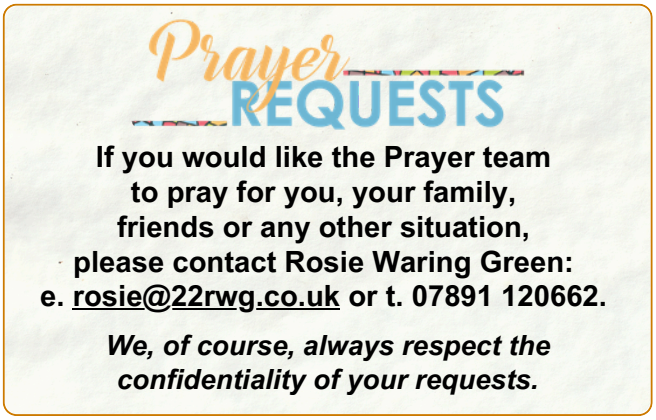
PRAYERS FOR:



Margaret S, Irene P, Audrey S, Marion M, Shirley W, Margaret Se, Barbara G, Rosemary F, Hazel G, Val L, Tony H, Ian V, Jilly C, Sarah G, Dennis, David O, Meg R, Moira J, Joy F and those who attend worship at Wayfarer's Place, Bailey House & Makins Court



Those who have recently died:
Jennifer Clelland and Audrey Chalk



If you would like the Prayer team to pray for you, your family, friends or any other situation, please contact Rosie Waring Green: e. rosie@22rwg.co.uk or t. 07891 120662.

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

UPCOMING FUNERAL SERVICE

Audrey Chalk
Funeral at **St. John's**
on Thursday, 3rd December at 12pm





BEFRIEND THE END - ALRESFORD LIBRARY
Wed, 2nd Dec. at 2pm (1st Wed of the month)
Do you have questions about death & dying?

A small group of people – both medical and non-medical – has been set up in the belief that acknowledgement of the reality of death we equip ourselves better to engage with "Life".

PARISH PRAYER MEETINGS FRIDAY MORNINGS @ ST. JOHN'S



****NEW MEETING TIME****
Starting Fri, 4th December
the ***new meeting time will now be: 9.30am - 10.30am***
in the Prayer Space.

OLD ALRESFORD MONDAYS AT 10.00 - 1st Monday of each month

Monday, 7th December 10am - 12pm at ST. MARY'S CHURCH
A warm welcome for ALL AGES. Including ***toys for toddlers and a chance to meet and chat with other families.*** **Refreshments too!** Sue Armstrong t. 01962 734542 & Erica Sisk t. 01962 732735.

Notices

A GIFT FROM ST JOHN'S
SAT, 28TH NOV 10AM - 4PM

Generosity: We would be very grateful if you feel able to donate some money to support this event making it free for the community to come and enjoy. Any contributions would be really appreciated and gratefully received.

You can either pop some cash in an envelope into the Parish Office marked 'A Gift from St. John's' or pay through a BACS transfer to PCC of New Alresford, Sort Code 51-61-09, Acc 04129849 and mark it 'Gift from St. John's.'

If you are a UK tax-payer, please put your name and Gift Aid on the envelope so we can claim back the basic rate tax already paid on donations by you.
This means we can claim back from the government on your behalf 25p for every £1 donated, boosting the value of the donation by a quarter.

Thank you in advance for your help to share the much-needed love, joy and peace in our wonderful community.



St Mary's, Old Alresford
Saturday 12th December 10am – 12noon



An antidote to Christmas shopping and hectic busyness!

A morning of quiet prayer and reflection at the mid point of Advent. Come for as long or as little as you wish. ***Everyone is welcome.***

For more information, contact Sue Armstrong 01962 734542.

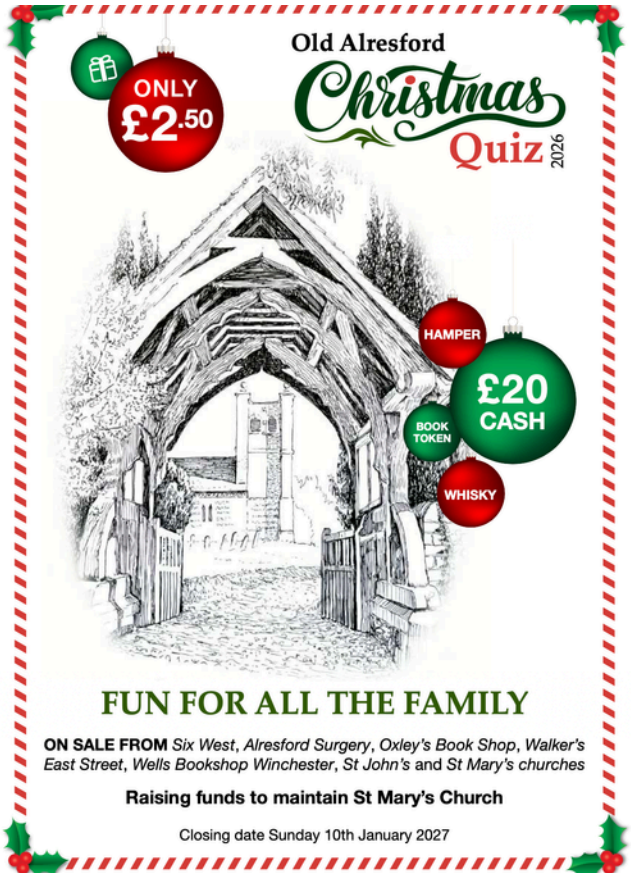
CTiA are again *arranging carol singing* to people living in sheltered accommodation in Alresford.



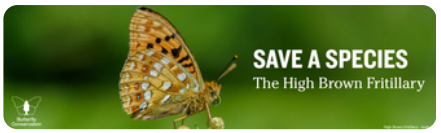
On **Tuesday, 8th December** we shall be going to Makins Court at 6pm and Bailey House at 6:30pm. On **Monday, 14th December** we will go to Ellingham Court at 6pm and Wayfarer's Place at 6:30pm.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

If you would like to join us for one or both weeks, please add your name and choice of home to the list at the back of church.



On 1st December is the launch of the Big Give Christmas Challenge. This annual fundraising campaign takes place every December for one week only (1st - 8th) and gives you the chance to have your donation doubled by generous match funders!



Butterfly Conservation will once again be taking part, and that we have secured an amazing £50,000 of match funding this year. Donations only matched if they are made through our Big Give donation page: ***https://donate.biggive.org/campaign/a05WS00000GLWRuYAP***

Notices

UPCOMING SUNDAY SERVICES - 6TH DEC



PARISH COMMUNION @ ST. JOHN'S

9.30am Our service of Holy Communion from Common Worship. **Refreshments afterwards.**

VILLAGE FAMILY PRAISE @ ST. MARY'S

11am - 1st Sunday every month.
Our service of Morning Praise for the whole family.
Refreshments afterwards.

CAFÉ CHURCH @ ST. PETER'S

11am - 1st Sunday every *other* month.
Join us for good conversation about faith and life in a friendly and informal setting.
Coffee, tea + tasty treats! + The Book Nook for secondhand books!

CHRISTINGLE + FAMILIES @ 4PM - ST. JOHN'S



Join us at our Christingle service to celebrate Jesus, the Light of the World.

EVENING FAMILY SERVICE @ ALL SAINTS

4pm - Come along to hear about Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem.
Also, all ages are most welcome (especially children!!) to decorate the All Saints' Christmas tree!

ST JOHN'S CHRISTINGLE SERVICE

Sunday, 6th December at 4pm

Join us at our Christingle to celebrate Jesus, the Light of the World

The offering at this service is for **The Children's Society**



Please give as generously as you can.

Would you like to attend an evening festive event with a different 'flavour', that also uplifts and inspires?

Come & join us for an **evening of Gospel Music** with the Gospel Collective.



This vibrant and consistently growing choir promises an evening of encouraging, moving and joyous songs that will lift your spirit and, hopefully, get you dancing and singing along!

Doors Open: 19:00 for 19:30 - 21:00.
Refreshments to follow until 21:30.

General Admission is £10 per ticket & under 16s are free.
https://events.gospelcollective.co.uk/events/gospelcollectiveuk/2458064

Our Facebook page **https://www.facebook.com/StJohnsAlresford**
Our Instagram page **the_alresford_area_churches**

Material for notices:
please email Penny Forbes at
notices@arlevalleychurches.org.uk

Deadline: 12pm Wednesday

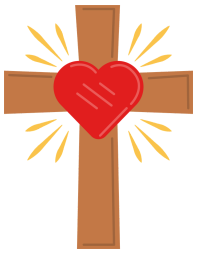
Information about those in hospital to:
Jackie Connell t. 01962 732056 or
Patricia Todd t. 07810 723973

Urgent information for Intercessions to the churchwardens.

Rector: Bryan Silletti
Associate Rector: Tori Silletti

Benefice Office
Open Monday - Friday 9 - 11am
t. 01962 733545
e. arlevalleychurches@gmail.com
www.arlevalleychurches.org.uk

Our prayers for the coming week (29th November – 5th December)



As we journey together Lord may it always be your footsteps in which we place our feet.

Please pray for...

Pray that Bryan and Tori will be blessed in their ministry to the Arle Valley Benefice and will have time to settle gently into their new roles. Pray for the Gift from St John's this Saturday that many from the community will come and feel warm, friendly hospitality. As we commence the Advent season pray that our churches will be beacons of light and hope within each community.

Pray for a lasting peace in our world, a peace which means no more killing the innocent, no more damaging the environment and more secure world finances. Hold before God those currently living in war zones especially the victims of unjust wars, Ukraine and Gaza. Pray for world leaders that they may be filled with wisdom, integrity and compassion.

Pray for those who are afraid to turn up their heating because of rising fuel costs and those who are really anxious about managing when prices leap up in January. Give thanks for the food banks and pray for those who are forced to use them remembering especially people who feel ashamed about using them, although through no fault of their own. As Christmas draws near pray for those who will find it hard to celebrate in the way they would wish because of limited finances and for those who dread Christmas because of relationship problems, bereavement or loneliness.

Pray for our local shops, pubs and restaurants that the coming weeks will see a rise in customers and thus help to secure their future. Pray for the emergency services and all who work to ensure our safety. Give thanks for the refuge collectors and those who ensure our water is safe to drink.

Pray that we will all take care and use products that will not destroy the natural habitat of our chalk streams.

Pray for all who suffer from a mental illness and all who work in mental health services.

In this busy world that we inhabit grant us space to rest awhile by the still waters of your peace to hear the whisper of your voice and feel the warmth of your breeze within our souls. Lord grant us space to rest awhile.