

# Parish Matters

Welcome to the Parish of the Resurrection. If you are new to the parish or worshipping with us for the first time then please do make yourself known to either a member of the clergy or a church-warden. We are a welcoming church family spread throughout the town of Alton, Holybourne and Beech and our aim is to offer worship which deepens our faith, common life and our relationship with Jesus Christ. This information sheet gives some words that will be needed in today's services and notices about the life of our church communities. Please take it home with you.

**16th December**  
**3rd Sunday of Advent**

## Today's Services

**8.00am**

### **Holy Communion - St Lawrence**

Led by Rt Revd Giles Hill OSB

### **Holy Communion - All Saints**

Led by Revd Rachel Sturt

**9.15am**

### **Parish Communion - St Peter's**

Led by Revd Martin East

**10.30am**

### **Parish Communion - St Lawrence**

Led by Revd Andrew Micklefield

**4.30pm**

### **Reflective Communion - All Saints**

Led by Revd Andrew Micklefield

**6.30pm**

### **Nine Lessons & Carols - St Lawrence**

Led by Revd Andrew Micklefield

### **A Christmas Celebration - Holy Rood**

Led by Revd Martin East

## Collect Prayer

God for whom we watch and wait,  
you sent John the Baptist to prepare  
the way of your Son:  
give us courage to speak the truth,  
to hunger for justice,  
and to suffer for the cause of right,  
with Jesus Christ our Lord  
Amen

## Today's Readings

### ***The Carols of Christmas: O little town of Bethlehem***

Micah 5.1-5 (Page 756)

Luke 3.7-18 (Page 837)

*Also at All Saints & Holy Rood:  
Philippians 4.4-7 (Page 955)*



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partnership with Alton Methodist Church.

Dear Reader

A huge thank you to all those who were involved in the very successful Christmas Market and The Christmas Tree Festival last weekend. In excess of £1000 was raised - a grand total will be included in next week's Parish Matters. So many people were welcomed over the weekend and St Lawrence Church looked absolutely amazing with 79 trees. This is just another example of our vibrant parish life and commitment to reaching out.

We now look forward to Carol services and Christmas services.

**Today at 6.30pm** we hold The Nine Lessons & Carols in St Lawrence Church followed by Presecco and Mince Pies and also at Holybourne we have A Celebration of Christmas with Carols and Readings with mulled wine and cake.

**Next Sunday, 23rd December:**

8am Holy Communion & 10.30am Parish Communion at St Lawrence; 10.30am Carol Service at All Saints; 4pm Carol Service at St Peter's Beech.

Christmas Eve:

4pm Crib Services at both Holybourne and St Lawrence Church; 11.30am Midnight Communion at both Holybourne and St Lawrence Church

Christmas Day:

8am Holy Communion at All Saints and St Lawrence Church; 9.15am Christmas Communion at St Peter's Beech; 9.30am Christmas Communion at Holybourne; 10.30am Traditional Christmas Communion at All Saints; 10.30am Christmas Family Communion at St Lawrence Church.

**PLEASE NOTE - Sunday 30th December:**

8am Holy Communion at St Lawrence Church and 10am GAP Service at Alton Methodist Church.

It is with deep sadness that I inform you that Revd Ian Toombs died in St Michael's Hospice on Wednesday after a long struggle with cancer. He was always of a deep and lively faith and right up to the end. We pray for Rebecca and Marcus his children, Judith who is still in Brendoncare and Marian who has been caring for him over these last few months. Details of Ian's funeral service will be confirmed soon and will be in the new year. Andrew



**Please remember to support our local food bank.** The Alton Foodbank is starting to get ready for Christmas. The warehouse is full of all essential foods thanks to the generosity of the town. We are now collecting some more special Christmas items such as mince pies. Christmas cake, box of biscuits, children's selection box, box of chocolates, large chocolate bars (150/200g), snacks and nibbles, Christmas crackers, sugar, UHT milk, fruit juice, shampoo, deodorant. **“Don't come to church empty handed”**

**All donations to be placed in the Foodbank basket in church.**

**Parish Giving Scheme** The Parish is reliant on the generosity of its worshipping community for all of our ministry and mission. We are grateful to those who contribute financially. If you wish to give more or become a regular giver then please speak to Elizabeth Dain on 01420 89062 or [dainbs@btinternet.com](mailto:dainbs@btinternet.com), and she will talk to you about the Parish Giving Scheme. If you are a tax payer then please do make sure your donation is gift aided and the government will give us 25% more at no extra cost to you. There are envelopes available for one-off gifts.



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## **Bible Readings for the week**

*taken from the Church of England lectionary – readings to use daily*

<b>Monday 17th</b>	<b>Psalm 40</b>	<b>Isaiah 49.14-25</b>	<b>1 Thessalonians 5.1-11</b>
<b>Tuesday 18th</b>	<b>Psalm 70</b>	<b>Isaiah 50</b>	<b>1 Thessalonians 5.12-end</b>
<b>Weds 19th</b>	<b>Psalm 146</b>	<b>Isaiah 51.1-8</b>	<b>2 Thessalonians 1</b>
<b>Thurs 20th</b>	<b>Psalm 46</b>	<b>Isaiah 51.9-16</b>	<b>2 Thessalonians 2</b>
<b>Friday 21st</b>	<b>Psalm 121</b>	<b>Isaiah 51.17-end</b>	<b>2 Thessalonians 3</b>
<b>Saturday 22nd</b>	<b>Psalm 124</b>	<b>Isaiah 52.1-12</b>	<b>Jude</b>
<b>Sunday 23rd</b>		<b>Hebrews 1.5-10</b>	<b>Luke 2.1-7</b>

**Also at All Saints and Holy Rood:**

**Micah 5.2-5a**

## **Discipleship Groups**

There are a number of discipleship groups meeting across the parish. They are open for anyone to attend - it doesn't matter which church you normally attend or where you live, simply contact the leader before turning up. If you would like to host or lead another one, then please contact Andrew.

**Monday;** Oasis (formerly Young Mum's Home Group.) Meeting every other Monday at Sally Kemp's house, 44 Vicarage Hill, Alton. For further info please contact Ellie Elder on 07736666650 or email: [ellielder@gmail.com](mailto:ellielder@gmail.com)

**Tuesday:** Emmaus Housegroup. Meeting bi-monthly at Pilgrim Cottage, 44 Vicarage Hill at 9.30am. **The next meeting will be on the 18th December.**

**Wednesday;** Pilgrim Group at All Saints - 3rd Wednesday of each month after the communion service, from 10.15am until 11.15am.

**Wednesday Housegroup not now meeting until Wednesday 9th January 2019.** We meet at 7.45 for 8pm start usually at 62 Anstey Road. For more information call Margaret and Peter on 86063 or Robin and Sally on 769802.

**Thursday;** Bible Society LYFE at Liz & Trev's, at 2 The Lamports, led by Liz Griffiths. For more information. Please contact Liz via email: [lizmgriff@hotmail.com](mailto:lizmgriff@hotmail.com)



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## Praying in December 2018

During Advent we pray for our preparation for the coming of Jesus Christ. Please pray for the work involved in The Christmas Tree Festival & Christmas Fair (8/9th December); pray for the Christingle Service being held at St Lawrence Church (9th December, 4.30pm); pray for the musicians and choirs practising for special services; pray for those who will lead and preach over the coming weeks.

We pray for those who will come to the Carol and Crib services over Christmas. We name five people we know who we would like to encounter Jesus this Christmas and come to faith in Him. Pray that people will read our Christmas postcards and the Christmas Hope Magazine.

Advent and Christmas can be such a lonely time for some people. We pray for those who are not able to with their families because of long distances or the inability to travel. We pray for those who this Christmas will be the first without a loved one. We pray for the Christmas Day lunch being held in held in The Parish Centre being organised by Derek and Elspeth Gurney and others.

We pray for all those who serve our local community as our Alton town councillors and especially for the Mayor, Cllr Derek Gardner.

Over the recent months we have supported a number of charities and we pray for their work - for Alton Foodbank, for the charities engaged with The Disasters Emergency Committee work with those in Indonesia, for our link with the Diocese of Karamoja. During December we will be collecting goods for the Refuge here in Alton - please pray for their vital work.

We continue to pray for our diocese, this month praying for those who work in the Finance Team and who spend time faithfully ensuring the smooth running of the precious resources we share. We pray for our own generosity to fund the ongoing work of mission and ministry here in the Parish and Diocese.

We pray for our continuing partnership with Alton Methodist Church in The Greater Alton Project. Pray for unity, fellowship, commitment and our shared mission.



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The call to prayer is in three simple ways

*Daily, weekly, monthly*

Every day there is a prayer for the beginning of the day, for the middle of the day and for the end of the day. Please find a suitable time to use these prayers which are printed here.

*For the beginning of the day*  
*- The Community Prayer*

**Living God,**  
**you have called us to be**  
**the Body of Christ.**  
**May our parish be a sign of hope**  
**in our community of**  
**Holybourne, Beech and Alton.**  
**May all we do,**  
**and all we are becoming,**  
**bring praise to your name**  
**and draw others to your love.**  
**We ask these things**  
**in the name of Jesus,**  
**who came to serve and bring us**  
**fullness of life.**  
**Amen.**

*For the middle of the day*  
*- The Lord's Prayer*

**Our Father, who art in heaven,**  
**hallowed be thy name;**  
**thy kingdom come;**  
**thy will be done;**  
**on earth as it is in heaven.**  
**Give us this day our daily bread.**  
**And forgive us our trespasses,**  
**as we forgive those who trespass**  
**against us.**  
**And lead us not into temptation;**  
**but deliver us from evil.**  
**For thine is the kingdom,**  
**the power and the glory,**  
**for ever and ever.**  
**Amen.**

*For the end of the day*  
*- The Caleb Prayer*

**O High King of heaven,**  
**have mercy on our land.**  
**Revive your Church;**  
**send the Holy Spirit**  
**for the sake of the children.**  
**May your kingdom come**  
**to our nation.**  
**In Jesus' mighty name.**  
**Amen.**

**We should pray for each person by name;**

**Those who are sick or require prayer:**

Marjorie Brown, Georgina Matthews, Maureen Serle, Julia Poole, Joan Hedges, Barbara Turk, Joan Cheeseman, Jeremy, Barbara Small, Tony Ludlow, Ben Stonehill, Neil, Jacob and Joshua (twins)

**Those who are bereaved, Families of :**

Ian Toombs, Pamula Millard, Linda Tandy, Andrew George, Angela Collins, Jean Mann, Geraldine Harrington, Susan Thorne, Simon May, Reginald Aldhous, David Savage, Grace Hammond, David Hurley,

**Those preparing for Marriage:**

George Harding and Georgina Caddy  
John Cornell and Hannah Lucas

**Prayer Cascade.** Need Prayer for any reason? Just email, in confidence to pray4potr@gmail.com or complete a prayer request card available in all our churches. A prayer team from this parish will pray regularly for each request for up to a month.

## Diary for the week

**Morning Prayer is said at 8.45am Monday - Friday in St Lawrence,  
excluding Thursday when Prayers are said in Holybourne Church at 8.30am.**

Monday	9.30am	Teddies Group	St Lawrence Church
	2-5pm	Amery Hill Service Rehearsal	St Lawrence Church
	7.00pm	Amery Hill School Carol Service	St Lawrence Church
Tuesday	9.00-12.00	Tuesday Café	Holy Rood Church
	9.30am	St Lawrence School Christmas Cantata	St Lawrence Church
	10.45am	Communion	Borovere
	2.00pm	Butts Primary School Carol Service	All Saints Church
	2.30pm	Communion	Brendoncare
	6.00pm	St Lawrence School Christmas Cantata	St Lawrence Church
	7.00pm	Eggar's School Carol Service	Holy Rood Church
Wednesday	7.00pm	Mettle Youth Group	44 Vicarage Hill
	7.30pm	Bell Ringing Practice	All Saints Church
	9.30am	Parish Midweek Communion	All Saints Church
	10.30am	Communion	The Lawn
	5.00pm	Organ Practice	St Lawrence Church
Thursday	9.30am	Teddies Group	Holy Rood Church
	10.00am	Funeral of Linda Tandy	St Lawrence Church
	10.00am	Christmas Coffee Morning	All Saints Church
	4.30pm	Organ Practice	St Lawrence Church
	7.30pm	Bell ringing practice	St Lawrence Church
	8.00pm	Compline Service	St Lawrence Church
Friday	10.30am	Communion	Willow Court
	10.30am	Funeral of Pamula Millard	St Lawrence Church
	1.00pm	St Lawrence School End of Term Service	St Lawrence Church
	5.00pm	Covenant Training Choir Practice	St Lawrence Church
	6.15pm	Covenant Youth Choir Practice	St Lawrence Church
	7.30pm	Choir Practice	St Lawrence Church
Saturday	9.45am	Prayer Group	St Lawrence Church
	5.00pm	Evening Prayer	All Saints Church
	6.00pm	Giant Christmas Music Fest	St Lawrence Church
Sunday	8.00am	BCP Communion	St Lawrence Church
	10.30am	Parish Communion	St Lawrence Church
	10.30am	Carol Service	All Saints Church
	3.00pm	Baptism	St Lawrence Church
	4.00pm	Carol Service	St Peter's Church

**For more information please go to our web site [www.potr-alton.co.uk](http://www.potr-alton.co.uk)**

## Notices

**T@3** scheduled for Sunday 16th December has been **cancelled**. The next Tea will be in January. Many thanks to all who have supported this over the last year.

**Thank you** to all who helped make the Christingles and support the work of the Children's Society by donating at the St Lawrence Christingle service. Carol Williams

**Christmas Flower donations**—if you would like to donate something towards the Christmas flowers in church, please leave your donation in the plate at the rear of the church, marked clearly for 'Church Flowers'.

**Christmas Coffee Morning - Thursday 20th December** from 10am in the Meeting Place in All Saints Church. All Welcome!

**Covenant Youth Choir with the Covenant Training Choir** present their '**Giant Christmas Music Fest**' at St Lawrence Church on **Saturday 22nd December** at 6pm (doors open at 5.45pm). Adults: £5; Senior Citizens £3; Children under 16: £2. Available from POTR Office; Eventbrite & [cycalton@gmail.com](mailto:cycalton@gmail.com).

**Jigsaw drop in" Saturday 29th December** 2pm till 4pm in the Parish Centre. All welcome.

**CYC QUIZ** - the ever inventive Sue Dell has come up with a quiz to raise funds for the choir. Buy a copy for £2.50 from Joy or Sue and have a chance of winning chocolate in January, just as the Christmas supply runs out....if you would like to take part and cannot contact us at church, email Joy on [revjoywindsor@gmail.com](mailto:revjoywindsor@gmail.com) and one will wing its way to you.

**Anna Chaplain Vacancy** for the Benefice of Bentley, Binsted and Froyle. 8 hrs per week. For further information, please contact Hannah Dubreuil, St Mary's Church, Church Lane, Bentley, GU10 5NA or email: [admin@benbinfro.org](mailto:admin@benbinfro.org). Closing date: 7th Jan 2019

**Parish Office Christmas closure**—Please note that the Parish Office will be closed from Monday 24th December, re-opening on Wednesday 2nd January 2019. Carole and Philippa wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

## Notices

**Please provide all notices for next weeks Parish Matters  
by 12noon on Wednesday . Thank you**

**Payments to the Parish** If you would like to make a payment or donation to the Parish, please contact the Parish office for the Parish bank account details or make cheques payable to 'Parish of the Resurrection, Alton'. Gift Aid white envelopes can be found in each of the churches. *Thank you*

### The Lighthouse.....



Come and join at The Lighthouse  
Every Sunday (Term Time)  
9.15am at Church of the Holy Rood  
10.30am at St Lawrence Parish Centre  
10.30am at Alton Methodist Church  
**Games, crafts, singing, prayers  
everyone is welcome.**

### Teddy Bear Service.....

Come to the Teddy Bears Service  
Mondays  
9:30am until 10:30am  
St Lawrence Church  
Thursdays (Term Time)  
9:30am until 10:30am  
Church of the Holy Rood Holybourne  
**For stories, crafts, singing, prayers**



## Ministry Team

**Vicar:** Revd Andrew Micklefield  
Email: [andrewmicklefield@gmail.com](mailto:andrewmicklefield@gmail.com)  
Tel. 88794 Day off: Friday

**Curate:** Revd Joy Windsor  
Email: [revjoywindsor@gmail.com](mailto:revjoywindsor@gmail.com)  
Tel: 07730 168291 (Wed, Sat & Sun)

**Assistant Priest:** Revd Lynn Power  
(Treloar Chaplain)  
Email: [revlynnpower@outlook.com](mailto:revlynnpower@outlook.com)  
Tel. 07850232995

**Pastoral Visiting:**  
c/o Revd Andrew Micklefield Tel: 88794

**Assistant Priest:** Revd Martin East  
Email: [martineast@btinternet.com](mailto:martineast@btinternet.com)  
Tel: 549595

**Licensed Lay Ministers:** Margaret Bell  
Email: [mbellnco@talktalk.net](mailto:mbellnco@talktalk.net)  
Tel. 86063

**Anna Chaplains:** Debbie Thrower and  
Revd Rachel Sturt (Assistant Priest) Tel. 83234

**Youth Worker:** Ali Wright,  
Email: [aliwrightyouthminister@gmail.com](mailto:aliwrightyouthminister@gmail.com)  
Tel. 07399937839

## Getting in touch

For enquiries please be in touch with the Parish Administrator on  
01420 83234 or [potr.alton@btinternet.com](mailto:potr.alton@btinternet.com)  
Prayer Cascade email: [pray4potr@gmail.com](mailto:pray4potr@gmail.com)  
The office is open Monday to Friday 9.30am - 12.30pm