

Albury Parish News

January 2023

Number 394



**We wish you a very
Happy New Year**

**Serving the local communities of Albury,
Albury Heath, Brook, Farley Green,
Little London and Newlands Corner**

**Services in Albury and Farley Green for December at
the Parish Church, Church Lane, Albury unless stated.
The 9.30 services are livestreamed**

1	9.30 am Communion Service 'Just like his brothers and sisters'
8	8.00 am Holy Communion Book of Common Prayer 9.30 a.m. All Age Worship 'Follow the star'
15	9.30 a.m. Communion Service 'Build your church'
22	8.00 am Holy Communion Book of Common Prayer 9.30 a.m. All age Worship 'Extreme fishing'
29	9.30 a.m. Morning Worship 'Getting by giving'

All are welcome in church. For the livestreaming link if you cannot get there in person, please visit www.alburychurches.org

Every Friday in term-time pre-schoolers and those who look after them are welcome to 'Little Fishes' at [St Michael's Farley Green](#) - a time of chat and play with simple worship. Details from pennycrandall@hotmail.com.

Front cover: Photo by Jingda Chen
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From the Minister

When I was a child, we lived, as most people did, in a house without central heating. I would wake up matter-of-factly on winter mornings to ice halfway up the inside of my bedroom window panes. When we eventually got central heating, I wasn't at all sure what it was.

A week and a half before this Christmas the Vicarage boiler, which had been increasingly erratic over the past few weeks, was sentenced to death by a kindly engineer, and was turned off because gas was leaking.

We had to survive without central heating and hot water feed. The outside temperatures were sub-zero most of the time. Horrors! But we did have a functioning electricity supply, an immersion heater, and portable heaters, so we were not badly off. But I had forgotten how quickly rooms cool down, and what it's like to rely on dressing warmly when you are inside.

Our short experience is nothing compared what huge numbers of people have all the time, without handy portable heaters. People who can't afford the bills. People in substandard accommodation. People in areas away from mains supplies. And above all people in countries like Ukraine, where in the depths of winter an implacable enemy is destroying perfectly serviceable civilian infrastructure, because they haven't got many other ways to strike. Not just coping without a boiler, but with destroyed and damaged houses and very often no heating of any kind except using whatever you can burn. Seeing it on television can't really tell us what it's actually like.

As 2022 becomes 2023, is the world going forwards or backwards? Conflict refuses to die, and people try to send their enemy back to the stone age.

I wondered if the Bible had anything to say about New Year. Not being able to remember anything, I looked it up. Unless I've missed something, there is not a single Bible verse that refers to New Year. It seems the ancient Jews and early Christians didn't consider it that important. Maybe it's just a habit of the current age to think of New Year as a time to wish for better things to come.

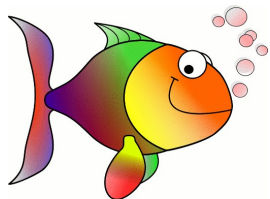
But there is plenty of reference in the Bible to a new start of one sort or another, from Isaiah's prophecies that God will do a new thing, through his assurances that those who wait upon the Lord will renew their strength, to Paul's conviction that if anyone is 'in Christ' a new creation has begun.

It seems the Bible writers simply don't live in a world where progress and renewal is decided in fits and starts, at New Year or any time else. They see a world in which God is always calling forwards, always refining and renewing his people, always offering a healed past and a newly started future through Jesus Christ. One where you don't need to wait for New Year.

I will celebrate New Year, but I will remember this.

All blessings for 2023
Andrew Pearson, Resident Minister

Little Fishes



Little Fishes is now meeting in the Barn Church every Friday morning in termtime at 9.30 a.m. for a story, prayer, songs, colouring and crafts.

For further details, please email pennycrandall@hotmail.com

Hark & Ride

If you would like a lift to church when services resume, then please phone 01483 202210 or 01483 203208

If you can help in this way occasionally, please contact Theresa Channer on 202210 or Penny Randall on 203208

Albury Café

Closed due to the Corona virus outbreak.

We hope to be back soon.



Tea and Chat



**at 3pm,
@ 26 Weston Fields
All welcome**



Defibrillator Information

The Parish Council have installed defibrillators at the following locations.

Albury Memorial Library Little London (William 1V) Newlands Corner
Farley Green (Bus Shelter) Main Door, St Peter and St Pauls, Church Lane

Have yourself a messy little Christmas...

Nearly 40 children and adults gathered for December's Messy Church, complete with instant nativity story, carols, the usual fun activities, some eye-catching nativity costumes, and of course tea. 'Amazing Days' by Bob Hartmann provided the script and also helped us think about the things that were Awful and the things that were Amazing about the first Christmas.

There is no Messy Church in January, so it's February 12th at 4.00 p.m. for the next. For details contact sheena.pearson@btinternet.com.



Most of the Amazing Days cast!

Hear Here

The Hearing Champions clinic in Shere Surgery is now up and running again.

Sessions run from 1.00 till 3.00 p.m. once a month, usually on the first or second Tuesday. This is a volunteer-led service intended for those with NHS hearing aids needing minor repairs or new batteries. Remember to bring your NHS booklet!

Please note that due to covid we are no longer able to run a drop in service, so if you would like to come please call the surgery on 01483 202066 to book an appointment.

Dates for upcoming sessions are : Tuesday 3rd January and Tuesday 14th February, both 1 till 3pm. Please note the change of day and time.

Penny Randall



Open invitation to

BUBBLES AT THE BARN

Friday 20 January
6.30 – 8.30 pm

St Michael's Barn Church
Farley Green

Join your neighbours for some
bubbles and nibbles

Complimentary drink on arrival

Please note - Parking is in designated area on the Green.

The Friends of St Michael's Barn Church

Your garden in January

January, the time for making New Year Resolutions. Some may be the result of partying on New Year's Eve. Ignore those, they rarely last. The gardener should be looking at those mistakes of the previous year and thinking about avoiding them this year. So, where to begin.

- **Organisation.** Remember all those walks around the garden looking for the tool that you need to use, but doesn't appear to be where you are certain you left it. (This may be more difficult where there are two gardeners in the family). Useful if you have a smart gadget on your wrist telling you how active you have been, but otherwise wasted time and energy. Resolve to put your tools away as soon as you have finished with them. Allocate a space in your potting shed that follows the old proverb "a place for everything and everything in its place". Wait, I'm sure that was one of last year's resolutions. It probably lasted until the season when you wanted to be outside rather than huddled next to the radiator, log burner or heater of your choice.
- **Weeds.** No matter how hard you try, they will come. Usually settling and thriving in the middle of a shrub where they grow un-noticed until it is too late just to tweak them out. The weed will choose a thorny, prickly site so that it creates the maximum difficulty for the gardener to extract it. The root will have snuggled in amongst the roots of your treasured plant with its leaves too close to the shrub's leaves to attempt a little weedkiller squirt.
- **Pruning.** Whether shaping your plant at ground level or fifteen feet off the ground, your resolution should include health and safety issues, time of year, how hard you are going to prune or whether to prune at all. Look for examples of wonderful gardens that have been rescued from lack of pruning. The Lost Gardens of Heligan spring to mind. Does your garden resemble the 'before' or 'after'? Make sure your secateurs, loppers and chainsaw blades are sharp, Your ladders, tower scaffolds and cherry pickers should be in good order.
- **Planting.** Plan your vegetable and flower planting carefully. Remember what did well last year and what was a waste of space. Just because you've still have that packet of seeds from last year for a vegetable that thrived but no-one wanted to eat doesn't mean you need to grow it again. Give the seeds to some unsuspecting gardener instead, they may enjoy the results. When you have a glut of vegetables, give away those you can't use. The Anglo-Saxon words for January are Wolf Monath, the month when wolves come into the village looking for food. Growing your own food may well keep the wolf from the door in these uncertain times.
- **Enjoy your garden.** Take time to enjoy your garden, it shouldn't all be about weeding and hard work. Look for the first signs of new growth, bluebells, snowdrops and crocus may well have been brave enough to put their heads above ground. Your potting shed will soon be the cosy and welcoming space it should be.

Happy gardening, happy New Year, the days are getting longer and spring is on its way.

Parish People - David Oakden



The Reverend David Oakden is Resident Minister in the church parish of Chilworth, which embraces the landmark church of St Martha's on the Hill and the valley church of St Thomas, in a building that was the working men's club in the days of the gunpowder mills. David welcomed me to Chilworth Vicarage, where I heard his story.

I was born in 1960 at Warlingham in Surrey, where I was Christened at St Mary's Church, but we moved to Godalming two years later. I was the third son of Donald and Iris, who were not practising Christians, but nevertheless felt that I should be baptised. My father served in the Navy during the war and then worked at the Stock Exchange until 1962 when my parents purchased a Lutyens house in Godalming, which they operated as an hotel until selling it in 1973. That was where I was brought up in my early years. The building is still there, although no longer an hotel. It was not very profitable. We moved to Milford where my father worked in the telephone exchange, but had a number of other jobs and was a very good salesman. He ended his varied career as a bookmaker in Farncombe. That wasn't very good for his health because one could almost cut the cigarette smoke in his shop and carry it outside. When I was nine years old, my younger brother was born making four of us: Lawrence, Anthony, David and Stephen. At Christmas time we would receive presents addressed to 'The LADS'. Sadly, my father died on the operating table in 2006. My mum still lives in Milford although her health isn't good. Stephen now lives in Huddersfield with his wife, but they have no children. Anthony lives in Addlestone, and Lawrence lives in Elstead with his wife and loads of step-children. My wife, Alison, and I now live in Chilworth Vicarage and have three children. In the sixties and seventies, my brothers and I had a fairly ordinary upbringing, although left to our own devices a great deal as our parents were busy running the hotel. There was a large garden, which was great fun, and our old dog would chase me around with my socks in his mouth. We had a goat, Ramona, who did a very good job of keeping the grass cut. Rather useful as the garden was on a hill. She was less popular when she would broke her chain and ate my Mum's roses and, then crashed into the greenhouse for anything else she could find!

Q. Education?

A. I went to a preparatory school in Shalford, where I learnt to doff my cap when I saw a lady. I then went to the County Secondary School at Broadwater, which my two elder children were later to attend. I think, with hindsight, I could have worked harder and achieved more. I was somewhat lazy, and the teachers didn't push me. My parents were far too busy to push. It was therefore surprising that I earned the nickname 'The Professor' because I was fond of books, wore glasses, and became the librarian.

Q. After school?

A. I left school after the 5th Form and went to Roffe Swayne, the accountants. The firm then had branches in London, Godalming and Haslemere. The Godalming branch was then in Queen Street and in the late seventies one of the first firms to have a computer suite with lots of green screens bubbling away. I was based in the Haslemere branch and learnt the basis of auditing and accountancy. I studied for some of the exams, but didn't complete the course to qualification after moving into industry later. After five years, I moved to Wise & Co in Farnham as a Senior Clerk, with some responsibility for staff training. Whilst there, we came across a fraud involving the Nigerian Government Procurement Agency, perpetrated by a lady bookkeeper, who appeared to have three different personalities, evidenced curiously by three different styles of handwriting in the books, at a time when the records were still kept manually. It was quite fascinating to see. I had to attend at Winchester Crown Court several times to give evidence and explain the book entries. Every time the company's boss went to Nigeria to do another deal, assets disappeared. It was quite an eye opener to me. The Nigerian government lost a good deal of money. Also, seeing the behaviour of various parties stimulated an interest in mental health.

My next move in 1986 was to a firm of public relations consultants in Godalming. I soon discovered that my employer was a difficult person to work with and I left after about 18 months. Then at the age of 28 I had a career change to become manager of a scaffolding yard in Chertsey. I later ran my own cleaning business. I was subsequently employed by a firm of civil engineers as the bookkeeper, although my responsibilities included truck driving and seeing that the yard was kept clean and tidy. We worked in portacabins. We employed three brothers, who didn't feel that they had been paid correctly so the three of them came in shouting. The yard manager disagreed with them, so one of the brothers went back to his van, got a can of petrol, and poured it along the walls inside and out of the portacabin. I was sitting at my desk at the far end. I was covered in petrol as was my seat, my desk, the carpet, and the walls. He then stood in the doorway flicking his lighter, until we agreed to sort out his pay. But that was not my responsibility. I was trying to work out how I would escape being burnt. Could I break the window with my chair and follow that through? Getting out would be an interesting exercise! Luckily somebody managed to bundle the chap out. Others came in and started tearing up the carpet, because it was so inflammable. I escaped. Eventually the company went bust and I had to look for another job.

Q. Where did you find that?

A. I joined Cranleigh Aerials Ltd. It is a well established company that installs TV aerials and satellite dishes for residential and commercial clients. It is owned by a millionaire, who made his first million by the age of 15, lost it all by age 20 and is now worth millions. When I joined, the Sky dishes had just come out and we were one of only four installers. We covered the

south of England with staff all the way down to Devon. There was a change in fortunes, and I had to deal with 900 staff redundancies and finally my own redundancy. I went back again for a short time, but the place was never the same.

Q. What was the reason for these redundancies?

A. After the first flush of people wanting sky dishes, and there were very many, the number wanting a dish installed dropped away, so we lost over 80% of our installing engineers and support staff, then a couple of years later Sky decided that they would install the dishes themselves.

Q. Your next job?

A. It was at Wieland Electric Ltd, located in Guildford. It is the subsidiary of a German Company, Wieland Electric GmbH, an international group supplying and installing all sorts of electrical systems. I became Finance and Operations Director of the subsidiary and stayed there 15 years. They were good years, which were most enjoyable, but extremely pressurised.

Q. And in your spare time?

A. Whilst I was with the road surfacing company (civil engineers), I became warden of a halfway house in Godalming.

Q. What is a halfway house?

A. A residential home for young people, who had been in care, who are 'halfway' between childhood and adult life. This hostel comes under the auspices of 'Tweenways', founded by a group of Christians. The object is to provide accommodation and the opportunities to learn skills to reintegrate into society and take care of themselves. It provides a residence for young people with problems, and help with social, medical, psychiatric and educational issues. It is voluntary work, save that it provides bedrooms for the wardens, so I used it as my residence. It's a bit like the 'House for Duty' I now have as a Curate, save that it's only a bedroom for duty, with use of the kitchen and so forth. Quite a hectic life. When not asleep, I would either be at work or helping these young people with their problems. I worked with Ali, now my wife, who was the other warden. They are children, who have lived through the system, and not lived with their parents for many years, but in various homes. When they reach the age of 16 or 17, they are no longer allowed to live in children's homes, but they must go somewhere. Many of them have no real experience of living in the real world. Many know nothing about budgeting, nothing about cooking, nor even how to wash their clothes. They are launched into the world with no real skills, and not as well educated as they should be. Just dumped on society and told to get on with it! I had met Ali a few years earlier, when she was warden of the Cellar Coffee Bar in Godalming, with which I was also involved. From there, I followed her to Tweenways. We married in June 1991. Our first child, Sara, was born a year later to be followed by Jessica and finally Samuel, now 23, the only one who still lives with us.

- Q. I note that Tweenways is run by a group of Christians. When did you become aware of faith being a part of your life?**
- A.** My parents were not practicing Christians but were happy for me to be part of a Christian organisation. For me it all started with Crusaders, from childhood all the way through to becoming Assistant Leader at the branch in Godalming, until it eventually closed. In the meantime, I had become part of the 'twenties' group at Busbridge Church. Interestingly, quite a few of us involved with that group ended up becoming clergy, including the two leaders, Andrew and Margot Spencer. A pretty good youth group from that point of view. From there, I became the leader of 'Busbridge Youth' which is a younger group. At the same time, I started going to other churches including the Free Church in Godalming, which was interesting but was very regimented. You could set your watch by the time that a particular chorus started, or an individual would stand up with a burning question. So, I did that for a few years whilst still involved with the youth work. I returned to the fold at Busbridge Church and became the sound engineer for many years.
- Q. What brought you to Chilworth?**
- A.** In 1999, we moved with our little family to live in Chilworth. Ali went along to St Thomas's and met Chris Grundy, who had quite recently started as the resident Curate. Ali identified a need for us, particularly with the youth group and we never looked back. We became involved with St Thomas's in various ways. In addition to youth work, I was also Treasurer for a period, and then Church Warden for a time.
- Q. Tell me about the mission to Nigeria?**
- A.** The whole fortnight's experience was amazing. Chris Grundy and I delivered an Alpha course to the clergy in Wusasa district in Northern Nigeria. It is an area close to the district where Sharia law had been reborn, so there were lots of tensions. I went to some out of the way places to help the churches and to preach. There was a strange arrangement at the Cathedral, where everything appeared to be run by the organist. He was dictatorial and would not let even the Bishop do what he wanted. One Sunday evening we had a very good service, the organist being absent, which went very well and at the end somebody rushed in and announced that the organist had died. It was like a scene from a murder mystery. Almost at the same moment, there was a great clap of thunder and rain started coming down like stair rods. The ground outside was waterlogged. At the same time, the connecting door that led to the organist's house, which was kept bolted, swung off its hinges! The noise of rain on the corrugated roof was phenomenal. It was as if the whole place was being washed clean after the organist's death. The Holy Spirit at work! In the meantime, the local imam had turned off the piped water to the local hospital, because he didn't like Christians. His mother lived a couple of doors down from the organist. The imam arranged for a bowser of water to be delivered each day and placed outside his mother's house, while everybody else, including the hospital, had to walk down to the river

to fetch water. This was around 2003; very interesting times. Boko Haram were at work further north. Generally speaking, the south of Nigeria was Christian and the north mainly Muslim. The central state and government were Christian, but the people who ran the state were Muslim. You would have nice, paved tarmac roads in the Muslim areas, which suddenly stopped and became dirt tracks and you knew you'd come to a Christian area. You could be going along quite happily on a three lane motorway, then onto a dirt track, and back on a motorway and you knew you were in Muslim territory again, because they controlled the money. In several villages, where I went to preach, I would be shown fertile land with nice huts on it and told 'That is where we used to live'. The Christians had been growing good crops on their land and were turned off and out of their homes by the Muslims and given a piece of scrub land, and possibly no power cables connecting their dwellings. They'd be so poor that I would be given my lunch in the saucepan that it was cooked in, as they couldn't afford plates. In one parish I was then taken to meet the imam because, I was told, he would be offended if we were not introduced. The vicar had been in the church parish for six months and spent five of those months in prison as a punishment, because his predecessor had converted a Muslim boy to Christianity. The imam spoke perfect English. I discovered that he had been educated at Oxford, and yet here he was lording it over these people and turning them off their land.

The idea of ordination had been with me since my days at Busbridge, but I had put it off and had told myself that I was not ready for it. On return from Nigeria, I decided to re-visit the idea.

Q. How did you go about it?

A. When Chris Grundy left the parish, I continued to be heavily involved with the church, particularly during the interregnum. I was put forward by the Diocese for selection conference as a prospective LOM (Local Ordained Minister). I was accepted for training, and was told that I might have been considered for a stipendiary post, if that had been recommended by the Diocese. Nevertheless, I accepted the decision and went ahead with the training, during which the rules didn't permit me to do anything at my church (St Thomas's). At the time we didn't have St Martha's in the parish, but I had other secular and parish placements. I was eventually ordained Deacon in 2010 and as a Priest the following year, as is usual practice. St Martha's became part of the Church Parish of Chilworth on 24 July 2016, when Bishop Andrew inaugurated our enlarged parish. When Stephanie left, I was appointed to take her place as Resident Minister and we moved 600 yards up the road to the Vicarage. The appointment took effect from 18 January 2022. It is a House for Duty post, as is Andrew's in Albury, which means that I have the use of the Vicarage, but must go to my day job three days a week to earn my crust. The idea is that I then have three days on parish duties and one day off. I have yet to manage a day off!

- Q What is your day job?**
- A I am financial controller of an independent firm of estate agents and letting agents.
- Q. How do you manage a responsible job, run two churches, and be available as mentor to a thousand households?**
- A. When I have found the secret, I will let you know! I have always worked hard, and often had unpaid jobs alongside my paid role, such as I've already outlined. When the late Canon Merion Jones announced his retirement as Rector of our Benefice at a tent service, the Right Reverend John Gladwin, then Bishop of Guildford, preached. We learned that the Gladwins were also stepping down and moving to Chelmsford. At that time, Lydia Gladwin and I were on the board of a mental health charity, known as Oakleaf. Lydia had to resign as Chairman and I took her place to preside over Oakleaf Charity for many years. Through that, I ended up serving on the board of Guildford Mental Health Forum. So, I'm rather used to unpaid work. I worked with Sue Doughty and subsequently Anne Milton when they were Guildford's MPs and was asked if I would take a place on the board of the Parliamentary Mental Health Forum. I couldn't afford all the fares up and down to London, but was quite proud to be asked. Whilst on the subject of mental health, let me tell you a little aside concerning my brother.
- Q. Please do?**
- A. My brother is 18 months older, so during childhood and early adulthood I kept doing things 18 months later than he did, and in all sorts of places became known as 'Tony's little brother'. Fast forward to recent years and, after retiring from a career as a social worker, Tony worked for the Diocese dealing with mental health issues. There he kept being greeted with the words, 'Oh, you're David's brother!'. He didn't like that.
- Q. Was there a selection process leading to your appointment as Resident Minister?**
- A. Well yes and no. Once we took over St Martha's as our parish church, Stephanie took most of the services there and I took many services at St Thomas's. After Stephanie's retirement, I had to take both. Perhaps as a consequence, I was the only applicant. In that sense it wasn't really a selection. On the other hand, yes, I was put through the mangle to satisfy those concerned that I was a fit person for the job. House for Duty is a strange arrangement and a compromise between the church's needs and the costs involved. The church is always looking for expansion and new initiatives. I've been asked to take on this that and the other and then told: 'But you can't as you're only part time'. I don't complain, because it's God's work and what I'm required to do. On the other hand, taking the three days each week at the day job means there are lots of activities and visits with which I would like to get involved but can't. For example, I would have liked more involvement in holiday club, but that's just not practicable. The church is now dependent on its non-stipendiary clergy,

but it is not always a good basis on which to build. I fear for clergy in more remote spots, like Norfolk, where a parson may be called upon to serve at six or even seven or eight churches. He will spend a Sunday running from one church to another. How can he get to know the community? It isn't a good model. My Sundays are taken up with one service after another, then I have to see people about arrangements for weddings, baptisms, funerals etc. Then there are all the administrative tasks that clergy are required to take on. How can I, and others like me, look after our flocks? It is difficult to live up to people's expectations.

Is this a vicious circle? You need more clergy time to build congregations to put money in the pot to help grow the church?

A. Certainly, finance is a problem. In Chilworth we don't collect sufficient money to pay a parish share that would entitle us to a stipendiary Minister. Another problem is, without the resources to build, the congregation gets older and increasingly they aren't fit enough to carry out the many duties which lay people take on and are part of the work of a vibrant church. They may have served the church faithfully for many years, but they no longer want to sit on the PCC, become the Treasurer, or whatever. So, you look around the congregation reduced to 20 and say: 'Well who can we ask to do this?' They've all done these things; is it fair to ask them again? This is a common situation, not limited to our benefice. Clergy are called to a vocation that they are anxious to fulfil, but are hampered by bureaucracy and the need to go out to work and a frustrating limit on their available time. A problem very often made worse by an ageing congregation.

Q. If you were a Bishop, or even the Archbishop, what steps would you take to resolve these problems?

A. There is no magic formula. Bishops themselves are constantly grappling with problems of finance and resources and how they are going to accomplish the things they would like to achieve. Even in the relatively affluent Diocese of Guildford, it has been necessary to cut costs with redundancies and a move from Church House. Yet reducing costs does not of itself solve all the problems. The reality is that if people do not come to church, that is a problem. But the bigger problem is: have they had an opportunity to find a relationship with God? If they find that the church isn't right for them, that's fine, but how do I reach them to have a conversation about God?

Q. What is the good part of your job as Resident Minister?

A. I just love it. It doesn't matter to me if I don't get a day off because I love what I do. Like many of the clergy, I'm quite an introverted person, but taking a service, knowing that God is there with us, lifts me. Once I had been ordained and could walk around the village wearing a collar, my conversations with people changed. I had lived in the village for 22 years and my conversations with casual acquaintances as I walked along the street would be in the nature of: 'Nice weather for the time of year'. Once I had the collar on, people wanted to talk, but at a different level.

Q. Can you give me an example?

A. I spoke to a lady, who had lost a baby in childbirth. She'd carried it to full-term and she was not even allowed to see it. She'd been unable to talk about it to her other children or anyone else, and had been unable to grieve. What an honour and a privilege to let somebody tell me their story like that, and only because I had a collar on. It is an enormous responsibility. There is something about that collar which gives people permission to come and talk. In the mental health world particularly, it is vital to talk. The church gets a lot of things wrong, but if we give people that permission to unburden their feelings and start a process of healing, we must do some good. At the end of the service, the parson typically goes to the west door and shakes hands as the congregation leave ('Nice sermon, Vicar'). Then somebody, even after a sermon that may be rubbish, has picked up some nugget that the preacher has not thought about, but God has used that space to create a golden moment.

Q. Does Chilworth really need two churches?

A. They cater for quite separate congregations. St Martha's provides rather different and lovely experiences, because so many people on their walks will come in, perhaps just after a service has finished, and will engage in conversation. One of my ambitions is to get the resources to have somebody there to keep the church open on most days. So many drop in after the service and say: 'Oh it's the first time I've seen this church open'. There are opportunities missed. Actually, it's already open Saturdays as well as Sundays. However, those opportunities for conversations are so valuable. It is an opportunity to somehow implant the seeds of belief in people's hearts. It is just wonderful.

Q. Finally, David, we come to your opportunity. Have you an inspirational New Year message to the people of Albury and others who may read the magazine?

A. We have been through some very hard years of late with the pandemic, and though we may have managed to find a way of living with it, we now face another huge problem, in our present financial and economic 'crises'. The food bank in the village has never been busier, and I am sure that all of us know someone who is finding life incredibly difficult at the present time. Perhaps we do not know how best to help them, or it is us ourselves who do not know where to turn, but it is at times like this that my favourite bit of the Bible leaps into the front of my brain. It is from Lamentations chapter three. Although many may not wish to read a book called lamentations, it is not all doom and gloom. Suddenly it shouts to us, this incredible promise that as sure as we are that the sun will rise daily, so we can be certain that the Lord's love for us is total. Is not that a wonderful thing to hold onto, and be reminded of daily as the sun rises, and we know for certain that it will rise, then we can be as certain that God loves us? The other thing I would say is to pray, and I know that some people find it hard. I know that over the years I have sometimes really struggled to pray, but what I can say with utter certainty is that prayer

works. That conversation with God, that opportunity to sit and listen, to spend quality time with God, and be assured God hears, and God answers, not always in our time frame, nor always with what we want, God knows us and knows what we need and, because God loves us, God will always give us the best thing for us. So, as we go into 2023, make a commitment to pray each day to God and you will be amazed at what God will do.

Richard Floyd

Sudoku

Each of the nine blocks has to contain all the numbers 1-9 within its squares. Each number can only appear once in a row, column or box.

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

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		6					9	
1	5		9	8				
4			6	5				8
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What's on in January

Date	Time	Event	Location	Page
5	6.45 for 7.30 p.m.	Shere Village Cinema North by North West	Shere Village Hall	21
15	7.30 p.m.	Shere Village Cinema The Lost King	Shere Village Hall	21
20	6.30 p.m.	Friends of St Michael's Barn Church Bubbles at the Barn	St Michael's, Farley Green	6

Maybe you don't need a "New You" this New Year?

Every January we are bombarded by messages promising quick fixes for total transformations from extreme detox diets to unachievable workout challenges. Try to spot and steer clear of this nonsense this year - after all most of us have broken our New Year's resolutions by January 12th! So don't set yourself up to fail with a whole "new year, new you" approach, instead make some small tweaks that will help you improve your feelings of well-being and fitness for the whole year. Here are some tips to help:

- Start small. Consistency is key - if you add in a 5 minute exercise routine each day you will be much further ahead in 3 months' time than if you go all out for 2 weeks in January and then have to give up because the time and effort it requires is simply not sustainable (or you've injured yourself pushing too hard, too soon). For more inspiration on how to make small changes that will help you feel good, read Dr Chatterjee's book "Feel Better in 5"
- Find something you enjoy - a walk, a game of golf or tennis, Pilates, yoga, dancing. We have so many options on our doorstep so have a go at something new if you haven't found something you like yet.
- Schedule it in your diary like you do your other commitments. Booking a class or a PT can really help as you are much more likely to go to something you have booked than you are to do that workout at home after a busy day.
- Add friends! Organise to go for that walk/run or go to a new class with a friend. You are far more likely to stick to your commitment if you are going with a friend as you won't want to let them down. Also, you will enjoy it more so be more likely to stick with it - win-win!

If you're looking for a new class to try that will help relieve your aches and stiffness and improve your feelings of well-being, come and try a Pilates class. Pilates is a great complement to activities like walking and tennis and will help to build your core strength and flexibility. I have classes in Albury on Thursday evenings but also in Peaslake and Ewhurst in the mornings. You are welcome to come along to a FREE taster class to check you like it first! Email me at jane@pilates2thecore.co.uk to book your place or book at www.pilates2thecore.co.uk/booknow and use the coupon code FREETASTER

Jane Lefever

A dog's life

A couple had gone to their minister for counseling because their marriage was in trouble. The husband began by complaining that he led a dog's life at home. To the minister's surprise, the wife immediately agreed. "After all, he rushes into the house with muddy feet, tracks across my clean floors, barks at nothing, growls at his food and makes himself comfortable on the best furniture. Then he falls asleep and snaps at you if you disturb him."

From the Parish Pump

Update on QRMW



First and foremost Happy New Year. I do hope your Christmas celebrations were enjoyable and everyone is well. We ended the year at the Memorial Woodland with our family Christmas at the Woodland event on 4th December which is always popular with local families and the children get the opportunity to explore the woodland when doing a treasure hunt. Our very own Veteran Father Christmas arrived with his helper Sharon and each child visited him in his grotto in the woodland and given a present. This is of course a family day as well as a fund raising event when monies from participation in the Treasure Hunt, Grand Raffle, Christmas Tombola, Craft stall and Lucky Dip all go into

the Memorial Fund to assist those Veterans who are in need. The weather was cold but thankfully dry so we were able to have a BBQ with Hot Dogs and Burgers and hot drinks to keep every one warm. Our thanks go to Veteran signer Rodney Dell who entertains at nearly all of our events and never disappoints he sung Christmas songs all afternoon. Of course we would not be able to put on any of these events without the volunteers and Trustees who help prepare and man the stalls and sell raffle tickets, we are very grateful to each and every one of those who help us in anyway at all.

Fund raising is of course paramount to the success of QRMW's charitable 'Purpose' which is to help those Veterans who find themselves in difficulty and to help quickly when they really need it to get themselves out of a situation of hardship or the need of something to make their lives more comfortable. We are a non-profit organisation, all of us volunteers receiving no benefit from the Charity but neither do we have any sponsors or regular income so the help that all of you so kindly give to us is so important and The Chairman and Trustees are very grateful but even more so those who because of your generosity we are able to help.

We have lots planned for 2023 but a couple of dates which we would like you to put firmly in your diaries, the first in the year is The Annual Easter Egg Hunt which will take place on Sunday 2nd April please do register the children well in advance as spaces are limited. The second which is our biggest and probably the most important event in our calendar for the Veterans anyway is our 9th Anniversary since the opening of the Memorial Woodland and Commemoration Service which is taking place on Saturday 10th June 2023, we already have three Veterans (2 Ex Queens and 1 Royal Sussex) whose families are honouring their loved ones. We welcome ALL to these events and guaranteed to be enjoyable. But you don't have to wait until then EVERYONE is welcome to visit our Woodland at anytime it is open 24/7 and if The Hat or one of the Trustees is there, which we do try to be most days, the Visitors Centre is open and the kettle is on. If not you are very welcome to park at the front of the car park and have a walk around the woodland.

Just before Christmas quite a few of our young female pheasants and one of our males returned to the woodland having disappeared for the summer months. So we look forward to being greeted by them every time we arrive just like last year. Our

smaller birds are in abundance obviously grateful for the feed we leave for them during the cold winter months. But we get rewarded in the Spring when they nest with us and bring their young to the feeding stations for us to watch. Already some of the bulbs are popping up which during these long dark days gives us the promise of things to come.

We look forward to seeing you all at the woodland in 2023.

*Paul Cooling
Chairman
QRMW*

From Shere Surgery

Happy New Year. Again, at the surgery we are hoping for a more straightforward year. The end of 2022 saw a fresh outbreak of Staph A infections which caused lots of worry in the community for the health of our children. Staph A is not a new bug, it has been around for years and can lead to different infections, like Scarlet Fever. It tends to cause waves of infection every few years, but in the context of the recent pandemic understandably everyone is worried, especially as lockdown may have led to reduced immunity to other community infections as people were prevented from sharing germs with each other for a while! Reassuringly, most children who have Staph A infections manage them really well, and only a small minority get very sick. Hopefully, the recent surge will be past into the New Year.

Thank you for everyone who has been patient with us recently as we have struggled with staff sickness (Covid) and recruitment problems, alongside the ongoing drug supply issues.

Demand for GP services continues to outstrip capacity across the UK and we continue to put our energy into trying to ensure we have a big enough team on site every day. We will continue to update you as things evolve, but please know that we are absolutely committed to our community, and we will continue to provide the best service we are able to. Please try to bear with us if you feel this falls short of ideal. We hugely appreciate all the positive feedback and that people can recognise the challenges General Practice is currently facing.

Wishing you a Happy and Healthy New Year, from all the team at Shere.

*Dr Emma Watts
GP Partner
Shere Surgery & Dispensary*

Thoughts for the New Year

Feel a failure because you don't get everything on your list done each week? Don't worry - the only person who ever got everything done by Friday was Robinson Crusoe! - *Anon*

The second day of a New Year's diet is always easier than the first. By the second day you're off it. - *Jackie Gleason*

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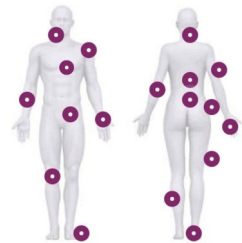
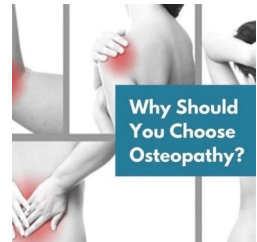
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Shere Village Cinema -

Book now for films in January and February 2023

As some of you may know our new website went live in November, after many months of work! I know that some of you and us, had difficulty booking tickets, but these and other 'glitches' have hopefully been sorted. However, if you find a problem or have a comment about the new website, please email us at info@sherevillagecinema.com or via the contact us page on the website. To book tickets online please go to the website, and remember you need to re-register with the system the first time you use it. You can also buy tickets from the shops: Crumbs and/or the Surrey Hills Beer & Gin Company in Shere. All tickets, except where indicated, cost £5/adult and £3.50/child.



In January we will be showing - the following films:

Thursday 5th January - *North by North-West* (Our Christmas/Winter event).

North by North-West was released three years before Dr No. North by Northwest is often considered a precursor to the James Bond franchise. As such Hitchcock's sleek, wry, paranoid thriller sets the bar very high for the true Bonds that followed. No one tops Cary Grant for stylish, handsome charm and no one tops Hitchcock for tense, thrilling action and climatic plot twists. Throw in James Mason as the perfect urbane villain and Eva Marie Saint as much more than a mere 'Bond girl' and you have a gripping, suspenseful, and visually iconic classic that laid the groundwork not just for Bond but for countless action thrillers to follow.

Classification: PG (Running time is 2 hours 16 minutes). Note: the doors will open at 6.45pm, with the film starting at 7.30, but Canapes will be served before the film starts.

This is our special Winter Event with the opportunity to dress up in cocktail dresses, dinner jackets and/or 1950's outfits if you wish. The ticket price (£12/adult and £7/child) includes substantial Canapes served before the film & during the interval. There will also be a Gin Bar, as well as a Beer & Wine Bar (cash & cards)! Please note that ice creams will not be sold at this event (contrary to our website film booking page) - if you inadvertently purchase a ticket for one, your money will be refunded. By the time you read this, we may have already sold out of tickets, but even if it is sold out, it is worth contacting us (see above) as we may have a waiting list.

Sunday 15th January - *The Lost King* - is the fascinating true-life story of how an amateur historian, Philippa Langley (played by versatile Sally Hawkins) came to discover the final resting place of King Richard III, beneath a car park in Leicester. Philippa's research was met with incomprehension by friends and family and with scepticism by experts and academics. However, she succeeded in solving the over-500-year-old mystery and forced the experts (and royalty) to think again about one of the most controversial kings in England's history. Directed by Stephen Frears, and co-written by Steve Coogan, who also stars as her long-suffering estranged husband. This is an underdog story that has changed history! Classification: 12A

(Running time is 1 hour 48 minutes) Start time: **7.30pm**

In **February** we will be showing the following films:

Thursday 2nd February - See How They Run -

Classification: PG-13 (Running time is 1 hour 38 minutes). Start time: **7.30pm**

Sunday 19th February - Mrs Harris Goes to Paris

Classification: PG (Running time is 1 hour 56 minutes). Start time: **7.30pm**

Thank you for your support. Do join us for our films in January and February if you can.

Shere Village Cinema Team

To book tickets online please go to the website:

<http://www.sherevillagecinema.com>

Stocking Up

The sales of portable generators, torches and candles have soared in recent months, amid concerns that Britain may face power cuts if it cannot import enough energy to maintain supply this winter.

The sale of generators has tripled, torch sales are up by 43% on 2021 and candles by 114% according to Toolstation and John Lewis. It is always wise to be prepared just in case there are power cuts for whatever reason.

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e: jane@pilates2thecore.co.uk



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insertion fee £12

Half page (9 x 12cm Landscape)

Annual insertion fee £220, Monthly
insertion fee £25

Full Page (18 x 12 cm portrait),

Annual insertion fee £450, Monthly
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For any further information,
please contact me.

Denise Chamberlain
ads@alburychurches.org



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Your Parish News

Contributions for the next issue of the Parish News to
parishmag@alburychurches.org

or post to

Shire Cottage, Farley Heath, Albury, Surrey, GU5 9ER

by the 14th of the month please

Front cover photographs, articles, events
and reports of local organisations are all welcome



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minister@alburychurches.org

Licensed Lay Minister (Reader) Emeritus:

Mr. John Gould,

Pastoral Assistants: Penny Randall 203208
Diann Arnfield 203464

Churchwardens: Sasja McCann andisasja@yahoo.co.uk
Theodora Viney wardens@alburychurches.org

Treasurer: Timothy Viney treasurer@alburychurches.org

Electoral Roll Officer: Ali Kerslake, rosecottagefarm@outlook.com

PCC Secretary: Theresa Channer 202210

Organist: David Hughes 01306 881684

Parish priest for Chilworth

Revd. David Oakden

Good Neighbours:

Jo Kelly 01483 205446 / 07900 302794

Helen Esplen 01483 209522 / 07771 537150

Albury Cricket Club: Carl Nunn 202104

Albury Football Club: Paul Mace chairman@alburyfc.co.uk

Albury Hall Bookings: Ms Chloe Bishop, Parish Clerk 07856 010600

bookings@alburyparish.org

Albury History Society: Secretary: Mrs. Margaret Clarke 202294

malcmargclarke@tiscali.co.uk

Albury Parish Council: Clerk: Ms Chloe Bishop 07856 010600

cj.bishop@alburyparish.org

Albury Post Office, Pratts Stores 202123

Albury Village Store 351919

Albury Produce Assoc: Julie Baxter 07807 999 896

Juliec.bax@gmail.com

Albury Bowls Club Mr Ken Walters 01372454536

alburybowls@gmail.com

West Surrey Highways Services (Pothole line) 03456 009009

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If anyone is suspicious of an activity or concerned about some one.

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- Challenging life experiences or ill health
- Lack of informal or formal support
- Now in 2022 - soaring energy, food and general cost of living prices.

How You Can Help? What items you can donate?

Think about food stuffs that do not require heating e.g.

Cereal	UHT Milk	Tinned Fish	Tinned Fruit
Biscuits	Tinned Beans	Long Life Fruit Juices	

Other Items / Ways you can Help?

Household Cleaning Products	Sanitary Items	Nappies/Baby Wipes
Cooking Oils	Tinned Soups/Meat /Stews	
Condiments / Spices	Pasta	Rice Pasta Sauce

You can give money in an Envelope to help Guildford Food Banks to put money on users' Fuel Cards - **Just mark your envelope and give to Harry in Pratts Stores.**

DONATION POINTS IN ALBURY.

Pratts Stores in Albury Village:- contact Harry on 01483 202123 to donate £5/£10 by card, and Harry will select items for you to place in the Food Bank Collection Box.

OR purchase items from Harry to donate to the Food Bank.

OR in St Peter & St Paul's Church in Albury in the Lobby- on Saturdays 10am - 4pm or Sunday mornings, 9am - 11am.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.

DIANN ARNFIELD 01483 203464.