

Welcome to Albury Churches



NOTICES FOR 3
DECEMBER 2023

A sight of past, present, and future

Services for Advent Sunday, 3 December 2023

8.00 a.m. Communion (at the Parish Church)
Using the Book of Common Prayer

9.30 a.m. Worship for everyone (at the Parish Church and livestreamed)

Past, present, and future

Lead: Andrew Pearson

Reading: 1 Corinthians 1: 3-9 (p. 1144) – Sasja McCann

Prayers: Andrew Pearson

ProPresenter/Zoom: Theodora Viney

Sound: Lois Viney

Sidesperson: Carolyn Woods

Coffee: Betty Adams and Diann Arnfield

The 9.30 service will be followed by coffee.

We are a Fairtrade church and our tea and coffee is bought from Fairtrade sources

Online provision



We'd love to see you in person, but if you can't get to church, you're very welcome via the livestream tab at the top of the Home page at www.alburychurches.org.

No Jeff

We're sorry that Jeff Bartholomew is still unwell and will not be able to run his group for school year 3 upwards on Sunday. We will however ensure that something is available for them.



The next 'worship for everyone' after today will be at the Parish Church at 9.30 a.m. on 17 December. Christmas Messy Church will be on 10 December.

Thank you to our tree team!

It's great to have the tree and other decorations, and the Advent wreath and candles, up in church and thank you to everyone who got this done.

Christingle 2023

One of the highlights of Christmas at Albury is the Christingle Service at 4.00 on Christmas Eve. We have a good number of children and adults to participate, but more are always welcome – smaller children for nativity scenes (no speaking), older children to read, adults to supervise, act as fire wardens, help with candles, etc. Email minister@alburychurches.org if you are interested.

Our travelling cribs set off today

We'll be despatching our three travelling crib scenes, and their flocks of woolly sheep, off round the area at the 9.30 service, to return at Christingle. Thank you to all our sheep knitters!

Christmas events and services

- Sunday 3 December, 9.30 a.m.:** **Worship for everyone on Advent Sunday**, with the Christmas cribs being despatched to their first stops. (All routes now full with one spare stop)
- Sunday 10 December, 4.00 p.m.:** **Messy Christmas.** All generations joining together for Jesus-centred activity and food, with a DIY production of 'Festive Fred' discovering the Christmas story
- Sunday 17 December, 5.00 p.m.:** **Carol Service in the Old Church, Albury Park.** Dress warmly and bring a torch. With the Choir Belles.
- Thursday 21 December, 6.00 p.m.:** **Carols and Choir Belles in The Drummond** – we're invited to the garden of The Drummond for a good pre-Christmas sing. Why not book a table to eat at afterwards?
- Sunday 24 December, 4.00 p.m.:** **The Christingle Service** – carols and the Christmas story. All ages welcome. Last stop for the cribs.
- Christmas Day, 9.30 a.m.:** **Christmas worship for everyone** in the Parish Church. Lively and less formal.
- Christmas Day, 11.00 a.m.:** **Communion at St Michael's, Farley Green.** Please park on the Green (except for mobility problems)

Messy Christmas is next week

See above – if possible, please let sheena.pearson@bopenworld.com know if you would like to come so that we can make the right provision.



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For prayer

Please remember families who have lost someone they love. **Diane Heaney's** funeral is on 14 December, 11.00 a.m. at Shere, **Sarah Cassidy's** funeral was on 28 November, and **Gill Harrold** has a memorial service at St Martha's in the afternoon of 6th December after a family-only funeral.

The situation in **Israel and Gaza** remains desperate. Pray for leaders of all parties involved to see how to work towards peace. Pray for a just end to the conflict in **Ukraine**. Pray for the building of a respectful and just society in **this country**. Pray too for the world's response to the **climate emergency**, and for those at **COP 28** and the decisions made. The world has not learned how to deal with **mass migration and displacement of people**. Take other issues from **the news**, including the lessons to be learnt from the Covid enquiry.

Please pray for **John Gould**, John's granddaughter **Joanna**, **Barry Arnfield**, **Jeff Bartholomew**, and **Tessa and Peter Grundy**.

Please continue to pray for the **seeding of faith** in the lives of children and families and all we can do towards this. Remember all schools serving the benefice, and all who serve the community in the Parish Council and local organisations. Also remember the **Open the Book team** and their fortnightly visits to Chilworth C of E Infant School.

Please continue to pray for **our church's awareness and effectiveness** doing the work of Jesus in Albury and wherever we are, and for **growth** spiritually and in energy and numbers. Pray that God will provide the **leaders, supporters, and resources** for what he wants. Pray for our own **spiritual awareness, commitment, and readiness**, and the whole **Church of England**, and its leaders. Please continue to pray for **all engaged in ministry** across the benefice, which ultimately includes each one of us.

If you would like something added to this list, please email Andrew. Don't forget you can ask for prayer for anything at all, by emailing prayer@alburychurches.org. Say if you would like it to appear on this list.

News from far and near

Phil and Jenny Bushell's next five-day English teaching camp is 60 miles north of Rajpur, Dec 9th – 15th. They mention the need for stability and security in the country as elections are held on 7 January. In the meantime, national Victory Day (celebrating independence) on 16 December also gives the opportunity for discreet marking of Christmas on this national holiday.



Claire Anderson and GoMAD - Please pray for respite, for the work generally, and for the well-being of all those involved in GoMAD's support for rural Tanzanian communities.

Supporting the Church

The members of each church support its own ministry and buildings without central help. If you can be part of this, it's vital. . We need significant funding every year for ministry and running costs. You can set up a regular giving arrangement by clicking this link for the [Parish Giving Scheme](#). One off gifts can be made with the card reader in the parish church or with cash at the collection. You can also make one-off gifts using our [donation link](#).

Wreath Making Workshops at St Michael's Barn Church

(in aid of Barn Church restoration fund)

Monday 11 December, 10 am to 12 noon and 7 – 9 pm and Tuesday 12 December, 7 – 9 pm, £40 ppp. All materials are locally sourced - beautiful fresh seasonal foliage, dried seedheads, berries, fir cones and everything else you need to help you finish that perfect Christmas look under Sally Godfrey's friendly guidance.

Contact for church

Email minister@alburychurches.org
Andrew and Sheena's day off is Friday.

A Collect for today

Almighty God,
as your kingdom dawns,
turn us from the darkness of sin to the
light of holiness,
that we may be ready to meet you
in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Little Fishes

Little Fishes is taking a break until Friday 15 December. In the meantime please mention this brilliant Friday-morning term-time opportunity for pre-schoolers and those who look after them to socialise, take part in a toddler-level service, and have refreshments, to anyone you think would be interested. For details of meetings contact Penny Randall at pennycrandall@hotmail.com

Services on Sunday 10 December

9.30 a.m. Communion Service

4.00 p.m. Messy Christmas. For all generations, with activities DIY drama, and food.

During Advent we wait for...



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