

Welcome to Albury Churches

NOTICES FOR 18 FEBRUARY 2024



Services for Sunday 18 February 2024 The first Sunday of Lent

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, children's group)
A hard preparation

Lead: Andrew Pearson

Reading: Mark 1: 9-15 (p. 1002) (Marc Esselen)

Prayers: Andrew Pearson

ProPresenter and Zoom: Theodora and Elisabeth Viney

Sound: Tina Playford

Sidesperson: Monica Cassels

Coffee: Iris and Tony Todd

The 9.30 service will be followed by coffee.

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

The Bowling Club Car Park is available

The Bowling Club car park can be used on Sunday morning. Please ensure parking by the church is available for those with mobility problems.

We are on Zoom today



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.



The next ‘worship for everyone’ after today will be at the Parish Church at 9.30 a.m. on 3 March. The next Messy Church will be on 10 March, Mothering Sunday.

Going Green for Lent

Lent starts on 14 February. We gave ideas last week for adopting a greener lifestyle – or you could try <https://arocha.org.uk/go-green-for-lent/>. Ask Sheena if you would rather have a hard copy.

The Big Plastic Count 2024

Greenpeace organise the Big Plastic Count to gather evidence to present to Government, retailers and manufacturers about the volume of plastic packaging discarded in the UK. In 2022 it was almost two billion pieces every week. Plastic pollutes, releases toxins when burnt, and disadvantages waste pickers in countries to which it is shipped. Sign up for the count at <https://thebigplasticcount.com/sign-up> and help to encourage a global plastics treaty.

Tickets now available for Easter Show for children on 14 April

If you have children, particularly primary school age, we have a marvellous professional production for children from Lol Bear on Sunday 14 April at 4.00 p.m. Huge fun, with a presentation of the Easter story. £3 children, £6 adults - get tickets on <https://bit.ly/3SV87zs> or email minister@alburychurches.org.

Albury Café on Monday

Albury Café is in the Memorial Library weekly on Mondays from 10.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. Have a lovely tea or coffee and brilliant home-made cake. It’s a great opportunity for a chat with friends. Any queries or offers of help to Carolyn Woods.

Your church needs you

As most people are aware, Andrew and Sheena are retiring this year (last Sunday 9 June). Over the years they’ve picked up tasks which could easily be done outside the Vicarage, for example:

- This notice sheet
- Keeping the notice boards outside the churches and the Post Office up to date
- Opening the Bowling Club car park gate on Sunday mornings (two Sundays/month now taken)
- Operating PowerPoint for Messy Church

There will be a number of other things needing doing, so please ask!

Needed – One Electoral Roll Officer

We need somebody to compile the list of people on the church’s electoral roll now Ali Catling has moved away. You need an orderly mind but no previous experience! Please email Andrew.

Come together to pray about a new Minister

There is a weekly meeting on Wednesdays to pray about the leadership of the church after Andrew and Sheena leave. It would be great if you can join. Email Theodora for details (theodora@tviney.co.uk).

Reserve your Easter Eggs – time running out

We want to send in an order soon for our supply of the Real Easter Egg – details at the back of church or at <https://meaningfulchocolate.co.uk/collections/real-easter-egg>. Sign up on the list in church or email sheena.pearson@btopenworld.com. Don’t delay, make sure today.

For prayer

Pray for God to have his hand already on the next Minister in Albury – He knows who it is – and for all arrangements that must be made.

In the UK, pray for the building of a **respectful and just society** and for politicians to find a way through the culture wars. Pray for those involved in often-denigrated **public service**. Continue to pray for wisdom for all **national leaders**, especially those directly involved in conflict, to find ways to end conflict justly, and uphold peace and freedom. Pray for those who are **working to prevent harm, especially to children**, with **technology** creating ever more diverse ways of exploiting others. The next **UK and US elections** will have major impacts not only in their home countries but around the world – pray in advance.

Please pray for **Jeff Bartholomew** who is still incapacitated by a back problem, **John Gould**, John's granddaughter **Joanna**, **Barry Arnfield**, and **Tessa and Peter Grundy**.

Please pray for our **local schools** and all who work in them. Continue to pray for the **seeding of faith** in the lives of children and families and all we can do towards this. Remember all who serve the community in the Parish Council and local organisations.

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 are thankful for a successful resolution of the legal ownership documents for OM's two flats. Please pray for Jenny's health, which has not been good recently. On 25-29 Feb, two visiting New Zealand ladies will teach English in the north of the country for ten days. Phil will help them get going, then travel 60 miles south to review the use of a set of videos he has recorded for teaching English to the computing students. From there he will head south again to Rajpur, to be joined by Jenny for five days of English teaching.



Claire Anderson and GoMAD – Things are returning to normal for the overseas work but financial pressures continue. Claire will be organising a group of short-term young volunteers in Tanzania early in 2024. Please pray for GoMAD's support for rural Tanzanian communities.

How to ensure the church survives

We get no central help to fund the church, and its continuation depends on you. 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](#). Thank you to everybody who is already doing this.

Confirmation

We already have one person interested in adult confirmation – are there any others? Andrew would be very happy to put together a small group. You could also do the sessions as a refresher, or to think.

Contact for church

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

A Collect for today

Heavenly Father,
your Son battled with the powers of darkness,
and grew closer to you in the desert:
help us to use these days to grow in wisdom and prayer
that we may witness to your saving love
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Upcoming

- Mon 19 Feb 10.00-12.30** Albury Café in the Memorial Library
Weds 21 Feb Prayer for future ministry – contact Theodora Viney
Fri 23 Feb Little Fishes for preschoolers and those who look after – St Michael's, 9.30 a.m.
Contact Penny Randall at pennycrandall@hotmail.com to check it's on.
Sun 25 Feb 9.30 a.m. Communion Service, Parish Church

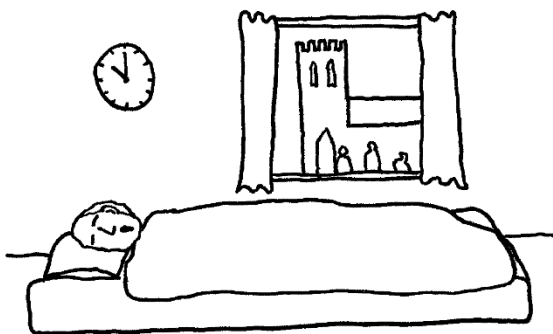
LENT



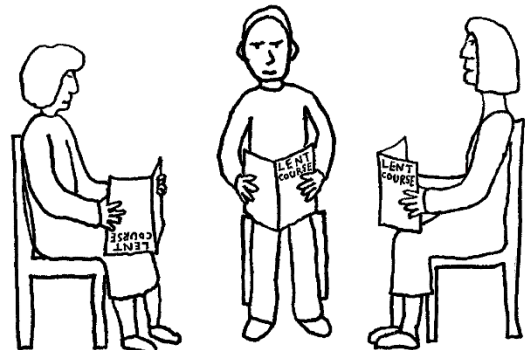
LENT IS A TIME FOR QUIET
REFLECTION AND CONTEMPLATION



IT IS A SEASON OF ABSTINENCE
AND FASTING



SOME CHRISTIANS GIVE
SOMETHING UP DURING LENT



OTHERS CHOOSE TO CARRY
OUT ACTS OF PENANCE