

Albury Parish News

January 2024

Number 406



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

**Services in Albury and Farley Green
for January 2024**

**At the Parish Church, Church Lane, Albury
unless stated.**

‘Worship for everyone’

9.30 services are livestreamed

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

**7 9.30 a.m. Worship for everyone at
Epiphany**

14 9.30 a.m. Communion Service

4.00 p.m. Messy Church

Intergenerational worship and activity

**21 8.00 am Holy Communion
Book of Common Prayer**

9.30 a.m. Worship for everyone

28 9.30 a.m. Communion Service

Front cover:

From the Minister

On social media, have you come across a two-picture meme - 'What I think I look like vs what I actually look like'? The first picture illustrates someone cooking, jogging, smiling, or anything you like, with grace, panache, and class - usually an athlete, film star or other photogenic person. The second is an all-too-human illustration of ungainly failure.

I was disconcertingly reminded of this by our family holiday snaps. My son-in-law had taken a picture of me on the beach. I had been content, knowing that the result would surely emphasise my tanned torso and muscular physique as I strode out of the waves. Think Daniel Craig emerging from the sea in Casino Royale. The result, frankly, didn't measure up to expectations. A pale skinned individual stood in two inches of seawater, with a faint hint of pot belly. It must have been a trick of the light. Mind you, the effect wasn't helped by my looking out through a facemask, still sucking on a snorkel.

So it seems I must wait for another chance to be impressive. Possibly for ever.

As we enter 2024 with its attendant temptation to decide that this year we are going to do better, this year we are going to achieve that ambition, this year we are going to be the 'How I think I look' picture, it's worth remembering one truth.

God loves us anyway.

Oh, I certainly hope you do improve at what you want to, achieve what you've always aimed at, even become a model for others wanting to look like you; but we need to remember that God puts no preconditions of image or achievement on anyone. In fact it's better if we understand that we don't have to meet a standard, because no matter who we are we will not achieve perfection for God. Christianity, if it's properly understood, is for people who know they don't qualify, realise they need forgiving, and ask for a bit of help to do right.

When Jesus's friends asked him who was the greatest, he responded by standing a child in the middle of them and saying 'be like that' (Matthew 18: 1-5). The point was that a child had no recognised legal status in their society. Chasing status in Jesus's kingdom is pointless. In God's eyes love and service count; looking impressive doesn't. And God gives us a value independent of our failures.

The Apostle Paul, who enjoyed high reputation before throwing it away in the lunatic decision to become a Christian, wrote that Jesus died for all of us even when we fell way short of his calling. God has gifted us with an immense value which doesn't depend on how we look or what we've done.

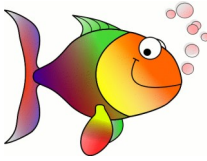
Now if you'll excuse me, I've just seen a jumper in a catalogue modelled by a guy with a beard... he looks really good in it... perhaps if I buy one people will think how great I look....

Best wishes for 2024

Andrew Pearson,

Resident Minister

Little Fishes



Little Fishes is temporarily suspended owing to low numbers, but that we will be meeting in the Barn church on Friday 15th December at 9.30 for anyone who is able to come. 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

Defibrillator Information

The Parish Council have installed defibrillators at the following locations.

Albury Memorial Library
Corner

Little London (William 1V)

Newlands

Farley Green (Bus Shelter)

Main Door, St Peter and St Pauls, Church Lane

Hear Here

The Hear Here clinic runs once a month in Shere Surgery, from 1 till 3pm on a Tuesday afternoon, usually the first or second Tuesday in the month. This is a volunteer led service intended for those with NHS hearing aids needing minor repairs or new batteries. Please remember to bring your NHS booklet if you have one.

To book an appointment please call the surgery on 01483 202066.

Dates for upcoming session: 9th January and 6th February.

Penny Randall

Advertise in the Albury Parish News

If you are a local company or supplier, you could place an ad in the Albury Parish News. We distribute over 600 magazines in the parish – everyone receives a copy.

Quarter page (9 x 6 cm portrait)	Annual insertion fee	£110,
	Monthly 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 insertion fee	£50

For any further information, please contact me.

*Denise Chamberlain
ads@alburychurches.org*

Angels, Actors, and Festive Fred

In mid-December, 47 adults and children witnessed an unexpected trip to Bethlehem for an ordinary boy in Albury called Festive Fred! Next to no rehearsal for this pop-up production but it worked very well. Christmas craft and carols completed this slightly different Messy Church session - and of course the usual Messy Church tea. Huge thanks to all helpers.

The next Messy Church is at the parish church, Albury, at 4.00 p.m. on Sunday January 14th. It helps to know numbers - if you can, email sheena.pearson@btopenworld.com if you'd like to come.

A scene from Festive Fred's visit to Bethlehem:



Image from Flo Taylor

Food Banks Need Your Help More Than Ever In 2024!

Not Just Food.



Hunger in the UK isn't about food. It's lack of income and the main drivers of foodbank use are:-

- Problems with the benefits system (delays, inadequacy and deductions)
- Challenging life experiences or ill health
- Lack of informal or formal support
- Now in 2023.- 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.

Your garden in January

The days are getting longer as we move into January, the month named after the Roman god, Janus. He is the god of doorways and new beginnings. Hence the need for New Year Resolutions. Many gardeners make resolutions and truly believe that they will keep them. Some even put them on the door of their potting shed to make it easier to remember. Many printed on paper without first laminating will succumb to snails in the first few days of the year.

So, where to begin. New Year's Day may not be the best day to start. Your hopes for the future year may be governed by the merrymaking of the previous evening. Checking the first aid box on the shelf for pills to cure overindulgence may (or possibly not) be the first place to look. Do check that plasters, antiseptic cream, bandages and wound dressings are all present and in good order. Consider whether there should be other additions. Tweezers or surgical forceps for removing thorns, splinters and other intrusive plant debris, arnica cream for bruises, antihistamines for stings and bites, and scissors that may need to be fixed to the box with a short length of baling twine so they don't go walkabout.

Check the heating system in your potting shed. A greenhouse heater may be all that is required for your comfort. Is it a modern electric one with every safeguard built in or possibly an ancient paraffin stove that needs an overhaul or permanent disposal? Do you have a small stove for making tea, coffee or hot toddies. Do you have all that is necessary for your winter comfort. Fuel, biscuits, comfy chair and blanket.

Snow is likely in the south east for an average of 2.2 days. Are you prepared? Do you need to call a full scale emergency like the Mayor of London did last month for less than a centimetre? It is wise to check that you have the necessary supplies before there is a snow flake or storm forecast. You may need salt if your driveway is on a slope. Have you a snow shovel? Having everything you need in advance is a sure way to prevent the worst.

Make sure you have the essentials in the pantry, long life milk, candles, matches etc. It may be you are still on the twelve days of turkey leftovers so your menu is already set for the first week of January.

At about this time of year, those wonderful plant and seed catalogues will drop through your letterbox. Always be prepared to try something new. Just one thing will do. Otherwise stick to the tried and tested varieties. Anything with the RHS AGM (Award of Garden Merit) will be a good starting point for new and experienced gardeners alike. It is a good idea to go through your seeds and dispose of those that are out of date. Some seeds will last for many years, some like parsnip less so. If you aren't sure, you can always test a few by putting them on damp kitchen paper and seeing if they sprout.

There are things you can do outside if there is a day of relatively kind weather. Many of the tops of perennials will have collapsed into a mushy mess and should be gathered up and composted. If you still haven't pruned your roses, do it now. If your hands are really cold, you won't feel the scratches and thorn damage so much.

You can take root cuttings of some plants now, phlox, oriental poppies, Japanese anemones and acanthus. Why anyone would wish to encourage the last two on the list I have no idea. They are archetypal thugs.

Happy gardening and a productive New Year



JOIN US
FOR

ALBURY PRODUCE ASSOCIATION'S WINTER QUIZ NIGHT

FRIDAY 2ND FEBRUARY 2024

FROM 7PM IN ALBURY VILLAGE HALL,
THE STREET, GU5 9AD

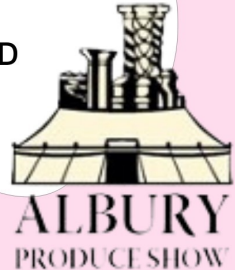
TICKETS £10 EACH (INCLUDES A
COMPLIMENTARY DRINK)

TO ENTER A TEAM OF 6, EMAIL JULIAN@THEHARLEYS.ORG
OR CALL/TEXT JULIAN HARLEY ON 07774 636855

CASH BAR AND RAFFLE

BRING YOUR OWN FOOD ON THE NIGHT

QUIZMASTERS: VIC KEECH AND
CRISPIN INGHAM



All ticket and bar profits will support the Albury Produce Association, with proceeds benefitting local charities.

WWW.ALBURYPRODUCE.ORG.UK



Open invitation to

BUBBLES AT THE BARN

Friday 12 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

Parish People - Ken Hobbs - Revisited



The Reverend Kenneth Brian Hobbs, BA, PGCE, FRGS, DipTh, was Vicar of Albury 2001-2011. He featured in Albury Parish News in February 2011, when he outlined his plans for retirement. Let's see how he's getting on.

Q. Welcome back, Ken. You said that your retirement plans included time with the family, work on your new home in Cheam, golf, travel, and the Church. Tell me first about your family.

A. Margaret is in good health and is busy as ever. Our daughter, Alison (age 50), is a doctor in general practice in Sheffield, married to Richard and mother to two boys aged ten and eight.

Our son, Mark (48), is a Chartered Accountant. He has two daughters aged ten and eight. He has left his job at Sainsbury's and you could call him a 'social entrepreneur'. He ran a charity that he founded called 'Reaching Higher' that helps disadvantaged young people. He has now handed over the executive role for that charity and runs a fostering agency and a boys' children's home and a nursery. So he now does three jobs. 'The Ascent Fostering Agency' has won an outstanding Ofsted award. It has been going for ten years and Mark has all sorts of plans. They are just buying another house to accommodate more boys. They are looking into the prospect of 'mastercare'. That is help for youngsters, who at age 18 leave their foster parents and are just thrown onto the scrap heap. (*David Oaken outlined this problem in his interview a year ago*). There is a huge need, as the social sector is shot to bits really.

Q. How is your new home?

A. Not so new now, but in good order. Fortunately, we took possession some months before we left the Vicarage in Albury, and got basics in place before we moved in. We are pleased with the result. It sits at the end of a small, quiet cul-de-sac, with very friendly neighbours. We have fitted solar panels. Although after a few years they will have paid for themselves, my concern has not been the cost but to make a small contribution to the environment. Margaret and I make good use of the garden and we also have an allotment. The good life has come to Cheam.

Q. Have you found time for golf?

A. Yes indeed. I normally play twice each week, with two separate sets of friends. First, an eighteen hole course with one group. The second group on a nice nine hole course, which takes us an hour, leaving time for coffee afterwards.

Q. You seem happily settled in Cheam. Have you found time for travel?

A. Yes, Margaret and I are just back from Australia, and report that all is well Down Under. We have also been to Cambodia and Vietnam recently. I've

returned solo to Africa, where a particular privilege was to give a talk in Kampala in Uganda at a conference for the clergy of that Diocese. We have also been to Malawi on mission trips, since leaving Albury. In Uganda I preached in two cathedrals, although you would hardly recognise them as cathedrals by English standards. An enthusiastic audience: people looking through the windows, and mothers feeding babies, even goats walking in. My first mission to Uganda took place while I was still in Albury, raising money for the roof of a church in Uganda. This was a new project. They had built the walls of the church but, before they could add such refinements as a roof and windows, they ran out of money. I asked their Archdeacon how much money was required, and he gave me a figure that looked like millions in Ugandan Shillings but turned out to be about £4,000. So, Albury started a 'Raise the Roof' fund and we were able to find the necessary money. My Malawi trip in 2016 involved a charity called 'Hope 4 Malawi'. We spent two weeks there fitting out libraries in primary schools. The schools were only five miles from a tarmac road and thirty miles from Lilongwe, the capital of Malawi, yet the quality of education was awful. We had been in Zambia 50 years ago, where, even at schools in the bush, the quality of education had been much higher than these more recent schools in Malawi.

Nevertheless, one finds a greater faith amongst African countries than experienced in England. I believe that western civilisation, apparently giving us everything, has diminished our faith. As a result, there are more Christians in Nigeria alone, for example, than in the whole of western Europe. By and large that's the experience across Africa. Africans are naturally spiritual, and one can quite easily talk to them about God. The trouble in England and western Europe is that so many people have rejected faith without taking the trouble to investigate its credentials, yet the challenge of the church in England today is to preach the Gospel and explain that the big problems of life do not go away. We have neighbours with whom we get on very well, lovely people, many came to my induction service, but they have no sense of spiritual need. They may turn to faith in time of trouble, but we want to see something bigger than just an insurance policy for when the going gets tough. I believe the enthusiasm for the Gospels in much of Africa is infectious, attractive, powerful and challenges us in comfortable Britain.

Q. So, what are the challenges in Britain?

- A. When I first came to Albury, I felt a disconnect between the small group who attend church and the two generations in the village who were lost to the Church. This situation is not unique to Albury. I think we did something over the years to bridge that gap, and integrate the church into the life of the community. By contrast, a challenge in suburbia, however, is that there is no community to integrate into, because community is based on networks and not neighbourhoods. The parish of Howell Hill, as distinct from Albury, has no community. Walk around Howell Hill and you see lovely houses, nice people, no housing estates, mostly expensive homes, but no community centre, no shops, just one school on the edge of the parish, yet a thriving congregation based on a network, mainly living outside the parish, and arriving by car. No

real neighbourhood community. We don't have quiz nights, or prepare the burgers for a music festival! Incidentally, when the music festival first got underway in Albury, I said: 'The church will do the burgers'. They still do. I was asked why the church was cooking burgers and jested: 'I worship the Burger King!'. I believe that Albury, and other parishes with a rural community, can still be a model for spiritual life and growth.

Q. This brings us to your important promise, the Church. Thirteen years ago, you told our readers that you would attend the Church in Cheam, help when wanted, but '...not be taking responsibility for another Church'. Haven't you broken that resolve?

A. I confess that another Church has featured, but years after leaving Albury. However, I also said that once we had sorted out our home, I might perhaps take special projects. That's exactly what's happened. When I left Albury I rejoined St Paul's, Howell Hill, which is my home parish and one of the largest in the Diocese. I was an honorary member of staff and a Pastoral Minister, primarily involved with the care of older people. The joke is that I spent most of my life working with young people and now I work with old people, but the method is exactly the same! I continued in that capacity as a Pastoral Minister until 2019, when the Bishop of Guildford asked me to look after the parish of St John's Stoneleigh, near Tolworth. It was a difficult parish, numerically much stronger than Albury, with a church centre accommodating groups all through the week. It would number 40 plus in its attendance, numerically strong but spiritually quite weak. The style of worship failed to connect with a younger suburban demographic. Nowadays, there is a tendency for people to look for a church with a style of worship that suits them, rather than just attend the local church. This makes it difficult to establish a neighbourhood church, within the sphere of influence of a network church. St Paul's, Howell Hill, has an electoral role of 400, but draws congregants from a very large area around. The area of a circle is πr^2 , so 50 square miles of northwest Surrey and southwest London embraces people who come to Howell Hill from far beyond the limits of the parish. Christian families with young children, from way outside the parish, come here. The Diocese knows this. The twelve biggest churches in the Diocese are evangelical, and to varying degrees charismatic. They involve lively worship, music, screens, youth groups etc. We were able to grow a network church in Albury within the sphere of influence of Guildford, because many families in Albury walked to the local church rather than drive over the hills into Guildford. This was achieved because Albury has a neighbourhood community, which is very special and difficult to achieve in a suburban surrounding. In Stoneleigh, by contrast, there are Christian families who will go to the nearest big church, where there is everything for the children. So that was the challenge I faced in going to Stoneleigh.

Q. What was arranged?

A. We had a kind of Brexit style negotiation with the Bishop. I had two conditions. First, could I continue to live in my house in Cheam and not have to move again at the age of 72? Second, I would like a Curate to come to live

in the vicarage at Stoneleigh, with a view to eventually taking full charge. I became licenced as Priest in Charge and took over in the Autumn of 2019. My Curate, Geoff, arrived in 2021 and is doing a fantastic job. We had a succession plan agreed by the Bishop and the Archdeacon, whereby after Geoff's arrival he would still be only the Curate and I would remain Priest in Charge, but eventually Geoff would take over as Resident Minister. Thus, as in Albury, my associate would become my successor. Geoff is a very experienced guy. Before ordination he had been a lay reader, running Alpha courses and all sorts of stuff. He's in his 50s. His wife is a school teacher and now has a local job. They are an ideal couple. He will hopefully become the Priest in Charge in 2024.

Q. Will you write another book?

- A. You may recall that I wrote the Grove book on House for Duty Ministry, based on my experience at Albury. I am planning another book on the succession plan. My first book is available from Grove Books (and all good charity shops!). It's great for a person with insomnia! The title of the next book will be: 'Passing the Baton - Transition and Mission'. The succession plan will not be right for every parish, but worthy of consideration as one of the options. After all, in business you don't wait until the CEO has retired and then sit down and think: 'What shall we do now?'. I may give biblical examples e.g. Moses and Joshua, Elijah and Elisha, Paul and Timothy, and importantly Jesus and the disciples. Both Andrew and Geoff (as my successors) have written pieces for inclusion. The lack of succession planning is a handicap for any church and causes a break on mission.

Q. How will you carry out research for the book?

- A. I will ask the Archdeacon to put me in touch with clergy in different places, who have experiences to relate. In so many instances, when an incumbent or Priest in Charge is planning a move, not necessarily at retirement age because there may be family issues, children changing schools and so forth, succession can be the elephant in the room and not discussed with the PCC. I would like to consider whether similar plans can work in both rural and urban parishes. I am not suggesting that number two should always become number one. That could be disastrous. We had to cope with a vacancy at my local church in Howell Hill for over a year, partly extended by Covid. Happily, we have a new vicar: a lovely guy called Nicco from Argentina.

Q. How did you cope with Covid?

- A. Like others, we had to close the church doors and I would be running the Stoneleigh services from home on my laptop in survival mode for a time. Moving from survival mode to growth was challenging. Stoneleigh is different from Albury. One of Albury's strengths was in families who gave up attending large churches to support their local community church. Andrew has since experienced a challenging time in Albury, exiting Covid and then the incapacity of John Gould and the loss Brenda Wray.

Q. When did you leave Stoneleigh?

- A. In November 2022, experiencing my fourth retirement and coming to terms

with what that is all about. I have not gone back onto the staff team at Howell Hill. I don't wish to be a decision maker there but am happy to help out. Sometimes I think to myself: 'I wouldn't have done it that way', but usually keep such thoughts to myself. I still have permission to officiate, and I conduct two services a month, which are more liturgical reflective communions. On a Wednesday once a month, and another on a Sunday as a second service. We have also started a project which I call 'Food for Thought', which is a monthly lunch for seniors. People from Albury are most welcome to come along. It's on the first Wednesday of each month and details will be found on St Paul's Howell Hill website or ask Andrew Pearson. We get speakers of note with a Christian edge to them. For example, we had Jonathan Aitken recently. I have speakers booked for the next six months, including the Bishop of Guildford, and a specialist in clinical genetics, whose talk is entitled 'Wonderfully Made - God and Genetics'. Quality speakers with food for thought to live up to our name. We won't be having, 'Battersea Dog's Home', or 'How to grow Orchids'. Then of course, lunch! That's the limit of my church responsibilities. The time has come to let go of leadership responsibilities and still have time for cycling, golf, travel, writing and so forth. It is a challenge at the end of one's career to move from being a giver to being a receiver and encourage younger people in leadership roles. There is a time to sit back and let others do it.

Q. Who was your mentor as a preacher?

A. I am only a preacher through the encouragement of others long gone, especially somebody in Norfolk, who gave me a break at the age of 17. It was a men's world in those days and I am grateful to older men in the Free Churches in Norfolk, who mentored and encouraged me and allowed me to fly. I was brought up in the Plymouth Brethren, in which my father was an Elder. On one occasion, he had double booked himself to preach in two chapels at once, so I was delegated to do one of them and sent to the historic market town of Aylsham, nine miles north of Norwich. I compiled my talk from a sermon of St Paul in the book of Acts. You always remember your first time. Paul goes to a town, Antioch, in the middle of Turkey. There are two Antiochs in Acts. There is a Syrian Antioch, where St Paul went on his missionary journeys. I thought that was a good start. Since then, I have always been committed to my faith and my work. I've given a couple of talks on, 'What is the World coming to?' based on climate change and everything else, applying my Christian faith. I now have 700 sermons on my hard drive!

Q. Do you regret not becoming a Stipendiary Vicar earlier in your career?

A. No. Clergy need to bring a broad experience into the Church. Late in my career, I spoke at a Christian conference and mentioned that I had been turned down as a young man for possible ordination as a stipendiary (nobody had suggested non-stipendiary at that time). Somebody said to me: 'I am not surprised; you would have been put into a small parish somewhere, whereas in a school you had a bigger pulpit'. So, my secular career as a school teacher has given me a bigger pulpit than anything in the church. It's significant that the age of ordinands in the Church of England in recent years has risen quite a

lot. On the whole, it is for the better that clergy have the experience of a secular job. Our present Archbishop is an example, as are the present Rector of Shere and his immediate predecessor, as well as Andrew in Albury and David in Chilworth. The biggest compliment paid to me in Albury was when a young lady said to me: 'You are so normal'.

Q. How do you see the Church in twenty years' time?

- A. I think that the Kingdom of God will not be shaken. It says in Hebrews that we have a Kingdom, that will not be shaken. I think that the manifestation of church life will be different. In 20 years' time, Christianity will have moved as I have already surmised, away from the West into the majority world. They will be the centres of the Anglican communion. I think that a lot of rural churches in Britain will close because of the pressure of upkeep. Neither communities, nor congregations, can afford to keep all these buildings open. So, there will be a collectivisation of worship to fewer but bigger churches based on Deaneries. Some centres of outreach will continue around a Deanery, but a Minster will be the main centre rather as in the Middle Ages: a central church and outstations around. The pattern of the Church of England will change. What we consider traditional Anglican worship will be replaced. As an article in the Church Times said recently: 'Generation Z', those born in the 21st Century, do not know what sort of Anglican worship they are defending. They go to church but have never witnessed traditional Anglican liturgy, not even Common Worship. They cannot defend traditions, because they've never seen them. The concentration of Christian witness into a strategic number of churches will be rather like the disappearance of High Street shops in favour of the shopping malls, before online shopping threatened even the malls. Likewise, when you and I were growing up there would be a local cinema showing one film. Those little cinemas have closed in favour of a big success multiscreen centre. That could happen to the Church of England. My son and his wife run a Christian youth club in Redhill. There is a good Anglican church, All Saints, in Redhill but they attend a Free Church. They took 50 young people by coach to a festival ('New Day') outside Norwich, which had an attendance of 9,000 that included 7,000 teenagers. Then there are things like New Wine, Spring Harvest etc. Lots of big events. Basically, that's where the action is.

Q. Finally, Ken, your New Year message to the people of Albury?

- A. I think that the community can still be a model for spiritual life and growth, and I encourage them to consider the significant part that they can play in the worship in the community of Albury. I would ask parents to consider which spiritual heritage they will pass on to their children. Margaret and I thank the community of Albury for all they did to make our ten years so special. God bless you all, and a Happy New Year.

Richard Floyd

What's on in January

4	7.30p.m.	Shere Village Cinema Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny	Shere Village Hall	21
12	6.30–8.30 p.m.	Bubbles at the Barn	St Michael's Farley Green	9
12	8.00 p.m.	Gomshall Village Club Bingo	Gomshall Village Club	19
20	8.00 p.m.	Gomshall Village Club Voyager Rock Band	Gomshall Village Club	19
21	8.00 p.m.	Shere Village Cinema Oppenheimer	Shere Village Hall	22
27	8.00 p.m.	Gomshall Village Club Will's Challenging Quiz	Gomshall Village Club	19
26– 28		Peaslake Players Sleeping Beauty and the 40 Winks	Peaslake Memorial Hall	18

Join Chilworth's Benedictine monks in prayer at St Augustine's Abbey, Chilworth

Daily Roman Catholic Mass is at 9am, Sunday Mass is at 10am (coffee with the monks afterwards)

DIVINE OFFICE is available daily:

- VIGILS 5.50am - 6.30am (Sunday Vigils at 8.00pm on Saturdays)
- LAUDS 7.00am - 7.25am
- TERCE 8.40am - 8.50am (8.30am on Sundays)
- SEXT 12.30pm - 12.45pm (12.45pm on Sundays)
- NONE 1.35pm - 1.45pm
- VESPERS 6.00pm - 6.30pm
- COMPLINE 8.30pm-8.50pm

St Augustine's Abbey, Sample Oak Lane, Chilworth, Guildford, Surrey GU4 8QR

Visit us online at <http://www.chilworthbenedictines.com>

QRMW

A very busy November and December for The Memorial Woodland and all the volunteers involved. On November 11th we held our annual Remembrance Service at the Woodland and the children from St John's C of E School, Dorking attended despite it being a Saturday and as always made a great contribution to our Service. Next year being a Leap Year our Service will take place on Monday 11th November which is good because it won't clash with the bigger services which take place in London and all over the UK.

On December 5th despite some light rain we had a fantastic turn out and the woodland was looking quite magical thanks to the hard work of our Trustees and other helpers who made a huge effort to make the Visitors Centre and woodland look very festive. The families who came with their children enjoyed hot drinks including mulled wine and home made soup plus the BBQ was very popular with burgers and sausages on the go. The Grand Christmas Raffle was extremely well supported and the prizes mostly donated were outstanding. Similarly the Craft stall full of Festive items was popular and of course the Lucky Dip and games for the children went down really well. After the treasure hunt which I own up to having



put together up was enthusiastically completed by the children and they all received goody bags for completing it successfully. Father Christmas arrived just after 2p.m. to take his place in the grotto which was located in the Visitors Centre. Every child received a present from Father Christmas and they all went home happy. I know a lot of local families came this year which is great and I would like to thank them for supporting our Charity. All proceeds from the day go towards assisting

those Veterans who are in difficulty.

So now we go into a New Year 2024 and it will be a special one for QRMW because on 1st June, it will be precisely 10 years since the Memorial Woodland officially opened. So we will be planning a big celebration on Saturday 1st June to which EVERYONE is invited. A poster will be produced fairly soon but do put it in your diaries now.

Before that thought we will be holding our extremely popular Easter Egg Hunt on Sunday 24th March at 12.30. Children do need to be registered in advance please so that we know numbers for the Egg Hunt goody bags. Please contact Debbie our Charity Secretary Debbiehornblow@yahoo.co.uk to register the children. The cost is £7 per child. A poster will be in the next issue of this magazine but you can register the children from now, numbers are limited.

We look forward to seeing you all at the Memorial Woodland soon.

*Paul Cooling
Chairman*

*The Quick Response Memorial Woodland
Registered Charity No [1174651](#)*

The poster features a purple background with a large, stylized silhouette of a castle in the center. The castle has multiple towers and a flag on top. To the left of the castle, a witch in a black robe and hat is flying, leaving a trail of white sparkles. To the right, a black cat is perched on a branch. The entire scene is framed by dark, gnarled tree branches. In the bottom right corner, there is a detailed illustration of a wooden spinning wheel. The text 'Peaslake Players PRESENTS' is in the top right, and the title 'Sleeping Beauty and the 40 Winks' is in a large, yellow, gothic-style font in the center. Below the title, the dates, prices, and location are listed in a smaller yellow font.

Peaslake
Players
PRESENTS

Sleeping Beauty and the 40 Winks

Friday 26th January -
Saturday 3rd February 2024

Adults: £12 Child: £6

Peaslake Memorial Hall, GU5 9RR

Visit www.peaslakeplayers.co.uk to book tickets

**PEASLAKE PANTO -
SLEEPING BEAUTY & THE 40 WINKS**

So, another Christmas has come and gone - but the fun and merriment doesn't have to stop yet because just around the corner is the brand new Peaslake Pantomime. This year we're excited to bring you the story of 'Sleeping Beauty' (not forgetting her 40 Winks, of course), who having fallen under the curse of the evil witch Maleficent, lies sleeping deep within a forest of poisonous brambles. Will she ever be woken from her slumbers, will the good fairies of the Kingdom rediscover their magic touch, will the handsome Prince rescue the fair Princess, will Maleficent's name ever be pronounced correctly? And who on earth is TAFKAP the frog? You can find out the answers by joining us for our 2024 Panto run as we're itching to serve up a New Year's feast of gags, songs, dances and all-round family entertainment.

Performances are Fri 26th Jan-Sun 28th Jan and Thurs 1st Feb - Sat 3rd Feb. Tickets are now on sale via the Peaslake Players website - www.peaslakeplayers.co.uk - where you will also find full details of show times. So book those tickets, set your alarm clock and we hope to see you very soon.

Gomshall Village Club

We would like to wish all Members and readers of the Parish Magazine a Happy Healthy New Year - We hope 2024 is a good year for everyone.

Participants waited eagerly for the questions to start in the last Will's Quiz of the year. There were 8 rounds plus a picture and anagram challenge. We stopped to enjoy the Fish Chips purchased from the Chip Van. It was a very close contest with the Battered Sausages the eventual winners. We would like to thank Will for another very enjoyable evening. The Quiz in January is eagerly awaited.

Once again Sal's Poker night was an enjoyable evening with Roger being the eventual winner.

During the past few weeks two valuable club members have passed away. Nigel Grimble and Pete Jaycock. We would like to express our deepest sympathy to the families on their loss.

UP COMING EVENTS - Please come along and enjoy these events

Fri 12th Jan - Bingo 8pm

Sat 20th Jan - Voyager Rock Band 8pm

Sat 27th Jan - Wills Challenging Quiz 8pm

Sat 17th Feb - 'Flip the Bird' Band 8pm

Sat 16th Mar - Beyond Therapy Country Rock Band

We open at 6pm - 10.30pm Monday - Thursday

Friday 4.30pm to 11.30pm

Saturday noon to 11.30pm

Opening times are prominently displayed on the front door.

Please come along and join us. Non-members pay £1 signing in fee. New members are always welcome.

Shere Surgery News

We all hope that you had a lovely Christmas and New Year and that you have a few health based New Years resolutions! Our Covid vaccination programme continues enthusiastically delivered by our superb nurse team. If you are eligible but not yet vaccinated do book in to one of our clinics running throughout January. If you think you could be eligible but haven't received a text or call from us do make contact and we can check for you.

This month we welcome three new doctors in training from the RSCH : Dr Meera Patel who was with us earlier this year and has just completed a post in the Community Mental Health & Recovery Service; Dr Madhavi Berks from A&E; and Dr Sonum Bathia from Paediatrics. They join Dr Alex Argent and Dr Elly Balme so altogether we have a wonderful group of young enthusiastic and knowledgeable doctors to complement our team.

Prompted by November's Remembrance Sunday we have become an Armed Forces veteran friendly GP practice. The NHS has a duty to deliver on a number of health commitments in relation to the Armed Forces community (serving personnel (regulars and reservists), veterans and their families), which are set out in the Armed Forces Covenant and the NHS Constitution. Specifically they are responsible for commissioning bespoke mental and physical health services for veterans, including Op COURAGE: The Veterans Mental Health and Wellbeing Service and The Veterans Trauma Network. Look out for information on our website and in our waiting room. We'd love you to come forward and let us know if you are an Armed Forces veteran and will ensure this is recognised and documented in your notes.

Emma has previously highlighted the rural inequity of the GP Recovery Plan which pledged £645 million to pharmacists to do consultations on behalf of GPs, excluding dispensing doctors from the scheme. Given 18% of the UK population are rural and attached to dispensing practices this is a significant equity gap. Jeremy Hunt has recently visited the practice and agreed to ensure NHS England are aware so that this inequity can be negotiated on. Watch this space...

Finally we have encouraging news on our surgery extension or 'Graham Tyrrell Wing'.

We wish you all a very healthy and happy New Year.

Dr Charlotte Knight on behalf of Shere Surgery

Miscellaneous observations on daily life...

If you love someone, let them nap.

Take my advice. I'm not using it.

I'd like to help you out. Which way did you come in?

Cats know how we feel. They don't care, but they know.

Life is like a box of chocolates. Sometimes it makes you sick.

Some people like living in the past. For one thing, the rent is a lot cheaper.

Shere Village Cinema (SVC)

Book now for films in January and February 2024



**SHERE
VILLAGE
CINEMA**

In December the Autumn, we had a jam-packed series of films.

At the time of writing, it is early December and are still looking forward to celebrating the 10th anniversary of the SVC, with the singalong version of Grease, we hope to report back on this with some

photos in the February article.

In January and February, we have a jam-packed schedule of films, including another SVC event on Sat 3rd February - see below. Please note that we do not have a licence to sell alcohol at our regular film shows, and cannot accept donations towards the cost of buying wine or beer etc. However, we are very happy for you to bring along your own wine or other beverage to drink whilst watching the films and many of our 'members' bring a bottle and put it on the table to share with others. It's one of those things that makes Shere Village Cinema special. Due to the good attendance at films, and the generosity of your donations to our charity box, we were recently able to give £500 to Shere Parish Council towards a new/replacement defibrillator (for outside the Coop/Alldays in Shere).

To sign up to our newsletter and/or to book tickets for future films please go to the website: www.sherevillagecinema.com). 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 January 4th - Indiana Jones and The Dial of Destiny - is the 5th film in the Indiana Jones series, starring Harrison Ford. The story starts in the late 1960s, where 'Indy' is now a grumpy old man, but it soon goes back to 1944 where 'Indy' and the oddball Prof Basil Shaw (Toby Jones) do battle with a Nazi contingent led by Jurgen Voller (Mads Mikkelsen) for possession of a legendary (2-part) dial. Meanwhile, back in the 60s, Basil's daughter Helena (Phoebe Waller-Bridge) has her own monetary designs on the dial. Helena is Indy's goddaughter, setting the stage for much lively quasi-familial bickering as everyone hotfoots it around the globe, racing to find the ancient artefact with mysterious powers that will change the course of history From the very beginning, this action-packed adventure takes you on a pulse-pounding journey with intriguing mysteries and unforgettable characters. Classification: 12A (Running time is 2 hours 22 minutes) Start time: 7.30pm

Sunday 21st January - Oppenheimer - is Christopher Nolan's formidable film about the so-called 'father of the atomic bomb'. The film jumps through several timelines, following 'Oppie' (Cillian Murphy) from the 1920s and into old age, as it builds into a brilliant drama about 'genius, hubris and error'. Although this dense and intricate period piece weaves together courtroom drama, romantic liaisons, laboratory epiphanies and lecture hall personality cults, it is perhaps a 'monster

movie'. 'Oppie' is a man captivated by the boundless possibilities of science, who realises too late that his creation has a limitless capacity for destruction! Overall an essential viewing experience about historic events that still remain very relevant to this day. Classification: 15 (Running time is 3 hours). Please note that as this is a long film, the start time is: **7pm** (earlier than usual)

In February we will be showing the following films:

Saturday 3rd February - For Our Winter Event -

Mission Impossible, Dead Reckoning -*The full details of this event e.g. ticket price and food etc have not been finalised yet, but they will be sent out via the newsletter early in the new year, and will be on line once tickets are on sale. There will also be posters around the villages in January.*

Mission Impossible, Dead Reckoning. This is the 7th in the Mission Impossible line of films, but there is no let-up to the action, so prepare to have your adrenaline pumping and your breath stolen as it delivers an explosive and jaw-dropping cinematic experience. Tom Cruise returns as the iconic Ethan Hunt, and his commitment to his craft is unparalleled. At 61 years old, Cruise continues to defy the laws of physics and deliver awe-inspiring stunts that will leave you breathless. The ensemble cast including Rebecca Ferguson, Simon Pegg and Ving Rhames' who deliver stellar performances, adding depth and complexity to the narrative. The excellent cinematography captures the essence of each location, whether it's the bustling streets of London or the majestic beauty of the Norwegian fjords; and the practical effects and real-world stunts create an authenticity that is both awe-inspiring and refreshing in an era dominated by CGI. One of the film's greatest strengths lies in its ability to balance high-octane action with a compelling story. The plot weaves a web of twists and turns, keeping audiences engaged and guessing until the very end. This is 'a must-see for action enthusiasts and moviegoers alike'. Classification: 12A (Running time is 2 hours 43 minutes) Start time: **to be confirmed.**

Sunday 18th February - The Great Escaper - is based on the true story of 89-year-old British World War II Royal Navy veteran Bernard Jordan who "broke out" of his nursing home to attend the 70th anniversary D-Day commemorations in France in June 2014. The film is unexpectedly melancholic in approach, with Michael Caine (as Bernard Jordan) delivering a gruffly heart-breaking performance as a man belatedly confronting crippling survivor's guilt and the knowledge that the psychological wounds sustained in battle never fully heal. It is a very moving story with terrific performances from Michael Caine and Glenda Jackson as his wife, in her final role. The story celebrates their love without sentimentality and with an eye to the lessons we can all learn from the Greatest Generation. Classification: 12A (Running time is 1 hour 36 minutes) Start time: **7.30pm**

Shere Village Cinema Team



Albury Parish Neighbourhood Plan Housing Needs Survey

The next step for the Steering Group in preparing the Neighbourhood Plan is to update the current and future housing need in the Parish.
To do this we need your help.

Are you a first-time buyer?

Are you struggling to find a home that you can afford to buy or rent?

Do you live or work in Albury Parish?

Do you want to downsize?

In January 2024 Surrey Community Action will send out a survey on our behalf. Please complete the survey or go online and tell us your housing needs.

Or contact Nicola Davidson by February 2024 for more information nicolad@surreyca.org.uk

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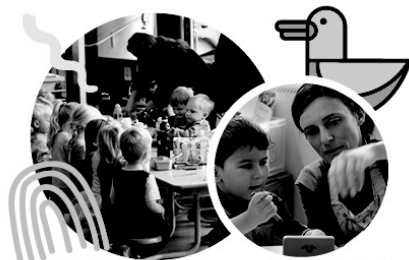
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Your Parish News

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

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.

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

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

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minister@alburychurches.org

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Pastoral Assistants: Penny Randall 203208

Diann Arnfield 203464

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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

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All Aboard



January 14th 4.00 p.m. Come and 'sail' with us!

As we explore how we get to know and journey on with Jesus

Fun activities and celebration with songs

Followed by tea for the children and a cuppa and cake for the adults!

This is an informal gathering ideal for all ages.

Please bring your friends!

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