

Welcome to Albury Churches

NOTICES FOR SUNDAY 21 APRIL 2024



Jesus is the
good shepherd
(John 10)
- even if the sheep
are unrefined.

Services and events for Sunday 21 April 2024 The fourth Sunday of Easter

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

Children's group running if needed

I am the good shepherd

Lead: Andrew Pearson

Preach: Tim Heaney

Reading: John 10: 11-18 (Sasja McCann)

Prayers: Richard Floyd

Sound: Simon McCulloch

ProPresenter and Zoom: Theodora and Elisabeth Viney

Sidesperson: Betty Adams

Coffee: Penny Randall

The 9.30 service will be followed by coffee.

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

Followed at or soon after 10.45 by the Annual Meetings
The Annual Meeting of Parishioners and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting
See notice on page 2

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.

Please send in your parish news donation if you haven't got round to it yet



The next ‘worship for everyone’ after today will be at the Parish Church at 9.30 a.m. on Sunday 5 May. The next Messy Church is on Sunday 12 May.

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.

Jeff Barthlomew is leaving

We’re sad to pass on that Jeff, Young Communities Leader, has to leave his work for the churches of the benefice. We wish him, Cynthia, and CJ all the best for the future and ask you to hold them in your prayers for their next steps.

The Annual Meeting

In church after the morning service. If you come to this church, please attend even if you are not on the Electoral Roll. We will deal with important matters for the future – please don’t write it off as another boring meeting.

Reports are online at. We’d LOVE some new members for the PCC. Don’t think you couldn’t contribute!

Next week – you’ll want to hear our guest speaker

Please get to the 9.30 service on 28 April if you possibly can. If you have children, maybe one adult can attend. David Senior, Guildford Diocese Mission Enabler for Stewardship and Evangelism, will be speaking about how we are all important to sustaining a church’s life and ministry. This is an important message which everyone who counts themselves part of Albury Church, including Messy Church, Little Fishes, Home Groups, etc., will want to hear.

Find the Easter Character Video Trail in the church

Bring your children into the church at weekends during April to find and follow the Easter trail – capture the QR code on your phone, point it at the pictures, and see the Lego Easter characters come to life! The church is open 10-4 Saturdays and Sundays (avoid trail during services).

Your giving is important

There will be more detail on this very important subject at the Annual meeting and afterwards. You can set up regular giving or make a one-off gift by clicking this link for the [Parish Giving Scheme](#). One-off gifts can also be made with the card reader in the parish church or with cash at the collection. Thank you to everybody who gives.

Find out what’s in our eco-churchyard

We’re going to find out more about what’s here, and the role the churchyard plays, in a biodiversity survey on 19 May, similar to the ‘Churches’ Count on Nature,’ supported by A Rocha UK and Caring for God’s Acre, as well as the Church of England. This will be fascinating. Please tell Sheena you want to join in.

Thanks if you joined in the Big Plastic Count

The Big Plastic Count 2024 engaged over a quarter of a million adults and schoolchildren and revealed that UK households are throwing away an estimated 1.7 billion pieces of plastic a week. [See more here.](#)

For prayer

Please pray for the **Annual Meeting**, and continue to pray that God will provide the **leaders, supporters, and resources** for what he wants in this church. Seek **growth** spiritually and in energy and numbers. Pray. Pray for our own **spiritual awareness, commitment, and readiness**, and the whole **Church of England**. Please continue to pray for **all engaged in ministry** across the benefice, which ultimately includes each one of us.

Please uphold **Jeff Bartholomew** as he continues to seek healing for his back and chest conditions, and for **him, Cynthia, and CJ** as they seek God's will for the future. Pray for all decisions and arrangements that must be made for the **future ministry** in Albury, and for **Tim Heaney and the wardens** as they lead on this. Pray for new people to come forward not just to replace the Minister, but to relieve others who have been serving a long time; and that we will all do what is required of us to make sure that the church remains sustainable.

Pray for the world – for **Israel/Gaza, Ukraine, and other places of conflict**, and against the polarisation we see in so much debate and dispute. Keep praying over what flows from the next **UK and US elections**, and for integrity and wisdom in our Parliament.

Please pray for **John Gould**, John's granddaughter **Joanna**, **Barry Arnfield**, **Tessa and Peter Grundy**, and **Jo Ross**, that the healing after her foot operation would be completed.

Please pray for our **local schools** and all who work in them. Continue to pray for the **seeding and growing 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.

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.

Come together to pray for future ministry in Albury

There is a weekly meeting to pray about the leadership of the church after Andrew and Sheena leave. Do join if you can - email Theodora for details (theodora@alburychurches.org).

News from far and near

Phil and Jenny Bushell are in Bedford. There should now be no problems for their return to Bangladesh but please pray for the resolution of Jenny's health and mobility problems. Please continue to pray for Christians in Bangladesh trying to hold their faith with integrity alongside family and community engagement during the end of Ramadan and the festival of Eid. Also, April 26th – 28th will be a youth conference conducted by colleagues for about 100 young people. It's an important time for learning, friendship and identity building.



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.

Food Bank news

We keep a collection point for local food banks in the parish church lobby, open at weekends. Why not get into a habit of bringing one item to every service you attend? You can get an idea of what's needed from <http://northguildfordfoodbank.co.uk/>

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 home-made cake. Any queries or offers of help to Carolyn Woods.

Contact for church

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

A Collect for today

Risen Christ,
faithful shepherd of your Father's sheep:
teach us to hear your voice
and to follow your command,
that all your people may be gathered into one flock,
to the glory of God the Father.

Upcoming

Mon 22 April	Albury Café in the Memorial Library, 10.00 to 12.30
During the week	Prayer for future ministry – contact Theodora Viney.
Fri 26 April	Little Fishes has paused for a few weeks
Sunday 28 April	9.30 a.m. Morning Worship in the Parish Church with special speaker David Senior – see second page.
Sunday 9 June	11.00 a.m. Andrew and Sheena's final service, followed by do in Village Hall

Somehow it doesn't have the same ring as 'Good Shepherd':



"Your shepherd, Louie, has retired. I'm Mr. Smathers. I will be your grazing-resource coördinator and flock welfare-and-security manager."