

# Alton Methodist Church

## NEWSLETTER

Alton Methodist Church is in a covenant partnership with  
the Parish of the Resurrection in the Greater Alton



**Dear Friends,**

Saying “goodbye” can often be difficult, can’t it.

Depending on the circumstances, the feeling of loss and separation can be only too painful and not to be minimised. But inevitably we all face many “goodbyes” as we journey through life.

We have had to say “goodbye” to Philip and Angela over the last few weeks and I know Philip would have preferred to disappear quietly and avoid the attention. But he understood so well that all kinds of “goodbye” are helped by appropriate “rites of passage”. I think there was not a dry eye in the church when he led his last service with us as a church on 16<sup>th</sup> August.

But then there was such an atmosphere of thankfulness and celebration at the GAP service on 30<sup>th</sup> August when we worshipped together with our brothers & sisters from the Parish of the Resurrection. And what love and joy was expressed last Sunday when folk from the churches of our Blackwater Valley Circuit joined us in worship to give thanks to God for Philip and Angela’s 9-year ministry with us.

As I write I’m preparing to lead the funeral services for Marian Cresswell, a longtime and much-loved member of our church. Marian had a deep faith and is surely now at peace and with God. In addition to acknowledging the sadness of her passing, the family wish her service to be a joyful celebration of her faith and life.

Sorrow and joy – part of life’s rich tapestry. As the writer of Ecclesiastes says: “*There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens: a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance,*”

**October 2026**

*We thank the Lord  
for the harvest  
from field, garden  
and allotment.*



**Lay Minister: Mrs Liz George**

**Tel: 07703 648935**

**Church website: [www.altonmethodist.org.uk](http://www.altonmethodist.org.uk)**

**Circuit website: [bvmcircuit.org](http://bvmcircuit.org)**



“Sorrow” and “Joy” are the two words that Rev Mark Slaney, this year’s President of the Methodist, has chosen to express his 2026-2027 theme. You can read his address to conference here if you are interested: <https://www.methodist.org.uk/about/structure-and-governance/the-methodist-conference/conference-2026/presidency/the-presidents-address-to-the-conference/>

Let us have a heart of thankfulness for the goodness of God as we journey on together. And as the song says:

*Brother sister let me serve you let me be as Christ to you  
Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.  
I will weep when you are weeping  
when you laugh I’ll laugh with you;  
I will share your joy and sorrow  
till we’ve seen this journey through.  
When we sing to God in heaven  
We shall find such harmony,  
born of all we’ve known together  
of Christ’s love and agony.*

StF 611 Richard A.M. Gillard CCLI: 237133

*Liz George* - Lay Minister

*Philip & Angela with cake  
after the Circuit Farewell  
Service*



## Anna Chaplaincy update

As the leaves begin to turn and the days grow shorter, autumn invites us to pause and notice the beauty of a changing season. Nature reminds us that change and letting go are part of the rhythm of life.

For many older people, seasons of change can bring mixed emotions- memories of times gone by, changes in health or circumstances, or perhaps a greater sense of loneliness. Anna Chaplaincy seeks to offer a listening ear, friendship and gentle companionship, helping people to know that they are valued and not forgotten.

Autumn can also remind us of God’s faithfulness. Through every season of our lives, God remains present: in the familiar and the new, in times of joy and in times of uncertainty.

As we enter this autumn season, may we take time to notice one another, to listen well, and to offer kindness and companionship. A simple visit, a cup of tea, or a few moments of conversation can make a lasting difference.

### Save the Date!

**Thursday 10th December 2026, 2.00–4.00pm**

**Alton Methodist Church**

The Anna Chaplaincy team, together with Alton Place Care Home, are delighted to be hosting a special Christmas event, **‘A Christmas to Remember’**.

This joyful afternoon is especially for older members of our community who may be spending the Christmas season on their own. We hope to offer a warm and welcoming space where people can enjoy friendship and festive cheer in a relaxed and caring environment.

More details to follow- please save the date!

*Emily and the team*

## Church Family News

**Neil Woodruffe** is having a spell in hospital and he and Carol and Norman need our prayers at this difficult time.

**Ian Taylor** is currently in Brendoncare and welcomes visitors.

**We ask God's blessing on Liz George** as she holds the fort following the Simpkins' move - we pray for 'strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow' for you Liz.



## Macmillan Coffee Morning

We are holding a coffee morning on **Friday 2nd October, 10-12** in aid of Macmillan cancer charity here at church. There have been a number of coffee mornings during the previous week so hopefully the cakes have been digested and you can manage some more! Do come and support this worthy charity.



### Prayers at Noon

Some of us will meet for a short time of prayer on **Tuesday 6th at twelve o'clock** to bring our thanks and concerns to God - do join us if you can.

## Ladies @ Wetherspoons

Why not pop in for a chat and a coffee with friends on **Thursday 29th from 10 am**.



Jennie Marlow

## CAMEO NEWS

At our September meeting we welcomed Elisa from the charity "Dogs for Autism." She gave us a fascinating insight into the selection and training of these dogs, who can change the lives of the individuals who receive them. We gave the charity a donation of £50. After the talk Elisa joined us for tea and cakes, chatting to members and answering their questions.

**Our next meeting is on 10th October**, when Anna will be telling us something of her work with Fresh Start.

Judy Nicholls



## Donation from Tuesday Coffee Morning

The most recent donation from the ecumenical coffee morning, held at Alton Methodist Church every Tuesday, went to Alton Food Bank. Sian Mills, Food Bank Manager, received a cheque for £500 from Christine Allan and Angela Scott. Alton Food Bank provides support to local families who find themselves in food poverty. It relies on food and financial donations to carry out this important work.

## Christmas Fair at Alton Methodist Church

**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> November, 10 am-12 noon**



Save the day for our Christmas Fair on **Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> November!** The following selection of stalls are planned and donations of goods to sell would be welcome nearer the time:-

|                                |                 |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Cakes</b>                   | Sonja Williams  |
| <b>Fancy Goods/Bric-a-brac</b> | Terri White     |
| <b>Toys</b>                    | Jennie Marlow   |
| <b>Baskets</b>                 | Christine Allan |
| <b>Jar Tombola</b>             | BB & GB         |

As usual, **Judy Nicholls and her team in the Café** will be there to provide welcome refreshment for all weary shoppers.

If you've an idea for a new attraction or would like to help in other ways, I'd love to hear from you. Volunteers to help with clearing up afterwards would be much appreciated.

This event traditionally has a great atmosphere – so book the date and join the fun!

Nancy Buck (01420 85994)

## Christmas Fair – Basket Stall

Yes, it will not be long! I have decided that this year will be the last time I do the "Basket Stall". It has been fun to do but it would be good if someone else took this on if they felt it worth doing!

I have already got some baskets but can always use more and also things to put in them. Please let me know if you would like me to collect them or leave them in the foyer with my name attached.

If you are interested in doing the stall for 2027 let me know and I can give you paper and trimmings to get you started! It is not difficult but takes about a week to fill and decorate them! It makes quite a good profit, so it seems a shame to let it die!

Christine Allan

## Girls' Brigade News

It's been great to get Girls' Brigade back up and running after the summer! We're now welcoming around 20 girls each week, and there's lots going on this term.



Our older girls are exploring the history of Girls' Brigade and thinking about how they fit into the wider GB family. We've started right at the beginning, learning about Margaret Lyttle and the founding of Girls' Brigade in Ireland in 1893.

We're also getting stuck into a creative upcycling project, turning old Girls' Brigade uniform into new items that we can hopefully sell to raise funds for the company.

In October, we'll also be taking part in the GB 100 Challenge, where 100 Girls' Brigade companies across the country are aiming to raise £100 in just one week, from Tuesday 6th to Tuesday 13th October. We'll be getting the girls involved in some fun fundraising activities to see if we can smash our £100 target!

Our younger girls are following a theme of 'Favourite Things'. The session on food was particularly popular involving messy fun with paint, making potato print pictures and then concocting (and eating!) a fruit salad. Each week's programme includes one of the parables Jesus told. Our numbers are rising, with a possible 2 new recruits attending on the first evening and another 5 on the second!

**On Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> October** we'll be at church for our annual enrolment service and parade.

**On Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> October**, we'll be holding a coffee morning at church from 10am–12pm to raise funds for our company. The girls will be baking during their sleepover the night before, so there'll be plenty of homemade treats to enjoy! We'd love to see lots of you there.

It's lovely to see the girls growing in confidence, making friends and having fun together and we're looking forward to a busy few months!

Amy & Nancy

## News from 2<sup>nd</sup> Alton Company



We look forward to joining everyone on **Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> October**, when the annual enrolment of our BB members takes place. This is an opportunity for the Leaders and the Boys to renew their promises, and for the congregation to confirm their ongoing support for the work of BB in this church – support for which we are hugely grateful.

## Anchors

It's been wonderful to welcome the boys back to Brigade. We had a great time the first week filling in our BB passport and discussing what the boys like about BB. One boy did say the leaders and they all agreed that they love making new friends at battalion events.

Last week we learned about peacefulness and how God gives us peace.



Lt Glenda Bentley (Officer in charge of the Anchors)



## Juniors

Juniors are now in full swing! They have been discovering mazes, and how God can help them to negotiate life's twists and turns. In another session, David Attenborough has been their inspiration, helping them to value and protect God's creation.

We're delighted that Rebekah and Franklyn, Ivan's parents, have agreed to join the BB staff team to look after the Juniors. They must complete some paperwork and undertake online safeguarding and risk assessment modules before their appointment can be confirmed, but we hope that this will be completed before our Enrolment Service. Young leaders Hannah and Harvey are also currently working with the Juniors and will continue to support Rebekah and Franklyn.

## Company and Seniors

Well, Summer Camp was indeed a great success, not least the achievement of summiting Eryri (or Snowdon, as you probably know it!). Other highlights included rock climbing, sea swimming, visiting Harlech Castle and worshipping at a welcoming church.

And now it's business as usual as we settle into a new session. 'Teamwork and Collaboration' was the theme one evening, with activities including working together to draw a pen through a maze – much harder than it would appear!

David Allan, Captain



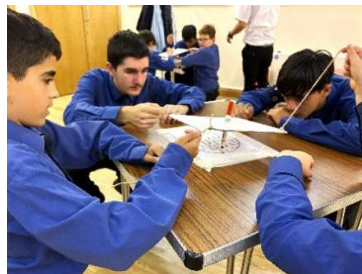
Near the summit of Snowdon



The official camp photo



Rock climbing



The Seniors tried their hand(s) at the maze too!

**Harvest & Harmony**

**SUNDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 12.30PM**

**at OLD PARK FARM BEECH GU34 4AP**

**Traditional Harvest 2 course lunch and pudding £5.00**

Please sign up by email or call Sarah to confirm attendance:

sarahneish65@gmail.com  
07761 933031

**A BENEFICE & GAP EVENT**

## Lunch Club

The next Lunch Club is on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> October at 12.30pm.

If you would like to book or cancel a place, please contact Emily Spencer on 07535 209537 or email: [annachaplainalton@gmail.com](mailto:annachaplainalton@gmail.com).



## HARD OF HEARING GROUP

### ALL SAINTS CHURCH HALL



Our Harvest Service in September was a joy as always – and an opportunity to appreciate that, despite the amazingly dry summer, we can be grateful that food has been produced and we have enough to eat. The service, led by Emily Spencer, Anna Chaplain, was followed by tea and biscuits allowing everyone the chance to socialise and have a chat.

**At our next meeting on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2pm**, we are looking forward to a return visit from Kim Boog from the Barn Owl and Bird of Prey Hospital. Kim will hopefully be bringing along a couple of her 'charges'. To see such amazing birds at close range is always a great privilege.

Our monthly meetings are geared to better allow those with a hearing impairment to meet and listen to talks and enjoy entertainment. We are currently attempting to decide on the 2027 programme, so any ideas would be greatly appreciated. We also of course run Lip Reading classes for those who wish to improve their ability to communicate with others.

If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact:- Annette Blackman 01420 543219 or email: [ablackman4@gmail.com](mailto:ablackman4@gmail.com)

**LIP READING** – a useful skill for those with a hearing loss.

Come and join us in All Saints Church Hall, Queens Road at 2pm on **Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> October** to learn some techniques and pick up some helpful tips, in a relaxed and friendly meeting.

You will be made most welcome!

For more information contact Kate 07811744843 (text only) or [kaddando@gmail.com](mailto:kaddando@gmail.com)

## Knitters Anonymous

At last, the news for which we have been waiting!! Our knitting which has been in store until contacts with the Chernobyl Ukrainian Charity, Helping Hands for Ukraine, reopened has now been added to the consignment of equipment, kitchen utensils, bedding and warm clothing which arrived in mid-September at the Ukrainian border ready to be distributed!! Thank you all for your patience and generosity! Finance will determine when the next consignment goes but meanwhile, please continue with your generous donations which, courtesy of Ann, we will store in readiness. All items are very useful, but the warm knitted/crochet blankets are especially welcome as the winter temperatures are very low.

All our stocks of Bliss – for the tiny prem babies, have also been collected in readiness for the next distribution to the Intensive Care Units that we support. We have been able to donate over an amazing five hundred separate items, which, with Christmas in mind, also included most welcomed Christmas Stockings and tiny teddy bears. Rest assured, all your donations, plus the very useful balls of wool, always find a welcome home! Thank you so much.

The next meeting of the group is in **All Saints Church Hall on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> October from 2pm until 3.30pm**. Why not come along, see what we do and have a chat over a cup of tea? You will be made most welcome!

For more info contact Kate 07811744843 (text only) or email: [kaddando@gmail.com](mailto:kaddando@gmail.com)

**Alton Open Sight** is a social club for those with a visual impairment. **The next meeting is on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> October at 2.30pm in All Saints Church Hall.** Jerry Janes is returning to tell us about his experiences in delivering aid to war-torn Ukraine.

We welcome anyone with visual impairment.

If you are interested please either email Sue at [AltonOpenSight@gmail.com](mailto:AltonOpenSight@gmail.com) or contact Open Sight via their website <https://opensight.org.uk> or telephone 02380 641244, during office hours.



ALTON CHORAL SOCIETY PRESENTS

# Music for an Autumn Afternoon

**SATURDAY 24 OCTOBER • 4 PM**  
**St Mary's Church, Bentworth**  
*In aid of St Mary's Music Fund and ACS*

PROGRAMME

**Karl Jenkins' "The Armed Man"**

**George Shearing's "Songs and Sonnets"**

*plus solo items*

Book via TicketSource or pay on the door



**TICKETS**

**£12**

Refreshments included

UNDER 16s FREE





ALTONCHORAL.ORG.UK

## Dates for your Diary

### OCTOBER

|          |                      |                                             |
|----------|----------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| Fri 2    | 10.00-12.00          | Macmillan Coffee Morning here               |
| Tues 6   | 12.00 noon<br>7.30pm | Prayers at Noon<br>Family Committee Meeting |
| Sat 10   | 10.00am→<br>2.00pm   | ALFI Harvest Event<br>CAMEO                 |
| Sun 11   | 12.30pm              | Harvest & Harmony at Old Park Farm          |
| Tues 13  | 12.30pm              | Lunch Club                                  |
| Thurs 29 | 10.00→               | Ladies @ Wetherspoons                       |
| Sat 31   | 10.00-12.00          | Girls' Brigade Coffee Morning               |

### NOVEMBER

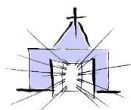
|        |             |                |
|--------|-------------|----------------|
| Sat 28 | 10.00-12.00 | Christmas Fair |
|--------|-------------|----------------|

### DECEMBER

|          |             |                                 |
|----------|-------------|---------------------------------|
| Thurs 10 | 2.00-4.00pm | Anna Chaplaincy Christmas Event |
|----------|-------------|---------------------------------|

Please look at articles in the Newsletter for more information.

The November issue of the Newsletter should be available from Sunday 25th October.



## Services in October 2026

|                               |                                                       |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Sunday 4<sup>th</sup></b>  | <b>27th Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>                   |
|                               | 10.00am Liz George & Mrs Karen Gomm                   |
| <b>Sunday 11<sup>th</sup></b> | <b>28th Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>                   |
|                               | 10.00am Rev David Wilson – Holy Communion             |
| <b>Sunday 18<sup>th</sup></b> | <b>29th Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>                   |
|                               | 10.00am Mr David Betts – <b>BB &amp; GB Enrolment</b> |
| <b>Sunday 25<sup>th</sup></b> | <b>30th Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>                   |
|                               | 10.00am The Stewards                                  |

### CONTACT US

**Church Office:** Email [altonmethodist@hotmail.com](mailto:altonmethodist@hotmail.com) (Tel 01420 82695)

The church office is not usually staffed. Emails will be picked up and passed on to the relevant person, but answerphone messages may be overlooked.

**For pastoral matters** during the interregnum, please contact Mrs Liz George via the church email address (above) or Tel 07703 648935.

For bookings, please contact Mrs Liz Strain via the church email address (above) or Tel 07828 934200.

**Anna Chaplain:** Mrs Emily Spencer

Tel: 07535 209537 Email: [annachaplainalton@gmail.com](mailto:annachaplainalton@gmail.com)

**Items for inclusion in the November issue of the "Newsletter"** should reach the editor, Nancy Buck, by noon **Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> October**.