Services in November 2026

Sunday 1st	**All Saints Day**	
	10.00am	Rev David Wilson - Communion
	4.00pm	Candles of Remembrance Service
Sunday 8th	**Remembrance Sunday**	
	10.00am	Mrs Liz George
Sunday 15th	**33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time**	
	10.00am	The Stewards
Sunday 22nd	**Reign of Christ**	
	10.00am	Rev Nick Oborski - Communion
Sunday 29th	**Advent Sunday**	
	10.00am	GAP Service here

CONTACT US

Church Office: Email 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 2098537 Email: annachaplainalton@gmail.com

Items for inclusion in the December issue of **the "Newsletter"** should reach the editor, Nancy Buck, by noon **Sunday 22nd November**.

Alton Methodist Church

NEWSLETTER

November 2026



kirsty pargeter, Getty Images

There is a time for everything and a season for every activity under heaven:

A time for war and a time for peace.

Ecclesiastes 3: 1,8

Remembrance Sunday

8th November

Lay Minister: Mrs. Liz George

Tel: 07703 648935

Church website: www.altonmethodist.org.uk

Circuit website: bvmcircuit.org



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

Dear friends,

As November approaches, our thoughts naturally turn to the theme of remembrance. Many of us are instantly reminded of the old rhyme: *"Remember, remember the fifth of November; gunpowder, treason, and plot."* For me it brings back childhood memories of eating jacket potatoes around a garden bonfire, watching the vibrant colours of Roman candles, and enjoying the fizz and sparkle of Catherine wheels. (Personally, I was never a fan of the ones that went bang!)

Of course, back then I had no real understanding of who Guy Fawkes was, nor the tragic history of religious and political divisions surrounding him. While that specific plot failed centuries ago, the sad reality is that many people across the globe today still experience the devastating effects of conflict fuelled by political and religious tensions.

As a church community, we are gathering this month to look back with gratitude, remember those we love, and pray for a more peaceful world. We warmly invite you to join us for two deeply meaningful services:

Candles of Remembrance Service (Sunday, 1st November 4pm)



Held this year on All Saints' Day, this reflective service will feature music, hymns, readings, and poetry. There will be an opportunity for everyone to light a candle in thankful memory of a loved one. All Saints' Day is a powerful reminder of the ultimate hope we hold in Christ. As the Apostle Peter beautifully writes:

Dates for your Diary

October		
Sat 31	10.00-12.00	GB Coffee Morning
November		
Sun 1	4.00pm	Candles of Remembrance
Tues 10	12.30pm	Lunch Club
Sat 14	2.00pm	CAMEO
Fri 20	10.30am	Men's Walking Church
Wed 25	2.30pm	Celtish Concerts at St Lawrence
	7.00pm	
Thurs 26	10.00-12.00	Ladies @ Wetherspoons
Sat 28	10.00-12.00	Christmas Fair
December		
Sat 5	7.00pm	Wonder of Christmas Concert at Alton Maltings
Thurs 10	2.00-4.00pm	Anna Chaplaincy Christmas Event

Please look at articles in the Newsletter for more information.

The December issue of the Newsletter should be available from Sunday 29th November.





I would like to thank everyone who has sent or spoken messages of condolence on the death of my mother, Isabel Witham, and to thank the church for the lovely flowers.

Nancy Buck

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade."

Services of Remembrance (Sunday 8th November)

We will hold a Remembrance service at 10am at our church. There is also the opportunity to join the young people of our Brigades and the wider town community at the service at the Cairn at 10.45. This is a time to give thanks for those who serve and have served in our Armed Forces. It is also a moment to honestly recall the terrible tragedy and immense human cost of war, as we pray earnestly together for a just and lasting peace.

Whether you are seeking comfort in a time of personal loss or wishing to stand with others in prayer for our world, our doors are open to you.

With every blessing,

Liz George

Lay Minister

Church Family News



A number of our friends are currently in hospital at this time - we are thinking of you and wishing you well.

We send our love and prayers to Nancy Buck and her family as **Isabel Witham**, her mother has died. We so enjoyed seeing Isabel in church until recently. A service of thanksgiving will be held at the United Church in Winchester, where she worshipped for many years, on Friday 30th October at 2.30 pm. All are welcome to attend the service and join the family for refreshments in the church hall afterwards. The service will also be streamed – see the United Church website www.ucw.org.uk for the link.

Ladies @ Wetherspoons



We will be getting together for a chat and a coffee on **Thursday 26th November**, any time between 10am and 12. Look forward to seeing you then.

MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT

A thank you to all who supported the recent Macmillan coffee morning. A cheque for £200 has been sent to help with the wonderful work they do.

Jennie Marlow

Christmas Fair



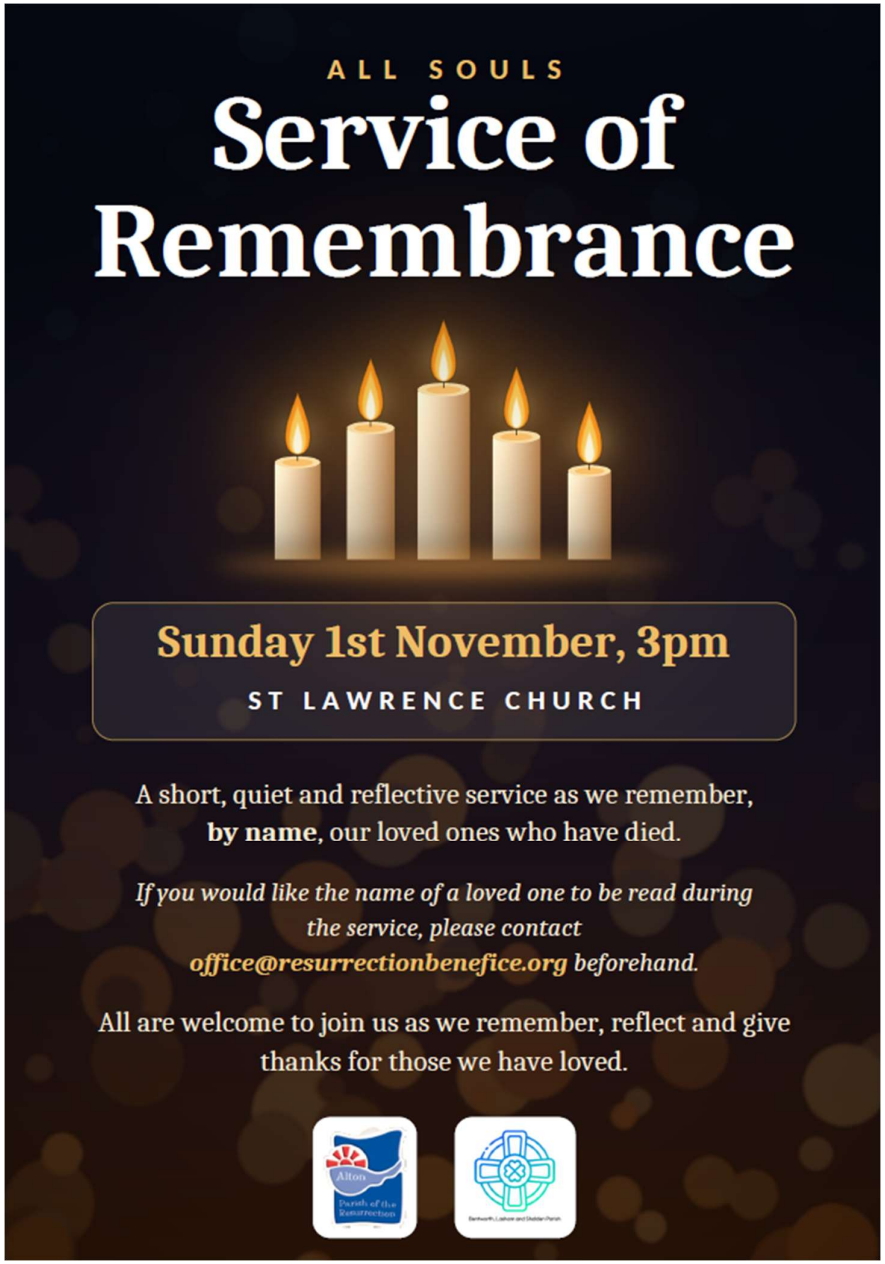
Saturday 28th November, 10 am-12 noon

Don't miss our Christmas Fair on Saturday 28th November! The following selection of stalls are planned and donations of goods to sell would be welcome:-

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

In addition, **Judy Nicholls and her team in the Café** will be there to refresh all weary shoppers and the BB will be running a Games Zone in the hall.

The Brigades have collected enough jars for their tombola and would appreciate donations of items to fill them. Please see Glenda, Nancy or Gill Thorne on a Sunday morning.





Christine Allan would appreciate some more baskets and items to fill them. Also, would someone like to make sweets/crackers etc to fill up the stall? Christine is happy to help with attractive packaging.

We have space for another stall – would anyone like to man an accessories stall with scarves, jewellery and bags? Or have another idea?

Please bring items for sale on Friday 27th November from 9.30pm to 10.00pm (after Boys' Brigade) **or on Saturday 28th November from 9.00am to 10.00am.** If you would like to have items collected in advance, please contact the stall holder or Nancy.

Volunteers to help with stalls or 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)

Smile Train

To kick start our fund-raising for this year's chosen church charity we welcomed Bronwen Maggs from The Smile Train to our service on 11th October where she gave us an introduction into the wonderful work they do to improve the lives of people born with clefts, offering free treatment to children and adults.

Her talk included slides showing some smiling faces of children and a father and son, who had been operated on and helped by the charity.

Bronwen also emphasised their policy of training local medics and support staff to continue The Smile Train's work, in their own geographical areas, so that they can become medically independent and provide the treatments and follow on care, themselves.

We look forward to raising funds together to support this important global work. *Anna Mitchell*



Alton Open Sight is a social club for those with a visual impairment. It meets on the 3rd Monday of the month at All Saints Church Hall at 2.30pm.

At our November 16th meeting we will be getting in the mood for Christmas as the ever-popular touring group "Chapter and Verse" will be entertaining us with a series of seasonal sketches and poems.

The meetings also provide an opportunity to make new friends over an afternoon tea (which, this time, will have a Christmas theme) with a chance to share information on coping with sight loss.

There will be no meeting in December as, instead, we shall be enjoying our annual Christmas dinner at The French Horn earlier in the month.

We welcome anyone with a visual impairment. If you are interested please either email Sue at AltonOpenSight@gmail.com or contact Open Sight via their website https://opensight.org.uk or telephone 02380 641244, during office hours.

Wonder of Christmas Concert

Saturday 5th December, 7pm at Alton Maltings

Do come and join us for this popular seasonal event of Christmas music and carols in aid of local charity Home Start, brought to you by Alton Concert Band, Alton Choral Society and Ancora. Entrance is free, but by ticket only, with opportunities to donate to Home Start on the evening. The online booking site will open at noon on 5th November. See the posters or www.altonchoral.org.uk from 5th November for the booking link to Eventbrite. If you can't use online booking, please phone Nancy on 01420 85994 after 5th November. The event is usually over-subscribed, so don't leave it too late to book!

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

Knitters Anonymous



Hand-made with love

Christmas is coming and BLISS, the charity for babies born too small and too soon is already preparing! All of our hospitals will be phoned in November and the aim is to start packing the Christmas donations by 30th November, but before that there will be Stuffing Sessions when a Ted/Toy plus BLISS contact card is put into each Stocking, so please hand in your donated Stockings, Teds/Toys and Red Hats by **Tuesday 15th November** and blankets and everything else by t**he end of November!** But don't worry; any Christmas Knitting received in December isn't too late as it will be carefully stored ready for 2027.

Thank you to all of you who continue to support this charity with such beautiful donations. We are now also collecting and storing your donations ready to add to the next delivery to the Ukraine which will go, hopefully before Christmas too. The warm colourful blankets along with other donated knits are most welcome as the winter temperatures drop. We rarely receive adult mittens or gloves so if they are your speciality they will be most gratefully received!

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 17th November 2pm in All Saints Church Hall, with the meeting in December (15th) yet to be confirmed. Thank you all for your continued support especially that of our anonymous donors who continue to leave bags of Knits and wool in the box in All Saints Church.

For more information contact Kate 07811 744843 (text only) or email kaddando@gmail.com

CAMEO NEWS

In October, Anna Mitchell gave a very interesting and thought-provoking talk on the work of the local charity with which she is involved. "Fresh Start" counsels and supports those who wish to free themselves from harmful addictions. Thank you, Anna.

Our November meeting, on Saturday 14th, is our annual Christmas Shopping Afternoon when members will be able to buy small gifts whilst also enjoying tea and cake! Ann Foulkes and Sue Dell from the local charity HomeStart will be on hand with a selection of new items at very reasonable prices. All profits will go to the charity.

Judy Nicholls

Alton Foodbank
Together with Trussell

Harvest donations

Sian Mills, Project Manager, Alton Foodbank has asked us to please pass on thanks to all at Alton Methodist Church for their wonderful Harvest collection.

We collected 64kg of food, which equates to feeding 10 people for a week.

Thank you.

Lunch Club



Our next Lunch Club meal will be on Tuesday 10th November at 12.30pm.

Emily Spencer, our Anna Chaplain, is handling the bookings. Please contact her if you would like to attend and are not already booked in.

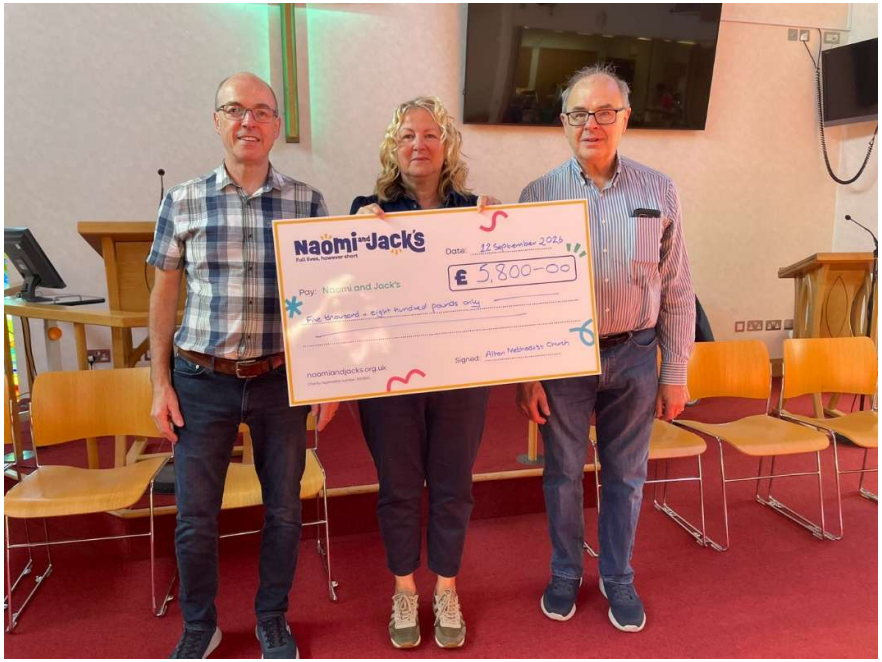
If you find you cannot attend, please let Emily know so someone else may take your place.

Contact Emily by phone on 07535 209537 or by email to annachaplainalton@gmail.com.

Alton Methodist Fundraising for Naomi and Jack's

It has been a busy and successful year at Alton Methodist Church in fundraising for Naomi and Jack's, which is a local independent charity that provides expert care for seriously ill babies, children and young adults in their hospice near Winchester.

With weekly coffee mornings, coffee collections each Sunday, and with special events including those run by the Boys Brigade and Girls Brigade and our annual Gift Day, we have raised £5800 for the charity.



Karen Sanderson from Naomi and Jack's came along to our coffee morning on 22nd September to accept the donation from Graham Titterington (Treasurer, right) and Alan Robb (Steward, left).

Hard of Hearing Group

At All Saints Church Hall

At our meeting in October we welcomed Kim Boog from the Barn Owl and Bird of Prey Hospital. Kim brought along a couple of her 'charges'. To see such amazing birds at close range is always a great privilege.

I hate to mention the word but our **meeting on 24th November at 2.00pm** will be the pre –Christmas event! It is likely that some scrumptious food will be eaten (thanks in anticipation to Sarah Neish) and some carols will be sung (thanks in anticipation to Robin Kemp and his band of musicians!)

Our monthly meetings are geared to better allow those with a hearing impairment to meet and listen to talks and enjoy entertainment. The planning process for 2027 is slow ! – so if anyone has any bright ideas with regard to recommendations for talks or music, please do let me know! 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@googlemail.com

Lip Reading



Our next session is on Tuesday 3rd November, 2pm

Please note there is no session in December.

Sessions start again on Tuesday 5th January 2027 from 2pm to 3pm in All Saints Church Hall, Queens Road, Alton .

If you have problems with hearing in busy, noisy places why not make it your New Years Resolution to learn some techniques and pick up some helpful tips, in our relaxed and friendly meetings? You will be made most welcome!

Girls' Brigade News

Thank you to all the parents and members of the congregation who supported us at our Enrolment service on 18th October. It was good to see a packed church.

We will be holding a Coffee Morning on Saturday 31st October, from 10am to 12 noon. The older girls are having a baking session the night before and will be serving you in the morning. There will also be craft items on sale, most made from redundant uniform! This is to raise money for company funds.

The Girls' Brigade has had several uniform changes – some more like adjustments - over the last few years. We are pleased with the present version – all girls will be wearing the same colour of polo shirts and the same sweatshirts – though we will miss the distinctive red shirts for the youngest girls. In future it will be more economic. Unfortunately, at present, we have limited scope for handing down used uniform and the company has been subsidising the cost of new uniform to the girls. Even the subsidised price of £15 per polo shirt or sweatshirt seems a lot to ask stretched parents to pay.

We will be running a jar tombola at the Christmas Fair – all funds raised to go to the church. We have enough jars, but would be grateful for small items to put in them – toiletries, hair ornaments, toys, sweets, etc. Please see Nancy, Glenda or Gill Thorne on a Sunday morning.

The n:vestigate girls had an owl craft evening to finish off the half-term and the older girls have been making items for sale from old uniform in addition to their badge work.

Nancy Buck

Guidance for Changes to Telephone Services

The copper-based phone & ADSL broadband network will be switched off by Jan 2027. After this all calls will be Voice over IP (VOIP) over the internet, not the older style phones. The general advice is:

1. Check Your Services: It affects phones, telecare/personal alarms, intruder/security alarms, fax machines, ADSL (not fibre) broadband

- **Your Provider** should contact you before migrating your service. This might be by email so don't ignore them. You can contact them to understand their timeline.
- **Report Vulnerabilities:** If you are vulnerable or have a telecare device, inform your provider to get a supported and specialized migration.

2. How to Make the Switch

- **Upgrade to Fibre:** If using copper broadband, upgrade to a full-fibre (FTTP) connection.
- **Plug into Router:** Many existing phones will work by plugging into a new broadband router instead of the old wall socket. If it doesn't work (too old) you may need an adapter, a new phone or a mobile.

3. Key Risks and Considerations

- **No Landline in a Power Cut:** Unlike copper landlines, VoIP relies on your electricity. In a power cut, your phone will not work unless you have a battery backup for your router. This can be mitigated if you have a mobile phone.
- **Scam Alert:** If you get a call asking for money to upgrade, hang up and call your provider directly.

4. Preparing for the Deadline

- **Don't Rush, But Prepare:** While the deadline is end January 2027, the "stop sell" (a ban on selling new copper services) is already in place, and many areas are being upgraded now.

Check Availability: Check your area's fibre availability – online or via your provider.

2nd Alton Company

It was great to have your support at the Enrolment Service on Sunday 18th October, when David Betts led the proceedings – it's certainly the first time I can remember a bubble machine in use during a service! After half-term, we resume on 3rd November for the run up to Christmas.

Anchors

This term at Boys' Brigade we have covered a range of things! From Jonah and the whale to becoming secret agents and supporting the Young Minds charity with Hello Yellow day! We've focused on all the things that make us good, and how we can leave good in the world, from asking people to be friends, to helping clean up, we learnt to be kind, be friendly and "love one another as I have loved you".





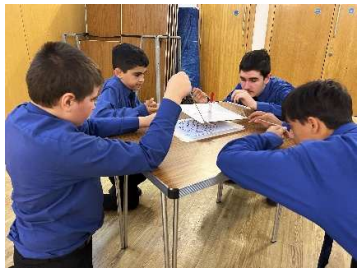
Juniors

Rebekah, Franklyn, Hannah and Harvey are now fully "in harness" leading Juniors, who have recently enjoyed learning about The Whole Armour of God and designing their own armour using a range of cut-out images.

Company and Seniors

It has been business as usual . . . well, not exactly as usual. There has been a Curry Evening, when Onion Bhajis were duly made and eaten, and a variety of spices were sniffed in a scent identifying competition! The boys have also built lighthouse towers using just a couple of plastic cups, some paper and sticky tape, which were then judged for height and their ability to withstand a strong wind (aka the church fan heater!). Teamwork was a focus one evening, with boys having to work together to complete various challenges. Orienteering has taken place twice, firstly on Shortheath Common, and next in the Battalion Competition in Lightwater Country Park, where our team of Kyle, Mark and Jonathan gained a third-place certificate. After the half-term break, the winter Interest Classes will start – watch this space.

David Allan (Captain)



Teamwork in action



An orienteering control



Glenda would like to say 'Thank You for the beautiful flowers, prayers and messages I have received recently while I have been unwell and having investigations'.