

Alton Methodist Church

NEWSLETTER

July/August 2022

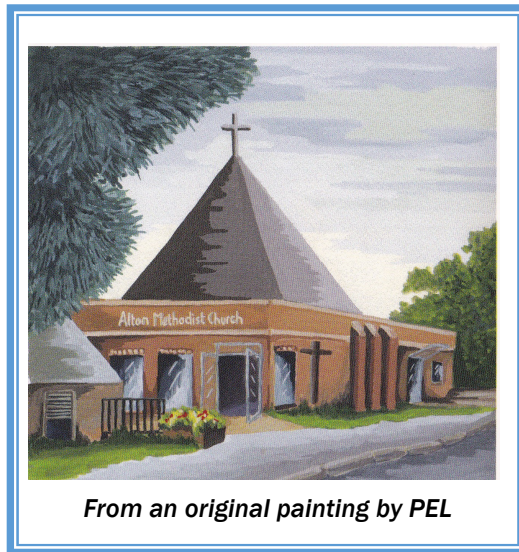


1846 - 2022

Alton Methodist
Church

Anniversary Weekend

16th-17th July



From an original painting by PEL

Minister: Rev. Philip Simpkins

Tel: 01420 83167

Church website www.altonmethodist.org.uk

Circuit website www.hsbccircuit.org.uk



Dear Friends,

This month we celebrate our Church Anniversary (July 17th).

We can look back and give thanks for those who bravely shared the Christian message in and around Alton in the early 19th century.

One travelling Primitive Methodist preacher Miss Elizabeth Smith endured relative persecution; *At one place a number of young men strung rats to a stick which they dangled before her face as she preached but this did not stop her delivering her message, for closing her eyes, she spoke with even greater earnestness and effect.*

Several attempts were made to start a Methodist presence within this 'very dark part of the country' without much success. Rev. Isaac Harding made a visit from Guildford in 1840 and preached in the Market Square – but he was stoned out of town!

It was not until 1842 that a young probationer minister began to reap rewards for his labour and the following year two services were established every Sunday, meeting in various places from a cottage to a hop kiln. A good site for a Chapel was eventually acquired in August 1845 along the High Street.

We also remember those who have worked so hard in more recent years to develop our present building and make it an inviting, attractive and practical place to be church.

So, take a moment to look back and give thanks for those whose faith, commitment, generosity, and perseverance have gone before us.

Church Anniversary is also a time to be thankful for the present. We are grateful that following Covid and lockdowns that we can meet and gather together once more.

It is an occasion to appreciate those who give so much of their time, their energy, and their gifts to provide so many opportunities for us to meet together and support one another.

We are grateful for those who lead worship, facilitate services, run coffee mornings, and support the likes of Foodbank, Contact Centre, CAP etc. We can be thankful for the huge amount of commitment and planning that goes into running Girls' and Boys' Brigades as well as DofE & Messy Church. We appreciate those who run the house group and many who support one another as Church Family Visitors. And it is great that a good number of our congregation are involved in the community, for example working on the Town Council.

So, as we go into the future, let us continue the good work, always open to the direction God might be leading and faithfully living out our calling to be followers of Christ.

As Methodist members we commit ourselves to worship, learning and caring, service and evangelism seeking to be a blessing both within and beyond God's church.



Lord, for the years your love has
kept and guided,
urged and inspired us, cheered us
on our way,
sought us and saved us, pardoned
and provided:
Lord of the years, we bring our
thanks today.

Every blessing,

Philip

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



Church Anniversary Annual Gift Day

Saturday July 16th 10-12noon Coffee Morning

Sunday July 17th 10am Anniversary Service led by Mr Phil Smith



The coffee morning provides an opportunity to come together, enjoy conversation and if you so wish, to offer a special gift donation towards the life of the church. This can be given at either event over the weekend.

75% of the monies donated will go to the general running of our church and 25% will be given to support the work of the Anna Chaplaincy.

Thank you for your continued friendship and amazing generosity!

Alton Church Council

Tuesday 12th July 2022 at 7.30pm

We look forward to meeting to discuss the life of the church, oversee the stewardship of our resources and enjoy conversation together.

Greater Alton Project (GAP) Service & Picnic

Sunday 14th August at 10.30am

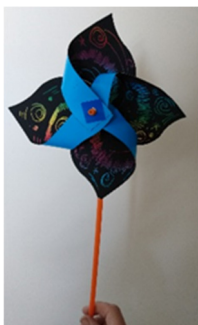
Bring and Share picnic at the Church of the Holyrood, Holyborne

Everyone Welcome

This is in place of our service at the Methodist Church

Messy Church

We are grateful to all who helped set up and run Messy Church during June. With the theme of Pentecost in mind we began with Parachute Games, feeling the wind around our faces, and then moved on to re-live the story of the Holy Spirit coming upon the disciples on what proved to be the birthday of the church.



Children and parents then seemed to enjoy the many different crafts on offer from painting the 'big picture', to baking pizza's, making kites and windmills as well as enjoying the playdough!

Refreshments were served with plenty of fruit, biscuits and cake on offer.



We look forward to the next Messy Church which will be on Saturday the 9th July (second Saturday) 10-12noon.

There will be no Messy Church in August.

Circuit Service of Welcome for Rev Anne Day

our new minister appointed to the Hants Surrey Border Methodist Circuit

Sunday September 11th at 4pm

North Camp Methodist Church

Everyone welcome

Stay and Play

At Alton Methodist Church

Wednesdays

10am to 11:30am

Adults with Children 0-4yrs



Stay and play continues to be very popular and we are always pleased to welcome new families into the group. You will be made very welcome! We have between 14 & 20 parent/carers + children attending each week.

It has been lovely to welcome families into our church building over the last year and we look forward to commencing our 2nd year of Stay and Play in September.

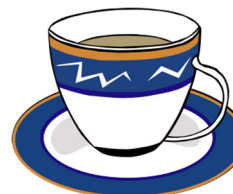
The last session of Stay and Play this term will be Wed 20th July and we will commence again on Wednesday 7th September.

Angela & Liz

Afternoon tea at the manse garden

in aid of Parkinsons UK

On **Thursday 7th July from 2.30pm – 4.30pm** I am holding an afternoon tea in aid of Parkinsons UK.



Please come and enjoy a natter with friends over a cuppa and cake and support this special charity.

Thank you, Angela

Lunch Club

The next lunch club, on 12th July, is the last for the summer.

We do not meet in August and the next meeting will be September 13th.

Have a good holiday!

Christine Allan 84739

CAMEO News

CAMEO Meetings through summer:

Saturday 23rd July and 20th August, 2pm at church.

(The June meeting was too late in the month to report on here!)

Judy Nicholls

Family News

We send our love to **Graham Thomas** as he recovers following an operation and pray for strength for Delia as she helps him along.

Kate Powell, our Anna Chaplain, has been working hard getting to know the older members of the GAP congregations and setting up groups in care homes.

ABC – Alton Bereavement Cafe

This drop in cafe has got off the ground and is open on 1st and 3rd Thursday afternoons from 2 - 4pm in our church hall.

It is also happening at The Maltings on 2nd and 4th Monday evenings, 7.30 – 9.30pm.

It is for anyone who would like the opportunity to talk about their bereavement or maybe prefer to come and be part of a group and enjoy a cuppa and biscuits.

For more information, please speak to Jennie Marlow.



Ladies @ Wetherspoons

We'll meet again on Thursday 28th July and 25th August. We enjoy a coffee, a chat and a chuckle! Do join us if you are able.



Church Bible Study

We will be meeting on 5th and 19th July and continuing our look at the Sermon on the Mount. Then we'll be taking a break during August and if there is still a desire to continue will start again in September.

Anna Chaplaincy Update

I have been very busy attending a variety of different groups, visiting people at home and leading services in the care and residential homes around Alton. Since the covid restrictions have eased, we have been asked to go into 10 of the care and residential homes. We are sharing these services between The Parish of the Resurrection, The Methodist Church, The Harvest Church and The Butts which demonstrates the united church fellowship in Alton.

I am also delighted to announce that the Anna Chaplaincy Team is growing. I am being supported by 10 amazing Anna Friends and, between us, we hope to be alongside many older people as they face the joys and challenges that life brings.

On the facing page is a photo of a jubilee service I led at The Lawn in Holybourne which includes two residents, two Anna Friends and one very special guest. Can you spot her?!

Kate Powell

Anna Chaplain Alton

Lighthouse

In our June meetings we looked first at the story of Esther, 'The Beauty Queen', and how she looked to God for courage when she was asked to act to save her people. In the second session we heard the story of Job (greatly abridged!) and thought about being a good friend and trusting in God when times are difficult.

Our Lighthouse group for children usually meets during the morning service on the first and third Sundays of the month. In July the dates are **Sunday 3rd July** and **Sunday 17th July**. New children are always welcome.

At present, we do not plan to meet in August.



Nancy Buck



*Jubilee service at
the Lawn.*

2nd Alton Company



Junior Section

The Junior section and Anchor boys meet together through the summer period. So far they have walked around Kings Pond spotting birds and plants, played games in the park and spent a messy evening doing craft at the church. Still to come are a movie night with invites given out so that the youngsters can bring a friend, a baking evening and a trip to the Rural Life Living Museum.

This last weekend saw us take part in the Battalion sports day. Whilst the boys made some admirable efforts, the highlights being a third place in the relay and the 400m, we did not feature in the podium results.

But as you can read elsewhere, these efforts combined with all the other efforts throughout the year, helped the company achieve third place in the Battalion trophy, which is very good. Well done boys.

The Anchor boys are a group for 5 to 8 year olds (school year 1-3) and the junior section is for boys aged 8 to 11 (years 4-6). If you know any boys in these age groups that are looking for fun, interesting church based activities and learning...send them our way!

Pete Burgess (Captain)

Company Section

The Company is now into its Summer Programme of activities with the boys meeting on Friday evenings but with BB uniform not needed. So far we have enjoyed playing some games in the evening sunshine at The Butts, playing Laser Quest in Woking and playing some wide games down on Shortheath Common on a very warm evening.

On Saturday 18th June, we took a minibus of boys to the Guildford Spectrum athletics stadium for our Battalion Sports Day. Fearing a day of energy-sapping heat in the bowl that is the athletics track, instead the boys experienced warm, overcast conditions with frequent light showers and a chilly breeze at times, which for sporting purposes was preferable. This was the

first such event since 2019, it was great to meet up with other Companies of the Battalion to compete in track, field and novelty events. Boys from all four sections of our Company took part: Anchors, Juniors, Company and Seniors. A highlight was one of our boys winning the Company Section 1500 metres, doing so by some margin. We also achieved a magnificent Third Place finish in the Company 4 x 100m relay, for which we had to draft in one of the younger Junior boys to run the final leg to make up our team. Overall, our Company finished third in the Sports Day standings.

The points awarded for the Sports Day were added to the ongoing Battalion Trophy tallies to produce the final result for that annual competition. Our Company finished in a creditable Third Place, with the Fleet Company being this year's winners.

In the coming weeks the Summer Programme continues with a trip to the Coral Reef leisure swimming pool in Bracknell, a behind-the-scenes visit to Alton Sainsbury's, an evening learning about some Bushcraft techniques and a trip to the High Score Arcade in Farnborough to play on old school Space Invader machines. Our final meeting, for which we hope for good weather, is a walk from Lasham back to Alton, followed by a barbeque.

I think it worth acknowledging the considerable commitment made by our leaders in running our activities throughout the year, and particularly during the summer programme when they often provide transport for boys to and from activities away from the church. Some must also suffer the indignity of being ambushed by boys during Laser Quest battles.

From late July until September there will be a break in our meetings during the school summer holidays. However, some of our boys and leaders will be participating in a joint summer camp with the 1st Woodley Company, under canvas for a week in mid-August at Southend in Essex.

We ask for your prayers of support in all our endeavours, and especially for a successful and enjoyable summer camping experience. In turn, we pray the Lord's blessings for you during the summer months wherever and however you may be spending this time. As always we pray that all we do for and with the boys meets with the approval of our Lord Jesus Christ, whom we seek to serve. Amen.

Lt. Rolfe Bridson

Girls' Brigade News

In the last month we have held our first Camp in two years. As our numbers are down, rather than going further afield, we held it at our Church in Alton.

On the Monday we arrived at Church with 6 girls, had our lunch and unpacked. In the afternoon we painted pottery mugs from Dolly Pots with coloured glazes. The wealth of artistic abilities revealed was astounding! Most designs were either animal or Jubilee related and have since been fired and they look wonderful as you can see. Then it was off on a brisk walk round Kings Pond between showers to work up an appetite for Gill's scrumptious dinner.



Three extra girls joined us for the day on Tuesday and the highlight of Camp – a trip to Alice Holt Forest including Go-Ape!

We parked up at our booked shelter and set off for a walk through the forest, navigating from one play feature to another. We took shelter under the trees during a shower and took the opportunity to look for a stick as long as a finger, a leaf as long as a thumb-joint and an unexpected item. By the time we returned to our shelter for a picnic lunch the sun was shining again and a host of jackets were hung out to dry.



During lunch anticipation was rising about the afternoon's challenge of Go-Ape, with some nerves too. However, the instructor was an expert at allaying fears with her demonstration of how safe the girls would be, attached by harness to an overhead wire at all times, and all girls set off on the aerial course through the tree canopy in high spirits. It was wonderful to see the increasing confidence of the girls as they made their way over swaying rope

bridges between the trees. But then the rain came on again, then thunder and even some lightening, so the order went out to exit the course. At the time it was quite a challenge for those a long way from the exit to keep their nerve, but they'll all have quite a tale to tell – and no exaggeration needed!



During our Camp we used the devotions from Girls' Brigade who have been working with HOPE Together, Boys' Brigade, the Church of England, Pais, Youth for Christ, Youthscape, The Message, and Prayer Spaces In Schools to put together a great range of resources for in uniformed organisations, schools, and youth organisations.

On Wednesday we had a morning of craft, devotions and awards where everyone received a medal & GB 2022 Platinum Jubilee Badge. A lovely time was had by all and it was good to have a bite-sized Camp nearer to home. So where are we going next year.....watch this space !

Kym Burgess & Nancy Buck



Young Venturers look forward to joining the congregation on **Sunday 10th July** when they will receive their certificates.

During July and August the DofE groups will be expeditioning in the Brecon Beacons, the Peak District and South-West Scotland.

David Allan



Online Services

Ever since Covid struck and lockdown occurred in March 2020 a small team have produced online services which we know from anecdotal evidence have been watched and enjoyed from many places around the country and beyond - people from the Isle of Wight, Devon, Lincolnshire and beyond! Viewer numbers during the pandemic were often up to 150-250 with those not usually attending church telling us they were watching.

The production of such services was a steep learning curve in the early days and to film, edit and produce recorded worship in its present style still takes a day/half a day – on top of the preparation of materials – and all recorded on a mobile phone!

For the last few months, we have produced a circuit wide service reliant on the skills of Julie Clarke from Fleet to produce and edit 50% of our services. Julie is leaving us to be trained as a Methodist Minister in the summer.

We are especially indebted to Liz George who has also played a huge part in the leading, production and editing of our online services to a very high standard. Others have also learnt the skills – like Pam Jones and Liam Sheridan.

During July and August, we have decided to take a break recognising that some of our folk continue to watch the service (about 20-30 views each week). We will re-evaluate for the autumn months and perhaps explore different options for having an online presence and enabling those less able to join in person and continue to feel a valued part of our worship – so look out for that!

So, a huge thank you to everyone who has taken part... and may you have a well-earned rest!

Philip

GAP Summer Holiday Club Activity for Children

Volunteers to help requested!

Martha, the Children and Youth Worker at the Parish of the Resurrection, is aiming to lead a holiday club for children aged 4-11year olds on a Thursday each week during August 10am to 2pm in the grounds of St Lawrence Church (using marquees and the outdoor space, etc)

Martha would love for us to join with her in helping in any way to run the children's programme either 10-3pm or 10-12 and then 12-3pm on each or any of the Thursdays Aug 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th.

If you can help with crafts, refreshments, games etc, please sign up or let Martha or Philip know as soon as you can. The number of helpers will determine how many children we can invite to sign up.

martha@potr-alton.co.uk

Many thanks

Philip

A Night at the Opera

A selection of operatic music sung by Alton Choral Society and soloists

In Aid of Naomi House

Saturday 2nd July, 7.30pm

Alton Methodist Church

Tickets £10 (adult) £5 (children <17) from Alton Secondhand Books,
43 Normandy Street GU34 1DQ Tel 01420 89352 (Tues-Sat, 10-5) .

Also from Debby at the Tuesday Coffee Morning

www.altonchoral.org.uk



Dementia-friendly Alton



Tuesday 2nd August, 2.00pm

All Saints Church

Forget-me-not Service

to remember and support families

led by

Rev Wendy Burnham

and afterwards, at 2.45pm approx. in the Church Hall
join us for a

Fundraising Afternoon Tea,

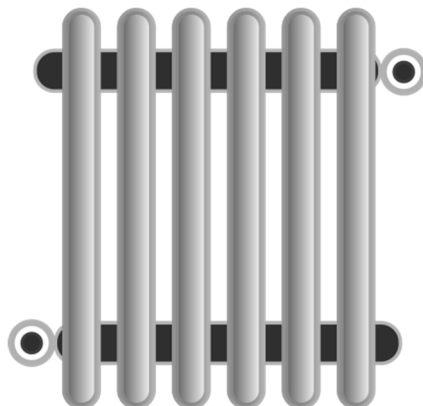
Music & Grand Raffle

ALL WELCOME

Eco Corner - Electric heating

I am on a 'green' energy tariff, so I can feel good about that. However, my house is all electric and even before the major price rises, the electric heating costs were much higher than they would have been with gas, so I don't feel too good about that.

I had a smart meter installed so that I could keep an eye on electricity use and costs.



Nationally, only 3% of people have only electric heating. However, as with a number of Alton residents, I live in a retirement development with Night Storage Heaters on an 'Economy 7' tariff. With an eye on electricity costs, I replaced the old inefficient storage heaters with higher efficiency modern ones which do not leak much heat over night and retain enough heat to keep me warm in the evenings.

My house switches over to the night rate of Economy 7 from midnight to 7 am and my heaters are timed to charge themselves up during the same period. My Smart Meter display sets itself to zero at midnight so when I read it at 8 o'clock in the morning it tells me how much I have paid for the stored heat that day. In the winter, the heating cost exceeds the cost of electricity used during the rest of the day by about eight times. The effect of reducing the number of heaters switched on, or lowering of temperature settings, is very obvious from the changes in the Smart Meter reading each morning.

Cooking is the biggest element in daytime cost. Kettles, toasters and ovens are heavy users of electricity. Microwave ovens use far less energy than conventional ovens and induction hobs are probably more efficient than conventional electric hobs. (They are also much easier to keep clean!)

Keen 'Masterchefs' will hate me for saying this, but microwaved food will save you energy. Only boiling the water you need, rather than a full kettle can also help.

Nigel Hughes

Services in August

Sunday 7th	19th Sunday in Ordinary Time 10.00am Rev Gordon Randall
Sunday 14th	20th Sunday in Ordinary Time <u>10.30am</u> GAP Service & Picnic at Holybourne
Sunday 21st	21st Sunday in Ordinary Time 10.00am Mrs Liz George
Sunday 28th	22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time 10.00am Rev Philip Simpkins - Holy Communion

The Spire Church, Farnham

**Is seeking to recruit a
Children's and Families' Worker (part-time)**

Closing date for applications 12 midday Friday 15th July 2022.

Interviews tbc

Start date to be mutually agreed, but as soon as possible after
1st September 2022

Further information on our website: www.spirechurchfarnham.org.uk

Or email: michael@spirechurchfarnham.org.uk

Or telephone: 07716 409350

Dates for your Diary

JULY

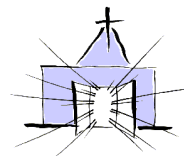
Sat 2	7.30pm	'A Night at the Opera' concert
Tues 5	2.30pm	Church Bible Study
Thurs 7	2pm-4pm	Alton Bereavement Café
	2.30-4.30pm	<i>Afternoon Tea in the Manse Garden</i>
Sat 9	10:00-12:00	Messy Church
Tues 12	12.30pm	Lunch Club
	7.30pm	Church Council
Sat 17	10:00-12:00	Anniversary Coffee Morning & Gift Day
Tues 19	2.30pm	Church Bible Study
Wed 20		Stay & Play (last session until 7 Sept)
Thurs 21	2pm-4pm	Alton Bereavement Café
Thurs 28	10am→	<i>Ladies @ Wetherspoons</i>
	7.45pm	Church Family Committee
Sat 23	2pm	CAMEO

AUGUST

Tues 2	2pm	<i>Forget-me-not Service at All Saints Ch.</i>
Thurs 4, 11, 18	10am-2pm	<i>GAP Holiday Club at St Lawrence</i>
Sat 20	2pm	CAMEO
Thurs 25	10am-2pm	<i>GAP Holiday Club at St Lawrence</i>
	10am→	<i>Ladies @ Wetherspoons</i>

Please look at articles in the Newsletter giving more information.

The September issue of the Newsletter should be available from Sunday 28th August.



Services at Alton in July 2022

Sunday 3rd	14th Sunday in Ordinary Time
	10.00am Mrs Jennie Marlow (Lighthouse)
Sunday 10th	15th Sunday in Ordinary Time
	10.00am Rev Philip Simpkins (Presentation of YV certificates)
Sunday 17th	16th Sunday in Ordinary Time
	10.00am Mr Phil Smith - Church Anniversary (Lighthouse)
Sunday 24th	17th Sunday in Ordinary Time
	10.00am Mrs Liz George
Sunday 31st	18th Sunday in Ordinary Time
	10.00am Rev Philip Simpkins - Holy Communion

For Services in August, please see page 18.

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, please phone or email Rev Philip Simpkins.

Tel: 01420 83167 Email: philip.simpkins@methodist.org.uk

For administrative matters, including bookings, please contact Mrs Liz George via the church email address (above) or Tel 01420 88721.

Items for inclusion in the **September** issue of the **Newsletter** should reach the editor, Nancy Buck, by noon **Sunday 21st August** at the latest, please.