Alton Methodist Church NEWSLETTER



July/August 2025

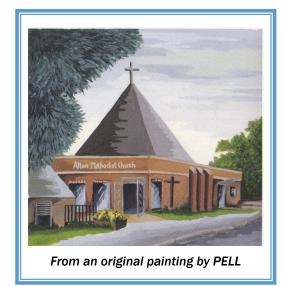
1846 - 2025

Alton Methodist

Church

Anniversary Weekend

5th-6th July



Minister: Rev. Philip Simpkins

Tel: 01420 83167

Church website www.altonmethodist.org.uk Circuit website www.hsbcircuit.org.uk



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



Dear Friends,

We look forward to enjoying the long warm summer days of July & August.

Maybe childhood memories evoke the thought of school holidays, day trips to the beach, donkey rides along the sands, picnics in the countryside or visits to parks and gardens.

Coming from a farming background day trips to Weston Super Mare, Studland Bay, and Longleat Safari Park were fitted in and around the fun and hard work of haymaking and straw cart (riding home on the top of loaded hay wagons as the sun set, ducking to avoid the tree branches!).

Even my hardworking dad might occasionally be seen playing cricket on the beach or sat in a deckchair with his trousers rolled up as the tide rolled in. He also never did hay making or harvesting on a Sunday!

I wonder how often we find ourselves saying:

'It's been all go.'

'There never seems to be enough time.'

Speaking of time, **Albert Einstein** once said: 'There certainly seems less of it about than there used to be!'

I love the story of the business executive who was talking on his phone whilst walking across a beautiful sun-drenched beach.

Ahead of him he sees a man in simple clothes dozing in the shade of a fishing boat that has been pulled up onto the beach.

As he passes, the fisherman wakes up and the executive, waiting for a call back, decides to make conversation.

The weather is great, there are plenty of fish; why are you lying around instead of going out and catching more?

The fisherman replies, 'Because I caught enough this morning.'

But just imagine, says the executive, if you went out three or four times a day and brought home three or four times as many fish. You know what could happen?

Puzzled, the fisherman shakes his head.

Why, says the executive, becoming enthusiastic, you could buy yourself a motorboat. Then after two or three years you could buy a second one. Then after four years, you could have a cutter or two. And just think, one day you might be able to build a freezing plant – you could even acquire your own trucks to ship your fish to the capital, and then...'



'And then?' asks the fisherman.

'And then, the executive concludes triumphantly, you could be calmly sitting at the beach side, dozing in the sun and looking at the beautiful ocean!'

The fisherman replies, 'what do you think I am doing now?'

We find in the bible that God made time for 'work, rest and play'.

On the Sabbath day, even God rested... and it was good!

Over these summer months let us take time to enjoy some rest and relaxation and be refreshed physically, mentally and spiritually.

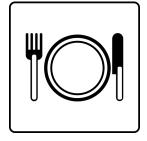
Every blessing

Philip

Lunch Club

On a hot June day around fifty people gathered to enjoy lunch at church.

On the menu this month was a lovely piece of white fish in a lemon sauce – it tasted delicious along with carrots, peas and potatoes.



Strawberries and cream followed as did a short reflection led by Philip.

We are so grateful to Andy, Denise and the catering team for providing such wonderful meals, and a special mention of Doris who faithfully and cheerfully sits at the door with a lovely welcoming smile, collecting funds!

We look forward to our next lunch on Tuesday July 8th, 12:30pm.

Please note there is no lunch club in August to give the team a well-earned break.

From September the price will be rounded up to £5/head and people are able to pay by cash or card, using the Tap & Pay machine.

Stay & Play

Meeting on a Wednesday 10-11:30, parents, carers and their small children have a wonderful time at Stay & Play with plenty of toys, an inviting venue and lots of conversation and care from the leaders, Angela, Liz and helpers.



Often 20 to 35 children are present plus adults!

Stay and Play will finish for the summer with its last session on Wednesday July 9th, and plans to return on Wednesday 3rd September.

^{1.}Ten Living the Ten Commandments; J.John, pg 187

Alton Methodist Church Anniversary & Gift Day Saturday July 5th & Sunday July 6th

Dear Friends,

What a blessing it is to be part of the church family at Alton. Everyone is so generous with their time, their gifts and in your care for one another – thank you!

As Paul wrote to the church at Thessalonica: 'We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers. We remember before God your work produced by faith, your labour prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in the Lord Jesus Christ.'

This year, during our anniversary weekend we will be holding a coffee morning on Saturday 5th July 10-12noon and then a worship service led by myself on Sunday 6th July at 10am. We would love to see you at either or both events as we celebrate the life of the church together.

Each year we are also dependent financially on our annual gift day which helps resource the life of the church. This year 75% of monies raised will go towards the church and 25% towards the work of MSF (Doctors without Borders).

If you feel able to donate, then please place your gift in the attached envelope, use the tap & pay machine or by bank transfer referenced 'Gift Day'.

We do thank you, for your ongoing support and amazing generosity.

Rev Philip Simpkins

-Name of account: Alton Methodist Church

Bank: CAF Bank Ltd, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4JQ

Bank sort code: 40-52-40 Account number: 00007758

Anna Chaplaincy

We are grateful for all the interest, applications and prayers for the role of Anna Chaplain in Alton.

We are delighted to say that Mrs Emily Spencer has been appointed to the post following interviews in June.



Emily will take up her role at the beginning of September and is delighted to be working alongside our wonderful team of Anna Chaplaincy Friends.

Emily has a heart for working with older people and her gifts lie in pastoral care. She has worked as a pastoral worker in a large church before where she has led services in care homes as part of a team, visited people in their homes, been alongside those in hospital and at the end of life. Emily has also, along with others arranged events for older people and very much enjoyed working ecumenically. Leading the Pastoral team in the church, Emily offered support and arranged refresher courses.

Emily lives in Cowplain with her husband Chris who is an Anglican vicar, and their two daughters Chloe (14) and Leah (8).

Generally, Emily will work Tuesday's, Wednesdays and Thursdays – although there may be a few exceptions.

We look forward to welcoming and commissioning Emily as our Anna Chaplain at St Lawrence Church on Sunday 31st August at 10:30am when we share in a united GAP service.

News update from Kate Powell (former Anna Chaplain)

Many people have asked if we have heard from Kate and as to how she might be getting on in her new role, based in Southampton docks, so I asked Kate for an update. She writes:

When I accepted the role of Port Chaplain in Southampton, I knew I would be working alongside people from all over the world while their ships were in dock, but that was about all I knew. So, the past five months have been a huge learning curve...

Apart from getting on and off ferries, I had never been into a port before and had no idea just how industrial they are. I'll admit, when I first began, I did wonder why I had



swapped my role as Anna Chaplain in the charming town of Alton for the busy, gritty docks of Southampton! But, as with all new environments, the port quickly started to feel normal, and I have found so much to be grateful for.



The seafarers, in particular, are a joy to work with. Many spend months at sea, isolated from the outside world, and are deeply touched by a visit from a Chaplain. The ship visits—which are the heart of my role—are a

real joy and, as my confidence grows, are becoming even more fulfilling. Another part of my job is offering seafarers lifts into Southampton. For many, simply seeing grass and trees is so meaningful and a reminder never to take for granted the greenery I enjoy every day.

Since my role primarily focuses on female seafarers, I spend a significant amount of my time on cruise ships, which has been another eye-opening experience. I had never been on a cruise ship before, and to witness crews of 1,000 people from all corners of the globe is truly astounding. I've met people from over 40 different countries, and it's been a privilege to sit down with individuals from Ukraine - listening to stories of their families living through war - Myanmar, where they are recovering from an earthquake, Pakistanis, still reeling from recent tensions with India and Filipinos who spend up to 10 months away from their families to send money back home. The sacrifice that many seafarers make for the sakes of their loved ones is inspiring.

In addition to connecting with these seafarers, I also work with colleagues from around the world. I recently returned from a training course in Gdansk, Poland, where I was the only British woman among 17 participants. Shipping is a global industry and, as such, the majority of my colleagues serve in ports worldwide. Working alongside chaplains from so many different nations has been a powerful reminder of how the Body of Christ transcends borders. This experience has made me aware that I am only one tiny part of this body but, by working together with others for God's purpose, is a powerful way to demonstrate how His love is universal.

Though I do miss everyone in Alton, I'm incredibly grateful for the opportunity to learn about an industry I knew little about and to minister to some of the world's forgotten people as they travel from port to port, collecting and delivering the goods that fill our shops. If I could ask one thing, it would be for you to keep seafarers in your prayers. Thank you and sending my love and blessings,

Katex

Alton's Anna Chaplaincy Strawberry Tea

- as a new era beckons!

(News blog written by Debbie Thrower)



The Anna Chaplaincy Summer Event at Alton Methodist Church, Wednesday June 11, went with a swing as all declared that 'God is good.' (Psalm 73)

Anna Friend Sarah Neish, who has been leading the team of volunteers while

the search was on for a new Alton Anna Chaplain, expressed 'love and huge gratitude for such a happy, busy, buzzy afternoon with much to be enjoyed by all who came.'

'Events like this are a huge team effort and thank you to everyone who contributed in so many different ways, ' she said.



Everyone present appreciated the time and care taken to create the event - from the helping to set up, (wash up and clear away), to the welcoming, sitting, listening and talking, the baking and strawberry preparations, the delicious, tasty cakes

and cream tea service with a smile, the gift stalls, craft table, hand massages and singing. A big thank you, too, goes to lan for his skilful keyboard-playing.

Blackwater Valley Circuit News!



As of September 1^{st,} this will be the new name of our Methodist Circuit! The Hampshire Border Circuit will have merged with the Berkshire Surrey Borders Circuit.

The new circuit plan of services will include all seventeen churches, and the circuit will be led by our superintendent minister Rev Nick Oborski. Other ministers are Rev Sharon Gardener, Rev Wes Hampton, Rev Kyung Mi Banks, Rev Anne Day, Rev Philip Simpkins and Deacon Joy Everingham.

A celebration of the coming together of the two circuits will be held on **Monday September 1**st **at High Cross, Camberley, at 7pm.** This service will be led by the new chair of district, Rev Conrad Hicks. It is important to the unity of the circuit that we start well, and I hope that Alton will be well represented!

The Compass Course - Exploring Christian Faith Together

This study began after Easter in a house group held at the Manse on a Tuesday, fortnightly, at 7.30pm.

This interactive course produced by the Methodist Church will continue with the following sessions (unless holidays intervene!)

- 4. Empowered by the Holy Spirit (July 1st)
- 5. Life Together (July 15th)
- 6. Engaging with scripture (July 29th)
- 7. Following Jesus (August 12th)

It is a course suitable for those wishing to explore and grow in faith through teaching, discussion and reflection. All welcome.



Ladies @ Wetherspoons

If you are not somewhere more exotic on holiday, then why not join us at Wetherspoons on **Thursday 31st July and Thursday 28th August**. Any time from 10am till midday.



Prayers at Noon

The prayer group will be meeting on **Tuesday 1st July at 12 o'clock** for about fifteen minutes to bring our concerns to God. There will be no meeting in August.

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Singing our Faith

The singing group meets again on **Tuesday 1st July at 2pm**. Paul in his letter to the Colossians wrote 'Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in you as you sing psalms.hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.' That's what Singing our Faith is all about. **There's no group in August**. *Jennie Marlow*



CAMEO NEWS

At our May meeting Anna Mitchell, who now shares the organisation of CAMEO, told us something of her life story. She grew up on the Essex coast with her identical twin sister, as part of a boat-building family. After a successful career working for the Stock Exchange she took a change of direction and went to Bath University to train as a counsellor, supporting people with addiction.



A few years ago she made the decision to move to Alton to be close to her daughter and family. Our church was the first she visited and - very fortunately for us - she decided to stay and not to bother to visit any others, as had been her original intention. Quickly recruited to the Sunday coffee, flower delivery and door steward rotas, Anna has recently taken on the role of Church Steward. She also plays a full part

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in the local community, volunteering at the Resurrection Furniture Shop and the Food Bank and using her counselling skills at "Fresh Start."

The Open CAMEO meeting on 7th
June saw the welcome return of the
soprano Rebecca White and her accompanist Claire Tester who treated us
to a delightful afternoon of music.
Over 50 people attended and stayed to
enjoy tea, cakes and conversation after

the concert. Rebecca and Claire stayed for a long time, chatting to everyone. Rebecca's response to my letter of thanks said,

"Claire and I thoroughly enjoyed it too and met some truly inspiring people. We're glad to have helped such a worthy cause." She was delighted to learn that the afternoon raised £310.60 for Médicins sans Frontières. Thank you to everyone who supported this event.

Our next meeting is on Saturday 19th July when our speaker will be Sian Mills, project manager of Alton Food Bank.

Judy, Janet & Anna

Bible Study

We have started looking at the study course about Gratitude and will continue on **Tuesday 15th July at 2pm**. There is no meeting in August but it's a chance to experience gratitude.



I am still emptying the home collecting boxes so I action for don't yet have a total. If anyone would like to conchildren tribute to the work, I'm happy to include cheques made payable to Action for Children. Thank you.

Jennie Marlow. (01420 85698)

Seasonal Walks

A reminder that the Summer Stroll will be on Monday 21st July – watch for details and sign-up on the usual notice board in the foyer.

It will be a morning walk, followed by a pub lunch (to which you are invited even if you choose not to walk!).

Speak to me if you'd like more information.

David Allan

2nd Alton News



We're all looking forward to Sports Day in Guildford, which will have taken place by the time this newsletter is issued!

After the summer holidays, we will start back on 5th September.

David Allan (Captain)

Company and Seniors

We are delighted to welcome 4 top age Junior boys into our summer programme. They have boosted our numbers and re-energised us in lots of aspects. 3 of them have joined the band and have already played in 2 parades!



Our recent meetings have involved rock climbing and orienteering, with mountain biking, disc golf and battalion sports day still to come.

Scaling the climbing wall!

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Summer camp, in August, is set to be the biggest in recent years with 9 of our company joining 12 other boys from 1st Woodley and 2nd Fleet. Camp holds some of my fondest memories as a boy and I am looking forward to making more, as a leader with our current members.

Dan Vincent (Lieutenant)

Girls' Brigade News



We've been enjoying the informal summer programme.

The girls had an evening painting plates and another making scene-setters for our Film Night on Friday 27th June (a joint event with the BB younger boys), including leis to wear as they watch Lilo and Stitch.

The n:vestigate girls had a meeting in Nancy's garden, with games outside followed by creating their own decorated vase and flower arranging.

Our final meeting of the summer will be in Jo and Stuart's garden in Queens Road on Monday 7th July.

We start again on Monday 8th September. The n:vestigate section (4½-8 years old) meet at 6pm and the older girls from 6.30pm in the Church Hall. If you know of any girls in our age range (up to 18) who would enjoy making new friends in a non-threatening environment with a Christian ethos, do tell them to get in touch through the church website or email our Team Leader, Amy Evans via altonmethodist@hotmail.com.

Nancy Buck (n:vestigate leader)

Duke of Edinburgh's Award

Our Bronze group undertook their practice expedition during the half-term break, and we were pleased once again to be able to camp overnight at the Rural Life Museum. A highlight of their venture was the climb to the summit of Crooksbury Hill; unfortunately the weather was grey and misty – but nevertheless, the extensive view was appreciated.

Their assessed expedition is in August, to the North Downs. There are also two Silver expedition groups tackling their assessed ventures; the first group go to Shropshire in August, and the second to the Peak District in September.

David Allan



The Bronze group about to leave their campsite at the Rural Life Museum

A Message from Rev. Keith Underhill

[Keith is a former minister at Alton Methodist Church, who moved on to the Wantage and Abingdon Circuit.]

I just wanted to let you know that there will be a farewell service for me at Wantage Methodist Church on Sunday 27th July at 3:00pm - it will also mark the fact that I am retiring (sitting down to use our quaint Methodist parlance) and our Circuit Stewards were wondering if there might be people from my previous appointments who would like to attend...

To help with numbers etc, if anyone would like to come, please would they let Carolyn Roche know by emailing her at ciroche48@hotmail.com.

Thanks.

Love and God Bless as always,

Keith

A Reflection on the escalations between Israel and Iran

By David Hardman Methodist Liaison Officer, Jerusalem [www.methodist.org.uk]

Jerusalem June 13 2025

In October 2023, the sirens were a surprise. I barely had time to react before hearing missiles intercepted overhead, shrapnel raining down nearby. Now, in June 2025, it's different. My phone woke me with alerts—Israel had launched 'pre-emptive strikes' against Iran.

Warnings to stay close to a shelter and to move the moment a siren sounded. This morning news apps reported Iran's retaliation, drones already in the air. I brace for the sirens, for the inevitable rush to shelter.

How do I feel? Angry. Angry at world leaders who still believe peace can be forged through war. Governments that pour endless resources into military buildup while refusing to invest in the very things that sustain peace—education, dialogue, cooperation. (continued on p. 22)

Giving money to our Church

I would like to give you an update on a few matters around giving to the Church.

Firstly, we now have a credit card terminal that can be used whenever you would like to give money to the church. It is very easy to use. You just enter the amount you want to give and then tap your card on the little terminal. We should have it available at services and at all church gatherings. It can be used at Anna Chaplaincy events, coffee mornings, lunches, church fairs and other events.

Secondly, the church anniversary and gift day is on the 5th July. A quarter of the money donated here will go to our chosen charity "Medecins Sans Frontieres" which of course is doing a lot of life-saving work in places where people are really struggling. The remainder of the money goes to church funds and is an essential component of our financial wellbeing. Please be generous!

Thirdly, if you want to give regularly to Church you can set up a standing order. You have to do this with your bank, but the information you will need is:

Account name: Alton Methodist Church

Bank: CAF Bank

Account Number: 00007758

Sort code 40-52-40

For a single gift to church by online banking, the details are the same. I you want to give to the Anna Chaplaincy, MSF, or any other specific cause, use the same bank details and indicate your wishes using the "reference" field in the transaction, or by emailing me at gctitterington@hotmail.co.uk

Finally please let me know if anything changes relating to your Gift Aid status. If you have registered with the church for reclaiming Gift Aid on your donations thank you very much. These top ups help us a lot. However if you

cease to be an income tax payer you have to let me know so that I stop claiming on your behalf. If you are not currently registered and you are a tax payer, please let me know so that I can do the necessary paperwork. Also if you change your name or address I have to update our records.

Graham Titterington (Church Treasurer)

OPEN SIGHT

Alton Open Sight is a social club for those with a visual impairment. It meets on the 3^{rd} Monday of the month at All Saints Church Hall at 2.30pm. The next meeting will be held on 21^{st} July when our guest speaker will be former Alton mayor Dean Phillips who will share the exciting changes planned for Alton Community Centre.

The meetings provide an opportunity to make new friends over an afternoon tea, with a chance to share information on coping with sight loss.

We welcome anyone with a visual impairment, no commitment, just come along to one of our meetings and we're sure you'll enjoy it! Please note that we have a club outing, for existing members only, to Lasham Airfield Café in August, instead of meeting at our usual venue.

If you would like further information regarding the Alton social group please email Sue at AltonOpenSight@gmail.com or contact Malcolm on 01420 54952



The group comes under the umbrella of Open Sight, a Hampshire-based charity which provide free support and advice to visually impaired people to assist with daily living. If you are interested finding out more, please call Open Sight on 02380 641244.

Alton Hard of Hearing Group

At All Saints Church Hall

Our June meeting took place at Ascot races – well, maybe not exactly – but nevertheless it was a scene of fancy hats, a Quiz and music and of course, the ubiquitous, Cream Tea and bubbly stuff! Any excuse for the last item I hear you say. Anyway, a lovely time was had by all!

On July 22nd we will be having a talk about Treloars – formerly Lord Mayor Treloar School and College - and its history over more than 100 years.

Entrance to meetings is £3 and the raffle is £1 a ticket. So a fun and entertaining afternoon for a minimum of £3!! Where else could you find such value- not at Ascot that's for sure!

If you do not have a 2025 Programme then do get in touch with me and I can send one to you. We are also starting to think about talks for 2026 [oh dear!] So if you have any suggestions please let me know. The start time for the meetings is 2pm and the venue is usually at the hall unless the Programme states otherwise.

Contact: Annette Blackman 01420 543219

ablackman4@googlemail.com

LIP READING

The last session of Lip reading for the Summer term, led by Maggie Short, Lip Reading Tutor, will be in All Saints Church hall, Queens Road, from 2pm, on Tuesday 1st July. There will be **no meeting** in August with the Group restarting again on Tuesday 2nd September. The hour long session comprises of fun exercises to practice recognising words and phrases that hard of hearing people find difficult to hear or lipread. This is followed by time over a cup of tea in which to practice these skills. Why not come along and give it a try, you will be surprised at how much it can help. All will be made most welcome!

For more details contact Kate on 01420 83514 kaddando@gmail.com

KNITTERS ANONYMOUS

Once again all you knitters (and those who crochet!), both known and anonymous, have come up trumps! We have had such a variety of beautiful donations again, some through the monthly Group session and many more left in the box at the back of All Saints Church. Thank you to you all! You can rest assured that everything is really appreciated and finds a good home.

Message from BLISS – for babies born premature or sick – "having informed us that the 'Traffic Light' hat system had rather gone out of favour we have now had a request from a couple of hospitals asking that the red ones be continued please. They will be used to go with the Christmas stockings instead. So if you loved doing them please continue knitting them" (Some stockings would also be welcome too, a simple pattern for these is available on request. See contact below).

The larger sized children's jumpers for the Ukraine are also very much appreciated. It was a surprise to find fifteen (!!!) of these in the Church box recently – thank you to the anonymous donor! Please continue to make your favourite things, nothing is wasted.

The Group meet next on Tuesday 15th July from 2pm until about 3.30m, in All Saints Church Hall, Queens Road. Do pop in if you are passing, have a cup of tea with us and see what we are doing.

For more details contact Kate on 01420 83514 kaddando@gmail.com

Services in August

Sunday 3rd 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

10.00am Rev Dawn Colley (RAF Chaplain, Odiham)

Holy Communion

Sunday 10th 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

10.00am Rev Nick Oborski

Sunday 17th 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

10.00am Liz George

Sunday 24th 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

10.00am Rev Philip Simpkins

Sun 31st 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

10.30am GAP Service @ St Lawrence Church

with commissioning of Mrs Emily Spencer as $\,$

Anna Chaplain for Alton (see page 6)

(Continued from p. 17)

I am angry at the church, too, for legitimizing war through 'Just War' theory instead of offering a real vision for peace—one rooted in justice, reconciliation, and nonviolence.

For nearly two years, I have served as the Methodist Liaison Officer. I have walked where Jesus walked, lived under occupation as He did, and seen firsthand how oppression crushes lives.

And I am more certain than ever—peace will never come through force. It must be built through justice and a relentless, nonviolent struggle.

A Prayer - Gracious God, We lift before you all those directly impacted by this escalation. We ask your blessing on the peacebuilders. Strengthen, we pray our resolve to be people of Your peace. Lord in your mercy Hear our prayer. Amen

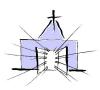
Dates for your Diary

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JULY		
Tues 1	12.00 noon 2.00pm 7.30pm	Prayers at Noon Singing our Faith Compass Course (4) at the Manse
Wed 2	3.00pm	Anna Chaplain meeting
Sat 5	10.00-12.00	Anniversary Gift Day Coffee Morning
Tues 8	12.30pm 9.00pm	Lunch Club Stewards Meeting
Tues 15	2.00pm 7.30pm	Bible Study at Church Compass Course (5) at the Manse
Sat 19	2.00pm	CAMEO
Mon 21	tbc	Summer Stroll
Sun 27	3.00pm	Retirement Service for Rev Keith Underhill at Wantage Meth. Church (p. 17)
Tues 29	7.30pm	Compass Course (6) at the Manse
Thurs 31	10.00-12.00	Ladies @ Wetherspoons
AUGUST		
Tues 12	7.30pm	Compass Course (7) at the Manse
SEPTEMBER		
Mon 1	7.00pm	New Circuit Service at High Cross Church, Camberley (see page 10)

Please look at articles in the Newsletter giving more information.

The September issue of the Newsletter should be available from Sunday 31st August.



Services at Alton in July 2025

For services in August, please see page 22.

Sunday 6th Church Anniversary

10.00am Rev Philip Simpkins - Holy Communion

Sunday 13th 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

10.00am Rev Bruce Nicole

Sunday 20th 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

10.00am Deacon Joy Everingham

Sunday 27th 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

10.00am Liz George

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 24th August** at the latest, please.

If you are able to email your contribution to the office (or to Nancy) it would be much appreciated.