

**Here's this week's news email for the Parish of Medstead and Four Marks.  
There is a lot going on, especially as we run up to Christmas, so please do have a  
good look through.**

---

### **Services this Sunday - 1st December**

**8.00am at COGS - Communion Service**

**9.30am at COGS - All age service with sung worship, kids church, creche and  
youth**

**(on 2nd and 4th Sundays)**

**11.00am at St Andrews - Communion**

---

### **Churchwarden**

Very sadly Peter George-Jones has resigned as churchwarden, feeling unable to continue in the role. His term of office will end of 31<sup>st</sup> December. We are extremely grateful to him for stepping up in the first place, and for all that he has done in service of the parish, especially at St Andrew's.

We will be seeking a new churchwarden. If you are interested or want to know more do talk to Peter, Andy or Howard.

---

### **Financial Update**

Firstly, thank you for all your support in being able to do all that we are doing with people of all ages across our parish. The monthly 'Look-back' captures just some what's happening in our sharing of God's love with all. We're hugely privileged to be able to employ staff to help us and enjoy the buildings and facilities we have, and these are made possible by the generous giving of time, money, and skills, of our current and past members – thank you again!

Moving forwards:

1. As we approach the end of this financial year, we continue to need a treasurer to lead us. Please be praying and think about who you might encourage.
2. We are currently predicted to end the year with a deficit of around £40,000, most of this was expected and is covered by historical funds but to move forwards with confidence as a church we need to increase income. I would encourage us all, prayerfully before God, to review our giving – this may lead to a reduction, staying the same, or increasing. God has sufficient resources, we just need to be good stewards of what God has given us as a church and as individuals.
3. (To assure you, we are continuing to honour restricted and designated funds, and those given historically to a particular parish setting.)

If you have any questions, please do ask.

Yours Howard

---

### **New Treasurer Needed**

Claire is stepping down. We are so very grateful to her for all that she has done over the past couple of years in getting us to this point, following the formation of our new partnership as Medstead and Four Marks Parish.

We now need a new treasurer who can monitor our finances, update PCC on our status,

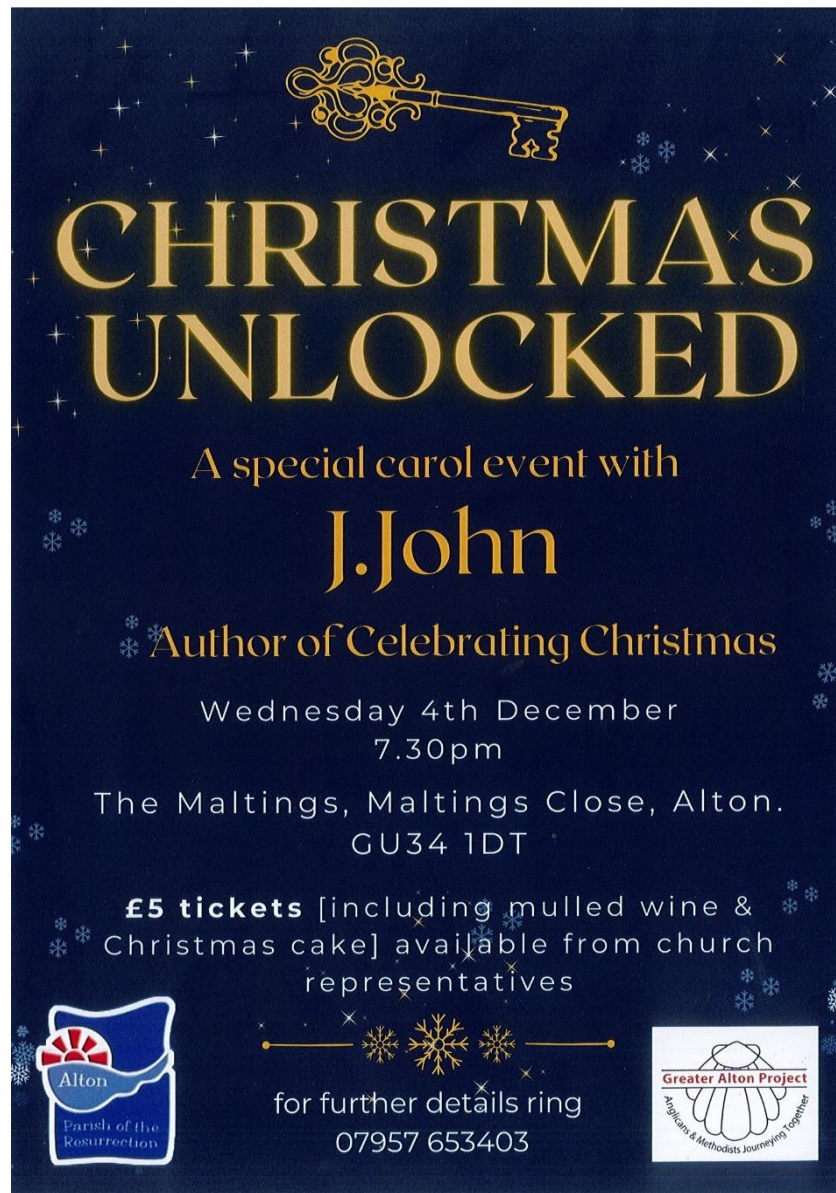
and keep our congregations and wider donor base informed of vision and need. There is excellent contracted accounts support, and resources across PCC for help with communication. Please talk to one of our wardens, Claire, or Howard for more information.

---

### Harvest Collection

Thanks to your generosity £1390 (excluding gift aid) was collected at our Harvest services. The money is split between Alton Food Bank and Karamoja - our link diocese in Uganda.

---



The poster features a dark blue background with a gold key at the top center. The text is in gold and white. It includes the title 'CHRISTMAS UNLOCKED', the name 'J. John', and the date 'Wednesday 4th December 7.30pm'. It also lists the venue 'The Maltings, Maltings Close, Alton. GU34 1DT' and ticket information: '£5 tickets [including mulled wine & Christmas cake] available from church representatives'. At the bottom, there are logos for 'Alton Parish of the Resurrection' and 'Greater Alton Project'.

**CHRISTMAS UNLOCKED**

A special carol event with  
**J. John**  
Author of *Celebrating Christmas*

Wednesday 4th December  
7.30pm

The Maltings, Maltings Close, Alton.  
GU34 1DT

**£5 tickets** [including mulled wine & Christmas cake] available from church representatives

Alton Parish of the Resurrection

Greater Alton Project  
Anglicans & Methodists Journeying Together

for further details ring  
07957 653403

**Please pray for the event and for those who have been invited to attend.**

---

### Christmas Choir Rehearsals

We are soon going to start rehearsals for the Christmas carol services at COGS. The carol services are planned for Sunday 15 December at 5 & 7pm. If you would like to join the choir we are rehearsing on the following dates:  
Wednesday 27 November

Wednesday 4 December

Monday 9 December

Final rehearsal is Thursday 12 December.

All rehearsals will start at 8pm and will be held in the church.

Please contact Helena if you need more info. ([helenahunt477@gmail.com](mailto:helenahunt477@gmail.com))



The poster features a black background with festive Christmas decorations at the top, including green pine branches, gold and silver ornaments, and yellow stars. A young boy is shown in profile, holding a lit candle. The text 'Messy Church' is written in a white, bubbly font with a red splash effect behind it. Below this, 'with Christingle' and '8th December' are written in yellow. A QR code is located in the bottom left corner, and a URL is provided in the bottom right.

**Messy Church**

with Christingle  
8th December

Scan the code or visit:  
<https://pmafmm.churchsuite.com/events/asctxhaa>  
to book your space

<https://pmafmm.churchsuite.com/events/asctxhaa>



The poster has a yellow background with a subtle pattern of snowflakes. At the top left is the 'COGS Tots with Nativity' logo. To the right, it says 'Including a Christmas party breakfast'. The date 'Tuesday 10th December' is prominently displayed in red. Below this, the text 'For the little ones:' is followed by 'Craft', 'Christmas Colouring and stampers', and 'Activity', each accompanied by a small illustration. The activity 'Dress up nativity clothes' is also illustrated. At the bottom, it says 'Nativity at 10.00am' and includes a circular photo of children in nativity costumes. A final line of text states 'Everyone is invited to be part of the story and join in the singing'.

**COGS Tots**  
with Nativity

Including a Christmas party breakfast

**Tuesday 10th December**

**For the little ones:**

**Craft**  
Christmas Colouring  
and stampers

**Activity**  
Dress up nativity  
clothes

**Nativity at 10.00am**

Everyone is invited to  
be part of the story  
and join in the singing



**CAN YOU HELP share the Good News THIS CHRISTMAS?**

Pre-schools			Messy Church Christingle 8th Dec		
Tues 3rd Dec 9-11.15am	Butterflies Preschool visit	Refreshments and Craft table	11am -12.30pm	Set up tables and prep oranges	Set up team
Wed 4th Dec 8.45 -11am	Heydays preschool Nativity to Parents	Refreshments for Parents and visitors	2.45-6.30	Help with activities and crafts	Craft and activity team
Tues 10th Dec 12.45-2pm	Butterflies preschool Nativity to parents	Refreshments for Parents and visitors	3.30-5.30	Prep and serve food	Food Team
			5-6pm 5.45-7pm	Wash up Clear away and reset	Tidy and re-set team
COGS Tots and Tiny Tots Group			Nativity Trail 23rd December		
Tues 10th Dec 8.45- 11.30am	Tots Christmas party and Nativity	Refreshments, tots play chat with parents	5-6.30pm Sun 22nd	Set up tables and displays	Set up team
Mon 16th Dec 10.15am- 12.15pm	TinyTots baby group Christmas party	Refreshments for Parents	9.45-11.45 11.30-1.30 1.15-2.30	Set up cafe & crafts Refreshments clear cafe & crafts	Craft cafe team
			5.45 - 6.45	Clear tables and displays	Tidy and re-set team

## Other ways to Help...

With so many events now running in the building we need to widen the team that help move the tables and chairs.

Please consider joining our What's app group 'COGS Chairs' as an occasional helper.

Each week we will send out a message saying what is needed for that week and then the load can be shared between those that are available that week- no rotas and no regular commitment needed.

---

## Help with cleaning

Unfortunately our cleaner is unable to work during December. If anyone is keen to volunteer to help us out during this month, please speak to Andy or David, or let Matt know in the office

---

## RSN

The RSN is up and running. If you're not receiving the emails, but would like to, please let Matt know.

And if you have offers or requests to distribute, send them to [rsn@pmaf.co.uk](mailto:rsn@pmaf.co.uk)

**Waverley Singers**  
waverleysingers.com

**Saturday 30 November, 7pm**  
St Lawrence Church, Alton, GU34 2BU

**A Tapestry of Sound**  
Vaughan Williams Fantasia on Christmas Carols  
and Songs for Advent and Christmas

**Tickets**  
£15 in advance  
£17 on the door  
Students £5  
U16 free - subject to conditions  
TICKETSOURCE.CO.UK/WAVERLEYSINGERS

**BARITONE - EDWARD PRICE**  
**ORGAN - PHILIP SCRIVEN**  
**CONDUCTOR - RICHARD PEARCE**

Retiring collection in aid of Cardiac Rehab

Waverley Singers is a registered Charity No. 284123



**Waynflete Singers**

# A Classical Christmas

**Winchester Cathedral**  
**Saturday 7th December 2024**  
**at 7.30 pm**

**Beethoven: Mass in C**  
**Bach: Wachet Auf! (*Sleepers Wake!*)**  
**Cantata 140)**  
**Carols for choir and audience**

**The Waynflete Singers**  
**English Chamber Orchestra**  
**Andrew Lumsden, conductor**

Soprano: Eleanor Dennis  
Mezzo Soprano: Catherine Carby  
Tenor: Benjamin Hulett  
Bass: Alastair Miles

**Tickets: £15.00 - £50.00**  
**Buy from Winchester Cathedral Events online**  
**or call 01962 857275**  
**or via [www.waynfletesingers.org.uk/concerts](http://www.waynfletesingers.org.uk/concerts)**

Registered charity no: 285107



**Alton Concert Band,**  
**Alton Choral Society & Ancora**  
**Present in aid of** 

**FREE ENTRY**

# The Wonder of CHRISTMAS

**A CONCERT OF CHRISTMAS**  
**MUSIC & CAROLS**

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2024**  
**Doors open 6.30pm for 7.00pm**  
**Alton Maltings**

**Entry only with a ticket available from**  
**[www.altonchoral.org.uk](http://www.altonchoral.org.uk) or**  
**scan the QR code or**  
**call 01420 85994**

**Sponsors:**  
**Alton Maltings**  
**Alton Town Council**  
**Alton Co-operative**  
**Beer Festival**  
**Focus stoves**



## Starfish Malawi Appeal

Starfish are launching our Autumn Appeal to provide help and relief to those families who are supporting orphans and the most vulnerable by supplying maize, beans and other basic food and commodities.

If you would be willing to help Starfish by donating to this appeal, you would be helping to make a huge difference to those in need.

Further details here - <https://donate.givetap.co.uk/f/starfish-malawi/aa24>



Are you grieving the loss of a loved one, or struggling with the long-term effects of loss? A seven week course will soon be running in your area.



Friday mornings  
**10am - 12 noon,**  
**January 24th - 7th March**  
at The Alton Maltings Centre.

To book your place, email  
**[bereavement@potr-alton.co.uk](mailto:bereavement@potr-alton.co.uk)**  
or phone Wendy Burnhams  
on **07514 280 362**  
Suggested Voluntary contribution  
£20 for the whole course

**Topics include:** Attachment, separation and loss, Difficult feelings, Rites of passage, The impact and pain of bereavement, Coping with others, Coping with change, Moving forward, an optional session on Questions of Faith

### **Vicar: Howard Wright**

Tel: 07746 066046 | Email: [howardwright.cogs@gmail.com](mailto:howardwright.cogs@gmail.com)

### **Family Worker: Jane Hughes**

Tel: 07711 407831 | Email: [Jane\\_COGS@btinternet.com](mailto:Jane_COGS@btinternet.com)

### **Youth & Children's Minister: Virginia**

Tel: 07724 141267 | Email: [vinushifagill@gmail.com](mailto:vinushifagill@gmail.com)

### **Church Office: Matt Senior**

Tel: 01420 560622 | Email: [cogsoffice@googlemail.com](mailto:cogsoffice@googlemail.com)