



The Good  
Shepherd  
Four Marks

[www.goodshepherdfourmarks.org.uk](http://www.goodshepherdfourmarks.org.uk)

Our church diary is available to view on the website

19th January 2020

**Alpha update:** I would like to thank everyone for your conversations encouraging people to come to Alpha, and I know of many. As the Apostle Paul asks: *And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard?* (Romans 10:14) Telling people about Jesus is the first step, the response is with them - and God.



In fact, a lot of interest was sparked that can and will be followed up. Some would like daytime Alpha, some were content with a brief discussion at this point but a seed was sown. On the night, two people came, not enough people to run Alpha course, which is based on group discussion. But we have already discussed alternatives to further their journey of faith. Once again, thank you.



**Malawi Evening - Monday 20th January,  
7.30pm Tomorrow Night**

**Do come along to hear stories of Ali's work at Starfish Malawi. The evening will start with puddings.**



**Easter COGS Club will be on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April this year! Please save the date and speak to Lorna if you would like to be on team**

**Date for your diary**

**WORSHIP MATTERS - 28th Feb 2020**

**From Mike Saltmarsh..**

The Christmas Quiz raised £306. My grateful thanks to those who contributed. The money has gone off to the Church Homeless Trust

## *The Week Ahead*

### **Sunday 19th January**

#### **Gifted | Building God's House**

#### **Ephesians 4:1-16 & Matthew 10:1-10**

8am - Said Communion

9.30am - All Age Communion Service

11.30am - Cell Church in the chapel

7pm - Celebration Service with communion

### **Monday 20th January**

8am - Prayer in the chapel

10am - Bumps & Babies in the church hall

7.30pm - Malawi Evening

### **Tuesday 21st January**

7am - Early Morning Prayer in the chapel

7.45pm - PCC meeting in the church hall

### **Wednesday 22nd January**

10.30am - Coffee & Questions in church hall

6pm - Youth Wednesdays in the church hall

### **Thursday 23rd January**

9.45am - Ladies small group in the upper room/church hall

7.30pm - Mindfulness Course in church hall

### **Friday 24th January**

8am - Prayer in the chapel

### **Sunday 26th January**

#### **Gifted | Gifts of Hard Work**

#### **Exodus 35:30-36:3 & Matthew 28:16-20**

8am - Said Communion

9.30am - All Age Communion Service

11.30am - Cell Church in the chapel

7pm - Celebration Service

## *Caring in Prayer*

### **New/Updated**

Alpha – Give thanks to the interest in Alpha. Pray for future plans and courses. Pray for those who came along on Monday and for us to offer the best way to further their journeys of faith.

Malawi – Pray for Ali Beckett's Malawi Evening. Pray that people will be encouraged and made aware of the challenges faced at Starfish so that we can pray and support effectively.

### **Continuing**

Mindfulness – Pray for those on the mindfulness course. Pray that the course will help to improve people's well-being. Pray for David as he leads the course .

Christmas – Give thanks for the visitors who came to our Christmas events in the last few weeks. Pray for a growth in faith in our community .

Election – Pray for our new government and for those who will serve in parliament. Pray for unity, justice and God's guiding.

Carmen – Has finished her course of chemotherapy and has now begun radiotherapy. Pray the cancer will be killed and pray for Carmen and her family..

Youth – Pray that Lorna and the team will continue to dream big for the young people around us following the encouragement of the Youth Ministry Weekend..

Doreen – The results of Doreen's biopsy showed all traces of the tumour had been removed. Thank the Lord for his healing. She has been told to telephone the hospital if any more appear.

William – William is back to usual. He is on new medication. Pray that it will be successful in controlling his fits.

We do not take offerings at our services. Our preferred method of financial giving to continue the excellent work of Church is via Standing Order. Please contact the Church Office or our Treasurer, David Craigen (01420 564152 or [davidacraigen@gmail.com](mailto:davidacraigen@gmail.com)) for more details or pick up a Standing Order Mandate at the back of the church. If you wish to make cash or cheque donations, please place in the receptacle. If you wish to donate online, these are our account details:

*Giving*

Acc No: 60003685. Sort Code: 60-01-13. Many thanks for your generosity.

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### **Message from Ali Beckett:**

Thank you so much for your generous giving towards Starfish Malawi at Christmas. I will be buying much needed resources over the next few weeks whilst writing the educational materials we need (where I have reliable access to electricity, internet and photocopying) to continue to run the After School Clubs effectively. The resources we buy will make a huge difference to the children we teach, equipping them for the whole of their lives. So, once again...THANK YOU.

### **Albania Earthquake**

The various donations that were made following prayers for Albania totalled about US \$700. Tim Griffiths has had a note from Arben Xhako to whom the money was sent for distribution. The funds have now been distributed through the local church in the town which was at the epicentre of the quake. There are still people living hand to mouth there in rented accommodation. The donations were given in much needed food supplies.

Huge thanks to those who donated to this.

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Fresh Start helps people who want to change a life-controlling habit such as smoking, gambling, over-eating, internet or social media addiction, shopping compulsions, binge drinking, soft drugs, etc.

**fresh start**

from Christians Against Poverty

The 8-week course from Christians Against Poverty is inspired by the Bible and the Twelve Steps of Recovery principles. It's led by trained coaches who also offer 1-to-1 coaching. The groups provide supportive communities where people can meet regularly and work through a plan of action in order to break free from their dependencies.

The next local Fresh Start course will start on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January, at Alton Maltings Centre (Nightingale Room), from 10:30am to 12:00, with free tea/coffee and biscuits. To register or for more information, call Mark Rumsby on 07769 030913 or email [alton@capuk.org](mailto:alton@capuk.org).

Church Members may like to know that from the Spring, Alton recycling centre ("the tip") requires users to register their car number plate in order to use the facility free of charge.

Registration is free and easy - go to [hants.gov.uk/veh-reg-hwrc](https://hants.gov.uk/veh-reg-hwrc)



### Alton CAP Debt Help Centre

seeks to appoint a part-time  
volunteer

### Debt Coach



For further details on the above position, please see the poster in the porch.

Thank you.

### Love trees? Become a tree warden!

Tree-lovers are being called to a meeting in January as part of a bid to relaunch a tree warden scheme in East Hampshire. On Monday 27 January a meeting will be held in Petersfield to describe the role of tree wardens and encourage people to step forward.

The meeting, held in The Rose Room, Festival Hall, Petersfield, will include speakers with particular knowledge of trees in East Hampshire, and a question and answer session. Anyone with an interest in trees and their local environment is welcome to attend. Doors are open at 7pm and the meeting will last approximately two hours, starting at 7.30pm

**Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2020**

**from 10:00 – 4:00pm**

### Healing in The Steps of Jesus



is a day conference at **Guildford** Cathedral - open to all wanting to explore the Christian healing ministry. £25 per person booking via website.

With two keynote speakers including Bishop James Newcombe (patron of Acorn Christian Healing Foundation), and Rev Paul Harcourt (National Leader of New Wine), the day will be accompanied by three TED style talks focussing on the **church and disability, emotional well-being, and supporting children and young people and their mental health.**

A service of healing and prayer led by Bishop Andrew Watson will bring the day to a close. This promises to be an excellent day of **teaching, sharing, worship and healing prayer.**

Refreshments provided throughout the day but bring a packed lunch. Plenty of free parking

[www.acornchristian.org](http://www.acornchristian.org)

## Small Group Notes – 19th January 2020

### Gifted – Building God's House

Paul says we must make every effort to keep the 'unity of the Spirit'. Can we keep it if we do not recognise what it is? What are the 'every-day' signs that the Spirit is working within us? How do you find yourself responding to the needs of others? To what extent does what you see call you to action?

Paul argues that we are all ligaments of a body – required to lend their strength. And it follows that the body is weaker if we withhold ourselves from it. What is the body he is talking about; does it include everybody? How should we apply that argument to the community of church?

He contends that our giftings – our individual capacities and talents – have equipped us 'for works of service' that will build the body and enable it to attain full unity in Christ. Why do we find it hard to understand ourselves in those terms? People do work for good in their own strength 'outside the body' but Paul indicates that is not the way to contribute to unity; why is that?

In Matthew's reading Jesus tells his followers not to 'insure themselves' against difficulty as they engage in the work of bringing unity 'for the worker is worth his (her) keep'. How should we understand that promise? Do you have experience of help coming from an unexpected place?

This week's sermon builds upon last week's - the struggle we have to see our gifting as of value to God and of central importance to the health and wholeness of God's people.

In the coming week continue praying for confidence to commit yourself to the 'Kingdom' values you have come to believe in and to share your strength in belief with others.

**The tea and coffee rota is in need of some help.** We have gaps in the rota on the 1st Sunday of alternate months beginning in February. If anyone can offer to cover one, some or all of these, please contact Matt in the office.

## PRAYER and PASTORAL REQUESTS

If you have any prayer requests for the prayer chain, please email or ring the Church Office on 01420 560622, Alan Thain (01420 85185), or Howard Wright on 01420 563344.

If it would be helpful for a member of the pastoral visiting team to call on you, please contact Howard, Debbie Norgate (01420 84534) or Gilly Cobb (01420 544404).



## Ministers: All of Us Together

**Vicar: Howard Wright**  
Tel: 01420 563344  
Email: howardwright.cogs@gmail.com

**Youth & Children's Worker: Lorna Littlewood**  
Tel: 07914 519998  
Email: lorna.cogs@gmail.com

**Family Worker: Jane Hughes**  
Tel: 07711 407831  
Email: Jane\_COGS@btinternet.com

**Church Office: Matt Senior**  
Tel: 01420 560622  
Email: cogsoffice@googlemail.com

***Send Sunday Sheet items to the church office before end of day on Thursday***



Everyone is welcome to join us for a chat and tea/coffee **between** morning services or **before** the 7pm service

For communion, gluten-free wafers are available and there is a chalice with non-alcoholic wine. Please ask when you come forward if you would like to take these.

## **MISSION OF THE MONTH - January**

### **Bethany Children's Trust**

BCT is a Christian charity for children at risk, in Africa and beyond.



[www.bethanychildrenstrust.org.uk](http://www.bethanychildrenstrust.org.uk)