



The Good
Shepherd
Four Marks

www.goodshepherdfourmarks.org.uk

Our church diary is available to view on the website

2nd February 2020

Report to the Parish 2 February 20

Well, here we are – a week into Howard's absence and we don't appear to be coming apart at the seams! And that's because there was very careful planning months before to ensure a seamless transfer of responsibilities from Howard to each of the Teams.

Firstly, we are far from being leaderless. Though the inhouse team remain an obvious first point of contact, Rev Brian Pritchard, as Alton Area Dean, maintains his watchful spiritual and pastoral oversight of us *in loco* Howard. We shall see him more often taking Communion services so please raise with him any personal matter, bereavement etc, that cannot be handled by the inhouse team, particularly Jane and Lorna.

Technically, the Churchwardens are responsible for the church in Howard's absence. In practical terms the Wardens, the staff: Matt, Jane and Lorna and the Ministry Team leaders keep us all committed and moving forward. We meet and communicate frequently to keep each other informed. And since it clearly works, let's not even try to fix it! Matt in the office is the focal point, handling the 'flyers' and allocating them, as appropriate, to one of the Team.

The PCC remains responsible for our long-term governance but now chaired by one of the Wardens (Chris).

We shall be meeting some new faces as well as familiar ones at our Communion services. In the immediate future, Phil Collins presides on 2 February, Andrew Micklefield from the Parish of the Resurrection on 9th, and Yann Dubreuil and Ed Pruen on 23rd.

It is Howard's hope that this period of 3 months on our own would be a spur to our developing our individual vocations and talents. Let us all commit to do that so we can hand the parish back to Howard even more committed to the Kingdom than when he left it.

God's blessings, Lynn and Chris, Churchwardens

The Week Ahead

Sunday 2nd February

Gifted | Gifts of the Spirit

1 Corinthians 12:1-11 & John 16:7-15

8am - Said Communion

9.30am - All Age Service of the Word

7pm - Celebration Service

Monday 3rd February

10am - Bumps & Babies in the church hall

7pm - Discipleship Explored in the upper room

Tuesday 4th February

7am - Early Morning Prayer in chapel

Wednesday 5th February

11am - Coffee & Communion in the church hall

6pm - Youth Wednesdays in the church hall

Thursday 6th February

9.45am - Ladies Small Group in church hall/upper room

7.30pm - Mindfulness Course in church hall

Saturday 8th February

4pm - Messy Church



Sunday 9th February

Gifted | Character Gifts

Romans 12:3-8 & John 13:31-35

8am - Said Communion

9.30am - All Age Service of the Word

7pm - Celebration Service

Caring in Prayer

New/Updated

Church Finances – Pray for our church finances and the projected deficit. Pray for the PCC to be good stewards of the resources God has given us. Pray that we can be faithful to God's calling even where we see challenges.

Youth – Pray for the youth as they prepare for their weekend away (15-17th). Pray for safety, fun, fellowship and for our young people to grow closer to God.

Continuing

Howard's Study Leave – Pray for a fruitful and restorative time for Howard. Pray for the church leaders and the congregation in his absence, for our growth (in faith and in mission).

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.

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 .

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..

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) 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.

Message from Ali Beckett:

It was lovely to see so many of you at the Malawian evening, thank you so much for coming, I really appreciated it. Thank you also for your generosity and kindness.

Date for your diary: WORSHIP MATTERS 28th Feb 2020

Village Picnic 2021!

We are sadly not going to be holding a Village Picnic this year (2020). Thank you to all those who worked on our efforts exploring this year. We are looking forward to 2021 when we are planning to hold a refreshed Village Picnic. If you'd like to be involved in making the 2021 event happen, then contact Matt in the office.



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

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 **March**. If anyone can offer to cover one, some or all of these, please contact Matt in the office.

Poster and further details in the porch



Alton CAP Debt Help Centre

seeks to appoint a part-time volunteer

Debt Coach



to work alongside the Centre Manager, and independently, to help clients in Alton and Four Marks on journeys out of debt, through Christians Against Poverty

LUMINOSA VOICES

Come & Sing!

Cecilia McDowall: Da Vinci Requiem & Vaughan Williams: 5 Mystical Songs

With Neil Ferris

Director of BBC Symphony Chorus & Patron of Luminosa

Sunday 1st March 2020

Alton Assembly Rooms
Rehearsals: 10.00am – 4.00pm (break 12.00 – 1.00pm)
Performance: 5.00pm

Poster and further details in the porch



From Howard and Helen Wright

Thank you for your send off on the 26th, it was lovely to celebrate the last 20 years and we were overwhelmed by the show of love and support and the extremely generous gift to help finance the study leave. Thank you so much and please be assured of our prayers in our absence.

And from Elaine King-Smith

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the celebration for Howard; Mark for sorting the film clip; Matt for the photographs; David for collecting the gifts; Chris McGrath for the amazing cake; Lynn for presenting the gift, Chris Wood and Chris King-Smith for their thoughtful words and prayers - last but not least, thanks to Andy for his memories and for helping me to recall the events of twenty years ago.

Sermons on-line and available on CD from the office

Howard's final sermon before Study Leave contained important information for us all. If you missed it, please do catch-up on-line or ask for a CD.

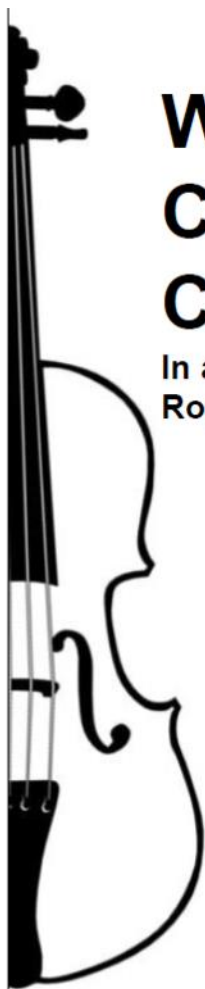
11.30am Cell Church

Following prayer and discussion with the members of the group, the 11.30am cell church has made the decision to stop meeting at this time. This gives us space to rethink how we minister to those who had made this congregation their church home and how we might otherwise develop a missional community.

Holiday at Home

Please will you save the clear plastic, round-ended 1 litre ice cream carton lids to be used as bases for small Easter gardens. Leave in the porch, or give to me. Thank you.

Elaine King-Smith



Winchester Camerata Concert

Saturday 8 February
6.30pm for 7pm

In aid of rebuilding
Ropley Church

St John's Church
Alresford SO24 9AG

Mozart	Divertimento in Bb K137
Mendelssohn	Concerto for violin and strings in D minor
Andrew Moore	Four Seasonal Sketches
Svensden	Romance Op 26 in G major

Conductor
Andrew Moore

Solo violin
Adrian Adlam

Tickets £15 including glass of wine
Students & children free
From: www.ticketsource.co.uk/winchester-camerata
Ropley Courtyard Shop
Alresford Linen Company
Oakleaf Stationery, Alresford
Kate Cook 07711 545983



Men's Group

Vic Stroud is interested in gathering a discussion group for men, that would meet mid-week. If any men are interested in joining him, please speak to Vic or email victorstroud@sky.com

Extra-articles Edition of Parish Magazine on Website and Contributions Please for the Next Magazine

The magazine with extra pages is on the website and I encourage you to view it there.

Your contribution to the next magazine is invited and should reach Robert Parker (parker305@btinternet.com) not later than the 15th of the month. Thank you.

Small Group Notes – 2nd February 2020

Gifted – Gifts of the Spirit

Bible readings: 1Corinthians 12:1-11 John 16:7-15

- 1) What spiritual gifts do you see being used in our Church?
- 2) Share how you became aware of your own gifting. If you would like to explore your gifting more you can use the shopping list activity described in the sermon or those suggested by Howard in the teaching series:- ee.umc.org/what-we-believe/spiritual-gifts-online-assessment
www.buildingchurch.net/g2s.htm www.cpas.org.uk/advice-and-support/exploring-call/your-shape/spiritual-gifts#.XfjOK3d2smc
- 3) How do you use your gifts - to build up your faith? for the church?, outside the church in everyday life? Can you give examples of how the gifts are used in these areas, from your own experience or from others?
- 4) How do you feel when you are using or seeing a gift being used?
- 5) Are there gifts you would like to have to help you in church life? The passage tells us to desire the gifts. Discuss what these gifts would be and take time in your small group to pray for each other.
- 6) Paul suggests that we should all desire the gift of prophecy. How do you as a group feel about this gift? Share your experiences. If you would like to practice and exercise this gift, listen to a worship song or psalm together than ask God in prayer to open your eyes and hearts to hear from him. Share what you believe God has given you. This may be something you have never done before, taking a risk, remember we have a God of love and humility.

If your group would like to take the gift further Howard recommends the following 3 week short courses-

www.harvestbiblechapel.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/discover-my-gift-bible-study.pdf

www.collingwoodbaptist.org/Resources_files/Spiritual%20Gifting%20Small%20Group.pdf

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 (on study leave until 4th May)

Contact our Church Wardens

Dr Chris King-Smith: c.kingsmith@btinternet.com
Mrs Lynn Vine: lynn.vine@live.co.uk

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 Wednesday



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 - February

BESOM

“The focus on the Besom is and always has been on those who have something to give, but are looking for a way to do so. Besom encourages involved giving out of a sense of love, as opposed to duty, and offers people the opportunity to think creatively about how they would like to give. “

www.besom.com

