



The Good
Shepherd
Four Marks

www.goodshepherdfourmarks.org.uk

Our church diary is available to view on the website

9th February 2020



Worship Matters!



pudding and Praise Evening

Friday 28th February 2020, from 7.30 in the Church

Please join us for an informal evening of music and songs, as we celebrate the musical gifts God has so graciously given us. We would especially welcome less confident singers and hesitant musicians to come along and have a go! Music will be available in advance for those who would like copies.

As always, there will be an opportunity for anyone to try their hand at the EW and PA equipment too. Whether you are a current member of any part of the team – music / singing / audio/visual - or would like to be involved, or are just a little curious, please come along!

Bring your instrument if you have one – however unskilled you are!



For more information, please speak to Chris McGrath

01420 564418 / chrismcgrath175@gmail.com / 07754 804786



Lent 2020

Lent begins on Wednesday 26th February with the Ash Wednesday Communion service. As Ministry Leader for Prayer I am very keen to offer the church family the resources to enable us to prepare during the Lent season for the events of Easter.

The team have decided to hold 2 meetings on Tuesday 18th February from 7.30 to 8.30 and Saturday 22nd February from 10-11 to explain what is being offered and to answer any questions. Some resources are produced by the Anglican church others are not. I do believe it is important that we try to prepare ourselves spiritually during Lent so that we can fully enter into the Passion of our Lord.

Lent on the Bookstall

In readiness for Lent, the bookstall is stocked with lent meditation resources, etc. Do have a look and see what there is.

The Week Ahead

Sunday 9th February

Gifted | Character Gifts

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

8am - Said Communion

9.30am - All Age Service of the Word

7pm - Celebration Service

Monday 10th February

10am - Bumps & Babies in church hall

7pm - Discipleship Explored in upper room

Tuesday 11th February

7am - Early Morning Prayer in chapel

Wednesday 12th February

10.30am - Westlands Communion

7pm - COGS Youth Wednesdays

Thursday 13th February

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

12.30pm - Toddler Lunch in church hall

7.30pm - Mindfulness Course in church hall

Saturday 15th February

10am - Litter Picking at Oak Green

Sunday 16th February

Gifted | Physical Gifts

Hebrews 10:19-25 & Matthew 25:14-30

8am - Said Communion

9.30am - All Age Communion Service

7pm - Celebration Service with communion

Caring in Prayer

New/Updated

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

Continuing

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.

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.

**Please note the office is closed
week beginning 17th February**

Apologies for the inconvenience

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.

Following the success of last year's **LADIES' AFTERNOON CRAFT TEA** we are considering something similar this year on **Saturday 21st March**. We do need a team of helpers though in the following areas so please, if this is something you enjoy and feel would be good to invite others along to, then speak to Jane Hughes or Caroline Andrews if possible in the next week. Thank you

- Stand at front to welcome and possibly share a short Christian thought
 - Preparation for and supervising a craft or flower arranging activity.
 - Making sandwiches, cakes and scones
 - SUPA team (set up, put away)
-

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

Vacancy

We are recruiting for a Community Project Officer to join our Community team here at EHDC - I would be grateful if you could circulate this amongst your contacts as appropriate, details below:

<https://saas.zellis.com/capita5c/wrl/pages/vacancy.jsf?latest=01000597>

Prayer Spaces in Schools

We're really excited to be running Prayer Spaces in Schools again this March. It's a fantastic opportunity to help children engage with God through creative prayer.

If you're interested and are available for a morning or afternoon on the week of the 9th March, please contact Lorna

Litter Picking

Come and help us show some of
God's love to the village.

Saturday 15th February, 10-11am

Meet behind the garage at Oak Green



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 – 9th February 2020

Gifted – Character Gifts (Loving One Another)

Love one another – to all; for all; and by all – was a repeated command of Jesus when on earth. It was also a continued theme for most of the New Testament writers, notably Paul.

He wrote about love, and about the things of the Spirit, or charismatic gifts, 1 Corinthians 12 – 14, and again on a later occasion when he wrote the book of Romans, chapter 12.

I wonder is there a particular reason why he chose to emphasise love in the context of Charismatic gifts? Was it because he had already observed that they could cause controversy, and because he possessed discernment that it would in future generations?

So, as he writes about them, he emphasises the need for us to be loving toward each other with a love that is demonstrated in our actions toward one other. Remember love is a “doing word”, and not just a noun.

In Romans 12, Paul exhorts his readers not to think more highly of themselves than they should, not that they should NOT have a good opinion of themselves, but that it was not “hyped up!”

He then writes about church being a body of which we each are active members.

Some discussion points: -

- ⇒ Have you encountered controversy or conflict with others about charismatic ministries?
- ⇒ Do you have a positive viewpoint of yourself, and do you either under-value, or “over value” yourself?
- ⇒ Jesus said, “Love your neighbour as yourself”. Do you love yourself? That can be a measure of how much you love others. If I can’t love me, can I love you?
- ⇒ One way that Jesus showed the disciples the extent of His love was washing their feet. How do you express your love to others?
- ⇒ Do you see yourself as one who attends the church here at COGS, or as an involved

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

