

Here's this week's news email for the Parish of Medstead and Four Marks

Services this Sunday - 23rd February 2025

8am at COGS - Communion Service
9.30am at COGS - All Age Service with sung worship, kids church, creche and youth (on 2nd and 4th Sundays)
11am at St Andrew's - Cafe Church



**Our next Alpha Course is launching Monday 24th February
Starting with a meal. 6.45pm for 7pm at the vicarage.**

For details on the course - [click here](#)

To attend the course, to know more, or if you'd like to assist, talk to Howard or contact Matt in the office

Preparation of a New Electoral Roll

Our APCM takes place on 29th April this year

Prior to our APCM will be in preparation of a New Roll.

Every person who wishes to have his or her name entered on the new Roll, whether it is entered on the present Roll or not, is requested to **apply for enrolment not later than 13th April.**

Please [click here](#) for further details and electronic copies of the application form

Paper forms will be available at COGS and St Andrew's.

Please speak to Frank Maloney, if you have any queries.

Can you join in?



Helping children of all ages to know God and grow in their relationship with Jesus



For some of our children, this means we need to give extra support. Will you be part of our team to help children of all ages and abilities know God and grow in their relationship with Jesus?

There are two ways you can help:

1. Consider joining our kids church team, especially if you have experience working with children who have additional needs.
2. Consider joining our crèche team to release Jane who can then provide additional needs support in kids church.

Given the nature of these positions, both DBS clearance and safeguarding training will be necessary.

For more information speak to Virginia or Jane



Would you like to help people in your local community to become debt free?

CAP Debt Centres are run in partnership with local churches to offer practical support, companionship and hope to people struggling with debt – as well as an opportunity to hear the gospel.

CAP DEBT COACHES URGENTLY NEEDED

For over ten years, Alton CAP Debt Centre – in partnership with Harvest Church – has been supporting clients to become free from debt. We are experiencing an increase in client numbers, and urgently need to expand our team of Debt Coaches from within our local church community.

Through home visits and ongoing support, Debt Coaches and Befrienders work alongside clients on their journey to becoming debt free.

Why be a CAP Debt Coach?

- Help to lift the burden of debt and see lives transformed
- Receive expert training and ongoing support
- Become part of a local and nationwide church-based movement



If you would like to find out more, please contact:

Steve Hannington, Alton Debt Centre Manager

Mobile: 07501 914563

Email: stevehannington@capuk.org



Tackling UK poverty through the Church
<https://capuk.org/>

Upcoming Special Services

Ash Wednesday

Our Ash Wednesday service will take place at **St Andrew's at 7pm, Wednesday 5th March**

And in Holy Week...

A Service of Compline will take place at 7pm at St Andrew's on Monday 14th, Tuesday 15th & Wednesday 16th April

Evening of Prayer

Our monthly evening of Prayer will take place on **Tuesday 15th April, 7.30pm in the church hall at COGS.**

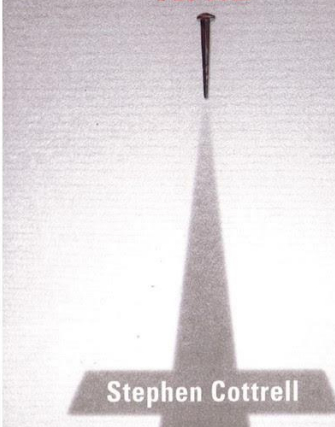
Maundy Thursday

Our Maundy Thursday service will take place at **St Andrew's at 7pm, Thursday 17th April**

Good Friday

There will be a Good Friday Meditation at **St Andrew's at 2pm, Friday 18th April**

And at COGS

<p>THE NAIL</p> <p>BEING PART OF THE PASSION</p> <p>Who killed Christ? Who was responsible?</p> <p>A dramatic and meditative presentation reflecting upon the events of the days leading up to and including Good Friday.</p> <p>Hear how key witnesses describe Christ's crucifixion from their points of view.</p> <p>Each character will consider the part they played in hammering the nails into Jesus.</p> <p>Will you accept the nail that crucified Christ?</p> <p>Will you recognise your role in the drama of the cross?</p> <p>Good Friday, 7pm, Church of the Good Shepherd</p> <p><small>Based on an idea by Stephen Cottrell, Archbishop of York</small></p>	<p>Being part of the Passion</p> <p>the NAIL</p>  <p>Stephen Cottrell</p>
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Alton Food Bank

We need the use of a van and muscles...could you help?

Alton Foodbank has its food warehouse on a different site to the Centre where clients come to collect food. We need help to transport the food in crates from the Warehouse to the Centre ready to give out to our clients.

We are looking for support from a company or individual with a van (or large vehicle) who may be able to help with transport.

Both sites are in Alton, and about a five minute drive from each other. Ideally this would take two hours once a week, and a volunteer would be on hand to assist.

If you think you could help or you know someone else who may be interested, please email Sian Mills, Project Manager, for more information. The email address is info@alton.foodbank.org.uk

tearfund



Tearfund Lent Devotionals

A weekly email of reflections, stories, and prayers, helping us draw closer to God as we approach Easter.

<https://www.tearfund.org/campaigns/lent-devotional>

Confirmation

We are hoping to hold a confirmation service at some point from late summer. If anyone is interested in getting confirmed, please speak to Howard, or contact the parish office.

New Treasurer Needed

We 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.



AWAKE Suffolk Coastal Mission, Sept 6-14, 2025

Please consider being a team member on one of the teams on this mission.

You will be greatly encouraged and gain a deeper understanding of the gospel.

I guarantee that as soon as you have explained the Gospel of Christ on day 1, you will not want to stop. With some training and praying beforehand, you will find it quite easy to talk faith and folk will be drawn closer to the Saviour.

You will be well fed, get tired and see God making connections that glorify Jesus.

Of a previous mission, someone said that he would have paid £500 not to have gone on it but afterwards that he would have paid £500 to have gone.

Further details from Robert Parker (parker305@btinternet.com)
or <https://www.throughfaithmissions.org/awake>

Ukraine Warm Clothes Appeal

The disruption of energy supplies in Ukraine has made it especially difficult for people to keep themselves and their homes warm. This has prompted our local Ukrainian friends to launch an urgent appeal for warm clothing.

Alton's Community Cupboard will act as a collection hub for local donations, up to the end of February. If you have any of the following items you no longer need, in a clean and good condition, please drop them off in **between 10.00am and 12.00 noon on Mon, Wed, Fri, or between 11.00am and 12.00 Sat.**

Items needed: sweaters, warm trousers, pyjamas, thick socks, thermals, warm blankets (NOT duvets), walking boots. (For adults, children and babies).

Drop items off to:

Alton Community Cupboard: - 73b High St, Alton GU34 1AA

Thank you!!

Paris Marathon for Samaritans

Andy Short is running the Paris Marathon on Sunday 13th April 2025 to raise money for the Samaritans.

If you would like to sponsor him, you can do so here: https://www.justgiving.com/page/andrew-short-1732959300173?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL

Diocesan Environment Group

The Diocese is seeking nominations from across our diocese for members to join the Diocesan Environment Group (DEG). The DEG meets 4-6 times/year and has oversight of the implementation of our [Diocesan NZC Strategy](#). If you or someone you know, has a passion for caring for God's creation and/or relevant skills and experience, please do prayerfully consider joining this group of committed individuals.

Further details and a nomination form can be obtained from [Jayne Tarry](#) or contact Matt in the office. You will need to provide a brief bio on your form (only to be shared with the Bishop's Council or DEG). A bio would ideally contain some detail about your local church involvement, creation care/NZC experience and any pertinent background to your interest in DEG as well.

The nomination period closes on Thursday 27 February.

Racial Justice Group

The Diocese is seeking nominations from across our diocese for members to join the Racial Justice Group (RJG). The RJG meets 4-6 times/year and has oversight of the implementation of our [Diocesan Racial Justice Strategy](#). If you, or someone you know, has lived experience and a passion for Racial Justice, please do prayerfully consider joining this group of committed individuals.

Further details and a nomination form can be obtained from [Jayne Tarry](#) or contact Matt in the office. You will need to provide a brief bio on your form (only to be shared with the Bishop's Council or RJG). A bio would ideally contain some detail about your local church involvement, lived experience and your interest in Racial Justice.

The nomination period closes Thursday 27 February.



Waverley Singers
waverleysingers.com

Saturday 22 March 2025, 7:30pm
St Andrew's Garrison Church
Aldershot GU11 2BY

Mendelssohn **Elijah**

BARITONE - ANDREW RUPP
SOPRANO - MARIANA FERNANDES
MEZZO - JULIA MERINO
TENOR - HARUN TEKIN
CHAMELEON ARTS ORCHESTRA
CONDUCTOR - RICHARD PEARCE

TICKETS
In advance/on the door
£20/£22 Premium
£15/£17 General
£5 Students
U16 free subject to conditions
Tickel price includes a complimentary drink



ticketsource.co.uk/waverleysingers

RETIRING COLLECTION IN AID OF STEP BY STEP





The Waverley Singers is Registered Charity no. 284123



Waynflete Singers

Verdi Requiem

Winchester Cathedral
Friday 4th April 2025
at 7.30 pm

The Waynflete Singers
Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra
and Bournemouth Symphony Chorus members

Soprano: Elin Pritchard
Alto: Rebecca Afonwy-Jones
Tenor: Andrés Presno
Bass: Ashley Riches

Conductor: Andrew Lumsden

Tickets: £15.00 - £50.00
From: www.winchester-cathedral.org.uk/whats-on/
or call 01962 857275
or via www.waynfletesingers.org.uk/concerts



Registered charity no: 285107

www.altonchoral.org.uk
Charity no.900258

Alton Choral Society Presents
Reflective Music for Good Friday
18th April, 6pm
Alton Methodist Church

Admission free

Retiring collection for



St Andrew's Medstead Music Recital
Saturday 26th April at 6pm



*Come along and enjoy a mix of well-loved
classical and light music, performed by
local artists*

*Tickets - £12.50 (concessions for children) include:
Finger Buffet and a Class of Wine or Soft Drinks which will
be served in the church hall after the concert.*

For tickets please contact:
Sharon Blackshaw on 01420 563937
E-mail: seblackshaw@gmail.com or
Wendy Busby on 01420 564168
E-mail: wendy.busby@hotmail.co.uk

Raising money for:
Kathryn's Mercy Home
St Andrew's Fabric Fund



Our current series



Our new teaching series for spring at COGS has begun. Service cards are available in church or you can find it online

- <https://www.parishofmedsteadandfourmarks.co.uk/resources/teaching-series/>

Sermons can be found on our sermon page or in our whole service videos on our youtube channel

Vicar: Howard Wright

Tel: 07746 066046 | Email: vicar@pmafam.co.uk

Family Worker: Jane Hughes

Tel: 07711 407831 | Email: families@pmafam.co.uk

Youth & Children's Minister: Virginia

Tel: 07724 141267 | Email: youthandchildren@pmafam.co.uk

Church Office: Matt Senior

Tel: 01420 560622 | Email: office@pmafam.co.uk