

**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.**

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**Services this Sunday - 8th December**

**8.00am at St Andrew's - Communion Service**

**9.30am at COGS - All age service with sung worship, kids church, creche and youth  
(on 2nd and 4th Sundays)**

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**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.

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**Financial Update**

Thank you so much to those who have responded to the financial message! We are in a stable position as we end the year. As always there will be challenges as we head into the new year.

**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.

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**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.

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**Christmas Singing at St Andrew's - 5pm, Sunday 8th December**

Come along for singing Christmas songs, with hot chocolate and mulled wine! The event will take place among the churchyard Christmas trees (or inside the church if the weather is poor).

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**Funeral for Tony Shaw**

Tony's funeral is taking place at **11am, Monday 16th December** at the Church of the Good Shepherd.

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**Christmas Choir Rehearsals**

Rehearsals for the Christmas carol services at COGS are underway. The carol services are taking place on Sunday 15 December at 5 & 7pm. Remaining rehearsal dates:

Monday 9 December

Thursday 12 December.

Rehearsals start at 8pm and are held in the church.

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

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## Alton Food Bank Update

Together we can end hunger for good.

We know what's pushing people to need the food bank, so we know what needs to change to ensure everyone in your area has enough money to live on.

Will you play your part?

**Volunteer** - Your skills could make a real difference at your food bank - check our website or social for our current vacancies.

**Donate** - Food: visit our website to check what we need most and where you can donate | Money: whatever you can afford to give, your support helps us to continue serving your local community.

The Trustees for the Alton Food Bank wish to thank you for the generous donations of finance and food received from The Good Shepherd & St. Andrews. If you would like to know more about ways you might be able to help support your local Food Bank, please look at [www.trussell.org.uk](http://www.trussell.org.uk) and contact the Alton Manager [sian@alton.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:sian@alton.foodbank.org.uk).

I regularly take food donations from the crate by the Mission Board in COGS to the Warehouse, where they're checked in, and donations left in the bin in Four marks Co-op store.

Ann Leahy (Parish Representative)



The poster features a black background with festive Christmas decorations at the top, including green pine branches, gold and silver baubles, and snowflakes. In the center, the 'Messy Church' logo is displayed in white and yellow text on a red splatter background. To the left, a young boy is shown in profile, holding a lit candle. To the right, there is a small illustration of a lit candle in a yellow pot. Below the logo, the text 'with Christingle' and '8th December' is written in yellow. At the bottom left is a QR code, and at the bottom right is the text 'Scan the code or visit:' followed by the URL 'https://pmafmm.churchsuite.com/events/asctxhaa' and 'to book your space'.

**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>



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



# Christmas Movie

with Pizza, Popcorn and Hot Chocolate



**Sunday 15th December**

**11am-2pm**

Don't forget your cushion or bean bag

Book your space with

Virginia  
youthandchildren@  
pmaf.co.uk

Jane  
families  
@pmaf.co.uk

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

<b>under 5's</b>			<b>Messy Church Christingle 8th Dec</b>		
Tues 10th Dec 8.45- 11.30am	Tots Christmas party and Nativity	Refreshments, tots play chat with parents	11am -12.30pm	Set up tables and prep oranges	Set up 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
<b>Nativity Trail 23rd December</b>					
5-6.30pm Sun 22nd	Set up tables and displays		Set up team		
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.

Talk to Matt or Jane to find out more.

**BBC Songs of Praise**

BBC Songs of Praise this Sunday 8th December at 1.25pm is on "The role of Angels in the Christmas story.

Hope Price who wrote a book about peoples experiences of meeting Angels, is being interviewed. Her book is called "Angels." Hope Price was a missionary at the same time as Jenny Stutley back in the 1970's.

## 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



Waynflete Singers

### A Classical Christmas

Winchester Cathedral  
Saturday 7th December 2024  
at 7.30 pm

**Beethoven: Mass in C**  
**Bach: Wacht 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 **HOME START**

**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  
Beef Festival  
Focus stoves



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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

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**Vicar: Howard Wright**

Tel: 07746 066046 | Email: [vicar@pmafam.co.uk](mailto:vicar@pmafam.co.uk)

**Family Worker: Jane Hughes**

Tel: 07711 407831 | Email: [families@pmafam.co.uk](mailto:families@pmafam.co.uk)

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

Tel: 07724 141267 | Email: [youthandchildren@pmafam.co.uk](mailto:youthandchildren@pmafam.co.uk)

**Church Office: Matt Senior**

Tel: 01420 560622 | Email: [office@pmafam.co.uk](mailto:office@pmafam.co.uk)