

**Temporary Sign: newsletter
without a name...yet...read
on to see what I mean....**



St John's Parish Church
New Alresford, Hampshire

at the heart of Alresford

Time for a makeover - no more Sunday School Newsletter, we're expanding - from now on we're hoping to distribute this newsletter to as many young people and families as possible - whether they are regulars at St John's, occasional callers, or possible future customers. If you know someone who might like to receive the newsletter please let me know. It's cheapest and easiest to do it by email, but a postal address will be ok otherwise.

But the tricky bit now is what do we call it? I've had a few ideas: Stuff and Nonsense, Mail on Sunday (probably a copyright infringement!), Listen Up!, or even a nice conventional St John's News for Families. I've decided to invite you to name it and I will give a (small) prize to anyone who emails me a suggestion that we take up. Please email by 14th February latest.

Lots of things to say this time so it's a long newsletter - hope you find it useful. Any suggestions for future editions welcome!

Rolly Thomas
Focus leader for young people
01962 736256
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SERVICES

We try and provide a variety of services to suit all tastes. Listed here are services particularly aimed at families:

Christingle & Cake - a café-style service in the church:

31st January (Saturday) at 4.00pm

Second Sunday Service - 9.30 for about 45 minutes, followed by drinks and cakes in the John Pearson Hall:

8th February, 8th March, 10th May

Sunday @ Six - 6.00pm - a modern approach to worship - prayer and praise for all ages:

18th January, 15th February, 15th March, 19th April, 17th May

Celebrate Service - 9.30 family services with a special theme:

22nd March (Mothering Sunday), 5th April (Palm Sunday)

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School runs each Sunday in term time during the 9.30 service (except Second Sunday and "Celebrate" services). After the first hymn in church children go into the John Pearson Hall for Sunday School worship, music and activity groups for different ages. All children are welcome - every week or just now and then.

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEAM

Rolly Thomas
(736256; rollythomas@waitrose.com)

Liz Boreham
Susan Luckham
Sue Smith
Margaret Stewart
Diana Wooldridge
Ewart Wooldridge
Richard Paget

Crèche - available for babies and toddlers in the John Pearson Hall during 9.30 services - contact *Dawn Corfield* (733726). Even when there is no formal crèche, at any time during services you are welcome to take your child to the hall for some "time out"

In case you don't know we also provide:

Chatterbox - a group for parents and toddlers - Thursdays 10.00 -11.30am - in the John Pearson Hall.

A chance for peace and reflection - for (amongst others) busy parents - Friday morning Communion 10.00am and Saturday Quiet Communion 8.30 am

Our building - our church is open every day and it's a great place to spend a few minutes in - to appreciate the lovely building, its flowers, space and quietness. There is a library, and a prayer book to write in if you have something special on your mind.

WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL

It's a bit bigger there, and they have LOADS going on! For full details see their website: www.winchester-cathedral.org.uk

I'm just going to mention a couple of forthcoming events they are holding:

Youthquake - 28th February 7.00-10.00pm. This is a biennial event aimed at young people 11-18 years old. The cathedral is turned upside down and inside out for the evening, with loads of activities, music and worship. The speaker this year will be Andy Flannagan, and bands The Jamie Hill Experience and Quench will be shaking the foundations!

just10 - this is an exciting approach to modern Christian living for all ages, led by J.John. It begins in Winchester on Wednesday 22nd April. St John's is hoping to participate in this movement via a telelink and some events of our own. For more information about this please contact Phil Collins or see our website.

AND HERE'S A BIT MORE INFO FOR KIDS.....

If you come to Sunday School on 22nd February don't eat too much breakfast - we'll be looking at Lent and we might start with the traditional Shrove Tuesday dish. If you don't know what that is you'd better check it out before you come, so you can get your taste buds ready!

WHAT ELSE IS HAPPENING?

Easter - this year, in a change from our usual pattern, we're not planning a Good Friday Workshop. We hope you'll all enjoy the Churches Together in Alresford service that morning in Broad Street. But before that, on Saturday April 4th, we are planning to run a **FUN FOR EASTER workshop** in the John Pearson Hall. More details to follow.

CRB checking - not exciting, but very important. If you have ANY role which involves contact with young people, children or vulnerable adults at St John's, please speak to *Sarah Connell* (736226 or n.sconnell@sky.com) to arrange for a CRB check. Her next surgery for this is on 8th February after the Second Sunday service.

Children in church - we aim to make children feel welcome and relaxed in church. However it's a delicate balancing act trying to do so whilst ensuring that others aren't disturbed! For a trial period we have put a table and chairs in the library corner of the church for very young children to use during services (other than family services and Second Sunday). There are books and colouring materials available, which we hope will help them be happy and occupied. Please supervise your own children. We would really like to know what you think about this, and also your suggestions about any other provision for children which you would find helpful. Please contact Rolly, Pat Clegg or any member of the Sunday School Team.

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN ALRESFORD - COVENANTED FOR UNITY