



## **FAMILY MATTERS**

Issue 3 - November 09

### **SERVICES**

We provide a variety of services to suit all tastes. These are our regular services particularly aimed at families:

**Second Sunday Service** - a short, all-age informal service at 9.30 followed by drinks & cakes in the John Pearson Hall:

*13<sup>th</sup> Dec, 10<sup>th</sup> Jan, 14<sup>th</sup> Feb etc*

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

*13<sup>th</sup> Dec, 17<sup>th</sup> Jan, 21<sup>st</sup> Feb etc*

**Celebrate Service** - 9.30 family service with a special theme:

*Advent Sunday: Jesus - Light of the World 29<sup>th</sup> Nov*

**Over the Christmas period:**

*Chatterbox Crib Service Thurs 10th Dec 10.30am*

*Sun Hill Junior School Carol Service 14<sup>th</sup> Dec*

*Perins School Carol Service 16<sup>th</sup> Dec*

*St John's Carol Service Sun 20<sup>th</sup> Dec 6.30pm*

*St John's Crib Service Christmas Eve 5.00pm*

*Christmas Day Family Communion 9.30am - a short service for all ages*

*Christingle and cake Sat 30<sup>th</sup> Jan 4.00pm*



**St John's Parish Church**  
New Alresford, Hampshire

at the heart of Alresford

We're just entering a very busy period in the church calendar - there are details of several special services and events in this issue - take a look.

And talking of busy - Pat and I had a great evening in September with some of the young people at St John's, eating designer pizza and talking about lots of things. We discussed setting up a band or similar for a service in November...but they're all so busy they could not find a single time in the week when they were all free to rehearse! Never mind, something else will come up - I hope some suggestions will come from them in due course. If you have teenage children please give them a chance to read this newsletter - it's not just for adults.

Please let me know if you have any suggestions for a future edition of this newsletter, or if you know anyone who might like to receive it. And if any young people would like to contribute material that would be great; please contact me if so.

*Rolly Thomas*

*Focus leader for young people*

*01962 736256*

[rollythomas@waitrose.com](mailto:rollythomas@waitrose.com)

*Reminder - if you have tickets for "The Wind in the Willows"  
don't forget it's on 13<sup>th</sup> December.*

## **COUNTDOWN TO CHRISTMAS!**

**Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2.00-4.30pm**

**John Pearson Hall**

**Activities and games for ages 4-11**

**Cost - £2, reduction for brothers or sisters**

**If you'd like to come (or if you'd like to help)**

**please contact Rolly 736256**

**Sunday School** each Sunday in term time during the 9.30 service (except Second Sunday and “Celebrate” services). Starts in church, then children go into the John Pearson Hall for 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](mailto:rollythomas@waitrose.com))

Liz Boreham

Sue Smith

Diana Wooldridge

Richard Paget

Pat Clegg's number: 01962 736566

Susan Luckham

Margaret Stewart

Ewart Wooldridge

Sandy Young

**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”.

**Chatterbox** - a group for parents and toddlers - Thursdays 10.00 -11.30am - for more information *contact Liz Hoar (07557 946070)*

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

**The church** is open every day. You are welcome to come in even just for a few minutes to enjoy the quiet; you can use the library, or write in the prayer book if you have something special on your mind.

**CRB checks** If you have a role which involves contact with young people, children or vulnerable adults at St John's, please speak to *Sarah Connell (736226, [n.sconnell@sky.com](mailto:n.sconnell@sky.com))* to arrange for a CRB check.

**Children in church** - we aim to make children feel welcome and relaxed in church. If you have very young children please feel free to use the table and chairs, the colouring materials and the books in the library corner of the church during services (other than family services and Second Sunday). Please supervise your own children. If you'd like to suggest any other provision for children contact Rolly, Pat or any member of the Sunday School Team.

#### HELP NEEDED PLEASE

We need somebody to take over running the Crèche on Sunday mornings - Dawn has done it for a long time and deserves a break! Contact Rolly or Pat if you think you might be able to help.

#### SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

What's the Communion service all about? Why do we do it? If your children (or you yourself) have ever wondered, now is the time to find out.

In January we'll be starting something new - a special series of Sunday School sessions lasting till about May, which will look at aspects of the Communion tradition and liturgy. Over the same period older people will cover the same topic in Second Sunday and Sundays at Six. We hope to have a special Communion service in the summer to finish the project. We hope we'll all learn something new about communion - and have fun doing it. The more regularly children can attend Sunday School in this period the better, so the get the continuity. Also we shall be giving them a bit of “homework” so, parents, we'd welcome your involvement with this please. More details will come via your child in January. Contact Rolly if you have any questions.

#### Christmas Tree Festival

A new venture for St John's - running from 9<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> December in the church - don't miss it! £1 adults, children free.

Also featuring:

“*It's Christmas*” - a concert set among the Christmas trees. Sat 12<sup>th</sup> Dec, 7.30pm  
*Tickets £6 adults, £2 children from County News*

The **Baptism Party** is on 9<sup>th</sup> January. If you or your child has been baptised in the last two years you should have received an invitation by now - if you think you qualify and you haven't heard, please contact Ewart on 732736

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN ALRESFORD - COVENANTED FOR UNITY