

# *Alton Methodist Church*

## **NEWSLETTER**

February 2012

*Valentine's Day = one day in 2012*



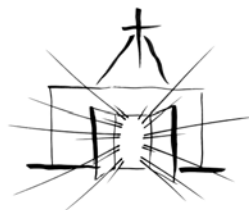
*God's love  
for us = 366 days in 2012*

**Sunday Services:** 9.15 a.m., 10.45 a.m., 6.30 p.m.  
or 10.00 a.m. and 6.30 p.m.

**Minister** Rev Keith Underhill

**Tel.** 01420 83167

**Circuit web site:**  
[www.faralt.org](http://www.faralt.org)



## From the Manse.....

Each new day is a gift from God. This year though, being leap year we have an extra day to enjoy, an extra gift – a total of 366 days in 2012.

It raises the question though, why do we need leap years?

I am told that leap years are needed to keep our calendar in alignment with the Earth's revolutions around the sun. ☹️It takes the Earth approximately 365.242199 days to circle once around the Sun.

However, the Gregorian calendar has only 365 days in a year, so if we didn't add a day on February 29 nearly every 4 years, we would lose almost six hours off our calendar every year. After only 100 years, our calendar would be out of sync by approximately 24 days.

In order for a year to be classified as a leap year, it has to be evenly divisible by 4; if the year can be evenly divided by 100, then it is not a leap year, unless it can also be evenly divisible by 400, then it is a leap year.

Which means that 2000 and 2400 are leap years, while 1800, 1900, 2100, 2200, 2300 and 2500 are NOT leap years.

So what are you going to be doing with the extra day that you have been given? How will you make the most of 29<sup>th</sup> February 2012?

Friends of ours will be celebrating their wedding anniversary - I keep meaning to ask them what they do for the other three years in between? How do people born on 29<sup>th</sup> February celebrate their birthdays in non-leap years? Does anyone in our church family celebrate any special event on 29<sup>th</sup> February?

I guess the answer to what are we going to do with the gift of that extra day, is the same reply that we would want to give for each and every day – to live it to God's glory and to do His will.

As we are reminded by Charles Wesley writing in 1749;

Here then to Thee Thy own I leave;  
Mold as Thou wilt Thy passive clay;  
But let me all Thy stamp receive,  
But let me all Thy words obey,

But let me all Thy stamp receive,  
But let me all Thy words obey,  
Serve with a single heart and eye,  
And to Thy glory live and die.

Happy leap year – with love and God Bless,

*Keith*

## Church Family news



We assure **Ann Steele** and her family of our continued prayers and support at this difficult time, following the death of her son, Stephen, just after Christmas.

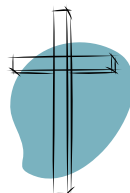
We give thanks for the life of “**Dolly**” **Goring** who died on 7<sup>th</sup> January. Dolly touched the lives of so many and we remember in particular her work with young people and especially that of the Boys’ Brigade where she was in charge of and ran 1<sup>st</sup> Alton Boys’ Brigade Company. Dolly’s funeral service was held at church on 25<sup>th</sup> January followed by interment at Alton Cemetery. We remember all of Dolly’s family at this time.



We assure the family of **Gerry Evans** of our love, thought and prayers at this time following Gerry's sudden but peaceful death on the morning of 24th January, the day of her 90th birthday. Gerry came to live in Alton three years ago to be closer to her family. In that time, Gerry became a church member here and was a regular worshipper at our 10:45am service.

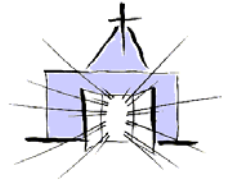
We are pleased to hear that **Henry Robb** has been discharged from hospital following a recent operation and we wish him well as he recuperates.

We continue to remember in our prayers, **Kate and Jack Wilson, Winnie Todd, Jane Holland, Janet and Ian Taylor, Mabs Taylor, Brian and Audrey Stubbs, Ann Steel** and her son **Ron**.



## General Church Meeting

This will be held at church on **Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> March beginning at 4:00pm**. A faith tea and then the evening service will follow the meeting.



The General Church Meeting is a very important meeting in the church year and it is open to anyone who would like to come along. It gives us an opportunity to hear what is going on in the life of the church, our plans for the future and some discussion on important issues that matter.

The meeting is also an opportunity for anyone to ask any questions and for us to elect our Church Stewards for the year and representatives to the Church Council. We are looking to appoint some new Church Council members at the General Church Meeting and would ask you all to think and pray about this. To be on the Church Council you have to be a church member and anyone wishing to know any more about this or to suggest a name, should have a word with either Keith or the Stewards ASAP.

## Ash Wednesday



On **22<sup>nd</sup> February**, we will be holding an Ash Wednesday service here at church at **8:00pm**, which will include the ceremony of ashes and Holy Communion – all are very welcome. This service will be lead by Keith.

## Parade Service



Our **Boys' and Girls' Brigades** will be parading at the **10:45am service on Sunday March 4<sup>th</sup>** as we welcome them, their parents, friends and supporters to our special service. Both the Brigades will be taking part in the service and we look forward to sharing in this special time together.



## Service of welcome and transfer of membership

During our **joint 10:00am service on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> February** we will be welcoming some new church members by transfer as they transfer their membership from other churches. More details nearer the time, but this will be a special occasion for them and for us as a church.





**20 - GAP - 12** . a year in mission . . .

## **“Lost for Words”** sharing faith naturally

A six week study course at

**Alton Methodist Church**

**starting Thursday 23rd February 7.45pm**

**Lost for words – sharing faith naturally** is a six week study course that Keith will be running during the Thursdays in Lent as part of our ‘GAP 2012 – a year in Mission’ programme. It is a course that encourages us to look at how we share our faith in a natural way with those we know and meet.

Over the six weeks of Lent we will be looking at and exploring the following themes

Week 1: Evangelism – trouble or joy?

Week 2: Connecting well

Week 3: Getting started

Week 4: Telling our story

Week 5: Telling God’s story

Week 6: Keeping going

Everyone is very welcome and, for more information, do have a word with Keith.

## The Big Read 2012



If you would like an alternative (or perhaps even an addition) to the GAP Lent course 'Lost for Words', this could be for you. People and churches across the country are getting ready to take a fresh look at the Mark's Gospel during Lent with the Big Read 2012.

The Big Read is part of the Big Bible project, an online digital community that promotes regular Bible reading and engagement with contemporary culture. It organised the successful Big Read 2011 which looked at Matthew's Gospel.

Everyone will be using Tom Wright's book, *Lent for Everyone: Mark*. House groups will be able to take advantage of free online study materials, including week-by-week group resources, videos and audio reflections. And the Big Bible website allows people to discuss the text with others all over the world.

The Big Read 2012 launches on Tuesday 21 February at 1.00pm with a 60 minute webinar (web seminar) with Professor Tom Wright.

For more details go to the Big Bible website ([www.bigbible.org.uk](http://www.bigbible.org.uk)).

## The Heart's Time

Finally, here is news about a new Lent book aimed at the individual. *The Heart's Time* has a poem for each day, along with a short reflection and a couple of questions to consider. The book will hold an appeal to poetry lovers as well as those who want to start exploring how poems can be a resource for our spiritual lives, whether or not they are written with a consciously Christian intent.



Compiled by Janet Morley, she has created a fascinating themed sequence of both familiar and unexpected poems, from across the centuries. The poems become the basis for 'slow reflection' during Lent and through to Easter Sunday.

Janet used to work for the Methodist Church (including writing *Called by Name*, *All This for You* and *Time to Talk of God*) and is now a freelance writer and trainer.

## Action for Children Annual Quiz

Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> February, 7pm

Have you got it in your diary? Now is the time to give me your name so that you can be part of this fun and fund-raising evening. As usual Gordon Frater will be asking the questions – you just have to answer them! Come as a team or on your own and have a laugh. The cost? Just £5 to include light refreshments. I look forward to hearing from you.



Jennie Marlow Tel: 85698

## Women's World Day of Prayer



This year's service will be held at St. Mary's Catholic Church on **Friday 2nd March at 2pm**. The service has been prepared by the Christian women of Malaysia on the theme 'Let Justice Prevail'. The speaker is our very own Karen Booker, who has recently returned from India and I'm sure is even more convinced of the need for justice for the marginalised. Come and be a part of our Christian community in Alton, and also be united with the worldwide church all sharing in this order of service. If you would like a lift please contact me.

Jennie Marlow Tel: 85698

## Own Arrangement Service – Kitchen Praise!

Our **6.30pm Service on 12<sup>th</sup> February** will be a time of thanksgiving for the outreach being done through our **monthly Luncheon Club**. Hymns will be chosen by those involved and maybe we'll get to have a peep behind the scenes at what goes on each month.



## Calling all Baby-Boomers!

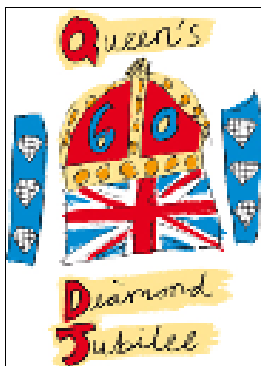
Five years ago a number of us went out for an enjoyable meal and shared what it's like to be 60. Now we're old hands at it and thought it would be good to repeat it and see what bits have worn out since last time! If you were born back in the 40s, then come and join us. The password is 'liberty bodice'! Let me know if you're interested and I'll sort out a venue and date.



Jennie Marlow (85698)

## Library Club

A reminder that the Library Club resumes on **Wed 22nd February, 2pm** at Alton Library. This is an initiative of Debbie Thomson's aimed at people who have difficulty getting out. If you think this might be for you, but haven't already been invited, please speak to Keith or Debbie.



## Celebrating the Queen's Diamond Jubilee

Plans for the 1950's themed Fete which will take place in **St Lawrence Churchyard on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> June** are beginning to take shape but lots more help is needed. The event, which will take place between 11am and 4pm, is part of the town's celebration and all proceeds will go to local charities.

Among the attractions planned so far are 50's styled entertainments including music and side shows such as a coconut-shy, hoopla and splat-the-rat. Also on offer will be a white elephant stall, tug-of-war and children's fancy dress. Refreshments will be available including ploughman's lunches, cakes and ice creams.

If you would like to get involved by manning a stall or if you and your group have any other ideas for an attraction or stall please contact Pauline (85600), Gwen (87059) or Margaret (88794).

## Lift Off for the new Hants-Surrey Border Methodist Circuit

As if 2012 wasn't full of enough excitement (!) the new Hants-Surrey Border Circuit will be inaugurated on 1<sup>st</sup> September, linking our four churches of the Farnham and Alton Circuit with churches in the (roughly) southern part of the Aldershot, Farnborough and Camberley Circuit.

This re-organisation of Methodism in this area is part of a pattern throughout the country, and responds to the changing needs of our churches and their work in local communities.



We plan to celebrate the change in various ways, but particularly by a sort of 'beating the bounds' of the new circuit on **Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> September**. Every church will be open all day to visitors from around the new circuit – and we are encouraging people to travel, alone or in families or groups, to as many of the churches as possible. And we hope people will use as many different means of travel as possible! Suggestions have included horseback, roller blades, and wheelchair, as well as bike, car, bus and train.

Each church will also arrange a display, activity or exhibition to welcome visitors; and refreshments of some kind will be available. Further details will be announced nearer the date – but in the meantime, please help us to plan our contribution. Even if you can't travel to other churches on that day, you might perhaps join a rota to staff and help out at our church.

There will also be prizes for the person/s who visit the most churches, the most imaginative means of travel used, the youngest adventurer and the oldest adventurer so now is the time to put your thoughts into action.

The co-ordinator here at Alton Methodist Church is Chris McCallum. As well as welcoming those travelling around the new circuit, we hope our 'open day' will also attract the community here in Alton.

# Mad Hatter's Tea Party

Alton Methodist Church

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> March

2-4pm



Hats and fascinators from  
"Experience"  
will be for sale  
in aid of Wessex Cancer Trust.

This is in memory of Robyn Fitzer, former Alton mayor and a glamorous lady,. We have decided to hold a special Mad Hatters Tea Party at Alton Methodist Church, where Robyn worshipped in aid of Wessex Cancer Trust.



We shall be serving home-baked cakes and scones with afternoon tea while you browse.



Entrance by ticket: £5

From Karen Booker, Judy Nicholls or Sarah Broadbent

*Ladies—come and join us for tea, try our hats and support our cause!*

# Boys' Brigade

## Senior Section



This half term the boys have been putting their hobbies to good use through our interest classes.

They have been experiencing classes led by our members of staff in many different things. The boys were asked to choose from a very long list and chose music-making, cookery, photography, radio-controlled cars and railway interests. They have now completed these - most gaining skills they didn't have before.

Whilst this has been going on the boys have also been completing all the other activities that Christmas in the Brigade throws at us. The BB Christmas card delivery was yet again a huge success. I would like to add my thanks to David and Christine Allan who play post masters so well each year. I also would like to thank you all in the congregation and beyond who put your trust in our boys so they can raise money for their activities. Our success in raising money did not stop there however. Our carol singing was also very well attended by the boys who were in very good voice when singing for Action For Children.

Our National teams are still returning from all competitions but I can report that our master team is through to the next round having beaten the opposition off in a battle in Torquay. Mr Ryan had this to say "*We were up against companies from Llantwit Major, Torquay, Bovey Tracey (our hosts), Gloucester and (once again) defending national champions Bracknell. We led right from the beginning- and it was very encouraging that our boys scored ten out of ten on both the Bible knowledge and BB knowledge. There were only two rounds on which we were beaten by any company- American Civil War (as expected!) and natural world- which was the last round- by which time we had an almost insurmountable lead. At one stage we led by 8 points, which was closed to 5.5 by the end...The boys enjoyed the day- particularly the fish and chips- and will be looking forward to the next round!*"

We now start preparing for our day of competitions and so we must start to look at all aspects. With a new officer in charge of drill we should have some exciting news to follow on this. Once again I would like to thank you all for the support the church gives the boys and its staff and I hope we can bring more trophies back soon.

**Christian Janes** - Captain

## **Junior Section**

We are now well into the swing of a new year and a new term. The boys are working hard to gain their badges and we continue to run a varied and lively programme.

Our worship sessions so far have looked at Epiphany and what the gifts of the wise men signifies, Zachaeus' story and how Jesus can change anyone for the better, and how we are God's hands on earth to do his work. We are looking towards the Olympics in much of our work this year as it's the theme for Competitions Day at the end of the session so we'll be thinking about the values associated with the Olympics e.g. friendship between peoples of all creeds and colours, determination, and teamwork.

The Olympic theme is also the basis for the artwork the boys have started and the drama, singing and readings which will be part of the competition in April. The boys have shown themselves to be both thoughtful and imaginative in their approach to the art so each boy will be producing very different pieces; different in their imagery and in the materials used.

At the beginning of February the third year boys will be going to London for the day on the train to visit the Natural History Museum. The 'London Trip' has become an annual event always enjoyed by the boys, not least for the train journey and the opportunity to buy something small in the museum shop.

Then we have Battalion Team Games and 5 a-side football in March when selected boys compete against the other companies in the Battalion and after that the big day itself for all the boys in Junior Section with figure marching, drama, singing and a quiz.

There's never a dull moment and there's still room for more boys.

**Helen Wallace (84689)**

## Anchor Boy News

Three new recruits – Andrew, Ollie and Fitz -- joined us at the beginning of term, so now we are NINE! The new boys have settled in very quickly and are contributing enthusiastically to all our activities. We are having some games sessions on our own, so that the newcomers can become familiar with a range of team games before we join up again with the more experienced Juniors.

At our first meeting we talked about “rules” and how they are important for keeping us safe and helping us to live together in peace. We decided that God’s rules are like a torch, showing us the way; and that they help us to decide between right and wrong. The boys made door hangers and wheels illustrated with reminders that Jesus is with us always, so we can ask him, at all times, to help us to keep those rules.

Our focus throughout January is always the production of the Frieze which is entered into the competition on Anchors’ Fun Day. This year the theme is “The Jungle” and the boys have been busy sponge-printing the background and making leaves, flowers and animals to add to the picture. We have a standard to keep up, as we were the winners last year!

**Judy Nicholls** (Officer in Charge)

## Girls’ Brigade News

The Explorer girls have been considering food – always a popular topic. In addition to thinking about what they eat, they have been practising their own food preparation skills, progressing from buttering toast through making sandwiches for lunch and today made Rice Krispy cakes. How can the next weeks avoid being a let-down after chocolate? We have managed to pay some attention to other aspects of the food issue – thanking God through saying Grace, others who go hungry, etc.



The older girls are skirting the food issue with their development of hostess skills. Our Young Leader, Kimberley, has been teaching them some very intricate napkin folding and altogether taking an increasing role in running the meetings. Later this month she will be attending an advanced training session, organised by the District at Farnham Methodist Church.

The officers are also pre-occupied with food as later this week we will be

hosting the District AGM and fellowship meal. This is always a friendly evening and a chance to get to know the staff of other companies in the District.

New members are always welcome. For further information, please contact the Captain, Kym Burgess (Tel 01252 334814 or email [kim.burgess@ir.inchcape.co.uk](mailto:kim.burgess@ir.inchcape.co.uk)).

**Nancy Buck (Explorer Leader)**

## Andrews Endowed Primary School.



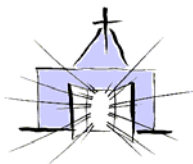
The Diocese has contacted Andrews Endowed Primary School as a Church of England School with new guidance regarding admission criteria. In line with this clear guidance the school have changed their admission priority to make catchment overtake siblings as priority, in line with the school provenance. As a consequence, the school is currently in a 10 week consultation period and would welcome comments from prospective parents.

Any comments should be sent to the Chair of Governors either in writing to the school office, or via email on [adminoffice@andrewsendowed.hants.sch.uk](mailto:adminoffice@andrewsendowed.hants.sch.uk) The consultation period runs until **Feb 24th**.

## Birth announcement



**Gwen Self** is thrilled to announce the arrival of her sixth great grandchild. Holly, who was born on Thursday 5th January 2012, a sister to Elise and Charlie.



Alton Methodist Church  
Family Committee  
invites you to an  
**OPEN MEETING**

# **A Safe Refuge**

**Sue Harrower**  
of Women's Aid  
will talk about her work with the  
**Women's Refuge**

followed by a question and answer session

***Tuesday 7th February at 7.45pm***  
***in Alton Methodist Church***

# Alton All Saints' Hard of Hearing Group



**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February** - Lip Reading, 2.30pm, with Tutor Maggie Short.

**Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> February** - Craft, 2pm, A Knitting Knit-In. Bring along knitting patterns, projects and ideas to share among the group. Instruction given for beginners.

**Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> February** - Drop-In & Chat session from 2.30pm. The meeting will also include something to do with pancakes!

**Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February** - The Shelter Box Charity with David Glover plus an update on hearing related matters, from 2pm

All meetings are held in All Saints' Church hall. The hearing aid volunteer repair team are present on the first and fourth Tuesdays to retube aids and provide new batteries.

**NB** Also on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February in the Alton Market, 10am to midday, outside Marks & Spencer's, the Mobile Unit Van will be parked with equipment and advice on all aspects of hearing loss. Take advantage to visit and see what is available.

## Latest news from the Methodist Church in Fiji

On 7 January 2012 the government in Fiji lifted the public emergency regulations which seriously restricted the activities of the Methodist Church there. However they were immediately replaced by a revised public order act. This act means that the Methodist Church in Fiji is now allowed to apply for permission to hold meetings, rather than not even being allowed to apply. They are now trying to organise themselves as it has been three years since many Church meetings have been held.

The Revd Tevita Nawadra, the assistant general secretary of the Methodist Church in Fiji, has written to thank "our friends and partners who have shared our stories and given time to think and pray for the Church in Fiji; their prayers have been answered. May God bless them all. We still have a long way to go still, but it is starting anyway".

Please continue to pray for the nation.



## Holy Biscuit takes the biscuit from Olympic organisers

The London 2012 Organising Committee has given the go-ahead for a community arts project linked to the Methodist Church to feature as part of the Cultural Olympiad.

LOCOG awarded an Inspire Mark – its official seal of approval – to the Outside/In project, which will see young people and adults from different parts of Newcastle telling stories about themselves, their history, culture and communities through art. The artists' work will feature as four exhibitions at The Holy Biscuit from March to July 2012. The Holy Biscuit (formerly Shieldfield Methodist Church) is a community arts space partnered with The Methodist Church and The Biscuit Factory – an independent art gallery in Newcastle upon Tyne.

Find out more at [www.theholybiscuit.org](http://www.theholybiscuit.org).

## National award for Church's youth participation

As a result of their review of the Youth Participation Strategy (YPS), the National Youth Agency has awarded The Methodist Church the *Hear By Right Award*. This is an extremely prestigious award for those who work with young people and the Methodist Church is the largest organisation so far to have achieved it.

The award is a testament to the hard work of the participation project managers and the YPS reference group and all those who have worked so hard in the Children and Youth Team to ensure that participation is fully embedded in our work as a Church.

The YPS aims to get young people participating in the life of the whole Church, and involved in decision making at every level. For more details visit [www.methodist.org.uk](http://www.methodist.org.uk) and follow Home/Church Life/Children and Young People.

*(These last 3 items were taken from Methodist E-News)*

# Introducing Ministerial Development Review



As disciples we all want to offer our best to God. As part of a community of disciples we all want to encourage and support one another in becoming the best we can be for God.

That is why this year your minister will be taking part in a new process of Ministerial Development Review. It will probably happen without most of you knowing when it is happening, but it's important that you should be aware of the ways in which the church tries to support your minister and what you can do to offer support as well. This is what Martyn Atkins, the General Secretary of the Methodist church has written:..

Ministerial Development Review has its roots in the Church's responsibility to support its ministers, and in the Conference's specific desire to provide a structured means for ministers to reflect on and review their ministry.

A key feature of Ministerial Development Review is the annual review meeting – a significant event which provides an important opportunity for ministers to share their reflections, insights and hopes with others who have a responsibility for their well-being and for their growth in ministry (one other minister and a lay person). But whilst the organisation and facilitation of the review meeting is a key task, Ministerial Development Review is about much more than this. At its core, it is not an annual event but an ongoing process of collaborative reflection and learning, of reshaping ministry in the light of experience and feedback, of sharing and addressing blockages to progress and growth, and of celebrating successes and affirming gifts and graces.

It is my hope that Ministerial Development Review will strengthen the Christian ministry in which we share, and help us all as we focus on our prayerful and active intention to be a discipleship movement shaped for mission.

You can all help by regularly praying for the ministers in your circuit and their families. To realise that you are being prayed for by someone, sometimes without asking, can be very affirming. You may be asked to give some feed-

back about some area of your minister's work. You will have been asked because your minister and those helping them in the review value your insights. If you are asked it's an opportunity for you to encourage your minister to be the best they can be for God.

If you want to know more about Ministerial Development Review you can find out from the Methodist website going to [www.methodistchurch.org.uk](http://www.methodistchurch.org.uk) and typing "ministerial development review" into the search box.

**John Hellyer**  
**District Chair**



## **An Evening with John Wesley**

### **A one man performance by Mark Topping**

**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2012 at 7.30 pm**  
High Cross Church, Knoll Road, Camberley, Surrey  
GU15 3SY

*No ticket necessary, retiring collection at end of performance*

For further details contact: 01344 762407  
or email [kegferretfan@aol.com](mailto:kegferretfan@aol.com)

## Dates for your diary



### February

Thurs 2 <sup>nd</sup>	'Explore' young people membership/confirmation Start of 10 week course (dates TBC) at St Lawrence	1630
Sat 4 <sup>th</sup>	BB Chaplain and leaders breakfast at the Church	0815
Sun 5 <sup>th</sup>	The Cove youth group at the Church	1930-2100
Tues 7 <sup>th</sup>	Open Family Committee event 'A Safe Haven' about 'Women's Aid' at the Church	1945
Thurs 9 <sup>th</sup>	SAS children's activities at St Lawrence parish centre	1515-1645
Thurs 9 <sup>th</sup>	Alton Church Council meeting at the Church	1830
<b>Wed 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>Ash Wednesday Service at the Church</b>	<b>2000</b>
Thurs 23 <sup>rd</sup>	GAP Lent Course (1) 'Lost for Words' Evangelism – trouble or joy? at the Church	1945
Sat 25 <sup>th</sup>	CAMEO – afternoon tea and chat in the Church	1400-1600
<b>Sat 25<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Action for Children quiz night in the Church</b>	<b>1900</b>
Sun 26 <sup>th</sup>	Service inc. reception of new members by transfer Allsortz youth group at St Lawrence	1000 1830-2000

### March

Thurs 1 <sup>st</sup>	GAP Lent Course (2) 'Lost for Words' Connecting well In the Church	1945
Fri 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Women's World Day of Prayer at St Mary's Catholic Church	1400
Sun 4 <sup>th</sup>	BB and GB parade service Annual Church meeting	1045 1600
Sun 4 <sup>th</sup>	The Cove youth group in the Church	1930-2100
Thurs 8 <sup>th</sup>	SAS children's activities at St Lawrence parish centre	1515-1645
Thurs 8 <sup>th</sup>	GAP Lent Course (3) 'Lost for Words' Getting started in the Church	1945
Sun 11 <sup>th</sup>	Allsortz youth group at St Lawrence	1830-2000
Thurs 15 <sup>th</sup>	GAP Lent Course (4) 'Lost for Words' Telling our story at the Church	1945
Sat 17 <sup>th</sup>	Mad Hatter's tea Party	1400-1600
Sun 18 <sup>th</sup>	The Cove youth group in the Church	1930-2100
Tues 20 <sup>th</sup>	Farnham/Alton Circuit meeting (Venue tbc)	1930
Thurs 22 <sup>nd</sup>	GAP Lent Course (5) 'Lost for Words' Telling God's story in the Church	1945
Sat 24 <sup>th</sup>	CAMEO	1400-1600
Sun 25 <sup>th</sup>	GAP Joint Confirmation/Membership Service at St Lawrence	1030
Sun 25 <sup>th</sup>	Allsortz youth group at St Lawrence	1830-2000
Thurs 29 <sup>th</sup>	GAP Lent Course (6) 'Lost for Words' Keeping going in the Church	1945



# SPRING FASHION SHOW

Karen Booker and Judy Nicholls will  
be organising yet another

## **Recycled Fashion Show**

**Tuesday 24th April  
2012**

- tell your friends!

However as ever its success depends on  
**YOU**. Please can you provide the range and quality  
of donated clothes needed?

We are already collecting, so look over those  
spring and summer outfits before you put them  
away for another year! Do those autumn and  
winter outfits really fit you, or could they go to an-  
other home while you make more space?

Join in the fun and help us raise funds in  
the process!

Thank you.

# Energy Alton - £102,000 to spend!

As you may have seen in the local press, Energy Alton (formed from Greening Alton & Holybourne) has won a grant of £102,000 which they must use by 31<sup>st</sup> March to advance energy saving in Alton & Holybourne. One of their projects is to rent a shop where they will set up an Energy Advice Centre. They will also be doing household and business energy surveys and are looking to completely insulate two homes to be used as show houses. If you would be interested in volunteering to help or wonder if they would consider your home for insulation or energy survey, please see the information on the notice board in the Hall or ask Jill in the office for a copy.

**STOP PRESS:** There is to be a **public consultation on Thursday, Feb 2nd, 7.30pm** in the Swan Hotel. Also, Energy Alton is looking for two solid-walled houses on which to spend up to £13,000 on wall insulation to reduce heat loss.



**Do you want to help  
your community  
save money and energy ?**

**Come and get involved  
with Energy Alton!**

**Learn about:**

- Home surveys
- Thermal imaging
- Energy advice
- Energy workshops
- Advice centre
- Free insulation for all

**Everyone welcome  
Join us to find out more...**

**Thursday 2nd February  
7:30pm, Swan Hotel, Alton**

Poster design by  
OpenBox  
Marketing

## The Eco-Corner

To most people, palladium means a London theatre, but it is also the name of a rare metal, close to platinum in the atomic table, with special properties of its own. It is essential to the manufacture of most of our modern gadgetry, from mobile phones to catalytic converters for cars. Since the metal costs about £15 per gram it is worth recovering, even if the process is elaborate and expensive. Scrap electronic equipment from Europe is shipped in massive quantities for recycling to countries where the labour costs are low, but some palladium also ends up in the sweepings and trash picked up on the streets of London, having been spewed out in the exhaust fumes of cars and buses.

The sorting at a new plant near Rugby is not by hand. An elaborate system of mechanical, magnetic and washing processes, extract the stones, glass, plastics, aluminium and steel, finally leaving a fine grey powder containing the palladium. Although the extraction rate is only 1kg of palladium from 6000 tonnes of waste, when added to the value of other reclaimed materials, it is hoped to be financially viable.

The ore from which the metal is extracted is to be found in very few places, notably China, and it is not known how long the deposits will last. Since the rate of replacement due to obsolescence of our mobile phones, computers, printers, cameras and TV sets, not to mention commercial electronic equipment, is increasingly rapid, there is all the more reason for us to recycle scarce materials used in their manufacture.

The parable of the Two Sons (Luke 15:11-32) has, at first sight, nothing to do with recycling palladium, but we are told that the younger son squandered his share of the inheritance in reckless living - however that may be construed! We should not forget, either, that the parable warns us against becoming like the grumpy, self-righteous, older son in our self-congratulation for what we have been doing so far!

**Bob Weighton**

## **CHURCH CALENDAR FEBRUARY 2012**

- Sunday 5th      5th Sunday in Ordinary Time
- 9.15 am    Rev Keith Underhill - Communion  
10.45 am    Mr Chris McCallum - All Age Worship  
6.30 pm    Rev Keith Underhill
- Sunday 12th     6th Sunday in Ordinary Time
- 9.15 am    Mrs Christine Stevens  
10.45 am    Mrs Pam Jones  
6.30 pm    'Kitchen Praise' (Own Arrangement)
- Sunday 19th     Sunday before Lent
- 9.15 am    Rev Vida Foday  
10.45 am    Rev Vida Foday - Communion  
6.30 pm    Miss Christine Waller
- Sunday 26th     1st Sunday in Lent
- 10.00 am    Rev Keith Underhill  
6.30 pm    Rev Keith Underhill - Communion

Items for inclusion in the March issue of the 'NEWSLETTER' should reach the Editor, Nancy Buck, by noon Sunday 19th February, at the latest, please. If you are able to put your contribution on disk or Email it to the office it would be much appreciated.

### **Church Office**

Usually open Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday 9.30 am - 12 noon

Tel 01420 82695

Email : [altonmethodist@hotmail.com](mailto:altonmethodist@hotmail.com)