

**PLEASE TAKE ME
I'M FREE**

WHAT'S BREWING?

News from Alton Maltings & Harvest Church



Jan - Apr 2025

INSIDE

FEATURED

Harvest Church is a ministry of the Grain House Trust, part of the Commission Family of Churches (which is part of Newfrontiers) and the Evangelical Alliance. The Grain House Trust is a charitable company limited by guarantee in England & Wales No. 4626556. Registered Address: 111, The Grange, 111, The Grange, Centre, Watlington, Alton, Hampshire, GU34 1DJ. Registered Charity No.: 1088932



1.

04

ALPHA STORIES

Find out about Alpha from someone who has attended the course.

2.

14

ALTON FOODBANK

Working together towards stopping hunger in Alton and surrounding villages..

3.

32

QUIET DAYS

What is a quiet day?

CONTENT

1. ALTON MALTINGS 06
A look back over the last 12 months.

2. HARVEST CHURCH 08
Get to know Harvest Church.

3. DATES FOR THE DIARY 17
Calendar dates for the months of January - April.

4. INTEREST GROUPS 26
What are your interests?

5. OUR STORY 28
About our September Baptisms.

AND MUCH MORE ...



The New Year is a great time to reflect on what has passed and consider our priorities for the future. For some it may be exploring faith - give Alpha a try (see page 4) or join us on Sunday mornings for our new series on the book of Acts. For others, perhaps, it is refocusing where we give our time, energy, or something else.

We wish you a peace filled and joyful New Year.

We would appreciate suggestions for future articles, and any feedback, to whatsbrewing@harvestchurch.uk
Enjoy!

ALPHA STORIES

Explore Life's Big Questions at Alpha

**Wednesday 15th January 2025,
at Alton Maltings,
includes a free meal.**

Are you curious about the meaning of life or wondering where spirituality fits in? The Alpha Course, hosted by Alton area churches, offers a welcoming space to explore life's big questions in a relaxed and friendly environment. Whether you've never set foot in a church building or are looking to reconnect with your faith, Alpha is for everyone.



Kevin
Alpha Attendee
2024

Kevin, a recent participant, shares his journey:

"I came to Alpha to find out about Christianity. I wasn't sure if I had faith, but something in the back of my mind told me to explore it. Before Alpha, I thought Christianity was just about worshiping God, but my understanding was vague. What surprised me most was how straightforward it was to grasp the teachings of the Bible."



**“it was so
down-to-earth
and well
explained.”**



Kevin adds:

"The best part of Alpha was that no question was off-limits. I felt spiritually closer to God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit by the end. I'd recommend it to anyone who feels something is missing."



Join us for a free meal, engaging discussions, and the chance to ask life's big questions. Take the first step on a journey that could change your life.

Reserve your place now!

Starting Wednesday 15th January at 7pm

at Alton Maltings, Maltings Close,
Alton, GU34 1DT

For more information and to book please email
altonplusalpha@gmail.com

altonmaltings review 2024

Step through the doors of Alton Maltings on any given day, and you'll find a hive of activity that perfectly captures the heart of our community. With over 2,500 room bookings this year, our historic building has continued its vital role as Alton's premier community hub, where two-thirds of all activities directly serve charitable and community purposes.

From the inspiring English classes for Ukrainian newcomers to the vibrant arts performances, Alton Maltings has fostered many connections.

"It is lovely to see how confident many of the attendees have become as their English has improved," shares Thelma, speaking about the weekly Ukrainian English classes that exemplify our commitment to inclusion and support.

This year's highlights included the memorable Genie's Wish tribute nights and the Wonder of Christmas Concert, while the Alton Arts Festival brought the community together through varied performances in our versatile spaces.

The calendar has been filled with weekly gatherings that touch every aspect of community life - from Cancer support groups to children's activities like Strictly Showtime and Rock Out. Our halls have resonated with music from Luminosa and Encore choirs, while simultaneously providing crucial space for essential services like NHS Blood Donation sessions and Christians Against Poverty courses.

Looking to the future, we've embarked on an ambitious sustainability journey. New LED lighting throughout the building, improved insulation with replacement doors and windows, and plans for solar panels demonstrate our commitment to serve the community responsibly for years to come.

Whether hosting council meetings, providing space for support groups, or welcoming families to our various parent and toddler sessions, Alton Maltings continues to be more than just a building- it's where our community comes together to learn, grow, and thrive.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Alton Maltings hosts lots of regular events throughout the year plus a number of community events. Coming up this term are:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| 25th January | Eating for tomorrow
(ACAN Documentary screening and discussion) |
| 8th March | Alton Concert Band Concert |
| 15th March | Alton Concert Orchestra Concert |
| 5th April | Hopes and Wishes Tribute Fundraiser |

If you would like to host an event at Alton Maltings please email info@maltings.life.



LUMINOSA
OUTSTANDING CHOIRS FOR ALL AGES

OPEN REHEARSAL



Come and join our warm and welcoming choir for a wonderful evening singing a brand new work by Joanna Forbes L'Estrange based on Vivaldi's IV Seasons, lead by Artistic Director, Rebekah Abbott

Alton Maltings Centre GU34 1DT

Tuesday 21st January 2025, 19:45-21:45

Get in touch to book

www.luminosamusic.com

enquiries@luminosamusic.com



Sundays

with harvestchurch



We gather together every **Sunday at 10:30am** for worship, Bible teaching, and prayer. The Source are our fun and engaging groups for children and youth aged 0-14, which run during our adult meeting.

Our building is fully accessible for wheelchair users, we have amplification for hearing aid users, and we offer Makaton signing of our worship.

Guests are always welcome.

NEXT STEPS>>>

ALPHA

Starts 15th January 2025

Alpha is an exciting way to explore the Christian faith. Each week we enjoy food together, watch a short film about a big faith question and discuss it in small groups. Everyone is welcome to come and find out more, and say what they think.

FIRST STEPS

Starts 6th January 2025

Our First Steps course is aimed at people who are new to the Christian faith. Building on from Alpha these easy to follow weekly sessions introduce the essentials of Christian living.

WELCOME EVENTS

Welcome Lunch 26th January 2025

We run welcome events throughout the year. These are an opportunity to meet some of our leadership team. Come for a chat and help us get to know you as you find out more about Harvest Church.

BAPTISM

Easter Sunday - 20th April 2025

Baptism is an important step on your journey following Jesus. It's a public declaration of your commitment to live for Him. If you're a new Christian, or have not been baptised as a believer, this may be the next step for you.

EXPLORING MEMBERSHIP

2nd March 2025

Membership in Harvest Church is about more than just attending—it's a heart commitment to our vision, and the values, and culture that define who we are as a church. Join our course to find out more.

LIFE and INTEREST GROUPS

We want everyone who is part of Harvest Church to find friendship, grow in their love of God and their love for people. Our Life and Interest groups offer a great chance for people to do that. For Interest groups see pages 26-27, for Lifegroups pick up a flyer from Alton Maltings.

To find out more about any of the above, please speak to any of our leaders or:

Email : admin@harvestchurch.uk

Telephone : 01420 81950



THE SOURCE

Childrens and youth groups on a Sunday morning.



By Hannah Turner
Children and Families
Ministry Leader

We have been having a blast in The Source. As we launch into the Spring term there is tons to be excited about.

Diving Deeper - Our new termly workshops are a hit with our young people. In the summer term the children came together for a **Worship Workshop** which saw their creativity let loose as they explored different ways to worship God. The autumn term served up **The Prayer Project** giving our groups space to try different ways to connect with God, a chance for everyone to start their own prayer journal and the opportunity to hear powerful testimonies of answered prayers. In the Spring term we are going to tackle the topic of **God's Good Gifts** as we unpack the different Spiritual Gifts God offers to give us.

This will be building on the amazing time we had at our **Spiritual Gifts morning** in November. We built marshmallow towers and watched leaders emerge. We served up sweet treats and discovered the power of hospitality. The children started to understand that they **all have a role to play** as a part of the body of Christ.

Due to a whole heap of new faces joining us in 2024 the Source is bursting at the seams which is fantastic! We are now **actively looking** for people to join The Source team. So, if you are handy with a glue stick, know Noah like the back of your hand, or have a heart for building **firm foundations** in our children, please get in touch with me to find out how you can help.

To find out more email hannah.turner@harvestchurch.uk



YOUTH LIFE GROUP

YLG meets every Tuesday evening at **Alton Maltings**, offering a welcoming space for youth in school years 10 to 13.

What to Expect:

7:15 pm – Dive into Discussions & Bible Studies

We kick off promptly at 7:15 pm with thought-provoking conversations, Bible studies, and the chance to explore a variety of meaningful topics together.

8:00–9:00 pm – Relax and Connect

The second half of the evening is all about fun and connection. Whether you're into group games, board games, console challenges, quizzes, or simply hanging out, there's something for everyone to enjoy.

Bonus Activities:

Beyond our regular sessions, we host exciting offsite events at least once every term, adding even more variety and adventure to our calendar.

YLG is all about building friendships, growing in faith, and having a great time. We'd love to see you there!

To find out more email tom.evans@harvestchurch.uk

christians
against
poverty

CAP

MONEY COACHING

Learn how to better manage your money

A free 2 night course designed to empower you with the knowledge, budgeting skills and confidence to better manage your finances.



15th & 22nd January or 19th & 26th March 7-9.30pm at Alton Maltings

Contact Steve Hannington to book your place: 07977 119724

Charity Registered No: 1007217 (England & Wales), SC038770 (Scotland), CAP is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct

christians
against
poverty

CAP

CAP DEBT HELP

Lifting the weight of debt

Free debt advice and personal support in your community.

Whatever the situation you are facing, there is hope. As a charity we offer a completely free service to help lift the weight of debt from your shoulders.



Book your FREE appointment. Call free on: 0800 328 0006

capdebthelp.org



CAPuk



CAPuk_org



CAPukorg

always hope.

Charity Registered No: 1007217 (England & Wales), SC038770 (Scotland), CAP is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct



The Bereavement Journey®

a place to talk

Are you grieving the death of a loved one or struggling with the long-term effects of loss?

The Bereavement Journey is a seven week course of short videos and focussed conversations, providing a safe space for you to process your bereavement and work out your next steps.

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, and an optional session on questions of faith.

Friday mornings 10am - 12 noon,
January 24th - 7th March at **Alton Maltings**.

Suggested voluntary contribution £20 (for the whole course).

To book your place, or to find out more about it, please email bereavement@potr-alton.co.uk or phone Wendy Burnhams **07514 280362**



Alton Foodbank

Together with Trussell written by Sian Mills

Alton foodbank* is a project founded initially by The Butts Church, and run by local churches, working together towards stopping hunger in Alton and surrounding villages.



Alton Foodbank (located in the Market Square)

Food and financial gifts are donated by churches, individuals, companies, community groups or charities and by the public through collection points in the major supermarkets in our local area and at Alton Maltings. We are regularly supported by SKU Logistics, who help transport the food from our warehouse to the centre for our three weekly sessions.



The foodbank works with a range of local agencies, who meet people at risk of going hungry, and are able to provide the most appropriate help for their circumstances. If necessary, they will issue a foodbank e-voucher and provide long term support to help address some of the issues behind the reasons for the crisis. Agencies we work with include: Citizens Advice, housing support officers, children's centres, health visitors, social services, social prescribers and some local charities.



Sian (Project Manager) & Rick (Managing director of SKU)

We have a team of wonderful volunteers, along with two paid members of staff, Sian & Marie, who enable the Foodbank to work in a friendly and supportive way. We have about 55 volunteers from all walks of life, who work in the warehouse, centre or a combination of both.

**“For I was hungry and you fed me,
Thirsty and you gave me drink,
I was a stranger and you invited me in...”
Matthew 25:35**



Sian & Marie



alton.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food

*Alton Foodbank is located in the **Market Square**.
Open **Tues 6.30pm - 7.30pm**, **Wed 12.30pm - 2pm** and **Sat 10.30am - 12pm**.

If you are interested in helping, please email info@alton.foodbank.org.uk

SAVE THE DATE

12-13th July
2025
Church
Weekend

harvest *church*



harvestchurch

One Church, Many Communities, Hundreds of Lives



Events Diary

January - April

2025

Pull out and keep!

COMING UP...

January

6 th	Men's Meal	7pm	The Ivy House
6 th	First Steps Course Starts	7.30pm	
9 th	Hour of Prayer	8pm	
12 th -19 th	Week of Prayer	Various	
13 th	Ladies Meal	7pm	The Crown Inn
15 th	Alpha Course Starts	7pm	
15 th	Leaders Summit	7.30pm	
19 th	Encounter Evening	7.30pm	
20 th	The Bible Course Starts	7.30pm	
23 th	Coffee Morning	10.30am	
26 th	Welcome Lunch	1pm	

February

1 st	Youth Culture Event	9am	Westminster Chapel
3 rd	Men's Meal	7pm	The Ivy House
6 th	Hour of Prayer	8pm	
9 th	Church Family Meeting	7.30pm	
10 th	Ladies Meal	7pm	The Crown Inn
15 th	Quiet Day	10am	Newlands Farm
27 th	Coffee Morning	10.30am	

*All events at Alton Maltings unless otherwise stated.
For more information please go to the online diary.*

harvestchurch.uk/diary

COMING UP...

March

3 rd	Men's Meal	7pm	The Ivy House
6 th	Hour of Prayer	8pm	
9 th	Encounter Evening	7.30pm	
10 th	Ladies Meal	7pm	The Crown Inn
10 th	Exploring Baptism	7.30pm	
12 th	Leaders Summit	7.30pm	
14 th -16 th	Women's Weekend Away	N/A	Poole
16 th -23 rd	Spring Gift Week	10.30am	
22 nd	Children's Worker Conference	9.30am	TBC
28 th	Coffee Morning	10.30am	

April

3 rd	Hour of Prayer	8pm	
7 th	Men's Meal	7pm	The Ivy House
14 th	Ladies Meal	7pm	The Crown Inn
20 th	Baptisms - Easter Sunday	10:30am	
24 th	Coffee Morning	10.30am	
30 th	NEW First Steps Course Starts	7.30pm	

ChurchSuite

What is my ChurchSuite?

Serving

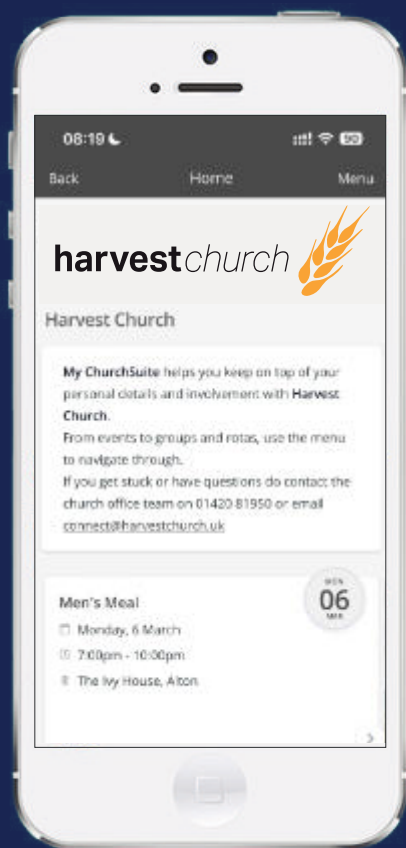
Groups

Rotas

Calendar

Directory

& more...



For more information
please email
admin@harvestchurch.uk.

New to Harvest Church?

We would love to get to know you...

CONNECT CARD

Helps us to serve you and connect you with our Harvest Church Family.



WELCOME EVENTS

Get to know us!

To find out more please visit
<https://harvestchurch.uk/welcome>



Introducing Tim and Helen Suffield



Tim and Helen Suffield are moving to Alton to join our Harvest Church family. Tim has accepted the role of pastor teacher and will be a full time member of staff.

Tim and Helen are relocating from King's Church, Birmingham. They recently shared some insights to help us get to know them better.

Tim, what excites you about joining the Harvest Church team; and Helen, what will you be doing?

Tim: *I'm excited about developing my own preaching, other preachers, and encouraging a culture of Bible reading across the church. It'll be a privilege to be able to do this full time.*



Helen: *I organise events for Commission. It is a privilege to create spaces where people meet with God.*

It sounds like you've both stepped into roles you were made for.

What are you most looking forward to about being part of our community?

Tim: *Honestly? Older people! We've been in very young churches for a long time and are excited about making friends across a more diverse range of ages.*

That's a thoughtful perspective. Intergenerational relationships are so rich and full of wisdom.

How can the church family best support and pray for you as you prepare to move?

Tim: *The house hunt has been a challenge, so prayers for that whole process would be amazing. We'd also love prayer for forming relationships quickly in the church and the town.*

We'll definitely be praying for the house search to go smoothly, and we know the church family will be eager to help you settle in and feel at home.

What are some hobbies or activities you both enjoy in your free time?

Helen: *I love growing my own flowers, my favourites are dahlias.*

Tim: *For me, it's gathering friends for a complicated European board game. It's such a fun way to connect.*

Are there any traditions or routines you're excited to start or continue here?

We love hospitality. In Birmingham, it wasn't unusual for us to have 12 people around our table for dinner. We hope to continue living that way here.



Hospitality is such a beautiful gift, and it sounds like you're pros at creating a warm and welcoming environment.

What's your favourite type of food or restaurant to visit?

Helen: *I can't resist macaroni cheese—it's my ultimate comfort food.*

Tim: *For me, it's massaman curry. When it comes to restaurants, we have expensive taste and tend to save up for special occasions.*

Mac and cheese and curry, what a combination.

If you could go on a dream holiday tomorrow, where would it be?

Helen: *Somewhere warm!*

Tim: *I'd choose somewhere rich in history. It's been a long time since we've been able to go abroad on holiday.*

Have you explored any parts of the town yet? If so, what's been your favourite discovery?

Helen: *We've looked at a lot of houses so far! We had a lovely lunch at sandwich shop, and the smell of the burger place around the corner was amazing.*

We're praying you will find the perfect house soon!

What's something quirky or fun about yourselves that people might not know?

Helen: *Neither of us are big sports fans, but I have a soft spot for curling! I love following the international season—it was disappointing to see the recent European Championship results.*

Finally, what is one thing you're hoping to see God do in Harvest Church over the next year?

For us, it'll mostly be about forming friendships and finding community, but in the wider Church we'd really love to see Jesus meeting people, changing their lives, and them moving forward with purpose as they follow Him.

WHO ARE WE?

Ordinary people, from all walks of life, ages and backgrounds who have met an extraordinary God and had our lives transformed through knowing His unconditional love and acceptance.

We are growing in our love for God and are learning to live life His way.

VISION

Our vision starts with knowing **who we are** - loved children of God and followers of Jesus, who are empowered by God's Holy Spirit, to share God's life-transforming love with others, in Alton and beyond.

CULTURE

Every group has a culture but it is not always clearly defined. Our culture is shaped by our faith in God and our relationship with Him.

harvestchurch



WE SEEK TO BE

GENUINE

Helping each other be really real.

COURAGEOUS

Making brave choices, even when we are fearful.

THANKFUL

Having an attitude of gratitude.

GENEROUS

See the best, seek the best and share of our best.

and

SAFE

Looking out for and after all.



Interest Groups

Interest Groups are gatherings of like-minded people who have a passion for an activity, a hobby, a skill or developing their knowledge.

Interested?

You do not have to be part of Harvest Church to join an Interest Group. Please contact the group leader for more information.



NEW



The Bible Course

Contact: Christine
christine.parker@harvestchurch.uk
Starting Monday 20th Jan 7.30-9:30pm
Alton Maltings

The Bible Course provides the tools and skills to apply the Bible to everyday life. Exploring how key books, famous characters and epic events form one BIG story.



Bible Reflection/Personal Study

Contact: Dave
david@burnhamsfamily.co.uk
Saturdays Weekly. 8.30am- 9.45am

A group that gather on Saturdays to discuss a Bible passage that they have all looked at and reflected on during the previous week.



Classic Cars

Contact: Chris
candsparis@aol.com
Saturdays Monthly. 9am-11am

Meet for breakfast and a chat at a local cafe. Bring your classic car, a friend or just your enthusiasm! Optional drive outs and visits to classic car shows. Plus a mid month curry night.



Cap Job Club

Contact: Alastair.
alastairsmith711@gmail.com
Tuesdays 21st Jan-25th Mar 10am
Alton Maltings

A friendly place to get practical help and advice around employment. Discover your strengths, write a strong CV, develop all-important interview skills and re-build confidence.

NEW



Cap Money Coaching

Contact: Steve
stevehannington@capuk.org
15th & 22nd Jan or 19th & 26th Mar 7-9.30pm
Alton Maltings

Specifically designed to help people transform the way they approach money, build a successful budget, keep track of what they spend and to save regularly.

NEW



First Steps

Contact: Vinie
viniedaya@gmail.com
Starting Monday 6th Jan 7.30pm-9pm
Alton Maltings

If you are interested in exploring your faith this is the ideal course for you. Run as 15 sessions aimed at introducing the essentials of Christian living.



Fresh Start

Contact: Mark
mark1.rumsby@gmail.com
Tuesdays 4th Feb-1st Apr 8-9.30pm
St. Mark's Church, Bordon

Fresh Start supports people who want to change a life-controlling habit. Working through a 9-week course to help tackle and break free from these dependencies.



Ladies Meal

Contact: Jan
kenandjian@mayl.co.uk
2nd Monday Monthly. 7pm
The Crown Hotel

Enjoy a relaxed evening with good food, great conversation, and a drink. A fantastic opportunity to invite your friends. No booking required, just turn up.



Lighthouse

Contact: Sue
Suebatstone.sb@gmail.com
2nd, 4th Wednesdays. 7.15pm-8.30pm
Alton Maltings

A group open to adults with special needs who would like to join with others, make new friends and learn about God's love.



Men's Meal

Contact: Chris
candsparis@aol.com
1st Monday Monthly. 7pm
The Ivy House

Enjoy good food, great conversations, and a drink. A fantastic opportunity to invite your mates. No booking required, just turn up.



One Way

Contact: Glenda or Terry
glendablandford@yahoo.co.uk
Wednesdays. 10am- 3pm
Alton Maltings

An opportunity for anyone looking for friendship and to grow in confidence. Enjoy games, puzzles, art or chat over a cuppa.



Sewing and Crafting

Contact: Lynn
Lynn_cg@btinternet.com
3rd Saturday Monthly. 10am-12.30pm
Alton Maltings

If you enjoy sewing or crafting, we would love to welcome you to our group. Try something new or bring along your own project or craft; together with, of course, tea and cake.



Walking Group

Contact: Debbie
debhaddow@gmail.com
Fridays. 2pm

Come and enjoy 3 or 5 mile walks. Great for getting to know others. Waterproofs and sturdy footwear essential . . .!



Yarn and Natter

Contact: Sarah
candsparis@aol.com
3rd Thursday Monthly. 2pm-4pm
Alton Maltings

A chance to gather with like-minded people, have a good chat, eat cake and do some knitting or crochet. You are welcome to attend as a one off and we are able to teach beginners too.

Alternatively if you would like to start a group please email - connect@harvestchurch.uk

Making a Splash! Five Amazing Youth Baptisms

written by Tom and Fiona Evans

What an incredible Sunday we had on September 22nd!

Our hearts were bursting with joy as five of our awesome young people got baptised. As youth leaders, Fiona and I couldn't have been more proud watching them take this amazing step in their faith journey.

We've had the privilege of watching these young people grow in their faith over time, but Newday Festival this summer was when everything clicked into place. God moved in such a powerful way that Tinashe couldn't wait – he tracked down Andrew Lawrence right there at the festival to ask when he could be baptised! The elders quickly rearranged things to make September 22nd happen, though Jono and Josiah were so excited they couldn't even wait that long and were baptised two weeks earlier!

Being both youth leaders, and parents, made the day extra special for us. It was beautiful to see the whole church family rallying around these young people – their extended spiritual family showing up in force to celebrate their bold decision to follow Jesus. Each young person's story showed just how real their faith is and how God's been working in their lives.



"Although it hasn't always been easy, I look back and see how much Jesus has done in my life and how much my faith has grown and changed." Anna

The whole day perfectly showed what we're all about – being a Church where everyone (including our young people) can feel safe to explore faith and grow closer to God.



"I was uncertain about my faith in Jesus. I grew up in the church. After listening to a number of testimonies of healings this summer I now know I 100% believe in Jesus!" Daniel



"I desire to grow closer to God, I am ready to commit my life fully to Him trusting that he will guide me to become the best version of myself."
Tinashe



"I grew up in a Christian household. I have gradually got to know God over the years. This year I felt really connected to God and know being baptised is my next step." Rhys



"I didn't know what my place or purpose was. At Newday this year I really felt a sense of God's presence and was quick to decide I wanted to be baptised." Thomas

Thinking about baptism yourself?

Or just curious about what following Jesus means? If you are aged between 15-18 pop along to YLG (see page 11) – we'd love to chat!

BAPTISMS



Would you like to be baptised?
Would you like to know more about believer's baptism?

We are planning baptisms for **Easter Sunday**, and will be holding an Exploring Baptism group, for those interested, in March.

For more information please email
connect@harvestchurch.uk

All Nations Event

written by Tony Nelson

Many of you will be aware of the significant recruitment of international personnel into our healthcare sector over the last two years, doing jobs that are essential in providing for the increasing needs of our elderly and differently-abled population. Here in Alton, the range of nations working at establishments like Treloar's, The Lawn, and Brendoncare, is broad. This offers a cultural diversity that we might not have conceived of, even just a few years ago.

To celebrate the bringing of these nations and skilled individuals to our town Harvest Church, in conjunction with Holy Rood Church, recently held our first 'All Nations Praise and Worship' event at Holybourne Theatre on Sunday 27th October.



The event involved individuals from 15 different nations participating in song, dance, preaching, prayer and fellowship with some international foods including Biryani, Jollof, Tagine and Chilli. Almost one hundred people attended and many bridges were built during the afternoon.



Further events are being planned for 2025!

Encounter Week

written by Helen Coates

For each Encounter Week an 'Encounter Room' is created. Have you ever visited it? If not, then read on

I believe the Encounter Room provides a way for everyone, and anyone, to meet with God. For me it creates a special environment in which I find it easy to sit thoughtfully for a while and then, perhaps, chat over the week's events with Him, discuss my hopes and plans, or even pour out my confusion or fear. Wandering around the different 'stations' I choose one or two things that help me to rest, think and pray. One time it was a towel, placed with a bowl, helping me to picture Jesus washing my feet, with love in His eyes.



Another time I picked up a picture showing a woman laughing unreservedly; I thought and talked with Him about what might keep me from laughing with such deep delight. There's always a chance to draw or write your prayers, information to help you pray for other people and other countries, poems, pictures and more. I like to be on my own, others like to go with someone else, and you can visit for as long, or as short, as you like.



Look out for our next Encounter Week coming later in the year!

Quiet Days at Newlands Farm



A Quiet Day is a chance to reconnect with God and hear from Him, with optional guidance. They typically run on Saturdays from 10am to 4pm.

The day begins with a hot drink and a short introduction. A theme and suggestions are provided to guide your individual reflection and connection with God. After a break for lunch, there's another quiet session with various resources available. These include books and crafts, or you can enjoy walking in the countryside.

The day concludes with optional sharing and a final prayer.

Here's what others have said about their experience:

Rosie:

"I have been attending the Quiet Days for several years since they started. They are a great opportunity to take time out of a busy life. There is definitely no reason to find them intimidating in any way. You don't need to feel especially spiritual but to see the day as an opportunity to be cocooned in warmth and love. It is amazing how you can feel so at one with the whole group even though you don't speak, except during the wonderful lunch provided by the owner of the house. There is always a real sense of peace. It is a time to relax and listen to what is going on in your heart and mind and know that the Father always welcomes you unconditionally."

Steve:

"I get along to almost all the Quiet Days. I find the time spent out of the normal run of things to be really helpful. In theory, as I am retired, I should be able to make quiet spaces at home but that doesn't work for me – there are always things that interrupt.

I find that I can focus more effectively at the Quiet Day. One recent Day, I read an epistle as a whole, ignoring the chapter and verse divisions, to see it as a letter, as it would have been received at the time. Another time, I did some reading around a specific topic we were looking at in Church. I almost always set myself some sort of aim or target but I do not let that become a pressure.

There are other things to do—go for a walk, look at the Odiham airfield landing lights, put logs on the fire and suchlike. We have a break for lunch too. Ruth and Debbie will provide material to use as a basis for meditation and will offer some suggestions for what you might do—but there is no compulsion to do that.

I find them to be both relaxing and helpful, giving me space to try to focus on God."



Who can attend?

Anyone is welcome, and many return regularly. The Barn can accommodate 12–13 people.

Cost

The day costs £15, including lunch.

Location

Newlands Farm, near Long Sutton, approx. 20 minutes from Alton.

Upcoming Dates

The next Quiet Day is Saturday, **February 15th**, from 10am to 4pm. Two Quiet Days are held each year.

For information please email admin@harvestchurch.uk

Sunday preaching series starting January



Join us for our new preaching series from the book of Acts, where we will explore the heart of the early church and its commitment to living out the gospel. We will dive deep into what it means to be a devoted church—devoted to God, devoted to each other, and devoted to the mission of sharing God’s good news. Through powerful teachings and inspiring stories from the early church, we will be challenged and inspired to grow in our faith, and commitment to seeing God's kingdom come. Don't miss out on this transformative journey—*Let’s work out together what it means to be devoted.*

Finding Stillness: The Prayer Space at Alton Maltings

The vision was clear: to create a space accessible to anyone who steps into Alton Maltings, providing an opportunity to find stillness in the midst of a busy world. Whether facing a life challenge, seeking clarity, or simply desiring a moment with God, the prayer room offers a peaceful refuge.

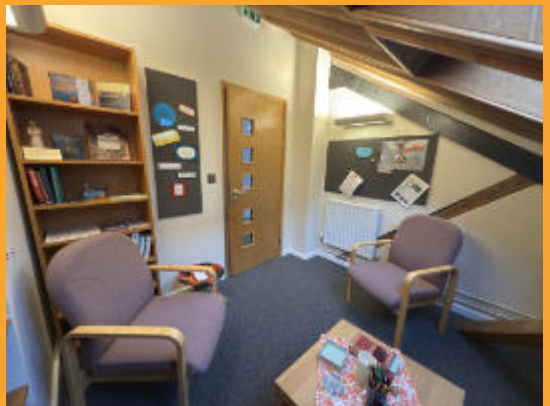
Tucked away behind the main auditorium at Alton Maltings lies a small room with a big purpose. The prayer space, created as a sanctuary for reflection and connection, is available to members of Harvest Church, staff, and the wider public. In its simplicity, it offers something profound: a moment to pause, to pray, and to meet with God.

“I find it really helpful to have a physical space to go to. When I don’t know what to say, I feel like God still knows I’m calling out to him for help.”

Hannah Turner



The design of the prayer space is intentionally understated. Two chairs invite visitors to sit and reflect, while books and prayer objects provide focal points for meditation. A prayer diary rests ready for those who wish to record their prayers, while a noticeboard displays requests for international mission, healing, and the needs of Harvest Church.



As life’s demands continue to increase, the prayer space at Alton Maltings serves as a gentle reminder to slow down and seek peace. Open whenever Alton Maltings is, it’s a resource for anyone who wishes to find solace, strength, or simply time to reflect.

Special thanks to Ruth Rumsby for putting the room together.

Discover

alton maltings

a community initiative of **harvest**church



Contact us now to find out more!



Competitive Prices*, duty manager on site, setup included in hire charge, versatile meeting rooms/event spaces, and much more.

** Discounts available for regular bookings, charities, community groups, individuals and public sector.*