

WHAT'S BREWING?

News from Alton Maltings & Harvest Church



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AND MUCH MORE ...



As we go to press, Summer 2025 is likely to go down as the driest summer in the UK since 1976. Drought reveals things which have been hidden, challenges what we value, where we put our security and can shape how we live our lives going forward.

As the seasons change and in the run up to Christmas, why not pause to reflect on who/what is most important to us and prioritise our time and energy accordingly.

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

The joy of the harvest

Harvest Church is called to tell people about the Good News that Jesus died for them, freeing them from sin, guilt, shame, and fear; defeating death; and remaking the world into a new creation. In the 'Great Commission', Jesus told his first followers to make 'apprentices' ('disciples') of people from every nation, teaching them how to follow and obey him.

At Together Weekend, Andrew Lawrence shared a picture he felt was from God. The picture was of a painting depicting a traditional harvest scene, with dozens of people working the fields, excited and active to gather in the harvest.

He believes God was reminding us of the joy to be had being involved in God's harvest. The Bible uses 'harvest' language to refer to telling people about Jesus and helping them grow as apprentices that follow him.

Talking to his disciples, Jesus says,

"The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest."

Matthew 9:37-38



God wants us to remember that we're called 'Harvest Church.' This isn't to pressure us; rather, it's to invite us to join in everything Jesus is doing in Alton and the surrounding areas, like apprentices following our master. He's calling us back to the harvest.

We have lots of ways we can do this, especially over the Christmas season. One highlight will be Adrian **Holloway** speaking at our Christmas Carol Service on 14 December. Everyone is welcome.

Following that we have an Alpha course starting in January. This is a great way to explore the basics of the Christian faith in a relaxed environment that's open to questions. Read Nicola and Susie's stories of Alpha on pages 22 & 23.

We'd like to encourage you to pray for who you can invite at Christmas or to Alpha. While you do, pray that you would be bold in telling them about your love for Jesus and all he's done for you.

> Tim Suffield on behalf of the Elders



Adrian Holloway Beacon Church, Camberley



altonmaltings



We love shining a light on our team members who help keep **Alton Maltings** running smoothly. From setting up spaces to making sure everything is clean, calm, and welcoming, there's a dedicated group working behind the scenes to support everything that happens here. This time, we're introducing two more members of our team each with their own story and a big part to play in the life of our building.



Karen Patrick
Head of Operations

"Since 2019, I've been the overseeing the operations for Harvest Church and Alton Maltings, juggling a dual role that keeps me on my toes. I support our leaders, running events throughout the week, and overseeing policies for the many ministries that serve our church and local community. It's a busy and rewarding role that's always evolving.

At Alton Maltings, I oversee
everything from client-facing activities
and managing our Centre Assistants and
Bookings Officer, to big picture stuff like
booking software, pricing strategies,
and building management etc. Alton
Maltings is a Grade II listed building so
keeping it safe, efficient, and
environmentally friendly is a challenge,
but one love tackling."



Glenys Wyeth

"I started at Alton Maltings as a volunteer during the summer of 2024. I now work two days a week cleaning, sorting, re-arranging... anything to be of help to the smooth running of the centre.

Working here has been very rewarding. It has renewed my confidence, allowed me to work in a team, and given me the opportunity to meet so many wonderful people of all ages, from babies to the older generation, who come for the many different classes, events, conferences, business meetings, and other activities.

I'm also part of the team that runs our Stepping Stones toddler group on a Monday. A smile and a 'hello' often start little conversations that, hopefully, help make all our days a little brighter."

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Sundays with harvest church









We gather together every **Sunday at 10:30am** for worship, Bible teaching, and prayer. Lighthouse is our group for adults with additional needs. The Source are our fun and engaging groups for children and youth aged 0-14, both run during our morning 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

Starting in the new year

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

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 - 28 September

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

Exploring Baptism - 29 September

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

16 November

Membership in Harvest Church is about more than just attending—it's a heart commitment to our vision, values, and culture; Defining who we are as a church. Join our course to find out more. Sign up using the email below.

LIFE and INTEREST GROUPS

New Flver Available!

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 24-25, 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



MIRACLE GROW!

Hands up who has been praying for more children in our church? Don't stop because its working!! Our average weekly Sunday attendance has grown from 33 in May 2024 to 48 in May 2025. One week we had over 60 children! The two new groups have been really well received but has stretched our team to the max, so if you can offer any help at all please contact Hannah or one of the other leaders to chat about how you can help.

BUBBLES AND HARBOUR

Our two new groups have felt like a real answer to our prayers of how to best serve our children. Feedback from children, parents and the team seem pretty unanimous that the new set up is working well.

This term we particularly enjoyed our time at the Church Together Weekend on the farm where we spent time chatting to and listening to God, and galivanting around the woods seeing how nature reflects the character of God. Spending time playing sports and catching crickets was a great friendship building time.



We carried on this theme of friendship in this term's 'The Source Big Sunday' looking at the story of Daniel and his friends in the Old Testament and how their friendship helped to sustain their faith. Team challenges and artistic creations were the activities of choice to put our friendships to the test and an awesome time of worship lead by the youth band helped us express our gratitude to God.

GETTING INVOLVED WITH THE SOURCE

There are plenty of opportunities to be part of what God is doing among our children. Whether through crafts, storytelling, games, or simply showing up as a friendly, consistent presence. If you're passionate about encouraging young faith and want to find out how you can play a part, I'd love to hear from you. Get in touch with me at hannah.turner@harvestchurch.uk to explore how you can get involved.



YOUTH LIFE GROUP

YLG meets every Wednesday evening during term time for school years 10–13.



What does the evening look like?

7:30 pm – Dig Deeper

We kick off right on time with inspiring Bible studies and real-life conversations. It's a space to ask big questions, share your thoughts, and explore faith together.

8:15-9:15 pm - Chill & Have Fun

The second half is all about relaxing and enjoying time with friends. From group games and quizzes to console challenges, board games or just hanging out. There's always something going on.

Plus... Extra Adventures!

Every term, we plan at least one offsite event think laser tag, late-night walks, movie nights, and more. Keep an eye out, you won't want to miss them.

YLG is all about community, growing in faith, and having a great time while doing it. Come and see what it's all about!

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



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Did You Know You Can...?

Stay connected with Harvest Church wherever you are

...visit our website anytime?

At harvestchurch.uk you'll find

- What's on each week
- Info about kids, youth & events
- Info on weekly groups & ministries
- Ways to give
- Recent talks
- Our Spotify worship playlist

Tip: Scroll to the bottom of the homepage to find recent recordings and the playlist!

...use ChurchSuite to manage your church life?

With your ChurchSuite login, you can:

- Sign up for events
- See what's coming up
- Update your contact details
- Join groups or teams

Go to: harvestchurch.churchsuite.com or download the ChurchSuite app







Need help or want to know more?

We'd love to help you make the most of these tools.

Contact:

communications@harvestchurch.uk

Events Diary September December 2025

Pull out and keep!

COMING UP...

September

1	Men's Meal	7pm	The Ivy House
2	Hour of Prayer	8pm	Ì
8	Ladies Meal	7pm	The Crown Hotel
10	Leaders Summit	7.30pm	
21	Encounter Evening	7.30pm	
25	Coffee Morning	10.30am	
28	Welcome Lunch	12.30pm	
29	Exploring Baptism	7.30pm	
30	Prayer and Fasting Week		

October

1	Prayer and Fasting Week		
2	Prayer and Fasting Week		
5	Welcome into Membership	10.30am	
6	Men's Meal	7pm	The Ivy House
8	Leaders Summit	7.30pm	
13	Ladies Meal	7pm	The Crown Hotel
18	Women's Afternoon	2pm	
23	Coffee Morning	10.30am	
26	Baptisms	10.30am	

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

COMING UP...

November

3	Men's Meal	7pm	The Ivy House
4	Hour of Prayer	8pm	
9	Encounter Evening	7.30pm	
10	Ladies Meal	7pm	The Crown Hotel
12	Leaders Summit	7.30pm	
16	Exploring Membership	10.30am	
22	Commission 20s 30s	TBC	
23	Whole Church Meeting	7.30pm	
23	Coffee Morning	10.30am	_
30	Welcome Lunch	12.30pm	_

December

1	Men's Meal	7pm	The Ivy House
2	Hour of Prayer	8pm	
1-13	Pop Up Carols	Various	Various
8	Ladies Meal	7pm	The Crown Hotel
14	Evening Carol Service	7pm	
18	Coffee Morning	10.30am	
21	Afternoon Carol Service	4pm	
24	Christmas Eve	11.30pm	
25	Christmas Day	10.30am	
28	Celebration Sunday	10.30am	

MUSIC

Here are a few album recommendations to encourage you in your worship throughout the week.



By Katie Ward Worship Team



Child of God II

Forrest Frank

"This album blends gospel-pop with lyrics that speak of our identity in Christ to create a fun, modern album that is a real hit with the younger generations - it's great to have playing on a car journey or picnic in the park!"

Folk!

Rend Collective

"Folk is a beautiful combination of simple acoustic sound and heart-felt lyrics that create a collection of honest, authentic worship songs."



Modern Hymns

The Worship Initiative

"A stunning bridge between tradition and modern day music - this album gives us classic hymns that are reimagined with the creativity of today's sound."

Looking for something to listen to?

Search for us on Spotify. Q HarvestChurchUK



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



MODERN

harvestchurch

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.

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.

WE SEEK TO BE

Helping each other be Making brave choices, really real.

and

even when we are fearful.

Having an attitude of gratitude.

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

Looking out for and after all.

BAPTISMS

Susie



Although I have always had some amount of faith and belief in Christianity, my curiosity developed after facing some significant trauma. I developed a severe eating disorder as a result and have spent the last few years battling this, with several lengthy hospital admissions.

A year ago, I was taken very ill and rushed to hospital, where my family and I were told there was a high chance of me dying.

I believe through deep prayer God blessed me and a miracle happened. I made improvements over the next few days that the doctors could not explain. My drive and want to get well completely changed and I finally felt ready to tackle my illness knowing God loves me and drawing strength from that knowledge. Although it is currently a daily battle, I know I have God by my side and faith that I will overcome this and be able to return to my role as a paramedic practitioner in the near future, which I believe is my calling.

Since then, I have gone on to do the Alpha course, which has helped me to answer many of my questions and to be filled with the Holy Spirit. I have taken part in a Bible studies course and First Steps. Each day I am developing as a new Christian and connecting with God through daily Bible study and prayer. I have finally found what was missing in my life. My relationship with God.

Our next Exploring baptism group is on 29 September 2025 at 7.30pm just turn up or contact admin@harvestchurch.uk for more information.

Nicola



My name is Nicola. You may know that if you were at church on Easter Sunday when I was baptised along with three others, including my sons Ben and Finn. We moved to Alton from Guildford about ten years ago and now live in Four Marks.

I was drawn to attend Alpha after picking up a leaflet during the Christmas service, when I came to see my sister play cello in the Alton Concert Orchestra. As a counsellor and psychotherapist, I was curious to explore faith and spirituality to better support clients, or so I told myself. But once Alpha began, I realised that reason masked a deeper longing for my own spiritual growth.

For twenty years I had seen Alpha advertised and been curious, but never taken the step.

The course was transformational. Each week seemed to answer the questions I had been carrying, as though it were written just for me. I had a thirst for connection, understanding, and truth, and each session became a beacon in my week.

In week 3, we looked at William Holman Hunt's painting The Light of the World. Seeing Jesus outside the closed door of my heart, I thought all I had to do was open it. So I did, but felt nothing. Just emptiness and unworthiness. A few days later, sorrow and regret overwhelmed me. I wept and cried out to Jesus, confessed everything, and asked to start again. He was there. He filled me with peace and relief. That was the moment I truly opened the door.

Baptism followed as a joyful and public declaration of my faith. I felt an urgency to come to Jesus. Since then, I have done the First Steps course, which is helping me learn to share the good news and move beyond the place I started, denying my own curiosity, which was really denying Jesus.

If you have even a tiny seed of curiosity about faith, whatever reason feels safe right now, I would say sign up for Alpha and be amazed.

To find out more about our next Alpha Course please visit https://harvestchurch.uk/Alpha

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.











Bible Reflection/Personal Study

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





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



Cap Job Club

Contact: Alastair. alastairsmith@capjobclubs.org **Starting date 23rd Sept** 10am- 12pm Alton Maltings



Cap Money Coaching

Contact: Steve stevehannington@capuk.org 27th Sept & 15th Nov 9am-11am Alton Maltings



Contact: Mark mark1.rumsby@gmail.com Starting date 8th Oct 10.30-12pm Alton Maltings A group that gather on Saturdays to discuss a Bible passage that the group have all looked at and reflected on during the previous week.

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.

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.

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.

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 kenandjan@mayl.co.uk 2nd Monday Monthly. 7pm The Crown Hotel



Contact: Sue needs who would others, make new 2nd & 4th Wednesdays. 7.15pm-8.30pm about God's love.

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



Memorising Scripture

Contact: Mark mark1.rumsby@gmail.com **Starting date 8th Sept**

Memorising scripture helps you to grow, resist temptation, witness and help others. Can you remember your address and postcode? Then you can memorise Bible verses.



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

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WHAT'S BREWING? 25

Interest Groups

Getting to Know... Sarah from Yarn and Natter



Sarah has been part of Harvest
Church since her early twenties and
leads Yarn and Natter — a friendly,
welcoming group that brings people
together over knitting, crochet,
conversation and cake. We caught up
with her to find out more about the
story behind the group, what it
means to her, and why it matters.

How did Yarn and Natter begin?

The group started in September 2019. I had been teaching knitting and crochet at home, and I was asked if there were any local groups where folks could meet up to share ideas and help each other with projects. It felt like a natural next step, and it grew from there.

Who is the group for?

It's open to anyone. No previous experience is needed. We can provide yarn to get people started and loan knitting needles and crochet hooks if they don't have their own. Everyone is welcome.

What draws people in, and how do you welcome newcomers?

It's the conversation and sharing of ideas that people enjoy most. Some come to craft, others just for a chat and the cake helps too!

We're always happy to welcome newcomers. I'm available for a chat beforehand, and if we know someone's coming, we'll meet them at the door and show them in.

The group has helped people feel settled and connected. One lady joined after moving to Alton, hoping to make friends, she's still coming now. We've shared life's ups and downs together, and even kept meeting outdoors during lockdown when we could.

What are the benefits of knitting and crochet beyond the crafting itself?

Knitting and crochet are more than hobbies. They are therapeutic activities that can positively impact mental health and well-being. The rhythmical nature of the movements has a calming effect and can be a healthy distraction during stressful times. Finishing a project, whether simple or complex, gives a real sense of accomplishment and can boost self-esteem.

Do you think people come more for the craft or for the community?

I think people come mainly for the connection with others. Crafting gives them a focus, but it's really about being together.

Have friendships formed through the group?

Yes, people genuinely look forward to seeing each other and to sharing the progress they've made with their projects. It's become a real place of community.

What sort of projects have people worked on?

There have been some real standout creations. Crocheted scarves and shawls, blankets, children's jumpers

and cardigans, and adult garments.
One lady recently adapted a pattern
to make a beautiful summer crochet
cardigan and brought the finished
project along to show everyone.



What values shape the group?

Three words come to mind:

Generosity — We give away surplus yarn and lend patterns. Attendance is free, including the homemade cake.

Genuine – We help each other and give honest feedback when asked.

Safe – Everyone is welcome and included.

What does leading the group mean to you?

I love leading this group and enjoy seeing everyone each month. The group has also been incredibly supportive to me during a season of poor health. It's a special community that goes far beyond the craft.

TOGETHER WEEKEND

By Debbie Haddow



In the middle of July, members of Harvest Church gathered at Old Soldridge Farm for **Together Weekend**. Two days of sunshine, eating, worship, and time to simply enjoy being with one another.



It was a chance to pause, connect, and celebrate all that it means to be church.

Wall to wall sun, a large field, great company, and a hog roast, what more do you need for a fun weekend. I personally really enjoyed the relaxed vibe, the chance to catch up with so many people, and not least, the generosity of Graham and Sue, who let us use their farm.

Not forgetting the many volunteers needed to make everything run smoothly, from the sound system, the worship team, welcomers, caterers, (lots of yummy cakes!) children's activities, and the unsung heroes who put up and took down the marquees.





We started each day with a time of worship followed by inspirational speakers, Adrian Holloway and Tim Blaber. A highlight of the weekend was joyfully welcoming Tim Suffield into Eldership on Sunday, a special and significant moment for our church. There was also plenty of time to chat, knit, stretch (Pilates), dance in the silent disco, have a wander round the farm, or go for a longer walk, just enjoying each other's company in a super relaxing environment. I really enjoyed the buzz of seeing everyone getting along together, while the younger people safely let off steam enjoying both organised and less organised fun.

It made me appreciate more than ever, that being part of the local church is about being part of each other's lives, whether that's in a Life Group, in a serving team, or at a special event like **Together weekend**.







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Bookings are OPEN!

New to Alton Maltings!!



There's a class style for everyone Quite simply, we offer fun exercise classes which have been specifically adapted for any new mum or pregnant woman.

To book:

www.bookwhen.com/jtfitnesslimited 07368260361

The gift of eace

Celebrate the joy of Christmas across a series of special events in December!

Evening Carols
Sunday 14 December 7.00pm
Join us for a festive evening of hope, featuring:

- Guest Speaker: Adrian Holloway
- Alton Concert Orchestra.

Afternoon Carols
Sunday 21 December 4.00pm
A relaxed, family-friendly carol
service with a festive atmosphere.

Christmas Eve
24 December 11.30pm
A reflective service as we prepare our hearts for Christmas.

Christmas Day
25 December 10.30am
Celebrate the birth of Jesus with us on Christmas morning.



Pop-up Carols are back! Look out for further details 1-13 December