

FREE

WHAT'S BREWING?

News from Alton Maltings & Harvest Church



**Celebrating 20 years of
serving our community**

January - April 2026

FEATURED

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INSIDE



1.

06

GOING NOT KNOWING

A change of team leader.

2.

20

MEET HANNAH

Our new Harvest Church volunteer intern.

3.

26

FINDING CONNECTION IN A REMOTE WORLD

How Alton Maltings became one company's weekly hub.

CONTENT

1. ALTON MALTINGS

Who's who?

04

2. DATES FOR THE DIARY

Calendar dates for the months of January - April.

14

4. INTEREST GROUPS

What are your interests?

22

5. GETTING TO KNOW

Chris from Classic Cars.

24

AND MUCH MORE ...

What's Brewing?

Change for many can feel like a dirty word. However change handled well can have a massive positive impact - see our front cover - without big changes, Alton Maltings wouldn't exist as the wonderful church and community space it is.

Change though, needs our involvement and commitment; to see the good in it, to embrace it and encourage others to do the same in unity together.

As we start 2026 let's be a people who do just that.

Andrew

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



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.



Michael
Centre Assistant

"I have worked at Alton Maltings for the past three years. Having retired in 2020, I welcomed the opportunity to take on a new challenge and support the church in a practical way.

I work part time, helping where needed, particularly during busy periods. While the role can be demanding, especially preparing and cleaning rooms, it has been rewarding to see how Alton Maltings supports local businesses, community groups and clubs. Being part of a supportive team makes it all worthwhile.

I am also part of the Sunday church operations team and volunteer at Oneway, a welcoming support group open to all, which I find deeply encouraging."



Kit
Centre Assistant

"I began working at Alton Maltings in 2021 whilst I was a student, and have served as a Center Assistant for the last 4 years. I usually work weekday mornings preparing, cleaning and organising the rooms for the wide range of clients and activities that meet here. Being able to work here has helped me to grow in confidence when working with people.

That confidence has come from the many encouraging, appreciative and kind individuals I've met, both among the groups who use the building and within the supportive staff team. Being part of the Alton Maltings team has also allowed me to play a part in providing a consistent and welcoming environment for our visitors. I really value my role here and the continued support and kindness shown by those around me."



**COMPETITIVE PRICES*,
VERSATILE MEETING ROOMS/EVENT SPACES,
SETUP INCLUDED IN HIRE CHARGE, DUTY MANAGER ON SITE,
AND MUCH MORE.**

Going not knowing

By Andrew Lawrence



Andrew is married to Emma and has led the Harvest Church Eldership team since 2016. (Photo taken 2016)

On the 12th October I announced my intention to step down as eldership team leader of Harvest Church.

When everything has been going so well in Harvest Church this may seem an unusual decision, so let me explain.

Why?

We believe that God can speak to us in all sorts of ways but primarily through the Bible and through people hearing what God may be saying through others, which always needs to be checked against the Bible and weighed by us and others who know us well. We want to be obedient to how God has directed our lives. This type of prophecy has shaped both my life and Emma's to the degree that we have changed jobs and locations as a result. Obedience flows from a heart surrendered to God, knowing the best place we can be is slap-bang in the

centre of his purposes for us as his loved children. God is trustworthy.

Some years ago, God had started to speak to Emma and me about how we were to be a part of Harvest Church for a season. This was all around laying/re-laying foundations in Harvest Church which would then be built on by a successor. As to when we had reached this point had been a topic of conversation for us as elders, together with those who oversee our church in Commission (www.commission.global), for quite some time. This shaped the appointment process we undertook which resulted in Tim & Helen Suffield moving to join us and for Tim work alongside me. We believe Tim is the person God has raised up to lead the team for the next season of Harvest Church and we rejoice in this.

“God is trustworthy.”

What's happening now?

We have therefore started a team leader transition process which will culminate on Sunday 1st February 2026 when we will appoint Tim as the new eldership team leader. After which I will continue on team as one of the elders, to finish the transition, until Sunday 14th June 2026, when Emma and I will leave Harvest Church.

This is both an exciting but also challenging season, as Tim and I particularly, but also all the elders, staff team and church, adjust to me stepping back from things and Tim progressively taking more of the lead. We are intent on doing this really well, but please pray for everyone involved and indeed us as a church as we all adjust and when (if, is less likely) we get things wrong please extend grace wherever possible.



Change can be really hard to embrace and live through.

We want to encourage everyone, as we have learnt throughout this process, with these words:



Let's fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Hebrews 12:2

Sundays

with harvestchurch



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 19 January

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

harvestchurch.uk/welcome

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.

EXPLORING BAPTISM

26 January

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.

LIFE and INTEREST GROUPS

harvestchurch.uk/life-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 opportunity for people to do that. For Interest groups see pages 24-25.

EXPLORING MEMBERSHIP

3 March

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.

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.

CELEBRATE

Let's celebrate how much our team has grown in the last two years. We have added 30 new people to the team!! Including teens starting their serving journey, a SEN specialist helping to equip our team, mothers serving with babes in arms, and retirees generously giving their time to help bring our children to Jesus.

GOOD NEWS

We are currently bringing the good news of the gospel to over 100 different children a month. What an incredible opportunity to create firm foundations for them to stand on throughout their lives. We pray that as we sow these seeds, God will water them to ensure fruitful lives for Him.

TOP PRIORITY

Keep your eyes peeled for some changes coming soon to our children's ministry. We will be making improvements to our registration process and helping our team to stand out from the crowd. Ensuring everyone's safety is a top priority here at Harvest Church, so we look forward to sharing more information on this soon.



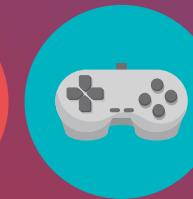
By Hannah Turner
Children and Families
Ministry Leader



YOUTH LIFE GROUP

YLG (school **years 10 to 13**) meets every **Wednesday** evening during term time.

We gather at the Kings Arms in Alton, which gives us a relaxed and welcoming space with plenty of room for groups, comfortable seating, board and video games. It is an ideal place for good conversations and time together.



What does the evening look like?

7.30pm Dig Deeper

We begin right on time with inspiring Bible studies and honest conversations. It is a chance to ask big questions, share your thoughts and explore faith together.

8.15 to 9.15pm Chill and Have Fun

The second half is all about relaxing with friends. Expect group games, quizzes, console challenges, board games or simply space to chat. There is always something happening.

Extra

Each term includes at least one offsite event such as laser tag, late night walks or a movie night. Keep an eye out, you will not want to miss them.

YLG is all about community, growing in faith and enjoying the journey together. If you are in years 10 to 13 you are very welcome to come and see what it is all about.



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

January -

April

2026

Pull out and keep!

COMING UP...

January

5	Men's Meal	7pm	The Ivy House
6	Hour of Prayer	8pm	
12	Ladies Meal	7pm	The Crown Hotel
14	Leaders Summit	7.30pm	
18	Encounter Evening	7.30pm	
19	Start of Alpha Course	7pm	
22	Coffee Morning	10.30am	
26	Exploring Baptism	7.30pm	

February

1	Church Lunch	12.30pm	
2	Men's Meal	7pm	The Ivy House
3-5	Prayer and Fasting	TBC	
8	Bible Study Evening	7.30pm	
9	Ladies Meal	7pm	The Crown Hotel
16	Start of Lent Talks	7pm	
22	Baptisms	10.30am	
26	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

1	Bible Study Evening	7.30pm	
2	Men's Meal	7pm	The Ivy House
3	Hour of Prayer	8pm	
8	Welcome Lunch	1pm	TBC
8	Encounter Evening	7.30pm	
9	Ladies Meal	7pm	The Crown Hotel
22	Whole Church Meeting	7.30pm	
26	Coffee Morning	10.30am	
29	Exploring Membership	10.30am	

April

1	Leaders Summit	7.30pm	
3	Good Friday Breakfast and Communion	TBC	
5	Easter Sunday	10.30am	
6	Men's Meal	7pm	The Ivy House
7	Hour of Prayer	8pm	
12	Bible Study Evening	7.30pm	
13	Ladies Meal	7pm	The Crown Hotel
19	Welcome Lunch	1pm	TBC
23	Coffee Morning	10.30am	

harvestchurch.uk/diary

New to Harvest Church?

We would love to get to know you...

CONNECT CARD

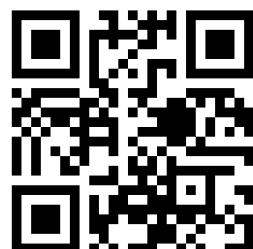
Helps us to serve you and connect you with our Harvest Church Family.



WELCOME EVENTS

Get to know us!

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



Baby and Toddler Classes

Play and Development Suitable from Birth

Every Class You Need in One!



Tots Play Farnham & Alton

Contact Georgie on 07500 110622 or
georgieb@totsplay.co.uk for more information

**at Alton Maltings
EVERY THURSDAY**

JIGGY MIXED - 9:45AM

JIGGY BABIES - 11:00AM

COME AND JOIN US FOR A WRIGGLE

SCAN QR CODE FOR DETAILS OR EMAIL
WINCHESTER@JIGGYWRIGGLERS.COM





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.

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.

Meet Hannah

Hannah has joined us from Texas to spend a year serving as a Volunteer Intern with Harvest Church. She will be involved across several areas of church life, including our older youth, those in their twenties and members of our community over sixty. As she settles into life in Alton, she has shared a little of her story, her hopes for the year ahead and what has brought her to this point.

In 2019 the Lord planted a seed in my heart about potentially moving to the UK. At the time I honestly thought there was no way I would ever do that. Over the years, through a lot of prayer and learning to release my own plans to the Lord, that little seed grew. I came to the UK in January 2025 for six months with no plan at all, just faith that God would open a door if I was meant to stay. I joined a life group as soon as I arrived and started attending Harvest Church in June. Then the Lord opened the door in His perfect timing, and being part of this church has already been one of the biggest gifts in my life.

I am so excited to work with older youth. These years are so transformative and I cannot wait to walk alongside them, encourage them in who God has made them to be and watch how the Lord encounters them. I will also be spending time with people in their twenties. We are not



meant to do life alone, so I hope I can help create a space where people in that season can grow in their faith, build relationships and be in community with one another.

Another part of my role is connecting with people over sixty. I have learnt so much from older generations. They have encouraged me to live more fully, boldly, presently and joyfully. Friends in these age groups have reminded me many times that Jesus is the most important thing in life, especially when I have been caught up in the everyday hustle. I am genuinely humbled by my friends over sixty and I see them as such a gift.

There have been a few surprises since arriving in the UK, the biggest one being how early the sun sets in winter. I do miss home in small, but familiar, ways; especially Texas sunsets and some good Tex Mex. But I have already fallen in love with the

countryside here, and sheep always make my day. We do not really have sheep in Texas, so it still feels new and fun every time I see them.



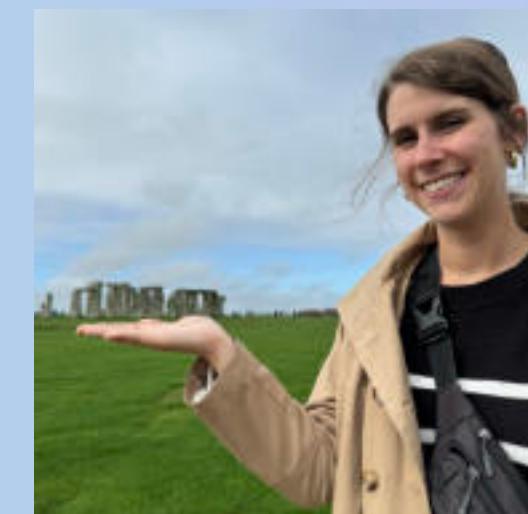
My relationship with God has been shaped most deeply by walking through years of unexplained health issues. Those seasons rebuilt my faith. The Lord has sustained me, grown me, refined me and shown me His love and faithfulness in ways I will never forget. I have learnt that true joy does not come from circumstances but from Jesus alone.

Outside of church and work, I love being in nature, experiencing new things and having a chat over tea. I also used to be an axe throwing coach at a previous job, which was



such a fun activity and something I still enjoy doing.

As I settle in, I hope people at Harvest will know how much I love intentional conversations about life and Jesus. If I could sum up what I hope this year will look like, it would be this. I want to gain deeper knowledge of the Bible and live out what I am learning, build relationships within the Alton community and bring the light of Jesus with me wherever I go and with whoever I meet.



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

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.



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.



Contact: Alastair.
alastairsmith@capjobclubs.org
Starting date 20 Jan 10am - 12pm
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.



Contact: Mark
mark1.rumsby@gmail.com
Starting date 29 Jan 10.30-12pm
Alton Maltings

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.



Contact: Jan
kenandjan@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.



Memorising Scripture

Contact: Mark
mark1.rumsby@gmail.com
Mondays fortnightly. Evenings

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.



Quiet days

Contact: Ruth
Ruth.rumsby@gmail.com
Saturdays Twice Yearly.
Newlands Farm

Twice a year we take a Saturday to slow down, meditate on scripture and be creative - at a beautiful barn that has room for 12 people.



Sewing and Crafting

Contact: Lynn
Lynn_cg@btconnect.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

Interest Groups

Getting to Know... Chris from Classic Cars



Chris has been part of Harvest Church since his teens and now helps lead the Classic Car interest group alongside Pete Lavers. The group began in 2019 and has grown steadily, drawing people together around a shared love of motoring. With gatherings ranging from relaxed breakfasts to show visits and curry nights, the group has become a place where friendships form, stories are shared and people feel welcomed whether they own a classic car or not.

Where did your interest in classic cars begin?

I have always liked cars and spent over 30 years in the motor trade.

What kind of atmosphere do you aim to create at your gatherings?

A friendly and inclusive one. Anyone can come along. You do not need to own a classic car or classic motorbike.

What do your gatherings look like?

Very relaxed. We meet monthly, usually on the fourth Saturday of the month. Most often we meet at the Departure Lounge in Alton, although sometimes we head to places like Portsdown Hill, Avenue Nurseries or Goodwood. People receive regular update emails. Most meetups involve breakfast, plenty of chat and time spent around the cars.

What would you say to someone who is interested but nervous about turning up?

Get in touch with me and I will keep an eye out for them. Everyone is welcome.

You have also run curry nights and visited shows together. How do those different activities help build connection?

They give people more ways to spend time together. Cars are the common interest, but the different activities are what open the door to friendships.

What has surprised you most about leading the group?

The way it has grown and how many friendships have developed. Some members have even begun attending church through getting involved.



Is there a standout moment for you?

One of the highlights every year is the Alton Classic Car Show in the High Street. We try to arrive together and park alongside each other. It is a great day of admiring cars and chatting with the public.

What impact do you think the group has on people's sense of belonging?

It gives people a place to meet others with a shared interest and to feel part of something.

How do groups like this help church be more than just Sundays?

It is about doing life together. Helping each other, sharing experiences and bonding over something we enjoy.

What have you personally gained from being part of the group?

I have made new friends and it is helping me ease into retirement.



If you would like to join or find out more contact: Chris candsparis@aol.com

Finding Connection in a Remote World: How Alton Maltings Became Our Weekly Hub

By Nadia Eaton

Like many organisations, the pandemic reshaped how we work. With most of us working from home since March 2020 and the lease on our office being up for renewal in the July, we made the decision to permanently move to a working from home model.

While remote working has many benefits, we found ourselves missing connection, collaboration, and a change of scenery. Alton Maltings stood out for its warm atmosphere, central location, and flexibility. With several room sizes, good parking, and helpful staff, it is the perfect space for us to come together.

Initially we were meeting once every other week, but over time saw how much value it brought and so increased to meeting together every Thursday. Supported by a dedicated Wi-Fi connection and plenty of access to power sources, it is easy for



everyone to bring and set up their portable tech devices and be ready to work within minutes of arrival. Regular team meetings are conducted while we're all in person as well as casual discussions which often prove to be invaluable. We take the opportunity to have lunch out together, at one of the many local food establishments.

It is a relaxed, productive, and refreshing time, a highlight of the week for many. Having a regular in-person rhythm helps with morale and team cohesion. It is easier to solve problems face to face and hash out

complex solutions especially if they involve hardware, and being out of the house, even once a week, has been good for our mental wellbeing, whilst retaining a majority working from home structure which affords the team quiet, focussed time with all the added flexibility often lacking from a permanent full-time office (not to mention the cost savings!).

The Wi-Fi is reliable, the refreshments are good quality, and the rooms are bright and quiet.

We appreciate the flexibility to book just one day at a time. The whole building is well kept, with a buzz of activity, seeing various groups use the building is a refreshing change from a stuffy, office block.

If you are working remotely but miss being around people, consider booking a space at Alton Maltings. Whether it is for team catch-ups or solo working in a new environment, it might be just the break in routine that your week needs.



Looking for a place to meet, work or host an event?

Alton Maltings offers flexible spaces for businesses, community groups and individuals, ranging from small meeting rooms to large conference halls. With on-site parking, reliable Wi-Fi and friendly staff, it is the perfect setting to connect, collaborate and create.



Find out more or book a space at maltings.life or call 01420 81950.

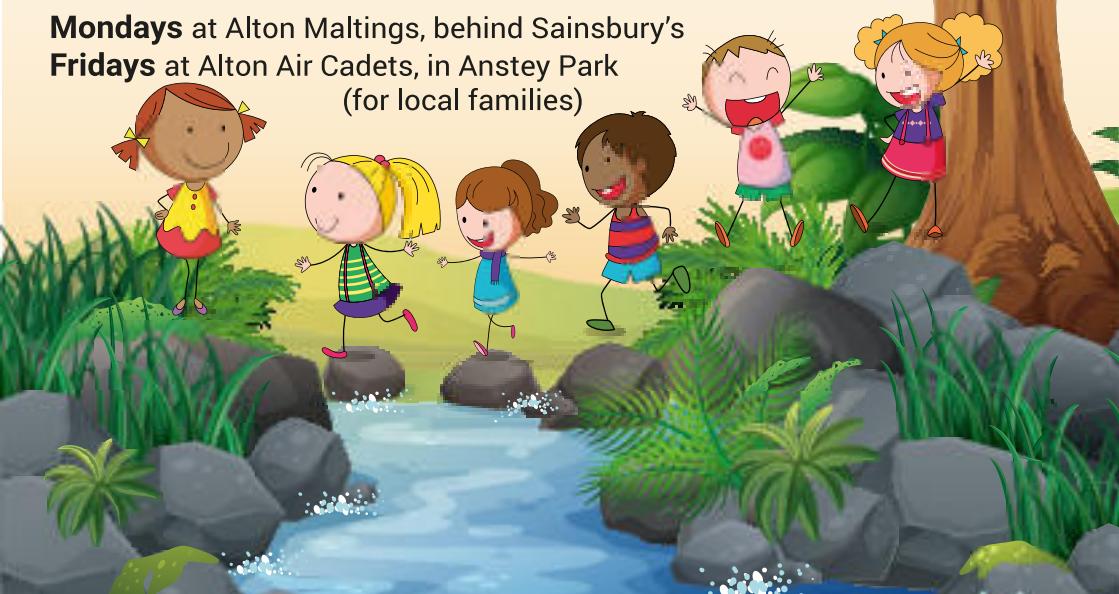
Stepping Stones

Meet new friends, relax and chat over a cuppa, while the children play, create and have fun in a safe and friendly environment.

**Every Monday & Friday during term time,
9.30-11.30am for Under 5's and their carers.**

Mondays at Alton Maltings, behind Sainsbury's

Fridays at Alton Air Cadets, in Anstey Park
(for local families)



Find us on facebook ...

[facebook.com/groups/SteppingStonesMondays](https://www.facebook.com/groups/SteppingStonesMondays)

[facebook.com/groups/fridaysteppingstones](https://www.facebook.com/groups/fridaysteppingstones)