



Carol Beetham

Carol died on 9th November. For at least the last three decades she had been a tireless advocate of Church unity, and at the heart of all Churches Together in Alresford has achieved, representing both St Mary's and the wider Anglican community. We understand that a comprehensive tribute to Carol will appear in the February Arle Valley Voice. Alresford, and all its churches is much the richer for Carol being amongst us.

Christmas Shoeboxes

Again this year CTIA, the Mother's Union, the W.I., local schools and many other local residents have supported the Wessex Rotary Shoebox scheme and we thank all that have. The number collected overall and in particular from schools was down as was the numbers attending the CTIA shoebox packing party on 7th November but, of course, that is understandable as we all continue to cope with the outfall of the Covid pandemic. Locally 209 boxes were contributed out of a District total of 18,059. The District broadly covers Mid and South Hampshire, the Isle of Wight, Dorset and Wiltshire and the Channel Islands. Raising the bar Guernsey (population approx. 60,000) contributed a quarter of the boxes! Alresford's boxes were delivered to Bournemouth airport on 13th November and they will now be on their way to Albania, Montenegro, Romania and Moldova where they will be gratefully received as such countries try not only to cope with the pandemic but also to support a number of refugee camps.

Christmas!

Unfortunately but (we think) wisely CTIA will not be singing carols in Alresford's sheltered housing this year but we will be outside Wessex Pharmacy from 11.00 a.m. to 12 noon on Saturday 19th December singing our hearts out and collecting for Winchester Youth Counselling. Please come and join us!!

As was the norm pre-pandemic there will be a carol service at St John's at 6.00 p.m. on the Sunday before Christmas but this year, instead of a traditional service of nine lessons and carols it will be the CTIA community carol service with some readings but principally an opportunity for the congregation to sing many well-loved carols, a treat remembering the "ban" on singing last year.

For those of you who wish to "blow away the cobwebs" after Christmas Day and Boxing Day there will be a CTIA walk from 10.00 a.m. on Monday 27th December.

Planning of Christmas events is at an early stage (as of mid November). For up to date information please refer to the church notices, the Arle Valley Benefice website and Facebook page, social media or contact any member of the CTIA committee.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (18th – 25th January)

Once again paying heed to Covid this is likely to be fairly low key locally this year but there is excellent material on various websites including that of Churches together in Britain and Ireland. This year's materials have been prepared by the churches of the Middle East, the theme being "We saw the star in the East, and we came to worship him". Locally we hope that on 22rd January there will be some exchange of congregations in our churches with ecumenical prayer being led by one or more visitors from a different denomination.

And Finally... Churches Together in Alresford welcomes Heather Brearey and wishes you all a very happy Christmas and an ecumenical new year!

Jon Whale and James Pinniger

THE CTIA Committee currently consists of:

St John's: James Pinniger (Chair), Jackie Connell and Sarah Wilding

St Gregory's: Gerard Daley, Piers Armstrong, Rosemary Chambers and Laura Brill

Alresford Methodist Church: Gary Carter, Jon Whale and Ruth Wintle