

**Here's this week's news email for the Parish of Medstead and Four Marks.
There is a lot going on, especially as we run up to Christmas, so please do have a
good look through.**

Services this Sunday - 22nd December

8.00am at COGS - Communion Service

**9.30am at COGS - All age service with sung worship, kids church, creche and
youth (on 2nd and 4th Sundays)**

3pm at COGS - Christmas Tea & Praise

5.00pm at St Andrew's - Carol Service

(followed by mulled wine and mince pies in the church hall)

Financial Update

Thank you so much to those who have responded to the financial message! We are in a stable position as we end the year. As always there will be challenges as we head into the new year.

Christmas Collection

At our carol services at COGS on Sunday we collected over £450 for our Christmas Collection, which we will split between Karamoja and Tearfund. Thank you for your generosity!

Further opportunities to give to our Christmas Collection will be at our upcoming services - do look out for the marked buckets. Or do [give online - please use the reference Christmas to make sure your donation is included.](#)

New Treasurer Needed

We now need a new treasurer who can monitor our finances, update PCC on our status, and keep our congregations and wider donor base informed of vision and need. There is excellent contracted accounts support, and resources across PCC for help with communication. Please talk to one of our wardens, Claire, or Howard for more information.

Thank you from Anne Shaw

Anne would like to thank all those who came to and participated in Tony's funeral on Monday. Thank you for making it so special.



Do join us this Sunday for our Christmas Tea & Praise service at 3pm.
A traditional Christmas service followed by refreshments.
If anyone is able to offer to help with food (serving or supplying) please speak to
Caroline Andrews.



Mike Saltmarsh's Christmas Quiz - Christmas Simple Fireside Challenge

The quiz returns this Sunday! Paper copies are available or you can have it emailed to you. Copies are £4 each, in aid of the Church Homeless Charity.
The Church Homeless Charity is the Church of England's organisation dedicated to the rehabilitation and resettlement of homeless people. It supports the work of the English Churches Housing Group, which is one of the largest providers of accommodation and support for homeless people in the UK, helping 3,500 people every day through hostels, move-on accommodation, day centres, winter shelters, women's refuges and drug/alcohol rehabilitation schemes.

Alton Food Bank Update

Together we can end hunger for good.
We know what's pushing people to need the food bank, so we know what needs to change to ensure everyone in your area has enough money to live on.

Will you play your part?

Volunteer - Your skills could make a real difference at your food bank - check our website or social for our current vacancies.

Donate - Food: visit our website to check what we need most and where you can donate | Money: whatever you can afford to give, your support helps us to continue serving your local community.

The Trustees for the Alton Food Bank wish to thank you for the generous donations of finance and food received from The Good Shepherd & St. Andrews. If you would like to know more about ways you might be able to help support your local Food Bank, please look at www.trussell.org.uk and contact the Alton Manager sian@alton.foodbank.org.uk.

I regularly take food donations from the crate by the Mission Board in COGS to the Warehouse, where they're checked in, and donations left in the bin in Four marks Co-op store.

Ann Leahy (Parish Representative)

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