

ALDERSHOT METHODIST CHURCH NOTICES October 2024



Of Harvest, Horrors and Hallows or Celebrations, Spectres and Saints

The last line of my previous item for Notices (July) referred to the final Harvest – of souls. As the Notices for October are published, we'll have just had what is known widely as Harvest Festival. Traditionally at such a service thanks is offered for food or goods produced, some of which is set apart or stored for later. In recent years it's come to be known as 'Harvest Thanksgiving'.

As we move on into autumn, however, we are faced with a concept that most of us are not so thankful about: Hallowe'en! For after dark on 31st October we may have to tolerate a call at the door by 'trick or treaters', who are unlikely to realise that they are rather too close to delving into the occult when attired in dark or spooky clothing. For Hallowe'en was deemed to be the main occasion when all kinds of malevolent creatures and spirits were on the prowl for the unwary.

But, as the name Hallowe'en suggests (Hallowe'en means the evening before All Hallows Day), this occurs the day before All Saints Day – hallow being the old word for saint. But 1st November, All Saints Day, is totally different in that it is a tribute to the Saints – those whose virtuous and remarkable lives have been recognised by the Church. This is usually observed on the Sunday nearest to it.

However, what is sometimes overlooked is that, besides the Saints who have been canonised, those who believe in God and his salvation effected for us through the death and resurrection of Jesus, are also saints (as per the first line of StF 745). As such we're better able to withstand the evil influences of the world around us – the 'weeds' in Matt. 13, or 'hobgoblin nor foul fiend' in StF 486.

So, let's all celebrate our faith, despise the 'spectres', and enjoy our sainthood as we acknowledge our being set apart for that heavenly harvest home.

Martin Squires

All events take place at Aldershot Methodist Church unless indicated otherwise.

Tue 1st: 09:30-12:30 AMC Wellbeing Café (incorporating RHL Talk: Coping with Menopause)

Fri 4th: 19:30 House Group

Sat 5th: 10:30-12:30 Charity Coffee Morning in aid of Royal British Legion (incorporating Poppy Making Workshop)

Sun 6th: 10:30 Morning Service – Yvonne Farrar (Bible Study 1)

Mon 7th: 10:00-11:30 Toddler Group

19:30 Aldershot Churches Together Prayer Meeting (St Michael's Church, Aldershot)

Tue 8th: 09:30-12:30 AMC Wellbeing Café (incorporating Poppy Making Workshop)

Wed 9th: 19:30-21:00 Craft Circle

Fri 11th: 19:30 House Group

Sat 12th: 10:30-12:00 Messy Church

Sun 13th: ***Homeless Sunday; Prisons Week (13th-20th October)***

10:30 Morning Service – Revd. Anne Day (Bible Study 2) (Holy Communion)

Mon 14th: 10:00-11:30 Toddler Group

19:30 Aldershot Churches Together Prayer Meeting (St Michael's Church, Aldershot)

Tue 15th: 09:30-12:30 AMC Wellbeing Café (incorporating Poppy Display Workshop)

Fri 18th: 19:30 House Group

Sun 20th: ***Freedom Sunday; One World Week (20th-27th October)***

10:30 Morning Service – Sue Smith (Bible Study 3)

Mon 21st: 10:00-11:30 Toddler Group

19:30 Aldershot Churches Together Prayer Meeting (St Michael's Church, Aldershot)

Tue 22nd: 09:30-12:30 AMC Wellbeing Café (incorporating Poppy Display Construction)

Fri 25th: 19:30 House Group

Sun 27th: ***Bible Sunday***

10:30 Morning Service – Revd. Anne Day (Bible Study 4)

Mon 28th: 10:00-11:30 Toddler Group

18:30 Meet & Eat

19:30 Aldershot Churches Together Prayer Meeting (St Michael's Church, Aldershot)

Tue 29th: 09:30-12:30 AMC Wellbeing Café (incorporating Card Making Workshop)

Contacts: Minister Revd. Anne Day: anne.day@methodist.org.uk (Tel: 07305 337478)

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Please provide details of events for inclusion in the **November 2024 Notices** by no later than **Friday 25th October 2024**.

Rushmoor Poppy Display

Rushmoor will be exhibiting a large Poppy Display for Remembrance Day outside the Princes Hall in Aldershot, and the AMC Wellbeing Café have been asked to coordinate this. A large number of poppies have been made so far (>500) but if you can continue to knit, crochet and/or sew poppies that will be great – a box is available in the foyer for people to drop off the poppies that they've made.