

ALTON CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Christmas 2019



Dear Friends

It is very encouraging to hear so many of the mediums, who come to our humble Church, saying what a lovely place it is and how they look forward to serving our Church. We all do our best to welcome all who enter the Church. It really feels like one big family when I see those who regularly come, welcome and talk to anyone new who has the courage and curiosity to walk through the doors.

There are now many more people who contact the Church because of Facebook and the Church website, which are both becoming more popular and part of the Church. I regularly give advice and take readings at my house which is also all part of the Church in action.

The most important aspect of our Church is the healing at the end of each service. I would like to thank all our healers and those who help prepare for this. It is the one time when those around you in spirit can draw very close to give healing from the source of all healing, Jesus.

On the last two Healing Services, the love and energy around everyone in the Church cannot be understood unless you are there to experience it. We are so lucky to be able to have evenings like this. I thank all the healers, all who take part and especially those from spirit who do so much to prepare the evening and pass on the love and healing given by our lord Jesus.

Christmas is just around the corner and I hope you all enjoy the infamous carol service with our short pantomime. Please be prepared to laugh or maybe even cry! Either way all who come do seem to enjoy the evening.

May I take opportunity to wish you all a wonderful Christmas on behalf of the church.

We know Jesus always sends us his love, so this Christmas when we are all celebrating, let us all send our dear Jesus our love and extend that love to those in need this Christmas.

Rob Harvey
President

“THE PSALMS”

So often, during our church services, we hear a Psalm being read as part of the Bible reading.

We may wonder at the derivation of the Psalm and why in such strange format?

Unfortunately, there is no simple answer, but I will try and explain some of the background.

The Book of Psalms is found in the “Old Testament” and is a collection of songs and/or poems of the ancient Hebrew peoples. They were “written” or more precisely, sung or related between **1440 BC and 586 BC**. As there was no such thing as newspapers, radio or television, their distribution relied in ‘modern parlance’ on the equivalent of the ‘Town Crier”, who would stand in the market square to give the latest news; possibly of the latest conquest of the Roman Armies, or what was happening in Ephesus, or who won the chariot race in the Roman Arena? This method of disseminating news was also used to educate the ordinary people as to the Hebrew way of life, its politics, and more importantly, its Holy teachings.

The Psalms were composed by various Hebrew authors, poets and preachers, all inspired by God. Of the 150 Psalms at least 73 were written by King David. You may recall that David was the young shepherd boy that slew the giant Goliath with his sling and a stone projectile. Eventually David was to become the King of Israel: He lived from 1040 – 970BC.

Possibly the most common, and therefore well-known Psalm, is the Psalm of David, Psalm 23.....

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want; He makes me to lie down in green pastures. He restoreth my soul. He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name’s sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for You are with me; your rod and staff they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever. AMEN

I do hope that this article on the Psalms helps give you some further insight into our Christian beliefs?

God bless you! Brian

ZODIAC LOOKS AT CHRISTMAS

Zodiac speaks of the birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ in various ways within the 'Zodiac Messages'.....I will endeavour to summarise some of his observations.

In 1925 Zodiac makes comment on "The Virgin Birth". A matter that, at that time, was hotly debated by scientists and the medical profession; each group trying to prove or disprove the Biblical claim whilst seemingly to accept the fact that God, in His wisdom, created the earth and all its natural wonders, along with man and the whole of the universe.

Zodiac further comments: *"that He who thought out the construction of that physical body in which our Lord was carried – that this simple miracle, should be considered beyond His power or imagination."*

Zodiac then continues: *"The coming of the Christ-Child was the revelation to man of **Love Divine**. Not of power, not of greatness, not of Godhead (in the sense that the physical mind accepts it), but to reveal **Love Divine**, unlimited in understanding, in compassion and in hope."*

Then in 1947, at a Christian Spiritualist Church in Walthamstow (London) Miss Winifred Moyes, whilst in deep trance, allowed Zodiac to give an address through her, regarding the 'Christmas Spirit'. *Despite all the troubles that we see about us, there are still very many who love Christmas. Little ones who rejoice at the very thought. But there are older ones who believe that it is a time for memories, and are glad when it is passed. Others, with material appetites, regard Christmas merely as a time to satisfy the appetites of the body.*

What is the right kind of Christmas? Think what this world would be like if the Christmas spirit could always be retained throughout the year and it was common practise for everyone, the world's population, to be inspired by the Christmas Spirit.

Think of Christmas time as a wonderful opportunity. Those in the World of Spirit like to hear the sound of laughter – to see children's delight. Your whole attention should be riveted upon thanking God that through His Laws and His Love, disembodied souls can come back and give you their spiritual treasure – that treasure which never changes except to become more beautiful and more useful – and those gifts never pass away.

I do hope that you all have a very Happy and Spiritual Christmas.

With love, God bless you.

Brian Redwood
Trustee

How I Became Involved in Spiritualism

My journey to spiritualism started 16 years ago when sadly my brother passed to spirit.

Throughout my life I had always had an interest in what was to come when we pass on and I believed that this was not the end but something more awaits us all, at that point all I had to go on was a few books I had read. Little did I know where my path was going to lead me.

I truly believe that we are guided throughout our lives and so when my brother passed my lovely neighbour Mary Andrews came to speak to me and gave me comfort. I knew she went to our Church but knew very little about what went on behind those big wooden doors. Something very odd and strange were the only thoughts I had given it. Mary suggested I came to Church saying that maybe I could get a message from my brother, I had many questions and expectations and decided to give it a go.

My experience of churches was limited, like a lot of people weddings and funerals with the odd christening was the only time I attended. I did have a strong belief in God but I found some of the people I found in churches were a little offish. These thoughts were perhaps a little unkind as I know that many do a lot of good and help many people. I was a lot younger then so hope I will be forgiven for my thoughts.

When I entered Chawton Church it seemed a very warm atmosphere, although I was a little disappointed that my brother did not come and say hello. Nevertheless, I decided to keep coming. Of course, over time I have learnt that it is not easy for our loved ones to make contact. After the service Mary had to leave me all alone so she could give healing, so I made a beeline for the biscuits and coffee (I still do this even now)! I was amazed how many people came and said hello and welcomed me to the church. Not what I expected, but very nice.

As time went on I learnt a lot from the church and found I enjoyed all of the service not just the mediumship and I found I had a faith in me I had not noticed. My love of God grew very quickly as did my fascination with mediumship. I attended a few workshops and had a little go at some of the exercises and to my amazement found I picked up on a few things. Thankfully Betty Redwood, The President of the Church at that time, saw something in me and asked me to join her development circle.

I have not looked back and my eyes have truly been opened to the world of spirit and of course more and more questions. They never stop coming but I get so much strength and comfort knowing my loved ones are still with me and help as much as they can. I would like to thank my very good friend Mary for bringing me into Alton Christian Spiritualist Church and to Betty for all her patience and guidance given to me. And I am continuing to develop and learn so much from a wonderful Church. And if you are wondering my brother did eventually come through and I had a fantastic message from him.

Steve Lidgett

The following are extracts from the Church's book 'Inspirations';

Dear Jesus

*True friends are hard to come by,
They are always there no matter what we do.
They help us before we ask for help,
They listen without judgement,
They make sure we are never alone.
We know we can rely on them.
It has taken a long time, but at last I realise,
Your, dear Jesus, are my best friend.
Amen.*

Written by Rob Harvey

*Be near me Lord Jesus,
I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever
And love me I pray,
Bless all the dear children
In thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven
To live with Thee there*

From 'Away in a Manger'
(First printed in 1892)
Chosen by Mary Andrews



The book of 'Inspirations' is a compilation of prayers and readings written by, or chosen favourites of members of the Alton Christian Spiritualist Church. It is available to buy at the Church for £5

Forthcoming Services

Sunday	17 th November	Jim Walker
Sunday	24 th November	Ginette Foote
Saturday	30 th November	<u>Coffee Morning 10.00am to 1.00pm</u>
Sunday	1 st December	<u>Christmas Healing</u>
Sunday	8 th December	<u>Carol Service</u>
Sunday	15 th December	Michael Redwin
Sunday	22 nd December	<u>Christmas Service</u>

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Sunday	5 th January	<u>Rededication Service</u> Rob Harvey
Sunday	12 th January	Kim Webb
Sunday	19 th January	Spencer Rose
Sunday	26 th January	<u>Holocaust Memorial & Healing Service</u> Patricia Hall
Sunday	2 nd February	David Powell
Sunday	9 th February	Brenda & Andy Dean
Sunday	16 th February	Dave Collins
Sunday	23 rd February	Jim Dimitri
Sunday	1 st March	Lesley Knight
Sunday	8 th March	Alf Hunt
Sunday	15 th March	Sue and Richard Hayes
Sunday	23 rd March	Ron Linsley
Sunday	29 th March	Geoff Woodhouse

Services held from 6.30pm to 7.45pm. Healing is available after every Sunday Service.





**Chawton Village Hall
Winchester Road
Alton
GU34 1SB**

Contact: Rob Harvey, 07950 433535

Email: acspchurch@gmail.com

Website: Alton-christian-spiritualist-church.co.uk

Facebook: Alton Christian Spiritualist Church