

## COMMUNITY CRAFTERS

We recently had a lovely Thank You card from Kings Mill Hospital in recognition of all the items that have been made and sent to help on various wards or the Volunteers fund raising stall. The crafters meet at the Thursday Drop in Coffee Morning in church 10 -12 noon. Some are busy knitting or crocheting, others just bring along items they have made at home but I think it is safe to say, everyone enjoys a good chat, a drink with a biscuit/cake/or toasted current bread –(this can vary each week).



## WELCOME GROUP January 7<sup>th</sup> 2pm in Church

After Christmas events some of us will be ready for a change of scenery and to see familiar friends (even new ones) and so we will start our 2026 year with a lot of fun by playing Scattegories! If you haven't heard of it before, just come along and enjoy yourself. Why not bring a friend, everyone is welcome.

## POSTAGE STAMPS

Please put any postage stamps in the red post box and if you could possibly trim them with a small border on the edges that would be really helpful. Thank you.



## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

If you would like to volunteer to be on the sidesperson or readers rota please speak to Kathy Hobbs. If you are able to serve in the tea bar on Thursday or Sunday please speak to Norma Fyfe. If you are able to donate towards the cost of flowers or help with the arranging please speak to Pat Chapman.

## FOOD BANK

Thank you so much for all the donations which are taken regularly to the food bank. They are always so very grateful for all that we send.



## MANSFIELD WINTER NIGHT SHELTER

There is a box for donations on the table. Please help if you can. There is a list of suggested items in the box. Thank you to all those who have donated so far. This is continuing until the end of March. In February one of the Trustees is coming to talk more about the Night Shelter at Welcome Group and everyone is invited to attend.

Items for next month's newsletter must be received by 21.1.26  
Send them to Kathy at khobbs200517@gmail.com

# 2026

# St Albans

# 2026

## Church Newsletter

## January 2026

### ST ALBANS CHURCH



FOREST TOWN

**Priest-in-Charge:** Revd. Philip Stead  
The Vicarage  
Forest Town, NG19 0EP  
01623 622177

email: [phil.stead1930@outlook.com](mailto:phil.stead1930@outlook.com)

**Facebook:** St Albans Church Forest Town NG19 0ED

**Website:** [stalbans-foresttown.co.uk](http://stalbans-foresttown.co.uk)



Happy  
New Year!

## DATES FOR JANUARY SERVICES

4<sup>th</sup> 9.30am Cafe church  
7<sup>th</sup> 10am Mid week communion  
11<sup>th</sup> 9.30am Parish communion  
14<sup>th</sup> 10am Mid week communion  
18<sup>th</sup> 9.30am Parish communion  
11.30am Baptisms  
21<sup>st</sup> 10am Mid week communion  
25<sup>th</sup> 9.30am Parish communion  
28<sup>th</sup> 10am Mid week communion

## OTHER DATES

7<sup>th</sup> 2pm Welcome group  
21<sup>st</sup> 1.30pm Bereavement Group  
28<sup>th</sup> 1.30pm Prayer group

## BIBLE STUDY DATES

Monday at 1.30 pm in Church- 5/12/19/26th  
Thursdays at 7pm at The Vicarage -  
8/15/22/29th



## A message from Philip

2026  
Happy New Year

We are doing plenty right and I am very grateful for that. People are working hard and putting themselves out on so many occasions and in so many ways. But as with all human beings there are gaps and imperfections. It is a pressing priority that we learn to pray together. I know that people pray on their own and I am deeply appreciative of all your prayers over the years for me but a team-based approach would add so much. If you can possibly make it please give the prayer group a go.

It's a shame that John Major caused the notion of getting back to basics to fall into disrepute. Christians need to do this far more often. We pray, we read the Bible and we find out what God is calling us to do to help build a better world.

To do all this more as we should, it is vital to remember what Jesus came for. Part of what he wanted for us and still does is for us to have abundant life. We know that when we feel better we get more done. How much more so when we let our inner selves be filled with the life of Jesus.

Maybe 2026 needs to be a year of renewal.

We need to question ourselves, particularly our motives on occasions. Where is God in what I am doing or proposing to do? Have I meandered away from God's path recently?

The second one can be easy to fall for. The devil will use anything that works to distract us. He will even use things that are worthwhile in themselves. There is a saying, "The good is the enemy of the excellent." Putting Jesus first can be really tough for ALL of us.

