

# The Grapevine

THE PARISH MAGAZINE OF ST LAURENCE CHURCH ALVECHURCH



**At the heart  
of Christmas**



**DECEMBER 2021**

Online at [www.alvechurch-stlaurence.org/monthly-magazine](http://www.alvechurch-stlaurence.org/monthly-magazine)

# **St Laurence Church Alvechurch**

## **In person church services**

**Please see page 6 for a full list of our services for December and Christmas and page 11 for CTARG Christmas Services**

## **Online services**

**The last online service was on 18 July. You can view all the previous services on our YouTube channel -**

**[www.youtube.com/channel UCVQ6tgn7g6qT7vJ1Rh3vxpg](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCVQ6tgn7g6qT7vJ1Rh3vxpg)**

**You can access various prayer, bible reading, reflection and worship links on our website by visiting -**

**<http://www.alvechurch-stlaurence.org/resources>**

**The Churchwardens may be contacted by telephoning 0121 445 1087 or emailing - [stlaurencealvechurch@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:stlaurencealvechurch@yahoo.co.uk)**

## **GROUPS**

**Sunday Club - Sundays during term time 9.30am Church & Ark**

**Choir - Thursdays at 7.45pm in Church (445 3569)**

**Bellringers - Sundays at 10.45am**

**Tuesday Practice at 7.30pm (01527 64077)**

**Ark Tots and Toddlers - Thursdays 9.30am to 11.00am in The Ark**

**TBC Tiny Tots Service - 10.45am 4th Thursday of the month  
([sarah100work@gmail.com](mailto:sarah100work@gmail.com))**

## **THE ARK**

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### Awaiting Christmas

This year, December is really special at St. Laurence's. Not only are we awaiting Christmas, but also welcoming our new incumbent, Gail Rogers who is due to start on 8<sup>th</sup> December.

The time of waiting for Christmas during December is called Advent. We all find waiting hard, especially as children, for whom time can seem endless. This year it seems especially hard as the near future has, for so long now, seemed very uncertain, thanks to Covid 19, Brexit, climate change etc etc. Newspapers are full of articles claiming that Christmas won't happen because of a shortage of turkeys or plastic toys. Strangely enough, neither of these items was present at the first Christmas, which still managed to be a hugely significant and exciting time!

How amazing is it that God loves us so much that he decided to come and teach us personally how to love? He didn't just keep his distance and relay orders from above. He arrived as a helpless baby, Jesus, and had to grow and learn as we do, so that we could grasp that God really does understand us.

Jesus knew and experienced all that we go through, the learning of skills, the joys of friendship and weddings, the sorrows of loss, abandonment and betrayal; he suffered himself so that we could be forgiven anything and believe that God

## Philippa Brakes writes...

cares and will answer our prayers. Jesus poured love into all those he met, the charismatic

nature of his father's all enveloping love drawing huge crowds who followed him, seeking blessing, forgiveness and a change of direction.

God was a loving father to Jesus, his constant presence supporting and uplifting and he loves us in the same way. I have a memory of a much younger cousin, then aged about two, throwing an impressive tantrum, stamping his little feet; tears and spittle flying everywhere. My lovely uncle John knelt down on the floor, all 6ft 3 of him, held his arms wide and said gently "*Oh poor old chap, you are upset aren't you.*" My little cousin fell into those arms for a long cuddle. That's how we are loved and welcomed home after we've messed up.

So this advent, why not come to church and wait with us to enjoy the celebration of the birthday of Jesus, our friend and saviour. At the same time we can welcome Gail and her family to our village and hear what she has to teach us. Our God can and will lead us through all the times ahead, good or bad and, because he loves us like the very best of fathers, we can trust him with all aspects of our lives. He will never leave us alone in the darkness, but guide us gently to his promised light and loving presence.

So, long after the presents have been relegated to charity shops or landfill, may the loving, peace giving, soul satisfying presence of God bless all our homes and families and, indeed all those who have neither homes nor families, this Christmas and beyond. Amen.

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## HEAT OR EAT ?????

*Lynne Clark writes...*

This winter, so many families are going to be thrown into the decision – Heat or Eat? It was not a decision many of them would have expected to make but this is the result of many things coming together after a tough time.

The people of Alvechurch have always been among the first to think about other people, to put their hands into their pocket. For some years the people of St Laurence donated food each week to our local food bank 'NewStarts' in Bromsgrove. Things are only going to get worse this winter. During the various lockdowns, the community joined in wholeheartedly with donations of food, cleaning products, personal hygiene products and Graham and I were delivering to them a couple of times a week.

If you would like to donate any items, there is a box at The Coach House, School Lane (at the top, on the corner). The box is left just by the garage, and we will deliver as often as we can.

By the time the Grapevine reaches you their Christmas box appeal will be over, but we will continue to collect any of the above items.

Please visit their website: [www.newstarts.org.uk](http://www.newstarts.org.uk) or  
Facebook page:

[www.facebook.com/NewStarts-274541132578149](https://www.facebook.com/NewStarts-274541132578149)

you can find all their up-to-date news and information there.

Email received from Andrew Pain at NewStarts after our Harvest produce delivery:

*"Amazing – thanks SO much for your generosity – it's hugely appreciated. Please pass on huge thanks to your village."*

 **NewStarts**

# Alvechurch Village Society

Gerard Nash writes...

## WALKS

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2pm - A winter warmer walk.**

Meet at Rowney Green village hall.

Led by Ray & Normal Yarnell: 07508 699672.

**Sunday 26th December 10am - The traditional Boxing Day walk.** Meet at the visitor centre, Lickey Hills B45 8ER

Led by Adrian Smith: 07941 508881.

**Sunday 9th January 10am - New Year walk in Redditch.**

Meet at Icknield St Dr/Washford Ln B98 0DE

Led by Tony Brannon: 07763 468893.

*Walks are held at 2pm of the first Sunday of the month unless noted otherwise. For walks starting outside the village, contact the walk leader if you need a lift. Weather conditions occasionally mean that a walk must be cancelled: check with the leaders if necessary. Wear appropriate footwear.*

## EVENTS & TALKS

Talks are held in the village hall, starting at 7:30pm. £1 for members and £2 for guests, including a drink and biscuit. Some events are by ticket, and details of venue, start time and price will be published nearer the time.

**Saturday 11th December**

**Christmas fish & chips and musical bingo**

Village Hall, doors open at 7pm for 7.30pm start. Tickets (£10) and details from Ray Yarnell by email at - [rayyarnell9@outlook.com](mailto:rayyarnell9@outlook.com)

**Saturday 22nd January**

**Quiz night**

Village Hall, 7pm

Details in January from Ray Yarnell by email at - [rayyarnell9@outlook.com](mailto:rayyarnell9@outlook.com)

**Join the Society to support your local community**

The AVS works to maintain this quality and while volunteers do all the work, we rely on the annual membership to maintain our programme of walks, talks and social events. If you want to support us and join the Society, our membership is only £10 per year (£5 for young adults 14-20 years). Please check that you have renewed your membership: subscription runs from January to December. You can get more information from our website: [www.alvechurchvs.org](http://www.alvechurchvs.org) or contact the society chairperson: [chairalvechurchvillagesociety@gmail.com](mailto:chairalvechurchvillagesociety@gmail.com)

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## St Laurence December and Christmas Services

We are planning the following church services in December, subject to any current restrictions:

### **Sunday 5th December**

9.30am - Family Communion

11.15am - Morning Prayer

### **Sunday 12th December**

9.30am - Family worship service

11:15am - Morning Prayer

### **Sunday 19th December**

9.30am - Family worship service

11:15am - Family Communion

6.00pm - Service of Nine Lessons and Carols

### **Friday 24th December**

4.00pm - Family Nativity (first performance)

6.00pm - Family Nativity (second performance)

11.30pm - Midnight Communion

### **Saturday 25th December**

10.00am - Christmas Day Service around the crib

### **Sunday 26th December**

No service at St Laurence

9.30am - Joint Service at St Stephens Redditch

### **Sunday 2nd January**

9.30am - Family Communion

11.15am - Morning Prayer



## Christmas Wishes

We wish all our friends a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year. *Lyn, Mick, Margaret, Gloria, Anna, Alison, Mick, Veronica and Sue B.*

Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year  
from *Rosina, John and Caroline Spreckley.*



# THE MIDLAND SINFONIA PRESENTS

## 'A CHRISTMAS FAMILY CONCERT'

at St Laurence Church,  
Alvechurch on Saturday 18th  
December at 3pm  
(doors open 2.30pm)

A fun filled afternoon of seasonal and popular music for the whole family with Shulah Oliver and friends, helped by Crown Meadow year 4 Choir and Translucent Dance Studio Dancers.

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Adult £7 Children & students £3 Under 5s free. Tickets are available online from [www.midlandsinfonia.co.uk](http://www.midlandsinfonia.co.uk) or from Gin & Pickles in the Square (open Wednesday, Friday, Saturday AM).

Full details on -  
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*We kindly request that face coverings are worn upon arrival and departure and when moving around the church and Ark, thank you.*

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## New vicar for St Laurence



We are highly delighted to welcome Rev Gail Rogers to Alvechurch.

Gail's previous appointment as Assistant Curate at St Francis of Assisi, Bourneville has just finished and she will be officially licensed and inducted as Priest in Charge of Alvechurch and Vicar of Beoley by Bishop John Inge at St Laurence Church at 7.00pm on December 8<sup>th</sup> (see church noticeboard for details of this service).

December in general and Christmas in particular is probably the busiest time of year for a parish priest. Gail and her family have a couple of weeks settling into The Rectory and finding their way around the village before the Christmas season really kicks in.

We look forward to Gail and her family becoming part of our extended family and wish them well in their time with us. You will no doubt see them around the village shortly, so please be sure to say "Hello".



## Rowney Green Horticultural Society

*Lindsay Smith writes...*

ROWNEY GREEN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY usually meets at The Village Hall on the second Thursday each month at 7.15pm. There will be no meeting in December as we feel this is a very busy period for people; Christmas shopping, visiting relatives etc. So the Committee would like to wish all its members and readers of The Grapevine a very Merry Christmas and a Healthy New Year. We look forward to announcing the programme for 2022 very shortly. For more information please telephone Lindsay Smith on 01527 592874.

## September Wedding

Natasha Farlow, born in Alvechurch to Pete and the late Diane Farlow, married her fiancé Edward McKay, son of Catherine and the late Edward McKay, on Saturday 4th of September at St Laurence's church.

Natasha was escorted into the church on her father's arm. She was accompanied by her chief bridesmaid Michelle Lejeune (sister) Laura Johnston, Natalie Walter-Nield (sisters of Edward) and childhood friends Sammy Martin, Katie Orme and Stephanie Willows.

She had two page boys, Michael Johnson and Marcus Lejeune (nephews of Ed and Natasha) and their daughter Belle as flower girl.

Ed had his son Freddie McKay age 10 as his best man, and his two childhood friends Dan Reeder and Joe Cadden as groom's men, all in full matching Scottish attire. A reception followed at King's Court Hotel in Alcester.



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**Rev Ruth Wilson, Minister of Rowney Green Shared Church and Chair of the Churches Together in Alvechurch and Rowney Green Group, writes..**

I wonder if you have a favourite Christmas carol? Or maybe, like me, you have different favourites for different occasions. Before we left our home church in Coventry, to come into full time ministry, one of my favourite Advent activities was to go carol-singing in the streets around the church; as many as thirty singers wrapped up warm would sing heartily with the promise of mulled wine and festive treats at a host's house urging us on. It had been a church tradition for decades, and the singing was welcomed and looked forward to with warm smiles, and cheerful giving, by the households around and about, as we raised money for NCH Action for Children – you could feel the love. Often, we would get requests for a favourite carol: Away in a Manger, Ding Dong Merrily on High, Hark the Herald Angels Sing (trying hard not to pitch the opening notes too high!). Unfortunately, one of my favourites, wasn't often requested: Christina Rossetti's "Love came down at Christmas, love all lovely, love divine".

It's a great poem set to a good tune, but what does it mean? Love coming down at Christmas? Perhaps the love of Christmas is in the season of giving and receiving of presents, or is it in the hospitality of Christmas tables laden with festive food for all the family. Or maybe it's found in the warm fuzzy feeling the John Lewis advert evokes? (Other retailers are available!) Or is it the bounty of binge watching that's in store as we highlight the bumper edition of the Christmas TV listing magazines or, maybe it's the annual traditions, like the carol-singing from the lovely folk from a local church. I've listed lots of 'lovely' things which create warm feelings,

but, of course, real love coming down at Christmas is much more.

Rosetti's carol offers us a less sentimental definition of that love. She manages to evoke the manger scene in Bethlehem without actually describing it and at the same time moves both beyond it and deeper into it. It sums up all that Christians understand about the meaning of the Christmas story, *and it's also a statement of Christian belief*. "Love all lovely, love divine" is a welcome whispered to a new born-baby and the revelation of the mystery of the love of God at work.

The season of Advent and Christmas is for retailers, the hospitality industry, and TV schedulers, a finite season, but, for the world, the message of love, hope, joy and peace must be a continuing season. Love might have come down at Christmas, but the message of Christmas is that that love must find a way of being present every day – through us. God, wrapped in human form, a baby laid in the manger, is a moment in history, an important moment. It is the moment when God entered the world in Jesus, and in his life, ministry, death and resurrection, we find the love of God for us to model for us to be channels of love and peace in the world today.

Love came down at Christmas,  
Love all lovely, love divine;  
love was born at Christmas  
star and angels gave the sign.

Worship we the Godhead,  
love incarnate, love divine;  
worship we our Jesus  
what shall be our sacred sign?

Love shall be our token,  
love be yours and love be mine;  
love to God and neighbour,  
love for prayer and gift and sign.  
*Christina G Rossetti (1830 - 1894)*

## Church Services in Alvechurch and Rowney Green Advent and Christmas 2021

<b>St Laurence Parish Church</b>		
Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	6.00pm	Nine Lessons and Carols
Christmas Eve	4.00pm	Family Nativity (first performance)
	6.00pm	Family Nativity (second performance)
	11.30pm	Midnight Communion
Christmas Day	10.00am	Christmas Day Service around the crib
Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup> December	No service	9.30am Joint Service at St Stephens Redditch
Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup> January	9.30am	Family Communion
	11.15am	Morning Prayer
<b>Alvechurch Baptist Church</b>		
Sunday 19th December	10.30am	Christmas Festival Service
Sunday 19th December	6.00pm	Carols by Candlelight followed by mulled wine and mince pies
Christmas Day	10.30am	Christmas Family Worship
Sunday 26th December	No service	
<b>Rowney Green Shared Church (Methodist &amp; Anglican)</b>		
Christmas Day	9.30am	Christmas Family Worship led by Methodist Circuit Superintendent Minister, Rev. Steve Levett
Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup> December	No service in chapel	Circuit YouTube Service <a href="https://www.brmethodists.co.uk/circuit_events/meet-us-on-youtube/">https://www.brmethodists.co.uk/circuit_events/meet-us-on-youtube/</a>
Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup> January	9.30am	Holy Communion and Covenant Service

**St Mary's RC Church** - As we go to print the building at St Mary's is still closed, but it is hoped that the building will be ready to re-open for Christmas. We hold that hope in our prayers. Please do check up-to-date service information nearer the times at [www.ourladyofmountcarmel.co.uk](http://www.ourladyofmountcarmel.co.uk)

# News from the Tower

*Geoff Franklin writes...*

The bells have been rather quiet this year because of Covid but we are at last being allowed to do a little ringing. The ringing chamber is a small space with no windows, so the advice has been that we restrict ourselves to fifteen minute sessions. Covid has also meant that we've had to stop training new ringers because of the social contact that that involves.



On the bright side, progress is being made with the plans to restore the tower. It's been ten years since we did a complete restoration on the bells but now the tower itself needs attention to make it structurally sound and to fix the leaking roof. Hopefully we'll be able to restore and regild the clock dials whilst the scaffolding is up. Something we were hoping to do ten years ago but access to the outside wall was too difficult.

We did a lot of fund-raising for the restoration of the bells and our next event will go towards the work on the tower. This will be our Table Top Sale on April 9th next year in the Ark. As usual, we'll have our own table of bric-a-brac and books and there will be individual tables available for anyone who can come and support us. Also bacon sandwiches, cakes and drinks. Once Christmas is over we'll start collecting things for our table so remember us when you're Spring Cleaning.

Christmas is, of course, the next big event and we'll be ringing as usual before the midnight service and on Christmas Day itself.

To end on a sad note, we lost one of our oldest ringers last month. John Hoccom started ringing in the early 90's and rang at St Laurence for 25 years. Even after he'd had to stop ringing he was a constant and reliable presence supporting our events. We will miss him and we send our condolences to his family. The bells will be muffled at his funeral as is traditional for a bell-ringer. The funeral is on Thursday 2nd December at 1pm at St Laurence church, then the cremation service at Redditch Crematorium at 2pm.

# Rowney Green Flower Club

*Felicity Rixon writes...*

The Rowney Green Flower Club, which usually meets on the 4th Thursday of the month at Rowney Green Village Hall, will be having their Christmas Demonstration on Thursday 2nd December. The evening will include a fabulous demonstration by Minh Lane "*Christmas from East to West*" with the arrangements being raffled. It starts at 7.45pm, with a finger buffet and a glass of wine or juice being available beforehand. The cost will be £7.50 for visitors.

You don't need to be a flower arranger to come to our demonstrations – just sit back and enjoy the evening, in the congenial company of our members.



OH HOLY NIGHT

A D N H P W P J Q B T G F F S Q V  
Y D M Q M I A A S T A R R L G F R  
F X F A G R D O N K E Y A S Q L J  
F S B U G S A V I O R M N F W U W  
H H E A X W I X H Z I E K J A C B  
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WISE MEN



Christmas Crackers

Why was the little boy so cold on Christmas morning? **Because it was Decembrrrrr!**  
What do you get when you combine a Christmas tree with an iPad? **A pineapple!**  
What comes at the end of Christmas Day? **The letter "Y!"**  
What's every parent's favourite Christmas Carol? **Silent Night.**

## Alvechurch Historical Society

The monthly meetings are held in the main hall at The Ark, St Laurence Church starting at 7.45pm.

### PROGRAMME 2021

**6 December** - Egypt: Three Sides to the Pyramid     *John Butterworth*

We look forward to seeing current members and welcoming new visitors. In case of any future changes due to Covid please contact Anne Humphries 0121 445 5955 if you need to confirm that meetings are going ahead.

## Text Giving for St Laurence Church

Help to preserve the church for future generations by making a donation to the mission and ministry of St Laurence's.

You can make a donation with a quick and simple text message

Text "**STLALVECHURCH 5**" to **70085** to donate £5

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Text "**STLALVECHURCH 10**" to **70085** to donate £10

Texts cost £10 plus one standard rate message

Text "**STLALVECHURCH 20**" to **70085** to donate £20

Texts cost £20 plus one standard rate message

Or you can also make a donation by scanning this QR code with your mobile phone



Or please send a cheque payable to **Alvechurch PCC**, posted to our parish office address at The Ark, St Laurence Church, School Lane, Alvechurch, Birmingham B48 7SB.

Or, if you would like to set up a direct debit (under the Parish Giving Scheme), this can now be done over the telephone – please leave a brief message on our church answerphone (0121 445 1087), or email the church email address - ([stlaurencealvechurch@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:stlaurencealvechurch@yahoo.co.uk)), with your name and telephone number, so that our church treasurer may contact you.

With our thanks and prayers.

Alvechurch PCC - Registered charity number 1131783

## Hillside @ Alvechurch WI

*Jacqueline Hollingworth writes...*

We held our meeting on 3rd November and after a warm welcome to everyone, we started with a little business. The minutes were taken as read.

Unfortunately the NFWI Christmas shopping trip to Bath, has had to be cancelled, due to covid restrictions in the town.

We had a wonderful collection of toilettries (September meeting) and chocolate treats in November, for delivery to two local food banks. It was a marvellous response. A big thank you to everyone.

The 3rd November was our craft evening, fun for all. Our speaker was Sue Reading, one of our many talented members. She had organised for us to make Decorative Christmas Cards. All the equipment was laid out and ready for us to make a prompt start. It was a lovely evening and very good fun. We all managed to complete two beautiful Christmas cards, with Sue and her daughter Sarah's guidance. Thank you both very much. Refreshments followed of course.

Our Christmas meal is on 1st December and is also our last meeting of the year. We are having an American supper organised by the committee. Our entertainment will be provided by singer Maggie Farmer. It will be nice to celebrate together this year with our friends at WI.

There will be no meeting in January. Our first evening is on 2nd February and will be held in the Ark as usual weather permitting! We will be holding a silent auction, so please remember your items for the sale.

Meetings are held at The Ark, St Laurence Church, on the first Wednesday of each

month at 7.30pm. Inquiries to Pat McDonagh 0121 628 4121.

On behalf of Hillside WI I would like to wish all our friends in WI and elsewhere, a very Happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year. See you in 2022!

## Alvechurch WI

*Chris Grainger writes...*

32 Members + 6 Visitors attended the November Meeting, which was a splendid turnout, for our local speaker, Lucy Wilkinson. Her interest was in sea glass, collected over the years from the coast. This is weathered glass, all shapes and sizes, polished, and then turned into jewellery. A nice memento of a happy holiday. However, there are strict rules, as to what can be removed from beaches, and what cannot.

There was a lovely atmosphere in the Village Hall, with members and visitors, all soon working away together. Some ladies made Christmas cards and some Christmas labels.

The speaker's partner, had given her a drill as a birthday present. This would be an ideal Christmas present for the woman who has everything. Jean Collins then gave us a report on the Annual Council Meeting.

December Walk on Mon 20th is cancelled. Instead, you are invited to President Mariea's home, for a cup of tea and a chat, new members welcome.

### **Monday 13th December**

WI Christmas Meal at the Red Lion

### **January 2022 NO MEETING**

**February 14th** - Next Meeting - Valentine's Day - Fish & Chip Supper in the Village Hall.

P.S. Alvechurch WI wish all our members a very Happy Christmas.



# Alvechurch Baptist Church Scarecrow Nativity

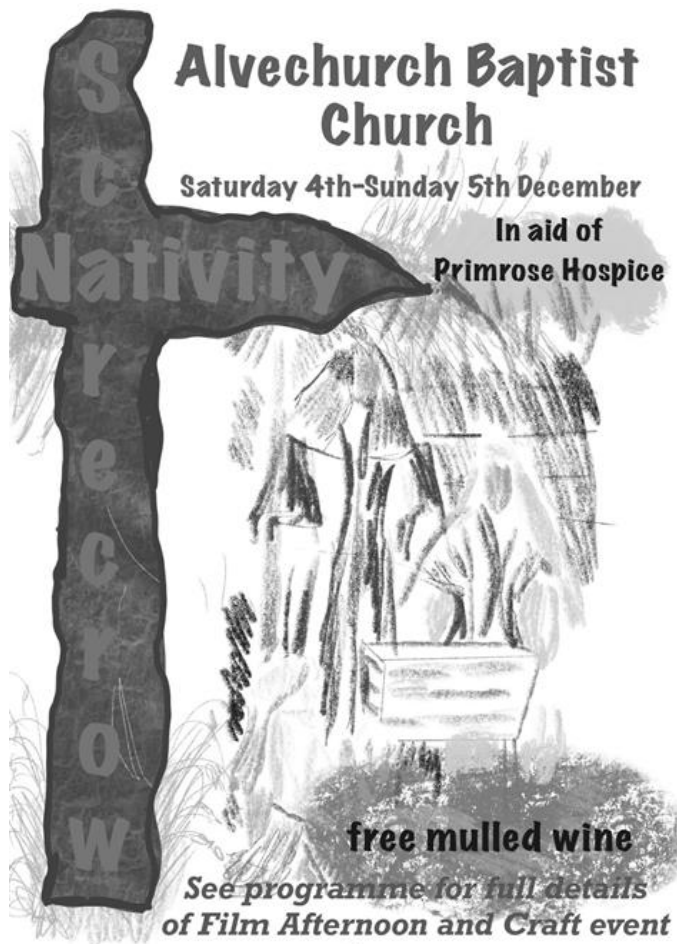
## Programme

**Sunday November 28<sup>th</sup> Children's Craft Afternoon.** Church hall. 3.00 - 4.30 Making Tree decorations of stars and angels, some for the Nativity, some for home. Snacks and story.

**Saturday December 4<sup>th</sup> Scarecrows on view to the community in the church.** 10.00 onwards. Cakes and drinks available. **Free mulled-wine in the courtyard** from 5.00, following the Village Christmas Lights Switch-On, with **Carol-singing** by the **Community Choir.**

**Sunday December 5<sup>th</sup>. Morning Worship** at 10.30 with input from the **Primrose Hospice.** **Community Carol-Service** at 4.00, including appreciations of all the scarecrow-makers.

**Saturday December 11<sup>th</sup>. Film Afternoon.** 3.30 for 4.00 showing. "Nativity": a *"fabulous 5-star festive family treat"* starring Martin Freeman.



# At the heart of Christmas

Archdeacon of Worcester, Robert Jones writes...



## At the heart of Christmas



Let's hope we can celebrate Christmas more openly and at ease this year than last! Looking back over the past 18 months or so it is hard to believe how much we've had to put up with and how we've changed our behaviour in order to stay safe. I'm amazed how we have adapted our lives. Who would have thought that wearing masks in crowded places would become second nature? That a nationwide vaccination programme would have been so successfully developed? And that we'd all get used to administering lateral flow tests ourselves?

We have learned to manage public worship as safely as possible. We have celebrated funerals, weddings and family events in new and creative ways, though at some cost along the way. We have had to concentrate on the essentials. We have put ourselves out to look after ourselves and others with practical loving-kindness. Although we lost so much, it seems to me we have gained much as well. Perhaps, you could say, we put the heart back into human society.

Do you remember how last year's Christmas celebrations were much more muted than usual? People commented on how much they actually enjoyed the simplicity of pared down celebrations and an albeit enforced break with old routines. We had to re-think. We had to ask what really counted. We had to improvise - because we couldn't sing in church, we went outside to sing our carols. Strangely enough we took Christmas back to where it first began - not shut inside holy places, however beautiful, but outside in the world God so loved.

Mary and Joseph also had to improvise as they found a place for their son to be born. The heart of Christmas was born in the mucky manger of Bethlehem: even there, surely, their hearts sang for joy. The beating heart of Christmas was and is the Babe of Bethlehem, born for us.



I wonder what will make  
our hearts sing this  
Christmas.



## Parish Prayers

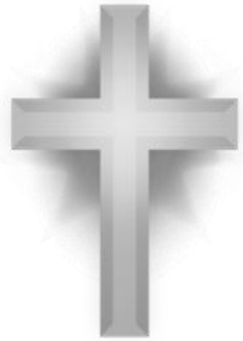
At this time, we pray for all those who live and work in our community and especially those who live and work in:

**5 December – Bittell Farm Road**

**12 December – Bittell Road**

**19 December – Blythesway**

**26 December – Brandon Road**



### January 2022 Edition Grapevine Deadline

**PLEASE NOTE - the deadline for anyone wishing to submit articles for our January 2022 edition is -**

**TUESDAY 7TH DECEMBER 2021**

**Wishing all our readers a very Happy Christmas and good health for the New Year**

## From The Registers



### Marriages

*Those whom God has joined together*

23 October Richard Stokes and Ruth Tandy



### Funerals and Cremations

*May they rest in the peace of Christ*

28 October

Angela Bowater

11 November

Noel Woods

18 November

Lynne Laight

# Who's who

Rector	Revd Gail Rogers, The Rectory, School Lane, 445 1087 stlaurencealvechurch@yahoo.co.uk
Licensed Lay Ministers	Mrs Sue Phillips Wardle, 55 Birmingham Road, 445 0505 Mrs Helen Ayling, "Tarncroft", Hewell Lane, Vigo, 445 6176
Authorised Lay Ministers	Mrs Helena Allen Mr Martin Allen, 445 5605 Mrs Philippa Brakes, 56 Callow Hill Road, 445 3983 Mr Graham Clark, The Coach House, School Lane, 445 2547 Mr Michael Fletcher, 13 Red Lion Street, 447 8451
Churchwardens	Mr Graham Clark, The Coach House, School Lane, 445 2547 Mr Mick Fletcher, 13 Red Lion Street, 447 8451
Deputy Wardens	Mr Colin Bennett, 122 Redditch Road, 01527 64077 Mr David Richmond, The Ferns, Chapel Lane, 445 3569 Mrs Janet Wright, 28 Callow Hill Road, Alvechurch, B48 7LP Mr Andy Notley, 445 5653 Mr Roger Wardle, 55 Birmingham Road, 445 0505 Mr Michael Davenport
PCC Secretary	Mrs Lysandra Notley, lysnotley@icloud.com, 07989327043
Parish Safeguarding Officer	Mrs Sue Lambert, 7 Cygnet Close, B48 7PX, 07769110608
PCC Treasurer	Mrs Janet Wright, 28 Callow Hill Road, Alvechurch, B48 7LP
Organist & Choirmaster	Mr David Richmond, The Ferns, Chapel Lane, 445 3569
Electoral Roll Officer	Mrs Janet Wright, 28 Callow Hill Road, 445 4335
Tower Captain	Mr Colin Bennett, 122 Redditch Road, 01527 64077
Singing Group	Mrs Lynda Wolstencroft, 49 Hinton Avenue, 445 3212
Ark Tots & Toddlers	Mrs Sarah Linton, sarah100work@gmail.com
Flower Co-ordinator	Mrs Ann Thurrell, Top Barn, Scarfield Hill, 447 7668
Ark Bookings Secretary & Grapevine Editor	Mr Ian Price, The Ark, School Lane, 447 7955 admin@thearkalvechurch.co.uk

## PCC Special Responsibilities

### Finance and Standing Committee

Graham Clark	Mick Fletcher
Bob Dale	Janet Wright
Peter Freeman	

### Buildings, Fabric and Churchyard for Mission Committee

Bob Dale	Colin Bennett
Graham Clark	Peter Freeman
Mick Fletcher	Andy Humphries
Janet Wright	

### Children and Youth Committee

Martin Allen	Mick Fletcher
Thomas Birchall	Lynne Clark
Kate Birchall	Sarah Linton

### Missionary Committee

Sue Phillips Wardle	Dick Russell
Gordon Parsons	Margaret Haste
Sue Lambert	

# Calendar for DECEMBER



Wednesday 1	7.30pm	Hillside WI: Christmas Meal with entertainment: The Ark
Thursday 2	9.30am 7.45pm	Ark Tots & Toddlers: Sarah Linton: The Ark Rowney Green Flower Club: Christmas Demonstration with finger buffet beforehand: Rowney Green Village Hall
Saturday 4	10.00am 5.00pm	Scarecrows on view: Alvechurch Baptist Church Free mulled-wine in the courtyard following the Village Christmas Lights Switch-On, Carols by Community Choir
Sunday 5	2.00pm 4.00pm	Alvechurch Village Society: A winter warmer walk: Meet at Rowney Green village hall: Led by Ray & Normal Yarnell Community Carol Service including appreciations of all the scarecrow-makers: Alvechurch Baptist Church
Monday 6	7.45pm	Alvechurch Historical Society: Talk by John Butterworth: Egypt: Three Sides to the Pyramid: The Ark
<b>Tuesday 7</b>		<b>PLEASE NOTE EARLY DATE - JANUARY 2022 GRAPEVINE GOES TO PRESS: <i>articles to</i> - <a href="mailto:admin@thearkalvechurch.co.uk">admin@thearkalvechurch.co.uk</a></b>
Wednesday 8	7.30pm	Licensing Service for Revd Gail Rogers: St Laurence Church
Thursday 9	9.30am	Ark Tots & Toddlers: Sarah Linton: The Ark (Last for 2021)
Saturday 11	3.30 for 4pm 7 for 7.30pm	Film Afternoon " <i>Nativity</i> ": Alvechurch Baptist Hall Alvechurch Village Society: Christmas fish & chips & musical bingo: Alvechurch Village Hall
Saturday 18	2.30 for 3pm	The Midland Sinfonia ' <i>Christmas Family Concert</i> ': St Laurence Church (see page 7 for more details)
Sunday 26	10.00am	The traditional Boxing Day Walk: Meet at the visitor centre, Lickey Hills, B45 8ER: Led by Adrian Smith

See page 6 for our Christmas services and page 11 for other local church services