

The Grapevine

THE PARISH MAGAZINE OF ST LAURENCE CHURCH ALVECHURCH



FEBRUARY 2022

Online at www.alvechurch-stlaurence.org/monthly-magazine

St Laurence Church Alvechurch

In person church services

Please see page 6 for a list of our services for February

Online services

The last online service was on 18 July 2021. 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

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

Tiny Tots Service - 10.45am 1st Thursday of the month

sarah100work@gmail.com

THE ARK

Enquiries to Ian Price 0121 447 7955 (admin@thearkalvechurch.co.uk)

Registered as a Charity in England and Wales: Charity Number 1131783



Rev Gail Rogers writes...

As I contemplated my first contribution to the church magazine, in wondering what to share with you I found myself being drawn to pray. Prayer is at the

heart of our relationship with God. Prayer is a divine gift we hold one another in. Prayer is central to the transformation of the world.

But what is prayer? Why is prayer part of our identity as follows of Jesus?

The bible offers us several answers.

Prayer is talking with God: we hear many times in the bible of people talking to God seeking strength, guidance, and healing. People crying out in despair, seeking justice and liberation.

Prayer is offering to God praise and thanksgiving.

Prayer is listening to God.

Prayer is being transformed, our becoming more Christ-like.

Prayer is seeking guidance.

Prayer is collective but also individual.

What prayer is, can be a difficult concept to pin down to any one act. What is prayer to you?

For me, over time my understanding of prayer has expanded. Rather than prayer being something we do, it is something that we are. Prayer is an invitation to us, from God. An invitation to be moulded, to being transformed, to being formed, becoming more Christ-like.

I love this saying by Teresa of Avila – *“Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which he looks with compassion on this world. Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good. Yours are the hands*

through which he blesses all the world. Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, you are his body. Christ has no body now on earth but yours.”

Prayer is more than what we say, it is how we live our lives. We are prayer.

We have just begun a new year and the first thing I always write in my diary is this – *‘Pray as though the outcome is from God. Be, as though the outcome is from you’*

I have an Instagram account and I try to post a photo everyday accompanied by a sentence or two about an experience of prayer or reflection I have had that day. This is usually when I am out walking our dog, Buddy. When writing this article, the morning was extremely foggy, I was struck by how poor the visibility was, but the further I walked into the fog which was covering the usual stunning view, I felt myself being drawn into a deeper mystery of prayer. The further into the fog I went the more clearly, I could see what was around me. The detail of my surroundings was sharper and more focussed.

This was my post: *‘Prayer, perhaps, is an openness to enter into the mystery, in the hope that we can begin to see more clearly our relationship with God, each other and the world.’*



For me, prayer is an invitation from God whereby through the power of the Holy Spirit we are continually being transformed into the image and likeness of Christ. Prayer is lived out in its fullness in The Body of Christ, the whole church seeing the world more clearly, and seeking its healing.

Continues on page 4

AS TIME GOES BY



*Suppliers of Headstones,
Cremation Tablets and
renovation work*

KEVIN PORTER

Tel: 01527 550505

Mobile: 07835 523640

Email:

kfporter@blueyonder.co.uk

Website:

www.astimegoesby.org.uk

Unit 5, Dunlop Road, Hunt End Ind
Est, Redditch, Worcs, B97 5XP

THOMAS BROTHERS



An Independent Family Owned Funeral Directors

Family owned funeral homes in Redditch, Bromsgrove, Wythall, Alvechurch & Alcester. We provide a friendly, dignified service paying special attention to detail.

REDDITCH **BROMSGROVE**
01527 547777 01527 83170

WYTHALL ALVECHURCH ALCESTER
01564 822001 0121 445 3422 01789 330939



"A family concern"

www.thomasbrothers.co.uk

email: admin@thomasbrothers.co.uk

A. Pullen

• MEMORIALS •

*Additional Inscriptions
& Renovations*



**All Work
is to the
Highest
Standard**

BRAMM

Showroom and Workshop
338 Alcester Road, Burcot,
Broms grove B60 1BH
Tel: (01527) 876200
077 10976744

We pray because Jesus prayed, and we are called to follow the same example. We are prayer because Jesus is the answer to prayer and in our own Christlikeness, we too are to be prayer to others.

As we begin this new phase of ministry together, shall we pray?

If you wish to follow my posts on Instagram just search for **revdgail**

Barnt Green Friendship Group

Programme 2022

8 February Crown Jewels and Royal Tragedies: Gwynn Green

8 March Worcester Porcelain and Quiz - Colin Mallett

We meet at the Friends Meeting House, Sandhills Road, Barnt Green at 2.15pm on the second Tuesday of the month.

Visitors £3, Members 50p. Tea and biscuits included and everyone welcome. For further Information please contact Rosalind on 0121 445 0598.

Christmas Thanks

Mick Fletcher writes...



All at the church would like to give their thanks to all those who gave up their time and skills to help make Christmas special for us all.

To Lorena and Colin Bennett for their donation of the Christmas tree, to Tim for transporting the tree to the Church, to Gareth and Tim, for their help in erecting the tree, to Lynda and Alice and family for dressing the tree.

To David and the Choir and readers involved in the Nine Lessons and Carols. To all those who helped with the Christmas Nativity online, to Gail for the in person Nativity, and Steve on the sound desk. The children who were all great, their parents for helping with the children's lines and costumes, and lastly to Lysandra who worked tirelessly in all aspects of the play.

To those who helped clean and tidy everything away, thanks to Lynda and Steve.

Finally all the ladies for their skill in their arranging of the Christmas flowers, thank you Ann. If I have missed anyone please forgive me. God bless.

Alvechurch Village Society

Gerard Nash writes...

WALKS

February 6th 2pm - A winter's stroll round Bittell Lakes.
Meet at the Crown car park, Withybed.
Led by Hilary Taylor: 0121 445 0107.

March 6th 2pm - There and back again, around Alvechurch.
Meet at Tanyard Lane car park.
Led by Nickie Thomas: 07740 463509.

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.

Wednesday February 16th

Village Hall, 7.30pm

"Magistrates in the Community"

An introduction by a local magistrate

Wednesday March 23rd

Village Hall, 7.30pm

Annual General Meeting

Join the Society to support your local community

The quality of life in the Alvechurch, Rowney Green, Hopwood, Weatheroak and Bordesley area is praised by many, but cannot be taken for granted. 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 or contact the society chairperson:
chairalvechurchvillagesociety@gmail.com

Quality Carpenter & Joiner

For all your building
needs, Furniture, Fire
Surrounds & fittings

RICHARD BENNETT

Peacehaven, Grange
Lane, Alvechurch,
Birmingham, B48 7DJ

Phone: 01527 66774
Mobile: 07966229582

Spring View Care Nursing Home



Spring View Care provides small
homely nursing home where our
residents are at the heart of
everything. We aim to provide
nursing homes where we ourselves
would be happy to stay.

We operate two high quality Nursing
Homes:

- 1: Grosvenor House in Alvechurch
- 2: Tutnall Hall in Bromsgrove

To arrange a visit call

Tel: 0121 445 0033

www.springviewcare.co.uk



MORTONS FUNERAL DIRECTORS

Prearrange Your Funeral

Be sure of your funeral
arrangements, with or
without prepayment.

Contact us for more information

Telephone: 0121 453 9111
www.mortonsfunerals.co.uk

ADVERTISE HERE

Just £150 for 12 months
(other options available)

Reach readers in
Alvechurch and
surrounding
areas and online.

For more details contact
Ian Price on 0121 447 7955
or email -
admin@thearkalvechurch.co.uk



THE LAWNS
RESIDENTIAL CARE

Exceptional quality
accommodation for senior
adults and the elderly.

24 hour care from
professional, caring staff.

All set within beautiful
gardens and terraces.

School Lane, Alvechurch, B48 7SB
Tel: 0121 445 4098
Fax: 0121 445 4544
www.thelawnsare.co.uk



- CARPET & UPHOLSTERY
CLEANING SPECIALISTS
- DOMESTIC & COMMERCIAL
- ECO FRIENDLY

FAMILY RUN SINCE 1980



0121 445 4247

07748 801658

www.WainwrightsCarpetCleaning.co.uk

St Laurence Church Services for February 2022

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

6 February - Family Communion service 9.30am
Morning Prayer 11.15am

13 February - Family service 9.30am
Morning Prayer 11.15am

20th February - Family service 9.30am
Communion Service 11.15am

27th February - Family service 9.30am
Morning Prayer 11.15am



FAIRTRADE

Fairtrade Fortnight 2022

In 2022, Fairtrade Fortnight runs from Monday 21
February until Sunday 6 March and is even more crucial
this year as the global economy recovers from Covid-19.
Since last year, the G7 and COP26 have both taken place.
Over 33,000 campaigners joined 1.8m Fairtrade farmers
and workers in backing the Be Fair With Your Climate
Promise challenge to world leaders at the UN COP26
summit. But frustration came as the wealthiest nations
failed to recognise the urgent need to invest in farmer
expertise by delaying their promised \$100bn annual fund-
ing to the most climate vulnerable countries until 2023.

Throughout the fortnight, an online *Choose the World you
Want* Festival will run with people coming together in a
show of support for the farmers behind our food on the
front line of the climate crisis.

Please pray for fairness and justice in all economic
dealings and especially for small producers in developing
economies, that they may receive a fair price for what
they produce. Pray that consumers make informed
choices.

We are all part of the Fairtrade movement and have the
power to drive long-term change, not only with our
shopping choices but in spreading the message. What
difference will you make during Fairtrade Fortnight this
year?

To find out more visit - www.fairtrade.org.uk

Diocese pledges to stop investing in fossil fuels

We have announced that along with many other dioceses and religious institutions, our diocese is divesting from fossil fuel extraction.



Bishop Martin Gorick, the Bishop of Dudley, said:

"This January brings us one more year closer to 2030, when we have resolved to do all we can across the Church of England to reach a net zero carbon position. We are facing a climate emergency and it's up to all of us, as churches and as individuals, to do what we can to protect this planet for future generations. The task is huge, but every gram of carbon we save will make a difference. As well as how we heat our homes and churches, how we travel and live, this stewardship responsibility extends to where we invest our money."

This divestment commitment comes after its investment managers, CCLA Investment Management, whose CBF funds manage investments on behalf of many Church of England dioceses and local churches, sold its last remaining shares in fossil fuel extraction companies and pledged to support other users of fossil fuels to transition to a low carbon economy.

Read CCLA's investment policy at - www.ccla.co.uk/our-policies/climate-change-and-investment-policy

James Giles & Sons

A FAMILY OWNED FUNERAL DIRECTORS
ESTABLISHED 1916

**Serving all communities
with dignity and
understanding**

- Private Chapel of Rest
- Day and Night Service
- Woodland Burial
- Golden Charter and Help the Aged Funeral Plans
- Catering and Floral Tributes

Telephone 01527 872318
24 Stourbridge Road
Bromsgrove, Worcs, B61 0AE



**Design and Print • Office Supplies
Workwear • Promotional Products**

- Stock and Distribution
- Facilities Management



Contact:

Call: 0121 430 9000

Web: www.lgdsolutions.com

E-mail: soles@lgdsolutions.com

Address: 46 Watstock Road, Kings Heath, Birmingham B14 4TS

REAL SOLUTIONS BY REAL PEOPLE



Your local
ELECTRICIAN



- Fault Finding/ Repairs
- Extra Lights and Sockets
- New Fuse Boards
- Rewires
- Landlord Inspections
- Qualified Electrician
- Free Quotes
- Fully Insured
- Tidy Work
- Reliable Service
- Satisfaction Guaranteed

Call Nat on:

01527 878316 or 07791 923459

www.njmelectrical.com

WE ACCEPT DEBIT AND CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS



**ACCUO ACCOUNTING
LIMITED**

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

40 BEAR HILL, ALVECHURCH
TELEPHONE 0121 445 2445

Email: david@accuo.co.uk

Website: www.accuo.co.uk

We offer a comprehensive service including book-keeping, payroll, VAT, accounts and taxation for sole traders, partnerships, charities and limited companies.

Contact David or Susan Seeley to discuss how we can help you.

ADVERTISE HERE

Just £150 for 12 months
(other options available)

Reach readers in
Alvechurch, Rowney
Green, and surrounding
areas and online.

For more details contact
Ian Price on 0121 447 7955
or email -
admin@thearkalvechurch.co.uk



CINNAMON
LUXURY CARE

Luxury
Care Home
in Burcot



Burcot Grange &
The Lodge

Tel: 0121 445 5552

Tel: 0121 269 1237

cinnamoncc.com/burcot

DO YOU HAVE PHOTOS OF ST LAURENCE
CHURCH, OR SERVICES YOU HAVE
ATTENDED THAT WE COULD USE ON
OUR WEBSITE OR SOCIAL MEDIA?

PLEASE DO GET IN TOUCH ABOUT HOW TO SHARE THEM
WITH US. PLEASE NOTE IF A PHOTO HAS PEOPLE IN THEM
WE WILL NEED PERMISSION FROM THEM TO USE IT.



Please email - admin@thearkalvechurch.co.uk

Rowney Green Horticultural Society

Lindsay Smith writes...

Rowney Green Horticultural Society - meets at the Village Hall on the second Thursday of each month at 7.15pm.

On 10th February 2022 we welcome a new Speaker, Mick Poultney, who comes from Halesowen, he will give a presentation entitled "Dig No Dig" which sounds like a great idea. Mick is also known as "The Compost King" and has recently published a book called "Compost Ready to Use Within A Month". And, we believe he is a font of all knowledge on all things vegetables and will be willing to answer any questions you might have so you will be well prepared for the Annual show in September and can produce the biggest carrot or any other category you fancy!

Guests are always welcome - £3.50 including refreshments. For more information please do not hesitate to contact Lindsay Smith on 01527 592874.

Rowney Green Flower Club

Felicity Rixon writes...

The next meeting of the Rowney Green flower Club will be on Thursday February 27th at 7.30pm.

The demonstrator this month is Tina Miles from Oasis florists in Barnt Green. Tina has demonstrated for us several times before, and always produces beautiful arrangements. There is the opportunity to buy raffle tickets which could win you one of these wonderful displays to take home. You don't have to be a flower arranger to enjoy the friendly company of our members, while watching lovely flowers being transformed into an arrangement.

All are welcome and entry for guests is only £3.50 which includes tea/coffee and biscuits.

Hope to see you there.

For more info contact Felicity on 07812 336263.



Dance classes for all ages and in a variety of styles.

A safe, nurturing and fun environment where dancers can learn and grow.

Call: 07979408997

W: www.amygreavesschoolofdance.com

E: amygreaves1@hotmail.co.uk

Based in Hopwood, Longbridge & Bournville

THE ARK
YOUR IDEAL CHILDREN'S PARTY VENUE



BOOK NOW!!

Contact: Ian Price, The Ark, St Laurence Church, School Lane, Alvechurch, B48 7BS

Telephone: 0121 447 7955
(Mon to Fri 9am - 2pm)

E-mail -

admin@thearkalvechurch.co.uk

Website -

www.thearkalvechurch.co.uk

W F Kelly Decorators

Interior / Exterior

Long established

one-man business.

Book early for exterior work.

No scaffolding unless required, old school ladder work. No obligation

FREE estimates.

Call Liam on

Tel: 0121 445 1265

Mob: 07976 574878

12 Warbank Close,

Alvechurch, B48 7PA

Est 1981



Good Grief! Cafe



Have you recently been bereaved?

Would you like to meet others over a cuppa and a cake in an informal and safe environment?



Please join us

on the 4th Friday each
month at
St Philip's Community
Centre

10.00am – 12noon

St Philip's Church
Church Road
Webheath
Redditch B97 5PD

For more details contact Gail Teague
gail.teague@icloud.com

Fundraising Appeal for WaterAid

Felicity Rixon writes...

Rebekah (Felicity's daughter), is taking up the Wateraid challenge to drink nothing but water for all of January. I am wondering if anyone would like to sponsor her.

From Rebekah:- Hi. I'm fundraising for WaterAid. It's a charity that means a lot to me - my JustGiving page tells you what I'm doing and why. Please donate if you can!

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/rebekah-taylor5>



Snowdrop Weekend

Come and see the churchyard filled in a blanket of Snowdrops.

St Leonard's Church, Beoley

Saturday 12th February, 10am – 4pm

Sunday 13th February, 1pm – 4pm

Entry Free! (*Donations welcome*)

*Plus lots of other things to get involved in...
Refreshments, Plant Sales, Children's Activities,
Quiz's for all ages and History Displays*

www.StLeonardsBeoley.org.uk ☎ 01527 62148 Sat Nav: B98 8AR



WEATHER



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



CHANCE	HAIL	SNOW
COLD	HOT	SUNSHINE
COOL	RAIN	WEATHER
DROP	REPORT	WIND

Alvechurch Historical Society

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

Our next meeting is the AGM - (with archives and short talks by members) on Monday 7th February 2022.

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

Texts cost £5 plus one standard rate message

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), 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

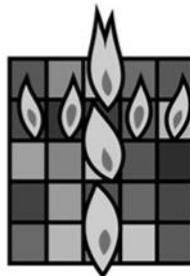
Lent course for 2022: Life on the Breadline



The course has six sessions which can be followed individually or in a group. Each session follows the same format which is planned to take an hour – combining prayer, a short video, a Bible passage, guided reflections, discussion questions, and take-away actions:

1. Christian responses to poverty
2. 'Love thy neighbour' – poverty and inequality
3. Race, ethnicity, austerity and faith
4. Deficits and assets
5. Housing (in)justice
6. Poverty and structural inequality

Please look out for more details about how to join in over the next coming weeks.



Letter from Bishop John

February is often the start of Lent. Easter is late this year, so Ash Wednesday is not until 2 March, but we're already planning for this year's Lent Appeal, which will be for the Diocese of Morogoro in Tanzania.



For the past few years, during Lent we have alternated raising money for our link dioceses in Peru and Morogoro. We are hugely grateful to parishes for their generosity and there is no doubt that the funds we're able to send make a real difference in both countries. This is particularly true at the moment, with many issues magnified due to the pandemic.

Last year we were able to raise an amazing £10,000 for Peru and the Chair of our Peru taskforce, Phil Bradford has reported that it was a vital lifeline. Half of it was spent on clergy stipends, a quarter on social action programmes (including soup kitchens in some of the shanty towns), 15% on providing training and resources, 5% on church security and 5% on communication. Our gift allowed the Diocese of Peru to continue functioning in a time of great adversity.

Bishop Jorge himself wrote with a heartfelt message of thanks: *"Thank you for hearing our cries, as in the gospel of Mark (10:46-52) where Bartimaeus the son of Timaeus was crying out for mercy and Jesus heard his cry. You heard our cry through the Lord and your diocese had compassion. Thank you for helping us to raise ourselves up, thank you for helping us to see that, in the most tragic moments of life, the Lord through the Anglican family in Worcester gives us the light of hope."*

This year's appeal for Morogoro will be equally important to our partners in Tanzania. Covid-19 has hit dreadfully hard there and, in addition, drought and flood have devastated harvests. The situation for very many people is critical.

Despite all this, Christian hope is alive and well: in recent months, Bishop Godfrey has created a number of new parishes and the diocese is looking to become self-supporting with the development of an education and conference centre.

There will be more information on this year's Lent appeal available soon on the diocesan website. Please give as generously as you can as well as continuing to pray for all those in Peru and Morogoro. As you do so, give thanks for the many blessing we enjoy here.

Bishop John

First Wedding of 2022

On Saturday 15th January Ben Reynolds, a Tree Surgeon and Georgia Morton, a Mental Health Nurse, 'tied the knot' at St Laurence's Church, Alvechurch in the first wedding of the New Year. The couple met 3 years ago and moved to Alvechurch in July of last year. The Bride, the daughter of Daniel Morton and Elizabeth Scott was escorted into church on her father's arm to Pachelbel's Canon in D to exchange vows with her fiancé, the son of Matthew and Georgina Reynolds.

Georgia wore a gown of ivory satin, plunged backed and embellished with lace and tiny button detail flowing elegantly into a train. Ben chose close friends David Gillon and David Powell as his best men. The wedding was St Laurence's new Priest-in-Charge, Revd. Gail Rogers' first wedding in Alvechurch. The bible reading was Colossians 3 verses 12-17 read by Ben's sister, Emily followed by the poem, To Love is Not to Possess by James Kavanaugh read by Georgia's brother Luke. The hymns sung were, Amazing Grace and Make me a Channel of your Peace.

The ceremony was followed by a reception at the Red Lion. The couple then went on a mini break to Bristol to be followed by a honeymoon in Lanzarote in March. The couple will be making their married home in the centre of Alvechurch and would like to thank St Laurence's Church and the whole of the village for the warm welcome they have enjoyed since joining to the community. Best wishes to Mr & Mrs Reynolds as they begin their married life together.



THE MIDLAND SINFONIA

'Spring Family Concert'

Saturday March 12th 2022 at 3pm, St Laurence Church.

Tickets for postponed *'Christmas family Concert'* eligible for this concert only.

The programme to include:

'Spring' by Vivaldi,

'The Sleeping Beauty' by Tchaikovsky and a medley from *'Frozen'* by Lopez.

Performers to include dancers from Translucent Dance Studio and Crown Meadow School Choir.



Further information and booking facility on

www.midlandsinfonia.co.uk or email midlandsinfonia@gmail.com



THE MIDLAND SINFONIA

Annual Quiz and Supper evening
rescheduled date 8 October 2022.

Further information and booking facility www.midlandsinfonia.co.uk

Ark Tots and Toddlers Group at St Laurence church

Are you a Parent, Grandparent or Carer looking after a baby or little ones who are not yet in full-time school? Would you like a friendly play environment to bring them along to?

A warm welcome awaits you and your Little Ones, for our Stay and Play group at St Laurence church. Held in the Ark from **9.30 – 11.00** on **Thursdays during school term times** for you to drop in and out as you wish.

It's a relaxed and friendly time to chat and to play with your Little Ones with a wide range of toys and activities and on-going refreshments. At the end of each session we finish with a singing time.

We ask for a £2 charge per family per session, which goes towards the running cost of the facilities, new toys/equipment and as many drinks and biscuits as you like!

So do come and join us as often as you wish. We look forward to welcoming you.

Tiny Tots in Church

Once a month we have an opportunity for you to bring your Little Ones through into the church.

At the end of our Ark Tots and Toddlers session, instead of our usual singing time, we invite you to our Tiny Tots Service. You are welcome to come and join in this short, very relaxed and informal time of *singing and interactive Bible story, designed especially for babies and toddlers to move around in in their own way!*

During the normal Ark Tots and Toddler session that day, there is a *craft activity* available, which relates to that month's Bible story. So do come over to our craft table and have a go at the activity with your Toddler or Child.

Our Tiny Tots Services will usually be on the **1st Thursday of each month at 10.45**, circumstances permitting.

Forthcoming Tiny Tots Services are planned to be on:

February 3rd, March 3rd, April 7th

For more information, please contact Sarah Linton at: sarah100work@gmail.com

Sunday Family Services at St Laurence church

*St Laurence Church extends a warm welcome to people of all ages to come along to our **Family Services** which take place at **9.30 – 10.30 on Sunday mornings**.*

We particularly welcome all families with babies, children and young people to come along and be included in this especially child-friendly time.

On the **first Sunday** of each month we all join together in church for our *child-inclusive, easy to follow Communion Service* led by our new Vicar Gail. As part of this service we remember Jesus celebrating His Last Supper with His close Disciple friends and reflect again on how much our Heavenly Father loves us and provides a loved and forgiven way forwards in our relationship with Him.

On **each other Sunday** we begin all together in church, with child-friendly songs, story and prayers. Toddlers and children (and baby brothers or sisters) are then invited through for **Ark Time**, with an accompanying parent/adult, whilst older Young People and adults remain in church for more adult worship and closer look at the Bible Reading theme. (Those youngsters who are of Middle School age can come through without an accompanying adult.) During **Ark Time** we have a session of songs, Bible stories and craft activities at a suitable level, so all our youngsters can participate.

For more information, please contact Sarah Linton at: sarah100work@gmail.com

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:

Cooper Hill - 6 February

Crown Meadow - 13 February

Cygnets Close - 20 February

Dagnell End Road - 27 February



From The Registers



Funerals

May they rest in the peace of Christ

6 January Margaret Bramble

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	

