

GRAPEVINE

ST LAURENCE CHURCH, ALVECHURCH

April 2023



Easter

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

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REVD GAIL WRITES...



Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

Christians proclaim these words every Easter, Alleluia! Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!

How can we proclaim these words in a world where there is so much turmoil, so much brokenness, heartache and desperate need? I ask myself this question as much as I am asked it by others.

Resurrection is as much a present and future hope as it is a truth of God's love in history through the person of Jesus. Resurrection is belief that God has already done and will continue to bring forth transformation in our lives.

If we look back to the context of Jesus, death by crucifixion was the most horrendous act of violence. Crucifixion was a Roman punishment that was used to shame and humiliate, not only the person being crucified but the families and associates of them too. Nobody would dare do business with the family of some who had died by crucifixion and if they were to have any sort of life, they too must reject them. Crucifixion was supposed to bring to end not only someone's life but all connection to memory of them, it was to wipe away their very existence. It was the most brutal form of rejection and was used to silence not only the one crucified but everyone.

But God in Jesus spoke truth into power, and although that challenge led Jesus to being crucified himself death, even death by crucifixion was not going to have the final say.

Resurrection is victory over death. It is a refusal to keep silent in the face of evil and injustice. Resurrection is saying, 'God cannot be silenced.'

God will continue to speak truth into power. The cross and resurrection of Christ tells us that the power of love exceeds the love of power.

As followers of Jesus we are called to carry the cross in our lives; this means that we must continue to speak truth into power. To challenge injustice and division. To seek flourishing, life and love.

It is in this truth of what God has already done, and what God will continue to do through us, that we can proclaim, Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

In this issue of Grapevine you will find lots more information about the life of St Laurence Church and The Ark. Inside there is lots of information about our new monthly gathering at 4pm on a Sunday, a must for pudding lovers! Our Bell Ringers Table Top Sale which this year will include teddy bear parachutes, our Springtime Lunch and details of our plans to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles. You are very welcome to come and join us where you can.

May you know the hope and joy of Easter!

Revd. Gail



Alleluia, Christ is Risen

Easter Day
Sunday 9th April

Family Communion
at St Laurence, Alvechurch
9.30am

Family Communion
at St Leonard's, Beoley
11.15am

Church@4 is a new monthly worship gathering at St Laurence Church



Church@4 is a monthly café style gathering of fun, interactive worship for all. It is a space where you can come as you are, come and be all that God has created you to be.

The worship is created to be inclusive and informal as we worship God through interactive songs, bible telling, teaching and prayer. All interaction is offered by invitation, you chose how much or little you wish get involved.



**Pudding Church@4 is a monthly
café style gathering of fun,
interactive worship for all**

We gather on the following Sundays in 2023:

2nd April
14th May
4th June
2nd July
6th August
3rd September
1st October
5th November
10th December

*Come and hear how much God loves us as we share pudding,
songs and bible stories, with an invitation to explore deeper
through interactive responses.*

**St Laurence Church, 4pm
@ The Ark, School Lane, Alvechurch, B48 7SB**

Our first gathering is on
Sunday 2nd April at 4pm
and our theme will be -
'Who is this Jesus?'

*Why don't you come
along and find out?*

Following this we are
going to go back to the
very beginning, working
our way through the bible
looking at some of the key
people God has called to
be part of the
Big Family of God.

*The most exciting part
about this is that it is a
family that God is inviting
each one us to part of too!*

Learning is lifelong, and this is no different when it comes to our faith, so a big part of our worship is teaching, and we recognise that we all learn in different ways. At Church@4 there is no sermon, instead we offer a space to explore in a style that fits you best as a learner. At each gathering we will offer four ways to engage, these fit within the following learning styles:

THINK

Questions to think about alone or with others on your table will be offered for discussion and reflection.

WRITE

An activity to write or draw will be offered. Questions may be offered alongside this to guide the activity.

MOVE

For those of us who find physical activity important for our learning, there will always be something to explore through movement.

CREATE

Every session will have a creative response, these will most be led from the front with all items supplied on your tables.



Pudding Church@4 is a monthly café style gathering of fun, interactive worship for all .

Come and hear how much God loves us as we share pudding, songs and bible stories, with an invitation to explore deeper through interactive responses.

Starting Sunday 2nd April at 4pm
The Ark, School Lane, Alvechurch, B48 7SB

Church@4 is a worship space that is generous in welcome and delights in diversity.

Come along, enjoy pudding and hear how much you are loved by God.

THE ARK SPRINGTIME LUNCH



MAIN COURSE

Ploughman's Lunch

*Gammon or Stilton Cheese
served with salad potatoes,
pork pie, a wedge of cheddar, pickles
and a selection of breads.
(*'no pork' pie vegetarian option available*)*

DESSERT

*Cheesecake or
Spring Decorated Cupcakes*

**ALL SERVED WITH A
GLASS OF PROCECCO**

Tea and coffee with also be served.

Thursday 27th April
£10 per person

Arrive from 12:30pm with food served at 1pm

To book please contact Lynda
0121 447 7955

admin@thearkalvechurch.co.uk

Advance booking only. Payment on booking.

Please select your Gammon or Cheese and vegetarian options upon booking.



FUNDRAISING FOR MAINTENANCE OF
ST LAURENCE CHURCH TOWER CLOCK

ST LAURENCE CHURCH AND THE ARK

TABLE TOP SALE

SATURDAY 22ND APRIL 2023
10AM - 3PM

The Ark, School Lane, B48 7SB

Stall spaces in church still available.
Tables in The Ark are sold out!

0121 447 7955

admin@thearkalvechurch.co.uk



Variety of handmade, new and
pre-loved items for sale, including
Charity Stalls, Refreshments,
Craft Activities, Teddy Bear
Parachutes
and Much More!





Sacred space
Sundays 18:00

Our next **gathering** is on
Sunday 16th April

ST LAURENCE CHURCH

Sunday 14th May

10.30am

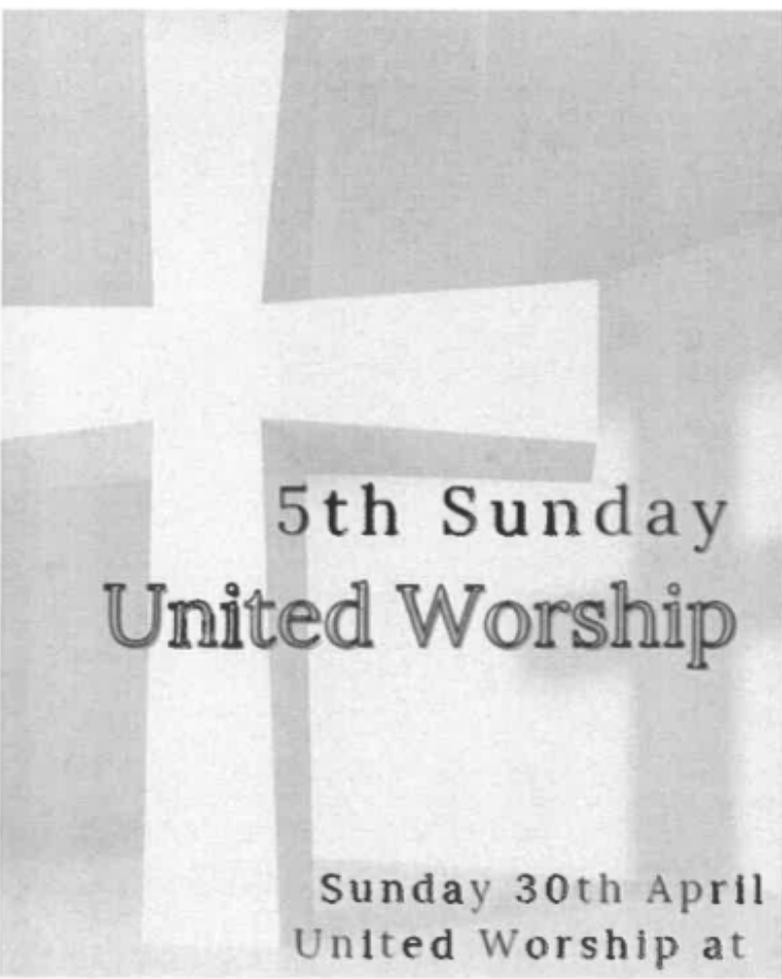


**APCM
WITH HOLY
COMMUNION**



This year our ADCM will form our
worshipping together.

Following this we will have a shared lunch.



**5th Sunday
United Worship**

Sunday 30th April
United Worship at

**10AM HOLY COMMUNION FROM
THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER**

ST LEONARD'S, BEOLEY	ST LAURENCE, ALVECHURCH
1ST THURSDAY OF MONTH	3RD WEDNESDAY OF MONTH
April (No service) May 4th June 1st July 6th August 3rd September 7th October 5th November 2nd December 7th	April 19th May 17th June 21st July 19th August 16th September 20th October 18th November 15th December 20th

Holy Week and Easter

St Laurence, Alvechurch and St Leonard's, Beoley

Palm Sunday

St Laurence Church

10am at The Square, Alvechurch

10.30am at St Laurence Church

Maundy Thursday

Holy Communion at St Leonard's 10am

Psalms and Prayers

with Stripping of the Altar at St Leonard's 12pm.

Holy Communion with Footwashing and

Stripping of the Altar

at St Laurence 7:30pm

Good Friday

Churches Together in Alvechurch and Rowney Green

Good Friday Service,

10.30am at Alvechurch Baptist Church

Reflective Prayer at St Leonard's 12pm-2pm

The Good Friday Liturgy at St Leonard's 2pm

Tenebrae and Taize at St Laurence 7:30pm

Holy Saturday

Vigil and Service of Light at St Laurence at 7:30pm

Easter Day

Family Communion at St Laurence 9:30am

Family Communion at St Leonard's 11:15am



“Everyday faith” is the Church of England’s initiative to help people think about God as they go about their daily lives – not just Sunday worship!

Please tell us about yourself.

I have lived in Alvechurch since 1963 and have always attended St Laurence Church. I have been retired about 10 years after having been the same occupation for 37 years. I certainly have been consistent, if nothing else!

Where might we find you every day, and what sort of things would you be doing or being?

I try and help people day by day with various errands. I go walking and do some volunteering at National Trust properties, Redditch Foodbank and at the Village Larder. I sing in various choirs and attend various organisations in the village and Treasurer to some as well.

How do you experience God in the joys and challenges of everyday life?

I know God is always with me and works with me in doing my everyday tasks and he is everywhere around us in this beautiful part of the country where we live.

How do you share your faith with others in everyday life?

We can share it with others by what we do in everyday life. I listen to what people have to say and the various volunteering events I go to and try to help but I know that God is helping them all along the way.

(How) Does your faith grow through everyday living?

Yes, it grows seeing how people react and help one another and you can see God’s work at hand and pray that there is goodness all around to help people out.

St Laurence's desire is to be a church for the whole community. Through being a Christ like presence to all we meet in this place, we worship and proclaim the love and hope of God. How does your everyday faith support that desire?

Church and community must work alongside and with each other and you can pray for them, and hope God is there also as a guiding light for all.

“Ministry” is what all believers are called to, not just for those ordained. How can we support you in yours?

By being there in all that we all try to do and help others within the congregation of St Laurence. I also am a bell ringer at the church and hope the joyful sounds we make conveys our ministry to those beyond the church building.

How can we pray for you?

To carry on and help others and that the good word of St Laurence's reaches around the whole area.



**ST LAURENCE CHURCH
AT 9:15AM**

SUNDAY FAMILY WORSHIP AND ARK TIME

Bring along your Babies, children, or grandchildren to join us for our Family Worship.

We all worship together for our Communion Worship on 1st Sundays of the month, led by Revd Gail.

On the Sundays below our worship includes Ark Time.

Under 8's, including toddlers, enjoy singing, stories and craft activities with loveable Jack the Labrador puppet.

Over 8's Group explore similar Bible stories and themes, along with activities.

April 2nd Palm Sunday (no 9:15 service, procession from The Square, Alvechurch at 10am)

April 9th Easter Day - No 9:15 service
ALL TOGETHER IN CHURCH AT 09:30AM

April 16th Jesus is Risen!

April 23rd God's Holy Spirit helps us

April 30th Joint service - no 9:15 service
ALL TOGETHER IN CHURCH AT 10:30AM

News from the Tower

Following a successful recruitment campaign we've started training some new ringers and you may have noticed a fair bit of solo ringing early on a Tuesday evening. The first thing that a newcomer has to do is to learn how to handle the bell. At first it's a struggle because the bell is perhaps four or five times heavier than the ringer. It's a case of learning to work with the bell rather than fighting against it, building up the muscle memory of "this is what it feels like". That's where we're at at the moment. Once the bell's ringing without too much effort, the next stage will be to learn to get it to ring at the right time to fit in with the rhythm of the other bells. You'll hear short bursts of the bells ringing in sequence as the new ringers find their timing.

Our Diocesan Quiz night went off well with just the usual hiccups - twelve teams turning up when we were only expecting ten, me losing the question sheet for round five, that sort of thing. The best news of the night was that we didn't enter so we didn't win so we're not organising it next year! There was a worrying moment for our friends at Beoley when they realised they were in second place and dangerously close to winning but they too managed to escape. Top tip for future quiz setters; don't have a question on railways. There **will** be an enthusiast in the room who knows far more than Wikipedia does.

All we've got left to organise now is the small matter of parachuting teddy bears off the tower. Easy enough to do a test run with one bear but the process of getting a regular stream of teds up the tower and a regular stream safely back down again and returned to their owners is going to take some careful thought. Should be a great afternoon.

Teddy Parachuting
From 12pm we will be offering
Teddy Parachuting off the top of the tower.
Bring your Teddy, we will supply the parachute.
Come and watch your teddy be lifted to the top of the tower where they will then descend in their parachute.
4 Teddies per jump and each teddy will receive a certificate.
£2 per bear.

Please note that this does not include a trip up the tower for any bear owners

TABLE TOP SALE
SATURDAY 22ND APRIL 2023
10AM - 3PM
The Ark, School Lane, B48 7SB

Martin Allen writes



Are you enjoying the time of year as the days get longer and brighter with more sunshine? I hesitate to suggest that this usually goes with it getting warmer!

I'm writing this in Lent, a time where traditionally people may choose to give something up. You may find that a negative thing to do but the idea behind it is to make space for other things. By stopping doing one thing we make time and have energy for new things. For some this allows time to deepen understanding of faith and prepare for the joy of Jesus' resurrection at Easter.

As we look forward to spring and Easter things are changing around us in the lanes fields and gardens. Seeds that have been asleep in the ground begin to wake up and come back to life. They have to die in the ground in order to start the next cycle of growth. In a way they give up the familiarity and security of the dark and cold ground in order to expose themselves to light and warmth. Only when they leave behind and give up their security can seeds grow into a beautiful flower, vegetable or tree.

Jesus gave up the security and familiarity of life with His Father to make more space for things. He also gave up life, like a seed does, in order to come back to life transformed and return to life with the Father.

If you are choosing to make space for something new I hope the process of growth is easier than that of the seed! It takes time for the new shoots of growth in an area of life or a new habit to become part of our selves. We also know that we fail at doing something new more often than we succeed. The act of trying and failing is very human and can help shape the experience and be part of something new. We may have some faith or none but part of faith growing is about being prepared for things not to be easy and there to be failures and doubts. Faith can though flourish from tiny seeds.

One thing we can be certain about that worked first time was what Jesus came to do when he gave up time with His Father. He gave up being with His Father so he could come to earth as a man and by dying on the cross, connect us back to God. Jesus' invitation to a life overflowing with the Father's love was given to everyone then and still is today. As we look forwards to Easter and the joy of Jesus returning to life could you make space in your life to explore what that could be like for you?

The good news is also that you do not have to give up doing lots of things, just do one positive thing. Accept the offer of a new life.



Remembering Pat Parker

Pat was born into a close-knit family in 1933 in Ramsbottom, Lancashire. Her parents were Albert and Annie Walmsley and elder sister Margaret. She enjoyed a happy childhood going to school locally at Hazlehurst Street Primary School and was involved with the Baptist Church. She took part in Whit Sunday Walks which were an important part of the calendar. Living through the war and rationing taught Pat to be careful with money, food management cooking and needlework, skills which she would use throughout her life.

As a teenager Pat attended Progress College in Bury, where she excelled in Pitman's Shorthand. She went on to work for local firms including Turnbills Stockdale printworks at Rosebank.

Pat loved going to the local dances where she met Jim, who was to become the love of her life. They enjoyed a happy courtship before marrying in Ramsbottom Baptist Church in 1954. Following the birth of their daughters Gillian and Clare they moved to Alvechurch in 1966. Jim and Pat lived happily in the village for over 50 years where they joined in with many village activities and worshipped at St Laurence's Church - Pat was on the Church flower, cleaning and brass polishing rota. She was a member of Women's Fellowship and Women's Institute. They enjoyed the theatre, Gilbert and Sullivan operas a passion, Pat's favourite being Patience the overture, it felt right that this was played at her funeral.

Pat enjoyed watching the TV too, for many years everything had to stop for Countdown when pens and paper were duly found in order to participate. You wouldn't dare phone Pat when Emmerdale or Corrie was on the TV.

Pat liked to help others and over the years volunteered at the Alex Hospital flower shop, Meals on Wheels and teas at a local prison. Pat's sense of humour and willingness to help others stood her in good stead when she moved into the care home for the final chapter. Staff and residents enjoyed her joviality and banter. Initially she continued her skills of a lifetime helping with laying tables and the dusting, always looking out for others.

Her family are very grateful for the loving care she received at Hopwood Court.

Pat will be missed by all who knew her, but the family take comfort in that Pat and Jim enjoyed a fulfilled and contented life.

May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

Funerals

March

Laura Mavis Pitt

Patricia Parker

... go forth from this world:
in the love of God, the Father who created you,
in the mercy of Jesus Christ who redeemed you,
in the power of the Holy Spirit who strengthens you.

ST LAURENCE CHURCH DIARY

APRIL 2023

What's going at St Laurence Church, The Ark and Alvechurch Community

All Together for Palm Sunday

Sunday 2nd April, 10am at The Square
10.30am at St Laurence Church

Church@4

Sunday 2nd April, 4pm

Places of Welcome

Wednesday 5th April, 10.00 - 12pm

Open Church

Wednesday 5th April, 10.00 - 12pm

Foot washing, Holy Communion, Stripping of Altar and Vigil

Thursday 6th April, 7.30pm

Good Friday Service: Churches Together at Alvechurch Baptist Church

Friday 7th April, 10.30am

Tenebrae and Taize

Friday 7th April, 7.30pm

Good Friday Reflections at St Leonard's, Beoley

Friday 7th April, 12pm - 1.45pm

Good Friday Liturgy at St Leonard's, Beoley

Friday 7th April, 2pm

Vigil and Service of Light

Saturday 8th April, 7.30pm

Easter Communion

Sunday 9th April, 9.30am

Places of Welcome

Wednesday 12th April, 10.00 - 12pm

Open Church

Wednesday 12th April, 10.00 - 12pm

Family Worship with Ark Time

Sunday 16th April, 9.15am

DIARY APRIL CONT.

What's going at St Laurence Church, The Ark and Alvechurch Community

- Morning Worship** Sunday 16th April, 11.15am
- A BCP Service of Holy Communion**
St Laurence Church, Alvechurch Wednesday 19th April, 10am
- Places of Welcome** Wednesday 19th April, 10.00 - 12pm
- Open Church** Wednesday 19th April, 10.00 - 12pm
- Ark Tots and Toddlers** Thursday 20th April, 9.30am
- Wedding Bookings at St Leonard's Church, Beoley**
Thursday 2nd March, 6pm- 8pm
- Bell Ringers Table Top Sale** Saturday 22nd April, 10am -3pm
- Marriage Preparation** Saturday 22nd April, 10am -3pm
- Family Worship with Ark Time** Sunday 23rd April, 9.15am
- Celebration of Holy Communion** Sunday 23rd April, 11.15am
- Churches Together Outdoor Worship at Peckwood**
Sunday 23rd April, 3.30pm
- Baptism Preparation at St Laurence**
Tuesday 25th April, 7.30pm
- Places of Welcome** Wednesday 26th April, 10.00 - 12pm
- Open Church** Wednesday 26th April, 10.00 - 12pm
- Ark Tots and Toddlers** Thursday 27th April, 9.30am
- The Ark Spring Lunch** Thursday 27th April, 12:30pm
- St Laurence United Worship** Sunday 30th April, 10.30am



APCM

Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Sunday 14th May at 10.30am

At our APCM Michael Fletcher who has been churchwarden for 15 years will be stepping down. We are very thankful for Mick's faithfulness, and dedication to this role. We are also very happy that Mick will continued to be an ALM minister and committed member of St Laurence, not only is he well respected and loved but his wisdom and insight will continue to be a gift to us all. This means that we will be appointing a new Churchwarden to work alongside Graham. But what does a churchwarden? What are their roles and responsibilities?

Churchwardens are elected annually under the provisions of the Churchwardens Measure 2001 by the Annual Meeting of Parishioners, as the senior laypeople of the parish and congregation. Their term of office is one year, and they may serve for up to six consecutive terms of office.

They are the Bishop's officers, and are admitted to office each year by the Archdeacon, on behalf of the Bishop. Their first responsibility is to the Bishop, usually via the Archdeacon. They, with the parish priest, are generally responsible for the day-to-day functioning of the parish.

Churchwardens are vital to the health and wellbeing of our church communities. It is an important and, at times, a demanding role.

Churchwardens should:

- be foremost in representing the laity and in cooperating with the incumbent
- care for and support the parish priest, and be people to whom the incumbent can turn to for advice and support
- try to ensure that the incumbent is relieved of superfluous administrative, and other, tasks
- provide feedback, as a 'critical friend', for the parish priest
- care for the congregation and encourage people in their Christian faith
- maintain order and decency in the church and churchyard, especially during the time of divine service. The property, in the plate, ornaments and other moveable goods of the church, is vested in them, and they should keep an up-to-date inventory of these items and deliver them to their successors.

They should attend services regularly, and normally arrive in good time to support the welcome group, be present for any refreshments, and assist in tidying up after services.

The churchwarden is not expected to complete all roles themselves, rather, like the priest they are to oversee the different roles with the support of the PCC and the church congregation.

As we seek to appoint a new churchwarden, please pray for Mick as he prepares to step down and for the person who will step into this valuable role.

"Whether we realize it or not, prayer is the encounter of God's thirst with ours. God thirsts that we may thirst for God."

Saint Augustine

Prayer

We pray for all gathering spaces in our village, for The Village Hall, The Lounge, The Ark, for all the pubs and restaurants where people meet with others for fun, rest and support. May our village continue to flourish as a place of community.

We pray for the schools and nurseries in Alvechurch, for all staff, children and their families. May their learning be curious, their play creative and their friendships flourishing.

We pray for our new worship gathering, Church@4, that people will come and know God's love for them.

We pray for all who live and work in Alvechurch, with a focus on all in, Blythesway, Hinton Avenue, Randall Avenue.

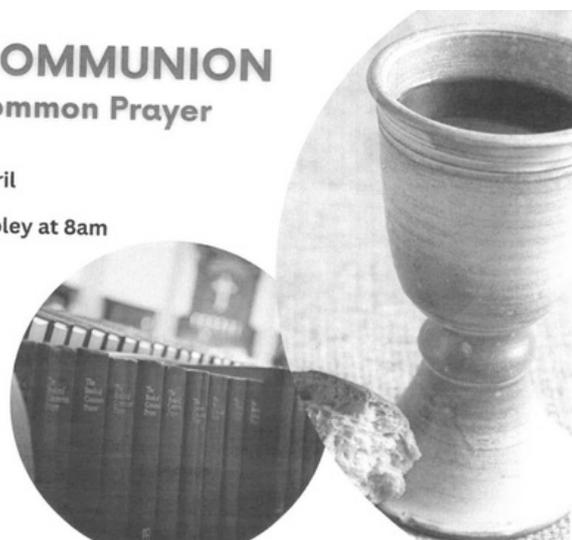
We pray for all involved in organising the Coronation of King Charles Events, may this be a weekend that unites us a nation.



HOLY COMMUNION Book of Common Prayer

Sunday 30th April

St Leonard's Beoley at 8am



The Ark - upcoming events

Vintage Fair

Saturday 1st April noon - 4pm

This first vintage fair at the Ark includes a 1940's singer, open mike session, afternoon tea, vintage craft and gift stalls.

Free entry - vintage dress encouraged!

www.ultimategirls.co.uk for details



Alvechurch Historical Society - Monday 3rd April

Meetings at 7:45pm on the first Monday of the month in the main hall at The Ark,
St Laurence Church

Monday 3 April - "The Early History of Redditch" Anthony Green

Monday 10th May - "Constabulary Tales : My Early Years in the Police -
Alan Benjamin

Current members and new visitors all welcome..

For further information - chairman Anne Humphries 0121 445 5955

Bellringers' Table Top Sale

Saturday 22nd April

This year the annual table top sale includes sellers of handmade cards, handmade knitted items, handmade bracelets, handmade watercolours along with a variety of charity and bric-a-brac stalls, including children's toys/games.. There will be craft activities for children, a teddy bear tombola and teddys parachuting from the bell tower!



HIRING THE ARK - NEW CLASSES?!



Do you have a skill you'd like to teach?

Is there a class you wish ran in the village?

Daytime and one -off class slots available!



Would you like to test out whether your class would be generate demand? One-off hires are also available, both for daytime slots, or evenings/weekends.

To discuss availability and pricing for all your hire needs, please contact Lynda on 0121 447 7955 or email to admin@thearkalvechurch.co.uk



Hillside WI

Our President Pat welcomed us to our March meeting, and despite it being a very cold evening most of us braved the elements.

Our speaker was Jane Nimmo, a Birmingham based lady whose passion is Bee keeping. She is a very knowledgeable lady who gave us a wonderful talk on the life cycle of the bee and it's vital role in the pollination process, which included slides and pictures, and best of all samples to taste.

She has many bee hives dotted around the area, and sells many flavours of honey. She, and her sister also produce and sell wonderful soaps, balms and other products.

The members had a lovely afternoon at Mappleborough Green garden centre, where they enjoyed a lovely cream tea,

Another event has been organised for March at the Potting shed, which we all look forward to.

Our treasurer has closed the books for the annual audit, and has reminded us that the subs are due in April!

Next month we are holding a bottle raffle, and a competition of a flower arrangement in a tea cup. With refreshments of course.

All new members are welcome, any enquiries please to Pat Mcdonagh
0121 628 4121



All Together at St Leonard's

Pentecost

Sunday 28th May
10:30am

Spirit Filled Worship with Holy Communion

Caring for God's Acre

St Laurence churchyard, otherwise known as God's acre, is a rare gem. Some of the turf might possibly pre-date the present 13th century buildings, and with at the last count 29 different tree species (even an elm is hanging on in there!) there is a wealth of wild flowers, some not found anywhere else in the village, and a diversity of habitats and wild life. Added to that the churchyard now has a beautiful angel, carved from a dead tree.

We have all watched in awe as the tantalisingly beautiful snowdrops have come and gone, but there are other spectacles too. The wonderful ancient yew tree near the main gate, a mature oak in the lower churchyard accessed by walking downhill to the left as you come through the gate to the car park, and in the same area a carpet of primroses can be seen over the next few weeks. Stunning!

The natural wildlife habitats in the churchyard have in recent years been added to by piles of logs and composting areas, ideal for frogs, toads and other small creatures. While most of the churchyard is carefully maintained by a team of volunteers, other areas not used or infrequently visited are left unmown so that wild flowers can grow and seed. These untouched areas will enable ants and other insect to return, these in turn providing food for birds and small reptiles and mammals.

This is a simple recipe for successfully responding to climate change, something that we can easily copy in our own gardens. You will be surprised what can happen if you build a bug hotel, put up bird houses and feeding stations, leave piles of leaves and small branches to rot naturally, and letting lawns grow long. You might even attract hedgehogs to take up residence and help protect your plants from slugs and snails!

And now a word of thanks to Andy, Steve and Brock and others who spend many hours tending God's acre. We can help them by observing the instructions near the wastebins and by picking up litter. So, if you are passing through, or visiting the church or churchyard, please take a little time to wander around and see at first hand this wonderful wildlife area right on our doorstep.

Roger Wardle



THE
CORONATION
KING CHARLES
III
2023

Join us on Saturday 6th May
at St Laurence Church
for a live streaming of
The Coronation Ceremony
followed by Afternoon Tea in
The Ark.



Sandwiches will be
provided, contributions of
cakes are welcomed



Name _____

ROOTS Activity sheet

9-15 April 2023
Easter Day

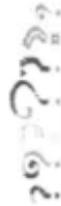


Matthew 28.1-10

As Mary and Mary Magdalene visit Jesus' tomb, an angel appears and tells them Jesus is risen. As they leave the garden, they meet the risen Jesus.



The angel's message brought fear and joy.



Puzzle

Help Mary and Mary get to Jesus' other followers to tell them the good news. Who do they meet on the way?



Write

Number the letters of the alphabet from 1 to 26. Use this number code to find what the angel said to Mary and Mary.

4, 15 14, 15, 20 2, 5 1, 6, 18, 1, 9, 4

a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j	k	l	m
n	o	p	q	r	s	t	u	v	w	x	y	z



Draw expressions to show how people responded to the resurrection.



Churches Together Bluebell Service

On Sunday 23rd April 2023 at 3.30pm, will be held the first of what we hope will become an annual service of celebration of bluebells and God's wonderful creation in Peck Wood, Rowney Green. The wood will be open to the public and everyone is invited to attend the service and, of course, view the bluebells in all their splendour.

Some seating will be available, but if you can please bring your own. Car parking for those with limited mobility is available at Peck Wood and further parking will be available in the village, just follow the signs. It is also proposed that a group will walk to Peck Wood, leaving St Mary's Church, School Lane at 2pm, where there will be parking.

Refreshments will be available after the service. Why not bring a picnic so that you can sit and enjoy the tranquillity of this very special ancient woodland.

Roger Wardle



*Outdoor Worship
amongst the beauty of the bluebells at Peckwood.
Churches Together in Alvechurch and Rowney Green*

*Bring a chair
and a picnic for afternoon tea.
Hot drinks will be served.*

*A walk from Alvechurch to Peckwood will be organised, please watch out for further details
Due to limited parking please car share if you can*

Sunday April 23rd at 3.30pm

Supporting St Laurence Church



St Laurence Church relies on the generosity of giving to sustain its mission and ministry. Through the dedication of volunteers and financial giving we maintain the beautiful grade2* listed building and its churchyard.

You can support this ongoing ministry through one off or regularly giving. This can be done in several ways.

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Through the Parish Giving Scheme

For more information visit www.parishgivingscheme.org.uk

Or for a pack pop into church or The Ark and pick one up

Or please contact Lynda at

admin@thearkalvechurch.co.uk or

call 0121 447 7955 for a Parish Giving Pack.

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presents...

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a comedy
by J.B. Priestley

27th-29th April, 7:30pm
Alvechurch Village Hall

Tickets £8; £7 conc.
From The Lounge
or phone 07977 140088, email:
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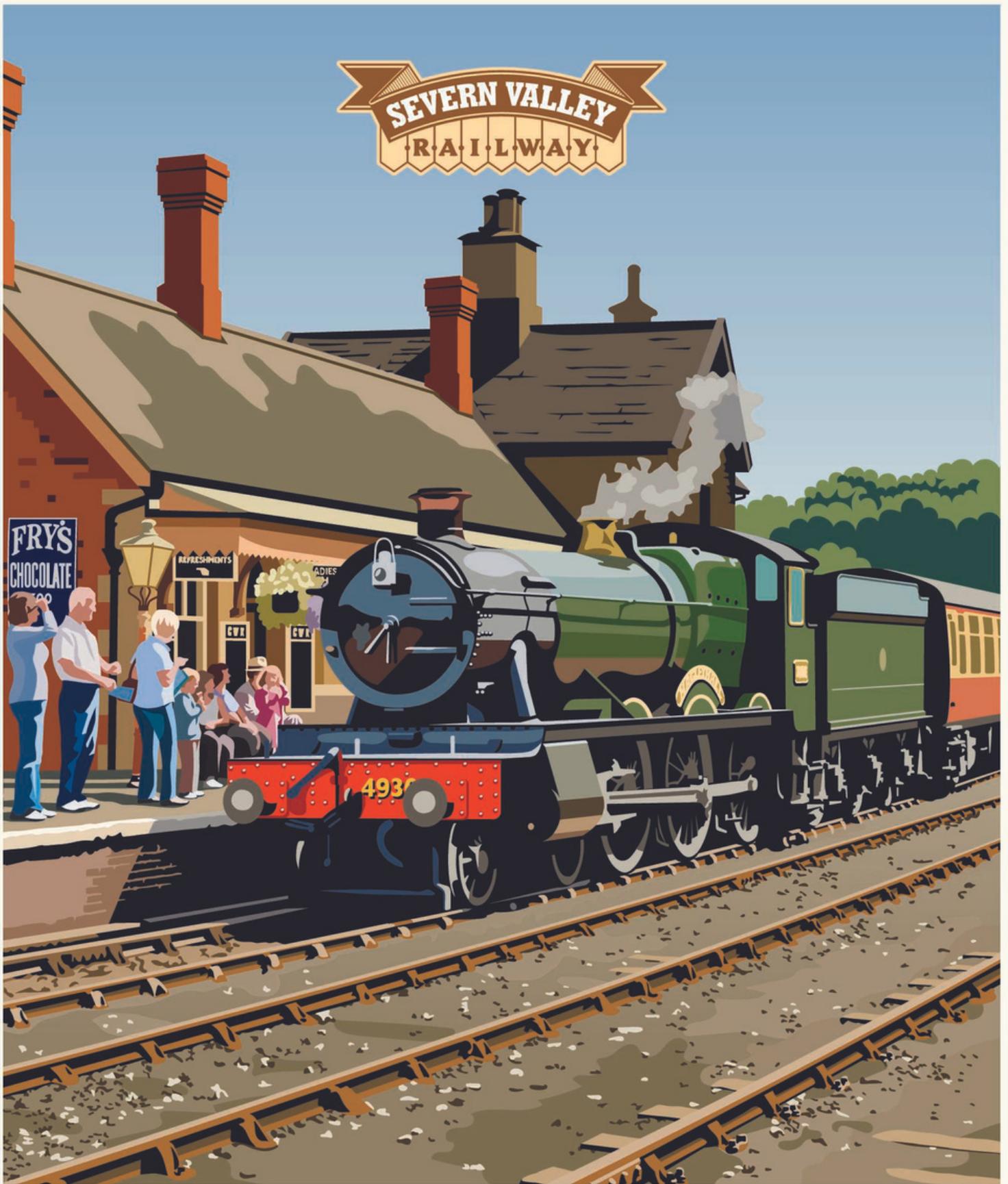


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OUR TEAM



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Priest in Charge

The Rectory, School Lane

0121 824 5257

07867 853813

revdgail@icloud.com



Lynda Lewis

Parish Administrator

0121 447 7955

admin@thearkalvechurch.co.uk



Sue Phillips Wardle

Licensed Lay Minister

55 Birmingham Road

0121 445 0505

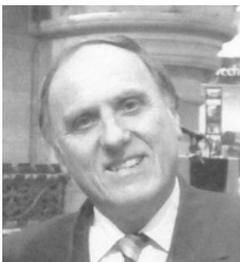


Helen Ayling

Licensed Lay Minister

"Tarncroft", Hewell Lane, Vigo

0121 445 6176



Michael Fletcher

Church Warden

13 Red Lion Street

0121 447 8451



Graham Clark

Church Warden

The Coach House, School Lane

0121 445 2547



Michael Davenport

Deputy Church Warden

Contact details: 0121 447 7955

Andy Notley

Deputy Church Warden

0121 445 5653



Colin Bennett

Bell Tower Master

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Deadline for Grapevine May 2023 Edition

If you wish to submit an article or advert
the deadline is -
Monday 17th April



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10th December

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