

GRAPEVINE

ST LAURENCE CHURCH, ALVECHURCH

October 2022



Thanksgiving and Praise

Her Majesty the Queen

1926 - 2022

RIP

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REVD GAIL WRITES...



Hearing of the death of our late Majesty Queen Elizabeth, has perhaps left us all contemplating on our mortality and on the life and death of those we love. How can these questions lead us to see hope in all rhythms of life? We can begin to see hope in continuing the vision and leading that the Queen and our loved ones have exemplified to us.

It has also been a time of celebration, of welcoming King Charles III and looking forward to his future reign. Holding mourning and celebration in tension is in the words of our late Queen, 'the price we pay for love'. 1 Corinthians 13 tells us that the greatest of all God's gifts is love, and our late Queen in one of her Christmas addresses said this, *"God in Christ showed us what people are and what they do, does matter and does make all the difference."*

How we support one another, love one another in the joys and struggles of life is in itself hope.

Autumn is my favourite time of the year, the leaves of the trees change into the stunning reds, yellows and browns of autumn gently fall and even though there is the same busyness in our daily lives, the pace somehow feels to slow down, the darker nights are drawing in, and the clocks fall back (30th October). As autumn shifts into winter, it may seem like nature is dying all around us, the trees that just a month ago stood tall, strong and green now seem vulnerable, cold and lifeless. I am reminded of the book 'Wintering' by Katherine May where she writes, *'transformation is the business of winter. The tree is waiting. It has everything. It is far from dead. It is, in fact, the life and soul of the wood. It is just getting on with it quietly. Life goes on, abundantly, in the winter and this where changes are made that use us into future glories.'*

As the nation faces a 'Heat or Eat' crisis, there is dark shadow that looms over the coming months. If, as her late Majesty Elizabeth says, how we love makes a difference, this is the time to love. It is the time to hope and work for a different future. With love and hope, life can go abundantly.

As people seeking to make a difference to our community, from October we are extending the hours of Places of Welcome to 10am - 12pm, this is to offer a warm space for a hot drink, crispy toast and conversation and friendship for a longer period of time.

On 2nd November there will be an open meeting led by Roger Wardle, chair of Churches Together in Alvechurch and Rowney Green to discuss a food pantry in Alvechurch. Please spread the word and support as you can. See page 17 for more details.

In this issue of Grapevine you will find lots more information about the life of St Laurence Church and The Ark. We are planning some social events, a service for Healing and Wholeness and some reflective services of remembrance. We are also releasing our services for Christmas. Please do make a note of the dates knowing that you are very welcome to come and join us where you can.

Prayers and best wishes

Revd. Gail

Follow the Star

Advent readings with
Carols and Hymns
and switching on of the Advent Star

The star on top of St Laurence Church tower is a local tradition that can be seen for miles.

This year we are going to mark the switching on of the star with a new service of Advent readings with a mixture of traditional and contemporary music.

We are still in the process of working out the detail but the date is set. Save the date and come along as we 'Follow the Star' of Advent.

Hot Chocolate will be served in The Ark afterwards.

Sunday 27th November at 5pm
St Laurence Church, Alvechurch





Hannah Genders

28/12/1963 - 15/08/2022

Hannah and I lived with our sons Tom & Sam in Rowney Green 1992 -2009.

In those years we were part of the community at St Laurence's. Considering our non-conformist upbringing and previous churches we had gone to it was a new experience for us to be in an Anglican Community.

Hannah sang for St Laurence family Services and as part of the Engage gatherings which ran for a while on Sunday evening, and more recently during Covid for the online services. Hannah wasn't that confident of her ability to sing and lead others in singing but possessed a beautiful singing voice which she worked at with lessons from friends like Wendy Soulsby and latterly with Themba Mvula.

I do miss her singing and the joy of accompanying her.

In 2007 Hannah and I joined the group from St Laurence's who visited Peru to spend time working alongside the linked diocesan Christian communities. A very special experience.

Throughout her professional life as a gardener & garden designer Hannah diligently channelled a portion of her income to support projects in the developing world, in particular, the Five Talents charity which provides interest free loans to small businesses mainly run by women.

Hannah held a sadness for the damage we are doing to our world. Her gardens sought to be restorative and healing spaces, working with nature rather than against it. She also gardened people, she linked creative and like-minded people to work with her and each other.

Hannah was more interested in 'church outside church' and lived out her faith in her work and relationships with others. Her creation and curation of the Eco, Green & Growing section at the RHS Malvern Spring Show was one of her proudest achievements, taking place whilst she was in treatment for myeloma.

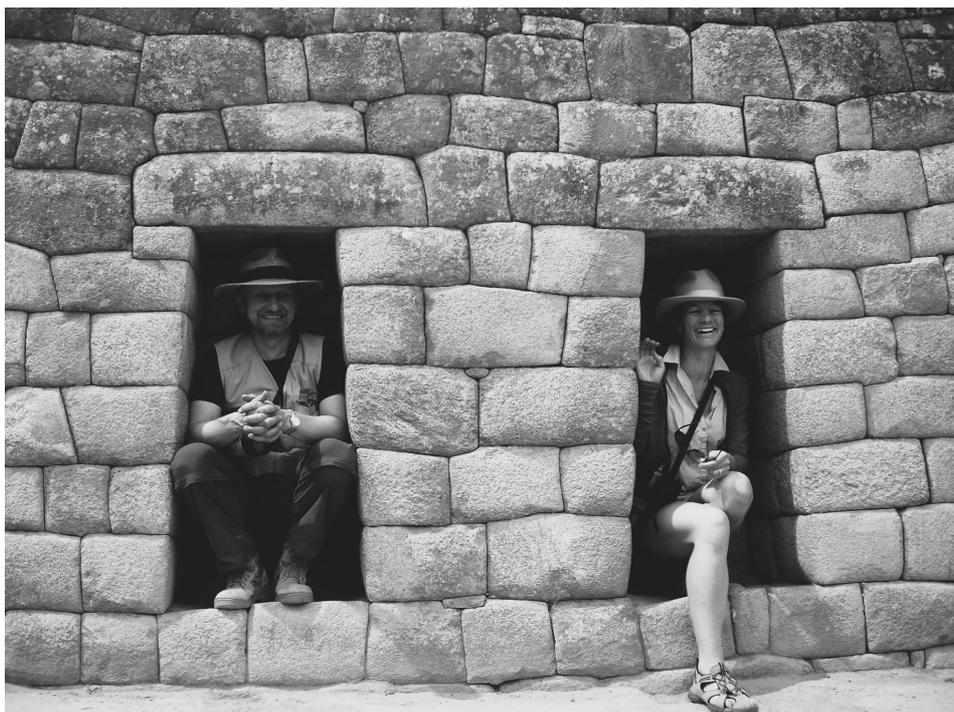
Above all else Hannah was my dear partner and best friend, a lovely Mum to the boys, Nanna G to our five grandchildren and good friend to many. We met young, married, and grew up together. I carry a great sadness now at her loss which will always be part of my life whatever joys may come in alongside it.

I take some comfort from the writings of Henri Nouwen, *Out of Solitude*, Three meditations on the Christian life. I commend them to all who grieve.

I would not dare suggest with any dogma how our eternal destiny works, but I do believe that I will see Hannah again, and while I am left waiting, I have stories to tell our five lovely grandchildren of their Nanna G, all the adventures and fun we shared.

John 16 v 22Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no-one will take away your joy.

Mike Genders.



First photo was taken at a concert at the Alvechurch Social club in 2006

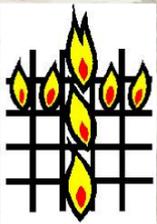
Second photo was taken on a trip to Peru in 2007

ALVECHURCH REMEMBERS

St Laurence Church, Alvechurch Parish Council and the Alvechurch Services Association have come together to plan a service for Remembrance Sunday on 13th November. This service will take place in St Laurence church at 10am and at the Memorial Green from 10.30am.

Please note that Bear Hill will be closed to traffic up to Snake Lane between 10.15am - 11.30am

In previous years we have remembered by name all who died in world wars. This year, we would like to include the names of those from the parish who have died in conflicts since. If you would like to add a name, please contact Revd Gail at revdgail@icloud.com with their details. Thank you.



Quiz and Chips

Saturday 19th November

7:30pm start, doors open at 7pm

The Ark, School Lane, B48 7SB

Teams of up to 6 people max

£10 per person including fish and chip supper.
Veggie option available, please request on booking.

Licensed bar on evening.

*Booking in advance by payment of ticket by
5th November.*

For tickets see Graham or Lynda in the Parish Office

Thanksgiving and Praise for the late Queen Elizabeth II

During the national time of mourning St Laurence Church was open every day.

It was humbling to see how many people came and used this sacred space, a time to sit quietly, to think, pray, light a candle and write in the Book of Condolence.

It was huge privilege to hear the many stories of how our late Queen touched our lives.

People old and young contributed to the week, joining us for prayer and praise as we held special services each day. Over the 10 days nearly 500 candles were lit in prayers of thanksgiving.



I am overwhelmed with the sense of sadness I feel. It is like we have lost a grandmother. What a lady, what a Queen.

You gave your whole life in service to others. Rest in peace, Ma'am

You have been there for us through the darkest of times, your gentle holding and encouragement will be greatly missed.



A picture of the Queen by Florence age 7

Thanksgiving and Praise for the late Queen Elizabeth II

A leader and a preacher...

Almost every year since her accession to the throne Queen Elizabeth gave a Christmas broadcast, and amongst these she preached to us about God, about a faith that is to be lived out, lived out in the celebrations of life but also



within the darkness moments too. As we give thanks for her, we look back at the faith she shared so openly with us.

“Many will have been inspired by Jesus’ simple but powerful teaching: love God and love thy neighbour as thyself—in other words, treat others as you would like them to treat you.

“His simple message of love has been turning the world upside down ever since. Jesus showed that what people are and what they do, does matter and does make all the difference.

Jesus commanded us to love our neighbours as we love ourselves, but what exactly is meant by ‘loving ourselves’? I believe it means trying to make the most of the abilities we have been given, it means caring for our talents. It is a matter of making the best of ourselves, not just doing the best for ourselves.

We are all different, but each of us has our own best to offer.

The responsibility for the way we live life with all its challenges, sadness, and joy is ours alone. But, if we do this well, it will also be good for our neighbours.

It is my prayer that through the example and teaching of Christ that we will continue to bring people together to give the best of themselves in the service of others.

See the back cover for more pictures as we captured 10 days of national mourning at St Laurence Church, Alvechurch

Service to Commemorate the Departed



St Laurence Church
Sunday 30th October at 6pm

During our Service to Commemorate the Departed we will read the names of all the people whose funerals we have taken in the last three years. For each person there will also be a candle lit.

If you would like the name of someone you love who has died, whether within the last the three years or longer to be remembered as part of this service please do contact the parish office by emailing: admin@thearkalvechurch.co.uk.

St Laurence Church

Lights of Love Memorial Service

Sunday 9th October at 3pm

A quiet and reflective service for those who have lost a baby during pregnancy, at birth or infancy.



In St Laurence Churchyard is a forgotten corner where babies who have died were buried. Most of these are unmarked graves, a shadow of a history when the unbaptised were buried outside of the churchyard.

We have a vision to put this right, to lament and remember as a community the loss and love in that place. We have commissioned a tree stump to be carved into an angel and to clean up the area to make it not a forgotten place but a loved and honoured part of our churchyard.

On Sunday 9th October we will be holding a special service of remembrance with an unveiling of the statue.





with Linda Bridgewater

“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!

Tell us about yourself.

I am Linda, and have 2 siblings. I have lived in Alvechurch since marrying my first husband in 1980 and have a 31 year old adopted son. I remarried in January 1998 and nursed my second husband until his death in June that year.

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

I always begin my day with quiet time, prayer, and I reflect on Scripture readings often as I go about my day. I work full-time in social care which brings me into daily contact with children and people from all walks of life. I work predominantly from home where my 15 year old keeps me busy! We have a dog, a canary, and enjoy keeping ex-battery hens.

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

I connect and feel at one with God when in prayer, singing, and in creation when I am gardening or out walking. I have lived through hard experiences including infertility, death of my husband, and 12 year old nephew. Finally becoming a mother is one of my life’s greatest joys and blessings. Trusting in God’s will for my life gives me hope and comfort when life gets tough.

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

Having worked in the past supporting homeless people in Birmingham I still take time to listen/support in practical ways whenever possible. I share my faith with others at regular inter-faith gatherings locally and exploring beliefs different to my own.

(How) Does your faith grow through everyday living?

I believe faith changes over time as life and relationships constantly change; for me it has deepened, and I sometimes examine/question it. Sometimes the things (or people) which challenge and test me can be the very things which ultimately deepen and strengthen my faith. My faith grows through my relationship with God, life experiences in the world, and is underpinned by the teachings of our Church.

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?

I believe Church and community belong together. In today's turbulent world where so many feel disconnected, afraid, lonely, even before the pandemic and cost of living crisis, we have learned the value of human communication, care, and understanding. I support St Laurence's Church by joining with others praying for and getting to know the people of our community.

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

Thank you for the support I already receive in various forms of listening and inclusion. The best support is by continuing to be my much loved and trusted "Church family".

How can we pray for you?

Please continue to hold me, and those I would meet and minister to in my daily life, in prayer and that something of what I have shared here brings hope and comfort to your readers.

How do you live out your faith in your everyday life? We would love to hear from you, to take part in this regular feature, please do get in contact.

everyday
faith



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

Collaborative Ministry: St Laurence, Alvechurch and St Leonard's, Beoley

When speaking with people in the community one of the big surprises is learning that the vicar of St Laurence, Alvechurch is also the vicar of St Leonard's, Beoley. Although a vicar having oversight of more than one parish isn't a new pattern within the Church of England, it is something that is new to us. Bringing the leadership of these two churches together was a decision made by Worcester Diocese and supported by the PCC of both churches before I was appointed. Change can be a difficult transition for us, mostly because change means that we need to re-evaluate, rethink our own patterns of practice, but also our expectations.

Our experiences of church whether positive or not drive our expectations, our memories of 'how it used to be done' or 'in my day...' just don't fit within the realities of ministry in 2022.

Ministry is entirely different now to what it was just 30 years ago, but our vision remains the same, it is still about how our faith is lived out, the commissioning to 'love God and love neighbour as ourselves' is still a vision that drives our identity as church. In the climate we find ourselves in, our response to this commission means we are invited to be more creative and open to change and encouraging the flourishing of the ministry of all people.

Long gone are the days when the whole of ministry was an expectation that lay on the shoulders of the vicar, and with this new pattern of ministry we have been called to embrace here this would be impossible.

So, what is my role? I am vicar of St Laurence Church which covers the geographical area of Alvechurch, Weatheroak and Rowney Green.



I am also the vicar of St Leonard's which covers the geographical area of Abbey Park, Beoley and Church Hill. Alongside this I am a Team Vicar within The Holy Trinity Redditch Team which currently is a team of two Team Vicars, and two Curates covering 5 churches within Redditch and the surrounding areas.

My role as vicar it to oversee the pastoral, discipleship, worship, mission and vision of the parishes, encouraging collaboration between the two parishes and growing the ministry teams to support in all areas of mission.

In support of this the Churchwardens and PCC (more information about these in future editions) help drive a vision and oversee the maintenance of the church building and finances.

Within the Holy Trinity Team, we support one another particularly within our gift setting, offering advice and practical help where needed. We make sure that all churches in the team are covered during times of vacancy, holiday, and sickness. Ministry here is varied, hard work but exciting. It really is a privilege to minister to these communities, but it is also costly not only for me but for communities adjusting to these changes too.

My encouragement to you within this is that we are in it together, we ride the tide of change together. I encourage us to give things a go, to not let the fear of making mistakes stop us from giving things a try and for us all feel like we can offer feedback, but feedback seeing the bigger picture of a changing ministry as explained within this article.

Recognising that none of us can be in two places at once, we have

made several changes to our pattern of worship, these decisions were discussed at every level of church practice and governance and then agreed by the PCC. These changes were to ensure that I could be present more frequently in the churches for worship, pastoral care and fellowship.



It has also seen us introduce an All Together services where St Leonard's and St Laurence come together to worship, next year we will continue this on four occasions throughout the year, alternating between the two churches. We also saw a change during Holy Week and Easter where worship was offered over the two churches, it was a joy to see people from both congregations in whichever church worship was being held. Likewise, we have needed to make similar decisions with Christmas, with my hope being that the same generosity of spirit will be embraced.

I repeat, change can be difficult, but we are working this out together. Please know that whichever of these communities you belong to, as vicar I am committed to us working together for the flourishing of community and the mission and ministry of the church.

Rev. Gail

Baptism: we welcome you in to the community of faith

On Saturday 27th August St Laurence Church and Alvechurch Baptist Church had the joy of baptising Pearl by full immersion. It was a wonderful occasion celebrating the faith journey of Pearl which she shared part in her testimony. It was a lovely occasion for her family and friends and the church community here in Alvechurch to be part of. Thanks be to God!



ST LAURENCE CHURCH DIARY

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

Family Worship

with Holy Communion

Sunday 2nd October, 9.15am

Morning Worship

Sunday 2nd October, 11.15am

A BCP Service of Holy Communion at St Leonard's Church, Beoley

Tuesday 4th October, 10am

Places of Welcome

Wednesday 5th October, 10.00 - 12pm

Family Worship

Sunday 9th October, 9.15am

Celebration of Holy Communion

Sunday 9th October, 11.15am

Lights of Love Memorial Service

Sunday 9th October, 3pm

Baptism Preparation

at St Leonard's Beoley

Tuesday 11th October, 7.30pm

Places of Welcome

Wednesday 12th October, 10.00 - 12pm

Family Worship

Sunday 16th October, 9.15am

Morning Worship

Sunday 16th October, 11.15am

Prayers with Anointing for Wholeness and Healing

Sunday 16th October, 4pm

A BCP Service of Holy Communion at St Phillips, Webheath

Tuesday 18th October, 10am

Places of Welcome

Wednesday 19th October, 10.00 - 12pm

DIARY CONT.

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

- Family Worship** Sunday 23rd October, 9.15am
- Celebration of Holy Communion** Sunday 23rd October, 11.15am
- Places of Welcome** Wednesday 26th October, 10.00 - 12pm
- Family Worship** Sunday 30th October, 9.15am
- Morning Worship** Sunday 30th October, 11.15am
- Service to Commemorate the Departed**
Sunday 30th October, 11.15am



REFRESHMENTS

in between our 9.15am and 11.15am worship we serve refreshments.

All are welcome to come and joins us - either stay after or come a bit earlier!

Prayer Ministry

Each week confidential, personal prayer support is offered.

If you need a listening ear and prayer, you are invited to gather in the Lady chapel between 10:30 - 11am where a member of our pastoral team will be waiting to welcome you.

Alvechurch Community Larder



Open Meeting Village Hall Wednesday 2nd November at 7.30pm

A group of four people who attended the Churches Together 'Life on the Breadline' Lent Course earlier this year are planning to set up a Community Larder as a direct response to the call for action. The aim is to help everyone in the community with the cost-of-living crisis as well as reducing food waste.

The purpose of the Open Meeting is to explain in more detail what is proposed and to gain the views of other interested parties and the community at large. It is also hoped to recruit 3 or 4 people to join the planning group and others to help with the day to day running of the Larder.

If you wish to know more, please contact
Roger Wardle on 0121 445 0505

**Prayers with Anointing for
Healing and Wholeness**

THE LORD BLESS YOU AND KEEP YOU THE LORD MAKE HIS FACE SHINE UPON YOU AND BE GRACIOUS TO YOU AND GIVE YOU PEACE
NUMBERS 6: 24-25, 26

Quiet and contemplative worship with prayer and anointing for healing and wholeness.

Prayers can be received on behalf of others who are not present as well as for yourself.

Sunday 16th October, 4pm
St Laurence Church, Alvechurch

**theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN**

HILLSIDE AT ALVECHURCH W.I.

7:45pm on the 1st Wednesday of the month
at The Ark, Alvechurch

We are group of ladies with a wide range of interests.

Our next talks with be...

Experience of being a Game Show contestant
Making our own glass Christmas Ornaments

We are also ladies that lunch, meet for afternoon tea or an evening meal.

We enjoy a walk or a visit to a place of interest.

New members are welcomed.

For more information contact Pat
0121 628 4121

Graham Clark writes...



Do you know how a television works? How an action performed miles away, at a different time and by people you have never met finds its way onto a screen in your living room? Do you understand the difference between analogue and digital, what OLED means and what an HDMI cable does that a USB cable can't? No, neither do I. All I know is that it works.

How about a computer? How does a box full of wires and little bits of metal and plastic enable me to send messages instantly around the world, or search for information which used to be in enormous books in libraries miles away from where I live. Do you know the difference between a bit and a byte, what http and url mean? No, I don't know either. What I do know is that it works.

There might be some people reading this who do know the answers to these questions. They have studied the subjects and made it their life's work to understand these things. But most of us just have to rely on the simple and expedient answer- It works.

Do I understand everything about God and Jesus and everything we speak about in church? Well maybe I know more than some because I have studied the Bible and religion over the years, but do I know all the answers? No, but what I do know is it works.

Belief in God and in the words, works and sacrifice of Jesus helps me to make sense of life, to live in a way which is structured to the benefit of all that surrounds me, people and environment. Do I get it right all the time? No. Do I have all the answers? No. Do I understand all the big words or illustrations used in church? No. Do I understand why it works? Not completely. What I do know is, it works. It works for me and many others in Alvechurch, and has worked for millions of people down the ages. It could work for you.

St Mary's Church, School Lane

**Coffee morning with Bring and Buy and raffle on Saturday 15th
October at 10.30am**

ARK TOTS & TODDLERS

Do you have a baby, toddler or pre-schooler on Thursday mornings, during school term time?

Then come and join us at The Ark between 9.30 and 11.00 for our Stay and Play and Chat session. A warm welcome awaits you in our friendly environment. Plenty of toys and activities. Refreshments. Singing Time. Just £2 per family.

For further details, please email Sarah at sarah100work@gmail.com

The Ark Tots and Toddlers Team look forward to seeing you soon.

Please note, we will **not** be running a session on Thursday October 27th as it is the schools' half term break.



ST LAURENCE CHURCH, ALVECHURCH

SUNDAY

9.15am

Family Service

1st Sunday Holy Communion

Ark Time for younger people

Refreshments are served in The Ark between services.

11.15am

1st, 3rd, 5th Sunday

Service of the Word

2nd and 4th

A Celebration of Holy Communion

All are Welcome

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT LYNDA
IN THE PARISH OFFICE ON 0121 447 7955

WORSHIP TIMES



THE MIDLAND SINFONIA
Professional Musicians
dedicated to the music of England

Find us on:



'It Takes Two'

Saturday 8th October

7.30pm

(doors/bar open 7pm)

Programme to include:

- ♫ *Tango Op. 165 - Albeniz*
- ♫ *Concerto for 2 Violins - Bach*
- ♫ *Introduction & Allegro - Elgar*
- ♫ *Libertango - Piazzolla*

Tickets:

£13 / £3 students & under 16s
(in advance)

from

www.midlandsinfonia.co.uk

'Gin and Pickles' & 'The Lounge', Alvechurch

or

£14 / £3 on the door (cash or card)



PLACES OF WELCOME



Places of Welcome is a network of safe places where people can connect, belong and contribute.

Free refreshments, including toast!

Wednesdays

10am – 12pm

St Laurence Church and The Ark,
School Lane, Alvechurch, B48 7SB

**Protect your loved ones
by making a Will today**

12 years experience in Wills, Trusts, Lasting Powers of Attorney, Inheritance Tax Planning and Estate Administration

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www.amygreaveschoolofdance.com

A nurturing place for your child to learn!
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Alvechurch Dramatic Society

Alvechurch Dramatic Society's next production will be a pantomime, **'Rip van Winkle and the Sleeping Beauty'**.

Written by regular panto collaborators Chris Davies and Paul Chamberlain, the show takes the familiar story of Sleeping Beauty and then asks, 'what happened next'? Add in another famous snoozer in Rip Van Winkle, a Punch and Judy show, and two talking trees, along with all the usual panto fun, and all the ingredients are there for a great night out! Oh yes they are!

The show will run from Thursday 24th - Saturday 26th November (with a matinée on the Saturday), at Alvechurch Village Hall.

Tickets will be on sale soon from the Lounge, or email ads.alvechurch@gmail.com

Deadline for Grapevine November 2022 Edition

If you wish to submit an article or advert for November's Grapevine the deadline is - 14th October.

Youth Page Is Church important?

Read Acts 2: 42-47 and 1 Peter 2: 9-10

Hanging Out

Do you go to any clubs?

What's your favourite?

Is going to church the same as hanging out with you mates?

What does fellowship mean?

Growing Together

In the bible reading from Acts we are told that the first church did these things:

- learnt together
- ate together
- prayed together
- remembered Jesus together

Is your church like this?

What would happen in your ideal church?

How can we support you in these things?



Shine

1 Peter tells us that our job as the church is to work with God in doing God's work. To shine like stars together.

Action

How can we shine like stars?

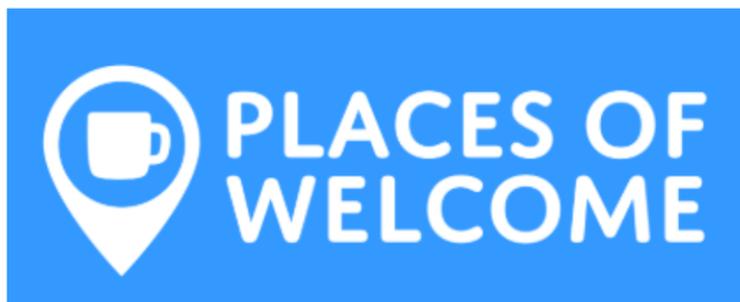
Church

Is church important?

PRAY

Ask God to help you and the rest of the church to shine like stars in the world.
Amen

WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU, READ YOUR ANSWERS OR SEE YOUR PICTURE. POST THEM THROUGH THE DOOR OF THE ARK AND WE MAY USE THEM IN OUR NEXT ISSUE OF GRAPEVINE.



What is Places of Welcome?

Places of Welcome is a national network that offers locally a place where everyone can go for a friendly face, a cup of tea and conversation if and when they need it.



At Places of Welcome at The Ark there is always a smiley face, a hot drink and some crispy toast waiting to greet you.

All refreshments are free (donations are welcome but not expected).

It is run by volunteers and is a space where all are invited to come regardless of circumstance or situation. It is a place where the experiences and skills of all are valued and where we actively listen to one another.

As the group develops we will be introducing speakers and sharing of our gifts.

**All are
welcome at
Places of
Welcome!**



Every Wednesday 10am -12pm at The Ark

News from the Tower

Bell ringing in a time of national mourning

Operation London Bridge was the official protocol in place for the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

It covered all the activities from the day of the announcement through to the day of the state funeral.

Part of this guidance set out how bell ringing was to

play its part throughout the process. There has always been a strong tradition of ringing immediately after the death of a sovereign or an important member of the Royal Family and a strong tradition of ringing on the day of the funeral as well. When a Sovereign dies, the bells should be fully muffled apart from the tenor bell which should be left open at backstroke.



The bells remained fully muffled until the day that the Palace proclaimed the new Monarch King Charles III. At that point the bells were rung open in celebration of the His accession. The flag was also raised to full height. The following day the flag was returned to half mast and the bells fully muffled during the period of mourning and was rung for one hour immediately before the state funeral of her Majesty.

To have been able to ring the bells in honour of the Queen and Her reign of 70 years, during days of mourning and for the funeral, has been an humbling and unforgettable experience to our bell ringers.



Muffled bells.

Muffles are leather pads fitted to the bell's clapper to reduce the volume. they attenuate the bell's strike note whilst retaining the hum. To fully muffle the bell, two muffles are fitted, one on each side of the clapper. The tenor bell which only had one pad fitted to the clapper being muffled at hand stroke only, with the back stroke ringing open i.e. full volume. By only muffling the clapper on one side (half muffled) you get an "echo" effect as blows are alternately loud and soft.

Love came down at Christmas

Nine Lessons and Carols

Saturday 17th December at 6pm
St Leonard's Church, Beoley

Nativity

Saturday 24th December at 4pm
St Laurence Church, Alvechurch

Family Crib Service

Saturday 24th December at 6pm
St Leonard's Church, Beoley

First Communion of Christmas

Saturday 24th December at 11.30pm
St Leonard's Church, Beoley
and St Laurence Church, Alvechurch

Christmas Day Family Communion

Sunday 25th December at 10am
St Laurence Church, Alvechurch

New Years Day Family Communion

Sunday 1st January at 10am
St Leonard's Church, Beoley

Christmas at St Laurence, Alvechurch and St Leonard's, Beoley



BOOKING - THE ARK

St Laurence is blessed to have a design award winning facilities.

The Ark is an attractive, spacious and accessible building available to hire at competitive prices.

The building, has a large hall, fully fitted catering kitchen, spacious lobby area and upstairs lounge.

The building has a lift, fully accessible toilet and accessible parking.



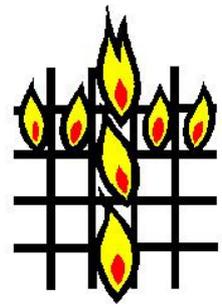
The Ark is available for both regular group bookings and one-off events, such as conferences, retreat days and parties.



To discuss availability and pricing, please contact Lynda on 0121 447 7955 or email admin@thearkalvechurch.co.uk

Lynda is available from 09:30 to 13:30 Monday to Friday

Supporting St Laurence Church



St Laurence Church isn't just a place we gather on a Sunday for worship, it is a place of prayer and a symbol of hope at the heart of the community and has been for hundreds of years.

Being custodians of this beautiful building is a privilege that we hold for a short time only and is a responsibility we take seriously playing our part in making sure it continues as a place of peace for centuries to come.

St Laurence is a Grade II* listed building, and we receive no outside funding to support its upkeep. We rely on the generosity of giving from the church congregation and visitors.

On top of this we have the costs of the mission and ministry of the church, for the church as a people to continue to be present and reach out in love to the parish Alvechurch and beyond.

Supporting your church financially couldn't be easier.

If you were to buy two bottles of wine at the cost of £6 per bottle each month that would cost you £12 per month.

If you donated £12 per month to the church that would be £144.00 per year.

If you gift aided your donation it would increase your giving to £180.00 per year at no extra cost to you.

Signing up through the **Parish Giving Scheme** couldn't be easier.

Contact us for more details.



Monthly Giving To sign up to monthly giving via the **Parish Giving Scheme** please contact Lynda at admin@thearkalvechurch.co.uk or call 0121 447 7955 for a Parish Giving Pack.

Cash in the plate at the back of church - please gift aid if you are eligible

QR Code

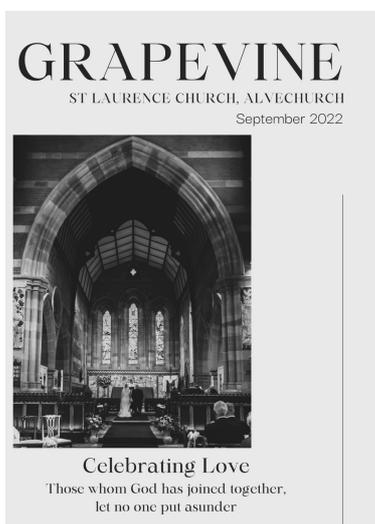
Just point with the camera on your phone and follow the instructions



Text "STLALVECHURCH" followed by either 5 (for £5) 10 (for £10 or 20 (for £20) to **70085**.

Your text will cost the donation amount plus one standard rate message.

Thank you for your support and generosity.
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heritage open days

Save the date

Heritage Day Celebrations Saturday 9th September 2023

www.heritageopendays.org.uk

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St Laurence Churchyard Appeal

No donation is too large or too small, all donations are gratefully received.
Please do support as you can. With thanks from St Laurence PCC

The Churchyard at St Laurence Church is a space used by many people in the village and beyond. Whether you are regular visitor to a grave, or you enjoy the peaceful surroundings on a walk, it is a beautiful part of our community.

The section of churchyard currently in use is in desperate need of a new path, this is going to cost the church over £30,000. To fulfil our commitment to maintaining the churchyard we are in urgent need of funding. To help us fulfil these works we have a Churchyard Appeal.

You can donate to the churchyard fund in the following ways –

QR Code

Just point with the camera on your phone and follow the instructions

Text "STLAVLECHURCH" followed by either 5 (for £5) 10 (for £10) or 20 (for £20) to 70085. Your text will cost the donation amount plus one standard rate message.



OUR TEAM



Revd Gail Rogers

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

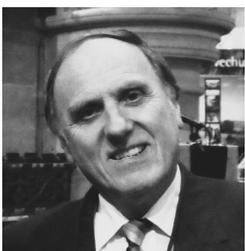


Helen Ayling

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:

Andy Notley

Deputy Church Warden

0121 445 5653



Colin Bennett

Bell Tower Master

01527 64077

CONTACT US

PARISH OFFICE

Phone: 0121 447 7955

Email: admin@thearkalvechurch.co.uk

Lynda is in the office

Monday - Friday 9.30am - 1.30pm

Keep up to date via our website:

<https://www.alvechurch-stlaurence.org/>

Follow us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/arkalvechurch>



