

# The Grapevine

THE PARISH MAGAZINE OF ST LAURENCE CHURCH ALVECHURCH



**APRIL 2019**

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

# **St Laurence Church Alvechurch**

## **SUNDAY SERVICES**

### **8.00am Holy Communion**

*Book of Common Prayer Communion Service, will take place on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month. On the other Sundays there will be an 8.00am Book of Common Prayer Communion Service at St Leonard's in Beoley*

### **9.30am Family Service**

*with Holy Communion on the 1st Sunday  
and Baptisms on the 4th Sunday*

### **11.15am Parish Eucharist**

### **6.00pm Evensong**

*On the 4th Sunday of the month at 6pm there will be Sacred Space, a quieter more reflective space for worship*

*On the 2nd Sunday of the month (4th in January), there will be a United Service (Churches Together in Alvechurch and Rowney Green), rotating between Alvechurch Baptist Church, St Mary's Roman Catholic Church, Rowney Green Shared Church and ourselves*

## **At Rowney Green Shared Church**

### **9.30am Methodist/Anglican Service**

## **DAILY SERVICE**

**9.00am Monday to Friday in St Laurence Church**

## **ORGANISATIONS**

**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)**

**Women's Fellowship - 4th Wednesday of the month at 2.00pm  
in Tanyard Lane Community Centre (445 2125)**

**Ark Tots and Toddlers (Mum's the Word) - Thursdays 9.30am to 11.10am in The Ark  
Tiny Tots Service - 10.45am 4th Thursday of the month (sarah100work@gmail.com)**

**Ark Cafe - Thursdays during term time at 12.15pm (447 7017)**

**Home Group - Thursdays 7.30pm at the Coach House (445 2547)**

## **THE ARK**

**Enquiries to Ian Price 0121 447 7955**

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## Sue Phillips Wardle writes...

We're on our way to Easter. For those of you who like to give something up for Lent, this year it's a long wait, as Easter is almost as late in the year as it ever gets. Has it been hard to stick to your original resolution? The forty day fast from Shrove Tuesday to Easter Sunday has its origins in the 40 days Jesus spent in the wilderness before he began his public ministry. He was just 30 years old, and the wilderness in question was a desert region just south of Jerusalem.

Giving up chocolate or alcohol, or making more regular visits to the gym are pretty poor substitutes for 40 days of Judean wilderness. Or are they? Maybe the answer depends on the impact the experience has on our lives. What does the word wilderness conjure up in your mind? I recently asked a few people that question. Their answers varied from 'a desert or lonely inhospitable place', '*a place where I feel abandoned and afraid*', to '*a place where I can withdraw from the business of life to recharge my batteries*'. Some people answered describing places that they had visited one citing the Judean wilderness, the location of Jesus' desert experience. But for others the word wilderness immediately conjured up memories of difficult life experiences, some momentary, some extended. Childhood memories of abandonment, adult memories of times of deep sorrow or distress.

Nobody present described themselves as currently in the midst of a wilderness experience. But that didn't surprise me. The wilderness experience, whether literal or metaphorical, has to be experienced alone, physically or emotionally separated from others. That's the nature of wilderness, remote and inhospitable, a lonely place to which we are driven by circumstance: bereavement, abandonment, mental or physical illness. There may be the companion-

ship of others who have been driven out into the same wilderness, for example others who are on the same chemo regime, there may be loved ones around giving their support, but essentially for each person the inner journey is one travelled alone.

But as some members of the group pointed out some wilderness experiences can be a choice. Going on a retreat, taking time out for reflection, meditation or prayer can be ways of introducing an element of the wilderness experience into our lives.

And why? The 40 days Jesus spent in the Judean desert are understood as being essential to his understanding of his identity and his mission, his development and growth. Jesus emerged from his wilderness experience secure in his identity as Son of God and ready for his 3 years of public ministry, teaching and healing, which culminated in his death on the cross and subsequent resurrection. In a way what we are seeking when choosing a wilderness path, however limited the experience may be, is to find ourselves and our purpose.

But for those whose wilderness experience is unsought after, imposed by sickness or loss, the outcomes can often be the same. Talking with a longstanding friend who has just emerged from months of chemo I was interested to hear that her plan is now to take some time out to re-evaluate her life and re-examine her identity. That's her choice, and for her it has come out of the wilderness experience imposed by her cancer.

So, whether or not you gave anything up for Lent, or are in the midst of a wilderness experience imposed on you by sickness or loss, maybe this Easter is a good time to take stock, and I pray that what you may see is that you too are a beloved child of God.

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## Rowney Green Horticultural Society

*Lindsay Smith writes...*

**ROWNEY GREEN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY** - meets at  
The Village Hall on the second Thursday each month at  
7.30pm.

On 11th April we will welcome Celia Davis, former Chair of  
Warwickshire's Beekeepers Association and the  
subject will be "A Garden for Bees". Guests are welcome -  
£3.50 including refreshments. For more information  
please do not hesitate to contact Lindsay Smith on 01527  
592874.

## Hillside at Alvechurch WI

*Pat McDonagh Presidnet writes...*

The March meeting was an introduction to Line  
Dancing...*what fun*. We all danced the right  
steps but not necessarily in the right order.



We are visiting Cadbury World just in time for Easter.

Next month (April), a more serious topic, we are having a  
speaker from Redditch Nightstop, a charity that helps local  
homeless people. Members will be donating 'A Mug to the  
Charity', such a basic item in many homes BUT vital for  
homeless person when they have somewhere to stay.

You are welcome to join us either as a potential new  
member or as a visitor if you are interested in the speaker  
or that evening.

Next Meeting Wednesday April 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Ark.

## St Laurence Women's Fellowship

Please note: the St Laurence Women's Fellowship will  
cease on Wednesday, 24th April under the leadership of  
Mrs Jillian Woolley but will continue to be held on the 4th  
Wednesday of each month, commencing Wednesday,  
22nd May at 2pm, renamed as Alvechurch Friendship  
Group under the new leadership of Mrs Rosalind Tyler.

As a Friendship Group, men are most welcome.

# Thank You

Just a note to say a huge thank you to all of you for of your love, support, offers of help and lifts etc, since I received my diagnosis last September.

When I received the news, I didn't think, "why me God?" as I knew He would equip me with the tools to deal with my situation. What I didn't know then was that YOU, the wonderful worshippers of St Laurence, as well as Christian friends further afield, would be God's resources with your support, care and most precious of all, your prayers. Throughout my treatment, I felt so completely bound in God's love, held in His arms, thanks to all of your prayers.

I have recently been reflecting on this and feel that we have all been on this particular part of my spiritual journey very much together for which I am truly grateful and it feels even more poignant that I am writing this for the Easter edition of Grapevine.

If I may, I would ask for your continued prayers for two aspects. Fatigue, one of the side-effects of radiotherapy, is still very much a reality in my daily life. The other area for which I would be grateful for your prayers is that I will be due to begin my phased return to work after Easter and I would appreciate your prayers as I begin to think through how this process can work in order that both my employer and myself can best benefit from this and also for the discussions with my employer which will precede my return.

With all my love and prayers.

May God Bless you all, Helen Ayling



## Rowney Green Flower Club

*Deborah Taylor writes...*

There will be no monthly meeting for the Club in April but there will be a coffee morning and bring and buy sale, open to everyone, on Easter Monday 22nd April at Rowney Green Village Hall 10.30-12.00. Please come along for coffee and cake.

The next meeting will be 23rd May when Sharon Harvey will be demonstrating.

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## Alvechurch Historical Society

Hilary Taylor writes...

On **Monday 1<sup>st</sup> April** our guest speaker will be Graham Downie. His talk is called **“A Portrait of Studley”**. Lying just over the county boundary in Warwickshire, Studley is a busy town on the A435. The route of the modern road closely follows that of Roman Ryknild Street. Studley was recorded in the Domesday Book, and at that time it had a salt house, like nearby Droitwich.

The following meeting will be on **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May**, which is Mayday bank holiday Monday. Military history expert Ron Gallivan will be presenting an illustrated talk called **“The Sinking of the Athenia”**. The Athenia was the first UK ship to be sunk by German torpedoes during World War II, and 117 civilian passengers and crew were killed. The sinking, in September 1939, was condemned as a war crime.

### Welcome

Visitors are always welcome, just come along, or contact our chairman, Anne Humphries on 0121 445 5955. Our meetings are held on the first Monday of the month, at 7.45pm, in the museum hut on School Lane. Parking is available behind the Catholic Church, with their kind permission.

## Easter Poem

### His Love

God sent His Son to take the punishment  
For all the thoughtless, sinful things we do;  
Jesus gave his life because He loves us;  
His love is boundless, sweet, forever true.  
On Easter morn He showed He is our Saviour;  
His resurrection proves He is our Lord.  
That is why we tell you, **“Happy Easter!”**  
He secured our heavenly reward!

By Joanna Fuchs

# The Ark Cafe

The Cafe is open on the following dates in April with the relevant menu:



**April 4 Beef Carvery Lunch - Ticket Only - SOLD OUT**

**April 11 Beef Casserole**

The Cafe reopens on Thursday May 2nd after the Easter break and we look forward to seeing you all then.

## Being a Governor in a Church of England School

*Sam Setchell (Communications Officer) writes...*

### ***Have you considered becoming a Governor at a Church School?***

School governors form the largest voluntary body in the UK. It is very important to have effective governors in our church schools, who will, as part of their role, encourage the distinctive Christian values of the school. This role is particularly important for Foundation, or Church, governors, who make up part of a church school's governing body.

Church school staff and governors understand education as the way to enable children 'to live life in all its fullness' (John 10:10) and to flourish as unique individuals made in the image of God. Our Diocese reaches out to over 21,000 children, teaching them that God's love is everywhere; at school, at play, in class and at home. In many parishes, schools greatly complement the work of the church in the community.

On Saturday 30 March, the Diocesan Education Team hosted their first Governor Conference, with the theme of 'Vision into Action'. Two governors were invited from each of our 100 church schools, to hear presentations from Anthony Collins Solicitors, the Church of England and Ofsted.

For more information about becoming a Foundation governor, please contact: [education@cofe-worcester.org.uk](mailto:education@cofe-worcester.org.uk)

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# News from the Tower

Geoff Franklin writes...

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The bell ringers' Table Top Sale will be in the Ark on Saturday April 13th, from 10am to 3pm. Plenty of bargains and refreshments available all day. Come and have a rummage.

We've sold a dozen or so tables but still have a few left. Phone Karen on 0121 445 4980 for details. Contact Colin (01527 64077) or any of the bell ringers if you've anything for the ringers' stall at the sale. We're happy to take almost anything that we can get into the Ark.

News came too late for last month's Grapevine but by the time you read this we'll have had a performance from a band of visiting ringers. They asked if they could ring for the service on March 24th so I hope it went well and that you enjoyed it.

## Mambo Jambo Playing at The Ark

Acoustic Roots duo, Mambo Jambo, will be playing at The Ark on Saturday 27th April. With their own rhythmic and joyful sound they'll take you on a musical journey, bringing together sounds from roots, world, folk and jazz, plus their own compositions. With Frankie on sax, vocals, clarinet, flute, guitar and spoons plus other percussion, and Pete on guitar, vocal, ukulele, tres (traditional Cuban guitar), banjo, accordion and suitcase! Pete and Frankie have been gathering admirers at shows and festivals the length and breadth of the country.

Come and join us. Concert starts at 7.30pm - bar opens at 6.45pm. With a raffle in aid of Sight Concern.

Tickets are just £8 in advance (or pay on the door) and are available from the Ark office Monday to Friday between 9am and 2pm, email - [thearkalvechurch@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:thearkalvechurch@yahoo.co.uk) or call Ian in the office on 0121 447 7955. Ian Price, The Ark, St Laurence Church, School Lane, Alvechurch, B48 7SB.  
[www.thearkalvechurch.co.uk/specialevents](http://www.thearkalvechurch.co.uk/specialevents)

See the flyer on page 11



# The Chrism Eucharist

*Sam Setchell (Communications Officer) writes...*

## Do you know about the annual Chrism Eucharist?

The annual Chrism Eucharist traditionally takes place on Maundy Thursday in Holy Week. In our diocese, the service will take place on Monday because Bishop John, as Lord High Almoner to HM The Queen, has duties at the Maundy Service, helping to distribute Maundy Money.

During the Chrism Eucharist, three specific oils will be prepared and blessed, ready for use in the year ahead. Using the oils of the sick, of baptism and the perfumed oil of chrism is an ancient practice in the life of the Church. The oils are used in many ways, often for the setting apart of people and things for a special place in church life. In addition to the preparation of the oils, during the service those involved in ministry will rededicate themselves, renewing their ministerial vows as deacons, priests and bishops.

The use of oils has biblical roots. When Peter acknowledged Jesus as 'the Christ', he recognised him as the 'Anointed One' of God. Jesus was anointed by the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at his baptism in the river Jordan; through baptism, his true identity was revealed. Nowadays, on certain occasions, the sign of the cross is traced on people in oil, to signify union with Christ.

## Bible Emergency Mini Directory Part 2

When the world seems bigger than God, call Psalm 90  
When you want Christian assurance, call Romans 8 vs 31-39  
When you leave home for work or travel, call Psalm 121  
When you want courage for a task, call Joshua 1  
When you think of return on investments, call Mark 10  
How to get along with others, call Romans 12  
If you want to be fruitful, call John 15  
If your bank account is empty, call Psalm 37  
If you are losing confidence in people, call 1 Corinthians 13  
If people seem unkind, call John 15  
If discouraged about your work, call Psalm 126  
For Paul's secret to happiness, call Colossians 3 vs 12-17

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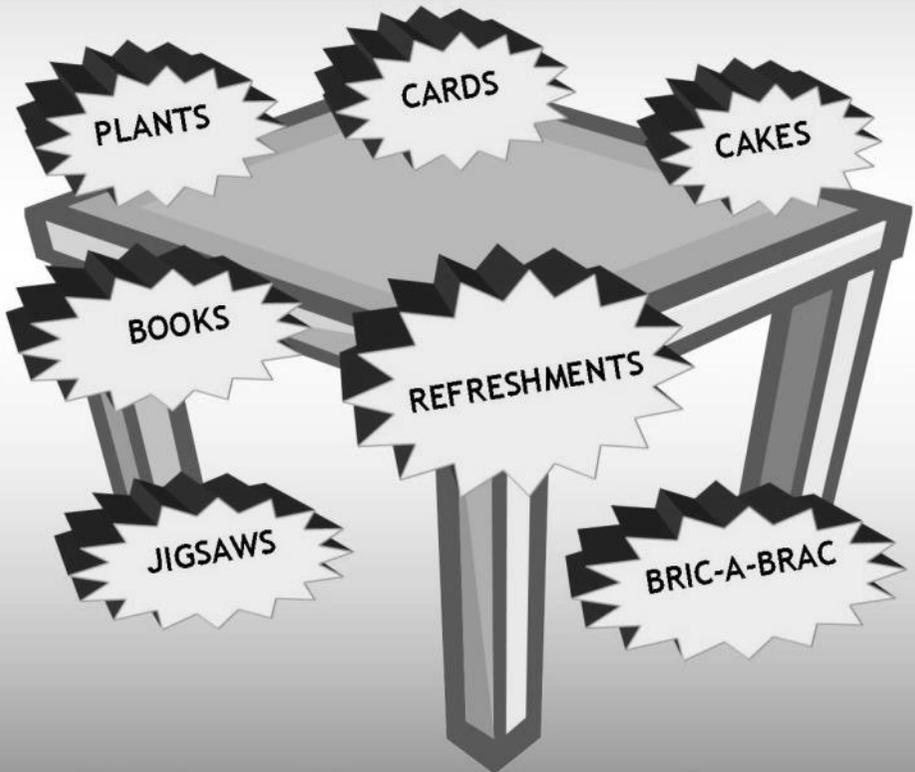
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~ Acoustic roots music ~



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## Letter from Archdeacon of Worcester

It seems to me that certain key truths in our lives are beyond words. Not for nothing has the Church brought poets, hymn writers, painters, artists and musicians into its life to express what words are not adequate to say. The same happens with those we love. We use signs and symbols to say what we mean - sometimes we say it with flowers. Our presents are not judged by their monetary value, indeed the smallest gift can be the most affecting: it is the love they express which counts.

I think Jesus knew this instinctively. It is worth noting that he wasn't given to delivering great lectures, but did tell an amazing amount of parables. He asked many, many questions, and actually didn't give a lot of answers. He had a way of inviting his listeners into the response required, and showed his power by acts of love. He was a sure hand in what we might call 'walking the walk', rather than 'talking the talk'. This marked him out from among the other religious teachers: it gave him an authority 'not of the scribes and Pharisees.'

The mystery of Good Friday and Easter is one such key truth. We tell the story from the gospel accounts, and can point to the after-effects in the lives of the apostles. We journey with Jesus as he walks the walk to the Cross through the services of Holy Week, and with flowers and Alleluias our churches burst into the new life He gives on Easter Day. In doing so we glimpse the glory of the God for whom death does not have the last word, not ever. Jesus does not just tell us this: he lives it, you could say he dies it, and is raised from the dead by the God for whom the first and last word is always Love.

We are called to live the risen life of Jesus too. Christ is risen, we are risen – that is from one of our Easter hymns. George Herbert, poet, pastor and priest, expresses it so beautifully, where else but in a poem:

*Rise heart; thy Lord is risen. Sing his praise  
Without delays,  
Who takes thee by the hand, that thou  
likewise  
With him mayst rise.  
That, as his death calcined thee to dust,  
His life may make thee gold, and much  
more just.*

Robert Jones

### Advanced Notice: Mindfulness: Simple Foundations

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Led by Michael Roberts

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The Mindfulness Tree

# 'A Christian perspective on Brexit and its impact on our Local Economy'

Keynote Speaker

**Mr David Hallam**

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**Tuesday 9th April**

**7:30pm - 9:00pm**

**Droitwich Spa Methodist Church**

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## **Easter services at St Laurence, together with the special "Alvechurch Arise" events with all the churches in Alvechurch and Rowney Green**

You are very welcome to attend any of the special Easter services and events:

**Palm Sunday 14 April - 8am Holy Communion (BCP)**

**- 9.30am Family service**

**- 11am Alvechurch Arise:** come and join the procession from the bottom of School Lane to The Precinct. There will be a donkey at the head of the procession with the Community Choir and people from the village and the churches, followed by a short act of worship and songs from the choir. Short donkey rides for the children are also planned. **Maundy Thursday 18 April 3.30pm to 5.30pm Alvechurch Arise:** come and join in the family activities at The Lounge. There will be free soup and bread to remember the Last Supper, together with foot and hand washing, decorating Alvechurch Arise rocks and other items -

**Maundy Thursday 18 April - 6.30 pm for 7pm:** we will be holding a **Passover Meal** in The Ark, led by a representative of "Jews for Jesus" who will guide us through the traditions and liturgy of this Jewish festival meal, which Jesus ate with his disciples on the night before he was betrayed. As places are limited, please book your ticket in advance from Graham Clark (the price of £15 will include a donation to "Jews for Jesus").

**Good Friday 19 April - 12 noon Alvechurch Arise:** come and see the cross put up in The Precinct and share in a time of reflection

**Saturday 20 April - 6.30pm: Easter Vigil**

**Easter Sunday 21 April - 8am Holy Communion (BCP)**

**- 10.30am: joint Easter Day communion service celebration**

**- 12 noon Alvechurch Arise:** celebration of Easter in the

Precinct, and Easter Egg Hunt

**- 6pm: Evensong**



# Alvechurch Arise

Witness events of Holy Week  
with all the local churches



**Palm  
Sunday**  
14 April  
11 am

Procession  
from  
School  
Lane to  
the precinct  
with donkey.  
Including the  
Community  
Choir.  
Donkey Rides for  
children  
(weather permitting)

**Easter  
Sunday**

21 April  
12 noon

Celebration of  
Easter and  
Easter Egg Hunt



**Maundy  
Thursday**

18 April  
3.30 - 5.30

**Family  
activities at  
the Lounge.  
Free soup  
and bread**

**Good  
Friday**

19 April  
12 noon



**Putting up the cross and  
sharing in reflection**

# Bishop John's Lent Appeal to raise money for our partners in Peru

*Bishop John writes:*

My Lent Appeal last year was for Berega Hospital in Tanzania: I would first like to thank you for your generosity in responding to that appeal. I know how much it meant to the hospital: your support made a real difference.



This year, I am making an appeal in support of the Diocese of Peru and I invite you, as individuals and parishes, to contribute. Our sisters and brothers in our partner diocese are facing great financial struggles, sometimes finding it difficult to pay even the basic stipends of their clergy, let alone support those in most need.

Bishop Jorge has an exciting vision for the diocese as he and his colleagues seek to reach out to the poorest of the poor with the good news of Jesus' love. It would be wonderful to be able to send him a substantial gift from the Diocese of Worcester to support that developing vision and, in particular, to ensure the clergy get the training and support they need to be effective in their ministry.

To make a donation:

Send a cheque payable to Worcester Diocesan Board of Finance Ltd to Peru Appeal, Worcester Diocesan Office, The Old Palace, Deansway, Worcester, WR1 2JE. Download gift aid form at - [https://cofeworchester.contentfiles.net/media/assets/file/WDBF\\_ga\\_single\\_donation\\_2019\\_Peru.pdf](https://cofeworchester.contentfiles.net/media/assets/file/WDBF_ga_single_donation_2019_Peru.pdf) or visit <https://mydonate.bt.com/events/peruappeal/487183>

## About the Diocese of Peru



From early beginnings as an expatriate church in Lima, the Iglesia Anglicana del Perú (IAP – Anglican Church of Peru) has spread since the 1970s into some of the poorest communities in the country, mainly in Lima. Work began in Arequipa, the second city, in the 1980s, and there are now four Anglican communities serving this area. Other churches exist in Juliaca (near Lake Titicaca), Jauja (Peru's first capital), Huancayo, and other Andean settlements, including La Rinconada – the world's highest permanent settlement at 5,130m.

In April 2016, Jorge Luis Aguilar Ocampo became the first Peruvian diocesan bishop, following a number of expatriate English bishops. Bishop Jorge was originally trained in the Roman Catholic Church and ordained by Pope John Paul II, but served as an Anglican priest in the IAP for many years before becoming their bishop.



He is developing a new collegial and transparent culture in the diocese, which involves both clergy and laity in decision making and building up a shared vision. One key part of this is a desire to see more and better support and training for his clergy as well as the self-sustainability that allows the diocese to guarantee their stipends.



There are four Anglican schools in the diocese, which form a key part of their mission.

The diocese also has various social projects, including the Shalom centre, and prison visiting. Social action for justice and education are seen holistically as part of the IAP's mission and evangelism.



BibleWise

## Easter Word Unscramble

Directions: To find the answer to each question use the provided key to match the symbol with the correct letter.

1. Which disciple had his feet washed first?

⊙   ⊙   ⊙   ⊙   ⊙

2. Who anointed Jesus' feet?

⊙   ⊙   ⊙   ⊙

3. Who was the prisoner they traded for Jesus to be crucified?

⊙   ⊙   ⊙   ⊙   ⊙   ⊙   ⊙

4. Who was the one who first saw Jesus when he emerged from the tomb?

⊙   ⊙   ⊙   ⊙

5. Who was the one who doubted Jesus when he was resurrected?

⊙   ⊙   ⊙   ⊙   ⊙   ⊙

**Key:**

A= ⊙

B= ⊙

H= ⊙

M= ⊙

O= ⊙

R= ⊙

T= ⊙

Y= ⊙

W= ⊙

P= ⊙

I= ⊙

L= ⊙

E= ⊙

S= ⊙

# THE MIDLAND SINFONIA

St Laurence Church, Alvechurch B48 7SB

**SATURDAY 6 APRIL 2019**

7.30pm doors/bar 7pm

## Chamber Classics

Haydn

STRING QUARTET IN D OP.64 NO.5 'THE LARK'

Mozart

CLARINET QUINTET IN A K581

Schubert

STRING QUARTET IN D MINOR D810 'DEATH AND THE MAIDEN'

*performed by*

**Tedesca TMS Resident Quartet**

**Tom Caldecote, Clarinet**



Tickets £12 / £11 in advance  
via website / 0121 447 7040  
or 'Gin & Pickles', The Square, Alvechurch

disabled access and free parking on site / [www.midlandsinfonia.co.uk](http://www.midlandsinfonia.co.uk)

# Alvechurch WI

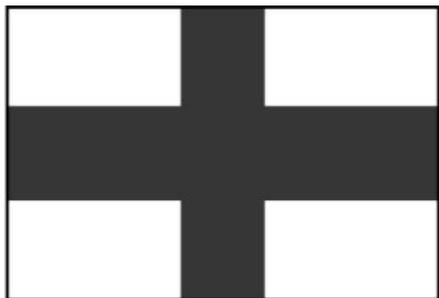
*Pam Horsfield writes...*

Last night's meeting (11 March) was a great success with Julie welcoming Graham Short our speaker, our visitors and new members; plus wishing several members a happy birthday.

Maria has kept us in contact with the wide variety of classes we can choose from which are arranged by the Worcestershire Federation. Some of our members will be going to the Group Meeting this month, others are going on the walk from the Hive in Worcester which is arranged by ACWW ( Associated Country Women of the World ) Walk the World and three are going on a Willow Workshop. Julie is also looking into organising a day visit to Denman College, our WI college near Abingdon.

Graham Short then joined us....he is an amazingly skilled *'artist'* and a very interesting speaker. He began his working life in a factory in Birmingham. He developed a skill which has lead to him being employed by Buckingham Palace to create their formal invitations to palace engagements He also engraves phrases and sayings on to minute items such as pin heads, a pen nib and even the tip of a paper clip. He is quite extraordinary in the way he lives in order to work without any vibrations or nerve movement to interfere with his work, and discards items which aren't accurate even if he has to repeat the work over again. It was fascinating.

Next month we welcome our speaker talking about *'Little Black Dress'* who is fun to listen to, so do come along and join us if you want. We'll be in the Village Hall on Monday April 8th at 7:30pm.



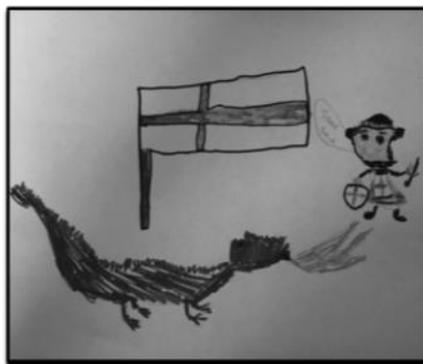
## St George's Day Tea and Cake

Alvechurch Village Hall  
23<sup>rd</sup> April, 2.00- 4.30pm

Children's corner



Alvechurch WI, Hillside WI,  
Hopwood WI and Ark Angels WI



## Events at Alvechurch Library

### Children's Easter Holiday Events

#### Explore Learning Writing Competition Workshops

On Monday 15th April from 2.15 - 3.15pm and Tuesday 23rd April from 2.15 - 3.15pm for children aged 6-10 years. You will have the opportunity to start writing your story for the chance to win a trip to Disneyland Paris! We will help to kick start your imagination into the world of your characters, setting and plot! No need to book for any Explore Learning Workshops, just turn up.

Easter Holidays Events for children, for the latest workshops and classes please pop into the library or check out our Facebook page.

We have a few spaces left on our **Easter Wreath Making Workshop**. Course number 16673. Join us on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April, 12.30pm - 3.30pm, £19.00. Use your creativity to combine materials to produce your own Easter decoration for doors and walls. Use fun and quirky materials to create a traditional wreath shape. Using basic floristry techniques you will make a decoration that you can use year after year.

**Stained Glass for Beginners**, course number 16751

Discover the fundamentals of working with stained-glass whilst creating your own stained glass panel. Develop precision when cutting and handling glass safely whilst designing a unique work of art. Using lead and solder you'll construct a beautiful panel which you can take away at the end of the course. Starting on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 2.15pm - 4.15pm this is a six week course that is running over eight weeks and finishing on 21<sup>st</sup> June, £75.00/Free (subject to conditions).

Patrick's ongoing **French** and **Spanish** classes continue throughout the year, three days a week in Alvechurch library. Please email Patrick at [vdlt52@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:vdlt52@hotmail.co.uk) or call 07708027372 to see if the level the class is being taught at would allow you to join in. Numbers in Patrick's class go up and down, French is pretty well fully booked but currently he does have a couple of spaces in either of the Spanish classes. Get ready for those summer holidays!

#### Chess Club

The club meets weekly on Saturday mornings between 11:00am - 12 noon and is run by an experienced player and coach. It provides an opportunity to learn how to play chess, play friendly games with the coach or other club members and to participate in chess lessons and coaching. There is no charge for the club which is open to juniors (with parents) and adults at all levels of ability from beginners to grandmasters.

#### Chatter Books Group

We have spaces on our fun children's book group. Which meets once a month on a Monday afternoon from 3.30pm - 4.30pm. For children aged 8-12 years the sessions focus on fun, creative activities based on reading and books.

#### Bus Pass and Blue Badges

Bus Pass and Blue Badge applications or renewals can be completed at Alvechurch Library. Pop in and we will be able to help.

Any enquiries about any events at Alvechurch Library please pop into the library on the Birmingham Road, contact The Hub on 01905 822722, email - [alvechurchlib@worcestershires.gov.uk](mailto:alvechurchlib@worcestershires.gov.uk) and check out our Facebook page.

# Stained Glass windows update

Work continues apace, although a little behind schedule. The quarry, where we would have expected to purchase the stone from, couldn't deliver in time so the contractors had to find an alternative source. And some rot was found in a roof beam when cutting the access hatch through the vestry roof. This meant remedial work had to be done first before the hatch could be installed.

However, these problems are now behind us and, as you can see from the ground, the emphasis has moved from the north side of the church to the south side.

By the time you read this the work on the north valley gutter should have been completed and the scaffolding removed. Some work remains at the north east corner to re-tile the roof of the old boiler house, and this should be complete by the middle of April. Work has begun on the windows on the south side, with some having been removed for repairs off-site and some being repaired in situ. All this work is also expected to be complete by the middle of April.

Repairing the stonework on the south porch and the west face of the tower will be a bit later than originally expected because of the late delivery of the replacement stone. But this should be finished by the end of April.

So, by the first week in May we should see that all the work is complete, the scaffolding has been removed and these parts of the church have been repaired and made weather-proof again for another 150 years.

Thank you again for all your support in helping make these necessary repairs happen so that we can conserve our lovely church for future generations.

P.S.

One of the outcomes of all the work that has been done is that a great deal of dirt and dust has been deposited inside the church. It will be necessary to have a massive "spring" clean to get rid of all the muck. As with all of these sorts of things, the more pairs of hands there are to tackle to problem the easier it will be to achieve the right end. So if you feel you could volunteer to help please let me know, and watch this space for notification of the date.

*Graham Clark*



# Flowers for APRIL

I will be collecting names and donations for the Easter Lilies again this year.

A list will be in church for you to add names of those you would like remembered.

Flowers will be placed at the Altars and on the font.

Ann Thurrell 0121 447 7668

Email [annthurrell@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:annthurrell@hotmail.co.uk)



# Parish Prayers

Prayers will be said in April at St Laurence Church for the residents of the following roads:

- 7 April – Mill Court**
- 14 April – Newbourne Hill**
- 21 April – Oaktree Close**
- 28 April – Old Birmingham Road**



# Funerals and Cremations

*May they rest in the peace of Christ*



- |             |                       |
|-------------|-----------------------|
| 11 February | Mark Edwards          |
| 26 February | Marion Angela Maguire |
| 7 March     | Hilda May Rogers      |

# Who's who

Rector	Revd Richard Bubbers, Priest-in-charge, School Lane, 445 1087 stlaurencealvechurch@yahoo.co.uk
Licensed Lay Ministers	Mr Dick Russell, 2 Gothic Cottages, Radford Rd, 445 3083 Mrs Sue Phillips Wardle, 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 Mrs Annette Thomas, 8 Snake Lane, 445 5180
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 Alison Smith, 12 Hollington Road, 447 7293 Mrs Janet Wright, 28 Callow Hill Road, Alvechurch, B48 7LP Mr Andy Notley, 445 5653 Mr Roger Wardle, Withybed Green, 445 0505
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
Women's Fellowship	Mrs Jill Woolley, 111 Birmingham Road, 445 2125
Ark Bookings Secretary & Grapevine Editor	Mr Ian Price, The Ark, School Lane, 447 7955 thearkalvechurch@yahoo.co.uk

## PCC Special Responsibilities

### Finance and Standing Committee

Richard Bubbers	Mick Fletcher
Graham Clark	Alison Smith
Bob Dale	Janet Wright

### Buildings, Fabric and Churchyard for Mission Committee

Mick Fletcher	Colin Bennett
David Richmond	Jill Woolley
Janet Wright	Lynne Clark
Andy Humphries	Alison Smith

### 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
Sally Bubbers	Sue Lambert

# Calendar for APRIL



Monday 1	7.45pm	Alvechurch Historical Society: Talk by Graham Downie: "A Portrait of Studley": The Museum: School Lane
Wednesday 3	7.30pm	Hillside at Alvechurch WI: Redditch Nightstop - an insight into their work: The Ark
Thursday 4		No Ark Tots and Toddlers (Mums The Word) today
	12.15pm	Ark cafe: Beef Lunch Carvery ( <b>SOLD OUT</b> )
Saturday 6	7.30pm	The Midland Sinfonia: Chamber Classics: St Laurence Church
Monday 8	7.30pm	Ark Angels WI: Flower Arranging: The Ark
	7.30pm	Alvechurch WI: Talk: 'Little Black Dress': Alvechurch Village Hall
Thursday 11	9.30am	Ark Tots and Toddlers (Mums The Word): Sarah Linton
	12.15pm	Ark cafe: Beef Casserole
	7.30pm	Rowney Green Horticultural Society: Talk by Celia Davis: "A Garden for Bees": Rowney Green Village Hall
Saturday 13	10.00am	<b>Annual Tabletop Sale:</b> The Ark: <b>Free Admission</b>
Palm Sunday 14	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	9.30am	Family service
	11.00am	Alvechurch Arise: come and join the procession from the bottom of School Lane to The Precinct
<b>May Grapevine goes to press articles to - <a href="mailto:thearkalvechurch@yahoo.co.uk">thearkalvechurch@yahoo.co.uk</a></b>		
Maundy		No Ark Tots and Toddlers or Ark Cafe today
Thursday 18	3.30pm	Family activities at The Lounge: Free soup and bread
	6.30pm for 7.00pm	Passover Meal: £15 will include a donation to "Jews for Jesus" Please see Graham Clark to book your ticket
Good Friday 19	12 noon	<b>Alvechurch Arise:</b> come and see the cross put up in The Precinct and share in a time of reflection
Saturday 20	6.30pm	Easter Vigil
Easter Sunday 21	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	10.30am	Joint Easter Day communion service celebration
	12 noon	Alvechurch Arise: celebration of Easter in the Precinct & Egg Hunt
	6.00pm	Evensong
Wednesday 24	2.00pm	St Laurence Women's Fellowship: Annual General Meeting: Tanyard Lane Community Centre
Thursday 25		No Ark Tots and Toddlers (Mums The Word) or Ark cafe
Saturday 27	7.30pm	<b>Mambo Jambo (Acoustic Roots duo) Concert:</b> The Ark: Bar opens at 6.45pm. Tickets £8 from Ian Price, Ark Office 0121 447 7955 or mail <a href="mailto:thearkalvechurch@yahoo.co.uk">thearkalvechurch@yahoo.co.uk</a>