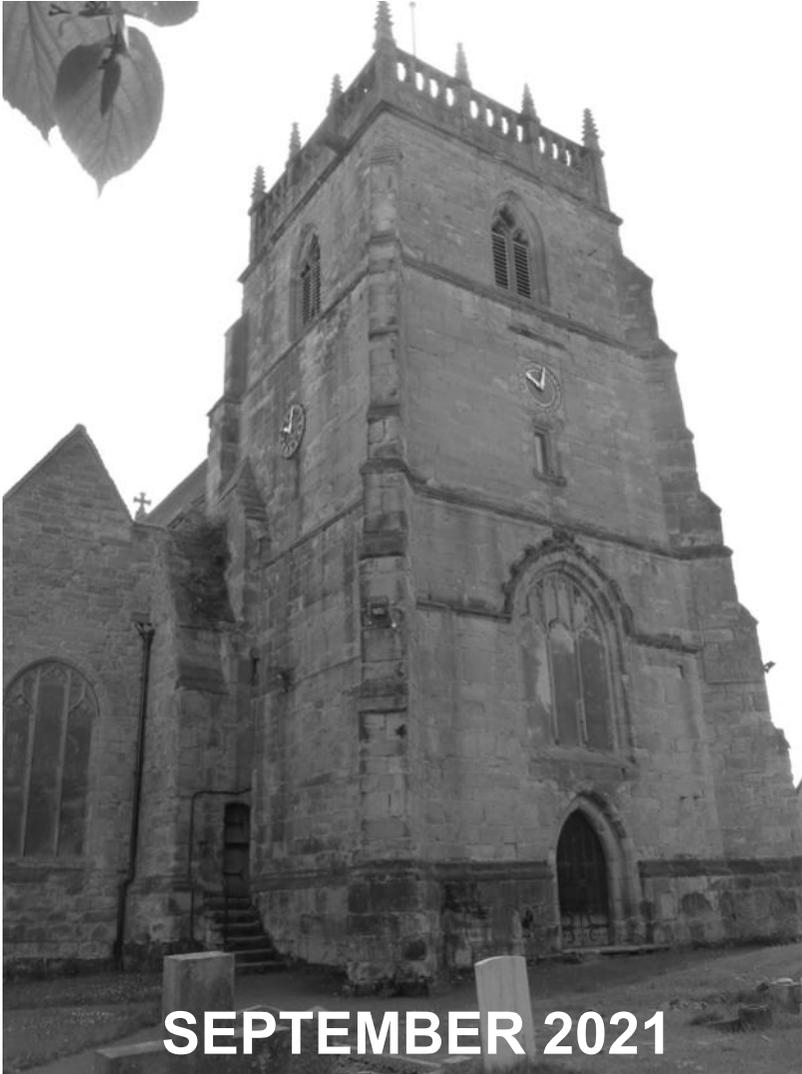


# The Grapevine

THE PARISH MAGAZINE OF ST LAURENCE CHURCH ALVECHURCH



SEPTEMBER 2021

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

# St Laurence Church Alvechurch

## In person church services

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

9.30am - Family worship services, with communion on 5 September (Revd Richard Clark).

11:15 am - Morning Prayer, with communion on 5 September (Revd Dick Johnson) and 19 September (Revd Francis Moloney).

## Online services

The last online service was on 18 July. You can view all the previous services on our YouTube channel - [www.youtube.com/channel/UCVQ6tgn7g6qT7vJ1Rh3vxpg](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCVQ6tgn7g6qT7vJ1Rh3vxpg)

You can access various prayer, bible reading, reflection and worship links on our website by visiting - <http://www.alvechurch-stlaurence.org/resources>

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

## GROUPS (still currently suspended)

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

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

Bellringers - Sundays at 10.45am

Tuesday Practice at 7.30pm (01527 64077)

Ark Tots and Toddlers - Thursdays 9.30am to 11.10am in The Ark

Tiny Tots Service - 10.45am 4th Thursday of the month  
(sarah100work@gmail.com)

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

## THE ARK

Enquiries to Ian Price 0121 447 7955 ([admin@thearkalvechurch.co.uk](mailto:admin@thearkalvechurch.co.uk))

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For Teachers and children, the Autumn Term always seems to be the longest and hardest and somehow, in record time, here we are

again. Everything is different, whether it be just a new teacher or class or indeed a whole new school or the start of university. It seems so bewildering, having to get used to all the new faces, rules and lessons.

Few of us much like excessive change. It can be so threatening to our whole sense of the familiar and secure. Yet we all have to learn to cope with the inevitable alterations in life, both joyous, such as a new baby or a long awaited house/job move or tragic, with a serious decline in mental or physical health or the loss of someone dearly loved.

All the emotions engendered by such changes are challenging. Sometimes even the happiest of changes can cause unexpected anxiety and doubts. Yet God has built us resilient. The human race has survived quite horrifying upheaval and we rightly honour individuals who show courage and fortitude whatever life throws at them.

The Bible is full of stories of people facing huge changes, sometimes totally unplanned or unwanted, but all leading to positive outcomes. Joseph is sold from a life of luxury into slavery by his jealous brothers, yet ends up in Egypt as a ruler. The whole journey ends in a beautiful reconciliation with family. Ruth loses her husband and travels with her mother in law to a new and unfamiliar country, yet, through her loyalty to the older woman, she finds love and security. In the ultimate

## **Philippa Brakes writes...**

journey of change, Jesus accepts, in the Garden of Gethsemane, that at the age of only thirty three, his life must end in violence, pain and fear. Yet through his obedience and trust, comes the resurrection and total victory over death, fear and sin.

Many quotations suggest that God wants us to welcome change and challenge as a chance to trust him absolutely with our future; *“See I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.”* Isaiah 43:19

*“The Lord is my rock, my fortress my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.”* Psalm 18:12

*“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, present your requests to God and the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.”* Philippians 4:6-7

I like the fact that in the Philippians example, we don't actually need to understand – a relief when the very ground under our feet seems to be shifting in directions we can't predict. Never mind, because God is our rock, our fortress and our deliverer and his strong arm can bring us through all our personal and communal earthquakes to a place of peace and security.

Sometimes letting go and trusting can be the hardest challenge of all, yet even if all the ways of the world have repeatedly let us down, God never will. He wants the very best for us and will never give in, never abandon us until we have it – his love, forgiveness and strength in abundance.

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## A Summer Wedding

A former pupil of Alvechurch Middle School, married her fiancé on Saturday 7th August at St Laurence Church where her brother, mother and grandmother also married.

Lara Marie Beddoes and Andrew James Eden had known each other for six years. The bride is the youngest child of Lorraine and Peter Beddoes.

She was walked down the aisle by her father. The bride wore an ivory chiffon dress with a sweetheart neckline and lace appliqué bodice with pearls and sequins. The groom chose his good friend Nick Squire to be his best man and his wife Jane was one of the Ushers.

The reception was held at Red House Barn, Stoke Prior. The bride, who works for a Civil Enforcement Agency and the groom, who is a mechanic and owns his own garage will be making their married home in Meadowfield Road, Rubery.



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## June Wedding

Emily Christine O'Keefe and Mark James Dixon, were married at St. Laurence Church, Alvechurch on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> June. After having their original wedding delayed by over a year due to the Covid pandemic, they could not have asked for a more beautiful day. The sun shone brightly for them and the bride even had a fly by from the Red Arrows before she entered the church. The wedding bells could be heard ringing for the newlyweds; the first time the wedding bells had rung for many months.

Mark originally from Preston and Emily from Birmingham, have both recently settled in Alvechurch. The wedding party were able to enjoy a gentle stroll in the sunshine back to the bride and groom's home for the wedding reception.

The bride's elegant floor length gown was complemented perfectly by the dusty pink bridesmaids' dresses (and matching facemasks!). The bride's mother, Christine and groom's mother, Ruth acted as their witnesses with close family and friends as ushers and bridesmaids. Whilst the numbers were limited for the couple, the day was perfect.

The bride, groom and wedding party may have been spotted around Alvechurch later that day whilst having some photographs taken in our idyllic village.



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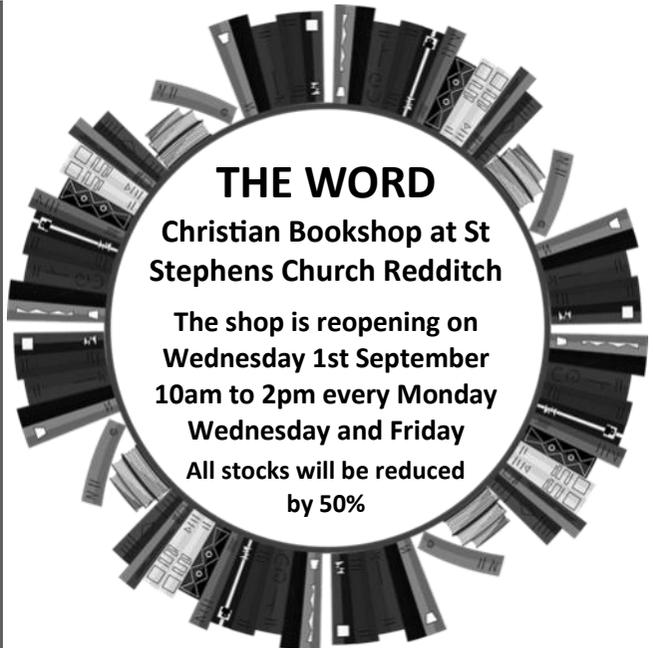
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## THE WORD

**Christian Bookshop at St  
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The shop is reopening on  
**Wednesday 1st September**  
**10am to 2pm every Monday**  
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All stocks will be reduced  
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## Calling all local groups

**Are you looking for a venue to host  
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## Spiritual resources during Covid-19

You will also find a link to resources for personal prayer, reflection and worship on the home page of our website - [www.alvechurch-stlaurence.org](http://www.alvechurch-stlaurence.org)

Please feel free to try whatever you may find helpful.

**Lectio365** ([www.24-7prayer.com/dailydevotional](http://www.24-7prayer.com/dailydevotional)) this free app is a daily devotional resource that helps you encounter God and shape your life by praying the Bible every day. The readings and the prayers may be read and/or listened to.

**Time to Pray** ([www.chpublishing.co.uk/apps/time-to-pray](http://www.chpublishing.co.uk/apps/time-to-pray)) - this free app presents everything you need for Prayer During the Day, with variations according to the day of the week and the season of the Church's year.

**Daily Prayer** ([www.chpublishing.co.uk/apps/daily-prayer](http://www.chpublishing.co.uk/apps/daily-prayer)) - this free app helps you follow any of Morning, Evening and Night Prayer (Anglican Common Worship). It presents the three services in full with NRSV Bible readings for each day.

If you are looking for a **free reflection/meditation** any day of the week, try the Franciscan Richard Rohr from the Centre for Action and Contemplation: [www.cac.org/category/daily-meditations/](http://www.cac.org/category/daily-meditations/)

If you are looking for a useful resource for **reshaping your daily pattern of living** in a way that fits with how your life is, try the Rule of life booklet from St Aldates Church in Oxford: <http://www.staldates.org.uk/about/vision>

The Church of England has launched a new programme to help families to talk about faith and pray together. **Faith at Home** will explore themes including courage, patience, generosity, resilience, love and hope. Faith at Home can be accessed at [www.churchofengland.org/faithathome](http://www.churchofengland.org/faithathome)

**Other worship at home ideas for children and families:** ideas and resources to help you share your faith with your family at home – see the Worcester Diocese website at - [www.cofe-worcester.org.uk/children-family-worship-at-home](http://www.cofe-worcester.org.uk/children-family-worship-at-home)

**Online church services across the Diocese** – see: [www.cofe-worcester.org.uk/news/online-church-services-across-the-diocese.php](http://www.cofe-worcester.org.uk/news/online-church-services-across-the-diocese.php)

**Daily chants from Taize** may be found at - [www.churchtimes.co.uk/coronavirus-resources](http://www.churchtimes.co.uk/coronavirus-resources)

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# Alvechurch Village Society

## WALKS

**Sunday 5th September 2pm**

**Over the beacon hill and back again.**

Meet at Monument Lane car park, Lickey, B45 9QH  
*Led by John & Sally Slevin*

**Sunday 3rd October 2pm**

**A country stroll around Studley.**

Meet at Studley church car park, Castle Road, B80 7AB  
*Led by Sue & Roger Wardle*

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

## EVENTS & TALKS

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

**Sunday 10th October Litter picking family session, 10am.**  
**Meet at the village square**

**Wednesday 13th October "The Bletchley Park Story" – an illustrated talk by John Chapman, 7:30pm**

## Join the Society to support your local community

The quality of life in the Alvechurch, Rowney Green, Hopwood, Weatheroak and Bordesley area is praised by many, but cannot be taken for granted. The AVS works to maintain this quality and while volunteers do all the work, we rely on the annual membership to maintain our programme of walks, talks and social events. If you want to support us and join the Society, our membership is only £10 per year (£5 for young adults 14-20 years). Please check that you have renewed your membership: subscription runs from January to December. You can get more information from our website: [www.alvechurchvs.org](http://www.alvechurchvs.org) or contact the society chairperson: [chairalvechurchvillagesociety@gmail.com](mailto:chairalvechurchvillagesociety@gmail.com)

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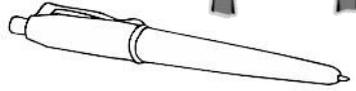
Practical self-defence and enjoy fun fitness activities to improve  
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At St Laurence's Church, The Ark on Tuesday evenings at 6.30-7.30

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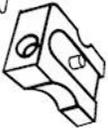
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# Kids Corner

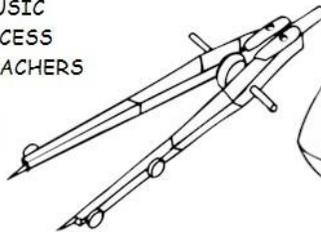


## September

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 N L E F R E R H M C C P A I X P R P D L



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Why do math books always look so sad? They are full of problems.

Why did the kid eat his homework? Because his teacher said it was a piece of cake.

Knock, knock! Who's there? Pencil. Pencil who? Never mind, this is pointless.

## Alvechurch Historical Society

The Historical Society plans to restart monthly meetings in September. Meetings will now be held in the main hall at The Ark, St Laurence Church starting at 7.45pm

### PROGRAMME 2021

**6 September** - The Tudor Story      *Discover History*

**4 October** - Redditch History: Bordesley Abbey      *Anthony Green*

**1 November** - The Story of the Unknown Warrior      *Ron Gallivan*

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

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

## Bishop Martin's Pilgrimage of Prayer and Hope



*"The font in my church has been dry for over a year."*

One of our faithful parish clergy was sharing on Zoom about how things were during the pandemic. It was such a powerful image of a dry and empty font, no water, no baptisms, no people in Covid affected churches.

As a new bishop in this diocese I had been in lockdown like everyone else. I had really missed the opportunity to visit churches and to celebrate the sacraments, of eucharist, baptism and confirmation. Hoping that visiting will still be possible this Autumn I have set aside 12 days to spend two days in each deanery on a Pilgrimage of Prayer and Hope, visiting as many churches and meeting as many people as I can. Area Deans and Lay Chairs are working with me to finalise arrangements.

Most church visits will be very low key, and I will walk or drive between locations depending on distance. There will be at least three fixed points in each day when people are welcome join me for a simple Morning, Midday and Evening prayer. I hope that one evening in each deanery will include a larger gathering, perhaps with a eucharist and renewal of baptism vows, or a shorter service of the word with time for discussion or Q&A together.

I am very much looking forward to being in many of our churches and being with God's Kingdom People in the urban and rural parts of our diocese. If I get the chance, I will certainly bless each baptismal font that I find. Let the living waters flow!

Bishop Martin

# Eco-Church comes to Alvechurch!

*Roger Wardle writes...*

St Laurence Church has signed up to participate in the Eco-Church award scheme, an initiative intended to show how individual churches are caring for God's earth in different aspects of their life and work.

The first step is for the church to complete a survey to record what has already been done and to identify what further actions need to be taken in order to gain the points necessary for an Award. For example, actions might include a switch to a green energy company, starting to use Fairtrade tea and coffee supplies, or making areas of the churchyard more wildlife friendly. The answers a church provides will collect points towards an Eco Church Award – the more the church does, the more points are gained. Unsurprisingly perhaps, there are gold, silver and bronze awards!

The survey highlights five key areas of church life:

- Worship and teaching
- Management of church buildings
- Management of church land
- Community and global engagement
- Lifestyle

It takes into account our particular church buildings and land, and the survey can be updated at any point as additional actions are completed.

The Community and Global engagement category challenges the church to take a lead in helping to promote green initiatives in the parish. In this regard contact has already been made with the Cleaner Greener Alvechurch Group and the Parish Council. It also identifies ways in which we can encourage action at a national and international level.

If you are concerned about the impact climate change is having, but are unsure how you can help, there is plenty of guidance offered. Small changes made by households can have a massive impact, if everyone does their bit!

Please use one of these links to learn more and check out what you can do.

1. **Individual households:** <https://creationcare.org.uk/>
2. **Church family:** <https://ecochurch.arochoa.org.uk/>
3. **Local community:** <https://www.cleanergreeneralvechurch.org.uk/home>;  
<https://freeonlinesurveys.com/s/yrheK1kp#/0>  
<https://www.cofe-worcester.org.uk/called-to-action--the-time-is-now-.php>
4. **Nation:** <https://www.churchofengland.org/about/leadership-and-governance/ethical-investment-advisory-group>

## Hillside @ Alvechurch WI

*Jacqueline Hollingworth writes...*

At last, our first face to face meeting in nearly two years!

It was held at our usual venue, The Ark at Saint Laurence's Church. What a happy, friendly occasion. After all the meeting and greeting, we enjoyed a lovely Fish and Chip supper supplied by the local shop, with cakes to follow.

It was so nice to see everyone together and to catch up, let us hope it continues!

We will meet again in September at the Ark, and our speaker will be Tracey Parberry, whose talk will be titled "Greyhounds, A Special Breed", sounds interesting! Business and refreshments as usual.

Our meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month and start at 7.30pm. All are welcome, contact Pat McDonagh 0121 628 4121 for further information.

## Alvechurch WI

*Pam Horsfield writes...*

At last we've managed to meet together outdoors at the cricket club and enjoy our own afternoon teas and a time of catching up on news of families and friends. We managed about an hour and a half of sunshine and chat before the heavens opened and had us scuttling away home! 😊

We're also going on the walk with Mary Green on Monday 16th August at 2:30pm. Last month it had to be cancelled due to bad weather so we'll keep our fingers crossed for this month.

We can now plan our programme for the coming year and welcome back our 44 members along with various friends who are coming to visit in the next two months with a view to joining. All very positive.

Next month on Monday September 13th at 7:30pm we'll be back in the Village Hall for our first meeting since lockdown. What a treat. Julie will welcome us back and help us to catch up on news and events, and then it will be purely a time to relax, enjoy good company and feel that life is returning just a little back to our new normal. Do come and join us if you'd like, as you'll be very welcome.

## Rowney Green Horticultural Society

*Lyndsay Smith writes...*

ROWNEY GREEN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY is delighted to announce there will be a meeting at the Village Hall on Thursday, 9th September 2021 at 7.30pm.

At the moment a Speaker has been booked but has reserved the right to cancel at the last minute. We do hope to have a Standby Speaker but until nearer the date the Society is unable to confirm the name of the Speaker. Guests are always welcome - £3.50 including refreshments.

The Horticultural Society looks forward to seeing Members and new Members as it has been a long time since we actually held a Meeting.

For more information please do not hesitate to contact Lindsay Smith on 01527 592874.

# Parish Prayers

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

**Withybed Green - 5 September**

**Withybed Lane - 12 September**

**Woodpecker Close - 19 September**

**Altheston Close - 26 September**



# Generosity Week

*Stewardship Officer, Chris Boden, explains how you can get involved in the Church of England's Generosity Week this Autumn.*



Generosity is at the heart of our faith. We believe in a generous God and our own generosity is a testament and hallmark of our faith in action. Every day we see generosity in our churches and Christian communities, reflecting the generous God we believe in. It takes time, support and above all prayer to grow a generous culture.

This Harvest, the Church of England is launching Generosity Week to give us the time and space to reflect on God's Generosity and celebrate God's generosity within our church's ministry and mission.

A host of new resources have been produced for the week, including podcasts, Biblical reflections, prayers, liturgies, guides to engaging with your community and much more on the Church of England's website - [www.churchofengland.org/resources/building-generous-church/encouraging-generosity/ideas-activating-generosity/generosity-week](http://www.churchofengland.org/resources/building-generous-church/encouraging-generosity/ideas-activating-generosity/generosity-week)

# From The Registers



## Funerals and Cremations

*May they rest in the peace of Christ*

3 August      Judith 'Judy' Balls



## Marriages

*Those whom God has joined together*

7 August      Daniel Richards & Stephanie Hosking

7 August      Andrew Eden & Lara Beddoes

13 August     Peter Murphy & Lucy Walton

# Who's who

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

## PCC Special Responsibilities

### Finance and Standing Committee

Graham Clark	Mick Fletcher
Bob Dale	Janet Wright
Peter Freeman	

### Buildings, Fabric and Churchyard for Mission Committee

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

### Children and Youth Committee

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

### Missionary Committee

Sue Phillips Wardle	Dick Russell
Gordon Parsons	Margaret Haste
Sue Lambert	

# Calendar for SEPTEMBER



Please see our church and Ark websites for details of our activities -

[www.alvechurch-stlaurence.org](http://www.alvechurch-stlaurence.org) and [www.thearkalvechurch.co.uk](http://www.thearkalvechurch.co.uk)

Tuesday 14 **OCTOBER 2021 GRAPEVINE GOES TO PRESS:**

*articles to - [admin@thearkalvechurch.co.uk](mailto:admin@thearkalvechurch.co.uk)*

## Text Giving for St Laurence Church

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

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

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

Texts cost £5 plus one standard rate message

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

Texts cost £10 plus one standard rate message

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

Texts cost £20 plus one standard rate message

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



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

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

With our thanks and prayers.

Alvechurch PCC - Registered charity number 1131783