

The Grapevine

THE PARISH MAGAZINE OF ST LAURENCE CHURCH ALVECHURCH



JUNE 2018

Online at 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 (445 1854)

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)**

Mum's the Word - Thursdays 9.30am to 11am in The Ark (sarah100work@gmail.com)

Tiny Tots Service - 10.15am 1st Thursday of the month

Ark Café - 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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Love is in the air....

Richard Bubbers writes...

By the time you read this, Prince Harry and Meghan Markle should have been married at St George's Chapel in Windsor, surrounded by family and friends, with thousands of people lining the streets of Windsor, and millions more around the world watching on television and online. By comparison the marriage of the future King George V to Princess Mary of Teck (future Queen Mary) 125 years ago in 1893 was a relatively quiet affair: they were married at the Chapel Royal at St James's Palace, which barely seats 100 people.

At St Laurence's church every year we continue to see the weddings of local couples wanting to commit themselves in love to each other in the presence of God and their families and friends.

A favourite reading at wedding services is the classic passage on love by St Paul in 1 Corinthians 13: *"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails...."*

Paul describes this as *"the way of love"* – and he calls it *"the most excellent way."*

This kind of love is a love which keeps coming back to an outlook, an attitude of mind in which we want the best for the other person – our long-term goal is to encourage them to fulfil their full potential and become the person God intended them to be. It is about

what you decide to do, to help make possible the other person's happiness and fulfilment. Love has been described as the multivitamin, the universal medicine for living. Love helps us feel safe, whether as a scared child getting a hug or as an adult walking with a friend through a dark place. Love is deeply satisfying, and fosters contentment. Love draws us immediately into a sense of connection. Love in one form or another is the key resource for the challenges of life.

I recently heard a hospice chaplain, who works with the terminally ill, saying that in his experience people at the end of life tend to see life *"more deeply"* – they see beneath the surface of things. They often begin to engage with the big questions of life – death, suffering, God – and often their words of farewell settle around words of love and forgiveness: *"I love you", "I forgive you", "please forgive me."*

Forgiving love is at the heart of 1 Corinthians 13 and any good and lasting relationship.

This kind of self-giving love is the love which God has for us – and we see it expressed most visibly and profoundly in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. John described it like this in his first letter (chapter 4 – The Message translation): *"God is love.... This is how God showed his love for us: God sent his only Son into the world so we might live through him. This is the kind of love we are talking about - not that we once upon a time loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to clear away our sins and the damage they've done to our relationship with God."*

May this help to encourage and affirm us in following the way of love.

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Hillside at Alvechurch WI

Cathy Taylor writes...

We held our A.G.M. 2nd May. The business was completed efficiently and the officers and committee were confirmed. There was time to chat over delicious cakes, coffee and tea.

Future Events

6th June, David Chatterley will speak to us about the History of the Teddy Bear at our June meeting . Members are invited to bring teddy bears. Visitors are welcome to join us and to enjoy chatting over cakes and refreshments.

21st June Visit to Birmingham Back to Backs. Seven members will join the tour at 13.30 and should arrive at 13.15 pm.. We hope to go by train at 11 am and meet at the top of escalator near John Lewis and have coffee together.

4th July Our 50th Birthday Meeting. Our speaker will be Paul Harding. His subject will be Seaside Holidays.

19th July Visit to Kew Gardens organised by County. Arrangements will be confirmed at the June meeting

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Church  
~~~~~

Events at Alvechurch Library

This year's **Summer Reading Challenge is Mischief Makers**; celebrating the 80th anniversary of the much-loved comic, *Beano*. Your child can help Dennis, Gnasher and friends explore Beano town to find the mysterious buried treasure – with tons of fun along the way! The challenge launches on Saturday 23rd June and runs through to Saturday 22nd September. On the launch day we shall be holding activities at Alvechurch Library and at Croome Park in Worcestershire. Kev F Sutherland who writes and draws comics for The Beano, Marvel, and Dr Who will be there and giving some fantastic comic art masterclasses.

The Summer Reading Challenge is aimed at children 12 years and under and challenges them to read 6 library books over the summer. We have a brilliant range of new books, something to suit every child's interests. It's a great initiative that's keeps children's reading up through the summer. The library will be hosting Mischief Makers events throughout the summer so check out our Facebook page for more information. More fun and information can be found at www.mischief-makers.org.uk

Young Peoples Reward Card - A group of young volunteers and library staff at Alvechurch and Wythall Libraries are launching a young people's reward card. Visit Alvechurch or Wythall library and borrow a book and collect the stamps until your 6th visit to receive free rewards. We shall be launching this exciting youth led project soon, so keep an eye on our Facebook page for more information.

Young People's Volunteering - In May we launched the search for young volunteers and we still have a few places available. If you are aged 11 to 24 years there are opportunities to sign up to help with the Summer Reading Challenge at Alvechurch Library. With nearly 30 young volunteers giving over 350 hours last year, making it our most popular year to date, let's make this year even better. There are lots of opportunities to volunteer, from listening to children tell you about their favourite books to helping with events and displays. If you are interested please contact Sarah at alvechurchlib@worcestershire.gov.uk

Adult Learning - We still have a few places left on Understanding and Supporting People with Dyslexia. This two session workshop aims to provide learners with a detailed understanding of dyslexia and how it can affect people. Participants will learn key techniques to support people who have dyslexia and how to motivate and engage them. Running across two afternoons, Friday 29th June and Friday 6th July, 2.15pm – 4.45pm. £27.00 or free subject to conditions. Course number 15544. Booking is essential.

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The Ark Cafe



Our menu for June takes on a Summer flavour with a mix of hot and cold meals.

The menu for June is as follows:

June 7th	Cold Beef and a Choice of Salads
June 14th	Somerset Chicken
June 21st	Salmon and a Choice of Salads
June 28th	Somerset Chicken

We look forward to your continued support over the summer period.

Rowney Green Horticultural Society

Lindsay Smith writes...

We will not be holding our usual monthly meeting at The Village Hall on the second Thursday of the month, but we are pleased to advise everyone of several events that are taking place in June.

On 14th June there is an evening visit to David and Sarah's garden, Badgers Way, Ash Lane, Martin Hussingtree, WR3 8TB. The cost of the visit is £8.00 per person including refreshments. People will need to make their own way to the gardens for 7.00pm.

The Old Piggery will be holding Charity Garden Open Days from 29th June to 1st July 2.00pm until 6.00pm, entrance is £10.00 which includes sandwiches and full cream tea - everyone is welcome. The address is The Old Piggery, Weights Lane, Redditch B97 6RQ and is located at the top of Butlers Hill.

With regard to the Main Show which takes place on Saturday, 1st September 2018, you will find the schedule available on our website - www.rowneygreenhorticultural.co.uk, so please take a look and decide how many entries you would like to make.

Should you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact Lindsay Smith on 01527 592874.

Alvechurch Historical Society

Hilary Taylor writes...

The date of our next meeting is Monday 4th June, when Jo Roche will be speaking about *"The History of Abberley Hall and Clock Tower"*. Abberley Hall is a fine Victorian country house, Grade II* listed. Its clock tower is a prominent landmark on the A443 near Great Witley, Worcestershire. Jo, who has personal connections to Abberley Hall, has carried out extensive research into its history. She will take us back in time to catch a glimpse of a bygone era. This is the last meeting before the summer break.

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. Visitors are always welcome, just come along, or contact our chairman, Anne Humphries on 0121 445 5955.

Buildings Symposium

Sam Setchell Communications Officer writes...

On 13 June, the diocese will host a *'Buildings Symposium'* welcoming people from across the Church of England to look at the future of our church buildings and how they must change to survive.

Heritage Buildings and Community Support Officer, Andrew Mottram, said: *"An early outcome of the appointment of Place of Worship Support Officers (part funded by Historic England) was the recognition of the need to change the way church buildings are understood, used and managed. The recent 'Taylor Sustainability Review of Church Buildings' confirmed this need for change. However, there is still a great deal of work to be done to identify the most effective routes to success.*

Church buildings need to do more than just serve as places of worship if they are to survive the changing society in which they are located. Simply saving historic buildings because they are old is not enough; their roles both now and in the future, need to be considered from the very outset."

The one day symposium will share what has been learnt to date and also provide the opportunity for key leaders in the church and heritage sector to share their insights on what changes are necessary to secure the future of churches as places of mission. Speakers are coming from the Archbishops' Council, Heritage Lottery Fund and Historic England among others.

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Advanced Notice

**The popular annual Railway
Exhibition is on Saturday 14th July
at St Laurence Church**

Please reserve this date and come and join in the fun. There will be layouts of all types, from the ever intriguing Thomas, to the detail and sound of East Dene. There will be an O gauge test track, so you may be able to try an old engine!

There will be sales stalls for model railways of course, but in addition soft toys, hand made cards, crafts and collectables.

Most important there will be food!

Please come. It will all be in aid of our "windows fund"

**St Laurence
Women's Fellowship**

Jill Woolley writes...



In April we held our A.G.M when the committee was re-elected and we made plans for the next year. On June 27th we welcome back Virginia Davies with a 'Summer Time' flower demonstration (flowers to be raffled). On Tuesday August 21st we will once again hold a Charity Tea in aid of the Motor Neurone Society to support Hilary Hughes one of our members.

We meet in the Tanyard Centre on the 4th Wednesday of each month at 2pm. Come and join us- we have a good programme planned for the year ahead.

**Bellringers Table Top Sale
Thank You**

At the Bellringers Table Top Sale on Saturday 28th April, we raised an amount of £539.50.

Our grateful thanks to everyone who attended to make the event so successful.

Letter from the Bishop of Dudley

Modern Slavery

The roadside sign to have your car washed for £3 is so tempting. With busy lives, and when time is precious, this amount is small change. You can have your car cleaned in a few minutes by a team of people, generally from overseas, while you catch up on emails or read a magazine. For many of us it's a no-brainer.

Then you begin to hear that some car washes (although certainly not all) are places where the victims of modern slavery are forced to work. Along with nail bars, brothels, domestic service and horticulture, these are the places where people are found caught up in this vile trade in human beings. The trade includes children as well, often violently coerced into illegal activity, and there is a horrifying international trade in the poorest people having their organs trafficked for the benefit of people who are ill and wealthy enough.

If you thought slavery ended with William Wilberforce then think again.

Each and every human being is made in the image of God – the Imago Dei – so anything less than human flourishing is an affront to God. Any behaviour that values some human beings less than others, or exploits or abuses them, is contrary to God's will. This is why, as Christians, we must take a stand against modern slavery in all its forms. In such a way, we follow in the steps of Jesus in proclaiming release to the captives and letting the oppressed go free.

Working to combat modern slavery is the responsibility of us all. The Church of England's Clewer Initiative is working to bring these crimes to the attention of the wider public. It is also helping us to spot the signs that are there, often in plain sight before us, if only we had the eyes to see.

For further information about their work and what you can do to help, please see www.theclewerinitiative.org, and for indicators of trafficking, domestic servitude and labour exploitation, see their "spot the signs" page.

Together we can make a difference and banish the scourge of slavery in our midst.

Bishop Graham

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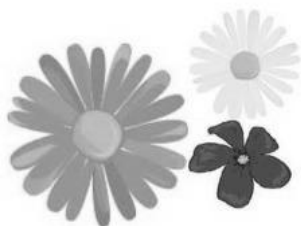
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Having A Spring Clear Out?

Colin Edwards writes..

Those unwanted items of bric-a-brac that could be of use and appreciation to others, or be an addition to collectors of interesting artefacts are welcome as donations. The fund raising efforts are in aid of local charities and good causes, and are organised by our local Estate and Letting Agents, HAVEN PROPERTY MANagements of Bear Hill.



Owner of Haven Colin Edwards said *'support of charitable efforts for any cause, reason or nature are very worthwhile however of late, it has been a thought that the smaller local charities and good causes which benefit local people or their deserving needs do struggle to raise financial support and awareness against the commercially competitive exposure and advertising undertaken by large national charities.*

Our efforts at Haven are primarily to raise much needed financial support and awareness to deserving residents of our Village, its charities and good causes, from the sale of donated ornaments and items of intrinsic interest from our Bear Hill office and show area.

*Currently those good causes intended to benefit from the proceeds of our efforts and monies raised from sales of donated items are the local charity **"The Lounge"** and **"County Air Ambulance"** it being considered both organisations provide much needed awareness and assistance to local people and deserve the generous support that local people are willing to give.'*

Interested persons and browsers are welcome to visit the offices and show area at Haven during all opening hours, and if you have any items of bric-a-brac or of intrinsic interest which you would like to donate please, either take them into the Haven Office at Bear Hill, or if you prefer, collection can be arranged by telephoning Haven 0121 445 5959. Your donated items will be gratefully received and your visits to browse very welcome.



The Midland Sinfonia

Saturday 23rd June 7.30pm
St Laurence Church, Alvechurch

Fret and Fiddle present **'And All That Jazz'**



Sally Minchin and her quartet played for us last season and were so enjoyed that they return to us with the addition of Steve Street on the drums. They play Stéphane Grappelli-style jazz and during the evening will perform a Gershwin Medley, Nature Boy, Mack the Knife, and other old and new favourites. A Bromsgrove Festival concert.

Tickets: on the door £14.50, in advance £13 from 'Gin & Pickles', The Square, Alvechurch or online at www.midlandsinfonia.co.uk

FT students and schoolchildren accompanying an adult free.

For more information: midlandsinfonia@gmail.com or 0121 447 7040.

Alvechurch WI

Pam Horsfield writes...

We had a very enjoyable evening in the village hall this month when Julie welcomed our WIA for the evening, Karen Worboys. After wishing several members a Happy Birthday and singing Jerusalem, Pam read thanks cards from two members who had received cards and flowers from our lovely caring members during difficult times. This is truly what being a WI friend is all about.

Information about village activities, and all the federation centenary events were read out. Pam Parker has a visit to the Swan Theatre, members can visit Coughton Court in July following a speaker from there, and in August we have a visit to Churchfields Farm in Droitwich where we're having afternoon tea.

Our Resolutions and AGM were lead very pleasantly by Karen. We voted unanimously to support the resolution on mental health. Our committee numbers remain as before, as one member is leaving and another member has joined us. We encourage any new member to see if they'd like to come on committee.

Julie has also agreed to stay as president, for which we are very pleased. She thanked all those who have helped throughout the year and gave a special thanks to Hilary Hughes for all the years visiting members who were sick and spending time with them. The evening ended with celebrating our 89th birthday with birthday cake and wine.

We meet as usual on the second Monday of the month at 7:30pm in Alvechurch Village Hall.

Parish Prayers

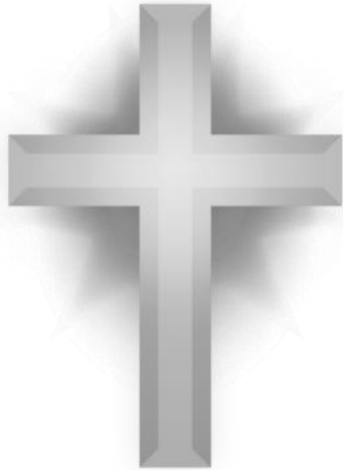
Prayers will be said at St Laurence Church for the residents of the following roads:

3 June – Weatheroak Hill

10 June – Willow Brook Road

17 June – Withybed Close

24 June – Withybed Green



Obituary for the late Patricia Davies

Jill Woolley writes...

The funeral of Mrs Patricia Davies was held at St. Mary's R.C Church on Wednesday May 2nd followed by Cremation in Redditch.

Pat was born in Alvechurch in January 1926 and was the second daughter of Mr and Mrs Colin Bartleet. Mr Bartleet was the Sub-postmaster in Alvechurch and Pat lived in the Post Office building and spent her childhood in the village attending the village school until she was 11 when she moved to Redditch High School. On leaving school she became a telephone operator in Redditch eventually becoming a Supervisor.

In 1959 she married John Davies who was also a village lad- he and Pat were in the same class at Alvechurch School. After their marriage Pat became Sub-Postmistress, as her father retired after 34 years service in the village. Pat and John worked together to build up the business that became the hub of village life, and also had charge of the Sorting Office and its staff of post men and post ladies, who were also familiar faces around the village. They had one son Antony who now lives in America with Alison and their three children Richard, Emily and Nicholas.

In 1982 Pat and John retired and sold the business that had been in the same family for nearly a 100 years. They moved to Callow Hill Road and before John died worked with Lorna Sage and Barbara Waller (both nee Coates) on two books about the Village and its personalities.

Flowers for JUNE

	3 June	10 June	17 June	24 June
Sanctuary			Jill Woolley	
Lady Chapel			Jill Woolley	
			In memory of her husband Ron Woolley	

My thanks to the ladies who have already offered to help in the next few weeks whilst I undergone surgery. However, I would appreciate extra help to insure that we have flowers every week during the summer. Many thanks.

Ann Thurrell
 0121 447 7668
 email : annthurrell@hotmail.co.uk



Funerals and Cremations

May they rest in the peace of Christ

25 April
 2 May

Brian Honour
 Patricia Davies

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 Ms Sue Phillips, Withybed Green, 445 3620 Mrs Helen Ayling, "Tarncroft", Hewell Lane, Vigo, 445 6176
Authorised Lay Ministers	Mrs Helena Allen, 445 5605 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 Mr Andy Notley, 445 5653 Mr Roger Wardle, 21 Brookside Close, B48 7LW, 445 0505
PCC Secretary	Mrs Lysandra Notley, ysnotley@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
Mum's the Word	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 Booking Secretary) & Grapevine advertising) Grapevine Editor)	Mr Ian Price, The Ark, School Lane, 447 7955 thearkalvechurch@yahoo.co.uk

PCC Special Responsibilities

Finance and Standing Committee

Graham Clark	Mick Fletcher
Alison Smith	Bob Dale
Janet Wright	

Children and Youth Committee

Martin Allen	Mick Fletcher
Thomas Birchall	Lynne Clark

Buildings, Fabric and Churchyard Committee

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

Peru and Missionary Committee

Sue Phillips	Dick Russell
Gordon Parsons	Margaret Haste
Sally Bubbers	Sue Lambert

Calendar for JUNE



- Monday 4 7.45pm Alvechurch Historical Society: Talk by Jo Roche: The History of Abberley Hall and Clock Tower: Museum, School Lane
- Wednesday 6 7.30pm Hillside WI: Talk by David Chatterley: *'The History of the Teddy Bear'*: The Ark
- Thursday 7 9.30am Mums The Word: The Ark
10.15am Tiny Tots Service: St Laurence Church: Sarah Linton
12.15pm Ark cafe: Cold Beef and a Choice of Salads
- Saturday 9 7.30pm The Gemini Choir: Concert of Popular Songs: (*proceeds to Rowney Green Shared Church*): Rowney Green Village Hall
- Monday 11 1.45pm Forget-Me-Nots: The Ark
7.30pm Alvechurch WI: Alvechurch Village Hall
- Thursday 14 9.30am Mums The Word: The Ark
12.15pm Ark cafe: Somerset Chicken
- JULY GRAPEVINE GOES TO PRESS** *Articles to thearkalvechurch@yahoo.co.uk*
- Tuesday 19 7.30pm PCC meeting: The Ark
- Thursday 21 9.30am Mums The Word: The Ark
12.15pm Ark cafe: Salmon and a Choice of Salads
- Saturday 23 7.30pm The Midland Sinfonia Concert: Fret & Fiddle: St Laurence Church
- Monday 25 1.45pm Forget-Me-Nots: Quiet Garden: Meet at Crown Pub car park
- Wednesday 27 2.00pm Alvechurch Women's Fellowship: Speaker Virginia Davies
Summer Time flower demonstration: Tanyard Centre Alvechurch
- Thursday 28 9.30am Mums The Word: The Ark
12.15pm Ark cafe: Somerset Chicken