

The Grapevine

THE PARISH MAGAZINE OF ST LAURENCE CHURCH ALVECHURCH



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OCTOBER 2016

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

At Rowney Green Shared Church

9.30am Methodist/Anglican Service

with Holy Communion on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month

DAILY SERVICE

9.00am Monday to Friday In St Laurence Church

ORGANISATIONS

Sunday Club	Sundays at 9.30am in the Church and Ark (445 1854)
Choir	Thursdays at 7.45pm in Church (445 3569)
Bellringers	Sundays at 10.30am and 5.30pm 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 at 9.30am in The Ark (07792535661) 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



Sue Philips writes...

News footage of refugee camps, boats packed with desperate people, grief stricken faces of those mourning loved ones, images of children left hungry for food, shelter and love, makes painful watching. Exposure to large scale suffering raises difficult questions for those of us who are personally untouched by the political situation or natural disaster behind the stories depicted.

'How can I respond to this?' we ask ourselves often with a feeling of hopelessness. A trip into a large city brings us into contact with rough sleepers. What is our response? How can we walk by unmoved?

Some of us respond by giving a small amount of money, food or time to each needy person who presents themselves to us. Some of us direct our giving to towards selected charities or causes, and hope our gift eventually hits target. According to the Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) World Giving Index, 2015 British people are among the most generous in the world, measured by the amount of time, money or number occasions they have helped a stranger.

How we share our resources is a very personal thing. The Church of England suggests that regular churchgoers give 5% of net income to maintain and grow our mission and ministry, which includes maintaining buildings and providing an income for those whose work in the Church is their only source of income. Yet even then there never seems to be enough to go round. So you may wonder how St Laurence, your local church, addresses wider world need. Apart from what individuals may choose to

give directly, as a worshipping community we know we can't respond to every situation so we choose a small number of causes to which we aim to make a significant difference. We get involved in various ways informing ourselves of their current objectives and needs through personal involvement and then we give, of our time, of our prayers and by giving a proportion of our income.

Top of our list comes the Anglican Diocese of Peru with its schools, feeding programmes and youth work, then Montgomery Heights children's home in Zimbabwe, and then there are local charities. We try to make our involvement as personal as possible, so that we come to understand the particular need and are assured that our money goes directly to the area of concern. We know for example that it costs \$7,000 per year to enable a priest in Peru to keep his family (just now they are all men!) and release him from the need to earn an income whilst conducting his ministry over the wide geographical area and a vast range of needs. At Montgomery Heights we know the economic situation is constantly threatening the most basic supplies of food and medicine.

So this year we've decided that we'd like to supplement our personal and corporate giving by holding a **Mission Funday** where we can learn more about these projects, at the same time as having fun and sharing delicious food. The Sunday morning services on **30th October** will include a focus on Peru and Zimbabwe, and then from 3:00pm in the ARK there will activities, stalls and a traditional afternoon tea with an international flavour. Do come and join us.

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St Laurence Women's Fellowship

Jill Woolley writes...



We started our Autumn programme with
a flower demonstration by Virginia Catley. It was good to
welcome her back.

Our next meetings are as follows -

**October 26 - Richard Churchley: From Elvis to Edburga
(Unusual Saints & Churches)**

November 23rd - David Howe: Magic or Humbug?

December 14th - Christmas Celebrations.

We meet in The Tanyard Centre on the 4th Wednesday
of each month and are always pleased to give a warm
welcome to visitors and new members. Come and join
us!

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Mission Funday

Sunday 30th October

Stalls with Peruvian flavour
Family fun with traditional Autumn
activities:

Apple bobbing, pumpkin carving
Afternoon tea choice of traditional
English, Peruvian or African menu
from 3:00pm - 6:00pm
In the ARK

All proceeds to support our Mission
partners in Peru and Zimbabwe




Memory Lane

For those living with memory loss because of age related reasons, depression, stroke, dementia etc.

In all cases a family member, carer or friend must accompany you. For further information please call one of our co-ordinators - Annette 0121 445 2993 / 07770816322 or Kate 0121 445 3899.

We meet on the third Wednesday of the month at The Baptist Church Hall in Alvechurch. It's just £3.50 which includes afternoon tea, 2.30pm to 4pm. At our next meeting on 19th October we will have floral displays from Debbie and Annette.



Website: www.newstarts.org.uk
Find us on Facebook. Type in NewStarts and look for the logo.

Meeting people at their point of need - NewStarts works in a number of areas: -

- Furnishing a home: we collect donated good quality furniture which is given free to vulnerable individuals and families in financial crisis to help them set up a home.
- Selling good quality furniture and household items at affordable prices: including white goods, PCs and laptops. All profit is ploughed back into the Project.
- Providing emergency food for those in dire need.
- Volunteering and work placement: Skills for a New Start gives people the opportunity to develop skills in a work environment which will help them to gain employment.
- Advice and signposting for people regarding benefits, housing and job search.

Phone: 01527 882410
E-mail: admin@newstarts.org.uk

Opening hours:
Mon-Fri: 9am-5pm
Saturdays: 10am-2pm

Re-use - furniture: Re-settle - people: Restore - communities

NewStarts operates the Food Bank to which we send the food we collect in Church but as you can see from the list above, they are involved in other ways to help and support people in need.

Please support them if you can.
Thank you.

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Messy Church is back in Alvechurch

Four Messy Church sessions are planned for the next 12 months. The dates and venues are as follows:-

Wednesday 5th October 2016

at Alvechurch Baptist Church

Saturday 26th November 2016

at The Ark, St Laurence's Church

Wednesday 22nd March 2017

at Alvechurch Baptist Church

Saturday 1st July 2017

at The Ark, St Laurence's Church



All sessions will be from 3.30pm - 5.30pm. More information will be given prior to each session and for further details please contact 0121 445 0505.

Fundraiser at the Baptist Church

Lloyd Wightman writes...

This will be on Friday October 21st at 7.30pm and will be a repeat of last year's very successful Community Choir Gala Concert featuring new performances not only by the Choir but also Fiona on the Harp, Withybed Poets, young vocal and musical talent from Church youngsters and solo and group items from Choir members.

Refreshments are included in the price (£8) Last year's Concert was a virtual sell out and we are hoping for similar support this year to boost our Sanctuary Fund.

Tickets are available from Lloyd (07769700645) and Fiona (447 7369) and you are asked to book early so we can judge refreshments required.

Parish Prayers

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

2 October – The Becks

9 October – The Buckleys

16 October – The Drive

23 October – The Gaunts

30 October – The Holloway



Climate Change

Jane Lavery cordially invites all readers of Grapevine to an event she has created, taking place at 4.00pm on Sunday 16th October at St. Mary's Church, School Lane, Alvechurch.

Afternoon teas will be served to promote awareness and discussion of Climate Change, how it affects us all, and what the government should be doing to achieve its targets. Sajid Javid (Member of Parliament for Bromsgrove & Secretary of State for Communities & Local Government) hopes to attend.

Rowney Green Flower Club

Our next meeting is on Thursday 27th October at 7.45pm, at the Peace Hall, Roney Green. We welcome demonstrator Shirley Henderson, the title of her presentation will be "A Night on the Town". The competition for the evening is "Tints and Tones". Note: This is a special evening with cheese and wine on offer.

Please come along and join your local friendly club. Flower arrangements are raffled at the end of the evening and tea, coffee and biscuits are served.

Contacts: Celia Hitch 0121 445 4824 and Clare Kenny 01527 66071.

Rowney Green Horticultural Society

Lindsay Smith writes...

Rowney Green Horticultural Society meets at the Peace Hall on the second Thursday each month at 7.30pm.

The meeting on October 13th our guest speaker will be Darren Rudge, award winning garden designer who will talk on "Garden Design including water features and containers". Guests are welcome - £3.50p including refreshments.

On October 19th a guided visit has been arranged to Bodenham Arboretum - cost £7.50p. Please contact Janet Barnett for more details on 01527 69299. For any other information please contact Lindsay Smith on 01527 592874.



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The Ark Café



It's nice to see all our regular customers again back at the Cafe for our Thursday lunchtime hot meals and we hope that you're enjoying them.

Our ongoing menu for October is as follows:

October 6th	Somerset Chicken
October 13th	Beef Carvery Lunch -Ticket Only £10
October 20th	Pork Casserole
October 27th	Half Term - Closed

Tickets £10 for the Beef Lunch for a very good value three course meal are available on a Thursday lunchtime at the Ark or alternatively from Ian Price at the Ark Monday to Friday 9am - 2pm on 447 7955.

We look forward to seeing you all there. Many thanks for your ongoing support.

The Midland Sinfonia celebrates 21 years and welcomes a new Music Director

Saturday 22 October 2016 7pm for 7.30pm

St Laurence Church, Alvechurch
Mozart – Quartet No.19 'Dissonance'
Bridge – Londonderry Air
Dvořák – Quartet in E flat

Join Nic Fallowfield, our new Music Director and 'Tedescas' resident Quartet of The Midland Sinfonia for a delightful evening of music and introduction.

Tickets: on the door £14.50, in advance £13 from The Village Green Grocer, Alvechurch or book online at www.midlandsinfonia.co.uk
FT students and schoolchildren accompanying an adult free. For more information:
midlandsinfonia@gmail.com or 0121 447 7040.

CAN YOU HEAR ME?

Pat Booth writes...

Communication is an essential part of our relationships! Those of us with a hearing loss speak too loudly and those without tend to mumble...according to our friends and family. So.....

WHOSE PROBLEM IS IT.....YOURS OR MINE?

You are welcome to join us, hearing and deaf, to explore the interaction between us and ways to make us all more aware.

DATE: WEDNESDAY 19TH OCTOBER 2016

TIME: 10.30AM - 12 NOON + LUNCH

VENUE: ALVECHURCH CRICKET CLUB BIRMINGHAM ROAD, ALVECHURCH

Alvechurch Historical Society

Hilary Taylor writes...

OUR NEXT MEETING is on **Monday 3rd October**, when we will be travelling back in time more than eighty years, for Robin Skerratt's talk "*Adventures with our 1933 Austin motor car*".

The following meeting will be on **Monday 7th November**.

The guest speaker at our September meeting was Ron Gallivan, who spoke about "*James Lancaster: Elizabethan Admiral or Pirate?*". Lancaster was both a pioneering naval explorer and an innovative entrepreneur. During the early years of the 17th century he was a founder of the East India Company, and also established the sea route to the spice islands. In short, he was both an admiral and a pirate.

AHS meetings are held on the first Monday of the month, at 7.45pm, in the museum on School Lane. Parking is available behind the Catholic Church, with their kind permission.

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

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Hillside at Alvechurch W.I

Cathy Taylor writes...



Alvechurch WI

Pam Horsfield writes...

Our September meeting was taken by Jacky Hollingworth as our President was on holiday. After welcoming members, Jacky asked Sue McLean to speak to us. Sue explained that it is with great sadness we have to report that one of our friends and a W.I. member, Ruth Wardle, died suddenly on 5th September. She had just joined the committee and was a valued member of the group, always ready to offer to help. We will all miss her greatly.

A Memorial Service and Celebration of Ruth's life will be held on Tuesday 27th September at 2pm at St Laurence's Church.

After the business was completed Vijay Mehay arrived to give a Bhangra Dance Lesson. He demonstrated the dance and accompanied it with his Bhangra drums. Every one enjoyed the lesson, including those who watched.

Future Events

Next Meeting 5th October

Yvonne Cocks will speak about her career as the first female paramedic in Hereford and Worcester.

Members are reminded that payment should be made for calendars and diaries 2nd November.

Craft Evening will take place on **Tuesday 22nd November** at 7.30 pm in the Ark. Monica Clarke will help us to make door hangings for Christmas.

Christmas Meal on Thursday **1st December** at Barnt Green Cricket Club, 7 for 7.30pm. Members are asked to pay £17 at the November meeting.

Alvechurch WI had a very successful September meeting, starting with the business part of the evening led by Denise Cashmore. Five members were celebrating birthdays and Brenda Lynch was thanked for the lovely table arrangement of roses.

Hilary Hughes asked for sponsorship for her granddaughter who is having her long hair cut in order to donate it to '*The Little Angels Wig Company*', with sponsor money going also to Where Next and two other charities. The evening fun then began by having a '*Tasting evening*' with lots of food brought by generous members for others to try. As well as that, a member of the Fire Service Hq. from Worcester came to answer any questions about fire risks in the home, including injuries from fires, and she encouraged us to check smoke alarms and detectors regularly and to remember, '*Think and Keep Safe*'. She was very good and Denise thanked her for all the useful advice she gave us.

Other events members can join in with are the **Jazz Concert** at the Ark on **Friday 21st October** and the Worcestershire WI **Christmas Shopping Trip** going to Bristol on **November 17th**.

Denise then thanked all members for their help at this meeting, especially as several committee members were away and other friends supported instead.

Our next meeting will be on **Monday October 10th** when we will be selling tickets for our **Christmas Party**....so don't forget your cheque books!

The Archbishop is coming!

Archbishop Justin in conversation with BBC Radio 2's Jeremy Vine on **Friday 7 October, 7pm** Worcester Arena WR2 5JN.



An opportunity to come and listen to the Archbishop talk about his life and faith '*in conversation*' with the BBC journalist, Jeremy Vine. Audience members will have the chance to ask questions and there will be a performance from a choir put together from local church schools. Tickets: £5 available from - www.ticketline.co.uk/the-archbishop-of-canterbury-inconversation

Please consider inviting your friends to this event! Jeremy Vine is presenter, broadcaster and journalist. He is best known as the host of his own BBC Radio 2 programme which presents news, views, interviews with live guests and popular music. He is known for his direct interview style, and exclusive reporting from war-torn areas throughout Africa.

Craft, stories and refreshments for families
Saturday 8 October, 1.30pm St Stephen's Church, Redditch B97 4DY.

Archbishop Justin will join this event for families, which will be based around the story of Jesus walking on water (Matthew 14: 22-36).

Bring the children to have a go at the crafts, play on the bouncy castle, listen to the story told by the Archbishop, and enjoy tea and cake together.

Youth Support Services celebrates 30 years

Sam Setchell Diocesan Communications Officer writes...

YSS is an independent charity which is very proud to be celebrating 30 years of providing mainly community based support services for people who are often vulnerable, have complex needs and who face difficult life challenges. Those supported include young carers (aged 7 -24), young people in custody (aged 10 -17) and adults coming out of prison.

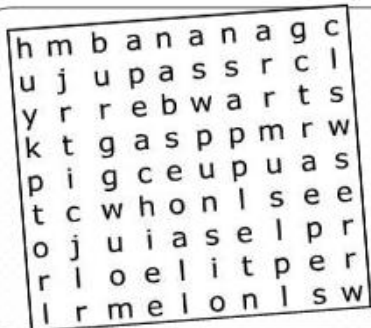
YSS started in 1986 as a multi-agency project called ISS (Intensive Support Scheme) hosted under the umbrella of the Worcester Diocesan Board for Social Responsibility with a management board consisting of Social Services, Youth Services, Education, Probation, Police and local Magistrates. The name changed to YSS in 1994 and in 2000 YSS was registered as an independent charity and company limited by guarantee. They now reach over 2000 people a year across West Mercia & Warwickshire and have 50 staff and over 150 volunteers.

YSS is often described as being '*the glue*' between people at risk of being socially isolated and wider mainstream society by delivering support services that are focused on achieving positive life outcomes. Staff and volunteers work mainly out in the community at times and places that suit the service users. They are passionate about what they do and will always go the extra mile to make a difference.

To find out more about YSS please visit: www.yss.org.uk



Fruit and Vegetable Puzzles



Fruit Hunt

- | | |
|--------|------------|
| banana | pear |
| melon | peach |
| grape | Kiwi |
| apple | strawberry |

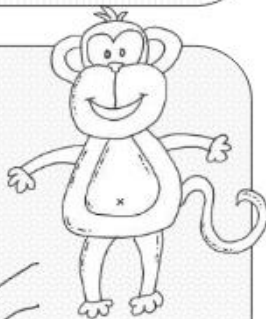
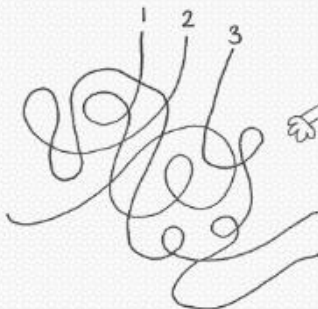
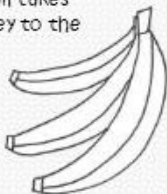
Count the Strawberries

How many are there?



Monkey Maze

Which trail takes the monkey to the bananas?





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Important information for continuing to receive your FREE COPY of THE GRAPEVINE

A big debt of gratitude is owed to those who have faithfully delivered The Grapevine around the parish over the years: after 11 years of successfully co-ordinating this – and indeed delivering many copies of The Grapevine themselves – Barbara Scane and Dick Russell have retired from this demanding role; others, who have also freely given of their time and energy during their retirement to deliver The Grapevine, are also laying down this responsibility. On behalf of all those who have appreciated reading The Grapevine, a very big thank you to both Barbara and Dick and all their helpers for their cheerful and enthusiastic hard work in delivering The Grapevine over many years.

Following canvassing readers' opinions through a questionnaire in June's edition of The Grapevine, new arrangements are being put in place for collection of The Grapevine after this month's edition. In future, so you can be sure of receiving your copy of The Grapevine, you will be able to collect a copy at one of the following places in the village:

1. The Library
2. The Lounge
3. Imagination Hair Studio
4. The Post Office
5. The Village Greengrocers and Florist

The Grapevine will also be on-line at - www.alvechurch-stlaurence.org/monthly-magazine, and there will of course be copies available in St Laurence's and in The Ark. As regards Rowney Green, the current delivery arrangements are continuing.

Thank you for your cooperation during this transition, so that we may continue to produce The Grapevine for the parish free of charge.

If there are any questions as we go through this transition, please contact Ian Price in our church office on 447 7955 or thearkalvechurch@yahoo.co.uk

Trad Jazz at The Ark

Basin St Blues; Riverboat Shuffle; South Rampart Street Parade - ring any bells?



Photos by Andy May

To all you followers of trad jazz, a great night of foot-tapping music awaits you on **Friday, 21st October at 7.30pm**, featuring the **Sauce City Jazzmen**.

Tickets £10 obtainable from either The Village Greengrocer or Margaret on 0121 445 1854.

Bar available and all proceeds to The Stained Glass Windows Appeal.

All Kilts and Bag Pipes!



Rather than bells, it was Bag Pipes that sang out over Alvechurch when Anne Smallman married Malcolm Mackenzie resplendent in his clan tartan. The bride is General Manager for a Telecommunications company and the groom, a Forklift Truck Instructor.

The couple met 16 years ago when Malcolm was on a course run by Anne but romance didn't blossom until they met again in 2013 culminating in their wedding ceremony in St Laurence Church on 2nd July this year.



The bride was piped into church on her son, Tom's arm attended by her chief bridesmaid, daughter Laura who was ably assisted by bridesmaids, Hannah and Becca, daughters of Malcolm's nephew and Best Man, Vincent Lynch. Friends of the couple, Ashley Wilson and Ashley Hewitt were ushers welcoming the guests as they arrived. In a change from the usual, it was the bride who wore the trousers with Anne elegant in her gold individually made jamavaar trouser suit with gold embroidery and pearl buttons, complemented by a cream cotton net inner shirt.

The couple made their vows to each other in a moving ceremony conducted by Revd. Richard Bubbers, Priest in Charge at St Laurence Church. A local charity group, Indigo Arts, sang for the guests during the signing of the registers before Mr & Mrs Mackenzie were piped out of church to begin their new life together in their Redditch home.

The reception was held in the Ark adjoining the church before the couple went off to spend a few days in Ardrossan, in Scotland. They still have their second honeymoon to look forward to as they plan to spend 3 weeks in New Zealand in January.

Congratulations Helen & Tim



On Saturday, 11th June, following their civil ceremony at The Bromsgrove Hotel, Tim and Helen had their wedding blessed by Revd Richard Bubbers. As an Agnostic and usually only entering a church when paid to do so, Tim felt at ease with the Blessing, much of which was due to Richard's concerns for him and his beliefs.

Tim and Helen walked up the isle together as husband and wife. Once outside, the earlier rain had cleared and we were able to have our photographs taken at St Laurence. Following this, the wedding party returned to The Bromsgrove Hotel for their wedding breakfast, before heading to Bromsgrove Rugby Club for an evening party.

Deana Stockwell, Helen's best friend since their primary school days, was her "dresser", ably assisted by Deana's daughter, Kate, and Helen's Mum, Catherine.

Helen wore a deep purple dress and bolero jacket, which co-ordinated with Tim's cravat and that of her two sons which all three of them had kept as a complete surprise!

Due to Tim's occupation as a professional photographer (no he didn't take our photographs!) we spent a three day mini-moon in the Cotswolds before returning to our home in Vigo.

Gravedigger of the year

Sue Phillips writes...

The other day I met our gravedigger David Homer. I learned that this cheerful and helpful man has just received Gravedigger of the Year Award. I just had to share his story.

David Homer is 'made up' after being named as the UK's Gravedigger of the Year at the funeral industry's 'Oscars'. The Good Funeral Awards ceremony was attended by the leading lights of the undertaking profession, including those entrusted with laying Royals to rest. But it was the down-to-earth, former Able Seaman who received the biggest cheer of the day at the posh Porchester Hall venue.

David, from Measham in Leicestershire, began his working life as a miner digging coal before transferring his skills to graves. In between, he enjoyed a spell as a fireman and served on the Ark Royal and HMS Chatham. During his time in the Navy he saw active service in the Gulf War and Northern Ireland.

Being in a war situation shaped his deeply respectful attitude towards death. Outside work the Leicester City fan lives life to the full and

loves to clown around. But when he picks up his spade he is deadly serious about his business.

"I dig every grave by hand because I don't think it's right to have mini diggers disrupting the peace in churchyards. I think the reason I won this is because of the way I dress up graves. I have my own style and standards. It's not a hole – it's somebody's final resting place and it's got to be perfect for them", said David.

The organisers of the national awards describe grave digging as a 'Cinderella' type service: *"No one sees the grave being dug and it's rare for anyone to stay and see it filled in. The unsung heroes who do this work take immense care to make a grave, which can have a very stark and frightening look, appear easier on the eye. What no one knows is that the best gravediggers make a connection with the people whose graves they dig. This work affects them. They never forget. And this is what inspires them to do the best job they can".*

So next time you're in the Churchyard, keep your eyes open for the man with the spade and be ready to offer him your congratulations.

Courtesy of Enigma Communications.

Obituaries

Hazel Hanks 23/12/24 - 25/08/16

Hazel was born on 23rd December 1924 in Moseley, Birmingham. She was the youngest of 3 children - Joan, Percy and Hazel. She attended an all girls grammar school in Moseley of which she was very proud, as she was very academic.

She moved to Snake Lane in Alvechurch when she left school and her fathers' job at the BSA was re-located to Redditch. She met her husband, John, when he was delivering the milk, as his family owned the local dairy in Meadow Lane. Their courtship flourished, and they spent many hours dancing in the village hall. John was in the Marines, and whilst he was away at war Hazel became involved with the Hanks family milk round, delivering milk on a horse drawn milk float to all the surrounding areas including Barnt Green, and Rowney Green. She had several other jobs prior to getting married, one of them being in the offices at the "*Flexible*" Manufacturing Company, located in Tanyard Lane.

Hazel and John married in St Laurence's in June 1945, and locals are reported to have said that it was the "*prettiest*" wedding they can remember. They moved into Red Lion Street after the wedding 71 years ago, sharing this large house with another local family, the Scanlons. As their family grew the Scanlons moved out leaving the Hanks family there until the present day.

Hazel and John went on to have a family of 9 children, 6 boys and 3 girls to which she gave her life, often juggling two jobs as well as keeping house and bringing up the children. Although it was a hard life they always had an annual holiday in North Wales and a hot meal on the table every day, even for any unexpected guests - the door was always "*open*". Other jobs included working nights at Blackwell Recovery Hospital, a local convalescent home, delivering meat for Crows the butchers, and working for Woolworths in Redditch on the sweet counter - though none of her children remembers her bringing any free samples home! After the death of John 23 years ago,

Hazel was happy to spend her time around her home and family: she was immensely proud of them all, and this included her 12 grandchildren and 9 great grandchildren.

Although she was a home-bird, she still liked the trips abroad, which she was still able to enjoy until fairly recently, but was always happy to return to the family home. Hazel's association with St Laurence's lasted over many years: her faith was important to her. At one time her family made up a large part of the choir. Hazel always had a good word to say about people. She was a very kind person. Hazel lived life to the full, and is going to be greatly missed by her family and friends, and all those who had the pleasure of knowing her. Her funeral was taken by Revd Richard Bubbers at St Laurence church followed by a committal service at Redditch Crematorium on 8th September.

Howard Graham Fowke 21/9/39 – 12/8/16

Howard Graham Fowke, husband of Ruth and father of Carol, Howard and Graham, died on 12th August aged 76. Howard was a much loved person and a real family man. He was a toolmaker by trade, an Aston Villa fan and a great DIY expert. He loved all eight of his grandchildren and will be sorely missed by his mates from Turner Bros. where he served his apprenticeship and then never took a day off sick. He loved his garden shed where he could fix almost anything, his outings to the Villa, and times with his large family. He was a good raconteur and he liked to party!

Friends and family turned out in droves to his funeral held at St Laurence church on 28th August. It was here that grandchildren Vicky, Maia, Sam, Jake, Finn, Ed, Tilly and Alfie shared their moving eulogies, and sons Graham and Howard shared memories and stories of their Dad, whilst Carol made her tribute in song, singing the Old Rugged Cross with the choir from St Anne's Church West Heath. Sue Phillips led the service and we sang Amazing Grace and Jerusalem. After a cremation at Redditch crematorium the gathering at the Rose and Crown went on for many hours. Our thoughts and prayers are with Ruth and the whole family.

Flowers for OCTOBER

	2 October	9 October	16 October	23 October	30 October
Sanctuary			Ann & Tom Thurrell		Simon Head & Kelly Chiang
Lady Chapel			Ann & Tom Thurrell		Simon Head & Kelly Chiang
			To celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary		Wedding

I am struggling to find new offers of help for providing and arranging flowers in church.

If you have never arranged flowers in church before I am very happy to offer some guidance. I have a variety of vases and plenty of equipment and arrangements can be as simple or elaborate as you are able.

Please think about whether you could assist me in this pleasurable task.

Ann Thurrell
0121 447 7668

From The Registers



Baptisms

We welcome you into the Lord's family

28 August Holly Mae Priest



Funerals and Cremations

May they rest in the peace of Christ

25 August Howard Graham Fowke
8 September Hazel Hanks

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
Authorised Lay Ministers	Mrs Helena Allen, 117 Birmingham Road, 445 5605 Mr Martin Allen, 117 Birmingham Road, 445 5605 Mrs Philippa Brakes, 56 Callow Hill Road, 445 3983 Mr Graham Clark, The Coach House, School Lane, 445 2547 Mrs Lynne 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 Ms Gloria Wilson, 11 Bear Hill Drive, 445 1854
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, 38 The Buckleys, B48 7NF Mr Roger Wardle, 21 Brookside Close, B48 7LW, 445 0505
PCC Secretary	Mrs Lysandra Notley, 38 The Buckleys, B48 7NF
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 Natalie Wise, 07792535661
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

Task Committee

Mick Fletcher	Dick Russell
Graham Clark	Sue Phillips

Peru and Missionary Committee

Sue Phillips	Dick Russell
Gordon Parsons	Margaret Haste
Sally Bubbers	

Calendar for OCTOBER



Monday 3	1.45pm 7.45pm	Forget-Me-Nots: The Ark Alvechurch Historical Society: Talk: <i>"Adventures with our 1933 Austin Motor Car"</i> : Robin Skerratt: Museum, School Lane
Wednesday 5	7.30pm	Hillside WI: Talk by Yvonne Cocks, the first female paramedic in Hereford and Worcester: The Ark
Thursday 6	9.30am 12.15pm 10.00am	Mums The Word: The Ark Ark Café: Somerset Chicken Tiny Tots Service: Taken by Sarah Linton: St Laurence Church
Monday 10	7.30pm 7.30pm	Ark Angels WI: The Ark Alvechurch WI: Alvechurch Village Hall
Thursday 13	9.30am 12.15pm 7.30pm	Mums The Word: The Ark Ark Café: Beef Carvery Lunch - Ticket only Rowney Green Horticultural Society: Talk by Darren Rudge on garden design: Peace Hall, Rowney Green
Friday 14		NOVEMBER GRAPEVINE GOES TO PRESS Articles to thearkalvechurch@yahoo.co.uk
Sunday 16	4.00pm 4.00pm	Thanksgiving Service: St Laurence Church Climate Change Awareness discussion: with Afternoon Tea: St Marys, School Lane, Alvechurch
Monday 17	1.45pm	Forget-Me-Nots: The Ark
Wednesday 19	10.30am 2.30pm	CAN YOU HEAR ME? Communication forum: Alvechurch Cricket Club, Birmingham Road, Alvechurch Memory Lane: Floral displays: Alvechurch Baptist Church hall
Thursday 20	9.30am 12.15pm	Mums The Word: The Ark Ark Café: Pork Casserole
Friday 21	7.30pm	Jazz Concert - Trad Jazz featuring Sauce City Jazzmen: The Ark
Saturday 22	7.30pm	The Midland Sinfonia welcomes a new Music Director : Tedesca' resident quartet: St Laurence Church
Wednesday 26	7.30pm	St Laurence Women's Fellowship: Talk by Richard Churchley: From Elvis to Edburga (Unusual Saints & Churches)
Thursday 27	9.30am 7.45pm	Mums The Word: The Ark No Café today Rowney Green Flower Club: With Demonstrator Shirley Henderson: Peace Hall, Rowney Green
Sunday 30	3.00pm (up until 6pm)	Mission Funday: Activities, stalls and afternoon tea: The Ark

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