

The Grapevine

THE PARISH MAGAZINE OF ST LAURENCE CHURCH ALVECHURCH



March 2014

Online at www.alvechurch-stlaurence.org

St Laurence Church Alvechurch

SUNDAY SERVICES

8.00.am Holy Communion

9.30.am Family Service

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

11.00.am Parish Eucharist

6.00.pm Evensong

At Rowney Green Shared Church

9.30.am Methodist/Anglican Service

with Holy Communion on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month

DAILY SERVICE

9.00.am Monday to Friday

In St Laurence Church

ORGANISATIONS

Sunday Club	Sundays at 9.30.am in the Church and Ark (445 1854)
Choir	Thursdays at 7.45.pm in Church (445 3569)
Bellringers	Sundays at 10.30.am and 5.30.pm Tuesday Practice at 7.30.pm (01527 64077)
Women's Fellowship	4th Wednesday of the month at 2.00.pm in Tanyard Lane Community Centre (445 2125)
Mum's the Word	Thursdays at 9.30.am in The Ark (07773509390) Tiny Tots Service 10.15.am 2nd Thursday of the month
Ark Café	Thursdays during term time at 12.15.pm (447 7017)
Home Group	Thursday, 7.30.pm at the Coach House (445 2547)
Messy Church	Quarterly on a Saturday in The Ark (445 1985)

THE ARK

Enquiries to Ian Price 0121 447 7955

Registered as a Charity in England and Wales: Charity Number 1131783

Andy & Anne Humphries Write...



Last month Philippa Brakes wrote about our *"Church on the Hill"* and we thought we should talk about the land that surrounds it....the churchyard, or God's Acre.

Thousands of villagers have been buried there over hundreds of years in graves covering 4 acres, making it one of the largest churchyards in Worcestershire. Churchyards like ours are a key element of Christian heritage but they are also havens for flora and fauna. Our maintenance team tries to enhance the churchyard for wildlife and make it a place of beauty and spiritual reflection for individual families and the local community. It's a natural balance between extreme tidiness and nature conservation....and always at the mercy of the English weather !

Responsibility for maintaining individual graves lies with the family of the bereaved but wider maintenance is carried out by a dedicated team of volunteers who mow and trim through Spring and Summer ...and cut back trees and hedges in Autumn and Winter. Their work is supported by local Community (formerly Probation) Service Groups who do a superb job on the difficult sloping areas along Bear Hill. The overall task is challenging ...and we're always looking for an extra pair of hands !

The oldest easily-readable grave near the large yew tree dates back to 1753 (Richard Royal), other notable graves include that of

Archdeacon Sandford, who commissioned the 1861 restoration, the Gaunt family (local doctors), the Boulton family and a memorial cross commemorating the Windsor / Clive family of Hewell Grange. Thomas Cooper, bricklayer and Shakespearean actor is remembered, as is Martha Harber - held in such great esteem by her neighbours that they produced a booklet about her after her death in 1904. There are 7 war graves in the churchyard....3 from the First World War and 4 from the Second (six of traditional Portland stone and one a family grave); the Alvechurch War Memorial is inside the church.

Most of the inscriptions show local place names.....Scarfields Farm, Lightwoods, Lea End, Rowney Green but others show faraway places of birth or death....a son interred in Melbourne, Australia; a wife born in Toronto in 1857, another in Cape Town in 1867. A son born in Brooklyn, New York, a wife born and died in Charlottesville, Virginia; a man who was Chief Engineer to the Public Works Department in India.

Whether they have a memorial stone or not, or were unknown even at the time of burial (early registers have entries such as *"a poore boye found dead this morning in a barowe of Thomas Porter's"* or *"a poor walking man which was not knowne"*) all have found their final rest in this green and peaceful place.



Huntleys Funeral Services

Serving your community for 130 years

Your local family orientated funeral directors
of distinction, offering a traditional and caring
service with attention to detail

FOR 24 HOUR IMMEDIATE
ATTENTION

01527 892900



12 Feckenham Road

Astwood Bank

Branch also at

58 Ipsley Street, Redditch

01527 62106

Providers of the Perfect Choice Funeral Plan

Spring View Care Nursing Home



Spring View Care provides small
homely nursing home where our
residents are at the heart of
everything. We aim to provide
nursing homes where we ourselves
would be happy to stay.

We operate two high quality Nursing
Homes:

1: Grosvenor House in Alvechurch

2: Tutnall Hall in Bromsgrove

To arrange a visit call

Tel: 0121 445 0033

www.springviewcare.co.uk

N.B.JAMES

Ground works
contractor

All types of work undertaken

Foundations,

Soakaways,

Ponds,

Drives,

Drainage,

Fencing,

Decking.



Ring Nigel

07974960366

Events At Alvechurch Library

Caren Battle writes...

With the first shoots of spring emerging, why not brush up on your skills? Alvechurch Library is hosting a week of bite-size taster sessions, starting on Monday 17th March running until Friday 21st March.

On Monday 17th from 2pm until 3pm why not pop in and have a chat with a member of library staff to see how to get the best from the fabulous library website? We can show you how to search for your favourite books, learn about downloading EBooks and much more.

On Tuesday 18th from 11.30am until 12.30pm join our computer tutor for a series of bite-size sessions on how to best use your email and search the web.

On Thursday 20th from 2pm until 4pm join our qualified careers advisor for a series of bite-sized sessions on careers advice and interview techniques.

On Friday 21st March we will be holding a 'Container Gardening' session. Develop skills to plan outdoor areas, design and plant up containers. 10am - 12.30pm, £10. If gardening is not your thing, how about painting? We are holding a 'Watercolour Painting' workshop, this is a general introduction for beginners and those with limited experience. The watercolour painting workshop will be held in the afternoon between 1.30pm and 4.00pm, £10.

Please call Alyson Williams in Alvechurch library on 01905 822722 to book a place on any of the above sessions.

Rowney Green Horticultural Society

The Society meets at Rowney Green Village Hall on Thursday, 13th March, at 7.30pm for 7.45pm start.

The talk this month will be presented by John Spears, an expert Orchid Grower.

Guests are always welcome, at £3.50 including refreshments.

More details from Janet Barnett on 01527 62262.

Weight Watchers In The Ark



Weight Watchers is coming to Alvechurch

Come along and join us at The Ark
Tuesday 18th March 9.30am and 5.30pm
We look forward to meeting you!
Contact Jennie 07446363196

Alvechurch Village Society

Ray Yarnell writes...

Alvechurch Village Society would like to thank everyone for their support of the Xmas Party and New Year Quiz events. £180 and £361 was raised for The Lounge and the Village Hall respectively.

The next event in the programme is the Annual General Meeting, followed by entertainment. This is to be held in the village hall at 7.45 pm on 19th March 2014. If you wish to raise any issue at the meeting, please contact AVS before 19th March.

The March walk will be led by Keith Williams (0121 445 6577) at 2.30pm on Sunday 2nd March, and is "A stroll along the Droitwich towpaths" meeting at the Droitwich Spa Marina.

The April walk will be led by Sue Phillips (0121 445 3620) at 2.30pm on Sunday 6th April, and is "A walk around Hanbury" meeting at the Pipers Hill Woods car Park (OS ref 957652 --postcode B60 4AS).

St Laurence Women's Fellowship

Jill Woolley writes...

Come and join us at the Tanyard Community Centre at 2.00pm on March 26th, when once again we will welcome Virginia David who will entertain us with a flower arranging demonstration.

The afternoon ends with tea and biscuits and a time to chat.

"Rectory Cottage Bed and Breakfast" Old Rectory Lane, Alvechurch

offers
warm and welcoming accommodation,
with super breakfasts and attractive,
spacious bedrooms.



Contact Celia on
0121 445 4824, or visit our website
[www. rectorycottage-alvechurch.co.uk](http://www.rectorycottage-alvechurch.co.uk)



WHERE NEXT ASSOCIATION

Garden Centre

Opening hours

Mon-Fri 9 to 5, Sat 10 to 4

Woodwork

Packing / assembly

Landscaping / maintenance

Support your local charity which offers people
with special needs the opportunity to
experience the real world of work.

Wellesbourne Close
Easemore Road, Redditch
B98 8ER
01527 69955



KenDry

**Eco-Friendly Carpet
Cleaning That
Doesn't Cost The Earth**

**Ken Wainwright
of
Alvechurch**

0121 445 4247

www.kendry.co.uk

PHOTOGRAPHIC RESTORATION

HIGH RESOLUTION
DIGITAL VERSIONS OF
YOUR OLD
PHOTOGRAPHS
FULL RESTORATION OR
CLEAN UP AND REPAIR
LOCAL BUSINESS/VERY
AFFORDABLE PRICES

FOR A FREE QUOTE
CALL OR EMAIL
DOMINIC ON
07466488473
partyportraits@hotmail



THE LAWNS
RESIDENTIAL CARE

Exceptional quality
accommodation for senior
adults and the elderly.

24 hour care from
professional, caring staff.

All set within beautiful
gardens and terraces.

School Lane, Alvechurch, B48 7SB
Tel: 0121 445 4098
Fax: 0121 445 4544
www.thelawnscare.co.uk

Kathryn Collinson

BA Hons, BEd Hons, ALCM

Lessons
from
20 minutes
to
1 hour



Music tuition – All Styles

- Classical, Bass and Electric Guitar
- Piano and Keyboard
- For exams or just for fun

Maths and English Tuition

- SATS / confidence building
- Special needs
- Ages from 5-11 years

Tel: 0121 445 3523

The Midland Sinfonia

7th Young Musicians' Showcase

Sunday 16th March 2014, 3pm
St Laurence Church, Alvechurch B48 7SB

Tickets: **no charge** ~ donations appreciated

Sponsored by Arch Media and St Laurence Church

T.M.S encourages young musicians up to 18 years by
annually offering a platform to perform, to gain valuable
experience and confidence.

Please give these talented young musicians your support
For more details contact Marian Barwell.
marian@midlandsinfonia.co.uk or 0121 447 7040
www.midlandsinfonia.co.uk

And also

Saturday 5th April 2014, 7.30pm
The Ark, St Laurence Church, Alvechurch, B48 7SB

Presents

Serenata Winds

Neil Aston, clarinet; Clare-Louise Appleby, flute; Simon
Dewhurst, oboe; Cath Butler, horn; Alison Brierley, bassoon
playing a wide range of English music plus
'*Music for a Royal Heir*' premier of Central Composers
Alliance variations on '*Sosban Fach*' written to celebrate the
birth of Prince George.

Tickets: on the door £13. In advance £12 from The Village
Green Grocer Alvechurch
FT students £5, children free when accompanied by an adult
Or reserve tickets on our website
www.midlandsinfonia.co.uk

For further information marian@midlandsinfonia.co.uk
0121 447 7040.



Now also on Tuesdays

at

2 pm - 4 pm



play games, socialise and meet friends

£5.00 each visit

Refreshments provided

**suitable for people with special needs,
parents and carers**



(Hub Club also on Thursdays 10 am - 12 pm)

For more information contact:

01527 69330 or nickylevy5@btconnect.com

Where Next Hub

Unit 2a, Millsborough House

Ipsley Street, Redditch B98 7AL

Charity No 517248



MUSIC WORKSHOP



Monday sessions on:

3rd, 24th and 31st March 7th and 28th April

26th May 2nd and 23rd June

7th and 28th July 4th August

8th and 29th September 6th October

3rd and 24th November 8th December

1.30 - 2.30 pm

£7.00 per session

Instruments Supplied

(Designed for people with special needs but all welcome)

Booking Essential

Phone now or email to book your place on

01527 69330 or nickylevy5@btconnect.com

Where Next Hub

Unit 2a, Millsborough House

Ipsley Street, Redditch B98 7AL

Charity No 517248



James Giles & Sons

**A FAMILY OWNED FUNERAL DIRECTORS
ESTABLISHED 1916**

**Serving all communities
with dignity and
understanding**

- Private Chapel of Rest
- Day and Night Service
- Woodland Burial
- Golden Charter and Help the Aged Funeral Plans
- Catering and Floral Tributes

Telephone 01527 872318

24 Stourbridge Road

Bromsgrove, Worcs, B61 0AE



The Leys Residential Home

Old Birmingham Road

Alvechurch B48 7TQ

**Offering a warm, welcoming and caring
environment for later years.**

**For further information, or to arrange
a visit, please call**

0121 445 5587

Private Tuition

for 5 - 11 year olds

English and Maths

and

**Piano lessons for
beginners**

**Please call Jennifer,
an experienced
primary school
teacher on**

0121 445 1947

J & D Mason

— OPTICIANS —

Providing Quality Eyecare
For Over 30 Years

Selected Designer Frames
HALF PRICE

23 The Square
Alvechurch
B48 7LA
0121 447 8682

harlequinprint
limited

- Letterheads
- Brochures
- Business cards
- Leaflets
- Labels
- Flyers
- Envelopes

Full Design
& Print Service

www.harlequinprint.co.uk
Email: sales@harlequinprint.co.uk

0121 459 3454

26 Castle Road, Kings Norton Business Centre
Birmingham B30 3HZ



Burcot Grange Residential Care Setting for the Elderly

A unique blend of luxury country house living and quality forward thinking care. Burcot Grange is the perfect place for retirement living.

Long term care

Individually designed independent living
suites

Short stay convalescent and holiday
accommodation

For more information or to arrange a visit
go to www.burcotgrange.com
Burcot Grange, 23 Greenhill, Burcot,
Bromsgrove, Worcestershire, B60 1BJ.
0121 445 5552 admin@burcotgrange.com

Ark Café



The Ark café continues to be open for hot lunches in March and will close for its Easter break after the lunch on 3rd April.

The menu will be as follows -

March 6 – Somerset Chicken

March 13 – Roast Lamb

March 20 – Roast Pork

March 27 – Beef Casserole

April 3 – Beef Carvery Lunch (SOLD OUT)

We look forward to your support.

The Women's World Day Of Prayer

Jill Woolley writes...

W.W.D.P. is an international organisation of many years standing. Each year Christian women from countries across the world plan the service. This year the service has been drawn up by the women of Egypt - a country in turmoil with Christians under threat.

Over the years countries from every continent across the globe have been represented. On the Day Of Prayer the first service is held in islands south of New Zealand and throughout the day they progress from south to north following the sun until the last service is held north of Alaska. A huge wave of prayer of which our service in Alvechurch is a tiny but important part.

Please join us if you can at St Marys R.C. Church in School Lane at 2.00pm on March 7th. Our speaker will be Sister Anna O'Connor. Refreshments will be available. All are welcome, women, men and young people.

Lenten Poem by Ann Weems

Lent is a time to take time to let the power
 of our faith story take hold of us,
 a time to let the events get up
 and walk around in us,
 a time to intensify our living unto Christ,
 a time to hover over the thoughts of our hearts,
 a time to place our feet in the streets of
 Jerusalem or to walk along the sea and
 listen to his Word,
 a time to touch his robe
 and feel the healing surge through us,
 a time to ponder and a time to wonder....
 Lent is a time to allow
 a fresh new taste of God!
 Perhaps we're afraid to have time to think,
 for thoughts come unbidden.
 Perhaps we're afraid to face our future
 knowing our past.
 Give us courage, O God,
 to hear your Word
 and to read our living into it.
 Give us the trust to know we're forgiven
 and give us the faith
 to take up our lives and walk.



Hopwood Ladies Cycling Club

Presents

A Night to Remember

A Musical Extravaganza

Proceeds to **The Haven** and **Macmillan**

Saturday 15 March 2014 at 7.00pm

The Ark
 School Lane
 Alvechurch
 B'ham B48 7SB



Adults ~ £7

Under 12s ~ £4

Tickets ~ 07751415388

Doors open at 6.30pm

Delicious savouries,
 homemade cakes & beverages
 available from 6.30pm.

Tickets on door from 6.30pm.



"Around 320
 tasty frozen
 meals
 delivered direct
 to your door.
 (Not all at once,
 that would be
 greedy!)"

Call: 01384 262555

Stourbridge@wiltshirefarmfoods.co.uk

For your free Brochure....

THE VILLAGE ELECTRICIAN

NJM
 Electrical Ltd



DESIGN SUPPLY INSTALL MAINTAIN



Call Nathaniel Martin:

01527 878316

M: 07791 923459

www.njmelectrical.com

Commercial - Domestic - Industrial

**Quality Carpenter
 & Joiner**

For all your building
 needs, Furniture, Fire
 Surrounds & fittings

RICHARD BENNETT

Peacehaven, Grange
 Lane, Alvechurch,
 Birmingham, B48 7DJ

Phone: 01527 66774
 Mobile: 07966229582

D SEELEY AND COMPANY

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS AND
REGISTERED AUDITOR
40 BEAR HILL, ALVECHURCH
TELEPHONE 0121 445 2445
Email: dseeley.co@btinternet.com

*We offer a comprehensive service
including book-keeping, payroll, VAT,
accounts and taxation for sole traders,
partnerships, charities and
limited companies*

Contact David or Susan Seeley to discuss
how we can help you
Registered to carry out Audit work by the
Institute of Chartered Accountants in
England & Wales

THOMAS BROTHERS

Funeral Directors

**Prepayment Plan,
Private Chapels,
"Woodland Burial"
24 hour Personal Service**

*A family-owned funeral directors
offering a friendly, dignified service,
paying attention to detail.*

12A Red Lion Street
Alvechurch B48 7LF
0121 445 3422
S.A.I.F.

A. Pullen

• MEMORIALS •

*Additional Inscriptions
& Renovations*



**All Work
is to the
Highest
Standard**

BRAMM

Showroom and Workshop
338 Alcester Road, Burcot,
Bromsgrove B60 1BH
Tel: (01527) 876200
07710976744

Yoga at The Ark



**New Mindfulness & Yoga Classes
At 'The Ark' in Alvechurch
Others in Blackwell**



**Developing a sense of Health, Well-being and
Happiness in a Stressful World**

Monday Classes at Blackwell First School

Yoga: 7pm

Mindfulness Meditation: 8:30 pm

Wednesday Classes at The Ark, Alvechurch

Yoga: 12:45 pm

Mindfulness Meditation: 2:15 pm

Yoga: 7 pm

0790 3663 085

classes@MyYogaMind.co.uk

www.MyYogaMind.co.uk



Village Messy Church

**VILLAGE MESSY CHURCH - SATURDAY 8TH MARCH - BAP-
TIST HALL - 2.30- 4.30pm**

We have a Bumper Bundle of activities to entice all ages.
Don't forget to tell your friends and make it an enjoyable
afternoon sharing and exploring as well as finding lost sheep.
As you will guess, the theme is **THE GOOD SHEPHERD**.

Food is provided and it is all free
of charge. However, if you wish to
make a donation, it helps to sup-
port the next session. See you
soon!

For further information ring 0121
445 1985.



Pilates at the Ark



Pilates is an exercise that has something for everyone, it's for all ages and all levels of fitness, even for the men out there if you dare try it?!!!!

An exercise regime designed by a man, Joseph Pilates, who said *"in 10 sessions you'll feel the difference, in 20 you'll see the difference, and in 30 you'll have a new body"*.

If you are keen to keep mobile and active throughout your life, want to help joint/spine health, improve balance and core strength and alleviate stiffness then come and try it out - what have you to lose?

Classes are held on Monday evenings and Friday mornings at the Ark.. For further details or to book a place either email jennyjanebird@gmail.com or telephone 07968 363529.

Rowney Green Flower Club

Celia Hitch writes...

Rowney Green flower club is delighted to welcome Katie from Persephonie Flowers to give us a stunning demonstration on Thursday evening 27th March commencing 7.45pm.

The competition, if you would like to join in, is *"Mothers Day"*. All Katie's arrangements

will be raffled at the end of the evening, so buy a raffle ticket and you have the chance to take home a beautiful flower arrangement.

Coffee, tea, and biscuits served, visitors are very welcome for a £3 entrance charge, and we would love you to come along and enjoy the evening. Contact Celia, chairman, 0121 445 4824.

News from the Tower

Geoff Franklin writes...



Although we've completed most of the restoration work in the tower there are still a few smaller jobs to finish off, so we're continuing our fund raising efforts. We need to replace the sound-proofing between the bells and the ringing chamber and the three clock faces need attention.

Our next event is our annual Table Top Sale on Saturday 12th April in the Ark. Doors will open at 10:30am and there will be the usual range of refreshments and home-made cakes.

We'll need some stock for our own table so this is your early warning to think about Spring Cleaning. Talk to a bell ringer or email alvechurchbells@yahoo.co.uk if you've got anything for us or phone 0121 445 4980 if you'd like a table for yourself.

Come on a journey

Lent is the Christian festival which marks the final journey taken by Jesus to Jerusalem. The journey that ends dramatically in his death on a Roman cross, his mystifying resurrection on Easter Day, appearances to his followers and finally his ascension.

Whether or not you give something up for Lent, you are invited to embark on a journey with other people of faith who live in the parish. All you need is a couple of hours once a week for five or six weeks. You'll meet people of different ages, from different churches and at different stages in their faith journey, and at the end have the opportunity to get together and compare notes with everyone who has followed the course.

This year our study follows four characters who meet while walking the Route San Jacques , also known as the Camino de Santiago, or St James Way, from St Jean-pied- de-port in France to Santiago de Compostela in northern Spain. It's a pilgrimage with a pedigree going back to the early tenth century, a precarious journey, that across the centuries, has been hailed as the most highly regarded Christian pilgrim trail in Europe. It still attracts thousands of pilgrims a year. Filmed on location, The Way (ICON 2011) describes the impact of their journey on four fictional characters, with diverse backgrounds and motivations, who converge on the route in 2010. It tracks their personal wrestling and shared experiences which climax at the great cathedral in Santiago de Compostela.

At the time of writing we have 6 leaders/venues open to all. Just choose your date and time and contact the leader to check details. Most groups will use the first session to watch the film in its entirety. Participants are encouraged to buy a copy of the study guide from the leader, there will be small charge for those meeting at the Lounge to cover costs and contribute to this valuable community facility.

Day	Time	Start Date	Leader / Contact Details	Venue
Monday	7:30pm	3 rd March	Sue Phillips 0121 445 3620 sue@suephillips.org	The Lounge
Monday	10:15am	24 th February	Veronica Rogers 0121 447 7017 veronica.rogers@talktalk.net	Fairview School lane
Wednesday	10:30am	5 th March	Felicity Rixon 0121 445 2371 felicityrixon@hotmail.com	St Mary's church hall
Wednesday	2:00pm	5 th March	Dick Russell 0121 445 3083 russell2gothic@btinternet.com	Venue tba
Wednesday	7:30pm	5 th March	Rev Fiona Lee 0121 445 2087 leefiona@talk21.com	40 Hinton Avenue
Thursday	7:45pm	6 th March	Graham Clark 0121 445 2547 clarkalvechurch@sky.com	The Coach House
Post Lent Gathering for all participants at The ARK Thursday 1 st May at 7:30pm				

The course is organised by Churches Together in Alvechurch and Rowney Green (CTARG).

Not So Great Expectations

Christopher Brazier, a former resident of Tanyard Close, Alvechurch, writes...

Adopting a positive outlook, untrammelled by previous opinions or judgements, will open up the mind into receiving ideas about improving the quality of life. Yet why should we bother? We can't change anything! Or can we? How well are we coping with Health issues; the need for Jobs and for a variety of affordable, low-rise Homes; Poverty; and support for those who are experiencing feelings of Isolation or Rejection?

Any one of us could feel marooned on our own private island, detached from reality for whatever reason, with little hope of rescue in sight. Displaying "HELP" signs isn't the answer many would argue, as this would only make us targets for cynical exploitation. Messages in bottles, like electronic twitters in the ether, could merely identify us as lost causes in what can appear to be an expanding wilderness.

Attempts to create bright futures for our children bring ever-increasing demands, asking questions of us for which, frustratingly, it is sometimes difficult to find answers.

In a crowded, and sometimes ominously hostile world, we need, more than ever, honest local and national champions to lead us out of this so-called wilderness and into a fertile, sustainable and secure environment.

Examples of talent, enterprise, commitment and loyalty constantly appear on the human stage like beacons showing us the way. Yet without a map, a compass and effective leadership, we're at risk of floundering in a world of greed, selfishness and fear.

Nature's destructive forces call for immediate action every time a crisis occurs. Aid is given unstintingly by groups and by individuals everywhere. Their prompt, unselfish response should be a positive sign that, if all individuals in every country were to be encouraged and

supported to care for one another and to respect and value the neighbourhood where they live, these individuals would become the life and spirit of their nation. The rulers of each nation should then take notice, and want to celebrate the fact that the people they govern live in thriving, happy and safe communities.

An open mind receptive to ideas needs a listening ear and a shrewd, but sympathetic eye. Once this is achieved by the majority then progress can be made. Ambitious ideas for reform would be sifted, clarified and moulded, hopefully yielding some responsible decisions leading to concentrated action to benefit all of us. This probably wouldn't happen without strife, but once arguments have been resolved, reform could forge ahead. With willing hearts, a variety of skills, determination and a positive outlook, life should take on a new meaning.

May I wish everyone a belated Happy and Prosperous 2014, hoping you'll find those non-injurious remedies when needed.

Alvechurch Historical Society

We had a good turn out for the AGM. Our present Chairman, Keith Garman stepped down from the chair and became our new PRESIDENT, Ann Humphries became our new Chairman, with Val Hunt agreeing to be the Vice Chairman. We welcomed Norman Lea and Martin Phipps on to the committee.

Our popular Social Evening will take place on 24th March at 7.00 pm, at the Museum, School Lane, tickets available from Ann, price £6.00. The speaker for 3rd March will be Mr Paul Hudson telling us a story from the Archives!

We meet in the Museum in School Lane on the first Monday of the month. Plenty of parking behind the Catholic Church with their kind permission.

See you then – Margaret Gardner (0121 445 1649

Robert Latham writes...

Could I remind you that the next Renewal Day is at Holland House on Thursday 6th March. Coffee will be served from 10am so we can make a prompt start at 10.30am and will finish at around 3pm.

Our speaker is Dr. Michael Harper who is a familiar face to many of our members as he is often at our Renewal Meetings. He currently works as a General Practitioner. Michael has wide ranging experience and is a former Director of Burrswood Christian Hospital and Place of Healing and he is a specialist in Palliative Care. He is currently the Chairman of the Diocesan Healing Advisory Group. His topic will be "*Healing the Whole Person: A Christian Doctor Reflects*" and will share about the importance of including prayer in the healing process.

WARM DAY

Thursday 6th March
10.00 am – 3.00 pm
Holland House, Cropthorne,
Pershore, WR10 3NB

Speaker:
Dr Michael Harper

**"Healing the Whole Person:
A Christian Doctor Reflects."**

**Cost: £15 inclusive of lunch at
Holland House (pay on the day)**

Book through:
Robert Latham 01905 748711
Robert@HallowChurch.co.uk

Richard Thorniley 01386 870527
r.thorniley@btinternet.com

by Monday 3rd March

The cost of the day will be £15. I am sorry that an increase has been necessary so quickly after the last one, but Holland House have asked for this and it still represents a discounted price compared with their usual daily rates so is very good value. Please book in the normal way with myself or Richard Thorniley.

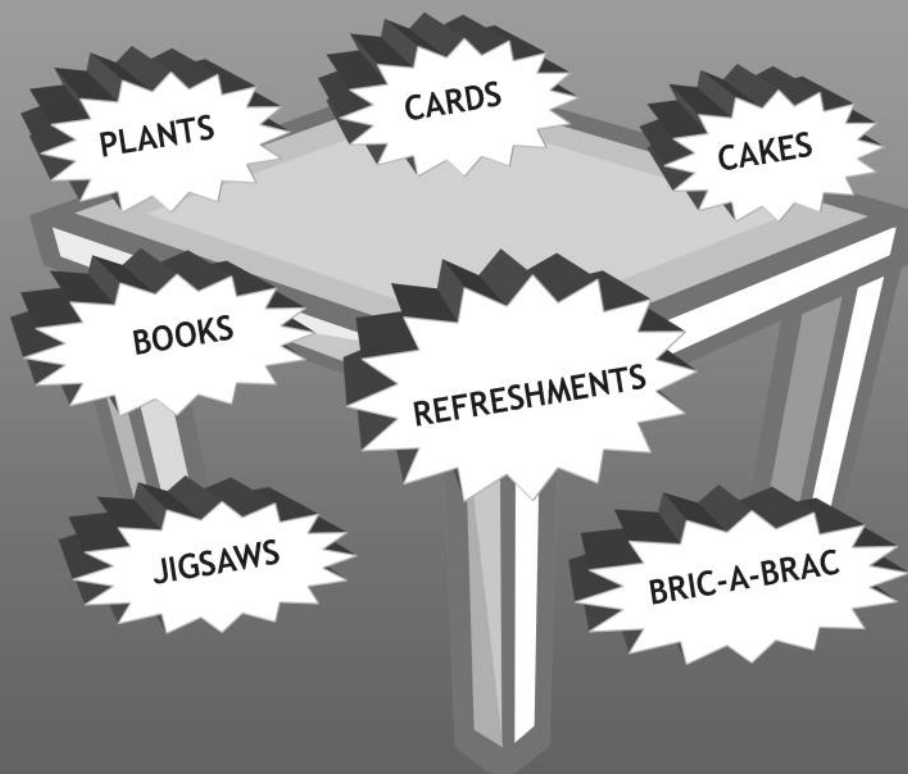
Those of you who were at the last meeting with David Runcorn will recall that the after lunch session was a little different to the normal. As a result we feel that it would be good to try a restructured afternoon with the worship at the end of the meeting. We hope that this might open up the possibility of prayer ministry and so the day might not finish exactly on time but I hope that this will not inhibit those who need to leave promptly.

Looking forward, I have promised Michael Harper that we will advertise the half day event organised by the Diocesan Healing Advisory Group on 15th March at 1pm at St. Peter's Baptist Church. Revd. Dr. Beatrice Brandon the Archbishop's Advisor for the Healing Ministry has been invited to return after a similar event last year. The cost is £6. Book through Peter and Sue Perry - Tel 01386 861791, or email peterandsue@gmail.com

The next WARM Day will be on Thursday 16th October 2014, when the speaker will be Dr. Christina Baxter, formally Principal of St. John's College, Nottingham.

ANNUAL TABLE TOP SALE

Saturday 12th April 10.30am – 3pm
The Ark, St Laurence Church, Alvechurch
FREE ADMISSION



Tables £5 available from
Karen on 445 4980



DO NOT WORRY!

Jesus tells us not to worry about our lives, and to consider how God feeds the birds and dresses the lilies.

Words associated with Matthew 6:25-34 are hidden below. They can be across, down, diagonal, or backwards.



T	O	M	O	R	R	O	W	E	P	M	G	S	Q	I
Y	D	V	O	C	V	W	A	N	B	A	S	R	D	B
N	C	B	A	R	L	T	M	J	R	E	G	R	O	S
W	E	E	L	B	U	O	R	T	N	E	I	A	E	W
L	A	B	O	R	R	F	T	S	C	N	H	I	N	L
W	S	M	M	A	N	T	U	H	K	R	L	T	W	S
O	P	Z	N	E	N	O	S	B	E	I	R	E	A	P
R	I	D	V	P	E	S	O	G	L	S	Q	U	G	F
R	N	I	O	T	N	W	L	S	D	R	I	B	K	G
Y	G	J	H	G	E	O	O	D	N	E	X	I	F	B
A	Q	G	I	E	V	N	M	P	M	R	N	W	O	S
N	I	S	Q	J	A	K	O	A	X	G	A	E	N	G
R	J	Z	D	V	E	V	N	D	D	B	A	B	K	D
F	H	O	A	V	H	B	U	O	V	A	W	K	H	X
P	L	W	M	D	Z	V	M	G	S	D	E	E	F	M



BARN
BIRDS
CLOTHES
DRINK
EAT
FATHER
GIVEN
GOD

GROW
HEAVEN
KINGDOM
KNOWS
LABOR
LILIES
PAGANS
REAP

RIGHTEOUSNESS
SOLOMON
SOW
SPIN
TOMORROW
TROUBLE
WORRY
FEEDS

Are You On the Church Electoral Roll?

Last April the Church Electoral Roll was renewed as it is every six years. If you consider St Laurence Church, Alvechurch to be your church and attend regularly then you are entitled to be on the Electoral Roll and to vote at the PCC AGM. Those on the previous Electoral Roll were invited to reapply but perhaps this was over-looked and you lost your place on the Roll? You can check to see if you are on the Roll by looking at the list compiled last April which you will find on the

table at the back of the church. If you didn't return your form then, it isn't too late to reapply. If you have moved to the area recently then you may also apply to join the Electoral Roll. Forms can be found on the table at the back of the church and, once completed, these should be put in the box on the same table or handed to Janet Wright.

I will print out an updated list every April so new members to the Electoral Roll will need to wait to see their names on the list but you are considered to be on the Roll as soon as you have handed in the completed form.

Janet Wright, Electoral Roll Officer, PCC



Obituary

Marguerite Ruth Andrews

Marguerite Ruth Andrews, of Waterside Orchard and known to friends and family as Peggy, died days before her 93rd birthday. Her funeral was held at St Laurence church on 28th January.

Peggy was the second child of 3 with an elder brother, John and younger brother Roger. She was an intelligent and conscientious girl who took a job with the Co-op where at the age of 16, she met John Frederick Thomas Andrews, the man who was to become her husband. She continued to work for the Co-op throughout her working life, indeed as arrangements were made with Co-op funeral directors a note was discovered on the file saying Marguerite Ruth Andrews was a very special employee!

Peggy was woman of many talents, a prolific knitter, hardly was the news out that a baby was on the way, than Peggy put her needles to work, producing the most beautiful items. She loved playing cards and until only a few weeks before her death, she still had the 'regulars' playing cards at her place. She loved her family

especially her grandchildren, never forgetting a birthday, and as her granddaughter Susan put it: she 'provided a wonderful role model' for all the family, with her ability to see the good in others and to take a positive view on everything that came her way. She loved animals, surrounding her home with bird feeders.

Her daughter Jennie, when asked for one word to represent Peggy, chose the word 'strength'. Despite having lost husband John 18 years ago, then losing her only son, having a stroke, and her home flooded, she remained strong, never complained, and was always there for others.

Peggy was laid to rest in the churchyard alongside husband John. As her coffin was lowered to the ground the birds in the tree above sang beautifully.



Flowers for March 2014

	2 March	9 March	16 March	23 March	30 March
Sanctuary	Ann Thurrell	LENT	LENT	LENT	LENT
Lady Chapel	Ann Thurrell	No Flowers	No Flowers	No Flowers	No Flowers

There is only one week in March for flowers in church before the beginning of Lent. In accordance with tradition we will not see flowers again in church until Easter Day. The date of which, this year is 20th April. I will be asking for help with decorating on Saturday 19th from 9am and will have a board on the table for signing up to offer help.

Reminders will be given and printed again next month. I will also be producing a new rota for the year to display on the table.

Ann Thurrell
0121 4477668

From The Registers



Baptisms

We welcome you into the Lord's family

Photographs of the newly-baptized can be found on the church website - www.alvechurch-stlaurence.org

February 23 Daniel Thomas Stanley
Jasper Zack Hall



Marriages

Those whom God has joined together

February 28 Brendon McFarren and Claire Sproson



Funerals and Cremations

May they rest in the peace of Christ

January 28 Marguerite Ruth Andrews aged 92
February 7 Pamela Hobman

Who's who

Rector	To be confirmed, The Rectory, 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 Phil Burgess, Highlands, School Lane, 447 7468 Mr Graham Clark, The Coach House, School Lane, 445 2547 Ms Gloria Wilson, 11 Bear Hill Drive, 445 1854 Mrs Philippa Brakes, 56 Callow Hill Road, 445 3983 Mrs Lynne Clark, The Coach House, School Lane, 445 2547 Mrs Jayne Burgess, Highlands, School Lane, 447 7468 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 Andy Humphries, Sunnymead, Station Road, 445 5955 Mr David Richmond, The Ferns, Chapel Lane, 445 3569 Mrs Alison Smith, 12 Hollington Road, 447 7293 Mrs Enid Brumsen, 32 Callow Hill Road, 445 0663
PCC Secretary	Mr Graham Clark, The Coach House, School Lane, 445 2547
PCC Treasurer	Mr David Richmond, The Ferns, Chapel Lane, 445 3569
Organist & Choirmaster	Mrs Janet Wright, 28 Callow Hill Road, 445 4335
Electoral Roll Officer	Mr Colin Bennett, 122 Redditch Road, 01527 64077
Tower Captain	Mrs Lynda Wolstencroft, 49 Hinton Avenue, 445 3212
Singing Group	Mrs Kate Grove, 07773509390
Mum's the Word	Mrs Ann Thurrell, Top Barn, Scarfield Hill, 447 7668
Flower Co-ordinator	Mrs Jill Woolley, 111 Birmingham Road, 445 2125
Women's Fellowship	Mr Ian Price, The Ark, School Lane, 447 7955
Ark Booking Secretary) & Grapevine advertising) Grapevine Editor)	thearkalvechurch@yahoo.co.uk

PCC Special Responsibilities

Finance and Standing Committee

Graham Clark	Mick Fletcher
Alison Smith	Bob Dale
Jeremy Roberts	

Children and Youth

Martin Allen	Mick Fletcher
Pat Booth	

Buildings and Fabric

Mick Fletcher	Colin Bennett
David Richmond	Jill Woolley
Janet Wright	

Task Committee

Alison Smith	Jeremy Roberts
Lynne Clark	Sue Phillips
Bob Dale	

Churchyard

Bob Dale	Andy Humphries
Mick Fletcher	

Peru and Missionary

Sue Phillips	Dick Russell
Sue Brotherton	Margaret Haste

Worship

Barbara Scane	Martin Allen
Graham Clark	Enid Brumsen
David Richmond	

Calendar

MARCH



Sunday 2nd	2.30pm	Alvechurch Village society: Walk: meet at Droitwich Spa Marina
Monday 3rd	2.00pm	Forget-Me-Not group: The Ark
	7.45pm	Alvechurch Historical Society: Talk by Paul Hudson: <i>Story from the Archives!</i> : The Museum, School Lane
Thursday 6th	9.30am	Mums The Word: The Ark
	12.15pm	Ark Café: Somerset Chicken
Saturday 8th	2.30pm	Messy Church: Baptist Hall
Monday 10th	7.30pm	Ark Angels W.I. meeting: The Ark
Thursday 13th	9.30am	Mums The Word: The Ark
	10.15am	Tiny Tots Service: Church
	12.15pm	Ark Café: Roast Lamb
	7.45pm	Rowney Green Horticultural Society: Orchid talk: Peace Hall
Saturday 15th	7.00pm	Hopwood Ladies Cycling Club: Charity Fundraiser: The Ark
Sunday 16th	3.00pm	The Midland Sinfonia: 7th Youth Musicians Showcase: St Laurence Church: FREE ADMISSION
APRIL GRAPEVINE GOES TO PRESS		
Monday 17th	2.00pm	Forget-Me-Not group: The Ark
	2.00pm	Alvechurch Library: How to get the best from the library website
Tuesday 18th	11.30am	Alvechurch Library: Bite-size computer training session
	& 12.30pm	Alvechurch Library: Bite-size computer training session
Wednesday 19th	7.45pm	Alvechurch Village Society: AGM: Alvechurch Village Hall
Thursday 20th	9.30am	Mums The Word: The Ark
	12.15pm	Ark Café: Roast Pork
	2.00pm	Alvechurch Library: Bite-size careers advice/interview techniques
Friday 21st	10.00am	Alvechurch Library: 'Container Gardening' session
	1.30pm	Alvechurch Library: 'Watercolour Paining' workshop
Monday 24th	7.00pm	Alvechurch Historical Society: Social evening: Museum School Lane
Thursday 27th	9.30am	Mums The Word: The Ark
	12.15pm	Ark Café: Beef Casserole
	7.45pm	Rowney Green flower club demonstration: Rowney Green Hall

HARLEQUIN PRINT LTD, 26 Castle Road, Kings Norton Business Park, Birmingham, B30 3HZ.