

# The Grapevine

THE PARISH MAGAZINE OF ST LAURENCE CHURCH ALVECHURCH



**JUNE 2016**

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

# 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

<b>Sunday Club</b>	<b>Sundays at 9.30am in the Church and Ark (445 1854)</b>
<b>Choir</b>	<b>Thursdays at 7.45pm in Church (445 3569)</b>
<b>Bellringers</b>	<b>Sundays at 10.30am and 5.30pm Tuesday Practice at 7.30pm (01527 64077)</b>
<b>Women's Fellowship</b>	<b>4th Wednesday of the month at 2.00pm in Tanyard Lane Community Centre (445 2125)</b>
<b>Mum's the Word</b>	<b>Thursdays at 9.30am in The Ark (07773509390) Tiny Tots Service 10.15am 1st Thursday of the month</b>
<b>Ark Café</b>	<b>Thursdays during term time at 12.15pm (447 7017)</b>
<b>Home Group</b>	<b>Thursdays, 7.30pm at the Coach House (445 2547)</b>

## THE ARK

**Enquiries to Ian Price 0121 447 7955**



### ***"The Servant Queen"***

On 9 September 2015 the Queen became the longest reigning monarch in British history: she completed 64 years, surpassing Victoria (63 years) and George III (59 years). This year, with her official birthday on 11 June, we celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday. When she became Queen, she promised to serve her people, and she has done so for more than 60 years.

The Queen is of course a person who attracts enormous interest: she has been described as the most famous and the most photographed woman in the world. There are many things we cannot know about the Queen, but as the Royal biographer, William Shawcross, says: *"Two things stand out – the Queen's constant sense of duty and her devotion to God. Of this she speaks humbly but openly, especially in her Christmas broadcast."*

Despite a gruelling travel and work schedule for over 60 years, Andrew Marr, the political commentator, has pointed out: *"There are no reliable recorded incidents of the Queen losing her temper, using bad language, or refusing to carry out a duty expected of her."*

Some words from her Christmas message in 2002 shed light on how we may understand this: *"I know just how much I rely on my faith to guide me through the good times and the bad. Each day is a new beginning. I know that the only way to live my life is to try to do what is right, to take the long view, to give my best in all that the day brings, and to put my trust in God.... I draw strength from the message of hope in the Christian gospel."*

The Queen of course has known difficulties in her family life: in a speech in November 1992 at the Guildhall in the City of London, she described 1992 as an *"annus horribilis"* – a horrible year involving the marriage difficulties of her children - and 1997 saw the tragic death of Princess Diana.

## **Richard Bubbers writes...**

The Queen made her commitment to be a servant Queen when she was crowned on 2 June 1953: the words, symbols and rituals of the Coronation Service were devised in A.D. 973 and designed to show that the authority of the monarch comes primarily from God, and it is to him that she will ultimately be accountable. There was one moment in the ceremony which was not televised, because it was considered too sacred to show: the symbols of the Queen's status were removed, and in a simple white dress she was anointed by the Archbishop with holy oil on her hands, her chest and her head, to show that she was being set apart to serve and love her people in all her actions, with all her heart and with all her mind. In that commitment, she follows the example of Christ who was also anointed (the word "Christ" means anointed), and set apart not to be served but to serve – and in his case to sacrifice his life, so that we can have life which does not come to an end.

There is of course far more to Queen Elizabeth than her Christian faith, but you cannot understand her without understanding her faith commitment, since it is a foundational influence on how she lives her life. As broadcaster Jeremy Paxman has described it, her religious beliefs are *"quietly held", "authentic and well-known."*

At the outbreak of war in 1939, the Queen's father, King George VI was facing having to give a Christmas message in the most uncertain and threatening of circumstances. The Queen who was 13 years old at the time gave her father a poem by Minnie Louise Haskins which she thought might be helpful, and it contained the famous words given by her father in his Christmas Day broadcast in 1939: *"I said to the man who stood at the Gate of the Year, "Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown." And he replied, "Go out into the darkness, and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be to you better than light, and safer than a known way."*

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**Alvechurch Village Society**

*Grace Hampton writes...*

Alvechurch Village Society Walk on Sunday 5th June 2016  
"Walk to Eades Meadow" led by Mary Green (telephone:  
0121 445 5957). Meet at the Jinney Ring Craft Centre car  
park (Hanbury Road, Bromsgrove B60 4BU) at 2.30pm.

**St Laurence**

**Women's Fellowship**



*Jill Woolley writes...*

As we were unable to hold our AGM in April, Cheryl Godfrey who was to have spoken to us in June, kindly came along and continued her life story which she had started to tell us two years ago. Lots of laughs some tears and we are now up to date. Thank you Cheryl for coming to our rescue.

On May 25th we welcome the Cherrywood Duo who will entertain us with lighted hearted music and poetry. On June 22nd we hold our long delayed AGM and on July 27th Mrs Rae Fowler's talk is entitled "The Funny Side of Life".

On June 29th we look forward to our Fellowship lunch at The Why Not in Astwood Bank.

Our meetings are held in The Tanyard Centre at 2pm; visitors and new members are always welcome.

**A Great Nights Jazz at The Ark**

*Sue Brotherton writes...*

George Huxleys Hot Five made the Ark swing on the 29th April. Every one enjoyed the evening, and for all who knew the band 50 years ago, they were as good as ever.

If the windows and doors had been open I'm sure the Band would have been heard all over Alvechurch, just like Buddy Bolden.

A big thank you goes to the Jazz team Dinah, Nancy, Matt, Helen and Kim for making the evening go so smoothly. Also many thanks to Pam for her very persuasive selling techniques.

The grand total made was £761.00. Included in this were many very generous donations for the repairs of the Stained Glass Windows. Many thanks to all who came and made it a great night.

# Rowney Green Flower Club

On 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2016, we welcome demonstrator Julie Pearce, the title of her presentation will be *"One step through the clouds"*, and the competition for the evening is *"Found at the Bottom of the Garden"*.

All meetings to be held at The Peace Hall, Rowney Green, commencing at 7.45pm. 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.

## Alvechurch WI

*Pam Horsfield writes...*

The May meeting was well attended and was a joint 87th birthday, AGM and Resolutions meeting. After singing *'Happy Birthday to us'* and then *'Jerusalem'*, Denise said that our thoughts are with the family of June Harris who passed away this month and who had been a valued member for many years.

Helen Starks came to help us with the voting of the Resolutions, when it was decided to give discretion to our delegate to vote on the amendment on food waste. More members voted for families and carers of dementia sufferers to be able to stay in hospital to support the care given, but again the delegate has a discretionary vote should it go to an amendment.

A committee of ten was formed with Denise Cashmore returning as President for another year. Denise then thanked Helen for joining us and Jill Woolley gave a vote of thanks to the committee for their hard work throughout the year. At that point we all relaxed from the formal part of the evening and members were able to enjoy a glass of wine and cakes to celebrate our birthday.

Next month's meeting will be on Monday June 13th at 7:30pm and this will be followed on Friday 24th June in the Village Hall at 7:30pm by another amazing fun *'Next One Fashion Sale'*, to which all family and friends are welcome. Phone 01527 874055, 077127 18915, or 0121 445 3246 for tickets.

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## Thinking about Volunteering – *“just do it!”*

*Onside* offers advocacy, mentoring & befriending, to people who are struggling to cope with a situation due to their vulnerability in life. More volunteers are needed throughout Worcestershire to support local people. Advocacy volunteering is a way of supporting and empowering people to ensure that they have their voice heard and their wishes made known to others. While Mentors & Befrienders offer a supportive and reliable relationship to an individual who would otherwise be socially isolated. The support may involve visiting the person at home or encouraging them to access activities in their local community.

*Onside's* Volunteer Manager, Claire Watkins, said *“Our volunteers give their time, their passion and enthusiasm. We need continued help from willing volunteers who would enjoy supporting people in their local community.”*

Volunteers are ordinary people of all ages and backgrounds they just need to be good listeners and have some time to give.

Elizabeth one of our volunteers, said *“if you are thinking about volunteering I would say DO IT!. I have had so much pleasure already, It's a wonderful feeling when you know you've helped and made even a small difference to someone else's life. Since retiring I felt I wanted to give something back, volunteering with Onside means I can do this along with knowing it's a very worthwhile use of my time”.*

If you can picture yourself in the role of an *Onside* volunteer please call Claire Watkins - Volunteer Manager on 01905 27525 or email - [claire.watkins@onside-advocacy.org.uk](mailto:claire.watkins@onside-advocacy.org.uk) to find out more.

This type of volunteering can be very flexible to fit with your life and circumstances. Free training (throughout the year) is provided and all expenses paid.

# Alvechurch Historical Society

Hilary Taylor writes...

Vanessa Morgan very kindly joined us on May Day Bank Holiday Monday, when the speaker booked was unable to attend. She gave us an insight into the wealth of documents held in public archives, some online and some in record offices. Vanessa has used these resources to research two local families, the Throckmortons of Coughton Court and the Vernons of Hanbury Hall, and was able to tell us about their lives during the 19th century and earlier.

VISITORS WELCOME

New members and visitors are welcome at our meetings.

**Monday 6th June 2016 : David Berry**  
***"A humorous look at retirement"***

This is our last talk of the season, and there will be something to amuse everyone in David's talk, whether you are retired already, or looking forward to being retired.

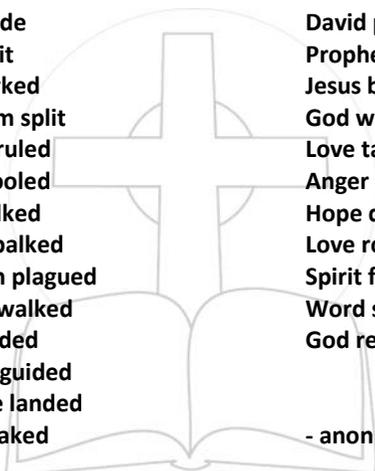
AHS meetings are held on the first Monday of the month, at 7.45pm, in the museum on School Lane. Parking is available behind the Catholic Church, with their kind permission. New faces are always welcome, just come along, or contact our chairman, Anne Humphries on 0121 445 5955.

## The Bible in 50 words

God made  
Adam bit  
Noah arked  
Abraham split  
Joseph ruled  
Jacob fooled  
Bush talked  
Moses balked  
Pharaoh plagued  
People walked  
Sea divided  
Tablets guided  
Promise landed  
Saul freaked

David peaked  
Prophets warned  
Jesus born  
God walked  
Love talked  
Anger crucified  
Hope died  
Love rose  
Spirit flamed  
Word spread  
God remained.

- anon



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## The Ark Café



The Cafe reopens after the half term break on 9th June and will be open for the next few weeks, Dates and the meal menus are as follows:

**June 9th - Somerset Chicken**

**June 16th - Shepherd's Pie**

**June 23rd - Beef Casserole**

**June 30th CLOSED**

**July 7th CLOSED**

**July 14th - Pork Casserole**

**July 21st - Chicken Cheveley**

We are having to close for two weeks during this period as some of our main helpers are away on holiday. As a reminder, as usual, we will be open in August for the Summer Cafe for salads and desserts.

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

## CAN YOU HEAR ME?

*(communication Forum)*

What did you say? Pardon? Will you please repeat what you said?

All these questions are part of our everyday life for those of us with a hearing loss.

However, sharing, with humour, the way in which we cope with our hearing aids and the use of numerous gadgets, helps us to remain positive and people able to contribute to the community around us.

Our next session is on 15th June 2016 when you will be welcome to join us. We meet the 3rd Wednesday of each month (not July and August holiday period) at Alvechurch Cricket Club between 10.30am and 12 noon.

For further information chat with Pat 07966370448.

# Curate Magdeburg Exchange

Sam Setchell (Communications Officer) writes...

***At the beginning of June, a number of our curates will be visiting our partners in the Evangelische Kirche in Mitteldeutschland.***

Tom Fish, curate at Lye in Stourbridge explains why he wanted to take part in the Curate Exchange with our partner Church in Germany:

*"It takes a lot to drag me away from our church-planting ministry. But when the opportunity came up for a return trip to Germany, I jumped at it. I even asked if my wife Helen could come too!*

*We'd had a wonderful time hosting Johannes Alex from Schkölen when the group of Newly Ordained Priests came over from Germany last year. Although his context is very different from ours –15 rural parishes vs. one locally-focussed urban church-plant – at a deeper level we shared a common vision and purpose.*

*From the Black Country Living Museum to the Foodbank, from community football on the field to Deanery Chapter, his insights on our culture and ministry helped me to understand it better, and he too gained ideas and inspiration to take back home.*

*The gospel is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes, and when we see the gospel being ministered in a different culture we understand it more fully.*

*So we're looking forward especially to the three days we will spend with him and his family in his parish. It will be fascinating to see his ministry for real, and to renew our partnership in the gospel as we spend time together."*

The Diocese of Worcester has a friendship link with the Evangelical Churches of Middle Germany. Find out more about it on the diocesan website:

[www.cofe-worcester.org.uk](http://www.cofe-worcester.org.uk)

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**FOR FURTHER INFO**

## Thank You

*Eve Bloomer writes...*

Thank you to all our friends at Alvechurch Baptist Church and Alvechurch for your kind thoughts, prayers and support through John's short illness and for attending his funeral. God Bless.

## Rowney Green Horticultural Society

*Lindsay Smith writes...*

We will not be holding our usual monthly meeting at the Peace Hall on the second Thursday of the month but we are pleased to advise everyone of the Alvechurch Open Gardens event which will take place on Saturday/Sunday, 25th/26th June 2016. For further details please contact Janet Barnett on 01527 69399. In previous years the Society has held The Rose Show in the month of June but this year, for the first time, it has been decided to combine the Rose Show with the Main Flower & Produce Show. The new Show will take place in September 2016 and further information regarding this "new" show will appear in the July Edition. Should you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact Lindsay Smith on 01527 592874.

## Parish Prayers

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



**Sunday, 5 June 2016 – Rockwell Lane**

**Sunday, 12 June 2016 – Rose Avenue**

**Sunday, 19 June 2016 – Rowney Green Lane**

**Sunday, 26 June 2016 – Sandhills Green**

# Important information about delivery of The Grapevine

Dear Readers, we are currently experiencing difficulties getting the Grapevine round to all the parishioners that we have reached in the past. If you have not had your copies regularly, or even at all, or you have friends who have informed you that this has been the case, or is currently the case, please tell them that there are copies surplus to those delivered this month in a box by the entrance to the church, or on the table as you enter the Ark (or you can offer to get one this way for friends who have so informed you). Failing that, I will endeavour to deliver a copy if you ring or e-mail me.

This edition also contains a questionnaire below. Please will you tear it out and return it as requested. This will help us in addressing our present problems. You will also find the questionnaire online at [www.alvechurch-stlaurence.org/grapevine-questionnaire](http://www.alvechurch-stlaurence.org/grapevine-questionnaire) It may be printed off and returned in one of the ways described in the questionnaire. Many thanks Dick Russell, 0121 445 3083 or email - russell2gothic@btinternet.com



## The Grapevine

The Parish magazine of St Laurence Church, Alvechurch

**Please could we ask you to fill in and return this short questionnaire to your distributor or the Lounge in Alvechurch or St Laurence Church office (School Lane, Alvechurch B48 7SB), thank you. Please return by 15th July.**

1. Do you value receiving The Grapevine which is delivered monthly free of charge ?

YES

NO

2. How much do you enjoy reading The Grapevine?

(1 not much, 5 very much)

1

2

3

4

5

3. If The Grapevine is no longer delivered by hand to your door, would you

a) collect The Grapevine from a collection point in the village ?

YES

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b) read it online ?

YES

NO

4. Any other comment you wish to make?

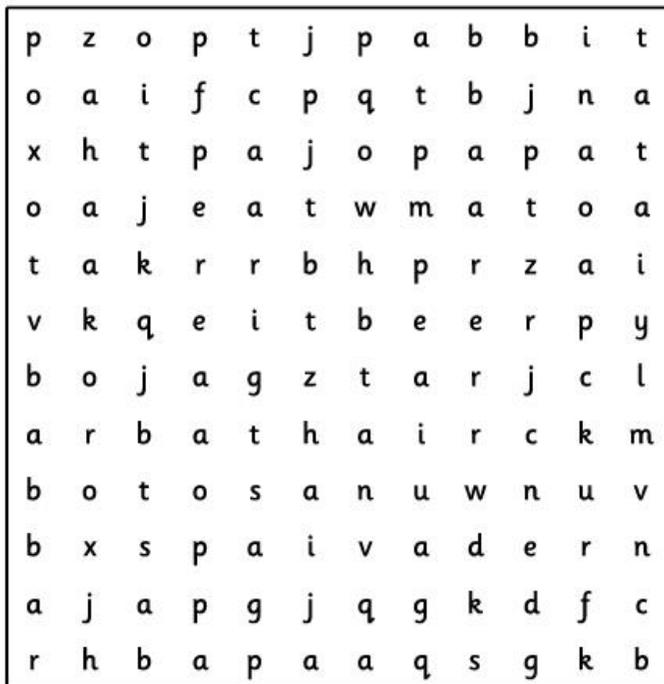




## Father's Day Wordsearch



Can you find the word for Father in all these different languages?



Abba (Hebrew)

Athair (Irish)

Babba (Arabic)

Bapa (Malay)

Father (English)

Haakoro (Maori)

Otosan (Japanese)

Pabbi (Icelandic)

Pai (Portuguese)

Papa (Russian)

Pater (Latin)

Pere (French)

Tata (Polish)

Tatay (Filipino)

Vader (Dutch)

# Letter from the Bishop of Worcester

During June the British people will decide whether or not to remain in the European Union. The decision is significant not only for this country but for the rest of Europe and the world. I hope and pray that people will reflect very carefully before casting their vote.

Much of the argument has centred on whether we would be better or worse off economically if we were to leave. The consensus seems to be that we would be worse.

Then there is the question of migration. Every alternative scenario for our relationship to the other countries of Europe should we leave – the Swiss model, the Norwegian model – would not change our obligation to allow free movement of people from Europe. In any event, this country has consistently benefited from immigration: Economically, culturally and spiritually.

Yet there's much more at stake than issues of economics or migration. A vote to leave could well precipitate the beginning of the breakup of the European Union. That would be very risky from a geopolitical perspective: it would make the world a much more dangerous place. That's why Barack Obama and most world leaders are so exercised about the prospect – and why Mr Putin would love it to happen.

There is, of course, much about the European Union that is unsatisfactory. It is in need of a great deal more reform.

However, even with its faults it has been described as the Twentieth Century's dullest miracle. Because of the EU, it is now unthinkable that the countries of Europe, which fought each other so fiercely a couple of generations ago, should now go to war with one another. It continues to have a hugely important part to play on the world stage. It will be much stronger with us in.

Some may feel it is wrong for me to comment on politics. To them I would quote Archbishop Desmond Tutu: *'When people say that politics and religion don't mix I wonder which Bible it is that they are reading.'* This question is far too important to be left to politicians.

As a Christian I want the world to be a safer, more peaceful place and believe that our membership of the European Union contributes hugely to that. You may not agree with me but I hope that I have encouraged you to think, reflect and pray before casting your vote if you have not already done so. Please don't underestimate the importance of voting or the implications of where you put your cross. And may God bless you and our country at this crucial time of decision.

*Bishop John*



# Events at Alvechurch Library



## Summer Reading Challenge

Yes it's nearly that time of the year again, the Summer Reading challenge launches on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> June and runs through to Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> September.

We challenge children aged 2-12 years to read 6 library books, there are lots of new titles in the library to choose from. Whether you want to laugh out loud with Horrid Henry's terrible tales, or go on an adventure with Enid Blyton's Famous Five stories, there's something for everyone. You'll collect lots of goodies along the way, from stickers, bookmarks and passes to fun days with author visits at Croome Park in Worcestershire.

On Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> June the library will be hosting a series of events on Roald Dahl, from quizzes, to a special hunt around the library. At Croome Park in Worcestershire on that day there will be a fun packed series of free activities, including author Tom Palmer making a very special visit.

## Library Service at Home Service

Do you love reading but can't get to the library? Then the Library Service at Home provides free deliveries of books to people in their own home. If you are housebound or unable to visit the library then please contact the library to find out how we can provide you with lots of brilliant reads.

## Careers Week from 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> June

On Friday 10<sup>th</sup> June we are holding a drop in with the Careers Association from 10am to 12pm. So if you need any help or information please pop in on that day.

## Local Author Talk Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> June 11-12pm

Local author Trevor Robbins will be attending the library to talk about his latest book "*Cliff hanger*". For a little taster of his book "*Bill Roland occasionally takes time out of his busy legal practise to admire the view from a cliff top. One day his serenity is violently broken - a mystery man pushes him off the cliff and drives his car over the edge. Bill clings onto a bush on the cliff face and saves himself, but only just.*" To find out more about this local author and his latest book join us on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> June from 11am.

## Ongoing Spanish class with Patrick

If you are not a complete beginner and have a little knowledge of speaking Spanish, we have a couple of places available in Patrick's ongoing Spanish class. The next 5 week course starts on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June at 10.30 and runs until Friday 1<sup>st</sup> July. Contact Patrick on 07708027372 or email - [vdlt52@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:vdlt52@hotmail.co.uk)

Please contact Alvechurch Library through the Hub on 01905 822722, pop into the library on the Birmingham Road or email us directly at - [alvechurchLib@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:alvechurchLib@worcestershire.gov.uk)



**Saturday 18 June 2016**

7 for 7.30pm St Laurence Church, Alvechurch

# Classical Favourites



Mozart	HORN CONCERTO NO.4
Mozart	SYMPHONY NO.5
Mozart	SYMPHONY NO.29
Haydn	SYMPHONY NO.67
Handel	ARRIVAL OF THE QUEEN OF SHEBA

Richard Laing  
Elspeth Dutch

CONDUCTOR  
CBSO PRINCIPAL HORN

*Richard Laing's farewell concert as music director and principal conductor*

**£13 - accompanied children & full time students free**  
discounted advance tickets: Village Green Grocer, Alvechurch | 0121 447 7040 | online

**DISABLED ACCESS & FREE PARKING**  
midlandsinfonia.co.uk reg.charity no. 1095563

# The Queen's 90th Birthday Celebrations - Church Services



As part of the national celebrations for the Queen's 90th Birthday, prayers of thanksgiving and praise for the long service of the Queen will be offered at all services at St. Laurence Church on Sunday 12th June, asking that through God's grace, and inspired by her example of faith and service for others, we may all receive strength and wisdom in our own lives.

In addition, and as part of the '*Sacred Space*' pattern of services, we will be holding another Taizé service at 6pm on Sunday 26th June, which will focus on the theme of giving/service to the community. The Queen has always made it known how important her Christian faith is to her; a recent publication describes her as "*the servant Queen*" and God as "*the King she serves*". God loves us, and so helps us to love others - by doing this we are following the example of Jesus, the servant king.

We will be following a pattern based on the worship of the Taizé Community, one of whose aims has always been to make Christian worship as simple and uncluttered as possible. Taizé is a small village in eastern France. For over 50 years, it has been the home of a Christian monastic community made up of brothers from many different countries, speaking many different languages and, uniquely, belonging to several different Christian denominations. Catholics, Anglicans, Protestants, Orthodox and others live and pray together, share a simple life and welcome the tens of thousands of visitors who come to spend time with them every year from all over the world.

If you would like to experience this style of worship, you will be made most welcome. The service is very simple and there will be a service sheet to follow.

## Model Railways

*David Richmond writes...*

Yes. the Model Railway Exhibition will be upon us very soon ---- **Saturday July 9th, 10.30am till 4.0pm** in the church and the Ark.



Do please come and help to swell the Church Windows Fund.

The layouts will show what can be done in a small space, even with "O" gauge stock. The Tomy Thomas layout is a must for children of all ages, and is all done with batteries. There are stalls selling a variety of goods, not all to do with models, so there will be plenty to interest everyone.

The famous St Laurence caterers will be on hand with bacon butties and other delights to catch your fancy.

If you have any old model railway equipment, Meccano, toy cars or buses, of any age and in any condition, that you wish to dispose of, please contact me. **0121 445 3569**.

## Alvechurch Open Gardens

The residents of 12 Gardens in Alvechurch will be opening their garden gates to the public on 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> June from 1-6 pm for a combined entrance fee of £6 (accompanied children free). Alvechurch Gardens only open alternate years so this is an opportunity not to be missed. Alvechurch is opening its gardens under the National Garden Scheme where ordinary people across the country open their private gardens to raise money for charity. The beneficiaries each year vary but are always worthy causes focusing on cancer charities and those which benefit gardeners.



There are some old favourites and some new gardens opening this year. There will be a map provided when you pay at the first garden you visit. This will help you to plan your route around the village. The gardens which will be opening are 28 Callow Hill Road, 4 Snake Lane, 76 Tanyard Lane, 8 Tranter Avenue, Corner Cottage (Latimer Road), Hill Cottage (Scarfield Hill), Rectory Cottage (Old Rectory Lane), Sunnymead (Station Road), The Allotments (Sunday only), The Old Swan (Swan Street), and Tudor Cottage (Meadow Lane). If you would like an enjoyable afternoon wandering around these very varied plots, please find the garden nearest to you where you can buy your ticket and receive a map. If you are fit and well, it's good to walk around the village but there are places to park if walking is not an option for you. Teas and plants will be available as stated on the map. The gardens will be open regardless of the weather though we hope the sun will shine! Look forward to seeing.

## Dean's Challenge

Throughout June and July, Peter Atkinson, is cycling 1000km throughout Normandy in support of the Friends of Worcester Cathedral.

The Dean will follow the route taken in 1897 by a famous English clergyman, Percy Dearmer, who was a follower of Ruskin and Morris, and a friend of Woodbine Willie and Lord Beauchamp. However, there is a double challenge, one for the Dean to complete his cycle ride, and one for the Friends, because for every kilometre sponsored it is hoped that a new Friend will be recruited.

Peter says: *"The Friends of Worcester Cathedral is an excellent organisation, founded in the 1930's to raise funds for the Cathedral. One of their earliest members was Sir Edward Elgar, who conducted so much of his music in the Cathedral at the Three Choirs Festival.*

*"Today the Friends number about 700, but we could do with more members. So I have challenged the Friends to recruit new Friends, by giving away one year's membership at a discounted rate of £10 (it's usually £15) for every kilometre I cycle in France. My target is a thousand kilometres, which means that the Friends' target is a thousand new Friends. I am glad to say the Friends are responding splendidly, and many new Friends have already been recruited."*

Recruiting 1,000 new friends will raise £10,000 and this money will contribute towards the repair of the Edgar Tower, first built by King John.

To find out about becoming a Friend or to simply sponsor Peter's cycle ride, please visit [www.worcestercathedral.co.uk](http://www.worcestercathedral.co.uk)

# Flowers for JUNE

	5th June	12th June	19th June	26th June
Sanctuary		Wedding Blessing Helen Brown & Tim Ayling	Jill Woolley	
Lady Chapel		Wedding Blessing Helen Brown & Tim Ayling	Jill Woolley	
In memory of			Ron Woolley	

Ann Thurrell  
 0121 447 7668  
 Email: [annthurrell@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:annthurrell@hotmail.co.uk)

## From The Registers



### Baptisms

*We welcome you into the Lord's family*

April 24      Amelia Margaret Elizabeth Fair  
 April 24      Jayce Marc Hodson  
 May 22        Isla Olivia Gail



### Funerals and Cremations

*May they rest in the peace of Christ*

April 26      Stanley Newey  
 April 27      Janet Dominick  
 May 5         John Anthony Ellis  
 May 17        Judith Crigman

# 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
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 Nina Stanfield, 07592132677
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 JUNE



Wednesday 1	7.30pm	Hillside WI: The Ark
Thursday 2	9.30am 10.00am 12.15pm	Mums The Word Tiny Tots Service: St Laurence Church No café today (back on 9th June)
Sunday 5	2.30pm	Alvechurch Village Society Walk: <i>"To Eades Meadow"</i> led by Mary Green: Meet at the Jinney Ring Craft Centre car park
Monday 6	7.45pm	Alvechurch Historical Society: <i>'A humorous look at retirement'</i> : Museum, School Lane
Thursday 9	9.30am 12.15pm	Mums The Word Ark Café: Somerset Chicken
Monday 13	1.45pm 7.30pm	Forget-Me-Nots: The Ark Alvechurch WI: Meeting: Alvechurch Village Hall
Tuesday 14		<b>JULY GRAPEVINE GOES TO PRESS</b> <b>Articles to <a href="mailto:thearkalvechurch@yahoo.co.uk">thearkalvechurch@yahoo.co.uk</a></b>
Wednesday 15	10.30am	CAN YOU HEAR ME? (Communication Forum): Alvechurch CC
Thursday 16	9.30am 12.15pm	Mums The Word Ark Café: Shepherd's Pie
Saturday 18	7.30pm	Midland Sinfonia Classical favourites concert: St Laurence Church
Wednesday 22	2.00pm	St Laurence Women's Fellowship: AGM: Tanyard Centre
Thursday 23	9.30am 12.15pm 7.45pm	Mums The Word Ark Café: Beef Casserole Rowney Green Flower Club: Presentation by Julie Pearce: <i>"One step through the clouds"</i> : Peace Hall, Rowney Green
Friday 24	7.30pm	<i>'Next One Fashion Sale'</i> : Alvechurch Village Hall
Tuesday 28	7.30pm	PCC Meeting: The Ark
Thursday 30	9.30am	Mums The Word NO ARK CAFÉ TODAY (reopens 14th July)