

The Grapevine

THE PARISH MAGAZINE OF ST LAURENCE CHURCH ALVECHURCH



AUGUST 2016

Online at 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

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 Phillips writes...

opinion on Brexit than any other recent political event. Just over half of us voted to leave, and just under half to remain. As a nation we were divided. But does that really have to challenge our friendships? I hope not, I hope we can respect each other enough for that not to be the case.

I was out for a walk with a friend, and the subject turned to the ongoing consequences of the vote for Brexit. We talked about the fall-out in economic and political terms. Teresa May had just stepped into number 10, her cabinet was taking shape and Jeremy Corbyn's candidacy issues were in the headlines. We talked about the risks of a breakup of the UK, we talked about what it means to each of us to be British. There was plenty to get our teeth into on our Cotswold walk; but the theme that stole the show for me emerged when my friend shared her sadness over the reaction of one of her neighbours to the referendum process. One had voted in, the other voted out, in this they formed typical sample of the close 48-52% vote. What grieved my friend was her neighbour's comment on hearing how she had voted: *'I don't think we have anything in common any more'*.

Up until now they had been friends, so how could it be that the contrasting way they dealt with the in-out choice could mar a friendship? I have to say I share her grief.

Living in a democracy is a precious thing; to have the opportunity to contribute to decisions about how our country is run is to be celebrated. The statistics tell us that more people exercised their vote in the EU referendum than usually turn out for a general election. More people engaged in the issue, more people expressed an

Jesus lived in Roman occupied Palestine, and in a society fragmented along religious and cultural lines. The core message of his ministry was love. *'Love your neighbour as you love yourself'* he said, and when challenged to define neighbour, he left us the legacy of the story of the victim of a mugging being helped in his plight by a social outcast. Seems to me there's no chance of creating a society in which we can tackle either the needs of the victim or of outcast if we can't remain friends with our neighbours who choose differently from ourselves.

As the Bishop of Worcester put it:

'The British people have made their decision, although it is also clear we are deeply divided. It is now crucial that we should all draw together in order that our great country can go forward as one. Harsh things said during the referendum campaign were not characteristic of us at our best. Work must be done by us all, not just politicians, to heal wounds and promote unity.'

I'm up for that. How about you?

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**St Laurence
Women's Fellowship**



Jill Woolley writes...

At our A.G.M in June the Officers and Committee were voted back into office for another year. We were pleased to welcome our President the Reverend Richard Bubbers who gave us a short address about our Queen's long and faithful reign.

On August 9th we are holding our annual Tea and Cake Charity Tea in aid of three local Hospices - The Primrose, Richards and Acorns Children's - all very worthwhile causes.

Please come along and support us at 2.30pm.in The Ark. There will be a Bring and Buy stall and a Raffle. Entrance will be £3.50 for as much as you can eat and drink!

Alvechurch Historical Society

Hilary Taylor writes...

SUMMER EVENTS FOR MEMBERS

The coach trip to the World of Wedgwood is on Wednesday 10th August. If you have booked, the pick up time is 9.30am at the Red Lion. Unfortunately there are no more places available.

Our annual cleaning day is coming round again. This year it is Tuesday 23rd August, at 10.30am. More help would be appreciated, so do ring Anne Humphries if you are able to assist.

AUTUMN SEASON

Our next talk is not until Monday 5th September, when new members and visitors will be welcome alongside existing members. Our speaker for that evening will be Ron Gullivan who makes a welcome return to entertain us with tales of "James Lancaster: Elizabethan Admiral or Pirate?"

Also in September, we will be holding our annual open days, and this year's theme is "Alvechurch Railway Station". The museum will be open to all on Saturdays 10th and 17th September, from 2.30 - 4.30pm.

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.

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 please note, a visit has been arranged to Packwood House, Lapworth, Solihull, B94 6AT on Thursday, 11th August, with a guided tour round the flower and vegetable gardens at 2.00pm. Free to National Trust members - £7.80 for non-members or £11.50 if you want to go round the house as well. Own transport - refreshments are available.

On Sunday, 21 August from 2.30pm Tony and Wendy's NGS Garden at 32 Tamar Drive, Sutton Coldfield B76 1YT will be open - £5.00 including refreshments. Own transport is required. Janet Barnett will require numbers re. these two trips so please telephone her on 01527 69399 if you are interested.

Just a quick reminder re. Main Flower & Produce Show on 3rd September 2016; please make sure you have a Schedule in order to make your entries for the Show.

Railway Exhibition a great success

David Richmond writes...

The week before the model railway show suddenly became rather hectic. A call came through to say that one layout could not come. The car had broken down in the middle of nowhere and could not be repaired in time. Two more calls came on the Friday. The stallholders were both rather ill, (but luckily much improved this week). Luckily I had a last minute request for a stall, and after a juggle around of some sites, we were not looking short on the day.

We had a good turnout of 250 adults, 30 paying children and numerous under 5's. All these, along with the 50+ stall and layout owners, kept the kitchen so busy that we ran out of food rather early!!

Thank you to all of you who came. We hope you enjoyed the exhibition. Enormous thanks must go to all who helped, to set out, run, dismantle, and clean up ready for 8.00am service on Sunday.

We raised just under £1200, which will help swell the window fund.

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Parish Prayers

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

Sunday, 7 August – Station Road

Sunday, 14 August – Stonehouse Lane

Sunday, 21 August – Storage Lane

Sunday, 28 August – Swan Street



Rowney Green Flower Club

On Monday 29th August 2016 (Bank Holiday), 10.30am to 12 noon, we are holding a coffee morning with Bring and Buy table, raffle, home made cakes and lots of good company.

Our meetings are held at The Peace Hall, Rowney Green commencing at 7.45pm (there is no evening meeting in August).

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.

Café @ the Old Palace

If you're visiting Worcester, why not pop in to the Café at the diocesan office (The Old Palace, Deansway) for morning coffee or lunch.

Open Monday – Friday, 10am – 2.30pm (lunch served between midday and 2pm) the Café offers a range of food at very reasonable prices.

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On Thursdays join the diocesan office staff as they worship together from 12.30 – 1pm.

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The Ark Café



As mentioned in last month's Grapevine, during August on each Thursday we are holding our Summer Cafe when we will have light lunches of salads or sandwiches with a cold dessert at a very reasonable price.

We are then closed on Thursday, 1st September and reopen on Thursday, September 8th with our usual hot lunches and desserts.

As always, we look forward to your continued support over the summer season.

Hillside at Alvechurch W.I

Cathy Taylor writes...



At our meeting on July 6th we celebrated our birthday with Bucks Fizz and popcorn. Members took the opportunity to add some bling to their attractive outfits. Tea or coffee and some delicious cakes were served after Richard Kendrick's excellent talk and presentation entitled Behind the Scenes with a TV/Film Caterer.

Richard and his wife had set up their amazing company providing catering services to a wide variety of clients. Their clients included many well known stars of television, film studios and the stage; also they provided the catering for major sporting events including the Grand National and the British Grand Prix.

Future Events

9th August 7 for 7.30pm a meal at the Hopwood House.

17th August Quiz with Hopwood W.I. at Hopwood Village Hall

Our next meeting

7th September a Bhagra Dance Lesson with Vijjay Mehay. Members and visitors are asked to wear comfortable clothing and flat shoes. Julia had enjoyed a similar evening with Ark Angels W.I. and she highly recommended the session.

Chaplaincy to the waterways

Sam Satchell writes...

Have you considered being a Chaplain to our waterways?

Think of the word 'chaplain' and we immediately think of schools, tertiary education, hospitals, prisons and the armed forces. Probably not the waterways, rivers and canals. Yet Britain is crisscrossed by an amazing network of canals and rivers, on and around which live and work thousands of people.

Inland waterways people may be involved with maintenance of its marinas and other service providers - or they may be recreational day boaters, canoeists, anglers or towpath walkers. One thing is certain: they all share a powerful connection with the rivers and canals which, beautiful though they are, can conceal human need as effectively as any suburban street, hospital ward or college.

"Chaplaincy to the waterways is expanding and being appreciated by the major national managing bodies," says the Revd Mark Chester, Senior Chaplain Waterways. *"There are chaplains working in many regions already, providing pastoral support to waterways people but I am very keen to recruit more to work with me in the Midlands and Black Country where many canals and rivers converge. These chaplains are pastoral figures who, just as they might in a parish setting, keep their ears to the ground to provide support for those whose waterway related lifestyles isolate them from mainstream resources and cut them off from other pastoral support."*

Chaplains can be ordained or lay and might work for between half a day to two days a week, on 'their own' stretch of waterway."

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FOR FURTHER INFO

Alvechurch WI

Pam Horsfield writes...



This month we had an excellent meeting when nearly all of our members joined us, plus we welcomed a new member and a visitor. We had great pleasure wishing six members a 'Happy Birthday' in July and we sang to Barbara Waller as she is celebrating a very special birthday this month!

We heard from Jenny Manning that the fashion show she organised last month raised well over £300 and her thanks went to all helpers and all those who came and bought clothes.

Fiona Phillips from Ark Angels WI wrote a very good report on the Annual Meeting in Brighton which was read to members, and Judy Lakeman encouraged more of our members, who are on Facebook, to follow our Alvechurch WI page and to link up on Twitter.

Our speaker, Chris Edwards, gave a lively, interesting talk with a good visual presentation on garden birds..... and I think we'll all be more knowledgeable now after the amusing clues he gave us to remember the birds with. He is a very good speaker.

Next month on Monday August 8th is our Natter Night at Alvechurch Cricket Club starting at 7:00pm. Remember to bring your cheque books if you want to go to Holt Fleet for lunch and to hear the speaker from 'The Archers'; also if you want to go to The Annual Council Meeting in Malvern. Both are in October.

If you want to visit to see if you'd like to join us, please phone Denise on 445 3246.

The demand for the perfect is the greatest enemy of the good

Gordon Parsons writes...

I've already started to read the summer reading on offer to members of St Laurence congregation. The above quotation is the way Richard Rohr describes Perfectionism in his book "Falling Upward" (xxiii). He goes on to say 'perfection it is a mathematical or divine concept, goodness is a beautiful human concept that includes us all'.

His words put me in mind of more recent reading, this time from "The Artist's Way", a course in discovering and recovering your creative self by Julia Cameron, that I've been following with my writers' group.

Here is a digest borrowed from one of the units.

'Perfectionism has nothing to do with getting it right. It has nothing to do with fixing things. It has nothing to do with standards. Perfectionism is a refusal to let yourself move ahead. It is a loop, an obsessive, debilitating closed system that causes you to get stuck in the details of what you are writing or painting or making and to lose sight of the whole, instead of creating freely and letting errors reveal themselves later as insights. Why get mired in getting the details right?'

'The perfectionist fixes one line of a poem over and over, until no lines are right, draws a line of a portrait until the paper tears. The perfectionist is constantly

grading the results. The perfectionist has marred the logic side of the brain. The critic reigns supreme. Everything critiqued with "what about this comma, is that how you spell....?'

'Midway through a project the perfectionist decides to read it all over again, outline it, see where it's going, never satisfied, never says "This is pretty good, I think I'll just keep going". To the perfectionist there is always room for improvement. The perfectionist calls this humility. In reality it is egotism. It is pride that makes us want to write the perfect script, paint a perfect picture etc. Perfection is NOT a quest for the best. It is the pursuit of the worst in ourselves, the part that tells us nothing we ever do will be good enough, that we should try again. No we should not.'

'Nothing is perfect. Everything has to be moved on from. This is a normal part of creativity - letting go.In order to risk we must jettison our accepted limits. Usually when we say we can't do something, what we mean is we won't do something unless we can guarantee we'll do it perfectly. Once we are willing to accept that anything worth doing might even be worth doing badly our options widen, Very often a risk is worth taking for it's own sake. There is something enlivening about expanding our self definition. A risk does exactly that.'

'We learn to do something by doing it - there is no other way'.

I hope you find this as liberating as I do.

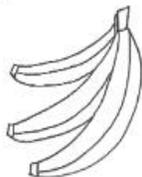


Monkey Puzzle Sheet

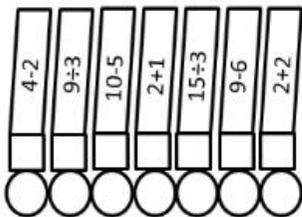
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Word Search

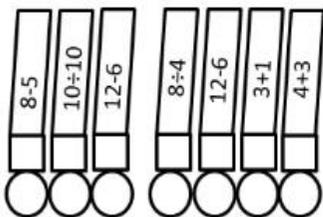
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Monkey Maths

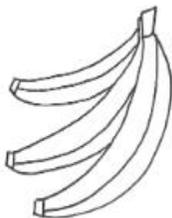


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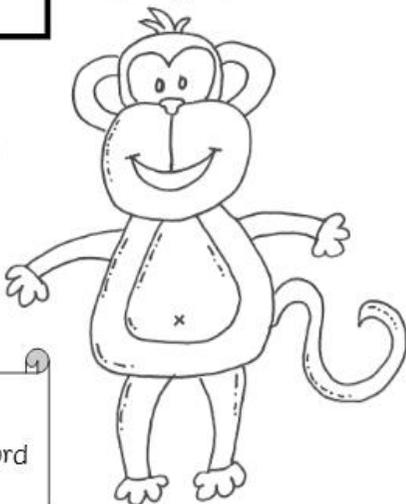


Sudoku

2			3
3	1		2
	3		



To Colour



How many words?

How many words can you make from the word RHINOCEROS?

Memory Lane

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The Baptist Church Hall, Alvechurch

Via The side entrance off Village car park

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LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU

Flowers for AUGUST

	7 August	14 August	21 August	28 August
Sanctuary	Wedding	Jill Woolley	Grace Shepherd	
Lady Chapel	Wedding	Jill Woolley	Grace Shepherd	
In memory of	Chris Ashforth & Claire Newland	Wedding Anniversary	Daughter Diane Farley	

Advance Notice - Harvest Festival is early this year on the weekend of 25th September. We also have a Wedding on the 24th September so I will be arranging flowers on either 22nd or/and 23rd depending on how much help is forthcoming. Please contact me if you can help on either of these days. Many thanks in advance.

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

From The Registers



Baptisms

We welcome you into the Lord's family

26 June Frederick John Kitchen



Weddings

Those whom God has joined together

4 July Malcolm Mackenzie and Anne Smallman



Funerals and Cremations

May they rest in the peace of Christ

23 June Terry Grenfell
 15 July Margaret Shaw

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 AUGUST



Thursday 4	9.30am	Mums The Word
	12.15am	Ark Café: Summer Menu - light lunches
Monday 8	12.30pm	Forget-Me-Nots: Shared Lunch: The Ark
	7.00pm	Alvechurch WI: Natter Night at Alvechurch Cricket Club
Tuesday 9	2.30pm	St Laurence Women's Fellowship: Charity Tea: The Ark
	7.00pm	Hillside WI: A meal at the Hopwood House
Thursday 11	9.30am	Mums The Word
	12.15am	Ark Café: Summer Menu - light lunches
Sunday 14	SEPTEMBER GRAPEVINE GOES TO PRESS Articles to thearkalvechurch@yahoo.co.uk	
Wednesday 17	2.30pm	Memory Lane: Afternoon tea and activities: Alvechurch Baptist Church Hall
	7.30pm	Hillside WI: Quiz with Hopwood W.I. at Hopwood Village Hall
Thursday 18	9.30am	Mums The Word
	12.15pm	Ark Café: Summer Menu - light lunches
Monday 22	1.45pm	Forget-Me-Nots: The Ark
Thursday 25	9.30am	Mums The Word
	12.15am	Ark Café: Summer Menu - light lunches
Monday 29	10.30am	Rowney Green Flower Club: Coffee morning with Bring and Buy Table: Rowney Green Peace Hall