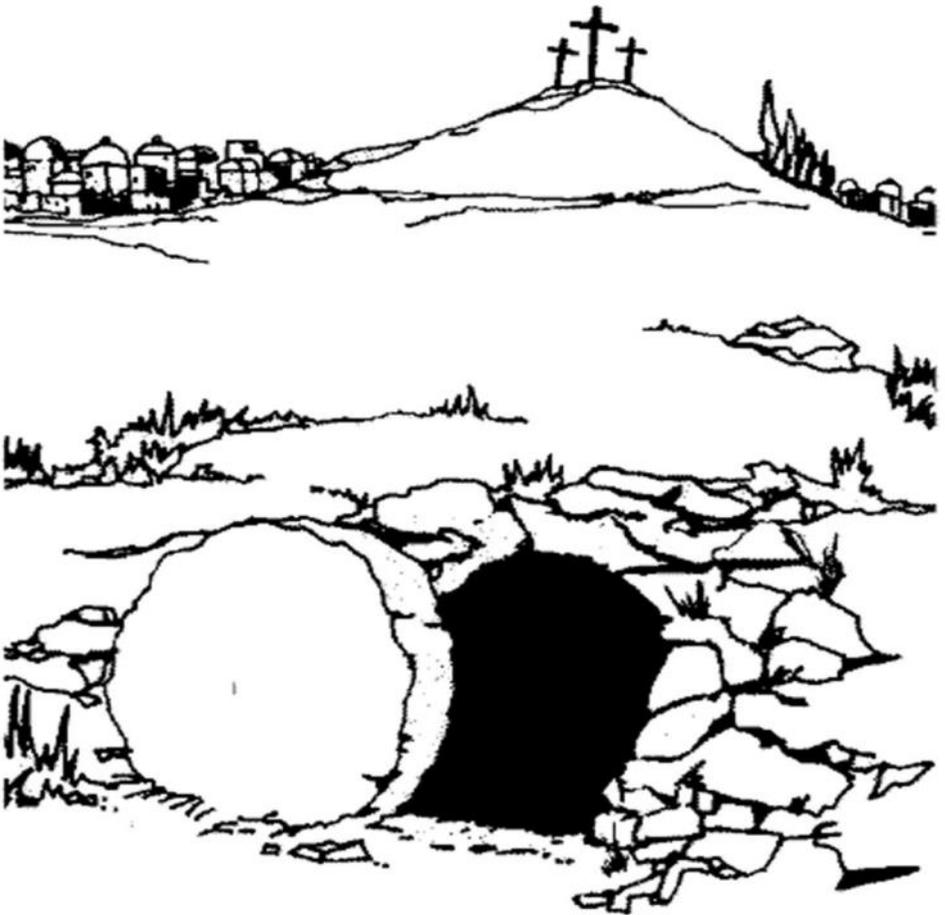


# The Grapevine

THE PARISH MAGAZINE OF ST LAURENCE CHURCH ALVECHURCH

**MARCH 2013**



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

<b>Sunday Club</b>	<b>Sundays at 9.30.am in the church and Ark (445 1854)</b>
<b>Choir</b>	<b>Thursdays at 7.45.pm in church (445 3569)</b>
<b>Bellringers</b>	<b>Sundays at 10.30.am and 5.30.pm Tuesday Practice at 7.30.pm (01527 64077)</b>
<b>Women's Fellowship</b>	<b>4th Wednesday of the month at 2.00.pm in Tanyard Lane Community Centre (445 2125)</b>
<b>Mum's the Word</b>	<b>Thursdays at 9.30.am in The Ark (07876390154)</b>
<b>Ark Café</b>	<b>Thursdays during term time at 12.15.pm (447 7017)</b>
<b>Home Group</b>	<b>Thursday, 7.30.pm at the Coach House (445 2547)</b>
<b>Messy Church</b>	<b>Quarterly on a Saturday in The Ark (445 1985)</b>

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# The Rector Writes...

## The NHS

My dear friends

The recent report into the failings at Stafford Hospital has brought the National Health Service very much under scrutiny. All decent people have been horrified at the treatment patients at Stafford Hospital received and the ensuing high proportion of deaths that occurred there. The report made clear that financial considerations had taken precedence over compassion and care, with inadequate levels of nursing staff on the wards and a desire to meet targets rather than meet the needs of patients. Hopefully, lessons will be learnt and the same mistakes will not be made again.

Although there are failings in the National Health Service – as there are within any large national organization – I think it would be wrong to say the NHS is fundamentally flawed. The principle of providing medical help at the point of need, regardless of the ability to pay, is a noble one and one for which we can be immensely proud.

In our country we are blessed with some excellent general practitioners and nurses, who give unstintingly of their time and talents to help those in need. It cannot be easy having to deal continually with people's problems. It must be a very wearing job. And yet our local medical staff seem to take it all in their stride and provide a first-rate service to the local community. It would do no harm to express our thanks to them more often.

Our local hospital in Redditch has many question marks hanging over it at present. This must be very unsettling and demoralizing

for the staff. They need our prayers and support. The nursing staff I encounter on my weekly visits to the hospital are almost all charming and hard-working. They have a very difficult job caring for people who are not always charming and co-operative, but they seem to me to carry out their duties in an exemplary manner.

I have always considered nursing to be a vocation. No-one goes into it for the money. It is a calling to help those in need in order to improve the quality of patients' lives. Many of those in the medical profession are practicing Christians, who put their faith into action through their daily work, and see their work as an act of service for God.

It was, of course, the Christian Church that introduced the first National Health Service in Saxon times. Each monastery in Britain had an infirmary where the sick were treated. The Church was at the cutting-edge of developing new medicines and treatments for those whose lives were broken by ill-health. In so doing, members of the Church were simply following in the footsteps of Our Lord. He responded positively to the sickness, pain and disabilities he encountered during his time on earth. The medical profession today stands in an honourable tradition and deserves our continual support and prayers.

May God bless our National Health Service and all who work in it. May the mistakes of recent times be remedied. And may more men and women of Christian compassion and sympathy hear God calling them to serve Him within the Health Service of our land.

Yours in Christ

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**Say One For Me**

Every week, those living in the various roads of the parish, are remembered in Sunday prayers at St Laurence Church. During March, those living in Gravel Pit Lane, Rowney Green will be remembered on 3 March, Old Rectory Lane on 10 March, The Holloway on 17 March, Radford Road on 24 March and Icknield Street on 31 March.

If anyone has a specific request for which they would like the church to pray, please contact the Rector or a member of the Authorized Lay Ministry Team (names and telephone numbers on page 19).

And did you know there is a Prayer Board in the foyer of The Ark? Pin your prayer request to the board so that the Thursday Ark Café Team can include it in their weekly prayers.

**Before You Die**

Join The Leos, musicians from the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, as they present an evening of fine musical entertainment on FRIDAY 15 MARCH at 7.30.pm in St Laurence Church.

This year, violinist Byron Parish is running the Virgin London Marathon, and the evening is to raise funds for his charity, Bowel and Cancer Research.

In the first half of the concert, learn more about the most popular classics, the instruments the members play and life in the world-famous CBSO. Then, after interval bubbles (and possibly a raffle prize or two), the Leos will perform Schubert's masterful string quartet 'Death and the Maiden'.

If you only ever listen to one piece of string quartet music in your life, this is the one! Tickets are priced at £10, and are available from The Village Grocer, The Square, Alvechurch or from The Ark (Mondays to Fridays 9.00.am to 1.00.pm).



## Large Print Service Books

“My eyes are dim I cannot see, I have not brought my specs with me” is sometimes the lament of those attending services in St Laurence Church who find themselves unable to read the print in the service booklets. Fret not! There are now some large print editions of the Sunday Service booklets available at the back of the church. If you would like one, simply ask the sidesman or woman on duty at the back of the church and they will gladly supply you with a large print edition.

## Ending with a roar

The Ark Café menu for March commences with Zummerzet Chicken (7 March), and then continues with Succulent Gammon (14 March) before roaring to end with a Beef Carvery (21 March).

Those with a lion’s appetite will have to book a ticket for Beef Lunch because it is a ticket only affair. Tickets are £10 and can be obtained from Ian Price on 0121 447 7955 Monday to Friday from 9.00.am until 1.00.pm, or on Thursday lunchtimes at The Ark Café.

After the Easter break, The Ark Café re-opens on Thursday 25 April.

## Gilbert & Sullivan And More

This month, The Midland Sinfonia stages a welcome return to The Ark for The Enigma String Quartet, plus guest Clare Spencer-Smith (cello) and soloists from Bromsgrove Operatic Society, in a concert celebrating the songs of Gilbert and Sullivan plus string works by Schubert and Moeran.

The concert is on SATURDAY 2 MARCH at 7.30.pm in The Ark. The works performed include Moeran’s String *Quartet in A Minor*, Schubert’s *String Quintet in C Major* and excerpts from *The Mikado*, *Gondoliers*, *HMS Pinafore*, *Trial by Jury*, *Yeoman of the Guard*, *Ruddigore* and *Pirates of Penzance*.

Tickets are £13 with accompanied children free of charge and full-time students and registered unemployed £5.

Tickets can be obtained from The Village Greengrocer or by phoning 0121 447 7040.

  
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## Ups And Downs

Discover the Ups and Downs of Tardebigge in the company of other Alvechurch folk and under the expert leadership of Keith Williams.

The monthly Footpath Walk, organised by the Village Society, is taking place on SUNDAY 3 MARCH and starts from The Queen's Head Pub Car Park in Sugarbrook Lane, Stoke Pound B60 3AU at 2.30.pm. Further details can be obtained from Keith on 079798 48427. He would be delighted to see you on the walk .

## Village Messy Church

*Pat Booth writes ...*

Give yourselves a relaxing break on SATURDAY 9 MARCH and join us in The Ark for a pleasant, happy and informal time with FAMILY and FRIENDS. We start at 2.30 and clearing-up time is 4.30pm. It is a delight to meet and share with so many families.

The bonus is that you do not have to cook tea or wash up!! Look out for the notices around the village. There is no charge, although donations are always welcome.

## Spare a Tin

Could you spare a tin of food from your larder or kitchen cupboard to help struggling and destitute people on the Charford housing estate? Capt. John Bentley of the Church Army works amongst those living on the Charford Estate and runs a food bank to help those experiencing hard times. Tins of food can be placed in the box at the back of St Laurence Church for onward transmission to the food bank.

"I was hungry and you gave me food ...As you did it for the least of one of my brethren you did it unto me", said Jesus.

## Book A Table

If you would like to sell craft items or unwanted household goods, why not book a table at the Bellringers' Annual Table Top Sale which is being held on SATURDAY 20 APRIL in the Ark from 10.30.am until 3.00.pm Tables can be booked at a cost of £5 by telephoning 0121 445 4980.

Any contributions for the Bellringers' stalls should be given to a Bell Ringer, or taken to the Ark. Books, jigsaws and china would be very much appreciated.

# Mothering Sunday

Saying thank you to God for our mothers will be the theme of this year's Mothering Sunday Service in St Laurence Church at 10.30.am on SUNDAY 10 MARCH. The service is designed for children of all ages and their parents. In addition to action-hymns and prayers, posies of Spring flowers will be distributed to the children for them to present to their mothers with their love. Thank God for mothers!

# An Amazing Sight

Where can you find Roman Catholics, Baptists, Anglicans and Methodists all worshipping together? Answer: in St Marys RC Church Alvechurch on SUNDAY 10 MARCH at 6.30.pm.

This is the occasion of the monthly ecumenical service that demonstrates that Christians in Alvechurch worship the same God and value the diversity and richness of the various different Christian traditions represented in the parish. Why not add your voice and your distinctive individuality to those assembled in the ABC Hall on 10 March?

# On The Carpet

The Tiny Tots have their monthly service on the carpet in St Laurence Church on THURSDAY 21 MARCH at 10.15.am. The story of Easter will be unfolded using figures from the Easter garden and simple action songs.

The Tiny Tots Service is the ideal way to introduce very small children to church. A very warm invitation is extended to parents with young children who are free on 21 March to come along and join the Rector on the carpet for the monthly Tiny Tots Service. Entrance to the church is via The Ark.



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## Palm Crosses

"Hosanna to the Son of David", shouted the crowds on the first Palm Sunday, as they tore branches from palm trees and festooned the road along which Jesus rode on a donkey.

The Christian Church commemorates this event every year on Palm Sunday, which, this year, falls on SUNDAY 24 MARCH.

At all services in St Laurence Church, lengths of palm woven into the shape of a cross will be distributed to remind worshippers how those who shouted "Hosanna" on Palm Sunday changed their shout to "Crucify him!" five days later.

There will be processions around the inside of the church and, at the 11.00.am Parish Eucharist, a congregational reading of the Passion story, in which the congregation reads the part of the crowd.

Anyone wishing to help make palm crosses is invited to come to The Rectory on SATURDAY 23 MARCH at 2.30.pm. Full and sympathetic instruction given! Please bring a pair of kitchen scissors.



## AGM at the AVS

The Annual General Meeting of Alvechurch Village Society is taking place in The Village Hall on WEDNESDAY 20 MARCH commencing at 7.30.pm. Once the business has been transacted there will be drinks and nibbles and some entertainment.

Information about the Neighbourhood Plan will be on show in the Hall.

## Do This

On the night before his death, Jesus instructed his disciples to remember him by sharing together in a meal of bread and wine. "Do this in remembrance of me", he said.

On Maundy Thursday evening, 28 MARCH, Christians around the world will be gathering to fulfil Jesus' command. In Alvechurch, the annual commemoration of The Last Supper will be held in the church at 7.30.pm. The barriers of time seem to disappear as the faithful gather around the Lord's Table and re-enact the events of nearly two thousand years ago. Was ever such another command obeyed?

At the conclusion of the service, the altar is stripped of all its furnishings and left bare to symbolise the desolation of the Garden of Gethsemane and the events of Good Friday.



## Good Friday Or Black Friday?

The sombre events of Good Friday will be observed in three different ways.

At 12 noon in St Mary's RC Church, School Lane, there will be the Stations of the Cross. This consists of a procession around each of the fourteen artistic depictions of Jesus' journey from Pilate's Judgement Seat to the tomb

Then, at 1.00.pm there will be a fifty-minute service in Alvechurch Baptist Church led by the Revd. Fiona Lee.

Finally at 2.00.pm there will be a service in St Laurence Church meditating on the last events of Jesus' life – the crucifixion and burial.

There will be sufficient time, for those who wish, to attend all three services and move from church to church.

Jesus said to his disciples in the Garden of Gethsemane, "Could you not watch with me one brief hour?"

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## Easter Lilies

It is traditional to decorate the church with lilies at Easter-time. Anyone wishing to make a donation towards the purchase of Easter lilies can place their donation on the plate at the back of the church. If lilies are being given in memory of a departed loved one, please record the name on the list on the table at the back of the church, so they can be remembered in the church's prayers on Easter Sunday.

## Easter Eve

Easter Eve – SATURDAY 30 MARCH – is the day when the church is decorated for Easter Day. All offers of help gratefully received. The Rector will be in church at 10.00.am to construct an Easter garden. He would be pleased to have the help of any children who are able to come.

The Easter Vigil takes place at 6.30.pm on SATURDAY 30 MARCH. The service begins with the church in darkness as readings of God's powerful deeds in the past are related, culminating in the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. At this point all the lights in the church are switched on and the full magnificence of the decorated church is revealed. The service ends with prayers of preparation for Holy Communion the following day.

## Easter Day

Don't forget to put clocks FORWARD one hour or you will arrive at church on Easter Day just as everyone else is leaving! This would be a calamity, because Easter Day is the climax of the Christian Year. *The Book of Common Prayer* says "Every confirmed member of the Church shall communicate at least three times in the year, of which Easter to be one." Common sense tells one that not to receive Holy Communion on this day of days is a denial of belief.

There will be an early morning celebration of Holy Communion at 8.00.am and a main morning service at 10.30.am. There will be a Sunday Club in The Ark for the children and an Easter Egg Hunt around the church at the conclusion of the service.

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# Snow White Wedding

With the snow banked up on either side of the churchyard path, Rebecca Wright entered St Laurence Church to wed Trevor Arnold on Saturday 26 January.

The bride, who is the eldest daughter of Martin and Janet Wright of Callow Hill Road, was escorted into church on her father's arm. She wore a brilliant white dress with a sweetheart neckline, small diamante detailing, a mid-length train and lovely red shoes. She was accompanied by her chief bridesmaid, Vicci Wells who was her best friend from school days, and Alison Wright (sister) and Kristina Arnold (sister-in-law). The bridesmaids wore long red strapless satin dresses with white fluffy wraps.

The groom entered into the white and red theme of the day by having red shoe laces in his black patent shoes. He chose his friends Dan Roberts and Ed Beattie to be joint Best-Men. The Ushers were Barry Arnold (brother), Scotty Arnold (cousin) Max Wallace (friend) and Adam Webb (future brother-in-law).

After a Reception at Redhouse Barns, Stoke Prior, Bromsgrove, the couple left for a honeymoon in Bangkok and Koh Samui, Thailand. They have known each other for three years. They will be making their future married home in Winchester where the bride works as an Associate Director in Marketing Sciences and the groom in Air Traffic Control analysis.



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## Brass Players Needed

The article in last month's *Grapevine* requesting musicians to play once a month at the 9.30.am Family Service in St Laurence Church produced a response from a trombonist. He, however, needs some other brass players to join him in order to produce a balanced sound. So ... are there any other brass instrumentalists in the parish who would be interested in forming a small brass ensemble? If so, please contact the Rector on 0121 445 1087.

## From Peru

News has recently reached Alvechurch of Alejandro Mesco's official installation as a priest at the St James' Mission Church situated to the east of Arequipa, on the slopes of the Misti volcano. The mission was established five years ago and there is now a simple building. Work will be undertaken to the interior and exterior to make it into the lively and attractive place it is intended to be.

Alejandro is currently working on processing the documentation to ensure the official rights over the land are established. It will then be time to start addressing the installation of basic utilities, which could take several months.

In the meantime Alejandro intends to carry out evangelisation among the adults and children of the area, using resources such as *Alpha* and *Christianity Explored*, together with children's materials.

Photographs of Alejandro's installation at St James' Mission Church can be found on the church website.

Alejandro and his wife Doris send greetings and wish their supporters and friends in the Alvechurch many blessings in their family life, work and ministries.



Installation of Alejandro

# Services for Holy Week and Easter

## **PALM SUNDAY (24 March)**

- 8.00.am Holy Communion
- 9.30.am Family Service and Palm Crosses
- 11.00.am Parish Eucharist with Congregational Reading of the Passion, Procession and Palm Crosses
- 6.00.pm Evensong

## **MAUNDY THURSDAY (28 March)**

- 7.30.pm The Lord's Supper with Washing of Feet and Stripping of the Altar

## **GOOD FRIDAY (29 March)**

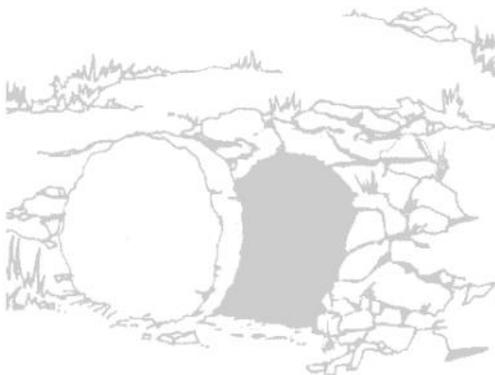
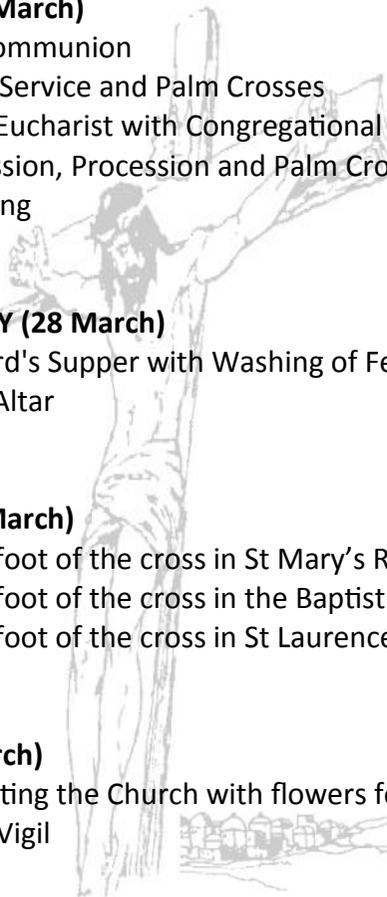
- 12 noon At the foot of the cross in St Mary's RC Church
- 1.00.pm At the foot of the cross in the Baptist Church
- 2.00.pm At the foot of the cross in St Laurence Church

## **EASTER EVE (30 March)**

- 9.00.am Decorating the Church with flowers for Easter
- 6.30.pm Easter Vigil

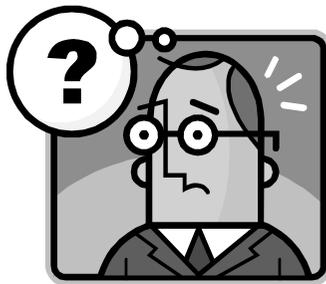
## **EASTER DAY (31 March)**

- 8.00.am Holy Communion
- 10.30.am Family Communion & Easter Egg Hunt
- 6.00.pm Easter Evensong



## Repeating Curry And Quiz

The Quiz and Curry Evening scheduled for 18 January was a victim of the winter snow and had to be postponed. Those who were disappointed now have a chance to sharpen their wits and beguile their tummies with aromatic Indian food at the re-scheduled Quiz and Curry Evening on FRIDAY 1 MARCH at 7.30.pm in The Ark. Tickets purchased for the January event are still valid. Please bring along your own beverages.



## Jazz Night

On FRIDAY 19 APRIL The Ark is delighted to welcome back, Richard Leach and his 7 stars of Jazz. Their last visit was so popular that tickets were sold out well before the performance date and it is hoped that both newcomers and those who have seen the band before will support their "Second Coming".

All the musicians are extremely talented and have played with many jazz legends such as Humphrey Lyttleton, Chris Barber, George Melly and many visiting America stars.

They play a variety of Jazz styles and anyone who loves good music, beautifully played should enjoy this night.

The concert starts at 7.30pm. Tickets cost £11 (which includes a glass of wine) and are available from Sue Brotherton on 0121 447 7037 or *The Village Greengrocer*, Alvechurch, now.



## My Favourite Bible Story

*This month we begin a new monthly feature in which parishioners chose their favourite bible story and say why they like it. We commence with the Old Testament story of Joseph, chosen by Sue Phillips.*

A story of jealousy, favouritism, boasting, attempted seduction, broken promises involving a man of extraordinary talent, positive thinking, self-belief, trickery and faith, Joseph's story is the account a journey from the pastures of Palestine to the courts of ancient Egypt. It's a good read. The main character is the eleventh of twelve brothers, sons of polygamous Jacob. He was the long awaited first born of Jacob's favourite wife, and his favourite son. He's the boy of technicoloured dream-coat fame.

From early on in his life it was apparent that he had a special gift of divine origin, but his immaturity and a tendency to brag, coupled with the favouritism shown by his father alienated him from his brothers. Their dislike led to a plan to get rid of him by selling him off to slave traders, and covering up his disappearance by convincing his doting father that he'd been savaged by a wild animal.

As a slave to a royal official his God-given talents were recognised and he was given great responsibility in his master's household.

However his good looks attracted the lady of the house, who, humiliated by her failure to seduce him, set a trap that had him falsely accused and thrown into prison. It wasn't long before his exceptional gifts were spotted there and the gaoler made him responsible for the internal workings of the prison. Here he gained the trust of two prisoners who confided in him, each recounting a strange dream. Joseph was in his comfort-zone. His early experience of God's voice was through dreams and their interpretation. He's impressive, he gets it right, though it's a long time before the promise to reward him is fulfilled.

Eventually a need arises in the royal household and Joseph is remembered and comes to the attention of the king who is desperate to make sense of a series of bizarre dreams. Joseph's explanation is so convincing that the king enlists him in making plans to address the future needs of the nation. Once again Joseph gains the trust of a significant person, and this time he emerges as the hero of the hour.

The story then moves to his homeland where famine has struck, and his brothers come seeking grain from the vast granaries Joseph has built. The family is eventually reunited but not without drama and emotion, confrontation and resolution.

This is a story of a flawed family, of deep faith in an unseen God who remains faithful and draws the family into a plan far bigger than anyone could have imagined. It's about courage in the face of adversity, of wisdom in extreme situations and of the restoration of family bonds despite pain and injury inflicted by jealousy and selfishness. A story of myriad human failures transformed through faith into personal and political triumph. It's larger than life granted, but it contains many scenarios that we encounter in 21<sup>st</sup> Century life, and some useful tips on how to handle adversity.

You can read it for yourself in Genesis chapters 37-50 (including a few bonus scenes).

*Do you have a favourite Bible story? If so, drop a line to the Editor*  
[davidmartin@lynksolve.net](mailto:davidmartin@lynksolve.net)



## Lambing Chairs And Socks Signs Of Spring

*Some unusual items were brought to a recent meeting of Alvechurch Historical Society, writes Margaret Gardner.*

We had a good turnout for the Annual General Meeting and the Committee and Officers have all remained the same. Members told us about their memorabilia, including lambing chairs, diaries, plates, Coronation books, styles of the 1950s, a mug from the Coronation of Edward VII and socks issued for National Service. It was a very interesting and enjoyable half-hour

We are all looking forward to the speakers booked for 2013. Our speaker on MONDAY 4 MARCH is Mr Alan Thornton who will be telling 'The Cadbury Story'.

We meet on the first Monday of the month in the Museum, School Lane and, as usual, there will be plenty of parking behind the Catholic Church with their kind permission. See you then. Margaret (0121 445 1649).

## Shoot First - No Ordinary Life

An informal talk is being given by John Williams, on his career as a lighting cameraman with the BBC, based at Pebble Mill, Birmingham. It will take place on FRIDAY 22 MARCH in the Baptist Church Hall. All proceeds will go to Alvechurch Baptist Church Refurbishment Fund.

The talk will include pictures and film of his travels around the world, from the back streets of Belfast to the snowy wastes of Antarctica, plus popular drama serials such as *Howards Way*, *All Creatures Great and Small* and *Poldark* plus topical programmes such as *TopGear*, *Countryfile* and the local production *Alvechurch 2000*.

The illustrated talk begins at 7.00pm. Tickets are £8 and refreshments will be provided. Tickets can be obtained from *The Lounge*, *The Joshua Tree*, *The Post Office* and members of the Baptist Church.

The Annual Rowney Green Spring Bulb Show is being held in the Peace Hall on THURSDAY 14 MARCH at 7.30pm. This year's show is one with a difference. If you want to discover the difference, and also peruse the sale of plants, do come along as new members and visitors are always welcome.

The Rowney Green Horticultural Society meets on the second Thursday of each month at 7.30pm in The Peace Hall. Enquiries can be made to Andrea on 0121 445 1929.

## Just One Hour Can Make A World Of Difference

Do you have an hour or two a week spare to help people suffering from sight loss in your area?

Sight Concern in Worcestershire is your local independent charity, supporting blind and partially sighted people to lead independent and fulfilling lives.

We urgently need people to help us provide a life-changing service to those who need it.

Right now, we have people waiting for volunteers in Bromsgrove and Redditch.

If you would like to help please contact: Sight Concern Worcestershire, The Bradbury Centre, 2 Sansome Walk, Worcester, WR1 1LH.

Telephone: 01905 723245



# Beautiful Evensong

The timeless beauty of Anglican Evensong is re-created every Sunday in St Laurence Church at 6.00.pm.

Using the service that has been in continual use in the Church of England for five hundred years, each Sunday is brought to a peaceful and tranquil end.

St Laurence Church is one of the very few churches in the vicinity to offer sung Evensong each week. During March, the choir is singing the following anthems:

**March 3<sup>rd</sup>** *Ave verum.* by Wolfgang Mozart

**March 17<sup>th</sup>** *Drop, drop slow tears.*  
by Orlando Gibbons

**March 24<sup>th</sup>** *O Saviour of the world.*  
by Sir John Goss

**March 31<sup>st</sup>** *This joyful Eastertide.* Dutch carol  
arranged by Charles Wood

# Obituary

## ROGER AUGUSTINE EDWARD WHITBY



A man who was born at *The Crown*, Withybed Green and lived all his life in Alvechurch made his final journey to church in a motorcycle hearse.

Roger Augustine Edward Whitby was one of four children born at *The Crown*, Withybed Green. He is survived by his sisters, Joanne, Angela and Sheila. In 1972 he married Erica and they had six children – twins (who died in infancy), Chris, Marion, Kathryn and Holly. His wife died in 1988 after just sixteen years of marriage and he undertook the upbringing of his four children singlehandedly. He was grandfather to four grandchildren – Isobel, Daniel (who predeceased him), Kitty and Honor.

After leaving Woodrush Secondary School, he worked in various factories, including seventeen years at Aeroquip and a time with Brookside Engineering. But his great passion in life was motorcycles. He possessed a magnificent Norton Motorcycle and was a member of the Norton Owners Club. He enjoyed the speed, freedom and exhilaration of riding a motorcycle and it was appropriate that he was conveyed to his funeral in a magnificent Triumph motorcycle hearse.

Having lived all his life in either Latimer Road or Tanyard Lane he was well-known in the village. He will be remembered as a caring man, who was quiet and generous with a good sense of humour and a strong artistic and creative streak.

His funeral was held in the parish church on Thursday 24 January. The hymns sung were *All things bright and beautiful* and *In heavenly love abiding*.



# Triplets And A Day Of Prayer

*A forthcoming talk and the annual Women's World Day of Prayer are previewed by Jill Woolley.*

As the St Laurence Women's Fellowship comes to the end of its year, we welcome our final speaker on WEDNESDAY 27 MARCH who is Mrs Anna Blaxham. She, along with her sister, will tell us about their life as triplets.

On April 24th we hold our Annual General Meeting when we review the past year and make plans for 2013 – 2014. We continue to meet in The Taynard Centre at 2.00pm on the 4th Wednesday of each month.

The Women's' World Day of Prayer service will be held on FRIDAY 1 MARCH in Alvechurch Baptist Church Hall at 2pm. The speaker will be Mrs Jenny Thomas. A crèche will be available and refreshments served after the service. All are welcome: men, women and young people.

## From The Registers

### Baptisms

*We welcome you into the Lord's family*

January 27      Jamie Andrew Stanfield      George Road

*Photographs of the newly-baptized can be found on the church website - [www.alvechurch-stlaurence.org](http://www.alvechurch-stlaurence.org)*



### Marriages

*Those whom God has joined together*

January 26      Trevor Alan Arnold and Rebecca Louise Wright



### Funerals and Cremations

*May they rest in the peace of Christ*

January 24      Roger Augustine Edward Whitby      aged 64



# Who's who

Rector	Revd David Martin, The Rectory, School Lane 445 1087 davidmartin@lynksolve.net
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 , 52 Callow Hill Road 445 6431
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 Mr Bob Dale Weatheroak Farm 01564 822486 Mr David Richmond, The Ferns, Chapel Lane 445 3569 Mr Jeremy Roberts, 7 Redditch Road, Hopwood 445 2041 Mr Colin Bennett, 122 Redditch Road 01527 64077 Mrs Lynda Wolstencroft 49 Hinton Avenue Tel: 445 3212 Mrs Kate Birchall, 14 Birmingham Road 0121 445 6964 Mrs Ann Thurrell, Top Barn, Scarfield Hill 447 7668 Mrs Jill Woolley, 111 Birmingham Road 445 2125 Mr Ian Price, the Ark School Lane, 447 7955 thearkvalvechurch@yahoo.co.uk
PCC Secretary	Revd David Martin, The Rectory, School Lane 445 1087 davidmartin@lynksolve.net
PCC Treasurer	
Organist & Choirmaster	
Electoral Roll Officer	
Tower Captain	
Singing Group	
Mum's the Word	
Flower Co-ordinator	
Women's Fellowship	
Ark Booking Secretary )	
& Grapevine advertising )	
Grapevine Editor	

## PCC Special Responsibilities

### Finance and Standing Committee

David Martin	Graham Clark
Mike Fletcher	Alison Smith
Bob Dale	Jeremy Roberts

### Children and Youth

Martin Allen	Mike Fletcher
Marion Thompson	Pat Booth

### Buildings and Fabric

Mick Fletcher	Colin Bennett
David Richmond	Jill Woolley

### Development

Alison Smith	Jeremy Roberts
Margaret Haste	

### Churchyard

Bob Dale	Andy Humphries
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### Peru and Missionary

Sue Phillips	Dick Russell
Sue Brotherton	Margaret Haste

### Worship

Barbara Scane	Martin Allen
Graham Clark	Enid Brumsen

David Richmond

