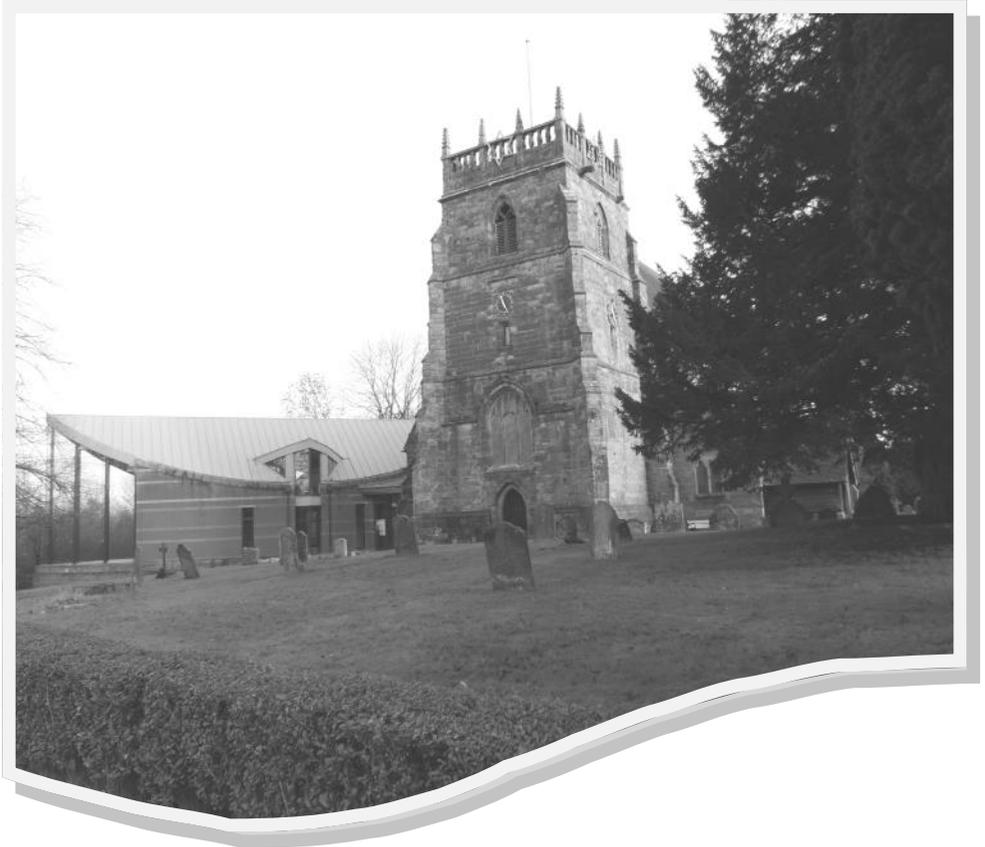


# The Grapevine

THE PARISH MAGAZINE OF ST LAURENCE CHURCH ALVECHURCH



**SEPTEMBER 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 (07792535661) 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**



## Falling Upward

Over the summer some of us at St Laurence's have been reading a book curiously entitled "Falling Upward": surely, if you fall, you fall **downward** – and not **upward**?

In his book, Richard Rohr describes the two halves of life, and how we move from one to the other through falling **upward**: in the first half of life, we are naturally and rightly preoccupied with establishing our identity – who we are – through climbing, achieving and performing. But those concerns will not serve us well as we grow older and begin to embark on a further journey, which involves challenges, mistakes, loss of control and suffering that shocks us out of our comfort zones.

Life, if we are honest about it, is made up of many failings and fallings, amidst all of our hopeful growing and achieving. Those failings and fallings must be there for a purpose, but what is that purpose? We can find it bewildering, but does it have to be? Is there a different and bigger way of seeing our lives, so that we can find a deeper and lasting meaning and purpose in the second half of life? In *Falling Upward*, Richard Rohr illuminates how we can come to an understanding of one of the most profound of life's mysteries: how our failing can be the foundation for our ongoing spiritual growth and finding inner fulfilment. Falling down can in fact become moving upward.

There are two major tasks for each human life: the first task is to build a strong "container" or identity, and the second task is to find the contents that the container is meant to hold. The first task we take for granted as the very purpose of life: establishing an identity, home, relationships, friends, community, security,

## Richard Bubbers writes...

and building a proper platform in the world. This does not mean that we necessarily do it well, but because we are so focused on it, we may not even attempt the second task. We live in a "first-half-of-life" culture, largely concerned about surviving successfully, which encourages us to keep building a bigger and better container: this is not a good place to remain as we grow older, if we want to find lasting meaning and fulfilment in our life – to find the contents for the container of our life. These two halves of life are not necessarily linked to a person's chronological age: some young people, especially those who have learnt from early suffering, are already on the second journey/task of life, and some older people are still in the first stage of life and concerned with the building of the container of their lives.

The very things, the heartbreaks and disappointments, which can make the first half of life so hard and difficult, can actually be stepping stones to the spiritual joy and wonder that the second half of life has in store.

It can take much longer to discover the task of the second half of life, but when we begin to become aware and to seek it with honesty and integrity, we begin to move from the first to the second half of our own lives. This involves being honest about our motives and clarifying our intentions. Most often we do not pay attention to the inner task until we have had some kind of fall or failure in our outer tasks.

If you would like to find out more, and consider what the second stage of life is about, we are having a series of Sunday morning talks on *Falling Upward* at our 9.30 am family service and at our 11.15 am communion service on 4 September, 11 September, 18 September and 9 October, and you will be very welcome at any of these services.

ACCUCO ACCOUNTING  
LIMITED

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS  
AND REGISTERED AUDITOR  
40 BEAR HILL, ALVECHURCH  
TELEPHONE 0121 445 2445

Email: david@accuco.co.uk

Website: www.accuco.co.uk

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

Contact David or Susan Seeley to  
discuss how we can help you.

Registered to carry out Audit work by  
the Institute of Chartered  
Accountants in England & Wales

## THOMAS BROTHERS

Funeral Directors

Prepayment Plan,

Private Chapels,

"Woodland Burial"

24 hour Personal Service

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

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

*A. Pullen*

• MEMORIALS •

*Additional Inscriptions  
& Renovations*



**All Work  
is to the  
Highest  
Standard**

**BRAMM**

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

## St Laurence Women's Fellowship

*Jill Woolley writes...*



At our July meeting Dawn Nex gave us an interesting and very informative talk about the Amish people who live a very simple life in America.

The Charity Tea held in The Ark on August 9th was very well supported and raised £400 for The Hospices Lottery which supports The Primrose, St Richard and Acorn Hospices. My thanks to everyone who came and gave so generously- to all who made such delicious cakes- to Michael and Ian who helped set up the room and to all who helped in any way on the day to make it such a success.

At our meeting on September 28th we welcome back Virginia Davis who will once again give us a floral demonstration in her own unique style!

## Jazz at The Ark

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



*Photos by Andy May*

To all you followers of trad jazz, a great night of foot-tapping music awaits you on **Friday, 21st October at 7.30pm**, featuring the **Sauce City Jazzmen** (Birmingham Jazz Festival 2016). Tickets £10 obtainable from either The Village Greengrocer or Margaret on 0121 445 1854.

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

# Rowney Green Horticultural Society

Lindsay Smith writes...

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

At the meeting on September 8th our guest speaker will be Vic Aspland, president of the Cyclamen Society and a Trustee of Birmingham Botanical Gardens. He has been interviewed on Gardener's World, been a plant hunter, a writer and a keen photographer. He will be talking on "*The Brighter Side of Winter*". It promises to be a very interesting evening!

Guests are welcome - £3.50 including refreshments.

On Saturday, 3rd September the 74th Annual Flower and Produce Show will be take place at The Peace Hall and Joanne Malin, BBC Midlands Newscaster will be presenting the prizes at approx. 4.00pm. Members and non members are welcome to come along and see the fantastic range of entries from 3.00pm, where tea and cake will also be available.

For more information please contact Lindsay Smith on 01527 592874.

## CAN YOU HEAR ME?

(communication forum)

Pat Booth writes...



Are you experiencing a hearing loss? Do you have difficulty hearing the Television, or reacting to the doorbell and even wonder if it is the telephone ringing or maybe the microwave pinging?

Come and find out if environmental aids (gadgets) can resolve these frustrating every day occurrences.

You are welcome to join us and also to bring a friend along if you wish.

**Date:** 21st September 2016  
**Time:** 10.30am to 12 noon  
**Venue:** Alvechurch Cricket Club, Alvechurch

Hope to see you. Please phone 07966370448 for further

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

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



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

### WHERE NEXT ASSOCIATION

#### Garden Centre

Opening hours

Mon-Fri 9 to 5, Sat 10 to 4

Woodwork

Packing / assembly

Landscaping / maintenance

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

Wellesbourne Close  
Easemore Road, Redditch  
B98 8ER  
01527 69955



## KenDry

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

Ken Wainwright  
of  
Alvechurch

0121 445 4247

[www.kendry.co.uk](http://www.kendry.co.uk)

## GARDEN MAINTENANCE SERVICE

Semi-retired commercial grower of bedding plants, shrubs & climbers for 35 years.

Looking for work within the Parish for a low cost approach.

**PLEASE PHONE TONY  
THE PLANT MAN  
ON**

**07881527117 (ANY TIME)  
01527 63375 (AFTER DUSK)**



**THE LAWNS**  
RESIDENTIAL CARE

Exceptional quality accommodation for senior adults and the elderly.

24 hour care from professional, caring staff.

All set within beautiful gardens and terraces.

School Lane, Alvechurch, B48 7SB  
Tel: 0121 445 4098  
Fax: 0121 445 4544  
[www.thelawns care.co.uk](http://www.thelawns care.co.uk)

### **Kathryn Collinson**

BA Hons, BEd Hons, ALCM

Lessons  
from  
20 minutes  
to  
1 hour



#### **Music tuition – All Styles**

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

#### **Maths and English Tuition**

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

**Tel: 0121 445 3523**

## Messy Church is back in Alvechurch

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

### **Wednesday 5th October 2016**

at Alvechurch Baptist Church

### **Saturday 26th November 2016**

at The Ark, St Laurence's Church

### **Wednesday 22nd March 2017**

at Alvechurch Baptist Church

### **Saturday 1st July 2017**

at The Ark, St Laurence's Church



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

## New fitness class at The Ark

**K.O.B.  
FITCYCLE**

Call—07714710578

**GET FIT & BURN FAT FAST**

FitCycle is the easiest and most effective way of burning calories. Now it's easier than ever with a spin class that comes to you!



E: [kofitcycle@gmail.com](mailto:kofitcycle@gmail.com)

W: [www.kofitcycle.co.uk](http://www.kofitcycle.co.uk)



**COME AND JOIN US**

**EVERY TUESDAY 7PM**  
AT THE ARK

## Finding space to flourish

My social media feed has been filled over the summer with pictures from Christian conferences and youth camps. People meeting together for worship, pilgrimage, inspirational teaching and community building. Simon Hill, our Youth Officer, spoke on the radio about Spree, where many of our young people had a lot of fun, and I was moved by a picture of Justin Welby at Soul Survivor in the midst of thousands of teenagers praying fervently for him.

I had the privilege of a week in a tent on the Bath and West Showground at New Wine, where I was delivering a seminar, but mainly receiving input from others and mingling with wonderful Christian people with whom I shared coffee and wine, and learned much from as we chatted in queues and over barbecues. I came back refreshed and re-envisioned. There is something powerful about gathering with many others for celebration, worshipping our God in a way which is different from our weekly rhythm. God's people have always done it. Festivals of different kinds are woven through the Old Testament, and we see patterns emerging of annual pilgrimage, high days and holy days, significant seasons marked out as special in the Church through the ages.

It is healthy to have annual rhythms in our spiritual life which sustain and feed us. Autumn is always a busy time – a new term, perhaps new Alpha or Pilgrim courses beginning – the visit of the Archbishop of Canterbury this year for us being a particular focus. I have tried to prepare myself for this by spending time in August in retreat and refreshment, 'abiding' with Jesus, reading and allowing some space to grow. It's important to continue a sustainable routine into the busyness of autumn – short, regular periods of prayer and reflection perhaps or meeting with smaller groups of kingdom people week by week, to learn and pray together and encourage one another.

What are your spiritual refreshment patterns – annually, monthly, weekly? How, at the start of this new season, can you ensure they don't get crowded out?

In Matthew 11:28-30, The Message translation, Jesus says: *"Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me —watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace."*

I pray we all, as kingdom people, will learn the unforced rhythms of grace in ways which sustain us, and enable us to flourish.

Archdeacon Nikki



### Husband & Wife Decorators

Fast, Clean Work  
Excellent References  
Reasonable Rates  
Free Quotes  
Call Barry or Marie on  
01527 540169  
07930 452036  
email:  
bshakles@yahoo.co.uk

### Spring View Care Nursing Home



Spring View Care provides small homely nursing home where our residents are at the heart of everything. We aim to provide nursing homes where we ourselves would be happy to stay. We operate two high quality Nursing Homes:  
1: Grosvenor House in Alvechurch  
2: Tutnall Hall in Bromsgrove  
To arrange a visit call  
Tel: 0121 445 0033  
www.springviewcare.co.uk



### Do you need a Helping Hand?

Our local care team has been providing award winning quality homecare since 1989.

We offer a homecare service from 30 minutes per week to full-time Live-in Care, which enables you or your loved one to remain at home with compassion and dignity.

To find out how we can help,  
call: 01527 810 889 or  
visit: [www.helpinghands.co.uk](http://www.helpinghands.co.uk)

## J & D Mason

OPTICIANS

Providing Quality Eyecare  
For Over 30 Years

Selected Designer Frames  
**HALF PRICE**

23 The Square  
Alvechurch  
B48 7LA  
0121 447 8682

## Huntleys Funeral Services

**A life well remembered lives on.** A funeral is a time to say goodbye and to remember the life of a person you love. It's our privilege to be at your side. Visit us at [www.huntleysfunerals.co.uk](http://www.huntleysfunerals.co.uk)

**Redditch**  
58 Ipsley Street  
**01527 62106**



Funeral Partners  
[funeralpartners.co.uk](http://funeralpartners.co.uk)



## Burcot Grange Residential Care Setting for the Elderly

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

**Long term care**

**Individually designed independent living suites**

**Short stay convalescent and holiday accommodation**

For more information or to arrange a visit go to [www.burcotgrange.com](http://www.burcotgrange.com)  
Burcot Grange, 23 Greenhill, Burcot,  
Bromsgrove, Worcestershire, B60 1BJ.  
0121 445 5552 [admin@burcotgrange.com](mailto:admin@burcotgrange.com)

## The Ark Café



Now we are into September our hot meals will start again and we look forward to your loyal support over the coming weeks. We thank you for your support during July and August over the Summer.

Our menu to the end of October will be as follows:

**September 1st Closed**  
**September 8th Roast Lamb**  
**September 15th Roast Pork**  
**September 22nd Gammon and Parsley Sauce**  
**September 29th Roast Lamb**  
**October 6th Somerset Chicken**  
**October 13th Beef Carvery Lunch - Ticket Only**  
**October 20th Pork Casserole**  
**October 27th Half Term - Closed**

We have a very loyal group of helpers, who help at the Cafe week by week, to ensure its continued success. However, we are always keen to encourage new members to join our happy band of helpers. If you would like to help out and have some spare time over a Thursday lunchtime, you would be made very welcome and please have a word with Veronica Rogers on 447 7017.

We look forward to seeing you all back for our hot lunches in September.

## John to the rescue!

Our heartfelt thanks to John Spreckley (P J S Plumbing), for coming to our rescue.

In early August we had an emergency in The Ark with our hot water cylinder.

John managed to quickly source a replacement cylinder (which was a feat in itself), and install it before our next booking.

True dedication and his actions did indeed save the day.

A very big thank you from all of us at the Ark and from the PCC.



# Would Jesus even notice you?

*"On a Sabbath, Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues, and a woman was there who had been crippled by a spirit for eighteen years" (Luke 13:10).*

With the woman in the synagogue, it had been 18 long years of enduring pain. Then it came - the lens of God's love in Christ focused upon the anonymous figure at the back. This was her moment – with Jesus Christ!

Jesus had walked in – to be surrounded by the officials – but He's already seen the woman. Within minutes she will have the lens of God's love swivelling directly upon her. Four phrases summarise the actions of Jesus. *"He saw her....He called her....He said to her....He put his hands on her."*

She was never the same again. Instantly she was up, her face alight as she praised God for her release from the long agony - and the other worshippers were thrilled.

Not so, the synagogue ruler! For him, correct order and systems were more important than people. To him, healing on the Sabbath meant working on the Sabbath. *"There are six days for work!"* he complained. *"So come and be healed on those days, not on the Sabbath."*

Jesus immediately cut through the hypocrisy of the man-made rules that had fenced in the blessing of the One Day in Seven. He told a parable - of a tiny mustard seed that grew to become an all-embracing tree. This single healing was a pointer to the in-coming Kingdom of God - to that future day when Creation itself will be freed from all decay and corruption.

The lens of Christ's love moves through any gathering, touching one, reassuring another; lifting, forgiving, strengthening, ministering.

Someone asks, *'Can He meet with me too - among the millions of people who inhabit this world? Can He even notice me?'*

Go back to that Sabbath gathering of Luke 13, and see yourself there, as someone whom Christ loves, sees – and serves. Why, the lens of the Cross is on you. This is your moment - one in a million. That's you.

*(Source - Parish Pump subscription)*

## James Giles & Sons

A FAMILY OWNED FUNERAL DIRECTORS  
ESTABLISHED 1916

Serving all communities  
with dignity and  
understanding

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

Telephone 01527 872318  
24 Stourbridge Road  
Bromsgrove, Worcs, B61 0AE



- Letterheads
- Brochures
- Business cards
- Pull up Banners
- Flyers
- Envelopes

Full Design  
& Print  
Service

www.positive-print.co.uk  
Email: sales@positive-print.co.uk

0121 459 3454

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

The Answer's Yes!



Your local

### ELECTRICIAN



- Fault Finding/ Repairs
- Extra Lights and Sockets
- New Fuse Boards
- Rewires
- Landlord Inspections
- Qualified Electrician
- Free Quotes
- Fully Insured
- Tidy Work
- Reliable Service
- Satisfaction Guaranteed

Call Nat on:

01527 878316 or 07791 923459

www.njmelectrical.com

WE ACCEPT DEBIT AND CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS



## Hillside at Alvechurch W.I



*Cathy Taylor writes...*

We do not have a meeting in August but arrangements were made for a group of twenty members to have a meal at the Red Lion in Alvechurch at 7.30pm 9th August.

7th September Bhangra Dance Lesson to be given by Vijay Mehay. Our September meeting will have us all on our feet. Members are asked to wear relaxed comfortable clothes, trousers are fine, and flat shoes. There will be time afterwards to chat and meet new people over tea or coffee and cakes. Visitors are welcome to join us.

### **Future events**

We hope to arrange an evening at the cinema in September. Details will be given at the September meeting.

5th October, Maureen Milsom will be our speaker and her talk will be Trip to Poland.

## Alvechurch WI

*Pam Horsfield writes...*

We had a good relaxing Natter Night this month over at the Cricket Club, when we had a chance to catch up with friends and enjoy having a supper together.

Four members entered into the WI national idea of growing summer plants in large bras to form hanging baskets which looked colourful and were fun to see. Some other

members read out amusing stories or poems, but mostly we enjoyed a drink and supper with friends.

Next month is a 'Taster Evening' when we want members to bring some food which we can sample (and the recipe of it would also be useful).

Worcester Federation have organised a lunch with a speaker at Holt Fleet and also the Council Meeting in Malvern, both being in October. They have also arranged the Christmas Shopping trip to Bristol in November when we hope to fill a coach from our group WIs so that we can be picked up at the Red Lion in Alvechurch.

If you're interested in visiting us we have a board by the chip shop giving details of our meetings, or you can phone Denise Cashmore on 445 3246. You'll be very welcome.

## Macmillan Coffee Morning

*Celia Hitch writes...*

Macmillan "Biggest Ever Coffee Morning" to be held at Rectory Cottage, Old Rectory Lane, Alvechurch B48 7SU on Friday morning 23rd September from 11.00am till 1.00pm. Lots of lovely cakes, tea and coffee, Bring and Buy table and a great raffle. Entrance £2.50 to cover coffee or tea and cake.

Come along and support us and have a look round the garden.

Contact Celia Hitch, 0121 445 4824.

## The Archbishop is coming!

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



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

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

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

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

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

## "Shoot First": No Ordinary Life -

is an account by John Williams of his days as a BBC cameraman which started in 1964 and lasted for over 30 years. Although John worked out of Pebble Mill studios he travelled the world and was involved in some tricky situations and made many memorable trips including a visit to the Falklands Islands and on to the Antarctic.

Programmes included series such as "Howard Way" and "Trainer", current affairs programmes such as "Gardeners World" and "Farming" ( forerunner of Countryfile) and drama documentaries such as Laurie Lee's "As I Walked Out One Summer Morning".

A programme which made a huge impact broadcast from Pebble Mill at One was "My name is Jane".

(In his spare time John with Pam were founder members of the Where Next Project in Redditch).

If these programmes resonate with you; if you are interested in the development and use of cameras in filming; or just want a good adventure story there is something here for you.

This book is a good read; a coffee table book; one to share with the family.

John will be at the library on September 30th 10am - 12 noon and will chat informally about his book if you call in. Copies will shortly be available.

Further enquiries to John at - [john@willbriar.myzen.co.uk](mailto:john@willbriar.myzen.co.uk)

*(Article supplied by Meryl Hill)*

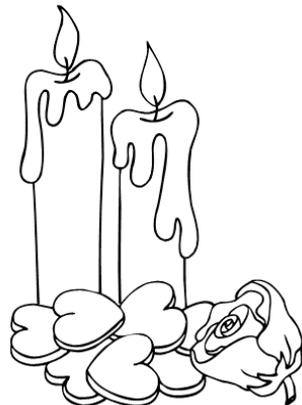


# Child of God Word Search

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

ALWAYS  
BEGINNING  
CHILD  
CREATE  
DARKNESS  
DAVID  
DETAIL  
ILLUMINATE

KNOWLEDGE  
LIGHT  
PLANNED  
POWERFUL  
PRAISING  
PSALM  
SEARCH



# **‘A disorder for everyone!’**

Exploring the culture of psychiatric diagnosis and the implications for practice. with Dr Lucy Johnstone, Jo Watson & featuring Jasmine Gardosi

**Saturday 15th October 2016**

**Time - 9.30am for 10am start - 4pm**

**Venue - The Ark, St Laurence Church, School Lane, Alvechurch, Birmingham, B48 7SB**

**To book - please visit Eventbrite at -  
www.eventbrite.co.uk (search ‘a disorder for everyone’)  
or contact jo - [jowatson03@aol.com](mailto:jowatson03@aol.com) 07769 158565**

This one day Continuing Professional Development (CPD) event is for everyone who is interested in the current debates around mental health. It aims to attract psychologists, counsellors, psychotherapists, mental health support professionals as well as managers and individuals with a personal interest.

Facilitated by Dr Lucy Johnstone & Jo Watson and featuring spoken word artist Jasmine Gardosi It is a chance to discuss the critical questions of the day around the biomedical model in mental health.

**Lucy Johnstone** will summarise current debates and controversies about psychiatric diagnosis. It is increasingly acknowledged, even within the mental health establishment, that categories like 'schizophrenia', 'bipolar disorder' and 'personality disorder' lack validity. The false assumption that distress is best understood as disease can have very serious consequences for the individual, their identity, and their path to recovery.

**If you need any further information please give me a shout! - jo**



Registered charity no. 1012868

[www.cherishfund.org.uk](http://www.cherishfund.org.uk)

The Cherish Fund is a UK based charity which has the provision of education for African children and young people as its primary objective.

Much of The Cherish Fund's activity is devoted to raising sponsorship for children to attend school in some of the poorest countries in the world.

The charity is also helping to support a clinic in Uganda; many of the patients are disabled children from local villages.

*Your support would be very much appreciated!*



Your support for this project via The Cherish Fund would be greatly appreciated.

Registered charity no. 1012868

## Parish Prayers

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



**4 September – Swans Length**

**11 September – Swans Walk**

**18 September – Tanyard Close**

**25 September – Tanyard Lane**

## New Group

Gloria Wilson writes...

There is a friendly group exploring the theme of "*Spirituality*" starting on Monday 12th September in the Lounge Cafe at 11 am. We are all absolute beginners on this subject so invite you to join us for this stimulating subject. Contact me on 445 1854 for more details.

## Harvest Festival

Everyone is invited to our Harvest Festival family celebration service at 9.30am on Sunday 25 September. The Harvest communion service will be at 11.15am, and there will be a "*bring and share*" lunch at 12.30pm in the Ark ( sign-up sheets for the lunch will be at the back of church on the previous Sundays in September).

## Rowney Green

### Flower Club

On 22nd September 2016, at 7.45pm, we welcome demonstrator Dawn Keitley, the title of her presentation will be "*Good enough to Eat*". The competition for the evening is "*Riot of Colour*".

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 Historical Society

Hilary Taylor writes...

### AUTUMN SEASON

Our next talk is on Monday 5th September, when new members and visitors will be welcome alongside existing members. Our speaker for that evening will be Ron Gallivan who makes a welcome return to entertain us with tales of "*James Lancaster: Elizabethan Admiral or Pirate?*"

The following meeting will be on Monday 3rd October.

### OPEN DAYS

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. Do pop in to have a look at our photographs of the station, and memorabilia of old Alvechurch. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be available.

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.

## Wedding Bells

Claire Madeleine Humphries, daughter of Andy and Anne Humphries of Alvechurch, married Daniel Peter Nuttall on Saturday 9 April 2016 at St Laurence Church.

She was escorted into the church on her proud father's arm carrying a bouquet of ivory and vintage pink roses with peonies. The bride wore an ivory Ronald Joyce dress with ruched taffeta bodice edged in beading and a tulle skirt.

She was accompanied by chief bridesmaid, her sister Lisa Humphries, and other bridesmaids Sarah Moynehan (friend) and Tanya Nuttall (groom's sister). They wore full length chiffon dresses in indigo blue with a single beaded shoulder strap.



The groom was supported by his friends, David Harris as best man and Dan Wilkinson as usher, and they wore navy tail suits with silver and pale blue waistcoats.

The service was followed by a reception at The Wood Norton, Evesham. The couple then flew to South Africa for a honeymoon that started in a tented lodge for safari and ended in a water villa in the Maldives for snorkelling and a rest!

The bride, Head of Finance for a retirement villages charity, and groom, a Financial Accountant in manufacturing, will be making their married home in Bevere, Worcester.

## Memory Lane

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

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

We meet on the third Wednesday of the month at The Baptist Church Hall in Alvechurch. It's just £3.50 which includes afternoon tea, 2.30pm to 4pm.

Our next event is on 21st September when we welcome the Alvechurch Community Choir. Please come and join us.

## The Way I See It : WHO ARE WE?

All this talk about Europe and the post-referendum arguments about identity have left me, and probably many people, wondering just who I am. After all, this island is home to people of probably the most mixed provenance in human history.

Way back, we were Celts, until our ancestors were driven back into the mountains of Scotland and Wales. Then came the Romans, the Vikings, Angles and Saxons, some to do a bit of pillaging and others to make themselves at home. Then came 1066 and the French invasion, which changed our language for ever.

Over the ensuing centuries we had various refugees from religious persecution, Irish people in huge numbers when harvests failed, and then more recently people from the Commonwealth, starting with the recruitment of workers from the Caribbean in the nineteen-fifties and then those driven from their homes by Idi Amin in East Africa. And so it has gone on.

Yet here we are, quite clearly a nation, even if we don't all look or sound alike. We may feel at times that it would be nice if everyone was just like we are, but deep down we know how boring that would be. It's a nice quiet afternoon exercise to map out our own answers to the question 'Who am I?' What are the things that really make me who I am? I've done my list. I am, I suppose, first and foremost Christian. Then I'm British (English/Welsh), European (geography/culture), and a member of the wonderful, multi-coloured, argumentative, richly endowed but endlessly flawed human race.

In the words of the old Church of England catechism, which older readers may remember, the answer to the question 'Who

are you?' is 'a child of God, and an inheritor of the kingdom of heaven'. Put it all together, and I'd settle for that.

## Observations on our Christian faith

Don't bother much about your feelings. When they are humble, loving, brave, give thanks for them; when they are conceited, selfish, cowardly, ask to have them changed. C. S. Lewis

Wherever you are, be all there. Live to the hilt every situation you believe to be the will of God. Jim Elliot

If God maintains sun and planets in bright and ordered beauty, he can keep us. F. B. Meyer

The solution of the riddle of life in space and time lies outside space and time. Ludwig Wittgenstein

Faith is the capacity to trust God while not being able to make sense out of everything. James Kok

Faith is not idle; it works while it waits. Ronald Dunn

Whatever our trust is most in, that is our God. Richard Sibbes

If God forgives us, we must forgive others. Otherwise it is almost like setting up ourselves as a higher tribunal than him. C. S. Lewis

What we can know about God is so great and glorious that we can confidently trust what we do not know about him. Our God is a good God. Frank Retief

The great of this world are those who simply loved God more than others did. A. W. Tozer

# Flowers for SEPTEMBER

	4 September	11 September	18 September	25 September
Sanctuary	Albert Whurr	Dorothy Davenport		Harvest and Wedding
Lady Chapel	Albert Whurr	Dorothy Davenport		Harvest and Wedding
In memory of	Wedding Anniversary	Wedding Anniversary		Adam Homer & Sally Clinton

Harvest Festival flowers and Wedding Flowers are being done on Friday 23rd September from 9.30am. I would appreciate offers of help for Harvest, please contact me if you can be of assistance. The '*wedding team*' will take care of the flowers for Adam and Sally but we will have plenty of arranging to do to complete our decorations for Harvest.

Many thanks in advance  
 Ann Thurrell  
 0121 447 7668  
 annthurrell@hotmail.co.uk.

## From The Registers



### Baptisms

*We welcome you into the Lord's family*

24 July      Esme Rosemary Banford  
 Isabelle Elisabeth Gannon



### Weddings

*Those whom God has joined together*

5 August      Christopher Ashword & Claire Newland

# 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 SEPTEMBER



Thursday 1	9.30am	Mums The Word No café today
Saturday 3	3.00pm	Rowney Green Horticultural Society: 74th Annual Flower & Produce Show: Peace Hall, Rowney Green
Monday 5	1.45pm 7.45pm	Forget-Me-Nots: The Ark Alvechurch Historical Society: Talk: " <i>James Lancaster, Elizabethan Admiral or Pirate?</i> ": The Museum, School Lane
Wednesday 7	7.30pm	Hillside WI: Bhangra Dance Lesson: The Ark
Thursday 8	9.30am 12.15am 7.30pm	Mums The Word Ark Café: Roast Lamb Rowney Green Horticultural Society: Talk by Vic Aspland, president of the Cyclamen Society: Peace Hall, Rowney Green
Saturday 10	2.30pm	Alvechurch Museum Open Day: Theme: Alvechurch Railway Station Refreshments available: Museum, School Lane.
Monday 12	7.30pm	Ark Angels WI:
Wednesday 14		<b>OCTOBER GRAPEVINE GOES TO PRESS</b> <b>Articles to <a href="mailto:thearkalvechurch@yahoo.co.uk">thearkalvechurch@yahoo.co.uk</a></b>
Thursday 15	9.30am 12.15am	Mums The Word Ark Café: Roast Pork
Saturday 17	2.30pm	Alvechurch Museum Open Day: Theme: Alvechurch Railway Station Refreshments available: Museum, School Lane.
Monday 19	1.45pm	Forget-Me-Nots: The Ark
Wednesday 21	10.30am 2.30pm	CAN YOU HEAR ME? Communications Forum: Alvechurch Cricket Club, Birmingham Road, Alvechurch Memory Lane: Afternoon tea and Alvechurch Community Choir: Alvechurch Baptist Church Hall
Thursday 22	9.30am 12.15pm 7.45pm	Mums The Word Ark Café: Gammon and Parsley Sauce Rowney Green Flower Club: Talk: Peace Hall, Rowney Green
Friday 23	11.00am	Macmillan Coffee Morning: Rectory Cottage, Old Rectory Lane
Sunday 25	12.30pm	Harvest Festival Lunch - bring and share: The Ark
Wednesday 28	2.00pm	St Laurence Women's Fellowship: Floral Demonstration by Virginia Davis: Tanyard Centre, Tanyard Lane
Thursday 29	9.30am 12.15pm	Mums The Word Ark Café: Roast Lamb