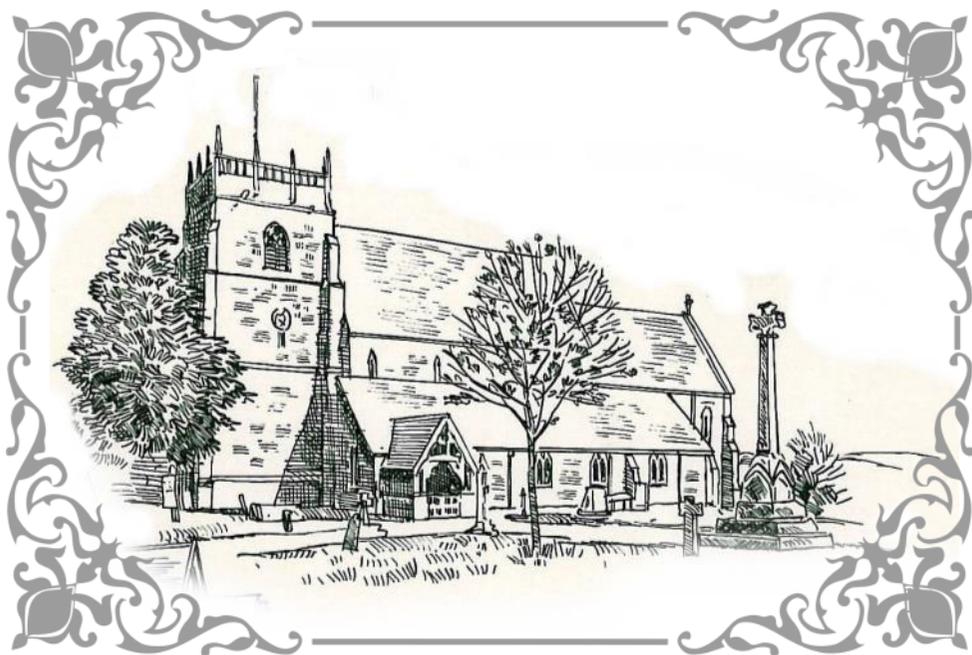


The Grapevine

THE PARISH MAGAZINE OF ST LAURENCE CHURCH ALVECHURCH



JUNE 2017

Online at www.alvechurch-stlaurence.org/monthly-magazine

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

On the 2nd Sunday of the month (4th in January), there will be a United Service (Churches Together in Alvechurch and Rowney Green), rotating between Alvechurch Baptist Church, St Mary's Roman Catholic Church, Rowney Green Shared Church and ourselves

At Rowney Green Shared Church

9.30am Methodist/Anglican Service

except 4th Sunday "All Age Worship" at 3.30 pm

DAILY SERVICE

9.00am Monday to Friday in St Laurence Church

ORGANISATIONS

Sunday Club	Sundays during term time 9.30am Church & 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

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Philippa Brakes writes..

cook during the afternoon and so on. The paying customers will help finance the scheme and everyone benefits.

As someone who struggles and usually fails to grasp even the fundamentals of politics, the prospect of yet another trip to the polling station fills me with alarm and despondency. Smiling charmingly or solemn with determination according to disposition or ratings, politicians from all parties fill our screens nightly. Each of them appears fully confident that they and their parties are the answer to all of life's problems. Who to believe? As human beings, none of us can state with complete certainty that any of the policies proposed will really bring about long term benefits for everyone. So often the available pot of money seems to get shuffled around so, while one group benefits, another suffers, often both equally needy and worthy.

A friend's daughter has recently come up with a business plan for an unusual café. The idea apparently is to provide a space for people in a particular community to meet. It could benefit the lonely, those with mental health issues or immigrants struggling to find their feet and make friends in a new country. They will be provided with a free lunch and then spend the afternoon cooking together with the encouragement and supervision of a chef, to provide a meal for paying customers that evening. Some of the meals cooked will be set aside to be reheated and served free of charge for the next group of people needing lunch the next day, who will then

What a lovely idea – everyone gives what they can and even those who think they have nothing to give can fulfil a human need to be useful by providing a service in companionship with others. Who among the political parties can really make all of us feel we have an intrinsic worth and something to offer our communities? Perhaps only the love of Jesus can really pull people from all backgrounds together, cutting through divisions of class, gender, age and general prejudice to create a community where all are valued and all can feel themselves necessary and useful. The disciples came from totally disparate backgrounds, women were the vital first witnesses to the resurrection and no one, Jew or Gentile, rich or poor, child or adult, healthy or suffering in body, mind or spirit, was denied the time, healing touch and listening ear of a man who loved them so much he was willing to die to save them.

So come on politicians – stop telling us what *you* are going to do and start inspiring *us* to love and serve our communities – then we really will have an answer to at least some of life's problems.



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Rowney Green Horticultural Society

Lindsay Smith writes...

We will not be holding our usual monthly meeting at the Peace Hall on the second Thursday of the month but we are pleased to advise everyone that on Sunday, June 25th 1.00pm - 6.00pm the Withybed Green group of gardens will be open for N.G.S. Withybed Green, Alvechurch B48 7PP. You will need to make your own arrangements and a £5.00 entrance fee is payable.

On Wednesday, 28th June a visit has been organised to Hampton Court Gardens, Herefordshire. There is a cost of £16.50 per person which includes the coach and gardens - the coach will leave the Peace Hall at 9.00am. For further details please contact Pat Davies on 01527 67226.

Finally, we have launched a website for the Society and please feel free to go have a browse - if anyone has photos or info re The Horticultural Society please do not hesitate to get in touch. The website is - www.rowneygreenhorticultural.co.uk

Should you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact Lindsay Smith on 01527 592874

Extracts from "Ten Second Sermons" by Milton Jones

Some people say that God doesn't exist because they don't understand his actions. But then I have no idea what air-traffic controllers, earthworms or morris dancers are up to and most people seem to believe they all exist.

God cannot be like a Yeti or the Loch Ness Monster – an interesting myth that may or may not be true. God has to be more like the idea that black holes are gateways to other parts of the universe. If true, it changes everything.

When it works, church is like lego – accommodating each other's nobby bits makes us all stick together.

Sometimes it's as if a few of us can't cope with the fact that if you really say 'sorry', he really does just let you off. So we have to make up other rules and special ways of talking, to sort of help punish everyone.

Being saved is to realise your company is bankrupt, but then to get an offer from a huge investor at the last moment. Obviously there will have to be changes but incredibly they still want you to run the company.

Look out for more in next month's edition!

Tickets
£5.00



Tea Dance
Thursday 6th July
1.30 - 3.30 pm
The Methodist Centre,
Stratford Road,
Bromsgrove, B60 1AS

Come along and join us for a lovely afternoon supporting your local sight loss charity, with live music and a raffle.



For tickets, call Helen Beardes on 07804 027597 or 01905 723245

Happy Retirement to Ken Wainwright

After 30 years of keeping the Midlands' carpets and upholstery clean, Ken Wainwright has retired. The baton has therefore been passed to us, his daughter and son-in-law, to continue the high standards Ken has maintained over the years.

Please feel free to call Pamela or Daniel on 01527 459776 or 07748 801658 for any carpet or upholstery cleaning enquiries!

We hope you have a long and happy retirement, Ken. Best wishes from all at St Laurence Church.

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St Laurence Women's Fellowship

Jill Woolley writes...



We continue to meet in the Tanyard Centre on the 4th Wednesday of each month and we are always pleased to see new faces. Come along and you will receive a warm welcome.

We next meet on June 28th when we welcome George Hook who talks about Pearls and Shells and has hand made jewellery for sale.

On July 26th we welcome back The Cherrywood Duo who entertain us with singing, guitar and poetry. We enjoyed their last visit.

On August 22nd we will be holding a Tea and Cake Charity Tea in The Ark at 2.30pm; our charity this year will be The Motor Neurone Association in honour of Hilary Hughes and her fund raising efforts. Please come and support her.

Alvechurch Historical Society

Hilary Taylor writes...

Monday 5th June 2017 - "Selly Manor, Bournville"

Our next speaker will be Gillian Ellis, the heritage manager of Selly Manor museum, on Bournville Green. Selly Manor was built as a yeoman's house, and the earliest parts date from around 1476.

After more than four centuries of use it had fallen into a dilapidated condition, and in 1907 George Cadbury purchased it, with the intention of creating a museum. He wrote *'These old buildings are educational, and especially needed for a new town like Birmingham; a vast majority of people never think of bygone times.'*

This will be the final meeting of the 2016/17 season, but in July and August members will be able to join two day trips, to Leicester and to Attingham Park, Shropshire. Also in August is our annual hut-cleaning day, in preparation for two open days in September.

AHS meetings are held on the first Monday of the month, at 7.45pm, in the museum on School Lane. Parking is available behind the Catholic Church, with their kind permission.

New faces are always welcome. Just come along, or contact our chairman, Anne Humphries on 0121 445 5955.

The Ark Café



Our menu for June will continue with our hot meals and will be as follows:

June 8th	Cottage Pie
June 15th	Pork Casserole
June 22nd	Somerset Chicken
June 29th	Beef Casserole

They will then continue for the first two weeks in July and then in late July and for all of August we will revert to our summer menu of salads and cold desserts.

Table Top Sale in the Ark - 29th April

The Bellringers would like to thank all those who supported the Table Top Sale. We raised £370 on the day towards the restoration of the Handbells.

Parish Prayers

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

Foxhill Lane – 6 June

George Road – 13 June

Grange Lane – 20 June

Gravel Pit Lane – 27 June



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What's happening in Alvechurch Library this June

Summer Reading Challenge

Alvechurch Library and The Reading Agency are delighted to present the 2017 Summer Reading Challenge. Launching in libraries all around the county on Saturday 24th June and running until Saturday 23rd September. This year's theme is Animal Agents - a whole host of clever creatures, ready to solve all kinds of crimes! This band of furry, slippery and feathered friends are specially trained to use their skills and natural instincts to unravel mysteries – with a huge helping of fun along the way. If you're 12 years and younger we challenge you to read 6 library books over the course of the challenge. You'll receive incentives along the way and when you complete the challenge be invited to our grand Medal Ceremony in the Autumn.

Join us in Alvechurch library for the launch on Saturday 24th June from 10-1pm and 2-4pm. Sign up, collect your Animal Agent activity pack and complete the hunt around the library. With the huge success of the Summer Reading Challenge themed days at Croome Park in Worcestershire for the last few years there will be 3 more exciting, fun filled days. On the launch day itself at Croome Park, Saturday 24th June from 10 - 4pm there will be a band, theatre workshops and guest author visit. The further two Croome days will be on Wednesday 26th July and Wednesday 23rd September.

Explore Learning will be delivering two children's workshops on Friday 2nd June, free of charge. A day at the Zoo for younger children, age 5 -7, 2.15pm – 3.15pm. Come and learn about descriptive words, rhyme and number facts from animals like the hysterical hyena and the humongous hippo. Later at 3.30pm – 4.30pm for older children age 8 – 11, A Pirate Adventure, put yourself in the shoes of Jack Sparrow and experience life as a pirate. Concentrating on diaries and creative writing, be inspired by the nautical world. Call to book a space.

Patrick's ongoing Spanish and French language courses have a few spaces in the classes at the moment. These classes run three times a week, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Contact Patrick on 07708 027372 or email vdlt52@hotmail.co.uk to see if the level the class is being taught at would allow you to join in.

Contact the library through calling The Hub on 01905 822722
Email alvechurchlib@worcestershire.gov.uk
Website www.worcestershire.gov.uk
Find us on Facebook.

Hillside at Alvechurch WI

Cathy Talor writes.....

We held our A.G.M. 3rd May. It was well supported by our members, Pat McDonagh was re-elected as our President and the new committee included three members who had not served before.

Our next meeting is 7th June. Molly Murray will give a talk, Little Black Dress. Visitors are welcome to join us at the Ark at 7.30 pm. Tea and home made cakes will be provided.

Future Events

Ice cream Farm Visit 2nd August. Details will be given and numbers taken at the June meeting.

Alvechurch WI

Pam Horsfield writes...

This month we had Helen Starks as our WI Advisor to guide us through our discussions on the national resolutions and the voting procedure at our own annual meeting.

We began by singing '*Jerusalem*', but then launched into 'Happy Birthday to us' as we're now officially 88 years old and so we enjoyed a glass of wine to celebrate.

After the regular meeting information, Helen took us through the two resolutions on micro plastics and WI support for those who are lonely. In both cases we voted to allow our delegate discretion to vote following hearing the speakers at the meeting in Liverpool.

Jenny, our treasurer, gave her annual report which shows we are still in a good financial position and both Denise and Pam reminded us of all the good meetings and friendships we've had from being together in the past year.

A tense time then came in order to find a new president, but fortunately two members came to our rescue and agreed to take the role on into the next year. We then enjoyed delicious birthday cakes and drinks, and heard Sue Powell tell us in an amusing way of the experience of Dragon Boat Racing at Pershore. It was a good way to end the evening.

Next month we meet on Monday June 12th at 7:30pm when our speaker will be John Butterworth who will talk about '*The nurse who changed Guinea Bissau*'. Please feel free to join us.

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3 letters = 1 point

4 letters = 2 points

5 letters = 3 points

6 letters = 4 points

7 letters = 5 points

8 or more letters = 6 points

Any pet related words get double points! Why not Challenge your friends?



D	E	R	A
H	O	G	T
M	A	C	A
S	T	E	R

My Points

Model Railway Exhibition

Rowney Green Shared Church June 10th from 10.30am - 4.00pm

There will be a small railway exhibition consisting of:-

Thomas the Tank Engine layout
a Hornby Dublo layout
and one of American trains in a larger size.

There will be a demonstrator, and trade stalls, and plenty of food all day.

Please come and support the Shared Church on this day.

£1.00 per person, under 5's free

The Shared Church is located on Chapel Lane, B48 7QH

July 15th will be the date of the St Laurence exhibition.

More details next month and on posters.

The Midland Sinfonia

Saturday 17th June 7 for 7.30pm

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Elgar – Chanson de matin

Elgar – Chanson de nuit

Arnold – Sinfonietta No.1

Mozart – Bassoon Concerto

Dvořák – Two Waltzes for Strings Op.54

Haydn – Symphony No.45 'Farewell'

Nic Fallowfield, conductor

Llinos Owen, bassoon



Tickets: on the door £14.50, in advance £13 from The Village Green
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www.midlandsinfonia.co.uk

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Letter from The Archdeacon of Dudley

By Nikki Groarke

On Sunday 11 June I will have the privilege of preaching at a Service of Thanksgiving for Women's Ministry in the Cathedral. 2017 is a significant year of anniversaries, an opportunity to remember and celebrate some key moments in the gradual acceptance in the Church of England of the ministry of women in leadership roles:

- 50 years since female lay readers were appointed.
- 30 years since women deacons were ordained;
- 25 years since the vote was taken for women's ordination to the priesthood in 1992.

In this diocese, of course, the ministry of women has long been welcomed and appreciated wholeheartedly by the vast majority of church members. It is an encouraging environment in which women can flourish and realise their potential, serving in roles which suit their varied gifts, personalities and skills, being who God made them to be, in the same way that men can. Hopefully, as the impact of our *Kingdom People: Calling Young Disciples* project grows, we will similarly see young people and children increasingly playing their part, growing in confidence that what they bring is valued and vital to our shared life as God's people.

I am acutely aware that I am in a senior role in God's church, as one of a steadily growing number of women, because wise people invested in me, saw my leadership

potential, gave me opportunities and trained and mentored me. They picked me up when I stumbled, let me make mistakes and learn from them, and stretched me to do more than I thought I could, trusting that God equips the called, rather than calls the equipped. I am especially grateful to those who did that when the church still had questions about the role of women. I think they were following in the footsteps of Jesus!

When Jesus walked on earth, women were uneducated, not given a legally valid voice, and treated like property. He refused to bow to those cultural stigmas, instead modelling a way of relating to women which was totally different – radically inclusive, no limits on their God given destiny or restrictions on how their gifts could be exercised. It is when women and men, and young people and children work together that the church is enabled to be what it is created to be, the hope of the world, fully representative of the body of Christ as we seek together to be Kingdom People

I hope many from across the Diocese will be in the Cathedral at 4pm on 11 June to celebrate the ministry of women. I pray too, that each of us will think of young people in whom we can invest – especially girls, and invite them to join us, so that we are a truly multi-generational church encouraging the gifts and contributions of everyone.



Extracts from The Archbishops' Pastoral Letter to the Parishes and Chaplaincies of the Church of England, for the General Election June 8th 2017

The season of Easter invites us to celebrate and to renew our love of God and our love of neighbour, our trust and hope in God and in each other. In the midst of a frantic and sometimes fraught election campaign, our first obligation as Christians is to pray for those standing for office, and to continue to pray for those who are elected. We recognise the enormous responsibilities and the vast complexity of the issues that our political leaders face. We are constantly reminded of the personal costs and burdens carried by those in political life and by their families.

Our second obligation as Christians at these times is to set aside apathy and cynicism and to participate, and encourage others to do the same. At a practical level that could mean putting on a hustings event for candidates, volunteering for a candidate, or simply making sure to vote on Thursday 8th June. The Christian virtues of love, trust and hope should guide and judge our actions, as well as the actions and policies of all those who are seeking election to the House of Commons and to lead our country.

This election is being contested against the backdrop of deep and profound questions of identity. Opportunities to renew and reimagine our shared values as a country and a United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland only come around every few generations. We are in such a time.

Our Christian heritage, our current choices and our obligations to future generations and to God's world will all play a shaping role. If

our shared British values are to carry the weight of where we now stand and the challenges ahead of us, they must have at their core cohesion, courage and stability.

The new Parliament, if it is to take religious freedom seriously, must treat as an essential task the improvement of religious literacy. More immediately, if we aspire to a politics of maturity and generosity, then the religious faith of any election candidate should not be treated by opponents as a vulnerability to be exploited. We look forward to a media and political climate where all candidates can feel confident that they can be open about the impact of their faith on their vocation to public service.

Political responses to the problems of religiously-motivated violence and extremism, at home and overseas, must also recognise that solutions will not be found simply in further secularisation of the public realm. Mainstream religious communities have a central role to play; whilst extremist narratives require compelling counter-narratives that have a strong theological and ideological foundation.

We keep in our prayers all those who are standing in this election and are deeply grateful for their commitment to public service. All of us as Christians, in holding fast to the vision of abundant life, should be open to the call to renounce cynicism, to engage prayerfully with the candidates and issues in this election and by doing so to participate together fully in the life of our communities.

For the full transcript please visit - www.archbishopofyork.org/articles.php/3641/archbishops-pastoral-letter-to-the-parishes-and-chaplaincies-of-the-church-of-england

Flowers for JUNE

	4 June	11 June	18 June	25 June
Sanctuary		Jill Woolley	WEDDING of Ben Cartwright & Jessica Groucutt	
Lady Chapel		Jill Woolley		
In memory of		Ron Woolley		

My thanks to Lynda Wolstencroft, Elizabeth Clement, Helen Jones, Monica Clarke and our new volunteer Linda Helmore for making the Easter Lillies something extra special this year. It was an enjoyable occasion and with a extra pair of hands even more rewarding.



I have produced a new Flower Rota for the year so if you would like to have flowers to either celebrate events or remember loved ones do get in touch with me. I welcome all offers of help; you don't have to be expert in arranging flowers they are beautiful in themselves. We are coming up to holiday time so offers of help will be much appreciated.

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

From The Registers



Baptisms

We welcome you into the Lord's family

April 23 Annabel Mary Newberry
April 23 Annika Ida Vernon



Funerals and Cremations

May they rest in the peace of Christ

April 21 Derek Bourne

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 Mr Michael Fletcher, 13 Red Lion Street, 447 8451 Mrs Annette Thomas, 8 Snake Lane, 445 5180
Churchwardens	Mr Graham Clark, The Coach House, School Lane, 445 2547 Mr Mick Fletcher, 13 Red Lion Street, 447 8451
Deputy Wardens	Mr Colin Bennett, 122 Redditch Road, 01527 64077 Mr 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

Peru and Missionary Committee

Sue Phillips	Dick Russell
Gordon Parsons	Margaret Haste
Sally Bubbers	

Calendar for June



- Thursday 1 9.30am Mums The Word: The Ark
NO CAFÉ TODAY - Closed for half term
- Monday 5 7.30pm Pastoral Care Team Meeting: The Ark
7.45pm Alvechurch Historical Society: Talk: "*Selly Manor, Bournville*"
by Gillian Ellis: The Museum, School Lane
- Wednesday 7 7.30pm Hillside WI: Talk: "*Little Black Dress*" by Molly Murray: The Ark
- Thursday 8 9.30am Mums The Word: The Ark
12.15pm Ark Café: Cottage Pie
- Saturday 10 10.30am Model Railway Exhibition: £1 entry, refreshments all day:
Rowney Green Shared Church, Chapel Lane, B48 7QH
- Monday 12 12.30pm Forget-Me-Nots: Bring and Share Lunch: The Ark
7.30pm Alvechurch WI: Talk by John Butterworth entitled '*The nurse who
changed Guinea Bissau*': Alvechurch Village Hall
- Wednesday 14 7.30pm Ministry Team Meeting: The Ark
JULY GRAPEVINE GOES TO PRESS - *articles to thearkalvechurch@yahoo.co.uk*
- Thursday 15 9.30am Mums The Word: The Ark
12.15pm Ark Café: Pork Casserole
- Saturday 17 7 for 7.30pm The Midland Sinfonia: Classical Summers's Evening Concert: St
Laurence Church
- Tuesday 20 7.30pm PCC Meeting: The Ark
- Thursday 22 9.30am Mums The Word: The Ark
12.15pm Ark Café: Somerset Chicken
- Monday 26 1.45pm Forget-Me-Nots: The Ark
- Wednesday 28 2.00pm St Laurence Women's Fellowship: Talk: "*Pearls and Shells*" by
George Hook: Tanyard Lane Centre
- Thursday 29 9.30am Mums The Word: The Ark
12.15pm Ark Café: Beef Casserole