

# The Grapevine

THE PARISH MAGAZINE OF ST LAURENCE CHURCH ALVECHURCH

JULY 2012



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

Sunday Club	Sundays at 9.30.am in the church and Ark (445 1854)
Forget-me-not	Alternate Mondays at 1.30.pm in The Ark (445 3620)
Choir	Thursdays at 7.45.pm in church (445 3569)
Bellringers	Sundays at 10.30.am and 5.30.pm Tuesday Practice at 7.30.pm (01527 64077)
Women's Fellowship	4th Wednesday of the month at 2.00.pm in Tanyard Lane Community Centre (445 2125)
Mum's the Word	Thursdays at 9.30.am in The Ark (07876390154)
Ark Café	Thursdays during term time at 12.15.pm (447 7017)
Home Group	Thursday, 7.30.pm at the Coach House (445 2547)
Messy Church	Bimonthly on a Saturday in The Ark (445 1985)

## THE ARK

Enquiries to Ian Price 0121 447 7955

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# The Rector Writes...

## The BCP

My dear friends

*The Book of Common Prayer* is 350 years old this year and is still in weekly use. It contains an inspired collection of services for public worship and a complete guidebook for daily Christian living.

It makes no apology for being challenging, because the journey of faith is challenging; much of its appeal is that it expresses eternal truths in numinous language. It is a book that has withstood the test of so many centuries of continuous use whilst proving its continued relevance.

Throughout the centuries *The Book of Common Prayer* has provided the script for the most important moments in life.

The Prayer Book's familiar words have been heard at baptisms, weddings, funerals and murmured over sick beds. Parishioners shared each others' joys and woes with the words "to love and to cherish", "to have and to hold", "ashes to ashes", "in the midst of life we are in death", "I baptize thee in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost" resounding in their ears. Generations of proud Godparents have cradled babies in their arms whilst renouncing the devil and all his works.

A son would bury a father knowing that the same words would be said over his own grave. A daughter pledged "for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health" knowing her mother had married her father with the same phrases: continuity and community from a litany often learned by heart and carried in the heart.

It used to be common practice for people to take their own copy of the Prayer Book, often bound up with *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, to church with them. Often such books carry moving inscriptions; others bear the mark of

boredom-induced scribblings during a tedious sermon. The wear and tear on the covers of such books is testimony to the fact that Prayer Books were daily sources of comfort and that, at the very least, they had been opened and used every Sunday and religious festival.

There was a time in the 1970s when the continued existence of *The Book of Common Prayer* was under threat. Many thought it had become "irrelevant" both in its language and in its emphasis on man's fallen nature and need for grace. Many believed that liturgical reform would be the cure for dwindling congregations. But, mercifully, *The Book of Common Prayer* survived and is still in use today.

Every Sunday in St Laurence Church, Alvechurch there are two services taken from *The Book of Common Prayer*: the early morning Holy Communion Service at 8.00.am and the 6.00.pm service of Evening Prayer (or Evensong, as it is also known). The number of those attending these services is small. How good it would be if, in the year that marks the 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Prayer Book, a new generation discovered its riches and made it their own.

W.H. Auden wrote, "We had the extraordinary good fortune in that *The Book of Common Prayer* was composed at exactly the right historical moment. The English language had already become more or less what it is today, so that the Prayer Book is no more difficult to follow than Shakespeare, but the ecclesiastics of the sixteenth century still possessed a feeling for the ritual and ceremonious which today we have almost lost. Why should we spit on our luck?"

Yours in Christ,

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## Ark Café

*Michael Davenport looks back on a great celebration and forward to goodies in store.*

We hope that all those who attended the Diamond Jubilee Buffet Celebration on 31 May enjoyed the event. Many thanks to all those who helped to make it such a pleasant occasion.

The Café will continue as usual during the first weeks of July, with Beef Casserole on 5 July and a Salad Buffet on 12 July. Then a lighter luncheon menu will operate in late July and throughout August.

We look forward to your continued support each Thursday between 12.30.pm and 1.30.pm.

## An Evening Stroll

This month's footpath walk organised by the Village Society is an evening stroll on WEDNESDAY 11 JULY starting from Hopwood House Inn car park at 7.00.pm. This is the traditional end-of-season walk and is being led by Sarah Courbet.

After the walk there will be an opportunity for a social drink at Hopwood House Inn. Further details can be obtained from Sarah on 07789 988 628.

Monthly walks will recommence again in September after the summer break.

## Tiny Tots

The under-fives have their very own monthly service on THURSDAY 19 JULY at 10.15.am in St Laurence Church. The service lasts twenty minutes and consists of a story, some action songs and a prayer. It is the ideal way to introduce very young children to church worship.

A warm welcome is extended to all parents who are free that morning to come along with their pre-school children. Please use The Ark entrance into the church.

# News From The Tower

*The new bells peal forth, but what are they like to ring?  
Geoff Franklin gives a behind-the-scenes perspective.*

As most of you will have heard, the bells are back! We did the installation work in the fortnight before the Jubilee, commissioned them on the Friday afternoon, and were finished just in time to be able to join in the ringing over the Jubilee weekend.

The new bells feel very strange. The new bearings mean that they are less effort to ring, and, the fact that they're balanced, makes them much easier to control. Most of our old bells were off-centre and we had to compensate by pulling the ropes in an irregular rhythm. The new bells have been set up with a laser-timer and the problem has gone away. It seemed a strange mix of ancient and modern when the bell hangers set a laser up across the tower and proceeded to adjust the bells until they were within a millisecond of striking accurately. That's probably far too close for anyone to notice but it should mean they will stay in time for a good many years

There is still a lot of work to do though. We rang for the Jubilee in a bare tower and the noise was deafening. A couple of pieces of carpet on the floor has helped to soften the echoes but we need to cover it completely, so if anyone has a 20' square of carpet going spare we would be very grateful for it.

You will have noticed that the clock is still stopped. The drive-shafts from the clock to the dials had to come down to clear a path in the centre of the tower for the bells to be lowered and hoisted. The clock mechanism itself had to be wrapped up to protect it from damage.

Fundraising continues. Most of the big bills are in now so we're getting a good idea of the total cost. We were very grateful to receive a couple of anonymous donations last month and it looks as though we're within about £5,000 of the total now.

There's a Railway Exhibition in church on SATURDAY 7 JULY and we are running a bookstall. Please come along and buy your summer holiday reading. Our stall will be in the vestry at the base of the tower and we'll have a small exhibition with photographs of the restoration work. Later in the year, when we have finally finished, we are planning to have a larger presentation in the Ark to give the full story and show what we have achieved with your help.

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## Confirmation

Six young people and four adults have been attending weekly Confirmation classes since the beginning of May in readiness to confirm their Christian faith before the bishop at the Confirmation Service on SUNDAY 15 JULY.

Confirmation is the opportunity for those who were baptised as infants (and therefore had no say in the matter) to confirm the promises made on their behalf by their parents and godparents.

At 10.30.am the ten will stand before the Rt. Revd. Christopher Mayfield, former bishop of Manchester, affirm their faith and then receive the laying on of hands and the invocation of the Holy Spirit.

Then, as full adult members of the Christian Church, they will receive Holy Communion for the first time.

Please remember the ten candidates in your prayers and, if possible, be in church at 10.30.am on Sunday 15 July to support and encourage them as they embark upon the next stage of their Christian life.

## United We Stand

St Laurence Church is hosting this month's joint ecumenical service on SUNDAY 8 JULY at 6.00.pm.

Using the beautiful service of Evensong, members of St Mary's Roman Catholic Church, Alvechurch Baptist Church and Rowne Green Shared Methodist/Anglican Church will gather in the parish church to express their solidarity in Christ.

A warm welcome is extended to those who would like to be part of this expression of Christian unity.

# Wedding Bells

## DAVID GALE AND LAURA JACKSON

The newly re-hung church bells pealed out on Saturday 9 June to celebrate the wedding of David Richard Gale and Laura Jackson in St Laurence Church.

The bride, who was escorted into church on the arm of her mother, Mrs Janet Jackson, wore an ivory strapless dress with flowers on the bodice, ruching to the skirt and a long train having beading detail. She was accompanied by two young bridesmaids, Rosie and Isabel Horton, who were the daughters of the bride's friend from university days. The bridesmaids wore ivory and purple dresses with purple sashes and butterfly detail on the bodices.

The groom chose his university friend Colin Taylor to be his Best Man. The Usher was Alastair Gale, the groom's brother. After a reception at Brockencote Hall, Chaddesley Corbett, the couple left for a honeymoon in Croatia. Both work as doctors and will be making their married home in Station Road.

## DERICK DAVEY AND CLAIRE FISHER

The sky may have been lowering and the rain never far away, but Derick Davey and Claire Fisher celebrated their wedding in style at St Laurence Church on Saturday 16 June with bells, bagpipes and bows.

The bride, who is the daughter of Mrs Patricia Fisher and the late David Fisher, formerly of *The Crown*, Withybed Green, was escorted into church on the arm of her mother. She was preceded by a Scots piper and walked the length of the church aisle that had been decorated with bows of ribbon.

The bride wore an ivory strapless dress with silver detail and a side flower bustle. She was accompanied by Natalie Boyne, the bride's best friend's daughter, and Lilia Davey, the groom's niece. Natalie wore a floor-length teal satin dress with wide shoulder straps, and Lilia a white dress with flower detailing and accents of teal colouring.

The groom chose his brother Norman as his Best Man and the ushers were Adam and Steve, close friends of the bride and groom. After a reception at The Abbey Hotel, Redditch, the couple left for a Mediterranean cruise. They will be making their married home in Redditch.

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# Cold Shoulder Cold Callers

*Mark Hyder, the Community Support Officer for Alvechurch and Beoley Parish, warns of unwanted callers on the doorstep.*

Residents are being advised by Worcestershire Regulatory Services Trading Standards Team, to be more cautious following a number of complaints received from residents about suspicious telephone calls and doorstep callers in the past few weeks.

Residents reported receiving suspicious calls about will-writing services, loft insulation and disability and mobility services. In all of these instances the consumer's property has been visited following the unwanted telephone call.

In the case of loft insulation the trader claimed to be working on behalf of the local council but the resident challenged him for further information. The caller then went back to his car to get some I.D but promptly drove off and has not since returned.

A will-writing salesman called on an older resident and sold him a will-writing package for £3000. No paperwork was left with the resident but he was able to cancel the cheque he had made out due to the seven-day cooling-off period available for all contracts agreed in the home.

There have also been a number of incidents reported where older and vulnerable residents have been contacted by mobility sales people who pretend they are working on behalf of the NHS but provide goods that are often not required and excessively priced.

Head of Regulatory Services, Steve Jorden, said "Worcestershire residents should be wary of any doorstep cold callers or telephone callers. If callers are not expected and uninvited, you are perfectly within your rights to turn them away or not enter into a conversation with them. If, however, a contract is agreed in your home you legally have a seven-day cooling off period and can cancel. The trader must provide a written cancellation notice; if not, a criminal offence is committed"

For advice on your rights, or to report a suspicious caller, please contact Citizens Advice Consumer Service on 08454 04 05 06.

## Thomas The Tank And Friends

This year's Model Railway Exhibition in St Laurence Church is on SATURDAY 7 JULY from 10.30 am till 4.00 pm.

As you would expect, there will be a large selection of model railways. Two or three of the largest scale layouts will be based on running ovals. The other eight are mostly end-to-end, scenic and slower moving. One layout will be of "Tomy" plastic trains, including Thomas the Tank Engine and friends. These run on batteries and may include cars, level crossings, possibly a helicopter – and even bits of steam!

There will be two demonstrators showing brass kit construction techniques and card models of buildings or trains.

There will be at least eleven stalls selling model railway equipment old and new, tinplate and scale. The Bell Ringing Team will have tables at the west end of the church selling books and many other interesting items. In the choir stalls there will be tables for cards, marmalade, woolly blankets, key rings, etc.

Those who get tired, hungry or thirsty can avail themselves of the all-day refreshments in The Ark.

All proceeds from this year's show (entry monies, profits from refreshments, sales table, bell team tables, and donations from other stall holders) will go towards the Bell Fund.

Thanks are extended to all who have donated models for this year's Sales Table.

If anyone else has any old trains, cars, buses or Meccano they wish to get rid of - condition and age unimportant (even damaged items can be useful) - please ring David Richmond as soon as possible on 0121 445 3569.

## Holiday Arrangements

There will be no 8.00.am early morning Holy Communion service on Sunday 29 July.

Otherwise, all other services during the School Summer Holidays will be as usual.

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# Jam, Jubilee And Fashion

Pam Horsfield tells of new and old activities at Alvechurch Women's Institute.

Members of Alvechurch Women's Institute met as usual on the second Monday in May when President Christine Grainger welcomed Eileen Ellis from *Debut* in Hagley to give a fashion show of items sold in her shop.

Eileen brought friends and staff to model beautiful clothes while Denise Cashmore read the commentary; and then clothes from a wide price range were sold to members.

During the interval, members enjoyed homemade birthday cake and wine as Alvechurch WI is now 83 years young and is still meeting in the Village Hall after all those years!

We also took part in the village Jubilee Celebrations by having a stall at the Party in the Park. This time it WAS a case of 'Jam' (without the Jerusalem) as several members made jam or pickles for sale.

Jackie Gregory from Ullenhall brought loads more produce to sell in order to raise money for ACWW (Associated Country Women of the World) which helps women worldwide to support themselves. It was good to be out celebrating with everyone else and enjoying the effort made by all the groups in the village.

Then on June 13th over sixty members came early to their meeting to have a traditional tea party provided by Diane Cooke from *Constance Wallace* of Tardibigge Court. It was lovely to see members in their finery ... posh frocks, wedding outfits stored and not often worn; and red, white and blue

outfits to blend with the Jubilee atmosphere.

The tea was delicious, the atmosphere happy and at the end of the evening, much to our surprise, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II arrived to present small mementos to our members! Our own memories and pictures of the coronation all added to the success of the evening.

Finally on TUESDAY 24 JULY at 7.30pm we've an added extra event to which everyone in the village is welcome. We'll be holding another totally different Fashion Show which consists of VERY reasonably priced items for sale from a range of High Street stores.

Tickets are £3, which includes a glass of wine and a lucky ticket, and these can be bought by members at the July meeting or by phoning Chris Grainger on 445 4957 or Jenny Manning on 01527 874055; or tickets will be available from *The Joshua Tree* after July 10th.

Money from this event will be given to local charities and we hope it will be a great success.

If you want to join us at this latest event or visit the Natter Night at 7.30pm on Monday August 13th at Alvechurch Cricket Club, just let Chris Grainger or Pam Horsfield know on 445 4957 or 445 4631.

# Food Glorious Food

Jill Woolley reveals a common theme to recent meetings of the Women's Fellowship.

The St Laurence Women's Fellowship held its A.G.M. in May reviewing a successful year and looking forward to the year to come.

The Committee were returned to office and after the business of the afternoon was completed we enjoyed an early Jubilee celebratory tea.

Brenda Davis had decorated the room with red, white and blue flowers and made and iced a delicious cake in Jubilee style. Our thanks to her for her hard work. We drank a toast to Her Majesty, sang two verses of the National Anthem and then enjoyed a welcome cup of tea served by Enid Brumsen and her helpers. It was a very enjoyable afternoon.

On June 27<sup>th</sup> we go to a Tea Party at Burcot Grange. There will be no meeting in the Tanyard Community Centre that day.

On TUESDAY 3 JULY we are holding a Buffet Lunch at the Barnt Green Cricket Club. On WEDNESDAY 25 JULY Mr Alan Thornton will tell us "The Story of Cadburys".

We will be in The Ark at 2.30pm on WEDNESDAY 15 AUGUST for a Tea and Cake Afternoon in aid of the St. Mary's Hospice at Selly Oak. There will be a Bring and Buy Stall and a Raffle. Please support us in this worthy cause.

We meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month in the Tanyard Centre at 2pm and welcome new members and visitors.



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## **Trips Galore!**

*Happy memories of recent excursions, and a foretaste of one to come, are given by Arthur Pearsall of the Alvechurch Ex-Services Association.*

Members recently enjoyed visits to Usk and Abergavenny during April, and to Wells and Bath in May. Both visits were blessed with good weather - the latter with perfect weather, which enabled us to thoroughly explore such delightful venues.

Fine weather also allowed members to hold a Remembrance gathering at the Memorial Green, Bear Hill on VE Day, Tuesday 8 May, when we were reminded of the sacrifices made by so many for our freedom. After the gathering, we were made more than welcome at *The Weighbridge* by John and Jane for refreshments and the swapping of yarns.

Our next day visit will be on WEDNESDAY 18 JULY when we shall be visiting the delightful Shropshire town of Bridgnorth via a steam train from Kidderminster and the Severn Valley. Our return will be by coach direct from Bridgnorth. The cost is £13 per person, with enquiries to Auriel for availability of seats.

Many members attended the Jubilee celebrations in the village and have asked that our thanks be placed on record to all who made the events possible.

## **The Midland Sinfonia**

Following a somewhat unpredictable few months, the Midland Sinfonia is thrilled to announce that it can now confirm a 2012/13 season.

Plans are underway to provide a series of concerts in the village for next autumn and spring. Two dates for your diary are Saturday 20 October when there will be a Quiz and Supper Evening in The Ark and Saturday 1 December when there will be a candlelit concert in the church

The organisers would welcome your support. Few villages are able to stage professional concerts of the standard of The Midland Sinfonia. Your help, by bringing along friends, would be much appreciated.

Further information can be found at [www.midlandsinfonia.co.uk](http://www.midlandsinfonia.co.uk) or by contacting [marian@midlandsinfonia.co.uk](mailto:marian@midlandsinfonia.co.uk) or 0121 447 7040.

## Blooming Marvellous

Ten gardens, spread right across the village, opened their garden gates for The National Garden Scheme on Sunday 10 June and attracted a total of 366 visitors.

Each garden was very individual and reflected the interests and tastes of the garden owners). There is never any way of knowing if a garden will be at its best on the open day or if the weather will be kind. The Saturday and Monday either side of the open day were a total washout, but the open day itself was a dry.

£2460.70 was made in total from the June opening. This included entrance fees, teas, donations, and the book sale.

Many thanks go to Celia Hitch at Rectory Cottage and Pam Williams at The Baptist Church Hall for providing such wonderful

How would you like to make a periscope, or walk on stilts, or argue with a tax inspector, or get dirty feet, or make party cakes?

All of these, and more, are on offer at the Messy Church taking place on SATURDAY 30 JUNE at 3.30.pm in The Ark

The event is open to all families who aren't afraid of getting messy. Dabble in sand or indulge in applied science whilst learning about a very little man and his encounter with a sycamore tree.

It is a new way to learn - and you'll love it.

Then party with lots of other happy

teas and refreshments, which are always so popular with visitors. We also raised £123.33 from plant sales for the 'Where Next' charity in Redditch and £29 for Blue Cross.

Those who did not manage to see the gardens in June will have a second opportunity on SUNDAY 15 JULY. Gardens will be open from 1-6 pm. If you want to make a day of it, how about booking Sunday Lunch at *The Weighbridge* at 12 noon before visiting the gardens?

As the gardens are only open biannually, this will be the last chance to admire them for two years.

If anyone would like to join the open gardens scheme in 2014, please contact Janet and Martin Wright on 0121 445 4335.

## Messy Church!

taxpayers who have just received a whopping refund!

It's FREE (although donations to help cover the costs would be appreciated). See you in The Ark on SATURDAY 30 JUNE at 3.30.pm.



# **Computer Classes At The Ark**

New College will be running various computer classes starting in September 2012.  
All the classes are on a Monday in The Ark.

## **Level 1 IT User Skills**

This is for anyone who understands the basics but would like to take it to the next level. You will gain skills in using the popular Microsoft packages. This course aims to equip individuals with the IT user skills needed for full participation in employment and society. You will gain a NOCN (National Open College Network) recognised accreditation.

**30 week course starting 10th September 2012 9.30am to 11.30am**

## **TRY IT for beginners**

This is a perfect course for beginners who possess no previous knowledge or skills. During the term you will learn the basics from switching on a computer to creating posters and letters. Your confidence will grow from week to week.

**10 week course starting 24th September 2012 12.30pm to 2.30pm**

## **Everyday Internet & Email**

This is a course designed to teach practical skills needed to effectively use the Internet. It covers anything from booking a train ticket to sending photos via email.

**10 week course starting 14th January 2013 12.30pm to 2.30pm**

## **Have Fun With Your Computer**

This is a course for people who have completed a beginners IT course or regularly use the Internet at home and now wish to learn more. The course covers creating posters, cards and invitations and how to organise your computer system.

**8 week course starting on 15th April 2013 12.30pm to 2.30pm**

More information is available from NEW COLLEGE Advice Centre on (01527) 570020 or e-mail [aokes@ne-worcs.ac.uk](mailto:aokes@ne-worcs.ac.uk)



# **Forty Years On**

The Rector celebrates the fortieth anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood on 2 July.

To celebrate, he invites all to join him on SUNDAY 1 JULY at either the 9.30.am Family Communion Service or the 11.00.am Parish Eucharist. Between the two services, a specially made and decorated anniversary cake will be cut and shared in The Ark. Please come and join him on this notable anniversary.

# Obituaries

## JAMES WILLIAM PEARSON

A Rowney Green man who entered the Church of England's ministry late in life and ministered in Beoley and Rowney Green, died on 16 May at the age of 92.

James William Pearson was the only child of a schoolmaster and his wife and was born at Tulwell near Sunderland in the north-east of England. After wartime service, he trained as an accountant, becoming a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in 1959. Working first in private practice, he later joined Price Waterhouse where he continued until taking early retirement.

In 1953 he married Hilary and they shared fifty-five years as husband and wife until Hilary's death in 2008. There were no children. In 1975 he embarked upon a course of study at Queen's College Birmingham to gain entry to the Church of England's ordained ministry. He was duly made a deacon in Worcester Cathedral in 1978 and ordained priest the following year.

He served as a non-stipendiary minister at St Leonard's Church Beoley under the incumbent, Revd John Cook. He was assiduous in his work, leading Confirmation Classes, visiting the sick, taking fortnightly assemblies in Beoley First School and preaching. His sermons invariably contained stories and anecdotes from his life (or his fertile imagination!). Although in his sixties at the time, he led two diocesan groups of young people to the ecumenical community at Taize in eastern France. These pilgrimages made a deep impression on the teenagers who went on them.

Upon reaching the age of seventy, his non-stipendiary minister's licence expired and he

was required to leave Beoley Church. He then joined St Laurence Church Alvechurch and became a regular celebrant and preacher at church services. He always spoke without notes and in a pithy, forthright style.

He moved to Rowney Green in 1966 and, after his ordination, became the unofficial vicar of the hamlet, taking regular services in the Shared Church and Peace Hall. He also joined the Board of Governors of Alvechurch CE Middle School and regularly led school assemblies.

In his younger days he was an accomplished singer, having a rich baritone voice and sang with such well-known singers as Kathleen Ferrier. He was a bell ringer, took part in parish drama productions and was an accomplished artist.

He will be remembered for his strong Christian faith, his compassion and understanding. He often saw the funny side of life and enjoyed telling stories.

His funeral was held in St Leonard's Church, Beoley on Wednesday 23 May and was led by the Vicar of Beoley, Revd Canon David Rogers, with an address by the Revd John Cook, the former vicar of Beoley. The hymns sung *The king of love my shepherd is*, *Love divine all loves excelling* and *Praise my soul the King of heaven*.

## EVELYN MARY DAVIS

A lady who spent the last five years of her life at Waterside Orchard, Hopwood, died on 25 May at the age of 87.

Evelyn Mary Davis was born in West Bromwich and was one of five children. Only her ninety-one-year-old brother, Fred, remains.

In 1943 she married Fred Stapenhill and they shared thirty-one years together until his premature death in 1974. She was the mother of five children – Maureen, Alan, Lynda, Susan and Jill – grandmother to seven grandchildren – Ian, Christopher, Lisa, Elizabeth, Simon, Jonathan and Alan – and great-grandmother to six great-grandchildren – Ashley, Sam, Joshua, Elecia, Kai and Henry. She was loved by her family who cherish many happy memories including the great Boxing Day Parties held in her home.

In 1979 she married Bill Davis and they shared ten years together before his death in 1989.

After leaving Hilltop School, West Bromwich she worked in factories, Woolworths, a pickle factory, greengrocers and a grocery shop. She worked tirelessly to provide for the needs of her family.

She lived most of her life in the West Bromwich area – at Hatley Heath, Charlement, Hilltop and Great Barr; but for the final five years of her life she lived with her eldest daughter, Maureen, at Waterside Orchard, Hopwood.

She will be remembered for her great inner strength and resilience, her alert mind and sense of humour, and her intrinsic knowledge of right and wrong.

Her funeral was held at Robin Hood Crematorium, Solihull on Wednesday 6 June. The hymn sung was *The Lord's my shepherd*.

## KENNETH GERALD CLIFFORD

A man who was born in Withybed Green and spent many hours of his childhood bird-watching around Bittle Reservoir, died on 23 May at the age of 90.

Kenneth Gerald Clifford was one of three children born in Withybed Green at the beginning of the last century. His sister, Eileen, and brother, Geoffrey, predeceased him.

During the Second World War he served with the RAF in Italy undertaking vehicle maintenance. On returning to civilian life he worked for BSA Birmingham before helping found Clifford Springs Ltd., first in Alvechurch and then in Redditch. This was a specialist spring manufacturing company run in partnership with his father and brother.

In 1943 he married Peggy and they shared fifty-three years together before her death in 1996. He was the father of two daughters – Pat and Penny – grandfather to four grandchildren – Simon, Sarah, Matthew and Sam – and great-grandfather to Jamie and Holly. He shared the last 14 years of his life with Sheila whom he had met through their shared interest in ornithology.

He lived for seven years in Bromsgrove before moving, in 1966, to Birmingham Road, Bordesley where he has remained for the past 45 years. Ornithology was his great passion and relaxation. He was a member of the West Midlands Bird Club (being almost a founder member) and a Fellow of the RSPB. His knowledge of birds was extensive and he gladly shared it with others who were interested.

He will be remembered for his patience, quiet, loving and uncomplaining nature. He had a determined character tempered by a sense of humour and fun.

His funeral was held at Redditch Crematorium on Monday 18 June and the hymns sung were William Blake's *Jerusalem* and *All things bright and beautiful*.

## EDWIN "TED" FRANCIS REEVES

Alvechurch's oldest resident died at The Lawns Residential Home on 3 June at the age of 106.

Edwin Francis Reeves, who was known as "Ted", had been a resident of The Lawns for the past six years. Born in 1906 he lived through two World Wars, serving in the Kings Shropshire Light Infantry.

He was married to Doris and had one daughter, Ann, two granddaughters - Jenny and Gail - four great granddaughters - Emma, Yvonne, Alison and Laura - and three great, great grandchildren - Toby, Harry and Hollie.

Following his wife's death in 1971, he later married again. His second wife was also called Doris. This marriage ended when his second wife died at the age of 85.

He worked until the age of 82 as a hairdresser.

His funeral was held at Lodge Hill Crematorium on 3 June and the hymns sung were *Morning has broken* and *The day thou gavest, Lord, is ended*.

## NORMAN BURNETT

A man who was born in Alvechurch and lived all his life in the village, died on 7 June at the age of 56.

Norman Burnett was one of four children. His mother, Mary, his sisters Sandra and Angela and his brother John survive him.

In 1979 he married Sheila and they made their home in The Gaunts. They shared thirty-two years of married life together before Sheila's death in February last year. He was the father of Tonia and Richard and grandfather to Findlay and Phoebe.

After leaving school he worked for a number of different companies, including street lighting maintenance, Excel Signs, Carters Refrigeration and Washford Engineering. He was a man who could turn his hand to any practical task and excelled at mechanical and engineering work.

He was a member of the former Greenfields Social Club at Withybed Green (where he met his wife), Alvechurch Sports and Social Club and Blackwell Club.

He will be remembered as man who was quiet at home but gregarious in company. He had a wicked sense of humour.

His funeral was held in St Laurence Church on Wednesday 20 June and the two hymns sung were *Love divine all loves excelling* and William Blake's *Jerusalem*. Afterwards his body was laid to rest at the Woodland Burial ground near Inkberrow.



# Flowers

Rota for July 2012

	1 <sup>st</sup> July	10 <sup>th</sup> July	15 <sup>th</sup> July	22 <sup>nd</sup> July	29 <sup>th</sup> July
Sanctuary			Lynda Wolstencroft		
Lady Chapel			Lynda Wolstencroft		
In Memory of			Barbara Parsons		

*Ann Thurrell makes a plea for help with the July Flower Rota.*

As can be seen above, I have another month with only one name on it to provide flowers. I know this time of the year is difficult with holidays but I really would appreciate some help. I do have some funds available to help with the purchase of flowers. Our normal supplier is Tracie in *The Village Greengrocer* and she is always happy to suggest appropriate flowers. Please get in touch with me if you can assist in any way. Many thanks Ann Thurrell. 0121 447 7668

## From the Registers



### Marriages

*Those whom God has joined together*

June 9

David Richard Gale and Laura Jackson

June 16

Derick William Davey and Claire Elizabeth Fisher



### Baptisms

*We welcome you into the Lord's family*

May 27

Oliver Richard Malcolm Swinnerton Redditch  
Oliver Benjamin Rudge Cygnet Close  
Theo Alexander Ruston Snake Lane  
Candyce Angel Beech Hopwood

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



### Funerals and Cremations

*May they rest in the peace of Christ*

May 25	Evelyn Mary Davis	aged 87
June 18	Kenneth Gerald Clifford	aged 90
June 20	Norman Burnett	aged 56
June 22	Edwin Francis Reeves	aged 106

# Who's who

Rector	Revd David Martin, The Rectory, School Lane 445 1087 davidmartin@lynkserve.net
Licensed Lay Ministers	Mr Dick Russell, 2 Gothic Cottages, Radford Rd 445 3083
Authorised Lay Ministers	Ms Sue Philips Withybed Green 445 3620 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
Deputy Wardens	Mr Mick Fletcher , 52 Callow Hill Road 445 6431 Mr Colin Bennett, 122 Redditch Road, 01527 64077 Mr Andy Humphries, Sunnymead, Station Road 445 5955
PCC Secretary	Mr David Richmond, The Ferns, Chapel Lane 445 3569
PCC Treasurer	Mrs Alison Smith, 12 Hollington Road 447 7293
Organist & Choirmaster	Mrs Enid Brumsen 32 Callow Hill Road 445 0663
Electoral Roll Officer	Mr Bob Dale Weatheroak Farm 01564 822486
Tower Captain	Mr David Richmond, The Ferns, Chapel Lane 445 3569
Singing Group	Mr Jeremy Roberts, 7 Redditch Road, Hopwood 445 2041
Mum's the Word	Mr Colin Bennett, 122 Redditch Road 01527 64077
Flower Co-ordinator	Mrs Lynda Wolstencroft 49 Hinton Avenue Tel: 445 3212
Women's Fellowship	Mrs Bib Paterson, 57 Birmingham Road 07876390154
Ark Booking Secretary )	Mrs Ann Thurrell, Top Barn, Scarfield Hill 447 7668
& Grapevine advertising )	Mrs Jill Woolley, 111 Birmingham Road 445 2125
Grapevine Editor	Mr Ian Price, the Ark School Lane, 447 7955 thearkalvechurch@yahoo.co.uk
	Revd David Martin, The Rectory, School Lane 445 1087 davidmartin@lynkserve.net

## PCC Special Responsibilities

### Finance and Standing Committee

### Development

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

### Children and Youth

### Churchyard

Martin Allen	Mike Fletcher	Bob Dale	Andy Humphries
Marion Thompson	Pat Booth		

### Buildings and Fabric

### Peru and Missionary

Mick Fletcher	Colin Bennett	Sue Phillips	Dick Russell
David Richmond	Jill Woolley	Sue Brotherton	Margaret Haste

### Worship

Barbara Scane	Martin Allen
Graham Clark	Enid Brumsen
David Richmond	

# Calendar

JULY



Sunday 1	10.30.am	Forty Years On Birthday Cake: The Ark
Tuesday 3		Women's Fellowship Buffet Lunch
Thursday 5	12.30.pm	Ark Café: Beef Casserole
Saturday 7	10.30.am	Model Railway Exhibition: Church and Ark
Sunday 8	6.00.pm	United Ecumenical Service in St Laurence Church
Wednesday 11	7.00.pm	Footpath Walk from Hopwood House Inn
Thursday 12	12.30.pm	Ark Café: Salad Buffet
Sunday 15	10.30.am	Confirmation Service with Bishop Christopher Mayfield in St Laurence Church
	1.00.pm	National Gardens Scheme Open Gardens
Wednesday 18		Ex-Services Excursion to Bridgnorth
Thursday 19	10.15.am	Tiny Tots Service: church
Tuesday 24	7.30.pm	Fashion Show organised by Alvechurch WI: Village Hall
Wednesday 25	2.00.pm	Women's Fellowship: The Story of Cadburys: Tanyard Lane Centre

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