

# The Grapevine

THE PARISH MAGAZINE OF ST LAURENCE CHURCH ALVECHURCH

## ALL ABOARD



**JULY 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 (07773509390) 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**



## Philippa Brakes writes...

As I write, my house has been infested with moths! Amazing how a small insect can reduce a formerly reasonably rational person to a broken down wreck of a human being in a remarkably short space of time.

My problems are small you say; yes less than half an inch long – but so determined. However on a serious note, this is a small problem blown out of proportion partly because I am dealing with it alone, my husband having thoughtlessly gone to India on business. At 2.00am, chasing moths around my sitting room, I tend to hit a nadir of formerly unsuspected rage and frustration.

I think there are times when we all over-react to circumstances, often surprising ourselves with the power of our emotions. Others around us tell us to pull ourselves together or offer a sympathetic ear, but can't really help because the problem, whatever it is, is deep inside us, often connected to a lack of control in our lives. I began to feel I had lost control of my home and, at times, it terrified me.

In my experience only God can really reach deep into the depths of us and explain just what is going on. When things are beyond our control, that's where God waits for us to call on him. When he tells me all will be well, I am inclined to listen because he has always helped me before when I have been frightened or lost or am just being difficult.

He has been there carrying me through the big dark times, such as loss of those I love and the smaller irritating day to day frustrations that threaten to distract me from being the person God wants me to be. Many verses in the bible seem to be written expressly for all of these circumstances – some verses from the Old Testament seem to be proof that the human condition doesn't change over the millennia. Next time something big or small threatens to overwhelm you, try thinking on some of these:

**Psalm 100: 5** *“For the Lord is good and his love endures forever, his faithfulness continues through all generations.”*

**Matthew 11: 28-30** *“Come to me all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart and you will find rest for your soul. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”*

**Deuteronomy 33: 27** *“The eternal God is your refuge and underneath are the everlasting arms.”*

**Psalm 46: 1** *“God is our refuge and strength, an ever present help in trouble.”* And for those suffering through a time of real distress.

**Psalm 34: 18** *“The Lord is close to the broken hearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.”*

God Bless.

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**St Laurence  
Women's Fellowship**

*Jill Woolley writes...*



We welcomed The Cherrywood Duo to our meeting in May, and they entertained us with a programme of light-hearted songs and poems. It was an enjoyable afternoon which helped to cheer us after we had news that our Secretary Germaine Cotterell had had an accident and was in Hospital. We wish her well.

There is a change of speaker for our meeting on July 27th as Rae Fowler is unable to come, so Dawn Nex will give the Amish talk that we missed last year.

We meet in the Tanyard Centre at 2pm. If you can join us you will be most welcome.

A date for your diary - we will be holding our annual Charity Tea in the Ark on Tuesday August 9th. at 2.30pm in aid of local Hospices.

**Alvechurch Village Society**

**Friday 8th July 7pm  
END OF SEASON, SOCIAL  
EVENING WALK**



Followed by the traditional social gathering at a local public house.

Leaders - Anne and Andy Humphries (0121 455 5955).

Meet - Alvechurch Railway Station Car Park.

## Hillside WI

*Cathy Taylor writes...*

At our A.G.M in May, Pat McDonagh was elected President and a new committee was also elected.

1st June, we welcomed Ann Runacres who gave us a very interesting talk about the history of Patchwork and Quilting. Ann showed us beautiful quilts and explained how these were made.

### Future Events

July 6th will be our birthday meeting. Members are asked to celebrate by dressing in style. Richard Kendrick will give us a talk entitled Behind the scenes with a TV/Film Caterer.

August 9th at 7.30pm we hope to arrange a meal at the pub in Hopwood. Details will be given at the July meeting.

## 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 members that on Thursday, 14th July from 6.30pm Penny and Bob of The Piggery, Weights Lane, Redditch are opening their lovely gardens just for Rowney Green Horticultural Society on this date. So all members are welcome, there will be a charge of £5.00 including refreshments. Weights Lane is off Redditch Road near the Bordesley traffic lights, opposite Abbey Stadium. Please also note that Show Schedules and Entry Forms for the Main Flower and Produce Show in September are available in Rowney Green from The Goat & Trousers, Corner Hollow; in Alvechurch from the Post Office and Library. They are also available from Oasis, the florist in Barnt Green. Should you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact Lindsay Smith on 01527 592874.

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# Alvechurch Village Hall Annual General Meeting

Monday 18th July 2016

7.00pm

In The Committee Room

HAVE YOUR SAY IN THE RUNNING OF THE VILLAGE HALL

NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS NEEDED!!



## **Alyson Williams Library Manager Retiring**

As some of you may already know, Alyson Williams library manager at Alvechurch and Wythall library will be retiring in July. As a farewell we will be hosting an afternoon Tea Party on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> July from 2pm onwards at Alvechurch Library. We would very much like to see all those who know Alyson, all the members of the library and who have worked with Alyson, past and present to attend. We hope to see you all there.

For more details please contact Sarah in the library through the Hub on 01905 822722.

# Alvechurch Historical Society

Hilary Taylor writes...

For our last talk of the season David Berry joined us to present "A humorous look at retirement". He entertained us with anecdotes, rhymes and risqué jokes, on subjects such as "How do you know when you are getting old?" and "What is the world coming to?". All in aid of his chosen charity, Mary Stephens Hospice, Stourbridge.

## SUMMER EVENTS FOR MEMBERS

Two coach trips have been arranged; to Moseley Old Hall on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> July, and to the World of Wedgwood on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> August. If you have booked places on either of these, the pick up time is 9.30am at the Red Lion. Unfortunately there are no more places available.

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

## AUTUMN SEASON

Our next talk is not until Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September, when new members and visitors will be welcome alongside existing members.

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 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> September, from 2.30 – 4.30pm.

AHS meetings are held on the first Monday of the month, at 7.45pm, in the museum on School Lane. Parking is available behind the Catholic Church, with their kind permission. New faces are always welcome, just come along, or contact our chairman, Anne Humphries on 0121 445 5955.

# Rowney Green Flower Club

28<sup>th</sup> July 2016, AGM and short in-house demonstration followed by a Strawberry Tea.

All meetings to be held at The Peace Hall, Roney Green commencing at 7.45pm. 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.



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## The Ark Café



We hope that all of you who came to the Cafe 10th Anniversary Lunch on May 19th enjoyed the meal and entertainment. It was a very convivial atmosphere and we thought it all went off very well. We hope to have the entertainers again later in the year at another one of our Special Lunches. We would also like to thank all those who came, for generously supporting the raffle. The total proceeds of £140 will go towards the Stained Glass Window Fund.

The menus for July will be as follows:

**July 7th Closed**

**July 14th Pork Casserole**

**July 21st Chicken Cheveley**

Then from 28th July and on each Thursday in August until the 25th August we will be having our usual Summer Cafe when you will be able to enjoy a seasonal salad and cold dessert at a very reasonable price. We will then be closed on Thursday, 1st September and our usual hot lunches will resume again on Thursday, 8th September.

We look forward to your usual support over the summer period.

## Bellringers' Tea Party Update - Monday 30th May

We would like to thank all those who came to the Tea Party and we hope you all enjoyed your tea.

We were delighted that so many people supported the event. We raised the sum of £437 from the afternoon.



## Letter from the Archdeacon of Worcester

By the time you read this we will know whether the UK has voted In or Out, though at the time of writing I'm still being assailed from both sides wanting my vote! However, as we saw in the Scottish referendum, the results aren't the end of the story. There are always further negotiations to take place and, perhaps more importantly for us all, relationships to be built and even re-built.

This process also happens within churches and in families. Opinions are one thing, but relationships count too. Often it comes down to key individuals going that one extra step and reaching out to the other side. As Christians we are surely in the business of taking the extra step, and more if needed. We saw this in the negotiations over the Good Friday agreement about the future of Northern Ireland, where sworn enemies sat down together for what they perceived to be a greater good. We see Pope Francis reaching out to all sorts of people who feel alienated from the Church and using the media to great effect in doing so. I guess for him it was not so much a case of the greater good as the greater God! He seems to rest at peace and with integrity within his understanding of a God who gives him space to take such courageous steps and live up to one of his titles, pontifex or bridge-builder.

God is always greater than we can imagine or conceive. Our words can only hint at who this God is. That is why the Church has worshipped Him down the centuries in the beauty of holiness, using poetry and music, liturgy and architecture to express that to which our words cannot do full justice. This beauty is not a sort of cultural captivity: there is a powerful Christian tradition of beautiful worship in beautiful settings leading to beautiful lives being lived to the full.

Those who have worshipped Him in the beauty of holiness have discovered that same holiness in the rough and tumble of daily life. Bishop Frank Weston, speaking at an Anglo-Catholic congress nearly a hundred years ago, told his listeners: 'You cannot claim to worship Jesus in the Tabernacle, if you do not pity Jesus in the slums. . . It is folly, it is madness, to suppose that you can worship Jesus in the Sacraments and Jesus on the throne of glory, when you are sweating him in the souls and bodies of his children.'

Love of God goes hand in hand with love of neighbour. Finding space for our spacious God surely enlarges our heart enough to go out to those we love and those we find it hard to love, and maybe makes us those bridge-builders and reconcilers which the world needs.

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## What's on at the Library - Summer 2016

Would you like to learn how to use **Mindfulness** to manage day to day stress and worry? We are holding an introductory taster session which will cover Mindfulness and how you can use it. It is on Thursday 8th September, 2.15pm - 4.15pm and costs £8.50.

We are looking to start a **French** class starting at 9.45am on Tuesday 27th of September. Please register your interest with a member of Alvechurch Library staff or call our fantastic tutor Patrick on 07708027372 or email [vdlt52@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:vdlt52@hotmail.co.uk)

Are you looking for something a little bit different?  
**Introduction to Angels:** A one off workshop on Friday 23rd September 2.15pm – 4.15pm and costs £15.00.

**Explore Learning** will be here on Thursday 28th July at 2.30pm holding a fun literacy workshop all about **Roald Dahl's Revolting Rhymes**. For children aged 5-7. Join us for some phizz-whizzing fun and find out about some crazy characters in Roald's poems. Explore Learning will be back again, this time offering a fun literacy workshop for older children, ages 7-9. Tuesday 2nd August, 11.30am, we will be learning all about **The BFG**. Create your own language and be whizz popping in no time. These workshops are free of charge.

Our **Summer Activities** based on Roald Dahl in July and August will support The Summer Reading Challenge.

### Junior Craft Group

A new group will be starting on Monday 12th September 3.30pm - 4.30pm. This group will meet about once every 2 weeks on a Monday afternoon after school. This is an opportunity for 8-12 year olds to learn the basics of knitting, hand and machine sewing. The group will be led by our lovely volunteers from the Crafty Ladies who will be teaching. The cost will be 50p per session to cover the cost of the resources. There are 6 places left so please contact the library if you would like to join on 01905 822722.

Please email [alvechurchlib@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:alvechurchlib@worcestershire.gov.uk) or call 01905822722 for details or to book a space on any of our events.

# Baby Massage

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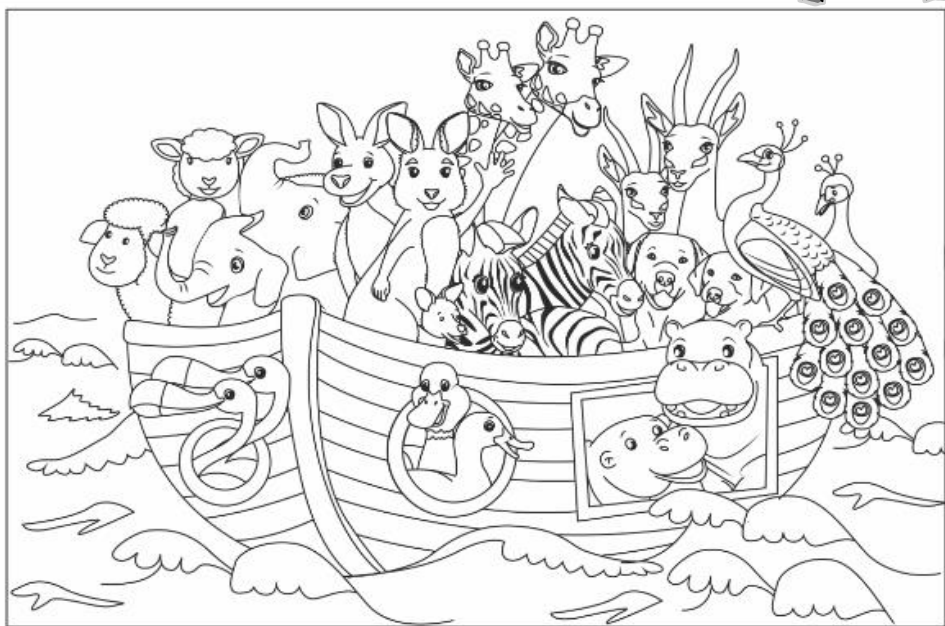
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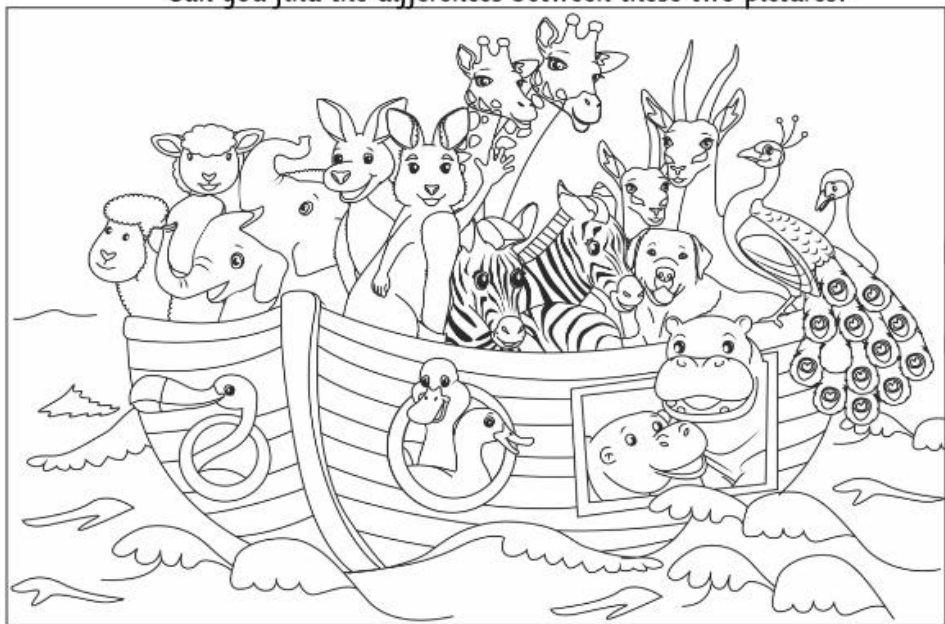
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Can you find the differences between these two pictures?





# MODEL RAILWAY EXHIBITION

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Do come and support the model railway exhibition on July 9<sup>th</sup>. All proceeds are in aid of the "windows fund". You will see models in all sizes, from very small to quite large, either to view or buy. This should be a good day for all the family to enjoy. It is not all trains, there will be some plants and general stalls, and of course there is excellent food, plenty of it!

(Incidentally the cover picture loco should be on my layout. Its' full size counterpart is still in existence, but in a rebuilt form.) We look forward to seeing you on the 9<sup>th</sup>.

# Flowers for JULY

	3 July	10 July	17 July	24 July	31 July
Sanctuary			Lynda Wolstencroft	Rosina Spreckley	Mary Sidwell
Lady Chapel		Hilary Hughes	Lynda Wolstencroft	Rosina Spreckley	Mary Sidwell
In memory of		Don Hughes	Barbara Parsons	Patrick Spreckley	John Sidwell

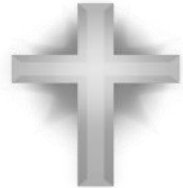
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## Parish Prayers

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

- Sunday 3rd July – Scarfield Hill
- Sunday 10th July – School Lane
- Sunday 17th July – Smedley Crooke Place
- Sunday 26th July – Snake Lane
- Sunday 31st July – St Laurence Close



## From The Registers



### Wedding Blessing

*Those whom God has joined together*

June 11 Tim Ayling and Helen Brown



### Funerals and Cremations

*May they rest in the peace of Christ*

June 3 Faith Plewes

# Who's who

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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 Nina Stanfield, 07592132677
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 JULY



Wednesday 6	7.30pm	Hillside WI: Talk by Richard Kendrick ' <i>Behind the scenes with a TV/Film Caterer</i> ': The Ark
Thursday 7	9.30am 12.00am	Mums The Word Tiny Tots Service: St Laurence Church No café today
Friday 8	7.00pm	Alvechurch Village Society: End of Season Walk and Social : Meet at Alvechurch Railway Station Car Park
Saturday 9	10.30am	Model Railway Exhibition: St Laurence Church & The Ark
Monday 11	1.45pm	Forget-Me-Nots: The Ark
Thursday 14	9.30am 12.15pm	Mums The Word Ark Café: Pork Casserole <b>AUGUST GRAPEVINE GOES TO PRESS</b> <b>Articles to <a href="mailto:thearkalvechurch@yahoo.co.uk">thearkalvechurch@yahoo.co.uk</a></b>
Monday 18	7.00pm	Alvechurch Village Hall AGM: Alvechurch Village Hall
Thursday 21	9.30am 12.15pm	Mums The Word Ark Café: Chicken Cheveley
Monday 25	1.45pm	Forget-Me-Nots: The Ark
Wednesday 27	2.30pm	St Laurence Women's Fellowship: Amish talk by Dawn Nex: Tanyard Centre
Thursday 28	12.15pm 7.45pm	No Mums The Word today Ark Café: Summer Menu Rowney Green Flower Club AGM: Peace Hall Rowney Green