

The Grapevine

THE PARISH MAGAZINE OF ST LAURENCE CHURCH ALVECHURCH



MARCH 2019

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

DAILY SERVICE

9.00am Monday to Friday in St Laurence Church

ORGANISATIONS

Sunday Club - Sundays during term time 9.30am Church & Ark

Choir - Thursdays at 7.45pm in Church (445 3569)

Bellringers - Sundays at 10.45am

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)**

**Ark Tots and Toddlers (Mum's the Word) - Thursdays 9.30am to 11.10am in The Ark
Tiny Tots Service - 10.45am 4th Thursday of the month (sarah100work@gmail.com)**

Ark Cafe - 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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Martin Allen writes...

Introducing his series of sermons on how to live our lives Revd Richard Bubbers recently exhorted us to stand back from the daily assumptions we make about life and examine them.

As examples I've recently had my assumptions about the workplace and martial arts exploded. Firstly, I received an email linking safety in the (medical) workplace and kindness. To say that I was surprised was an understatement. Could avoiding medical errors be linked to kindness?? Well the folk at "*Sign up to safety*" - www.signuptosafety.org.uk think so and know a lot about adverse outcomes for people treated for their health problems.

So how does this work?

Apparently kindness is one of the building blocks to help people work efficiently and safely. The employee who feels valued, safe, secure, able to contribute and in receipt of kind acts is less stressed, more able to bounce back from adversity, less often ill or the cause of errors. The message was clear - organisations that are serious about mistakes need to foster kindness in their work environment.

The second area was an organisation promoting "*Random Acts of kindness*". On the front page of their website they were promoting kindness in the context of TaeKwonDo www.randomactsofkindness.org/kindness-videos/16-kindness-karate.

Again I thought surely not?!?

Having supported a teenager through to black belt level involving movements, controlled kicking and sparring I was intrigued!

A 7th Dan black belt grand master was helping students with their preparation for black belt and requiring them each to undertake 400 random acts of kindness. He found it works!

Surely though kindness is a basic human behaviour which we all show? I'm sure you're right I do but then again I don't - such is my nature. Its hard to remember to be kind if I'm hangry (hungry and angry), short on money, time, patience or if I've just been cut up on the road. These diverse examples reminded me that kindness is important (as well as boosting our positive brain chemicals and those of the recipient).

Christians have known this for a long time even though as humans we forget and don't act kindly at times. As Ephesians 4:32 says our pattern is from God "*Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.*" As Christians we'd better watch out though because occupational psychology and martial arts may catch us up!

At least we have the full set of building blocks for life (trust in God's restorative love through Jesus) and markers of lives being transformed (love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control Galatians 5:22).

No legislation or rule can work the transformation of lives which we so desperately need personally and at national level. As we journey through lent together if you've not already decided what you want to *give up* how about doing something positive and *doing at least one kind act per day*? It sounds like you'll be blessed!

Martin Allen ALM @ferries117

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Hillside at Alvechurch WI

Linda Helmore writes...

At our last meeting held on 4th February we held a very informal and friendly evening with our 'Knit and Natter' evening.

We all knitted squares to be put to together to create a blanket to be given to a homeless charity. For some of us it was a learning curve involving learning to knit or reviving very rusty skills. It was a very relaxed evening with of course the necessary tea and cake!

Our next meeting will be Line Dancing and will be held on Wednesday March 6th at the Ark. Any visitors very welcome.

April 3rd – Wednesday

Redditch Nightstop – an insight into their work.

Alvechurch WI

Pam Horsfield writes...

It was lovely to see so many enjoying themselves at Barnt Green Cricket Club last night where we had one of Geoff's superb meals AND were entertained by Nick Jones (Nick the Vic!).

Conversation flowed, though it did go marginally quieter when the food arrived; a lot of members danced to the sound of Nick singing and most sang along with him if they knew the words. You can see photos of our evening on our Alvechurch WI Facebook site.

Two members, Chris Grainger and Judith Hayes had Happy Birthday sung to them. Others were new to our WI and it was good to see them joining in making new friends and recognising others. Thanks to all for making it a good night.

Next month we will be welcoming a very talented person who sculpts shapes in absolute miniature and then in April we have a talk called "The Little Black Dress". Watch this space for reports on these....

Join us on the second Monday of the month at 7:30pm in Alvechurch Village Hall where we will be pleased to see you and your friends. You can relax and visit us a couple of times before deciding if you'd like to become a member of Alvechurch WI.

CONCERT by the CHOIR WITH NO NAME

Alvechurch Baptist Church March 9th 7.30pm.

Tickets £8.00 on door.

This is a rare opportunity to listen to and support this amazing choir!

The choir is formed of people who are homeless or recently homed. They are given encouragement and confidence through performance, and also friendship, meals and practical help.

The choir is renowned for its enthusiasm and the feel-good-factor they convey; the audience are guaranteed an evening to remember!

All profits go to the choir, so please come along!

Mothering Sunday

Laura Farmer (Communications Assistance) writes...

Mothering Sunday falls on the fourth Sunday of Lent (31st March) and is a day on which we recognise the importance of those who have cared for and mothered us throughout our lives.

For many years, the Mothers' Union have supported Mothering Sunday's simple message of love and appreciation through their Make a Mother's Day Appeal. People can purchase ethical gifts, to make a difference to mothers and communities around the world. This could be through enabling a mother to learn to read, become an entrepreneur or through learning new skills that will help her to improve her home. Donations are distributed across all areas of Mothers' Union's work, wherever the need is greatest.

On this day in the past children would pick wild flowers, like violets, either to take to church, or to give to their mother as a gift. When people buy a Mothers' Union gift, they receive a card featuring native flowers from one of the 80 countries in which the organisation works, in order that mothers still receive flowers on this special day. The Mothers' Union is a Christian Mission Charity that seeks to support families worldwide, through sharing God's love.

For further information about the Make a Mother's Day Appeal is available on the following link:
<http://www.makeamothersday.org/>

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Alvechurch Historical Society

Hilary Taylor writes...

Our first two talks of 2019 have a common theme, in that they are about two nearby towns, both located on Roman Icknield or Ryknild Street. In between we have our annual party & quiz evening. Members, guests and visitors are welcome to join us at all these events.

Our next meeting, on **Monday 4th March**, will be a presentation by Anthony Green called *"The River Arrow Flowing Through Redditch History"*. Using a mixture of maps, photographs, aerial images & videos, we will learn the history of the river, from Roman Icknield Street, the medieval monastery, and industrial age needle making, to modern green space for urban dwellers, and much more.

The date of our annual party is **Monday 18th March**, with the usual mix of quiz, tombola and food. Tickets will be available at the next meeting, or from Anne Humphries.

On **Monday 1st April** our guest speaker will be Graham Downie. His talk is *"A Portrait of Studley"*. Lying just over the county boundary in Warwickshire, Studley is a busy town on the A435. The route of the modern road closely follows that of Roman Ryknild Street. Studley was recorded in the Domesday Book, and at that time it had a salt house, like Droitwich.

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

Rowney Green Flower Club

Deborah Taylor writes...

On Thursday 28th March we will welcome professional Florist, Minh Lane, to demonstrate how to make a number of beautiful flower displays. Come along and join us and enjoy taking in a few tips. All arrangements are raffled at the end, so you could go home with a lovely display.

We meet at 7.30 pm at Rowney Green Village Hall and guests are very welcome - £3 including refreshments.

If you would like further information, please contact Felicity on 07812 336263.

The Ark Cafe



As we continue into March and April, our menu will be as follows:

March 7	Roast Pork
March 14	Somerset Chicken
March 21	Roast Lamb
March 28	Roast Pork
April 4	Roast Beef Carvery (Ticket Only £12)
April 11	Beef Casserole

The tickets for the Roast Beef Carvery Lunch cost £12 and are available on a Thursday Lunchtime at the Ark or during the week from Ian Price at the Ark office, Monday to Friday 9am until 2pm or on 0121 447 7955. The inclusive cost includes a Roast Beef Lunch, dessert, cheese and biscuits, tea or coffee and we will be having the usual raffle, so please come and join us.

The Cafe has a break for Easter after the April 11 lunch and we reopen again in May on Thursday, 2nd May. We look forward to seeing you all again then.

Rowney Green Horticultural Society

Lindsay Smith writes...

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

On 8th March we will welcome Harry Green, Head Gardener at Morton Hall Gardens. His subject is *"Extracts of the Head Gardener's Journal - with tips on some of the techniques used at Morton Hall"*.

Guests are welcome - £3.50 including refreshments. For more information please do not hesitate to contact Lindsay Smith on 01527 592874 .

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Mambo Jambo Playing At The Ark

Acoustic Roots duo, Mambo Jambo, will be playing at The Ark on Saturday 27th April. With their own rhythmic and joyful sound they'll take you on a musical journey, bringing together sounds from roots, world, folk and jazz, plus their own compositions. With Frankie on sax, vocals, clarinet, flute, guitar and spoons plus other percussion, and Pete on guitar, vocal, ukulele, tres (traditional Cuban guitar), banjo, accordion and suitcase! Pete and Frankie have been gathering admirers at shows and festivals the length and breadth of the country. A fabulous musical treat is in store wherever they roll up in their tour bus.

Come and join us. Concert starts at 7.30pm - bar opens at 6.45pm. With a raffle in aid of Sight Concern.

Tickets are just £8 in advance (or pay on the door) and are available from the Ark office Monday to Friday between 9am and 2pm, email - thearkalvechurch@yahoo.co.uk or call Ian in the office on 0121 447 7955. Ian Price, The Ark, St Laurence Church, School Lane, Alvechurch, B48 7SB.
www.thearkalvechurch.co.uk/specialevents



See the flyer on
page 11

World Day of Prayer

A reminder of the **World Day of Prayer** to be held at the **Baptist Church** on **Friday March 1st** at 11.30am preceded by refreshments from 11.00am.



St Laurence Women's Fellowship

Jill Woolley writes...



We have moved our meeting in March from Wednesday 27th to Thursday 28th so that we can have a meal together in The Ark at 12.30pm followed by a short service in Church to give thanks for past Fellowship activities. This will be the last meeting of St, Laurence Women's Fellowship.

Mrs Ros Tyler has offered to continue the meetings in the Tanyard Centre on the fourth Wednesday of each month with the new name of Alvechurch Friendship Club.

At the AGM on April 24th the formalities of the change-over will be discussed.

I wish the group continuing success with many more happy meetings together.

Bible Emergency Mini Directory Part 1

When in sorrow, call John 14

When people fail you, call Psalm 27

When you have messed up, call Psalm 53

When you worry, call Matthew 6 vs 19-34

When you are in danger, call Psalm 91

When God seems far away, call Psalm 139

When your faith needs stirring, call Hebrews 11

When you are lonely and fearful, call Psalm 23

When you grow bitter and critical, call 1 Corinthians 13

When you feel down and out, call Romans 8 vs 31-39

When you want peace and rest, call Matthew 11 vs 25-30

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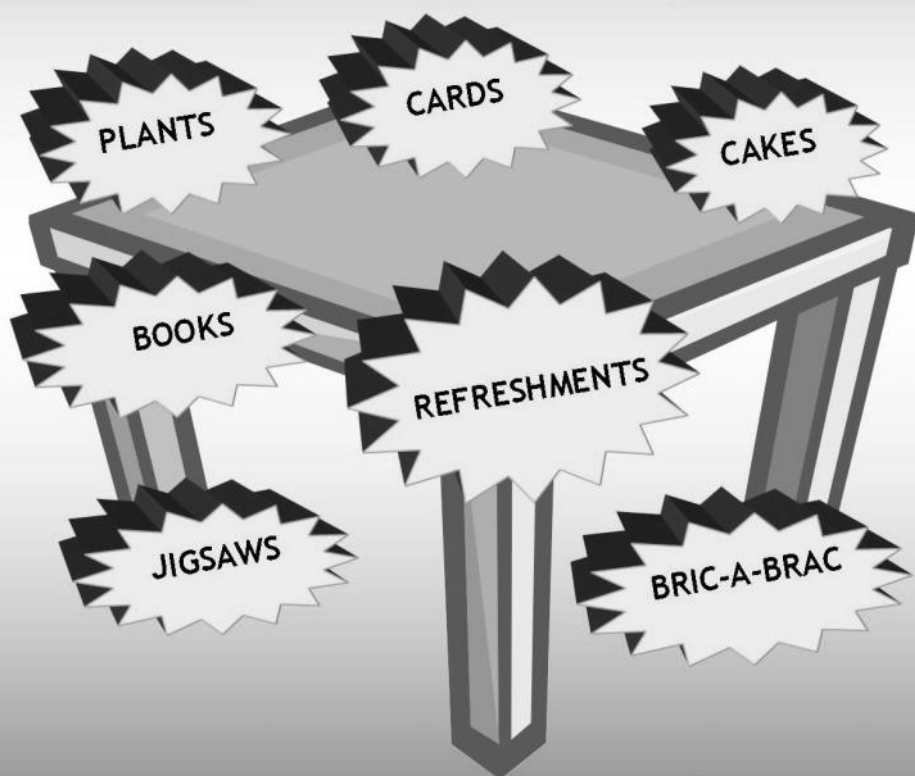
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Letter from Archdeacon of Dudley



Driving to church one Sunday morning recently I heard a report on the radio about 'slow art'. Not something I had considered before, but I discovered there is a Slow Art Movement, and a Slow Art Day (6 April this year), with a mission to help more people discover for themselves the joy of looking at and loving art.

Henry David Thoreau said, *"It's not what you look at that matters, it's what you see."*

The idea of looking slowly is to make discoveries and experience creativity in new ways. Statistically visitors to galleries view art masterpieces for an average of just 17 seconds, which is perhaps unsurprising in our fast-paced, sound-bite society, and this movement is seeking to challenge that, to slow people down.

This made me wonder if we might do well to embrace 'slow prayer' this lent, and slow reading, and slow looking. Elizabeth Barrett Browning's oft quoted words remind us of the need to look slowly:

*"All of earth is crammed with heaven.
And every bush aflame with God.
But only those who see take, off their shoes."*

What do we see each day?

Do we see Jesus in the face of others? Do we glimpse anything new in a familiar Bible passage? Would we have recognised the Messiah for who he was when he was presented in the temple as the elderly Simeon and Anna did, or would we, like the remainder of those about their business that day, simply not have noticed? Would we have pushed through the crowds to

touch the robe of Jesus, or simply passed the throngs by, assuming the rabbi was another rabble rouser? Do we see, and take off our shoes, because we are on holy ground, or do we miss opportunities because we don't look slowly enough? Do we take time to make discoveries which bring us joy and make us love God more?

Lent is an opportunity to embrace the discipline of slow, that we might see *"God's glory displayed in the face of Christ."* (2 Cor 4:6) We might choose to take in some slow art too!

Alvechurch Arise

Alyson Williams writes...

Please come and join the churches from the village and Rowney Green in the witness of the events of Holy Week from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday

Palm Sunday 14th April 11am

Come and join the procession from the bottom of School Lane to the Precinct at 11am. We shall have a donkey at the head of the procession with the Community Choir and people from the village and the churches, followed by a short act of worship and songs from the choir. We are also planning to hold short donkey rides for the children.

Maundy Thursday 18th April 3.30pm - 5.30pm

Come and join in the family activities at The Lounge. Free soup and bread to remember the Last Supper Foot and hand washing, decorating Alvechurch Arise rocks and other items.

Good Friday 19th April 12 noon

Come and see the cross and share in a time of reflection

Easter Sunday 21st April 12 noon

A celebration of the Resurrection in the precinct and an Easter egg hunt for the children.

Lent course for 2019

CTARG (Churches Together in Alvechurch and Rowney Green) are arranging another series of Ecumenical Lent Housegroups, beginning **from Ash Wednesday on 6 March**. Everyone is welcome to whichever group meets at the most convenient time for them.

This year we are using a course based on the book, *“Let me go there – The Spirit of Lent,”* by the bestselling author Paula Gooder in her popular series on the seasons of the Christian year. This daily companion for the six weeks of Lent takes us on a journey of exploration into the wilderness for Lent, and shows us that, while the desert can be a place of fear and desolation, it is also the very setting where God may choose to meet us and call us into a new way of being and living. The groups are listed below. Please choose a group and then contact the leader of that group to tell them of your interest and to check details:

Day	Time	Start date	Leader	Venue
Wednesday	10:30AM	6 March	Felicity Rixon 445 2371 felicityrixon@hotmail.com	St Mary's, School Lane
Wednesday	2PM	6 March	Dick Russell 445 3083 russell2gothic@btinternet.com	32 Callow Hill Road
Thursday	7.30PM	7 March	Graham and Lynne Clark 445 2547 clarkalvechurch@sky.com	The Coach House School Lane
Wednesday	7.30PM	6 March	Rev'd Fiona Lee 447 7369 revfiona@alvechurchbaptist.org.uk	40 Hinton Avenue
Monday	10.30AM	11 March	Roger Wardle & Sue Phillips Wardle 445 0505 sue@suephillips.org.uk	55 Birmingham Road





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ADVANCED NOTICE

Saturday 6th April 2019 7.30pm
Chamber Classics

Haydn – String Quartet in D Op.64 No.5 'The Lark'

Mozart – Clarinet Quintet in A K581

Schubert – String Quartet in D minor D810 'Death and the Maiden'

Tedesca TMS resident Quartet, Tom Caldecote, clarinet



Events at Alvechurch Library

Alvechurch Library Crafty Ladies Spring

Sale Monday 18th March 9.30am – 1.00pm and 2.00pm – 4.00pm. This talented group of crafty and creative ladies are here again to celebrate spring time with another of their fantastic Spring Sales. Amazing hand crafted gifts made and sold in aid of local charities, close to the Crafty Ladies hearts. Many Easter themed presents too, such as little chicks and Easter egg holders. There will also be a raffle, homemade cakes and a £1.00 bargain toiletries table.

Talking of Easter, we have on offer an Easter Wreath Making Workshop. Course number 16673. Tuesday 16th April, 12.30pm - 3.30pm, £19.00. Use your creativity to combine materials to produce your own Easter decoration for doors and walls. Use fun and quirky materials to create a traditional wreath shape. Using basic floristry techniques you will make a decoration that you can use year after year. We already have taken a few bookings for this Adult Learning event so book in quickly to bag a place.

Patrick's ongoing **French** and **Spanish** classes continue throughout the year, three days a week in Alvechurch library. Please email Patrick at vdlt52@hotmail.co.uk or call 07708027372 to see if the level the class is being taught at would allow you to join in. Numbers in Patrick's class go up and down, French is pretty well fully booked but currently he does have a couple of spaces in either of the Spanish classes. Get ready for those summer holidays!

Children's Easter Holiday Events

Explore Learning Writing Competition Workshops

On Monday 15th April from 2.15-3.15pm and Tuesday 23rd April from 2.15-3.15pm

for children aged 6-10 years. You will have the opportunity to start writing your story for the chance to win a trip to Disneyland Paris! We will help to kick start your imagination into the world of your characters, setting and plot! No need to book for any Explore Learning Workshops, just turn up.

World Book Day 2019

The next Double Stamp Event for the Young People's Reward Card holders is on Saturday 2nd March from 11.30-12.30pm. Look out for more details on our Facebook page. If you are aged 11-24 years then sign up for the card to receive rewards. READ, REPEAT, REWARD!

Chess Club

The club meets weekly on Saturday mornings between 11:00am-12:00 noon and is run by an experienced player and coach. It provides an opportunity to learn how to play chess, play friendly games with the coach or other club members and to participate in chess lessons and coaching. There is no charge for the club which is open to juniors (with parents) and adults at all levels of ability from beginners to grandmasters.

Chatter Books Group

We have spaces on our fun children's book group. Which meets once a month on a Monday afternoon from 3.30-4.30pm. For children aged 8-12 years the sessions focus on fun, creative activities based on reading and books.

Any enquiries about any events at Alvechurch Library please pop into the library on the Birmingham Road, contact The Hub on 01905 822722, email - alvechurchlib@worcestershire.gov.uk and check out our Facebook page.

'A Christian perspective on Brexit and its impact on our Local Economy'

Keynote Speaker

Mr David Hallam

Methodist Lay Preacher and former MEP for Hereford & Shropshire

Tuesday 9th April

7:30pm - 9:00pm

Droitwich Spa Methodist Church

114 Worcester Road, Droitwich, WR9 8AN

A chance to consider a Christian response to the political upheaval we are living through and how it is having a real impact on jobs, work and businesses. With contributions from local people directly affected by the uncertainty of the current situation.

Light refreshments will be served.

For catering purposes, please tell us if you intend coming along by emailing enquiries@faithatwork.org.uk or calling 01905 621 780.

This is an OPEN MEETING for all interested in this important and highly relevant topic.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME

Organised and sponsored by



Ark Tots and Toddlers at St Laurence Church

(Formerly Mum's the Word)

We welcome Mums, Dads and Grandparents with children from birth up to school age, to come along to The Ark to our Stay and Play group.

We meet every Thursday 9.30am - 11.10am during school term time, and sometimes during the half term holidays as well.

It's a time to chat and to play in a friendly environment, with refreshments and a range of toys. Each session then finishes with singing time.

Although there is no specific charge, we welcome donations towards the running costs of the facilities, refreshments, toys and equipment.

So do come along and join us, as often as you wish. Spread the word and bring friends.

Tiny Tots in Church

Once a month, on the 4th Thursday of each month, instead of our usual singing time we invite parents/grandparents to bring their little ones into the church. Come and join in with the short, simple dramatized Bible story and some songs. Have a go at the children's craft activity, which relates to the story theme, available for the children to do with you during their play session.

This relaxed and informal Tiny Tots service is designed especially for babies and children, with no worries about restlessness and noise!

To find out more: Contact Sarah Linton at - sarah100work@gmail.com

Sunday Club at St Laurence Church

Did you know that we run a Children's session every Sunday during our 9.30 Family Service? Apart from when we have an occasional special All-Age Service, our young people begin the service in church with their families, they then have the option of coming through to The Ark for our Sunday Club. We then re-join our families towards the end of the main service.

During this informal and fun session we sing together, then often divide into different groups to provide relevant activities for older and younger children and include any pre-school children whose parents wish to bring them along. In our younger session we generally have a bible story, make something, play games and sometimes have drama or dance.

We welcome all children, though if you are of school age and come unaccompanied, we would ask that a Parent or Grandparent comes to talk to the leader for the day and completes a Contact and Consent form.

So, if you haven't been before, come along and join us, as often as you wish.

Mothering Sunday All-age Service

We invite everyone along to the next All-age Service at St Lawrence Church. This will be on **31st March at 9.30am** and will include a celebration of Mothers and the broader role of Mothering. The service will include a wide range of activities to focus our thoughts and worship on God and is suitable for all ages from babies to Centenarians (if we have any!) .

So do come and join us for this informal service and take home a posy of flowers for someone who has Mothered you (that can be anyone special, including Dads).

Shrove Tuesday

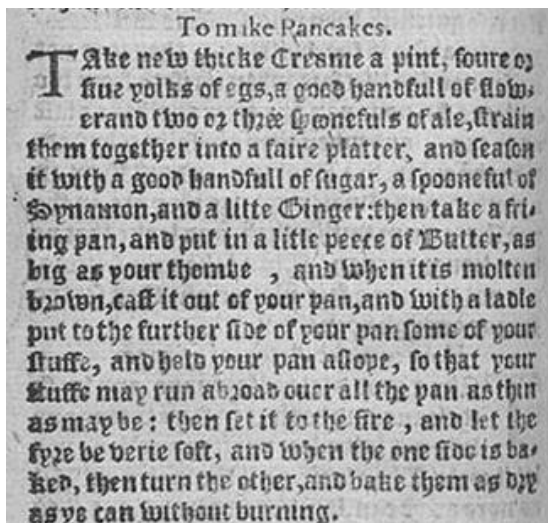
Laura Farmer (Communications Assistant) writes...

Shrove Tuesday will be celebrated on 5 March, in advance of Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent. It is a day of penitence, to clean the soul and a last chance to celebrate and feast before the start of Lent. Historically, Christians would undergo the ritual of shricing, where they confessed their sins and would receive forgiveness for them. Through receiving forgiveness for sins, people are released from the guilt of having caused them. It is believed that traditionally a 'shriving bell' was rung to call people to confession; today, in some places, it is still rung, but it is called the 'pancake bell'. This name arose from the story of a woman of Olney, Buckinghamshire, who in 1445 heard the shriving bell whilst making pancakes and ran to the church, still in her apron and clutching her frying pan.



Christians often celebrate and indulge in food on Shrove Tuesday, because Lent is a time of abstinence with many Christians choosing to give up certain foods. In the past, in order that foods were not wasted, on Shrove Tuesday families would use up all the foods that would expire during the forty days of Lent. Pancakes became widely associated with Shrove Tuesday because they were a dish that could use up perishable items like eggs, milk and fat.

Here is a 16th century recipe for pancakes



Here is the transcript (from bl.uk)

Take new thicke Cresse a pint, foure or five yolks of eggs, a good handfull of flower and two or three spoonefuls of ale, strain them together into a faire platter, and season it with a good handfull of sugar, a spooneful of synamon, and a little Ginger: then take a friing pan, and put in a litle peece of Butter, as big as your thumb, and when it is molten brown, cast it out of your pan, and with a ladle put to the further side of your pan some of your stuffe, and hold your pan aloope, so that your stuffe may run abroad ouer all the pan as thin as may be: then set it to the fire, and let the fyre be verie soft, and when the one side is baked, then turn the other, and bake them as dry as ye can without burning.



Kids Corner



Mothers Day Puzzle

Unscramble each of the clue words.
Copy the letters in the numbered cells to the other cells below with the same number.

VOLE

YHPPA

5

GANIRC

4

NOS

HTDAUGER

1

SLFEORW

6

SHECHIR

2

TUTHHFULGO

9

7

MAIYFL

3

8

BNDO

K

A Mother’s Prayer For You
~ Anon

I said a Mother’s Day prayer for you
to thank the Lord above
for blessing me with a lifetime
of your tender-hearted love.
I thanked God for the caring
you’ve shown me through the years,
for the closeness we’ve enjoyed
in time of laughter and of tears.
And so, I thank you from the heart
for all you’ve done for me
and I bless the Lord for giving me
the best mother there could be!



Host Families Needed For Visiting French Students - March and April

The area will be visited for the 5th year running, by a large group of young French students and their teachers. Due to their enjoyment of our varied local attractions over the last few years, the students will be back to indulge in chocolate at Cadbury World, eat local Fish and Chips, visit Shakespeare's home in Stratford-Upon-Avon and the Black Country Museum.



Host families are needed from all local areas, to give these students a comfortable bed when they return from their daily excursions. This is a great way to exchange language, food and culture, although you do not need to speak French. **Your hospitality will be financially rewarded.**

If you are within commutable distance of Wychbold, Bromsgrove and Longbridge daily meeting points, and would like more information about hosting, then please contact Lisa Mistry on 07702 504495 or email: l.mistry@aol.co.uk

Flowers for MARCH

The second Sunday in March is the start of Lent and therefore, no flowers in church until Easter Day. The first Sunday (3rd March) is still available so please contact me if you would like to have flowers to either commemorate a person or event or celebrate an occasion.



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

Parish Prayers

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

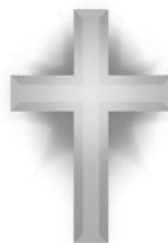
Jays Crescent - 3 March

Kingfisher Court - 10 March

Latimer Road - 17 March

Lea End Lane - 24 March

Meadow Lane - 31 March



Obituary

Mark Anthony Edwards

Mark was born at home on 15th June 1961 in Groveley Lane, to Kath and Geoff, a sister to Carol.

He was not an academic child, so when he left school at the age of 15 and started work on the following Monday at Patricks Motors, he was so happy, this was his dream job, working with cars and looking after his customers. After 13 years when Patricks closed, he went to work at the University of Birmingham, he worked in portering, transport and finally catering.

He loved skiing, swimming, especially diving, cooking, watching Grand Prix's and anything to do with cars.

He moved to Alvechurch in 2004, a big move for a mummy's boy who had never left Selly Oak! He grew to love it, especially Monday Club at the Red Lion.

A gentle, kind, caring, fiercely loyal & protective man, Mark died on the 18th January 2019 in the Royal Worcester with Sarah holding his hand.

His funeral service at Lodge Hill was conducted by Revd. Richard Bubbers.

Mark will be sadly missed by his many family and friends in Australia, Portugal, Ireland and especially his beloved England. He was a very special man.

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 Mrs Sue Phillips Wardle, 445 0505 Mrs Helen Ayling, "Tarncroft", Hewell Lane, Vigo, 445 6176
Authorised Lay Ministers	Mrs Helena Allen Mr Martin Allen, 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 Mrs Janet Wright, 28 Callow Hill Road, Alvechurch, B48 7LP Mr Andy Notley, 445 5653 Mr Roger Wardle, Withybed Green, 445 0505
PCC Secretary	Mrs Lysandra Notley, lysnotley@icloud.com, 07989327043
Parish Safeguarding Officer	Mrs Sue Lambert, 7 Cygnet Close, B48 7PX, 07769110608
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
Ark Tots & Toddlers	Mrs Sarah Linton, sarah100work@gmail.com
Flower Co-ordinator	Mrs Ann Thurrell, Top Barn, Scarfield Hill, 447 7668
Women's Fellowship	Mrs Jill Woolley, 111 Birmingham Road, 445 2125
Ark Bookings Secretary & Grapevine Editor	Mr Ian Price, The Ark, School Lane, 447 7955 thearkalvechurch@yahoo.co.uk

PCC Special Responsibilities

Finance and Standing Committee

Richard Bubbers	Mick Fletcher
Graham Clark	Alison Smith
Bob Dale	Janet Wright

Buildings, Fabric and Churchyard for Mission Committee

Mick Fletcher	Colin Bennett
David Richmond	Jill Woolley
Janet Wright	Lynne Clark
Andy Humphries	Alison Smith

Children and Youth Committee

Martin Allen	Mick Fletcher
Thomas Birchall	Lynne Clark
Kate Birchall	Sarah Linton

Missionary Committee

Sue Phillips Wardle	Dick Russell
Gordon Parsons	Margaret Haste
Sally Bubbers	Sue Lambert

Calendar for MARCH



- Monday 4 7.45pm Alvechurch Historical Society: Talk by Anthony Green: *"The River Arrow Flowing Through Redditch"*: The Museum: School Lane
- Wednesday 6 7.30pm Hillside at Alvechurch WI: Line Dancing: The Ark
- Thursday 7 9.30am Ark Tots and Toddlers (Mums The Word): Sarah Linton
12.15pm Ark cafe: Roast Pork
- Friday 8 6.45 for 7.30pm The Midland Sinfonia General Knowledge Quiz & Supper Evening:
Advanced booking essential: The Ark
- Monday 11 7.30pm Ark Angels WI: Self Defence: The Ark
7.30pm Alvechurch WI: Miniature Sculptures: Alvechurch Village Hall
- Thursday 14 9.30am Ark Tots and Toddlers (Mums The Word): Sarah Linton
12.15pm Ark cafe: Somerset Chicken
7.30pm Rowney Green Horticultural Society: Talk by Harry Green, Head
Gardener at Morton Hall Gardens: RG Village Hall
- April Grapevine goes to press articles to - thearkalvechurch@yahoo.co.uk**
- Monday 18 7.45pm Alvechurch Historical Society Annual Party: quiz, tombola and
food. Tickets available at next meeting or from Anne Humphries
- Thursday 21 9.30am Ark Tots and Toddlers (Mums The Word): Sarah Linton
12.15pm Ark cafe: Roast Lamb
- Sunday 24 3.00pm The Midland Sinfonia 12th Young Musicians Showcase: St
Laurence church: Everybody welcome, no charge
- Thursday 28 9.30am Ark Tots and Toddlers (Mums The Word): Sarah Linton
10.45am Tiny Tots In Church: Sarah Service
12.15pm Ark cafe: Roast Pork
7.30pm Rowney Green Flower Club: Flower displays by professional
Florist Minh Lane: Rowney Green Village Hall