

The Grapevine

THE PARISH MAGAZINE OF ST LAURENCE CHURCH ALVECHURCH



OCTOBER 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)

**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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Philippa Brakes writes...

Cold grey bleakness or warm honey, terracotta and turquoise.

I'd never seen anything quite like the old town in Rhodes before. It's medieval, built between the mid 14th and early 16th centuries and basically unchanged; the oldest inhabited town in Europe. Parts are ruined; the rest of the houses, along shady cobbled or slate coloured paved streets are still used, most as shops, selling beautiful leather bags and sandals, jewellery or local brightly coloured ceramics which are probably much the same wares as were being sold there 500 years ago.

We walked into one of these small, shady shops – kept cool by ancient thick walls and few small windows and started chatting to the owner. It turned out we were in what used to be the Jewish quarter before the second world war; a thriving community. Then the Nazis arrived and rounded up the inhabitants, whole families living, working, sharing in utterly exquisite surroundings; all honey coloured walls, terracotta roofs and turquoise sea. Men, women and children were transported across that turquoise sea to the grey, cold bleakness of Auschwitz and killed. I asked if there were any Jewish families living in the area now. “No” came the quiet answer.

We all know about the Holocaust, of course we do. But this, in such a beautiful, small and retired part of the world! What had they ever done, these people to be so persecuted? What made one group of people decide that another group of people didn't deserve to live? Whole families were removed from the face of the earth forever. So many groups of people have been persecuted over time. We decided it usually seems to be simply

because they are different, often in quite trivial ways, having different customs or ways of looking at the world from the way the dominant group of people think. My husband put forward the theory that it is easy to unite a group of people by encouraging them to hate another group of people and hate involves taking – something that comes easily to base, human nature.

Faith teaches or tries to teach something different; a unity of all mankind as children of God. If we are all his children – all of us – then we are brothers and sisters, not different, not excluded or judged but loved and accepted. Of course a lot of human nature still tries to break through and small groups of people will latch on to some half understood idea or scripture taken out of context and stand firm on it, rejecting those who think differently. Yet constantly as people of faith, we have to come back to such words as “*We trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, especially those who believe*” (1Tim 4: 10) and “*For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive*” (1Cor. 15:1). Note the “*alls*”. We are all loved and acceptable, no matter our backgrounds and customs. God unites us, he doesn't divide us; he teaches us to give and share, not to take and judge.

Perhaps people who reject faith because of other people's failure to follow it properly are looking in the wrong direction, horizontally, at each other, not upwards to God who knows our weaknesses, but loves us still. If you want Christians to improve, come and join us and help make things better. With God's help we can unite and light up what can sometimes be a dark and suffering world – cold grey bleakness replaced by warm honey, terracotta and turquoise.

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Rowney Green Horticultural Society

Lindsay Smith writes...

ROWNEY GREEN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY - Meets at
the Village Hall on the second Thursday of each month
at 7.30pm.

On October 10th we will welcome Roger Umpleby -
Roger is a professional entomologist and horticulturalist
with many years of consulting and research with govern-
ment and industry. He is a keen gardener, passionate
plant and nature lover who enjoys sharing his
knowledge and love for the same with anyone prepared
to listen. His topic this evening is "*Plants Need a Bal-
anced Diet Too*". Roger is an acclaimed speaker at
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Guests are always welcome - £3.50 including refresh-
ments. For more information please do not hesitate to
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Hillside @ Alvechurch WI

At our last meeting we welcomed two members of the Guide Dogs for the Blind Organisation. Sam with her guide dog Harrison, a beautiful black Labrador, and puppy walker Morna with Dereck a seven month old German Sheppard.

It was a most interesting talk, hearing about Sam's journey to getting her own guide dog, we all learned such a lot about this wonderful organisation. Inevitably there were lots of questions to be answered. Also lovely calendars for sale.

Members enjoyed a day at Denman College, where they had a video and a talk, a visit to the lecture rooms, and accommodation, and later a walk around the grounds. They also enjoyed lots of good WI food and company, scones and cream before their departure at about 4.30pm.

Diaries and calendars have arrived for 2020 featuring beautiful photographs entered by members of the Federation.

Our Federation trip this autumn is to Winchester, in late November. Visits to the Cathedral and Christmas markets are planned.

We also look forward to the lunch at Chateau Impney with speaker Jules Hudson of TV fame.

Our next meeting is on October 2nd and the speakers will be Paul and Helen Harding and their topic will be *"It's not all Jam and Jerusalem"*.

We welcome new members and visitors at our meetings, held on the first Wednesday of the month at The Ark 7.45pm start.

Further info contact Pat McDonagh 0121 628 4121.

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Events at Alvechurch Library

Love your Library Day with Mark Lowery proved very popular with nearly 400 children and adults visiting the library during the day's celebrations. We had fun family talks, create your own comic -strip workshop and a writing workshop for adults and young people, so there was something for everyone. We had some fantastic stories written with the library at its heart. We also wanted to say a big thank you to Dr Charlie Hotham, County Councillor for Alvechurch for donating funds to support such a wonderful day.

Chatterbooks Junior Book Club

We shall be relaunching our popular children's book club on Monday 21st October from 3.30-4.30pm. The club is for children aged 7-12 years and meets once a month in the library. From creative makes, silly comics to book themed games, there is lots of fun for everyone.

Alvechurch Libraries Crafty Ladies Christmas Sale

Save the date, Monday 18th November from 9.30-4.30pm. With wonderful handmade, handcrafted items for sale, from gifts, cards to decorations please support the Crafty Ladies who raise money for local causes close to their hearts.

Patrick our language tutor has a few spaces on his ongoing **Spanish** class continuing at the end of October. Please email Patrick at vdlit52@hotmail.co.uk or call 07708027372 to see if the level the class is being taught at would allow you to join in.

Andrew our art tutor also has a couple of spaces available for his ongoing **Watercolour Painting** class. Continuing on Tuesday 11th November and running until 17th December, 2.15 – 4.15, £70. Unleash the artist within you and join this fun and relaxed class. Don't rush out and buy all of the kit, just in case it's not for you as Andrew is always happy for you to borrow his brushes and paint etc.

Crafty Kids

Our very popular **Crafty Kids** is starting again in the Autumn. If any of the original members would like their place, please come and let us know. Otherwise any other kids, who are interested in crafting, learning to sew and knit, pop in and sign up. It's very popular and we can take around 12 children. Suitable for children aged 7 and upwards. We are planning to meet on the 3rd Monday of the month, straight from school, 3.30 – 4.30. Cost tbc.

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.

The Ark Cafe



The menu for October is as follows:

October 3rd Roast Pork

October 10th Beef Casserole

October 17th Roast Lamb

October 24th Beef Carvery Lunch

Ticket Only £12 October

31st Closed for Half Term

If you would like to come to the Beef Carvery Lunch at a cost of £12, let us know on any Thursday lunchtime at the Ark or telephone the Ark Office on 0121 447 7955 Mon to Fri 9 to 2pm and speak to Ian Price.

The maximum number for this event is 60, so please book up soon, it's always a very good value three course meal with a raffle.

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Afternoon Film at Alvechurch Baptist Church Saturday 2nd November at 3pm

Oddball and the Penguins

A family film based on a true story about a lovable dog named Oddball who helps to guard and rescue endangered fairy penguins.

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Family ticket £5 / Adult £2 / Child £1

Further information from Alyson Williams
07708450948 or at Alvechurch Baptist Church



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Alvechurch WI

Pam Horsfield writes...

We have lots of birthdays to celebrate this month, including Hilary's 'special' birthday! We also celebrate one member passing her driving test, which is pleasing to all of us and especially to her! On the down side unfortunately it's been a busy month for our Sick Visitors, as 5 members have had falls and two are at present in the Alex having had hip fractures. We wish all those members who have problems, a speedy recovery.

There were plenty of choices of visits out for us to choose this month. A meal at the Chateau has attracted several members; and the WI night at the Artrix and the Annual Meeting at Malvern are also popular. Then we have the Worcs WI Christmas visit to Winchester in November to look forward to.

Looking ahead to 2020 and the problem we have in our April meeting falling on Easter Monday, members are happy to be invited to join with Hillside@Alvechurch for a joint meeting at the Ark the previous week on Wednesday 8th April. It'll be good to meet together for an Easter celebration.

Our speaker last month, Richard Kendrick from Evesham, was excellent. He had a very good visual screen show and spoke clearly on his life in catering with TV, film and sporting events. Beginning at the bottom as a student by going to catering college in Birmingham he, and later his wife, went on to own a hugely successful company catering for major events around the country dealing with hundreds of hungry customers on an hourly basis. He also did catering for many famous clients in their homes. It was tremendously hard work, working long and often unsocial hours until their decision to sell the company. We would recommend him as a speaker.

Christine Grainger then gave the vote of thanks and we enjoyed tea and cakes afterwards.

Next month on Monday 14th October we ask members to bring along a special item to tell others about for just a few minutes each. Visitors are welcome to join with us at the Village Hall at 7:30pm.

Alvechurch Historical Society

Hilary Taylor writes...

Monday 7th October 7.45pm

Our speaker is John Butterworth – Albania: the country that was cut off from the rest of the world for 41 years.

Future meeting dates for your diary -

Monday 4th November 7.45pm

Monday 2nd December 7.45pm

As the sun sets earlier and the nights are drawing in, why not join us at one of Alvechurch Historical Society evenings? A warm welcome, a comfy chair, a hot drink and a biscuit await. There is something for everyone, as our programme of talks covers a wide range of local and national historical subjects, from medieval times to living memory.

If you need any more information, please contact our chairman, Anne Humphries on 0121 445 5955. 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.

Prisons' Week 13-19 October

The second Sunday in October is Prisons' Sunday and marks the beginning of a week of prayer for our prisons and all those connected with them,.

Prisons' Week has taken place for forty years, with Christians praying for the needs of all those affected by prisons: prisoners and their families, victims of crime and their communities, those working in the criminal justice system and the many people who are involved in caring for those affected by crime on the inside and outside of our prisons.

Each day of the week, a new prayer brings into focus a different group affected by prison or criminal justice. Churches and individuals are also asked to reflect on what they might do or offer as part of their response, through the range of Christian agencies and charities involved in supporting Prisons' Week. Find out more at <http://prisonsweek.org>

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Letter from Archdeacon of Dudley

Over the summer I read the Good Childhood Report 2019 published by The Children's Society, and was sad, but not surprised, to learn that children and young people have become increasingly unhappy as childhood becomes ever more complex. The society's research shows that many children are unhappy with their friendships and their appearance, and are concerned about wider issues like school culture, the experiences of those with low or strained family finances, and whether or not some children actually feel safe during the school day. Too many children are struggling with their lives now, and large numbers are also anxious about their future. A large proportion of children are worried about everything from money and getting good grades at school, to wider issues like crime and the environment.

It is so important that we keep reminding ourselves and each other that working with children and young people is one of our strategic priorities, and that as part of our Kingdom People vision we are dedicated to helping children and young people to belong and be nurtured in faith

We can all play a part in this. Even if we don't have many children in our church, most of us will have contact with children in our family and friendship groups. How can we better mentor them, share faith with them, instil confidence in them and communicate their inherent value to them? How can we help to ease their unhappiness? Perhaps by showing unconditional love, and spending quality time with them;

certainly by committing to pray for them.

Mark Russell, Canon of Worcester Cathedral and new Chief Executive of the Children's Society, said in his introduction to the report, *"How can we enable children to thrive not just survive. How do we solve problems like rising mental ill-health, millions living in poverty and the scandal of far too many young lives being lost to knife crime and exploitation? We must start by listening to young people. I mean REALLY listening. We need to stop side-lining young people and harness their enthusiasm and radical energy for change."*

As a new school year gets underway, let's commit afresh to helping the children of the Diocese of Worcester to belong and be nurtured in faith. Let's pray for our church schools, all who work with children in paid or voluntary roles, and the Mission Enablers supporting churches as part of our Calling Young Disciples project, and let's listen to the children and young people we know and harness their enthusiasm and energy for change, that their future might be full of hope, and our lives enriched by the part they play.

Nikki Groarke
Archdeacon of Dudley



Summer Wedding



The sun came out just in time on Saturday 17th August, for the marriage of Mark Anthony Stephen Butler to Sophie Jean Poole at St Laurence Church, Alvechurch. Mark met Sophie 5 years ago when he attended a course which was being taught by Sophie.

Sophie, a Field Trainer for a charity that supports independent living for people with learning and physical difficulties, is the daughter of Michael and Lynne Poole, and grew up in the village where the family have lived for the past 20 years. The bride, wearing an 'off the shoulder' dress of champagne lace with crystals, over 3 layers of underskirts and a 'V' back with pearl buttons, was escorted down the aisle by her father.

The chief bridesmaid was Heather Harrison whom Sophie had met at the bus stop on their first day travelling from Alvechurch to St Bede's School in Redditch and they have remained best friends ever since. The bridesmaids were, Hannah Brookes, (the bride's friend from pre-school), Charlotte Reynolds (bride's friend from High School), Molly and Margot Poole (bride's nieces), Heaven Byrne (groom's step-daughter) and Melissa Ball (groom's niece). The bridesmaids wore Rose taupe dresses with sequin, short sleeved tops with the flower girls wearing sleeveless, ivory lace dresses with a handkerchief hem.

Mark, who works in garden maintenance and landscaping, chose good friend, Mark Bourne, as his best man. The groomsmen were family and long standing friends including Mark's son, Kurt.

The reception was held at Bromsgrove Rugby Club before the couple left for a 'mini-moon' in Wales. Their honeymoon will be in Cuba later in the year. Mr and Mrs Butler have set up home in Redditch.



Mothers' Union 'Away from it all' scheme

Do you know a family who would benefit from the Mothers' Union 'Away from it all' scheme?

Mothers' Union members here in the Diocese of Worcester regularly provide various types of breaks for many people a year through their long running "Away From It All" scheme, which is intended to support families who are experiencing stressful times and would otherwise not have the opportunity of a holiday.

Away From It All (AFIA) is a Mothers' Union holiday scheme, primarily funded by our members, to give the opportunity of a break to those who are experiencing stress in their family life. On average, we help 2,500 people to have a holiday each year. Families are able to spend time together away from their stressful situations at home, engage in activities together and have fun. They often experience healing in their relationships by spending this quality time with each other.

Amongst those who have been helped are pupils from a deprived school who visited the Belgium battle fields as part of their education with an AFIA donation towards their trips costs. The students shared their amazing experience: *"Thank you to Mothers' Union for supporting our visit to the battle-fields in France and Belgium. When we were at the cemeteries, I was amazed at all the graves. I looked at the names of the soldiers and discovered that they were all very young. We went to the trenches that were muddy and wet. The best part of the visit for me was watching the Last Post ceremony. It was very sad. I now know that thousands of*

soldiers died in the battles and that it is important to remember the bravery of the soldiers in World War 1."

The trip has made a lasting impact as the teacher has shared with the MU that the class is still talking about it months later!

This is just one example of the varied types of breaks that Mothers' Union members in Worcester help arrange to suit the needs of those applying for assistance. To find out more about our AFIA project contact - jhickmanh62@gmail.com.

How to apply

Would you or someone that you know benefit from an AFIA holiday? You will be asked for your name and contact details and the number of people who would like to go on the holiday, along with the ages of any children. Janice, the MU holiday coordinator, will then contact the family and ask them to fill in an application form. (Please note: people can nominate themselves or their friends but anyone applying for a holiday will also be asked to provide details of someone who knows them in a professional capacity, such as a vicar, teacher, or social worker).

Mothers' Union's involved with AFIA will:

- Help fund part of the cost of a holiday
- Cover a family's travel expenses,
- Pay for a whole holiday or day trip

Organise family weeks for groups of families to have a break with activities and outings.

Families hoping to have an AFIA holiday don't have to be a member of a church or our organisation and you can apply for yourselves or recommend someone else for a holiday.

Flowers for OCTOBER

	6 October	13 October	20 October	27 October
Sanctuary				
Lady Chapel				
In memory of				

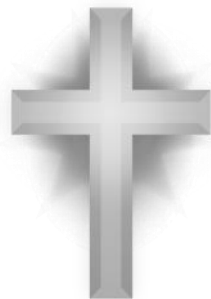
As can be seen from above I don't have any offers of help. However, I think we will be ok for 6th October as the Harvest flowers should still be blooming! Offers of help for later in the month will be much appreciated.

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

Parish Prayers

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

- 6 October – Swans Walk
- 13 October – Tanyard Close
- 20 October – Tanyard Lane
- 27 October – The Becks



Who's who

Rector	Revd Richard Bubbers, Rector, 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, 55 Birmingham Road, 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, 55 Birmingham Road, 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
Ark Bookings Secretary	Mr Ian Price, The Ark, School Lane, 447 7955
& Grapevine Editor	thearkalvechurch@yahoo.co.uk

PCC Special Responsibilities

Finance and Standing Committee

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

Buildings, Fabric and Churchyard for Mission Committee

Bob Dale	Colin Bennett
Graham Clark	Peter Freeman
Mick Fletcher	Andy Humphries
Janet Wright	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 OCTOBER



- Wednesday 2 7.30pm Hillside WI: speakers will be Paul and Helen Harding and their topic will be *"It's not all Jam and Jerusalem "*: The Ark
- Thursday 3 9.30am Ark Tots and Toddlers: Sarah Linton
12.15pm Ark Cafe: Roast Pork
- Monday 7 7.45pm Alvechurch Historical Society: Talk by Neil Wedgbury: *'Austin Military Vehicles'*: Museum, School Lane
- Thursday 10 9.30am Ark Tots and Toddlers: Sarah Linton
12.15pm Ark Cafe: Beef Casserole
7.30pm Rowney Green Horticultural Society: Talk by Roger Umpleby: *'Plants Need a Balanced Diet Too'*: Village Hall, Rowney Green
- Friday 11 7 for 7.30pm Jazz Concert: Sauce City Jazz: The Ark: Tickets £10 on the door
- Monday 14 7.30pm Ark Angels WI: The Ark
7.30pm Alvechurch WI: Members to bring along a special item to tell others about: Alvechurch Village Hall
- November Grapevine goes to press** *articles to - thearkalvechurch@yahoo.co.uk*
- Wednesday 16 2.30pm Musical Bingo & Afternoon Tea: Organised by Bluwave Community Transport (01527 759650): Alvechurch Village Hall
- Thursday 17 9.30am Ark Tots and Toddlers: Sarah Linton
12.15pm Ark Cafe: Roast Lamb
- Saturday 19 7 for 8.00pm Comedy Evening with Barbara Nice & others: in aid of Birmingham & Solihull Women's Aid Rowney Green Village Hall
- Thursday 24 9.30am Ark Tots and Toddlers: Sarah Linton
10.45am Tiny Tots Service in church: Sarah Linton
12.15pm Ark Cafe: Beef Lunch: Advanced ticket only £12
- Thursday 31 No Ark Tots and Toddlers or Ark Cafe: half term break