

# The Grapevine

THE PARISH MAGAZINE OF ST LAURENCE CHURCH ALVECHURCH



**MAY 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.....

### **Reconciliation**

According to the dictionary the word reconciliation means restoring or bringing back to friendship. Throughout history there have been terrible wars involving industrial quantities of slaughter and acts of normally unthinkable violence and cruelty. Yet after a time, there has virtually always been reconciliation. People seem to feel a huge need to reach out to others to heal the pain that has been caused, even when that reaching out itself hurts. I believe we are meant to be in harmony with each other and anything less feels wrong and damages everyone concerned. Without reconciliation, wounds fester, resentments grow and we are unable to appreciate the joy that life can offer.

We all admire and instinctively respond to people who reach out to others in forgiveness. Just recently a family forgave the speeding lorry driver who accidentally killed a beloved husband and father. Many of us still remember Gordon Wilson who in 1987 was quoted as saying "*I bear no ill will, I bear no grudge.*" He said this within hours of lying, holding the hand of his dying daughter Marie, under the rubble of an IRA bomb. Forgiveness on this scale moves, humbles and inspires me. Could I do it?

Jesus tells the story of the prodigal son who demanded his inheritance from his father, thus making it clear he wished his father dead and gone. He then left home and spent all the money. His father must have

been so wounded; yet, when his son came in sight, on his way home in despair, the father ran, yes ran, careless of dignity, age or a wounded heart and he flung his arms around this difficult son as though the foolish and cruel rejection had never happened. That's how it is with God. Like the son, we sometimes blunder through life causing pain and damage to others and wounding God's heart, yet all we have to do is turn around and we are embraced with utter, extravagant, loving forgiveness. Having been forgiven so much and so many times, can we do less for others.

Of course, for the son and for us the turning around is the difficult part when we are in the wrong. Pride, a sense of foolish embarrassment or the thought "*This is too bad – things have gone too far*" gets in the way. But surely none of these thoughts can outweigh the delight and joy of a healed relationship with God and each other, can they?

Referring to the word restoration in the first paragraph; of course, restoration of a beautiful, broken object leaves evidence in the form of marks, showing where the damage was. Yet the object was loved enough to be worth repairing and enjoying. Likewise few of us get through life without scars, visible or invisible caused by painful events.

Thankfully, God loves us enough to repair us with our co-operation and, if we are able to perceive and understand our own and other people's scars, they can remind us of our shared broken humanity and our need for reconciliation.

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## Alvechurch Village Society

*Grace Hampton writes...*

The May walk will be "On the Waseley/Illey Way" led by Sue Phillips (0121 445 3620). The walk will start at 2.30pm on Sunday 8th May 2016 from Waseley Country Park car park, Gannow Green Lane, Rubery, Birmingham B45 9AT (small car parking charge applies).

The May event will be "The Story of Alvechurch Gardens" when you can come and meet the people who each year open their Gardens for charity through the National Gardens Scheme - pick up tips or just enjoy their story. It will be held on Wednesday 25th May 2016 at 7.45pm in the Alvechurch Village Hall. Admission is £1 members/ £2 for non members to include a drink and biscuit. Everyone is welcome.

## St Laurence Women's Fellowship

*Jill Woolley writes...*



Our speaker in March was unable to come so we spent a brain teasing afternoon solving a quiz based on Songs from the Shows which proved challenging but which several members eventually solved.

On May 25th we will be entertained by the Cherry Wood Duo. At our meeting on June 22nd we will hold our A.G.M which due to unforeseen circumstances had to be postponed in April.

We continue to meet in the Tanyard Centre and give a warm welcome to visitors and new members.

## Railway Exhibition - Advance Notice

*David Richmond writes...*

Do look out for more details of our 11<sup>th</sup> Model Railway exhibition on July 9th.

The big layout with all appropriate sounds will be in the Ark again. If you have not seen and heard all that can be done with modern electronic wizardry, you will be amazed.

We have managed to get the large Thomas railway also. This is all done with batteries and is always popular. There should be at least 7 more layouts, as well as a similar number of traders.

More information next month, please book the date.



# St Laurence Stained Glass Windows Update

The money raised so far for the Windows appeal is now approximately £17,500 which is a fantastic achievement and all the hard work is much appreciated. On 19th February a very successful meeting took place with the new Architect, Stephen Oliver, who advised that the immediate priorities are the high level windows and gutters, and remedial work/protection for the West window.

Since then Stephen has further advised that we should be in a position to make an application to the Heritage Lottery Fund at the end of May. Further fundraising will be needed later in the year, but in the meantime, donations are very much appreciated and can be put in the carboy at the back of the Church or given to the Churchwardens or Deputies. Further updates will follow in future editions, and many thanks to all who are supporting this important project to protect the beautiful windows in our parish church.

## Churchyard Upkeep

Could families visiting the churchyard not place hard objects in the strewing area. That grassed plot is for small floral tributes that will degrade, not pots, photos or small ornaments. If the latter are left on the grass or in the hedge, they are liable to be hit by a strimmer or mower, causing potential injury to a churchyard volunteer.

Could we also ask that floral tributes around graves are removed when they are past their best. If they are left when flowers or plants have died, the churchyard maintenance team will remove them, as we do get requests to do this from families maintaining surrounding plots. We apologise if occasionally something is removed before it has completely died.

Finally.... a reminder that ALL dogs in the churchyard should be on a lead. The churchyard is not a public park and we get complaints when a dog has fouled next to a grave or cremation stone from the family involved. There are now dogs-on-leads notices on all entrances to the churchyard.

Thanks for your help - Andy Humphries

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## Alvechurch WI

*Pam Horsfield writes...*

Our April meeting was well supported despite the heavy rain beforehand which we thought might keep members away. Members can choose to enjoy various groups this month, starting with the trip to Stowe and Batsford Arboretum on Wednesday- please let the rain stay away!

Then there's St George's Day Teas on the 23rd in the Village Hall when our joint WIs provide delicious cakes and tea and the children who have entered the poster competition can see their efforts displayed. Under 9s may wish to join in the fancy dress parade at 3 o'clock.

Come and buy from the WI's cake stall at the Picnic in the Park on May 1st; committee members and helpers have a lunch booked at Hillers later that week and on 13th May we go to Warwick and a tour round Lord Leycesters' Hospital with the Master himself leading the tour. There are still a few places left for this.

Jenny reminded us of the ever popular Fashion Show to be in the Village Hall on June 24th and Pam Parker has again arranged for us to see Les Miserables at the Swan Theatre in August.

Our speaker was Kim Neale who had the craft/wool shop at Burcot Nursery until recently. She talked about the history of wool, how knitting and crochet fashions developed and showed some fascinating craft magazines written during the last century. Did you know that at one point people had to knit woollen garments which were a way for the woollen industry to be supported - a tax with a difference? Some members joined in knitting but most stopped to listen to Kim. Jackie Stacey gave the vote of thanks.

It was good to know that our membership is increasing and new members are bringing skills and enthusiasm to our WI. If you want to visit us to find out more, we have our AGM / Birthday / national Resolutions meeting on Monday 9th May in the Village Hall at 7:30pm. You'll be very welcome to join us as we celebrate our 87th birthday with a glass of wine and birthday cake.

## Spring Fayre

Alvechurch Baptist Church are holding a Spring Fayre on Saturday 21st May starting at 10am until 2pm. There is a variety of stalls including cakes, plants, bric-a-brac, books, toys, crafts and some games.

# Alvechurch Historical Society

Hilary Taylor writes...

At our April meeting we enjoyed Mike Watkins' informative talk about the Titanic. He concentrated on the lesser known parts of the story, explaining how the ship came to be built by Harland & Wolff in Belfast. We heard about the people on board, both passengers and crew. After the ship sank in 1914, official inquiries were held in New York and in London, which resulted in improvements to safety standards. At the time there was great public sympathy, and a fund was set up to aid victims and their families. The fund continued to pay out until 1959, when it was finally wound-up.

## VISITORS WELCOME

New members and visitors are welcome at our meetings.

### Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2016 : (speaker to be confirmed)

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the talk on *"The Restoration of Hagley Hall's Park & Gardens"* will not be taking place.

The meeting will be going ahead, so please look out for the poster in the village for more on our replacement speaker.

### Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2016 : David Berry *"A humorous look at retirement"*

There will be something to amuse everyone in David's talk, whether you are retired already, or looking forward to being retired.

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.



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## The Ark Café



We thank you for your continuing support for the Ark Cafe during March and April and very pleased that you all enjoyed the meals. The Beef Lunch on March 17th was a full house and everyone seemed to have a good time there in a convivial atmosphere.

The menu for May is follows:

- May 5th Somerset Chicken**
- May 12th Glazed Gammon and Parsley Sauce**
- May 19th Ark Cafe 10th Anniversary Beef Carvery Lunch - Ticket Only**
- May 26th Closed (half term break)**
- June 2nd Closed (half tern break)**
- June 9th Reopens with Somerset Chicken**

Tickets are still available for the Anniversary Beef Carvery Lunch on May 19th at a cost of £10. They are available at the Cafe on a Thursday lunchtime or from the Ark Office Mon-Fri 9am-2pm on 0121 447 7955.

We look forward to seeing you there.

## CAN YOU HEAR ME?

(Communication Forum) **18th May 2016**

Sharing is an important element for those of us with a Hearing Loss. You are welcome to come and join us as we help each other to deal with everyday events that affect us.

Our theme for May is Celebrating Birthdays...The Queen is giving us all an excuse to take a look at marking our special days.

**WHERE: Alvechurch Cricket Club**

**WHEN: 3rd Wednesday each month.**

**TIME. 10.30am - 12 noon**

If you require further information please contact Pat 07966370448



# ARK CAFÉ

## 10TH ANNIVERSARY LUNCH

### Thursday 19th May 2016

### 12 noon for 12.30pm

**WITH ENTERTAINMENT FROM  
IRENE & TOM**



**Tickets £10 from the Ark Café on a  
Thursday or the Ark office  
(447 7955 Monday to Friday 9am to 2pm)**

## Rowney Green Horticultural Society

*Lindsay Smith writes*

ROWNEY GREEN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY meets at the Peace Hall on the second Thursday of each month at 7.30pm. The meeting on May 12th our guest speaker will be Paul Green from Greensleeves Nursery who returns with a selection of plants to show us "It's not all about flowers". Guests are welcome - £3.50 including refreshments. For more information please contact Lindsay Smith on 01527 592874.

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FOR FURTHER INFO

## Alvechurch Library What's On

### Young Volunteers Wanted for the Summer Reading Challenge

We are looking for some enthusiastic young volunteers to help us listen to the hundreds of children who join in the quest to read 6 books throughout the summer. If you have some spare time after school or on a Saturday and want to learn some new skills then please contact the library for more information.

### Creative Writing Workshops

Led by a writer, members share their own work, take part in writing exercises and explore both poetry and prose in a relaxed and supportive environment. The group meets on the third Friday of the month, 2pm to 4pm and new members are always welcome. Free of charge.

**KJW Accountancy** is available for free business and tax advice in Alvechurch Library on the last Friday of every month, 2.30 - 4.30. Feel free to pop in or to make an appointment call 0121 685 1050 or email [admin@kjiwaccountancy.co.uk](mailto:admin@kjiwaccountancy.co.uk)

**Alvechurch Abstract Artist**, Gareth Hunter, invites you to view a Montage Master Class on show from April 30th until May 30th. Mounted limited edition prints will be produced to order. The exhibition will be held in the gallery space of the library and can be accessed during the library's normal opening times. As classes are sometimes held in the gallery space please contact the library to check access before making a special visit.

We have a couple of spaces left for the **Star Wars Lego workshop** on Tuesday 31st May. The children can let their imaginations run wild and create their own motherships and sandcrawlers. This event is massively popular for all ages and the library will be packed with lots of noisy and happy families between 2.30pm and 4pm, £12.00 per family.

**Worcestershire Carers Association** will be here for help and advice between 10am and 12 noon on Friday 10th June.

### One to one Free Computer Tuition

We offer free one to one computer tuition on Tuesday mornings throughout the year. If you need help with your emails or organising your photographs then please pop in to book a session.

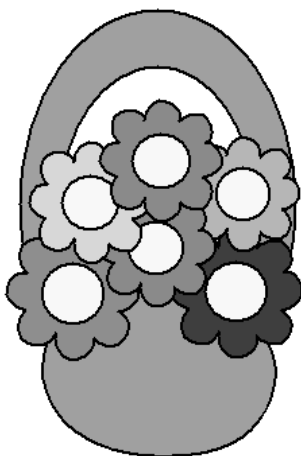
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# May Day Word Search

S Q D S A U B F V F N Y O D F  
A R J A N B L L A G A Q P X E  
F V E V N O C P O D I X K Z S  
D O N G W C X A Y S H F D N T  
L G X E N E E A A D S S H T I  
Y O R B S I M T Q V R O C E V  
S S H O C H S F B F H G M K A  
F E J P N P A R A D E I U S L  
T R A D I T I O N X E Z G A I  
S N O B B I R P O D C L B B Y

basket  
blossoms  
dance  
festival  
flowers



mayday  
parade  
ribbons  
singers  
tradition

# Canal Society Meeting

The Worcester-Birmingham & Droitwich Canals Society is based locally in Alvechurch.

Regular monthly meetings are held in the Meeting Room at the Alvechurch Boat Centre, Scarfield Wharf, B48 7SQ, just behind the Weighbridge Pub.

Meetings are always held on the first Tuesday of every month when we usually have guest speakers who give illustrated talks on a wide variety of both waterway and non waterway related subjects.

This provides an opportunity for you to relax and meet with other people with similar interests. In

July & August we usually have an evening walk and meet elsewhere.

Our next meeting on 5th May will be: *'Longbridge Underground'* by Neil Wedgbury. A talk about the wartime manufacture of munitions and engines at the factory, which took place in underground tunnels, where the workers, and their efforts were safe from German bombers.

Please arrive by 7.45pm for an 8pm start. There is no charge for admission and non members are very welcome. The meeting room is compliant with disability access. You do not need to be a boat owner as many of our members are not.

For further details please contact Tony Brannon on 07763 468893 or email [fiftyeight@talktalk.net](mailto:fiftyeight@talktalk.net).

**The Bellringers are holding an  
AFTERNOON TEA PARTY  
to celebrate  
THE QUEENS 90TH BIRTHDAY  
Monday May 30th - 2pm to 4.30pm  
in The Ark, St Laurence Church  
Alvechurch, B48 7SB  
Glass of sparkling wine on arrival  
CREAM TEA for ONE £5  
(Scones with Tea or Coffee)  
CREAM TEA for TWO £7.50  
(Scones with Tea or Coffee)  
HIGH TEA for ONE £7  
(Sandwiches, Cakes, Tea or Coffee)  
HIGH TEA for TWO £12  
(Sandwiches, Cakes, Tea or Coffee)**

# Last Call for JAZZ fans!



Come "*Down the Mississippi down to New Orleans*" as the song goes, to the days of Rent Parties and Storyville Speakeasies.

When, on a still night, Buddy Bolden's fierce Cornet blues could be heard clear across the Mississippi.

The marvellous George Huxley's Hot Five Jazz Band would like to welcome you to The Ark, Alvechurch on Friday 29th April at 7.30pm.

Tickets are £10 and include a glass of wine.

Tickets are available from The Village Green Grocer, Alvechurch and Sue Brotherton 0121 447 7037

## News from the Tower

*Geoff Franklin writes...*

We'd like to thank everyone who braved the very unspringlike weather to support us at our Table Top Sale at the Ark in April. We raised £400 and we've spent the money on repainting the tower. It might not seem a serious job when there is so much else that needs doing but nobody can remember when the place was last decorated - we've certainly had the same mushroom coloured paint for the past 30 years. The room is now much lighter and cleaner and it's a much nicer place to be in. Helped of course by the fact that we had to have a serious session of clearing out and tidying up beforehand.

This brings us neatly to our next event. We're holding a tea party in the Ark on the

afternoon of May 30th to mark the Queen's 90th birthday. Those of you who came to our party for the Jubilee will know what to expect and the details are on our poster here in Grapevine. Proceeds will go towards a new carpet for the tower; another job we've been putting off for ages but the three bits of second-hand carpet really do need to be replaced before someone trips over them.

All of which makes it nicer to receive visitors. We're always happy to have people come to see us but we were close to overflowing a couple of Sundays back. A young lad came upstairs to see what was happening and then asked "*Can my friends come in?*" We found room for a dozen and they watched as we finished ringing for the eleven o'clock service. They were all a little too young to start ringing yet but perhaps in a couple of years' time .....

# Christian Mindfulness Day Workshop

**Saturday 14th May 2016 - 9.30am to 4pm**

Venue: The Ark, adjoining St Laurence Parish Church,  
School Lane, Alvechurch, Worcestershire, B48 7SB

Christian mindfulness is deeply rooted in the ancient Christian tradition of contemplative prayer, and today is being discovered by many to be very relevant in helping with the busyness and noise of our daily lives. It encourages us to calm and to be present in the moment, and to hear what God is saying.

This three session workshop explores mindfulness from a Christian perspective and includes PowerPoint presentation, video clips and small group discussion. There will also be a variety of self awareness and God awareness meditations throughout the day.

The workshop is presented by Richard Johnston (director, Christian Mindfulness). To book your place on the Workshop visit the website [www.christianmindfulness.co.uk/alvechurch.html](http://www.christianmindfulness.co.uk/alvechurch.html)

£30 per person up to 14/4/16 (£35 per person for booking after 14/4/16).  
Bring your own packed lunch. The number of places is limited.

## Alvechurch Almshouse Charity - A vacancy has arisen for a Trustee

We are a registered Charity providing affordable housing to residents of Alvechurch in the Lewkner Cottages almshouses in the village. Our residents are over the age of 60, live independently and are considered to be in need for a variety of reasons.

More information is available on our website: [www.alvechurchalmshouses.org.uk](http://www.alvechurchalmshouses.org.uk)

The Board of Trustees manages the resources of the Charity to provide good quality housing for present and future residents. Trust board meetings are held four times a year and we have sub-committees focussing on various aspects of our work.

We are seeking to achieve the right balance of skills, experience and abilities to benefit the Charity and are looking for people with professional or other skills. Such experience is not essential as the most important aspect of the role is that of commitment, a genuine desire to fully participate and a willingness to

devote time to the duties required of a Trustee. Basic computer literacy is required.

Trustees ideally live within the Parish boundary and should be interested in the welfare of our residents, as well as furthering the aims and visions of the Charity to pass on this important and valuable legacy to future generations

If you are interested in becoming a Trustee and making a difference to our community, please contact Ann Overs (Chair) - 07801 292948 or email [annoverslewkner@gmail.com](mailto:annoverslewkner@gmail.com)

Some people are disqualified by law from acting as a Trustee (Part 9 of the Charities Act 2011 section 178 to 184) and it is an offence to act as a Trustee while disqualified. Further information about the role of Trustee can be found in "*The Essential Trustee: What you need to know. What you need to do*". (Charity Commission guidance 2015)

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-essential-trustee-what-you-need-to-know-cc3/the-essential-trustee-what-you-need-to-know-what-you-need-to-do](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-essential-trustee-what-you-need-to-know-cc3/the-essential-trustee-what-you-need-to-know-what-you-need-to-do)

# The Midland Sinfonia present Performers of Distinction

Saturday 7 May 2016 7pm for 7.30pm  
St Laurence Church, Alvechurch

Mozart – Sinfonia Concertante  
Schubert – Quartetsatz D.103  
Schubert – Quartetsatz D.703  
Schoenberg – Transfigured Night

Performed by Richard Laing, David Le Page,  
violins, Adrian Turner, Vanessa Murby,  
Violas, Richard Jenkinson and Rowena  
Calvert, cellos.



Tickets: on the door £13, in advance £12 from The Village Green  
Grocer, Alvechurch or book online at [www.midlandsinfonia.co.uk](http://www.midlandsinfonia.co.uk)  
FT students and schoolchildren accompanying an adult free.

For more information:

[marian@midlandsinfonia.co.uk](mailto:marian@midlandsinfonia.co.uk) or 0121 447 7040

## Hillside W.I.

*Cathy Taylor writes...*

On April 6th, we welcomed Denis Pike to speak about the work of the Canal and River Trust. He gave us a very good illustrated talk and explained the sources of funding, and the major contribution that volunteers make, both in fund raising and in restoration and maintenance work.

Julia, our president, welcomed two new members and several visitors. Julia asked members to sign up for cakes for St George's Day Tea on April 23rd, and for the W.I. stall at the Picnic in the Park on May 1st, and volunteers to help on the stall.

On 8th April, a group of members enjoyed the production of "Curtain Up" given by the Rowney Green Players. We had a very entertaining evening.

Our next meeting will be on 4th May at 7.30pm, when we will vote for W.I. resolutions and hold our A.G.M. Puddings will be served instead of cakes.

**Future Events** - Town Hall Tour Friday 20th May at 10.30am.

# A letter from the Archdeacon of Dudley



*Thy Kingdom Come*

Many of us lack confidence in talking about our faith – perhaps we’re only just beginning to realise how easy it is to share a story of how God has been at work in our life with a friend, or perhaps we’ve yet to be convinced. Hopefully what we can all do, however long we have been a disciple of Jesus, is pray!

This month there is an opportunity to do this in an intentional way, praying for our friends to discover what it means to have a relationship with Jesus. Churches across the country are signing up to join a great wave of prayer for our nation to know Jesus Christ. In the week before Pentecost this year (8th – 15th May), the Archbishops of Canterbury and York have invited every church in England to pray for all Christians to be blessed with new joy and confidence to share their faith.

Many churches are considering hosting 24-7 prayer rooms. Some prayer rooms will be held across a rural benefice or deanery, others in larger churches or with sisters and brothers from other denominations and streams. There’ll even be a dedicated prayer room at the heart of Lambeth Palace, the home of the Archbishop of Canterbury. A round the clock prayer room can sound a

daunting prospect, but when I was involved in one in my curacy parish in London it was a really powerful experience, where my faith grew enormously. We’ve committed as a diocese to pray for the week, with sign up slots on the website, so you can join in from home if you can’t make it to an actual prayer room. Perhaps sign up for an hour with a few friends from your church, and pray for five people each!

There are lots of ideas about how to pray on the website: <http://thykingdom.co.uk/>, including some inspiring videos, encouraging stories and practical ideas.

In the letter to all clergy announcing this wave of prayer the Archbishops said:

*“At the heart of our prayers will be words that Jesus himself taught us – ‘Thy kingdom come, thy will be done.’ It is impossible to overstate the life-transforming power of the Lord’s Prayer. It is a prayer that is reassuring enough to be on the lips of the dying and yet dangerous enough to be banned in cinemas. It is famous enough to be spoken each day by billions in hundreds of languages and yet intimate enough to draw us ever closer into friendship with Jesus Christ. It is simple enough to be memorised by small children and yet profound enough to sustain a whole lifetime of prayer. When we pray it with sincerity and with joy, there is no imagining the new ways in which God can use us to his glory.”*

As the kingdom people of the Diocese of Worcester this prayer is a core part of our life together. I do encourage you to pray it with faith as you pray for your friends, as part of this national wave of prayer.



# Christian Aid Week

***This year's Christian Aid Week runs from 15 - 21 May***

Bangladesh is one of the poorest countries in the world and also one of those most at risk of flooding. Each year, when snow melts on the Himalayas, the rivers swell. The water floods homes, spoils crops and ruins possessions. Sometimes, raging floods destroy houses, sweep away small children and wash away the very land on which the homes stand.

For Morsheda and her four children things have been so hard for so long, she can hardly imagine a life without fear and suffering. One year, her humble house filled up to her waist with floodwater. To stay dry, and keep away from the dangerous snakes that swam through her home, she raised her bed up on bricks. As darkness fell, she drew her children to her and prayed the river wouldn't rise further before morning. She says *"When the river rises I get frightened. This house is very low. If I could raise my house then I would feel much safer living here with my children."*

A better life for Morsheda is just six feet away. Christian Aid partner, GUK, is providing Home Safety Packages for those at risk. These not only provide the materials needed to raise a home and land to avoid flooding, but also include money to buy things that can provide a much needed income such as a cow, goats and seeds.

Pray for all our neighbours affected by floods and climate change. Pray for our neighbours who give up their time to collect during Christian Aid Week (15-21 May). Pray for our neighbours who live in

fear and suffering. Pray for our neighbours who have the power and means to make a difference.

## Chaplaincy Anywhere

***An event for all those interested in chaplaincy is planned for May***

On Saturday 21 May there will be a Forum organised by Churches Together in Worcestershire for anyone working or interested in learning about Chaplaincy in all its variety. Taking place from 9.30am to 3pm at Droitwich Spa Methodist Church, this event is to showcase the variety of Chaplaincies in which Christians in the county are sharing.

It will be an opportunity to hear the experience of chaplains, clergy and lay, in a variety of places from prisons, to hospitals, to canals, to shops. There will be a chance to get a 'taster' from ten different chaplains before breaking out for more in-depth workshops. The day will be led by the Revd David Butterworth, Chaplain for the NEC and NIA Birmingham and there will also be an opportunity to worship and share lunch together.

It is a day for all Christians, from all backgrounds who perhaps feel a call to some sort of Chaplaincy, for those who are active already as chaplains and for people who want to explore more about this part of the Church's mission.

# Flowers for May

	1st May	8th May	15th May	22nd May	29th May
Sanctuary			Alvechurch WI		
Lady Chapel			Alvechurch WI		

I do not have any volunteers for flowers on the above weeks in May and would appreciate some offers of help if possible.

Ann Thurrell  
0121 447 7668  
[annthurrell@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:annthurrell@hotmail.co.uk)

## Parish Prayers

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

Sunday – 1st May 2016 – Randall Avenue  
Sunday – 8th May 2016 – Red Lion Street  
Sunday – 15th May 2016 – Redditch Road, Alvechurch  
Sunday – 22nd May 2016 – Redditch Road, Hopwood  
Sunday – 29th May 2016 – Robins Hill Drive



## From The Registers



### Marriages

*Those whom God has joined together*

April 9 Daniel Nuttall and Claire Humphries



### Funerals and Cremations

*May they rest in the peace of Christ*

March 23 Lesley Ann Harrison

# Who's who

Rector	Revd Richard Bubbers, Priest-in-charge, School Lane, 445 1087 stlaurencealvechurch@yahoo.co.uk
Licensed Lay Ministers	Mr Dick Russell, 2 Gothic Cottages, Radford Rd, 445 3083 Ms Sue Phillips, Withybed Green, 445 3620
Authorised Lay Ministers	Mrs Helena Allen, 117 Birmingham Road, 445 5605 Mr Martin Allen, 117 Birmingham Road, 445 5605 Mrs Philippa Brakes, 56 Callow Hill Road, 445 3983 Mr Graham Clark, The Coach House, School Lane, 445 2547 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
PCC Secretary	Mrs Enid Brumsen, 32 Callow Hill Road, 445 0663
PCC Treasurer	Mrs Susan Seeley, 40 Bear Hill, B48 7JX
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	Susan Seeley

### 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	

### Task Committee

Mick Fletcher	Dick Russell
Graham Clark	Sue Phillips

### Peru and Missionary Committee

Sue Phillips	Dick Russell
Gordon Parsons	Margaret Haste

# Calendar for MAY



Sunday 1	12 noon	Picnic In The Park: The Meadows, Alvechurch
Monday 2	7.45pm	Alvechurch Historical Society: Talk - to be confirmed: Museum, School Lane, Alvechurch
Wednesday 4	7.30pm	Hillside WI: AGM: The Ark
Thursday 5	9.30am	Mums The Word
	10.00am	Tiny Tots Service: St Laurence Church
	12.15pm	Ark Café: Somerset Chicken
	7.30pm	Worcester-Birmingham & Droitwich Canals Society: <i>'Longbridge Underground'</i> talk: Meeting Room, Alvechurch Boat Centre
Saturday 7	7.30pm	Midland Sinfonia: Performers of Distinction Concert: St L Church
Sunday 8	2.30pm	Alvechurch Village Society Walk: On the Waseley/Illey Way: Led by Sue Phillips: Meet at Waseley Country Park car park
Monday 9	7.30pm	Ark Angels WI: The Ark
	7.30pm	Alvechurch WI AGM: Village Hall, Alvechurch
Thursday 12	9.30am	Mums The Word
	12.15pm	Ark Café: Glazed Gammon with Parsley Sauce
	7.30pm	Rowney Green Horticultural Society: Talk <i>"It's not all about flowers"</i> by Paul Green: Peace Hall, Rowney Green
Saturday 14	10.00am	Christian Mindfulness Workshop: The Ark
<b>JUNE GRAPEVINE GOES TO PRESS - Articles to <a href="mailto:thearkalvechurch@yahoo.co.uk">thearkalvechurch@yahoo.co.uk</a></b>		
Monday 16	1.45pm	Forget-Me-Nots: The Ark
Wednesday 18	10.30am	CAN YOU HEAR ME? (Communication Forum): Theme: Celebrating Birthdays: Alvechurch Cricket Club
Thursday 19	9.30am	Mums The Word
	12.15pm	Ark Café: 10th Anniversary Lunch: & Entertainment: Ticket Only
Saturday 21	10.00am	Spring Fayre: Alvechurch Baptist Church
Wednesday 25	2.00pm	St Laurence Women's Fellowship: Entertainment by the Cherry Wood Duo: Tanyard Centre, Alvechurch
	7.45pm	Alvechurch Village Society: <i>'The Story of Alvechurch Gardens'</i> All welcome: Alvechurch Village Hall
Thursday 26	9.30am	Mums The Word No Ark Café today (reopens on 9th June)
Monday 30	2.00pm	Bellringers Afternoon Tea Party: The Ark