

The Grapevine

THE PARISH MAGAZINE OF ST LAURENCE CHURCH ALVECHURCH

*Women's World Day Of Prayer
4th March 2016*



MARCH 2016

Online at 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

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Sunday Club | Sundays at 9.30am in the Church and Ark (445 1854) |
| Choir | Thursdays at 7.45pm in Church (445 3569) |
| Bellringers | Sundays at 10.30am and 5.30pm 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) |
| Mum's the Word | Thursdays at 9.30am in The Ark (07773509390) Tiny Tots Service 10.15am 1st Thursday of the month |
| Ark Café | 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



Richard Bubbers writes.....

“What's so important about Easter?”

Unlike Christmas, Easter is not a festival fixed to a specific date in the calendar. It is a movable feast and its date each year is determined as being the first Sunday after the full moon that falls on or after the spring equinox. It can therefore occur at any time between 22 March and 25 April. In the Eastern Church, the dates differ because a different calendar is used. In modern times there have been various calls, particularly from schools, for a fixed date for Easter Sunday: recent discussions are focusing on the second or third Sunday in April.

In popular culture, there is not the same festivity or commercialisation at Easter as there is at Christmas. But the theme of new life (in the resurrection of Jesus Christ), linked with the emergence of spring after the “death” of winter, can still be seen in the gifts of flowers and the pictures of bunnies and chicks. The egg, with its tomb-like shape out of which a new life appears, has made it a widely recognised Easter symbol, and chocolate eggs can mark the end of a Lenten “fast”.

Easter is important because the resurrection of Jesus is at the heart of the gospel. As Paul says (in 1 Corinthians 15.14), *“if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain.”* There is no description of the resurrection in the Gospels: what we have are accounts of events around the time soon after Jesus’ death through which the disciples came to believe that he was not dead but alive – not simply resuscitated but alive with a new life, resurrection life.

There is considerable agreement among the Gospels about those events: two basic pieces

of evidence for the resurrection are given, although they are presented in a variety of ways. The first is the empty tomb, and the other is the appearance of Jesus, alive again, to his followers on different occasions in different places. Both were necessary in order for there to be a credible basis for belief in the resurrection as the disciples came to understand it and believe in it. Without an empty tomb, Jesus remains a corpse. Without the appearances, his body might simply have been moved or stolen, as some people tried to allege.

For many, the most convincing evidence for the resurrection is the psychological change which occurred in Jesus’ disciples after the appearances. With the crucifixion of Jesus, they were completely demoralised, disillusioned and hopeless - all that they had believed in and hoped for about Jesus seemed to have come to an end. Something happened to cause a complete turnaround psychologically: they became prepared to go out and spend the rest of their lives spreading the good news of Jesus Christ – and even, if necessary, to give up their lives for him. It is improbable to believe that such men and women would have given their lives for someone in this way, if it was based on a resurrection story which they were not completely convinced was true.

Easter Day is a day of fulfilment of what was foretold in the Old Testament – and the start of new life. By his resurrection to new life, Jesus makes it possible for anyone who believes in him to have new life in relationship with God, which never comes to an end. *“God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life”* (John 3.16).

Without Easter day, there is no Christian faith – and no hope of new life.

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St Laurence Women's Fellowship

Jill Woolley writes...



At our first meeting of the New Year we were entertained by Rusty Smith with a good selection of well known songs. We also enjoyed some seasonal refreshments.

On March 23rd we will welcome Dawn Nex who will give us an Amish talk. Come and join us at the Tanyard Centre at 2pm.

On Friday March 4th the Annual Women's Day of Prayer will be held in the Baptist Church. Refreshments will be served at 3.30pm and the service arranged by the women of Cuba will start at 4pm. Everyone, men, women and Children, is welcome to join us, and so keep our link in the prayer chain that encircles the world on that day.

Hillside WI

Cathy Taylor writes...

We started the new year by holding a Silent Auction. Members contributed a wonderful variety of items and we raised more than £80 for our funds. We welcomed several new members and had time to chat over tea and cakes.

In February, we took the plunge and invited Steve Beauchampe to give us a talk on the history of Moseley Road Baths. Steve gave us a very interesting illustrated account of this spectacular Victorian building. He explained that it was under threat of closure and the friends of the building and other campaigners are working hard to raise funds and to lobby the council, to enable the Baths to stay open.

A group of members have booked a BBC Studio Tour in Birmingham 9th February.

On 2nd March, our own Angela Temple Cox will give us a talk entitled Forty Years in Fashion. Members are invited to bring decorated hats for the competition. The hats will be worn by members acting as hostesses and dressed as Suffragettes, at our Spring Group Meeting.

Visitors are welcome to join us. Meetings are held at 7.30pm on the first Wednesday of the month at the Ark.

Alvechurch Village Society

Ray Yarnell writes...

The March walk will be "Charlie's Traditional Mystery Tour" led by Charlie Simmons (0121 445 3447). The walk will start at 2.30pm on Sunday 6th March from Tanyard Lane Car Park.

Our March event will be The AVS Annual General Meeting followed by refreshments and natter in the Village Hall . Everyone is welcome to the meeting which will start at 7.45pm on Wednesday 16th March and will be an opportunity for everyone to see what we have been doing in 2016, as well as meeting our new Chairperson Grace Hampson .

~~~~~

## A Jazz Evening is coming to The Ark

George Huxley's Hot Five will be playing  
on Friday April 29th starting at 7.30pm.

Tickets are £10 which includes a glass of  
wine.

Any enquiries to Sue Brotherton on  
0121 447 7037.



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A Thank You from Zimbabwe

Following on from Veronica Roger's birthday celebration article in our January edition, in which money was received instead of presents (£392). The money was donated to Montgomery Heights Christian Care Centre in Zimbabwe. Below is the letter received from Fiona, (Sally-Anne Bubbers' sister) at the children's centre -

Dear Veronica,

Thank you so much for the gift you have sent to support the work here in Zimbabwe. We are so grateful to receive this support from you. Sally-Anne has just emailed me to tell me of your gift which she told me was money given for your 80th birthday. It is such a precious thing you have done in using these gifts for your birthday to support the children we care for here in Africa, you are sowing seeds of life into the young in Zimbabwe. Our vision for the work here is that these children will grow up to be godly men and women to have an impact on this nation, your gift will go to help in our daily care of these children who have often had a very difficult start to life.

I thought you might enjoy seeing this picture of our triplet girls on their 4th birthday. They came to us 3 ½ years ago when they were 5 months old, having spent the first months of their lives in hospital as their family was unable to care for them. They are a great source of joy and fun. They will be starting in our pre-school this year.



Melody, Melissa and Molline

Thank you again for your kind donation, we so value your support. May God bless you, with love from Fiona and the Montgomery Family (Christian Care Centre, Zimbabwe).

The Ark Café

The Ark Cafe continues each Thursday with its very popular lunches and desserts enjoyed by so many customers.



The forthcoming menu up until Easter is as follows:

March 3rd Roast Pork

March 10th Somerset Chicken

March 17th Roast Beef Carvery Lunch - Ticket Only

There are still tickets left for the Beef Lunch on March 17th at a very reasonable cost of £10. If you would like a ticket, please contact Ian Price on 0121 447 7955 Mon to Thurs 9am-2pm or on any Thursday lunchtime at the Ark.

We are closed over the Easter break from March 24th and reopen on Thursday, 14th April.

We look forward to your continued support and look forward to seeing you on a Thursday lunchtime. The Ark Thursday lunches are available to everyone.

Alvechurch Library

Alvechurch Library's Watercolour Class will be holding an exhibition throughout the month of March. Come to the library and see examples of their work and get inspired to make your own. The exhibition will be held in the gallery space of the library and can be accessed during the libraries normal opening times. As classes are sometimes held in the gallery space please contact the library to check access before making a visit.

The Watercolour classes are led by popular artist-tutor Andrew Clacher on a Tuesday afternoon. If you wish to join the class next term please enquire at the library for more information.

Explore Learning will be holding two workshops at Alvechurch Library during the Easter holidays. On Thursday 7th April at 2 - 3pm they will be running a Revolting Rhymes Workshop based on Roald Dahl's funny collection of poems. Looking at how Dahl describes his characters and how descriptive words hint at their personalities this Workshop is aimed at 5-7 year olds.

At 3.15-4.15pm on the same day there will be a Workshop for children aged 7-9 based on the famous book, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. You will be able to put yourself in the shoes of Willy Wonka and design your own eye-watering chocolate bar.

All Workshops are free, please book through Alvechurch Library by calling The Hub on 01905 822722, Email - AlvechurchLib@worcestershire.gov.uk or pop in to the library on the Birmingham Road, Alvechurch.



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Jokes



In a sack

Seen in a church magazine: *'Bring your old newspapers (and your neighbours), put them in a sack and tie them if possible.'*

Wages

Advert for a new minister: *'Wages not high, but retirement benefits out of this world.'*

Sign

Outside a New York Convalescent Home there is a sign: *'For the sick and tired of the Episcopal Church'...*

'Don't die' - The vicar announced: *'I am sure that you will not wish to overwork our visiting priest while I am on holiday, and will keep funerals to a minimum.'*

Ladies

Notice in a church hall where a sale of second-hand clothes was in progress: *'Ladies may have a fit upstairs'.*

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This month we are chatting with an expert in 'Falls Prevention'. You are very welcome to join us at 10.30am - 12 noon on the 3rd Wednesday of each month.

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Parish Prayers

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



- | | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| Sunday 6th March | – Meadow Lane |
| Sunday 13th March | – Mill Court |
| Sunday 20th march | – Newbourne Hill |
| Sunday 27th march | – Oaktree Close |

The Worcester-Birmingham & Droitwich Canals Society

Tony Brannon writes...

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 1st March (**NOT 8th March as previously published**) will be: *'Waterways From The Air'* (1920s and 1930s) by Tony Conder. 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



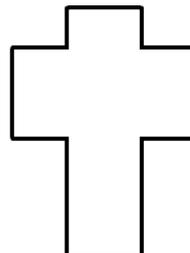
Easter Word Search

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

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BELIEVE
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BREAD
CROSS
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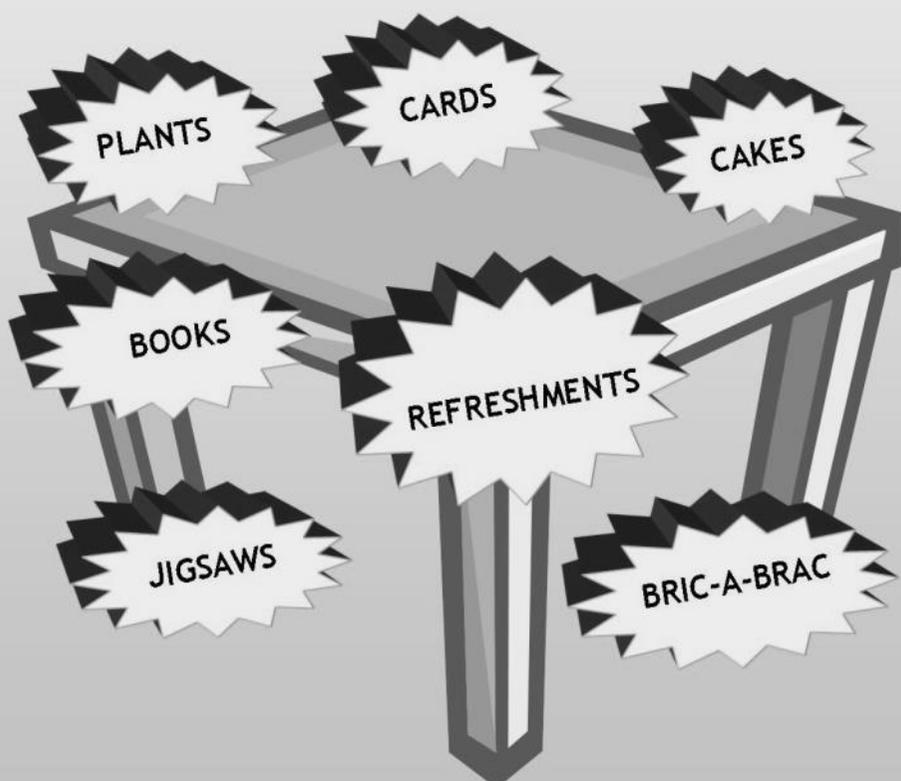
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Messy Church

MESSY CHURCH is back in Alvechurch.



‘Churches Together’ in Alvechurch and Rowney Green
are organising a one-off Messy Church at Alvechurch
Baptist Church on Wed 2nd March, starting at
3.30pm.

Please come with your children and enjoy all the fun (children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian). A substantial meal will be provided for everyone and all dietary needs will be catered for. For more details contact Roger & Ruth on 0121 445 0505.

The activities are part of the Women’s World Day of Prayer service which is also at the Baptist Church on Friday 4th March at 3.30pm.

Rowney Green Horticultural Society

Lindsay Smith writes...

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

At the meeting on March 10th our guest speakers will be Helen Picton and her husband Ross Barbour from Old Court Nursery and The Picton Garden and their subject is "Alpines".

Guests are welcome - £3.50 including refreshments.

For more information please contact Lindsay Smith on 01527 592874.

Alvechurch WI

Pam Horsfield writes...

Denise Cashmore, President, welcomed members and friends to our February meeting, including some who had returned after a brief respite who we were very pleased to see again. It was also good to hear from Jenny our treasurer that subscriptions were being paid promptly and four new members had joined us - a very good sign for the new year.

Pam gave information about the Weatheroak Group Meeting at Rowney Green with Paul Harding as the speaker and also the County Spring Meeting at Pershore. There are days being arranged in the county for those wanting to learn more about the WI use of the internet and Twitter: plus many more courses on a variety of subjects, as well as a writing competition for anyone who is interested.

Members were reminded that we will be working with Hillside and Hopwood WIs as usual to organise St George's Day teas in the

Village Hall on Saturday 23rd April with a special competition for the under 9yrs which will be advertised soon at the Lounge and the Library....so watch out for these details!!!

Christine Grainger told members of a couple of minibus outings for our members in April to Stowe and Batsford Arboretum and in May to Warwick and Lord Leycester's Hospital and, if these are successful, we may arrange more later in the year.

Our speaker for the evening was Neil Roberts whose talk was on '*The Secret' life of a magician*'. We learned about the development of societies of magicians across the UK and the USA to the present time, when there are very successful annual national and worldwide conventions. There are also companies providing the materials used by magicians, plus books written by members, and situations provided where magicians can perform to others and encourage young members to develop their skills. Neil gave a very informative talk and was thanked in an amusing way by Celia Cochrane, after which we all enjoyed time for tea and a natter to friends.

Our next meeting will be on Monday 14th March at 7:30pm and all visitors are welcome.

Rowney Green Flower Club

Celia Hitch writes...

Rowney Green Flower Club will not be holding an evening meeting in March. However we will be having a special coffee morning on bank holiday Monday, 28th March, at The Peace Hall, Rowney Green. It commences at 10.30am and finishes 12 noon. There will be a "*bring and buy*" table, and coffee and biscuits will be served. Contact: Celia Hitch on 0121 445 4824.

Letter from the Archdeacon of Worcester

Robert Jones writes...

A friend was talking about another friend from his university days who he described as a 'heavy Christian'. I think he meant the rather intense believer who witnesses readily, but sometimes puts people off. It got me thinking about the ways in which I was or wasn't a 'heavy' Christian myself!

We sometimes make heavy weather of what we call Good News. It can feel as though it is all down to us rather than God. The truth is that we don't have to save the whole world, but simply play our small part in responding to God's love.

Prayer is all about noticing what God is doing. Anthony de Mello, a Jesuit, collected stories of faith, including this one: *'Master, is there anything I can do to make myself more enlightened?'* The master replies, *'Do as little as you can to make the sun rise in the morning.'* *'But master, of what use then are the spiritual exercises you prescribe?'* *'To make sure you are not asleep when the sun rises!'*

Our Christian traditions and disciplines – worship and prayer, study of scripture – are to make us more aware of God's presence in the world and to be more present ourselves.

Feeling good about ourselves and God does not need to be selfish. Many of the great social activists have been people who spent time in contemplative prayer and learned to notice what was happening - people who could see the wood for the trees, as we say.

Once you become attentive you notice more. So, for example, you notice that refugees aren't simply an issue to be dealt with but are families; people who are refugees. Or, the issue of homosexuality, with which the church struggles, is about people who are gay.

Karl Barth, a great Twentieth Century Swiss theologian, whose life spanned two world wars, said: *'To clasp the hands in prayer is the beginning of an uprising against the disorder of the world.'* Ours is a social gospel, and we all have our part to play. So often it starts from attentiveness, learning to be present.

Later this month we celebrate Holy Week and Easter, when Jesus enters the depths of what it means to be human. You might say it was a small event on the world stage: the press would probably have been stalking the corridors of power, rather than the municipal rubbish dump outside the city wall. But it was not just another crucifixion – it was the main event, along with what happened three days later, for those who had eyes to see. Let us learn to be attentive then, to make sure we are not asleep when the sun rises.



Alvechurch Historical Society

Hilary Taylor writes...

Our recent AGM, was followed by a slide & audio presentation on the Worcester - Birmingham canal, which runs through Alvechurch. John Hemingway, told us about the Worcester - Birmingham & Droitwich Canal Society, which has been active in the village since 1969. For many decades the canal was used to transport goods, such as coal, limestone, salt, bricks from Alvechurch and cocoa to Cadbury's in Bournville. By the mid 1960s it had been superseded by road transport, and there were moves to infill the waterway. Happily it was preserved, and now is busy with leisure boats, many of them traditional narrow boats. Negotiating the 30 lock flight (the longest in the country) at Tardebigge recreates a slower pace of life, along with the physical effort of working the lock gates.

VISITORS WELCOME - New members and visitors are welcome at our meetings.

Monday 7th March 2016 : Ned Williams ***"Understanding the Black Country"***

Ned is the author of over 40 books on the Black Country. As well as local history, his interests include local railways, cinemas and Co-ops.

Monday 4th April 2016: Mike Watkins ***"Titanic: things you didn't know"***

From the beginning through to the aftermath, this is a fascinating talk about the enduring and iconic RMS Titanic, which tragically sank on 15 April 1912 after colliding with an iceberg during her maiden voyage from Southampton.

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.

Quotations with Easter in mind...

The Christian teaching about who crucified Christ is not that the Romans or the Jews or whatever people happened to be there did, but that you and I did, and that all human societies without exception are involved in the crucifixion of Christ. - Northrop Frye

They crucified Him with the criminals. Which is more amazing, to find Jesus in such bad company, or to find the criminals in such good company? ...Jesus did not die for the sake of a good world, He died for the sake of an evil world. - Karl Barth

Gethsemane invites us to consider ... what it meant for Jesus to be, in a unique sense, God's Son. The very moment of greatest intimacy – the desperate prayer to '*Abba, Father*' – is also the moment where ... he is set on the course for the moment of God-forsakenness on the cross. - Tom Wright

The tragedy of the second millennium was that the Cross, starting with the Crusades, became an emblem of the sword... the challenge of this third millennium is to let it be what it was and what it still is in its origin – an emblem of unconditional love. - Ray Simpson

Any rational sceptic will remind me that ancient rumours of a rabbi's resurrection make a thin limb on which to hang the hopes of the world. Yes, I would admit, it is a thin limb. But sturdy enough, for all that, to have held up a sign for all these ages that God the Creator has the competence to renew the world He made. - Lewis Smedes

If Resurrection happened regularly, there would be nothing different about Jesus being raised from the dead. He would be one among many, just another statistic.... If (Jesus's resurrection) is unique, then by definition, there will be no analogous events. That makes it a lot harder to believe. It also makes it worth believing. - Alister McGrath

The Ecumenical Lent Course for 2016

CTARG (Churches Together in Alvechurch and Rowney Green) are holding ecumenical groups during Lent, as below. There is still opportunity to join a group, if you would like to, by contacting the appropriate group leader. This year we are using the book of daily Bible readings and reflections, *"Dust and Glory"*, by David Runcorn. *"Dust and Glory"* acknowledges both the dust of our mortality, but also the glory that keeps breaking in with unexpected life, hope and new beginnings. The CTARG final plenary meeting for the ecumenical lent groups is on Monday 25 April at 7:30pm in the Ark.

| Day | Time | Start date | Leader | Venue |
|-----------|---------|---------------|--|---|
| Wednesday | 7.30pm | 17th February | Fiona Shea. 07870 915892 fkshea@gmail.com | 13 Athlestan Close |
| Monday | 11am | 15th February | Sue Phillips. 445 3620 sue@suephillips.org | The Lounge (There is a small charge for this group) |
| Wednesday | 10.15am | 17th February | Felicity Rixon. 445 2371 felicityrixon@hotmail.com | St Mary's, School Lane |
| Wednesday | 2.00pm | 10th February | Dick Russell. 445 3083 russell2gothic@btinternet.com | 32 Callow Hill Road |
| Thursday | 7.30pm | 11th February | Graham & Lynn Clark. 445 2547 clarkalvechurch@sky.com | The Coach House, School Lane |

Easter Services at St Laurence

You are very welcome to attend any of our special Easter services :

Thursday 24 March - 7.30pm:

Maundy Thursday communion service

Friday 25 March (Good Friday) - 2pm:

"Time at the Cross" – United Good Friday service at Alvechurch Baptist Church

Saturday 26 March - 6.30pm :

Easter Vigil

Sunday 27 March (Easter Day) -

8 am: Holy Communion (BCP)

10.30am: Joint Easter Day communion service celebration

6pm : Sacred Space – a guided silence on the theme of *"Resurrection"*



News from the Tower

Geoff Franklin writes...

We're well into the preparations for our TableTop Sale in the Ark on Saturday April 2nd. Karen (0121 445 4980) is taking bookings from people who want tables for themselves, and the rest of us are starting to collect stock for the ringers' table.

It's time to start your spring cleaning. Turn out your cupboards, sheds and attics and let us get rid of some clutter for you. Talk to any of the ringers, phone Colin on 01527 64077 or email alvechurchbells@yahoo.co.uk All the money raised is going to the upkeep of the tower this year. We had the major restoration works a couple of years ago and this has left the ringing chamber in a bit of a mess. We're planning to have the walls repainted and to replace the offcuts on the floor with a proper carpet.

Ringling is also going well. We've got three new ringers, two beginners and a third who's already got some experience. You might have heard them on practice nights; instead of hearing all the bells going there's just a single bell ringing as one of the learners learns how to handle the rope. If you are very observant

you might also hear the rest of us coming to terms with Grandsire Doubles on six bells later in the evening.

Ringling the bells in the basic sequence of rounds (1-2-3-4-5-6) gets monotonous (for us and for the listener) and Grandsire brings a bit of variety. It's one of the oldest traditional methods and takes us through thirty different sequences, starting and finishing in rounds. Listen carefully on Tuesday and you may hear us; a few seconds of rounds to start with then a couple of minutes of different patterns until we end up neatly back in rounds again.

Flowers

Easter is early this year and Easter Day is 27th March. I will be in church at 9.30am on Saturday 26th March to begin decorating and will be asking for help with this most enjoyable task. I will have a board on the table for signing which helps me if I know who can come along. If you would like to donate to the Lilies in memory of a loved one there will be a separate list for those as well. My new rota for the year will also be on the table for names.

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

From The Registers



Funerals and Cremations

May they rest in the peace of Christ

5 February
9 February
18 February
19 February
26 February

Elizabeth 'Beth' Hopton
Nik Jelcic
Alan White
Bill Parry
Colin Sheppard

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 MARCH



| | | |
|------------------|---------|---|
| Tuesday 1 | 7.45pm | Worcester-Birmingham & Droitwich Canals Society: Talk Meeting Room, Alvechurch Boat Centre: FREE all welcome |
| Wednesday 2 | 3.30pm | Messy Church: Alvechurch Baptist Church |
| | 7.30pm | Hillside WI: Talk: 'Forty Years in Fashion': The Ark |
| Thursday 3 | 9.30am | Mums The Word |
| | 10.00am | Tiny Tots Service: St Laurence Church |
| | 12.30pm | Ark Café: Roast Pork |
| Friday 4 | 3.30pm | Annual Women's Day of Prayer: Baptist Church Alvechurch |
| Sunday 6 | 2.30pm | Alvechurch Village Society: Walk 'Charlie's Traditional Mystery Tour': Met at Tanyard Lane Car Park |
| Monday 7 | 1.45pm | Forget-Me-Nots: The Ark |
| | 7.30pm | Ark Angels WI: The Ark |
| | 7.45pm | Alvechurch Historical Society: Talk by Ned Williams "Understanding the Black Country": Museum, School Lane |
| Thursday 10 | 9.30am | Mums The Word |
| | 12.30pm | Ark Café: Somerset Chicken |
| | 7.30pm | Rowney Green Horticultural Society: "Alpines" talk: R.G. Peace Hall |
| Monday 14 | 7.30pm | Ark Angels WI: The Ark |
| | | APRIL GRAPEVINE GOES TO PRESS - <i>Articles to thearkalvechurch@yahoo.co.uk</i> |
| Wednesday 16 | 10.30am | CAN YOU HEAR ME? For people experiencing a hearing loss: Talk on 'Falls Prevention': Alvechurch Cricket Club |
| | 7.45pm | Alvechurch Village Society AGM: Village Hall: All welcome |
| Thursday 17 | 9.30am | Mums The Word |
| | 12.30pm | Ark Café: Roast Beef Lunch (Ticket Only) |
| Saturday 19 | 7.00pm | The Midland Sinfonia: British Chamber Music Classics Concert: St Laurence Church |
| Monday 21 | 1.45pm | Forget-Me-Nots: The Ark |
| Tuesday 22 | 7.30pm | PCC Meeting |
| Wednesday 23 | 2.00pm | St Laurence Women's Fellowship: Amish talk by Dawn Nex: Tanyard Centre, Alvechurch |
| Thursday 24 | 9.30am | Mums The Word |
| | | No café today (The café reopens after Easter on 14th April) |
| | 7.30pm | Maundy Thursday communion service: St Laurence Church |
| GOOD FRIDAY 25 | 2.00pm | "Time at the Cross" – United service: Alvechurch Baptist Church |
| SATURDAY 26 | 6.30pm | Easter Vigil: St Laurence Church |
| EASTER SUNDAY 27 | 8.00am | Holy Communion (BCP) |
| | 10.30am | Joint Easter Day communion service celebration: St Laurence |
| | 6.00pm | Sacred Space – a guided silence on the theme of "Resurrection" |
| Monday 28 | 10.30am | Rowney Green Flower Club Coffee Morning: R. Green Peace Hall |