

# The Grapevine

THE PARISH MAGAZINE OF ST LAURENCE CHURCH ALVECHURCH



APRIL 2020

Online at [www.alvechurch-stlaurence.org/monthly-magazine](http://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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## ***Sue Phillips Wardle writes...***

What have the teenage climate activist Greta Thunberg, the Mesopotamian creation poem the Enuma Enish and the Archbishop of Canterbury got in common? Ok, that's a hard one, so try this one. What is the link between the beauty of the world around us, the ongoing impact of climate change and the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ?

The answer to both of these riddles is this year's Ecumenical Lent course which draws people from the four churches in our Parish to share our annual journey through Lent from Shrove Tuesday to Easter Sunday, (Pancakes to Easter Eggs). This year Churches Together in Alvechurch and Rowney Green decided to take the Archbishop of Canterbury's recommendation for our Lent study. We have been reading a book called *Saying Yes to Life* by Ruth Valerio, Global Advocacy Director of Tearfund.

Whatever our interpretation of the Judeo-Christian Creation story (that's the one where God creates the world in seven days), we see from ancient times an attempt to draw together the basic ingredients of life ie light, water and land, with all living things, vegetation, creatures and human beings, into one beautiful explanation of how our world began. Other cultures have done the same, each story providing fertile ground for the development of that culture's belief systems.

In our study we've been encouraged to explore the Easter story from a perspective that has been new to many of us. Jesus died on the Cross and rose from the dead to save us from our sins. That's the Christian message, familiar to us all, the add-on has been to see a bigger picture: that this redemption applies to the whole of creation. Though each of us started with a desire to play our part in redressing climate change we have been inspired to see a new kind of connection between ecology and the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It has encouraged us to address our response to climate change as part of our Christian commitment.

Our Lent study has introduced us to individuals and communities all over the world who have expressed their Christian responsibility towards halting climate change in a wide variety of ways. The stories are really heartening and not a little challenging. They range from individuals who are involved as activists, to church communities planting thousands of trees as part of their worship. They include communities who have already started to experience serious threats to their wellbeing, being displaced from their homes because of flooding, or having their livelihoods radically damaged by drought. They include people with special interests like Surfers Against Sewage whose passion for the ocean drives them to do beach cleans and pressure the government to take action against climate change. We are challenged to think about how we travel, what we eat and how we keep warm.

Continues on page 4

## AS TIME GOES BY



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Ruth Valerio tells a lovely story from Japan. The forest is on fire and all the animals flee to the edge of the forest to watch, but the hummingbird flies to the nearest stream and carries a bead of water in its beak, then drops it into the flames, over and over again until it is exhausted. The other animals mock its puny attempt to extinguish the fire that is destroying their forest, but the hummingbird just carries on, saying 'I'm doing the best I can'.

I'm sure many of us who have been concerned about the impact of our behaviour on this beautiful planet can identify with the hummingbird. But what has been inspiring this Lent is to see the bigger picture, of many communities across the globe taking creative action to redeem, redress, repair the damage of centuries, and to take up the challenge of the hummingbird and see how far we can push ourselves to do the best we can.

So, my challenge to you is 'Are you doing the best you can?' Maybe if each of us does a little bit more we will have a big enough impact to reduce global warming to a tolerable level.

HAPPY EASTER!

## Parish Prayers

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

**29 March 2020 – Bear Hill Drive**

**5 April 2020 – Birches Lane**

**12 April 2020 – Birmingham Road, Alvechurch**

**19 April 2020 – Birmingham Road, Bordesley**

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## Diocese carries out review of past safeguarding concerns

All Church of England parishes in Worcestershire and Dudley have been asked to ensure that all safeguarding concerns have been reported to the appropriate authorities as part of a review to ensure that the Church is a safe place for all.

The Past Cases Review is being carried out in all 42 dioceses in England. It will encompass all safeguarding cases – both children and vulnerable adults – from the early 1990s until 2019. The aim is to ensure that all known safeguarding cases have been appropriately managed, that all identified risks have been assessed and mitigated, and that the needs of any known victims have been addressed.

The Bishop of Dudley, Martin Gorick, who takes the lead on safeguarding in the Diocese of Worcester, said: *“It is essential for us to be confident that any concerns reported to us have been dealt with properly and support put in place for those affected. We want to do everything we can to make our churches the safest places possible where all feel welcome.”*

An earlier Past Cases Review took place between 2007 and 2009 to consider child protection cases only. There were a number of shortcomings in the process and as a result, the Archbishops’ Council of the Church of England decided that the review should be undertaken again. The Church of England nationally has set a deadline of 31 December 2020 for completion of the review in all dioceses.

Anyone who wishes to make representations to the PCR2 process, or wishes to make a disclosure regarding church related abuse should contact Hilary Higton, Safeguarding Adviser for the Diocese of Worcester on :- [hhigton@cofe-worcester.org.uk](mailto:hhigton@cofe-worcester.org.uk).

Alternatively, there is a dedicated telephone helpline - 0800 80 20 20 - operated by the NSPCC, independently from the church. Anyone can use this helpline to provide information or to raise concerns regarding abuse within the Church of England context; whether they are reporting issues relating to children, adults or seeking to whistleblow about poor safeguarding practice. Survivors were not invited to contribute to the earlier review and the Church wants to ensure that listening to survivor voices will help shape how this review is conducted.

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## Alvechurch WI

*Pam Horsfield writes...*

Despite it being a gloomy evening members turned up for a very pleasant meeting. The good news is that several members are celebrating birthdays this month; the not so good news is that Celia and Jackie have been busy visiting ladies who haven't been too well.

We've been reminded that next month we are meeting with Hillside on WEDNESDAY 1st APRIL (which isn't an April Fool joke!) AT THE ARK, when Ginny Davies will no doubt delight us with her witty repartee and wonderful floral creations. It should be a good evening getting together to enjoy Ginny, Hillside members AND fabulous tea and cakes! What could be better! 🍷😊🍰🌸🌺

Also don't forget Pam's collecting for the Birmingham Diocese container going to Medic Malawi so bring good medical dressings, spectacles, single sheets, and pills left after prescriptions have changed which have not expired in date.

Our speaker for the evening was Wendy from Johnsons Coaches who showed slides of the original grocery van cum 'coach', to charabancs, to the present luxury coaches used for international travel. The Johnson family has owned the business for over 100 years, and two of the women as well as the men have been inspirational in the company's success. Several of us have travelled with Johnsons and we know that everything Wendy said about customer care is true.

We look forward to meeting again on April 1st.

## ADVANCE NOTICE

### MODEL RAILWAY EXHIBITION

### 11<sup>th</sup> July 2020

**Please come in your hundreds to support us. All proceeds in aid of our next project; The Tower etc.**

**Thomas and other layouts and traders are already booked and are eager to come.**

## 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 April 9th we welcome Rosemary Winnall and the subject will be "*Flower Power*". Rosemary is a retired teacher and is much in demand as a Speaker. She is also an acclaimed photographer. Rosemary is a dedicated volunteer within the county and was awarded the MBE for services to the natural environment. This promises to be an excellent evening...one not to miss! Guests are always welcome - £3.50 including refreshments.

For more information please do not hesitate to contact Lindsay Smith on 01527 592874.

## Earth Day

*Laura Farmer Communications Assistant write...*

On 22 April, Earth Day celebrates its 50th anniversary with a focus on Climate Action.

Climate change represents the biggest challenge to the future of humanity and the eco-systems which make our world habitable. Unless every country in the world steps up with urgency and ambition, the future of our descendants will be dangerous.

Earth Day 2020 is an important opportunity for people from around the world to unite in creativity, innovation, ambition, and bravery, in order to meet our climate crisis and seize the opportunities of working towards a zero carbon future.

For further information about Earth Day, visit:  
[www.earthday.org/earthday/countdown-to-2020](http://www.earthday.org/earthday/countdown-to-2020)

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# The Ark Cafe



As a precaution due to the Coronavirus, The Ark  
cafe is closed until further notice.



**Saturday 16th May  
from 10.00am  
Alvechurch Baptist  
Church Hall**

There will be the usual stalls  
including Toys, Books, Plants,  
Bric-a-Brac, Refreshments, Crafts etc.

We hope this event will go ahead,  
watch this space!

# Alvechurch Historical Society

Hilary Taylor writes...

April is a time of change for Alvechurch Historical Society, as we will be holding our last event at the Museum Hut and our first at The Ark.

## OPEN DAYS

**Saturday 4th April 10.00am to 1.00pm and**

**Sunday 5th April 2.00pm to 4.00pm**

This will be the final opportunity to come to the Museum Hut in School Lane, where our collection of local memorabilia and photographs will be on display. We look forward to seeing you there.

## Monday 6th April

This meeting will be our first at our new venue, the downstairs hall at The Ark. The meeting begins at 7.45pm, and there will be refreshments after the talk. Our speaker is George Gascoyne, who will tell us about *"The History of the Lickey Hills"*.

## Monday 4th May

Ray Sturdy *"Worcestershire Remembered"*

New members and guests are welcome to join us. If you would like to know more, please contact chairman, Anne Humphries on 0121 445 5955.

# Alvechurch Village Society Walks

Walks are held on the first Sunday of the month, unless this conflicts with a Bank Holiday. Weather conditions occasionally mean a walk has to be cancelled; check with the leaders if necessary.

Our next walk is on Sunday 5th April starting at 2.30pm. A walk: *'Around Sambourne'*: led by Martin and Mariea Clarke: Meet at the Green Dragon Inn car park, Sambourne, B96 6NU

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## **STOP PRESS IMPORTANT UPDATE**

### **A message from St Laurence's**

Very regrettably the Archbishops of Canterbury and York have had to advise that all public worship is suspended, in the light of the Government's guidance around non-essential contact. Therefore, there will be no church services at St Laurence's until further notice.

Our intention is for the church to be open for private prayer on Sunday morning from 10:30am to 11:30am (please maintain the advised social distancing).

If you wish to opt in to the email list for updates from St Laurence's, please email the church office on [stlaurencealvechurch@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:stlaurencealvechurch@yahoo.co.uk)

If you need to contact St Laurence's, please use 0121 445 1087 or the above email address.

Our contact details and links to digital resources for private prayer, reflection and worship will be available on [www.alvechurch-stlaurence.org](http://www.alvechurch-stlaurence.org)

**Annual Parochial Church Meeting** ; this year it will take place on Sunday 26 April at 11 am in the Ark, following a joint shortened communion service at 10 am in church.

Everyone is encouraged to attend.

# Cancelled or postponed events

The following events, due to be published in this month's Grapevine have been either cancelled, or postponed as a precaution due to the Coronavirus.

**The Ark Cafe** - is closed until further notice. The cafe was due to close over Easter but the decision was made to close a few weeks earlier.

**Midland Sinfonia** - Mozart & his Mentors concert Saturday 4th April at St Laurence church.

**DeSSert Island Discs** - Saturday April 18th Alvechurch Baptist Church Hall

**It's extremely likely that other local events and activities (includes those mentioned in The Grapevine) will be cancelled in the coming weeks. Please check with the organiser or websites and social media.**

## What should I do to prevent catching and spreading the virus?



Wash hands frequently with soap and water or use a sanitiser gel



Catch coughs and sneezes with disposable tissues



Throw away used tissues (then wash hands)



If you don't have a tissue use your sleeve



Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands



Avoid close contact with people who are unwell

# Dick Russell's 4th Vignette

## *Marriage and family*

I had experienced a period of two years National Service before doing my Teacher Training at St Paul's College in Cheltenham. The former saw little opportunity for young-lady friendships to come about in my life but the latter had given space for opportunities to present themselves, and some matured for a while, but none of these led to my *'falling in love'*. More liaisons occurred during my early days in Alvechurch, but summer holidays still found me opting for male-oriented activities with former college pals.



In 1964 one of these pals and myself decided we'd go abroad for a holiday organised by the Ramblers Association in Italy. It was centred in a small hotel at one of five settlements clinging to the slopes of a mountain side on the western coast about 40 miles south of Genoa, known as the *'Cinque Terra.'* These were then, and probably still are, un-connected by road to each other or anywhere else; only a railway running north/south does so connect them together with mountain paths winding through the vineyards along the stepped slopes. It was on a ramble to one of the neighbouring villages that a young lady called Cathy from our party slipped and went over on her ankle. I had already found it a joy to be in her company and I rushed to help her up, volunteering to give her a *'piggy-back'* to our destination, and after a local delicacy accompanied with a glass of local *'vino'*. returned to Monte Rosso on the train. I soon realised I'd fallen hopelessly *'in love'*. and the rest is, as they say, history.

Next July we were married here in St Laurence Church and we began our married life in a flat above Mrs Haines who kept the shoe hop and Miss Twitty who kept the sweet-shop, on the little island of building that exists below the Village Hall.



Our three children were mentioned here last month. We currently have 5 grandchildren, one at university, whilst the other 4 are all coming near to the end of their schooling and a great joy to us both.

## Ark Tots and Toddlers Group at St Laurence church

*Are you a Parent, Grandparent or Carer looking after a baby or little ones who are not yet in full-time school? Would you like a friendly play environment to bring them along to?*

A warm welcome awaits you and your Little Ones, for our Stay and Play group at St Laurence church. Held in the Ark from **9.30 - 11.00 on Thursdays during school term times.** However, during this time of uncertainty with the **Coronavirus**, the group **will not run during April.**

It's a relaxed and friendly time to chat and to play with your Little Ones with a wide range of toys and activities and on-going refreshments. At the end of each session we finish with a singing time.

Although we don't make a specific charge, we welcome your contribution towards the facilities, refreshments and new toys/equipment.

**For more information please email Sarah at [sarah100work@gmail.com](mailto:sarah100work@gmail.com)**

## Tiny Tots in Church

Once a month we have an opportunity for you to bring your Little Ones through into the church.

At the end of our Ark Tots and Toddlers session, instead of our usual singing time, we invite you to our Tiny Tots Service. You are welcome to come and join in this short, very relaxed and informal time of *singing and interactive Bible story, designed especially for babies and toddlers to move around in in their own way!*

During the normal Ark Tots and Toddler session that day, there is a *craft activity* available, which relates to that month's Bible story. So do come over to our craft table and have a go at the activity with your Toddler or Child. Our Tiny Tots Services are usually on the **4<sup>th</sup>**

**Thursday at 10.45.** Sadly this month's Tiny Tots Service scheduled for **Thursday April 23<sup>rd</sup>** has been cancelled.

## Sunday Club at St Laurence church

*Do you have children and young people and would like to bring them along to a church Family Service?*

As part of the **weekly 9.30 Family Service** St Laurence provides a range of activities for Toddlers and children of all ages. The beginning and end parts of each service are spent in the church with their families. During the middle, more adult-focused part of the service activities for the different age groups are available through in The Ark, with adult leaders.

Each Sunday we have our Jack-in-the-Box Group for **children aged 7 and under.** Jack, the loveable Labrador puppet, introduces the Bible story and theme for that Sunday, with songs, interactive Bible story and craft activity.

Parents are also welcome to bring **babies and toddlers** through into The Ark during Sunday Club time, to join in with Jack-in-the-Box or just wander around and play with the toys provided. There is also a *toy area* within the Choir Vestry at the back of the church, which can be freely accessed at all time through the service, as well as *activity backpacks* to take into the pews with babies and young children.

**For Young People aged 8 and over** a different and varied range of fun and interesting activities are planned week by week.

Currently, our **Young People aged 11+** are also meeting on Sunday evenings with others from local churches, eating together and exploring life and Christianity through the **Alpha Youth Programme.**

**So come along hopefully soon (see page 10 regarding the Coronavirus) and join us as we worship together.**

**Sarah Linton**

# Events at Alvechurch Library



Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> April, 11.30am – 12.30pm, Green Shoots and Tips. This self-running group of enthusiastic gardeners and growers were splitting and sharing their snowdrops last month. It's a great opportunity to meet likeminded people who enjoy gardening. Pick up some tips and share or swap surplus bulbs and produce etc. Don't forget we have a great selection of gardening books to borrow whilst you're here!

Andrews's ongoing watercolour painting classes starts again on 21<sup>st</sup> April, 2.15pm – 4.15pm, course number 17775. £50 for ten hours tuition. This is a casual and relaxed class for people wanting to give it a go. Currently it's a small mixed ability group and could do with a few more members. 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. Please contact him on 07942293574 or email :- [andrew.clacher@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:andrew.clacher@hotmail.co.uk) with any queries or questions.

The numbers in Patrick's Thursday afternoon ongoing Spanish language class are looking a little bit low. To enable us to carry on, we could do with a few more new learners. Please email Patrick at :- [vdlt52@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:vdlt52@hotmail.co.uk) or call 07708027372 to see if the level the class is being taught at would allow you to join in. Continuing on the 7<sup>th</sup> May, course number 17753.

Alternatively we may be able to offer beginners Spanish starting in September. Please register your interest. Next date for Chatterbooks is Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March, meeting for an hour, straight after school finishes. This is a junior book club for children aged 8-12. Each session aims to inspire and develop a love for books, reading and the library.

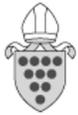
The Library Readers Group, currently reading *The Taxidermists Daughter*, meets up on the last Tuesday of the month, 2.15pm to 3.15pm. New members would be very welcome.

Your local library is now the place to go if you need to complete any county online applications and need IT assistance to do so. We can help you complete and submit online applications such as Blue badge parking permits and concessionary bus passes. We have dedicated volunteers, Carl and Maria who are happy to help you between 10am and 12 noon Tuesday morning.

Do you find our opening hours too restrictive? Worry not – you can access our online audio and e-books 24/7, free of charge by downloading the borrowbox app. Visit [www.worcestershire.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/libraries) to discover more.

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](mailto:alvechurchlib@worcestershire.gov.uk) and check out our Facebook page.

# Letter from the Bishop of Worcester



THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND  
DIOCESE OF  
WORCESTER

As I write this piece, the stock markets have crashed and fear is beginning to mount as the number of coronavirus cases in the UK has risen to over 300. It is difficult to predict where we'll be by the time you read this and it's important that we continue to heed official advice.

Alongside this, the Bishop of St Alban's has come up with four 'golden rules' for Christians which we won't hear from the Government. I commend them to you:

**Golden Rule One.** Each one of us can think about how we can protect and support our neighbours. So much of the public rhetoric is sowing fear about the danger of other people. So, while ensuring you take all the official precautions, offer help and reassurance to others – and don't demonise anyone or any group.

**Golden Rule Two:** Think about who may be suffering most. For those of us who are healthy there is much less to worry about, but the elderly, the housebound and those with chronic health conditions may be very anxious. Could your church do an audit of vulnerable people and share out the responsibility to phone them each day? There's nothing like a friendly voice to offer solace when someone is worried. A smile can bring cheer, even on the phone. If you

visit, follow all the official precautions.

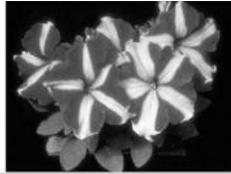
**Golden Rule Three.** Don't give into panic and start hoarding food. There is plenty to go around, so practise the Christian discipline of sharing. Ask your neighbours what they need and do your best to help them get it. If you are self-isolating you will of course need some supplies.

**Golden Rule Four.** Live today to the full. None of us ever know what the future holds. In the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 6. 25 – 34), Jesus challenged his followers to live each day fully and not be afraid. Every time we are tempted to give in to fear we need to make a conscious choice to respond in trust and openness.

To that I would add; don't forget to pray and remember, as we approach Easter, the wonderful truth that lies at the heart of our faith, that perfect love casts out fear. (1 John 4.18)



+John



## April Word Search

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

Babys Breath

Hydrangea

Rose

Black Eyed Susan

Iris

Snapdragon

Daffodil

Lily

Sunflower

Daisy

Petunia

Sweet pea

Heather

Queen Annes Lace

Tulip



# Obituary

## Margaret Mader

Born Margaret Greensmith on 11th December 1929 in Selly Oak, Birmingham to Molly McDonald and Charlie Greensmith.

At the end of the war Mum started training as a nursery nurse at Allens Croft day nursery, Kings Heath and also at Dudley Road Hospital, Birmingham.

After training, Mum worked as a live in private nanny to Anthony and Rosemary Trollope in Stourbridge. There she was responsible their eldest daughter Joanna, now a bestselling author. During that time she met and fell in love with a German ex- prisoner of war Richard Mader.

They married on 6th January 1950 and moved into a tied cottage in Ley End Lane, Hopwood. Paul was born in January 1951, Philip in February 1954 and Peter in December 1955.

The family moved to Birmingham Road Alvechurch in 1957 and not long after Omi, Dads mother, joined them. Two doors away lived Jill Woolley who Mum had first met a few years earlier as she was Paul's reception teacher. They became great friends as they shared many interests, not least the love of nurturing of young minds.

Mum started work at Headless Cross Nursery with Barbara Waring who she had met doing her nursery nurse training and who had become a lifelong friend.

James was born in 1965 and for a while she worked as a daytime private nanny for a family in Rowney Green before returning to Headless Cross nursery.

Mum was always a dedicated church goer and attended St Lawrence's for the 50 years she lived in Alvechurch. She was a keen and

valued member of the WI and the Mothers Union.

When Headless Cross Nursery closed, Mum took on another challenge working for Birmingham Social Services, assisting struggling mothers to care properly for their young children. This roll led to her returning to her first love as a nursery nurse at Cartland Road Nursery in Stirchley. Even when retiring from there, she went back to being a private nanny for a family in Droitwich whilst always finding time for her own grandchildren.

Mums desire to travel took her to Australia to visit the half brothers and sisters she had recently discovered. This was the first of several globetrotting trips she made before and after Dad's death in 2001. She visited Australia twice more embarking on a 30 day bush safari, climbing Ayres Rock and other trips to New Zealand, Canada, and Colorado. She absolutely loved seeing the terracotta army and the great wall in China.

In 2008 Mum moved to Bwlchgwyn, North Wales with oldest son Paul and Sandra. She saw this as a new adventure and continued to enjoy walking in the beautiful countryside and carrying on with church, WI, Scottish dancing and bowls.

As Mum's dementia worsened Paul and Sandra cared for her with the level of devotion that Mum had taught us through the years. Finally when she needed 24 hour care she was wonderfully and sympathetically looked after by the staff at Emral House Nursing Home in Wrexham.

Mum finally passed away with peaceful dignity on Thursday 13th February 2020. In her last few days many of the family were able to visit her, embracing the chance to reflect on her life and remember what an amazing person she was and how privileged we have been to have share her life.

# Flowers for April

	5th April	12th April	19th April	26th April
Sanctuary	LENT	EASTER DAY		
Lady Chapel	LENT	EASTER DAY		
In Memory Of	No flowers			

The Lilies decorating our church at Easter are in memory of our loved ones. If you would like to contribute to the cost please either leave your donation in church with name or names of those to be remembered or contact me direct. I will be in church on Holy Saturday to complete the flower tributes should anyone wish to join me.

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

## From The Registers



### Baptism

*We welcome you into the Lord's family*

23 February    Ariella Jackson



### Funerals and Cremations

*May they rest in the peace of Christ*

16 March    Margaret Mader

# 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 & Grapevine Editor	Mr Ian Price, The Ark, School Lane, 447 7955 thearkalvechurch@yahoo.co.uk

## PCC Special Responsibilities

### Finance and Standing Committee

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



Wednesday 1	7.30pm	Hillside WI: Floral creations from Ginny Davies: The Ark
Thursday 2		No Ark Tots and Toddlers or Ark Cafe
Saturday 4	10.00am	Alvechurch Historical Society: Open Day: Museum, School Lane
Sunday 5	2.00pm	Alvechurch Historical Society: Open Day: Museum, School Lane
	2.30pm	Alvechurch Village Society walk: 'Around Sambourne': led by Martin and Mariea Clarke: Meet at Green Dragon Inn car park, Sambourne, B96 6NU
Monday 6	7.45pm	Alvechurch Historical Society: Speaker George Gascoyne: 'The History of the Lickey Hills': The Ark
Thursday 9		No Ark Tots and Toddlers or Ark Cafe
	<del>6.30pm</del>	<del>Maundy Thursday Communion Service: St Laurence Church</del>
	7.30pm	Rowney Green Horticultural Society: Talk by Rosemary Winnall: "Flower Power": Rowney Green Village Hall
<del>Good Friday 10</del>	<del>12 noon</del>	<del>Reflective service for all churches: Alvechurch Baptist Church</del>
<del>Saturday 11</del>	<del>6.30pm</del>	<del>Easter Vigil: St Laurence Church</del>
<del>Easter Sunday 12</del>	<del>8.00am</del>	<del>Holy Communion (BCP)</del>
	<del>10.30am</del>	<del>Joint Easter Day Communion Service celebration</del>
	<del>6.00pm</del>	<del>Evensong</del>
Tuesday 14		May <b>GRAPEVINE GOES TO PRESS:</b> <i>articles to - <a href="mailto:thearkalvechurch@yahoo.co.uk">thearkalvechurch@yahoo.co.uk</a></i>
Thursday 16		No Ark Tots and Toddlers or Ark Cafe
Thursday 23		No Ark Tots and Toddlers or Ark Cafe
	<del>10.45am</del>	<del>Tiny Tots Service: Sarah Linton: St Laurence Church</del>
		No Ark Cafe today
Sunday 26	11.00am	APCM Meeting: The Ark: all welcome
Thursday 30		No Ark Tots and Toddlers or Ark Cafe No Ark Cafe today