

The Grapevine

THE PARISH MAGAZINE OF ST LAURENCE CHURCH ALVECHURCH



MAY 2019

Online at www.alvechurch-stlaurence.org/monthly-magazine

St Laurence Church Alvechurch

SUNDAY SERVICES

8.00am Holy Communion

Book of Common Prayer Communion Service, will take place on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month. On the other Sundays there will be an 8.00am Book of Common Prayer Communion Service at St Leonard's in Beoley

9.30am Family Service

*with Holy Communion on the 1st Sunday
and Baptisms on the 4th Sunday*

11.15am Parish Eucharist

6.00pm Evensong

On the 4th Sunday of the month at 6pm there will be Sacred Space, a quieter more reflective space for worship

On the 2nd Sunday of the month (4th in January), there will be a United Service (Churches Together in Alvechurch and Rowney Green), rotating between Alvechurch Baptist Church, St Mary's Roman Catholic Church, Rowney Green Shared Church and ourselves

At Rowney Green Shared Church

9.30am Methodist/Anglican Service

DAILY SERVICE

9.00am Monday to Friday in St Laurence Church

ORGANISATIONS

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

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

Bellringers - Sundays at 10.45am

Tuesday Practice at 7.30pm (01527 64077)

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

Ark Cafe - Thursdays during term time at 12.15pm (447 7017)

Home Group - Thursdays 7.30pm at the Coach House (445 2547)

THE ARK

Enquiries to Ian Price 0121 447 7955

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Richard Bubbers writes...

What is more important – winning the argument or building the relationship?

An accountant friend of mine once told me this story: there was a farmer who had three sons and 17 horses. In his will he left one half of the horses to one son, one third of the horses to another son, and one ninth of the horses to the other son. They soon realised that there was a problem, since 17 is not a number which can readily be divided into whole numbers – in this case, whole horses!

The three sons were very unhappy and became so angry that they were in danger of rupturing their family relationships because of disagreement over how their father's will should be carried out.

However, one of the sons wanted to try to find a way to maintain his relationship with his brothers, and, after spending some time reflecting on the problem, he remembered that his father had always gone to a wise neighbour, who also happened to be a farmer, when he was involved in a dispute. He took the time and trouble to persuade his two brothers to go with him and see this wise farmer, who suggested that he lent the three brothers a horse. This meant that the first son could have 9 horses (ie one- half of 18), the second son could have 6 horses (i.e. one-third of 18) and the third son could have 2 horses i.e. one-ninth of 18). This meant therefore that 17 horses were distributed (i.e. $9+6+2$), which left one horse over. The wise neighbour was then able to have his horse back, and the conflict was resolved.

We know that not all problems in life are so readily resolvable, not least the current situation which faces us as a country regarding

the European Union. But the attitude we adopt in facing such difficulties can make a significant difference, especially if it encourages trust between the parties facing the problem.

Wisdom is highly prized in the Bible (e.g. Proverbs 3.13 – 18), and wisdom is needed if we are to solve problems which come our way in our relationships as human beings. Problem solving is close to the heart of God, and ours is a gospel of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5.18 – 19). It is not by chance that in my lifetime methods of conflict dispute resolution or mediation have grown greatly in offering ways of seeking to resolve disputes (at an individual, corporate or national level) by mutual agreement, which otherwise end up in court, with the consequent costs and stress, and a conclusion being imposed on the parties.

The Bible also gives us guidance on our attitudes: be willing to forgive (Matthew 6.14), reserve judgement (Matthew 7.1), be humble (Matthew 5.5), and hold on to hope (Romans 8.24). Scripture also encourages us on the sort of action to take: take the initiative (Matthew 5.22 and 18.15), listen (James 1.19), speak with great care (Ephesians 4.15), talk with God first (Matthew 5.44), and take time over major decisions (Acts 15).

Whether we are trying to find a way through a problem as big as Brexit, or something on a much more personal level, may we remember not just what the arguments are, but also notice the attitude we have, and be honest about our own and others' motives, so that we may increasingly value the relationships which are at risk. Like with the story of the three sons and their horses, who knows what mutually acceptable solutions might then have the opportunity to emerge in the space which opens up.

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Rowney Green Horticultural Society

Lindsay Smith writes...

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

On 9th May we will welcome Darren Rudge and the subject will be "Practical Tubs, Pots and Hanging Baskets". Guests are welcome - £3.50 including refreshments. For more information please do not hesitate to contact Lindsay Smith on 01527 592874.

Hillside at Alvechurch WI

Our April meeting was well attended. After business concluded, Susan Sadler our speaker for the evening was introduced. She works for an Organisation called Redditch Night Stop which supports young homeless people. They provide emergency accommodation, later supported lodgings and ongoing support amongst other things. A wonderful place for vulnerable young adults. An excellent talk and a very worthwhile cause.

We heard reports on a visit enjoyed by members to Cadbury World, the Spring Group meeting and the Group meeting.

A visit is in the planning stage to Lichfield Cathedral; suggested date is June 13th, with the option of a guided tour.

Also many events to look forward to organised by County. The summer trip this year is to Oxford on Monday 15th July.

Our next meeting is on May 1st and is our AGM, where we will be voting on the two resolutions put forward. It should be an interesting evening, and we welcome everyone who would like to join us at The Ark 7.30pm on the first Wednesday in the month.

Rowney Green Flower Club

Deborah Taylor writes...

On Thursday 23rd May we will welcome professional Florist, Sharon Harvey, to demonstrate how to make a number of beautiful flower displays. Come along and join us and enjoy taking in a few tips. All arrangements are raffled at the end, so you could go home with a lovely display.

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

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

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Alvechurch WI

Pam Horsfield writes...

April's meeting began on a sad note with the news that Grayce Sheppard, a member for many years, has sadly passed away. She will be greatly missed and members' memories of her were definitely based on her '*Cakes.. cakes.. and more cakes*' which she generously baked for every occasion and charity. She helped organise the guides for years and was a member of the Trefoil group; she always supported the Alexandra Fete; Alvechurch WI fund raising and of course St Laurence Church. She always had a smile on her face despite problems and will be remembered by all her knew her as a gentle, kind person. Members, visitors and our speaker were then welcomed by Julie our president and the meeting began.

Mariea had a good list of talks/events which members can choose to go to connected with visits around the county but we also focused on special happenings in Alvechurch. April 23rd (Easter Tuesday) is St George's Day when our four local WIs get together for anyone to join us at Alvechurch Village Hall from 2:00 - 4:30pm for Cake and Teas. Do come and join us.

Also, and very important to Alvechurch WI members is our meeting on May 13th when **we celebrate our 90th Birthday Party. A very special occasion indeed. We are the longest serving group to book the Village Hall as Alvechurch WI first met there on May 6th 1929.** This year to celebrate, we're having a wonderful tea party in the hall with all the trimmings we could wish for. After a scrumptious tea we'll be entertained by Betsy Harmony who will take us through the ages with songs from 1929 to 2019 and, hopefully, it will give us all thoughts of how friendship and fun together has held us in the past and is taking us on towards a good future.

Our Speaker, Molly Murray then proceeded to surprise us and make us laugh with her tales of how wearing her '*Little Black Dress*' took her into all sorts of funny and disastrous situations in her experience in her working life. Those who had heard her before kept her story a closely guarded secret so that those who hadn't could appreciate what a character she is. Bee Strachan gave the vote of thanks before we had a time for tea and a chat.

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Alvechurch Historical Society

Hilary Taylor writes...

Our next meeting will be on **Monday 6th May**, which is Mayday bank holiday Monday. Military history expert Ron Gallivan will be presenting an illustrated talk about **“The Sinking of the Athenia”**. The Athenia was the first UK ship to be sunk by German torpedoes during World War II, and 117 civilian passengers and crew were killed. The sinking, in September 1939, was condemned as a war crime.

The following month, on **Monday 3rd June**, we will welcome Diana Clutterbuck to tell us about **“The Surprising MacDonald Sisters”**. The MacDonald’s had local connections in Birmingham, Wolverhampton and The Potteries. Four of their daughters were talented women who married ambitious men. Come along to find out about the well-known writers, artists, politicians and industrialists connected to this remarkable Victorian family.

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

ADVANCED NOTICE

MODEL RAILWAY EXHIBITION In The Ark and St Laurence Church

13th July 10.30am to 4.00pm

Please make a note of this popular annual event in your diary and come and support us if you can.

Proceeds will be for the Church restoration fund, which will include essential work to the tower.

The Ark Cafe



The Ark Cafe returns after the Easter break and our menu for the month of May will be as follows:

May 2 - Somerset Chicken

May 9 - Roast Lamb

May 16 - Glazed Gammon and Parsley Sauce

May 23 - Roast Pork

May 30 - Closed for Half Term

We look forward to seeing you all there and to your continued support.

Parish Prayers

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

May 5 - Old Rectory Lane

May 12 - Pestilence Lane

May 19 - Radford Road

May 26 - Randall Avenue



Table Top Sale - A Great Success



A total amount of £525 was raised from the Bellingers Table Top Sale which took place in The Ark on Saturday 13th April. This amount will go towards the Clock Restoration Fund. We would like to thank all those who came and supported the event in any way.

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Finding joy in our lives!

Bishop Graham reflects on his visit to Morogoro.

'Bwana asifiwe' were the Swahili words I kept hearing during a recent visit to Tanzania. It's used as a greeting and means *'Praise the Lord'*.

As a group from the Diocese of Worcester visiting our sisters and brothers in Christ in the Diocese of Morogoro, we were caught up in many times of praise. Together we sang and prayed, talked and danced. People, young and old, seemed to almost burst with joy; the women clicking their tongues from side to side in their mouths to make the unique ululating sound.

Their joyfulness will long remain with me. As we travelled around the diocese, we kept meeting people, especially in remote villages, who, more often than not, had little economic means and little 'stuff', yet had lives that were overflowing with generosity, delight, hope and joy.

This shouldn't have come as a surprise to me. Many years ago, C.S. Lewis' book "Surprised by Joy" opened my eyes to an understanding that joy can be found in the depths of our being. It is the pearl of great price.

Words of Mother Julian of Norwich that "the fullness of joy is to see God in all things" came back to me as I looked at the joyous faces of people eating a simple meal of rice and plantain.

I realised in Morogoro that the Western Church has too often lost its pearl and desperately needs to re-find it. We've stopped expecting to see God in all things and need to re-open our eyes.

I wonder where joy features in your life and in the life of your church?

The Gospel turns despair into hope, scarcity into abundance, sadness into joy. Do our lives reflect that? Or do we tend to wear our funeral faces too frequently?

Pope Francis recently said, "*Christians should share their joy, point to a horizon of beauty and invite others to a delicious banquet*". He went on to say that "*an evangelising community is filled with joy; it knows how to rejoice always*".

As God's Kingdom People in the Diocese of Worcester, when might you be joyful today and how might you share that with someone else?

St Laurence churchyard

URGENT HELP WANTED



Spring is here and the grass is growing, especially in the churchyard. We urgently need one or preferably 2 drivers for the ride-on mower to take the place of a couple of volunteers who've had to step down this year. Our ride-on mower is used on the larger open areas and only needs using every 2 weeks, depending on weather. Monday mornings would be ideal but that can vary to suit someone who could help us out here.

If you can help, please contact Andy Humphries on 0121 445 5955 or email andyhum@btinternet.com

Mindfulness: Simple Foundations

A Day of Mindfulness in
Worcestershire

Saturday June 8th 2019
10am – 4pm, Cost: £25

The Ark, St Laurence Church, School Lane, Alvechurch,
B48 7SB

Led by Michael Roberts

For more information, and to book your place, visit
www.themindfulnessstree.org.uk
or contact Michael directly
on 07552 689706

Fiona Bunford - visits from Montgomery Heights Zimbabwe

We have been able to arrange a visit from **Fiona Bunford**, who will be over in this country from **Montgomery Heights children's care home in Zimbabwe**: this will take place in **The Ark** on **Monday 6th May at 5pm** (till 6pm), and will be an opportunity to be updated on what is happening at Montgomery.

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Events at Alvechurch Library

We have a regular story time for pre-school children every Tuesday at 11am. Join us on Tuesday 7th May for a Poppy and Sam Farmyard Tales story time. Enjoy the characters and animals from Apple Tree Farm, and of course the famous Little Yellow Duck to spot on every page.

Young People's Reward Card Double Stamp Event

Join us on Saturday 11th May from 11am-12pm for a fun games filled hour of fun in the library. For young people aged 11-24 years, don't forget the double stamps!

Hey Clay Workshop

Art and Soul Creative will be holding a **Hey Clay Workshop** at Alvechurch Library on Saturday 18th May from 11am-12.30pm. Create an imaginative selfie tile, pet portrait or mini garden critter. Clay will be used to make an expressive self-portrait, portrait of a much-loved pet or a mini sculpture of a frog or hedgehog. Make your own pottery masterpiece out of clay and try out coloured slip to add extra interest. If you have an idea in mind, maybe bring a photo or picture or use an image straight off a smart phone! Suitable for adults and children of all ages. Parents are requested to remain at the Library during the session and are welcome to participate. Turn up on the day - but to be sure of a place, booking is advised. There is a charge of £1.50 per tile.

Fun Family Craft Learning Course 16895

This short course with Jenny is designed to get your imaginations whizzing with different sessions of different crafty activities for parents and their children aged 5 and above using a wide range of resources Monday 3rd, 10th and 17th of June 3.30-4.30pm. Cost £15.00/Free (subject to conditions). If you earn less than £15,700 per year individually (not partner's wages) or you are unemployed and on benefits you can attend our Family Learning Course for Free. Please book in advance.

One off Children's Events will also be promoted

through our Facebook page, so check it out for the latest information

Patrick's ongoing French and Spanish classes

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

Crown Meadow Library Visits

We shall be welcoming classes from Crown Meadow First school during May and June to learn all about the library and spark the joy of reading and stories.

Chess Club

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

Chatter Books Group

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

Bus Pass and Blue Badges

Bus Pass and Blue Badge applications or renewals can be completed at Alvechurch Library. Pop in and we will be able to help.

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

Ark Tots and Toddlers

at St Laurence church

We welcome Mums, Dads and Grandparents with children from birth up to school age, to come along to The Ark to our Stay and Play group. We meet every Thursday 9.30am – 11.10am during school term time.

It's a time to chat and to play in a friendly environment, with refreshments and a range of toys. Each session then finishes with singing time. Although there is no specific charge, we welcome donations towards the running costs of the facilities, refreshments, toys and equipment.

Our sessions during the Summer term will be **May 2nd** to **May 23rd** and **June 6th** to **July 18th**.
So do come along and join us, as often as you wish. Spread the word and bring friends.

Tiny Tots in Church

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

This fun, relaxed and informal Tiny Tots service is designed especially for babies and children, so they can move around and join in in their own way, with no worries about restlessness and noise!

This term's services will be on
May 23rd *The Lost Sheep*
June 27th *The Boy Who Shared His Lunch*

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



Obituary

Muriel Betty Woollaston

Muriel Woolaston was born on 18th March 1931, and died just short of her 88th birthday, on 4th March 2019.

Muriel was someone who loved life and lived it to the full. She loved her family, her son, grandsons and her 3 great grandchildren. She loved her dogs, and her garden. Indeed hardly a day went by that she didn't spend time in the garden at her home in Rowney Green. She loved being outdoors, whether walking or sailing, which she continued to do until she was 80! She loved wining and dining, she loved debate and discussion. She loved her church, Muriel was a committed member of St Laurence church, always sitting in the same seat at the 11:00 am Sunday service. She even travelled to Peru to visit the Partnership Diocese and was a member of the last group to visit Oberamagau, nine years ago.

Muriel and Neville used to keep chickens and also a few cattle, and many people in Rowney

Green remember buying their eggs from her. Muriel was born in Sparkbrook in Birmingham in 1931, the youngest of 11 children. During the war she was evacuated to Warwickshire where she lived with a family and learned her love of the outdoors. Later she met Donald Probyn who was doing his National Service with the RAF, they married and had one son, Nicholas, who was born in Solihull. They were publicans. They worked in the Birmingham area before moving to Cornwall, later returning to the Midlands. On their return they lived with family in Sheldon, Muriel working at the Rover to save up enough money to buy their own home in Wythall. Eventually the marriage ended, and Muriel married Neville Woollaston, working with him at the mill in Shirley before they retired to Rowney Green over 40 years ago.

Muriel died on 4th March and her funeral, led by Sue Phillips Wardle took place at St Laurence church on 4th April. She is buried in the churchyard along with her late husband Neville. She will be sadly missed by her family, her many friends, and the congregation of St Laurence church.

Flowers for MAY

	5th May	12th May	19th May	26th May
Sanctuary		Monica Clarke		Alvechurch WI
Lady Chapel		Monica Clarke		Alvechurch WI
In memory of		her mother Phyllis Ward		

A synopsis of Easter in next month's Grapevine as the magazine has not gone to press at this time. However, I am always happy, at any time, to receive offers of help in providing flowers for our beautiful church.

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



Baptism

We welcome you into the Lord's family

24 March Oliver Michael George



Funerals and Cremations

May they rest in the peace of Christ

4 April Muriel Woollaston
 16 April Grayce Sheppard

Who's who

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Licensed Lay Ministers	Mr Dick Russell, 2 Gothic Cottages, Radford Rd, 445 3083 Mrs Sue Phillips Wardle, 445 0505 Mrs Helen Ayling, "Tarncroft", Hewell Lane, Vigo, 445 6176
Authorised Lay Ministers	Mrs Helena Allen Mr Martin Allen, 445 5605 Mrs Philippa Brakes, 56 Callow Hill Road, 445 3983 Mr Graham Clark, The Coach House, School Lane, 445 2547 Mr Michael Fletcher, 13 Red Lion Street, 447 8451 Mrs Annette Thomas, 8 Snake Lane, 445 5180
Churchwardens	Mr Graham Clark, The Coach House, School Lane, 445 2547 Mr Mick Fletcher, 13 Red Lion Street, 447 8451
Deputy Wardens	Mr Colin Bennett, 122 Redditch Road, 01527 64077 Mr David Richmond, The Ferns, Chapel Lane, 445 3569 Mrs Alison Smith, 12 Hollington Road, 447 7293 Mrs Janet Wright, 28 Callow Hill Road, Alvechurch, B48 7LP Mr Andy Notley, 445 5653 Mr Roger Wardle, Withybed Green, 445 0505
PCC Secretary	Mrs Lysandra Notley, lysnotley@icloud.com, 07989327043
Parish Safeguarding Officer	Mrs Sue Lambert, 7 Cygnet Close, B48 7PX, 07769110608
PCC Treasurer	Mrs Janet Wright, 28 Callow Hill Road, Alvechurch, B48 7LP
Organist & Choirmaster	Mr David Richmond, The Ferns, Chapel Lane, 445 3569
Electoral Roll Officer	Mrs Janet Wright, 28 Callow Hill Road, 445 4335
Tower Captain	Mr Colin Bennett, 122 Redditch Road, 01527 64077
Singing Group	Mrs Lynda Wolstencroft, 49 Hinton Avenue, 445 3212
Ark Tots & Toddlers	Mrs Sarah Linton, sarah100work@gmail.com
Flower Co-ordinator	Mrs Ann Thurrell, Top Barn, Scarfield Hill, 447 7668
Ark Bookings Secretary & Grapevine Editor	Mr Ian Price, The Ark, School Lane, 447 7955 thearkalvechurch@yahoo.co.uk

PCC Special Responsibilities

Finance and Standing Committee

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

Buildings, Fabric and Churchyard for Mission Committee

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

Children and Youth Committee

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

Missionary Committee

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

Calendar for MAY



- Wednesday 1 7.30pm Hillside WI: AGM: The Ark
- Thursday 2 9.30am Ark Tots and Toddlers (Mums The Word): Sarah Linton
12.15pm Ark cafe: Somerset Chicken
- Monday 6 5.00pm Fiona Bunford visit to give an update from Montgomery Heights
Children's Care Home in Zimbabwe: The Ark
7.45pm Alvechurch Historical Society: Illustrated talk about by Ron
Gallivan: "*The Sinking of the Athenia*": The Museum, School Lane
- Tuesday 7 7.30pm Plenary Session for the Lent Groups: The Ark
- Thursday 9 9.30am Ark Tots and Toddlers (Mums The Word): Sarah Linton
12.15pm Ark cafe: Roast Lamb
7.30pm Rowney Green Horticultural Society: Darren Rudge "*Practical
Tubs, Pots and Hanging Baskets*": Rowney Green Village Hall
- Monday 13 7.30pm Ark Angels WI: Wood Turning Demonstration: The Ark
7.30pm Alvechurch WI: 90th Birthday Party: Alvechurch Village Hall
- Tuesday 14 **June Grapevine goes to press articles to - thearkalvechurch@yahoo.co.uk**
- Thursday 16 9.30am Ark Tots and Toddlers (Mums The Word): Sarah Linton
12.15pm Ark cafe: Glazed Gammon and Parsley Sauce
- Saturday 18 7 for 7.30pm The Midland Sinfonia: Astaria String Quartet: in the second half -
'The Choice Is Yours': St Laurence Church
- Thursday 23 9.30am Ark Tots and Toddlers (Mums The Word): Sarah Linton
10.45am Tiny Tots Service in church: Sarah Linton
12.15pm Ark cafe: Roast Pork
7.30pm Rowney Green Flower Club: Demonstration by professional
florist Sharon Harvey : Rowney Green Village Hall
- Thursday 30 No Ark Tots and Toddlers (Mums The Word): Half term
No cafe today: Half Term