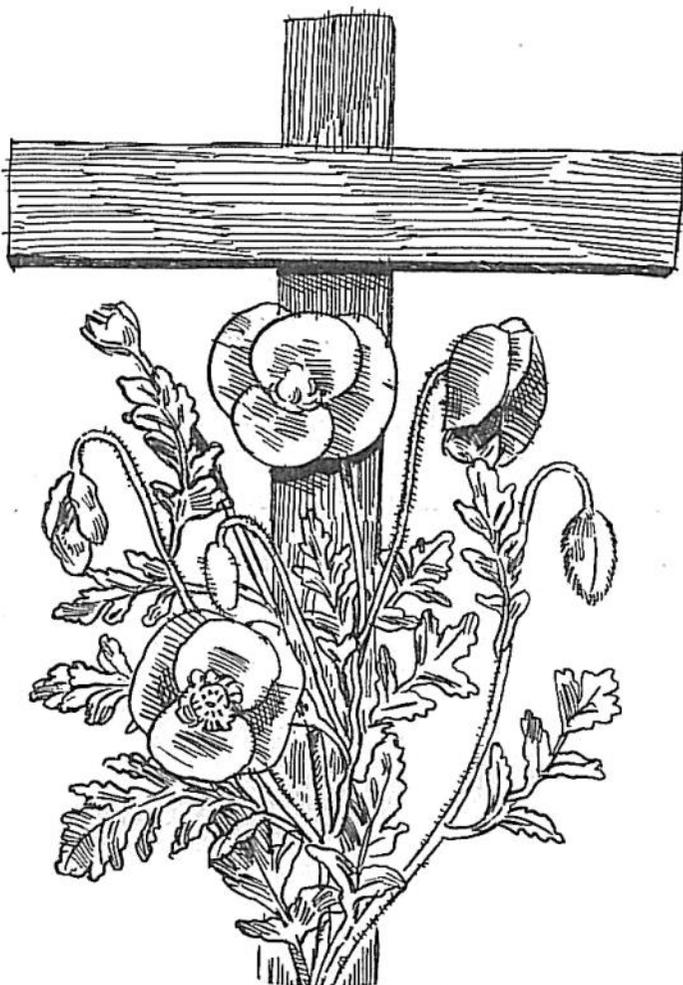


The Grapevine

THE PARISH MAGAZINE OF ST LAURENCE CHURCH ALVECHURCH



NOVEMBER 2018

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)

**Women's Fellowship - 4th Wednesday of the month at 2.00pm
in Tanyard Lane Community Centre (445 2125)**

Mum's the Word - Thursdays 9.30am to 11am in The Ark (sarah100work@gmail.com)

Tiny Tots Service - 10.45am 4th Thursday of the month

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

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

THE ARK

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Sue Phillips Wardle writes...



The ‘war to end all wars’: a reflection on the centenary of the end of World War I

They described it as ‘*the war to end all wars*’. The unbelievable carnage of the first world war shocked a generation, led to massive social changes, but it did not end all wars. The children of the first world war were the adults of World War 2. Without doubt lessons had been learned: advances had been made in the weapons and strategies of war, families had learned survival strategies, and those who literally survived had learned about both the guilt and the joy of survival. But an end to all wars? No. Conflict continues all over the world. There seems to be no end to the inventiveness of mankind when it comes to domination of the opponent.

A familiar Bible reading in the lead up to Christmas describes the child to be born as ‘Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Prince of Peace’, and promises that under his authority there would be endless peace. Isaiah the prophet wrote this around 8 centuries before Jesus was born. Whatever has happened to this promise of endless peace? Is this endless peace for this world or the world to come?

Then there’s another question when it comes to the Great War: whose side was God on? In each nation prayers were offered up asking God for victory. Did the victory of the Allies mean God was on their side? Of course not. As the apostle Paul puts it: ‘God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself’, John’s gospel tells us ‘God did not spare his only Son but gave him up for us all’. The Christian message is that each person regardless of nationality, colour or creed is precious to God.

Every name carved on every war memorial in every country represents an individual. As a

collective, we remember them as the keynote song from ‘Warhorse’ goes, ‘Only remembered for what they have done’, whereas the Bible teaches that God knows them for who they are, each one precious and loved by Him.

There’s a verse in the second part of Isaiah’s prophecy written at a time when the people were feeling particularly hopeless. It’s about remembering, about not being forgotten. God says to the people who were feeling abandoned, “I will not forget you, see I have inscribed you on the palm of my hand”.

This month, on the Centenary of the end of ‘the war to end all wars’, we remember again those whose lives were taken from them. They include names that have personal significance to some of us, indeed their faded photos may still be on display in our homes and their personalities engraved on our hearts. However, the majority are simply names inscribed in stone, only remembered for what they have done! But for God each one is precious, each one known not just for what they have done but for their unique characteristics, including of course the unique way in which each one made what they could of the terrible situation in which they were placed. And the mystery of the unseen world leaves us with hope that they will have their place in the Kingdom and rule of God, the God of peace.

This year’s Remembrance Day marks 100 years since the end of the first world war. In the Western world it is a poignant celebration of members of our families and communities. It is also a reminder that wars have not ceased as we remember the many who have died or been maimed in more recent wars.

Hope of Christian calling is for this world and for the unseen world.

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Parish Prayers

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



Callow Hill Road – 4 November

Canal Side – 11 November

Chapel Lane – 18 November

Cooper Hill – 25 November

Gordon Parsons has contributed this quote from Nicky Gumbel:

*"Churches are not museums that display perfect
people. They are hospitals where the wounded, hurt,
injured and broken find healing."*

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Crafty Ladies Christmas Sale at Alvechurch Library

Monday 19th November 2018

10am – 1pm
and
2pm – 4pm

Lovely crafts and cakes for sale to
raise money for Village Groups and
Charities

Rowney Green Horticultural Society

Lindsay Smith writes...

Rowney Green Horticultural Society meets at The Village Hall on the second Thursday each month at 7.30pm. The meeting on the 8th November 2018 will be the Annual General Meeting followed by Cheese and Wine. All members are most welcome on the evening re. the election of the Committee. The Society is looking for new additions to the Committee, so if you feel you would like to give it a try please speak to a Committee Member on the evening. For more information please telephone Lindsay Smith on 01527 592874.

Alvechurch Historical Society

Hilary Taylor writes...

AUTUMN MEETINGS

Our next two speakers will both present illustrated talks, about two very different aspects of twentieth century social history.

Monday 5th November

Ray Sturdy: "The Home Guard: the real Dad's Army"

Was it all really all like the TV comedy series? Ray will present true memories of our wartime Home Guard. As working civilians they had an eventful time training to protect Britain from an unknown future. Ray supports the work of "Cancer Research UK" through his talks.

Monday 3rd December

Philip Jarvis: "The Changing Face of Redditch Railways"

The twenty-first century has already seen an upgrade of the line from Barnt Green to Redditch, but what was happening during the previous hundred years? A nostalgic trip back to the age of steam & diesel.

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. Visitors are always welcome, just come along, or contact our chairman, Anne Humphries on 0121 445

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The Midland Sinfonia

Tchaikovsky Serenade

Saturday 3 November 7.30pm

St Laurence Church, Alvechurch

We are now looking forward to our 2018-19 season; we are reverting to having our concerts on Saturday evenings with the doors opening at 7pm for a pre-concert drink. We are very lucky to have a splendid professional orchestra here in Alvechurch. Concerts feature a wide variety of music from all eras. If you have not got the new programme then do pick one up in Alvechurch, the Artrix, Bromsgrove Library or have a look at the details on our website, www.midlandsinfonia.co.uk, or indeed download a copy.

Tickets: on the door £15.00, in advance £14 from 'Gin & Pickles', The Square, Alvechurch or online at www.midlandsinfonia.co.uk.

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7040

The Ark Café



Our menu for November will be as follows:

Listed below are all the details for the Cafe for November and for our usual two Christmas lunches, which I hope you will all be able to support:

- November 1st - Somerset Chicken**
- November 8th - Roast Pork**
- November 15th - Roast Lamb**
- November 22nd - Glazed Gammon**

- November 29th - First Christmas Roast Turkey Lunch (Ticket Only)**
- December 6th - Second Christmas Roast Turkey Lunch (Ticket Only)**



If you would like to book for either of the Christmas Lunches, it will cost £15 and you can do so either on a Thursday lunchtime at the Ark or by contacting Ian Price on 0121 447 7955 at the Ark office Mon-Fri 9am to 2pm.

You will be assured of a good value Roast Turkey Lunch with a Home Made Dessert, Cheese and Biscuits, Tea or Coffee and Wine all included in the price together with a Raffle. At the first Christmas Lunch we are also being entertained by Irene and Tom, who played and sang for us last year. At the second one, David Richmond will be playing to us on the keyboard with various Christmas carols

We look forward to your support over the next few weeks and at the Christmas Lunches.



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Stained Glass windows

You will know that for some time we have been raising money so that the stained glass windows in the church can be repaired and conserved. I am pleased to report that we have now raised sufficient money to enable that work to go ahead.

Thanks to the support of our congregation, our local community, friends of St Laurence both past and present and the Heritage Lottery Fund we have been able to raise the sum of nearly £200,000 to enable the windows and stonework to be repaired and conserved, and other high level repair tasks to be undertaken. Every one of the 27 windows in the church will be affected.

St Laurence Church is very fortunate to be decorated with some extremely fine stained glass windows. Several of these were designed and made by famous glass artists and contain some unique features. However, 160 years of summers and winters, heat and cold, wind and rain have taken their toll on the structure of these windows. (This deterioration has actually been made worse by the plastic which was put up in the 1970s to prevent vandalism!). The lead beading has deteriorated and become unstable, pieces of glass have fallen out and many of the windows are no longer weather-tight. The stonework surrounds of some windows have crumbled.

Every window will require some or all of the following: replacement of broken or missing glass, re-touching of painted portions, re-leading of the panels, renewal of the supporting structures, repair to surrounding stonework, and replacement of the external polycarbonate covering with black painted stainless steel mesh. Full details of the work associated with each particular window will be displayed on a board by that window inside the church. The clerestory windows (the ones in the top of the nave walls) are also being repaired and made weathertight. That hopefully will go some way towards reducing the down-drafts we feel in church.

We will be taking the opportunity afforded by the scaffolding needed to access the windows of repairing the north aisle gully, the stonework on the tower and the woodwork of the South Porch at the same time.

Please bear with us and the tradesmen as they work on repairing and conserving our heritage so that it will last another 160 years.

Thank you for your support.



LOTTERY FUNDED

Alvechurch WI

Pam Horsfield writes...

Our October meeting was a cheerful affair as we celebrated 100 years of the Worcestershire Federation of WIs. Three members were celebrating birthdays this month; other members were choosing to go to either the lunch with Kate Bottley at the Chateau Impney, or to the federation day out to Chester.

Our supper consisted of fish and chips delivered to the hall and then we had a series of quizzes created by Julie, our President, and her sister Angela. The main prize for the highest score was won by Judy Lakeman and the second for a photo quiz by Eileen Battle.

Next month we have one of our favourite speakers, Paul Harding, joining us. His talk on Monday 12th November will be on Remembrance Day and the Armistice, following the previous day's special services commemorating the end of WW1.

All visitors are especially welcome to this meeting, so bring all your family members if they would like to hear Paul speak.

Our meeting is held at 7:30pm in the Village Hall and we always have a poster advertising this in the display case near to the chip shop in Alvechurch.

St Laurence Women's Fellowship

Jill Woolley writes...



Our speaker for our September meeting had to cancel at the last minute but our Speakers Secretary Ros Tyler contacted Pam and John local entertainers who live next door to the Centre to pop round and entertain us. John sang a selection of songs through the decades, accompanying himself on guitar and ukulele. It was a very enjoyable afternoon - thank you Pam and John for helping us out.

At our meeting on November 28th Catherine Clark will be bringing along a selection of hats for us to see.

Our Christmas meeting will be on December 12th- slightly earlier in the month when we will be sharing a Christmas buffet together.

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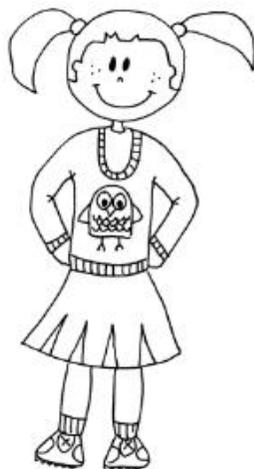
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fall
leaves
pumpkin
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harvest



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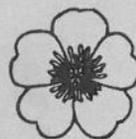
Friday 9 November 2018
7.30–9.30pm

Alvechurch Middle School

Alvechurch Community Choir invite you to a concert to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Armistice.



We will be joined by:
Cantare Choir
Crown Meadow Peace Choir
The Acoustic Belles
The Withybed Poets



Entry is free, but you will need a ticket as numbers are limited.

Tickets are available from choir members, The Lounge,
or by calling 0121 445 5957.

(If you have a ticket you no longer need, please return it
or phone the number above.)



*The event is supported by
Alvechurch Parish Council,
Alvechurch Village Society
and the Alvechurch schools.*



Christmas Tree Festival

Alvechurch Baptist Church

November 30th to December 4th

Come and enjoy a village festival set amongst Christmas Trees decorated by twenty village organisations.

The theme this year is *Celebrate Hope* and we wish the Christmas celebrations to extend through the village to a community who experience little hope – the homeless. All festival proceeds therefore will go to two local charities:

The Birmingham **Choir with No Name** is made up of people who have experienced homelessness, or have found themselves marginalised, and provides its members with a safe space, support and performance opportunities, enabling them to tackle the challenges in their lives, and move away from homelessness long-term.

St Basils Centre Birmingham

St Basils works with young people who are homeless, helping over 5000 young people per year across the West Midlands to regain stability through providing accommodation and teaching new skills which enable plans to be made for the future.

Festival Programme

Friday Nov 30th

6.00pm Mulled Wine and Tree viewing after the Village Lights Switch On. Carols will play in the forecourt every evening for an hour.

Saturday Dec 1st

10.00am - 3.00pm – the church will be open for the trees to be viewed.

3.00pm Christmas Family film afternoon - 'Polar Express' . £2.00 each or £5 per family. Tickets available on the door or from The Lounge.

Sunday Dec 2nd

10.30am Morning Worship : Hope through Christmas, including members of the Choir With No Name telling their story.

4.00pm Community Advent Carol Service based on the carols chosen by village organisations for their trees.

Monday Dec 3rd

10.00am until 12.15pm students from Alvechurch Middle School will visit to see the trees and take part in workshops on Homelessness run by St Basils.

1.00pm - 4.30pm the church will be open for tree-viewing.

7.30pm. Dine among the Trees. £10 per person for a two-course meal including a glass of wine and entertainment. Tickets available from The Lounge.

Tuesday Dec 4th

10.00am - 1.00pm – the church will be open for the trees to be seen.

3.30pm - 4.45pm – an after-school Christingle Service with activities and refreshments.

7.30pm – the Grand Festival Concert with local bands The Stompies, Dirty Brass, Six Five Specials and Paddywack Ukes, £7 per person. Tickets available on the door or from The Lounge.

Throughout the Festival we will have a large Advent Calendar in the church foyer. We would like people to bring small gifts and chocolates to put in the pockets. All gifts will be given to The Choir with No Name

Please help us to make a difference and to give hope to those who experience homelessness – whilst having fun!



Letter from Archdeacon of Dudley



By Nikki Groarke

In recent years I have often visited Top Church, Dudley, as plans have come together to make it a Resourcing Church. Meetings have taken place in a back room, as the main worship area is huge and hard to heat. When I have been involved in Sunday services, the tiny congregation have been dwarfed by the cavernous building which they have struggled so faithfully to maintain.

It was a delightful experience therefore to walk into the church one recent Sunday to be greeted with well over a hundred people of all ages, ethnic backgrounds and church traditions gathered to hear the recently appointed Resourcing Church Leader, the Revd James Treasure, outline the church's unfolding vision. There was a real buzz!

Home-made cakes and good coffee were served, activities were provided for children and young people, and using an informative PowerPoint presentation, James shared the Top Church story, past, present and future, and

explained about the changes planned to enable the church to be fit for purpose for the next 200 years.

Further discussion then took place over plenty of delicious healthy, vegetarian food, served in compostable trays with wooden forks. These details underlined the message James and the team he is forming want to communicate.

I came away inspired and encouraged, hopeful about what will grow in and around Top Church in the coming years, but also challenged about attention to detail. Is the message of welcome, inclusion, care for the environment and whole-life discipleship we preach in our churches also fleshed out in our actions? As Kingdom People do we model lives of integrity? What is communicated to newcomers potentially exploring faith in our churches if we serve unfairly traded coffee in plastic cups and ask for a contribution?

We don't have to be a resourcing church to be welcoming and attractive and holistic in our approach. We could all perhaps identify one small detail in our building or welcome, which if given a few moments' thought and attention, could change the experience next week for those who cross the threshold. What might it be in your place of worship?

A thought-provoking reflection from Margaret Haste POLITICS & RELIGION

How do you feel about mixing politics with religion? Should it be the case, as in the words of the song that *"you can't have one without the other"* or should they be kept in separate, watertight compartments where ne'er the twain shall meet? In his recent address to the TUC Conference on the theme Social and Tax Justice, Archbishop Justin Welby made no apology for mixing the two. *"By the way, there's quite a lot of God in this. It's sort of my job"*. He began by quoting from Mary's Magnificat - *'He has filled the hungry with good things and the rich he has sent empty away'*. Her song, he said, was the pattern for who we should be and what our society should be. The message was political, but not party political. Turning to taxes, he said that not paying them spoke of the absence of commitment to our shared humanity. Referring to vast companies like Amazon and other online traders, he said that they were getting away with paying next to nothing in tax as well as not paying their workers a real living wage. The Archbishop reminded Conference that it had "profound Christian roots" and he spoke of the need for Unions in the gig economy to support the weak in the face of unfettered capitalism. The next day he was castigated in the press with a number of public figures stating that he should keep his nose out of politics and stick to his religious role.

So there you have it...what do you think?



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Hillside at Alvechurch WI

Linda Helmore writes...

At our last meeting held on 3rd October we welcomed Trevor Langley who gave a very informative and interactive talk about Thomas Oken.

The talk was given with Trevor Langley presenting himself as Thomas Oken and wearing traditional dress for the era of Henry VII. Through questions from the group his life was detailed from Thomas Oken being born poor and from a humble beginning to becoming a very rich man and Master of the Guild. In his will Thomas Oken left all his many properties and money to the poor of Warwick and the charity still exists to this day. The talk was followed by tea and a selection of homemade cakes.

At our next meeting, which will be held at **the Ark on Wednesday 7th November**, we will be entertained by a talk and the Hand Bell Ringers from Kings Norton Church.

New members are very welcome.

'ARK SUPPER CLUB'

Saturday 24th November 2018 at 7pm

4 course meal with welcome drink £30 per head

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A donation will be made to the church restoration fund

LIMITED AVAILABILITY

You can also get more information about this event, and the menu, from Ian Price at The Ark - Tel: 0121 447 7955 or Email: thearkalvechurch@yahoo.co.uk

Flowers for NOVEMBER

	4 November	11 November	21 November	28 November
Sanctuary		Remembrance Sunday		
Lady Chapel		Remembrance Sunday		

I was so thankful to have help for last month's Harvest Thanksgiving. Monica Clarke, although not able to help on the day, very kindly provided foliage arrangements for the windows beforehand. Elizabeth Clement, Jill Johnson, Brenda Davies and Jill Woolley who brought along Dorothy Davenport who also gave us her expert advice. Thanks also to Caroline Hopcraft who always brings along armfuls of Asters from her garden. I think all agreed our church looked magnificent. Prayers answered.

This month there are only two Sundays when we would like to have some arrangements before we go into Advent, when traditionally there are no flowers again until Christmas.

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



Weddings

Those whom God has joined together

29 September Andrew Wilson and Joanne Hall



Funerals and Cremations

May they rest in the peace of Christ

27 September Eveleen Best

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 Mrs Sue Phillips Wardle, Withybed Green, 445 3620 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 Mr Andy Notley, 445 5653 Mr Roger Wardle, Withybed Green, 445 3620
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
Mum's the Word	Mrs Sarah Linton, sarah100work@gmail.com
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)	Mr Ian Price, The Ark, School Lane, 447 7955
& Grapevine advertising Grapevine Editor)	thearkalvechurch@yahoo.co.uk

PCC Special Responsibilities

Finance and Standing Committee

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

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 NOVEMBER



Thursday 1	9.30am	Mums The Word: Sarah Linton
	12.15pm	Ark cafe: Somerset Chicken
Saturday 3	7 for 7.30pm	The Midland Sinfonia: Tchaikovsky Serenade: St Laurence Church
Monday 5	7.45pm	Alvechurch Historical Society: Talk by Ray Sturdy: <i>'The Home Guard: the real Dad's Army'</i> : Museum, School Lane
Wednesday 7	7.30pm	Hillside WI: Talk: Hand Bell Ringers, Kings Norton Church: The Ark
Thursday 8	9.30am	Mums The Word: Sarah Linton
	12.15pm	Ark cafe: Roast Pork
	7.30pm	Rowney Green Horticultural Society: AGM: Peace Hall Rowney Gr
Friday 9	7.30pm	Alvechurch Concert for Peace: Alvechurch Middle School: FREE but a ticket is required for numbers (see page 12 for details)
Monday 12	7.30pm	Ark Angels WI: Drumming: The Ark
	7.30pm	Alvechurch WI: Talk by Paul Harding on Remembrance Day and the Armistice: Village Hall, Alvechurch
Wednesday 14		December GRAPEVINE GOES TO PRESS <i>Articles to thearkalvechurch@yahoo.co.uk</i>
Thursday 15	9:30am	Mums The Word: Sarah Linton
	12.15pm	Ark cafe: Roast Lamb
	7.00pm	Positivity/Happiness Boot Camp with Alicia Benbow: The Ark
Monday 19	10.00am	Crafty Ladies Christmas Sale: Alvechurch Library
	& 2.00pm	
Thursday 22	9:30am	Mums The Word: Sarah Linton
	10.45am	Tiny Tots Service: Sarah Linton
	12.15pm	Ark cafe: Glazed Gammon
	7.00pm	Positivity/Happiness Boot Camp with Alicia Benbow: The Ark
Saturday 24	7.00pm	Ark Supper Club: 4 course meal and welcome drink: Enjoy restaurant quality food at The Ark: advanced bookings only
Wednesday 28	2.00pm	St Laurence Women's Fellowship: Talk by Catherine Clark: Selection of Hats: Tanyard Centre
Thursday 29	9:30am	Mums The Word: Sarah Linton
	12.15pm	Roast Turkey Christmas Lunch: The Ark: advanced tickets only
	7 .00pm	Positivity/Happiness Boot Camp with Alicia Benbow: The Ark