

# The Grapevine

THE PARISH MAGAZINE OF ST LAURENCE CHURCH ALVECHURCH



**FEBRUARY 2017**

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*

## At Rowney Green Shared Church

### **9.30am Methodist/Anglican Service**

*with Holy Communion on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month*

## DAILY SERVICE

### **9.00am Monday to Friday In St Laurence Church**

## ORGANISATIONS

<b>Sunday Club</b>	<b>Sundays at 9.30am in the Church and Ark (445 1854)</b>
<b>Choir</b>	<b>Thursdays at 7.45pm in Church (445 3569)</b>
<b>Bellringers</b>	<b>Sundays at 10.30am and 5.30pm Tuesday Practice at 7.30pm (01527 64077)</b>
<b>Women's Fellowship</b>	<b>4th Wednesday of the month at 2.00pm in Tanyard Lane Community Centre (445 2125)</b>
<b>Mum's the Word</b>	<b>Thursdays at 9.30am in The Ark (07792535661) Tiny Tots Service 10.15am 1st Thursday of the month</b>
<b>Ark Café</b>	<b>Thursdays during term time at 12.15pm (447 7017)</b>
<b>Home Group</b>	<b>Thursdays, 7.30pm at the Coach House (445 2547)</b>

## THE ARK

**Enquiries to Ian Price 0121 447 7955**



## Sue Phillips writes..

By the time you read this Donald Trump will have taken up residence in the White House and goodness knows what new rumours about his personal integrity will be clogging up twitter boxes. Does that mean he'll be a bad president, who knows? But I am not alone in finding it hard to trust someone whose integrity is under question, which is perhaps why the media is quick to publicise the misdemeanours of our leaders. We are all capable of making bad choices, and the Christian message of forgiveness is music to the ears of many who find the burden of personal guilt hard to bear. Admission of fault can be an attractive quality in a leader, as well as a desirable quality in a partner or a friend. Love, acceptance and forgiveness are key ingredients for lasting relationships

And by the time you read this I'll be packing my bags and brushing up my Spanish in preparation for my next trip to visit our linked churches in Peru, and our friend, now Bishop, Alejandro Mesco. Now here's a relationship that has stood the test of time, a relationship with integrity and mutual respect at its core. As you will read on page 6 Bishop John Inge is making another visit to Peru following his last trip in 2012, I was fortunate to have been part of that trip and I'll be joining him in this visit too.

In 2012 I spent a couple of extra weeks once the team had left, extending my visit to include a fascinating time at the Mission church of San Felipe up in the Colca canyon. Our friend who has a real heart for the

marginalised and the poor, has a track record of establishing new missions, so it's no surprise that he now has the title of Missionary Bishop. His latest mandate is to the cities of Chiclayo, Cajamarca and Cusco. They share little, beyond starting with the same letter of the alphabet: Chiclayo is a colonial city near the Pacific coast in the northernmost part of Peru, gateway to some wonderful archaeological sites; Cajamarca is 5 hrs away in the northern Andes whilst Cusco, the must-see tourist destination, is in central southern Peru (and where every sign of the underlying poverty of this deeply divided country is literally swept off the streets!).

It would be great to think our visit will make a significant contribution to Alejandro's missionary endeavour, but of course he's the one with a nose for a project that will make a difference to peoples' lives. What I've learned is that our place is to support and encourage. seeing things at close quarters makes it a lot easier to do that, to recognise the effort and the care and, without patronising, to give encouragement. Encouragement is a wonderful gift; in the Bible St Paul describes it as a gift of the Holy Spirit. Encouragement is a gift we can all have a go at developing, whether towards our children, our neighbours, our colleagues and people we meet in our daily lives. We don't need to travel to do it, but we might need to work at giving and receiving it, and what a contrast it makes to the 'put downs' that have characterised the Trump vocabulary so far.

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## St Laurence Women's Fellowship

*Jill Woolley writes...*



Here is our programme for the next three months.

At our meeting on **February 22nd** we will welcome Tony Bredon The Music Man who will entertain us with a selection of well known songs.

On **March 22nd** our President and Priest in Charge, the Reverend Richard Bubbers, will talk to us in the season of Lent.

On **April 26th** we will hold our A.G.M, review the year and plan for the year ahead.

We continue to meet in the Tanyard Centre at 2pm and invite visitors and new members to join us. You will be made very welcome.

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## Rowney Green Flower Club

*Celia Hitch writes...*

Rowney Green Flower Club will be holding their February meeting on Thursday evening, 23rd February at The Peace Hall, Rowney Green commencing at 7.45pm .

By popular request Tammy Keford will return to give us a wonderful evening of flower arrangements entitled "*Spring into Spring*". Please come along and bring your friends. We are a small and friendly Flower Club and need your support to keep going. All flower arrangements are raffled at the end of the evening and tea, coffee and biscuits are served. Just sit back and enjoy the entertainment!.

Contact: Clare Kenny on 01527 66071.

*A. Pullen*

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## CAN YOU HEAR ME?

Alvechurch Cricket Club 10.30am – 12 noon



### Dates for 2017

**18<sup>th</sup> January - TINNITUS is on the Agenda**

**15<sup>th</sup> February - "Let's talk about HEARING AIDS!"**

*(Jessica Scully – Snr Clinical Audiologist & Colleague)*

**15<sup>th</sup> March - FOOD FOR THOUGHT ....ourselves!**

**HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!**

**All are welcome to join us for these sessions.**

**Pat Booth 07966370448**

## Rowney Green Horticultural Society

*Lindsay Smith writes...*

ROWNEY GREEN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY meets at the Peace Hall on the **second Thursday each month at 7.30pm.**

The meeting on **9th February 2017** will be a new speaker, Simon Gulliver. Simon is a fairly local man - he trained at Pershore College, has worked at Wisley and Birmingham Botanical Gardens and is currently a gardens advisor with the National Trust. His topic is Chinese Wilson - Birmingham's plant hunter. Simon's talk is based on some of the adventures of a plant hunter at the turn of the 20th century. He has assured us we will be familiar with many of the plants he brought back from these adventures.

Guests are always welcome - £3.50 including refreshments. For more information please contact Lindsay Smith on 01527 592874.

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## Parish Prayers

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



**5 February - Bear Hill Drive**

**12 February - Birches Lane**

**19 February - Birmingham Road, Alvechurch**

**26 February - Birmingham Road, Bordesley**

## Bishop John Leads Visit To Peru

*Sam Setchell (Diocesan Communications Officer) writes...*

During February, Bishop John will be leading a small diocesan party to visit friends in our link diocese of Peru.

Bishop John last visited Peru in early 2012, and there have been major changes since then and since the last group visited in 2014, with three Peruvian bishops consecrated in July 2015 and an indigenous diocesan bishop in place since April last year. The aim of this visit is to strengthen relationships with the new diocesan leadership and to discuss the direction the partnership might take in the future.

The group will travel around the Diocese, hopefully visiting at least three of the five areas of work: Lima, Arequipa and Chiclayo. Recent months have been a period of transition and although the Diocese of Peru is still struggling financially, real efforts are being made to encourage sustainability.

Those in the group who have visited before will be renewing old friendships, and will hopefully provide support and encouragement to the people of the Diocese and the projects they support. As always, there will also be many things to learn from the Peruvian hosts.

Bishop John said: *"I'm very much looking forward to going to Peru again to visit our Christian sisters and brothers there. Our link is a precious one which I value greatly."*

Please pray for the trip and for our brothers and sisters in Peru.

# Alvechurch WI

*Pam Horsfield writes...*

A warm village hall, tasty cakes, a cup of tea or coffee and a time to catch up with friends after the new year events. What more could our members want on a chilly, damp January evening? Well ..... the chance to exchange an unwanted item and snap up a bargain at our silent auction!

We're delighted that two new members have joined us and are pleased that others are interested in the various county courses which are available, ( including learning how to take part in dragon racing!).

We'll be meeting again in Alvechurch Village Hall on Monday February 13th at 7:30pm, when our speaker will be Alan Rogers talking about 'A Policeman's Lot'. Do come and meet us.

Don't forget as well to sign up for the Group Meeting at Rowney Green Village Hall on Wednesday March 8th when our speaker will be letting us know about 'Running Hot or Cold'..... plus yet more tasty cakes and meeting more interesting WI friends!

For information contact Denise on 445 3246 or Pam on 445 4631.

# Hillside at Alvechurch WI

*Cathy Taylor writes...*

The new year started with a silent auction. Members brought a wonderful variety of items for sale including tempting sweets and biscuits, jewellery, scarves, cosmetics and books. We raised more than £67 for funds. We had time to chat over delicious cakes and tea or coffee.

## Future events

Visitors are always very welcome at our meetings.

1st February 7.30pm for 7.45pm at the Ark - We welcome a return visit from Georgina Jacobs who will give us a talk entitled Introduction to Geology. Members and visitors are invited to bring rock samples and fossils to the meeting.

1st March 7.30pm for 7.45pm at the Ark - The talk will be given by Jon Goodson entitled Idle Women.

The committee will be planning days out and craft meetings based on members' suggestions.

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## The Ark Café



Firstly, we like to thank all of you who came to the two Christmas lunches in December and gave so generously towards the raffle we held. We raised a total of £285, which has now been sent on to the Montgomery Heights Orphanage in Zimbabwe. Their letter of appreciation is shown below.

Our menu for February is as follows:

**February 2nd - Glazed Gammon and Parsley Sauce**

**February 9th - Roast Lamb**

**February 16th - Roast Pork**

**February 23rd - Closed for Half Term**

We look forward to seeing you all, and to your continued support in 2017.

### Letter from Montgomery Heights Zimbabwe 23rd December 2016

Dear Michael and Friends, Thank you so much for the gift of £285 that was raised by your Ark Christmas Café Lunches, we so appreciate your support. This money will help us as we seek to provide for the needs of the children here at Montgomery Heights in these difficult days in Zimbabwe.  
May God bless you richly!



Wishing you all a really Happy Christmas and New Year.

Thank you again for your generous support.

Love from *Fiona and the Montgomery family*

Fiona Bunford

Residential Nurse Montgomery Heights Christian Care Centre  
*Promoting a Biblical Foundation of Unity in Fellowship, Child-care & Training, Leadership Enrichment, & Community Outreach*

# Alvechurch Historical Society

Hilary Taylor writes...

## OUR FIRST MEETING OF 2017

Our 2017 programme begins with the AGM on **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February**. The AGM will be followed by "Members' Memorabilia", an opportunity to share small items of historical interest with other members of the society.

## FUTURE DATES

From March we have a series of monthly talks on a wide variety of historical topics.

### Monday 6<sup>th</sup> March "The Dig for Victory Campaign"

A talk by Ron Gallivan, of the Mercian Military History Society. In this talk Ron will explain how the campaign, launched in the autumn of 1939, played a large part in creating the incredible British wartime spirit that got us through those dark years.

### Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> April "The Tale of an Ancient Mariner"

Presented by Frank Townsend, the author of the biography of Robert Humphrey Ivey (1829-1922), this talk will tell us about Ivey's achievements and adventures during a lifetime spent on the high seas.

**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.

# Barnt Green WI

Alyson Williams writes...

The newly formed Barnt Green WI will be meeting at Barnt Green Baptist Church on the 3rd Thursday of the month. There will be a variety of speakers and activities to take part in. The February speaker will be Kate van der Plank talking about Step Up to Serve and the March meeting will be a Bhangra Dance worship led by Vijay Mehay.

Please come and join us if you can, we meet from 7.30pm - 9.30pm, and the cost is £4 for visitors. For more information please contact Julia Waters on 0121 447 9880.

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## All Things Bright And Beautiful Word Search

This is a bit of a challenge but get Mum and Dad to help!

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

ALL	THINGS	BRIGHT	BEAUTIFUL
CREATURES	GREAT	SMALL	WISE
WONDERFUL	LORD	GOD	MADE
THEM	PURPLE	HEADED	MOUNTAIN
RIVER	SUNSET	MORNING	SKY
EYES	LIPS	ALMIGHTY	WELL
AND	COLD	WIND	SUN
RIPE			

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## **10<sup>th</sup> Young Musicians' Showcase - Sunday 19 March 3:00pm**

St Laurence Church, Alvechurch

An annual invitation to all young musicians, up to 18 years old, to perform before an appreciative audience. This showcase promotes a 'concert' environment to assist the performer to grow in confidence.

Do join us for a pleasant afternoon of music

*Tickets: no charge ~ donations appreciated*

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## ***“Surprised by Hope”*: The Ecumenical Lent course for 2017**

CTARG (Churches Together in Alvechurch and Rowney Green) are arranging another series of Ecumenical Lent Housegroups, beginning from Ash Wednesday on 1 March. Everyone is welcome to whichever group meets at the most convenient time for them.

This year we are using the course *“Surprised by Hope”*, written by NT Wright when he was Bishop of Durham: he is one of the world's leading biblical scholars and a prolific author.

Christians normally think of the future in terms of "heaven", but the promised reality is far greater: a new heaven and a new earth, a whole new creation. Once we grasp this biblical vision of God's future, it can transform our understanding of life in the present. In six sessions we will look at what God's Word has to say about the world to come and the world that is.

Based on the bestselling book *“Surprised by Hope”* and filled with discussion questions, thoughts for reflection, and ideas for personal application, the participant's guidebook, alongside the accompanying DVD, will help you get the most out of each session.

The groups are listed below. Please choose a group and then contact the leader of that group to tell them of your interest and to check details.

<b>Day</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Start date</b>	<b>Leader</b>	<b>Venue</b>
Wednesday	10.15am	1st March	Felicity Rixon 445 2371 <a href="mailto:felicityrixon@hotmail.com">felicityrixon@hotmail.com</a>	St Mary's, School Lane
Wednesday	2.00pm	1st March	Dick Russell 445 3083 <a href="mailto:russell2gotic@btinternet.com">russell2gotic@btinternet.com</a>	32 Callow Hill Road
Thursday	7.30pm	2nd March	Graham & Lynn Clark 445 2547 <a href="mailto:clarkalvechurch@sky.com">clarkalvechurch@sky.com</a>	The Coach House, School Lane
Thursday	10.15am	2nd March	Judy Lakeman 445 5251 <a href="mailto:thelakemans@btinternet.com">thelakemans@btinternet.com</a>	35 Hollington Road
Monday	7.30pm	6th March	Fiona Lee 447 7369 <a href="mailto:revfina@alvechurchbaptist.org.uk">revfina@alvechurchbaptist.org.uk</a>	40 Hinton Avenue
Monday	10.30am	6th March	Sue Phillips 445 3620 <a href="mailto:sue@suephillips.org.uk">sue@suephillips.org.uk</a> Gloria Wilson 445 1854 <a href="mailto:gloria.wilson1@uwclub.net">gloria.wilson1@uwclub.net</a>	The Ark

**Giving up stress for Lent?**  
**Christian Contemplation**  
**Day Workshop**

**Saturday 11 March 2017**

9.30am to 4pm

Venue: The Ark, adjoining St Laurence Parish Church,  
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The workshop is presented by Richard Johnston  
(director, Christian Mindfulness)

To book your place on the Workshop visit the website  
[www.christianmindfulness.co.uk/alvechurch.html](http://www.christianmindfulness.co.uk/alvechurch.html)

£30 per person up to 11/2/17 : £35 per person for  
booking after 11/2/17

Bring your own packed lunch

The number of places is limited

# News From The Tower

*Geoff Franklin writes...*

I hope you enjoyed our ringing for the services at Christmas. It's the high point of the ringers' calendar and is an essential part of a village Christmas. I'm afraid though that we were a little thin on the ground this year. Circumstances conspired to bring us down to five ringers at times so once again we're on the hunt for new recruits.



Ringing is an interesting and challenging exercise that provides a gentle workout for mind and muscles. Not that you need much of either to make a start. There are branches of ringing where you do need strength and a mathematical mind but we don't go that far at St Laurence. If you're fit enough to climb the tower staircase, tall enough to reach a bell-rope, and bright enough to be able count to eight reliably then you'll be able to make a start.

Bells are heavy but they're finely balanced and ringing takes no effort when it's done properly. The first stage in learning is to get used to the feel of the bell. It's like riding a bike; a bit of a struggle at first, but then the muscles and reflexes settle down and you wonder what all the fuss was about. Once you're comfortably in control then you can progress to the more interesting parts of the exercise and join us as we ring for services and weddings.

If you fancy giving it a try then come up to see us on a Tuesday night at 7:30pm.

Looking a bit further forward, we've got the Ark booked on April 29th for the bellringers' annual TableTop Sale. More details closer to the date but if you're planning on having a spring cleaning session in the next few months then please think of us before you throw anything out.

## St Laurence Stained Glass Windows

*Alison Smith writes...*

The money raised so far for the Windows appeal is now approximately £20,000 including donations from the Jazz Concert, the Railway Exhibition, and the Ark Cafe as well as from many individuals - this is a fantastic achievement and all the hard work and support is much appreciated.



With the guidance of our church architect, we also have an application to the Heritage Lottery Fund to help us with the immediate priorities which are the high level windows and gutters, and remedial work/protection for the West window. Further fundraising will still be needed during the year, and in the meantime all donations are very much appreciated and can be put in the carboy at the back of the Church or given to the Churchwardens or Deputies. Further updates will follow in future editions, and many thanks to all who are supporting this important project to protect the beautiful windows in our parish church.

# Letter from The Bishop of Worcester

Andreas Whittam Smith is best known as the man who started the Independent newspaper. Equally significantly, as First Estates Commissioner, he has effectively 'run' the Church Commissioners for quite a few years – and done so brilliantly. He's stepping down soon and late last year he addressed the House of Bishops. I was struck by what he said – that he feels more hopeful about the Church of England now than he has done for a long time. That's quite something coming from a seasoned old hack like Andreas and I found it very encouraging. Why did he feel so hopeful? He felt the Church is at long last waking up to the fact that *'business as usual'* is no longer an option and, more than that, is taking bold and innovative steps to reform and renew.

The scale of the challenge is enormous: The proportion of people in our country who have much understanding of the Christian faith, let alone practise it, is declining fast. What is needed is nothing less than the re-evangelisation of England. That's not an invitation to despair though, but a challenge to which, in the power of the living God, we can rise.

One exciting development in our diocese is the Calling Young Disciples project. Ruth Walker, its director, has already begun her ministry here and three Mission Enablers have already been appointed and will be taking up their posts soon. I hope and pray that their ministry will bear much fruit – not just to reverse the 'institutional decline' of

the Church but bring people to a vibrant faith in the living God revealed in Jesus. The renewal of the Church is not just up to them though; responsibility for it lies with us all. Please pray that we may all, as Kingdom People, fulfil our vocation to witness effectively to God's great love for everyone in Christ. May He make us instruments of his love, his compassion, his justice and His freedom.

## Host Families Needed For Visiting French Students

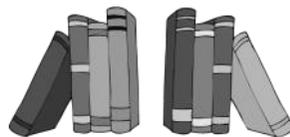
### ***DATES IN MARCH, APRIL AND MAY***

The area will be visited for the third year running, by a large group of young French students (aged 12-18). Due to their enjoyment of our varied local attractions over the last two years, the students will be back to indulge in chocolate at Cadbury, local Fish and Chips, and visit Shakespeare's home in Stratford-Upon-Avon.

Host families are needed to give these students a comfortable bed during their short stay visits in March, April and May. This is a great way to exchange language and culture, although you don't need to speak French. Your hospitality will be financially rewarded.

If you are within commutable distance of the Bromsgrove and Longbridge meeting points, and would like more information about hosting, then please contact Lisa Mistry on 07702 504495 or email: l.mistry@aol.co.uk

# What's On At Alvechurch Library



## **Brand New Young Teens Book Club**

Meeting once a month in the library to share their experiences on their latest reads. Borrow new titles for free and find new favourites. Starting on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> February and ongoing on the first Saturday of every month from 10.30am - 11.30am. Aimed at 12 years and upwards. Please talk to Sarah for more information.

## **Brand new e-book and e-audio App for Worcestershire County Libraries – BorrowBox**

Worcestershire County Libraries is launching a brand new e-book and audio book service on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2017. The BorrowBox digital library App is available to all Worcestershire County Library members FREE of charge and is the perfect addition for the modern bookworm.

Alvechurch library is holding a launch event for customers on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February between 3pm - 4pm. Come along and learn how to download the App to your device, borrow e-books and audio files and browse the e-catalogue. For further details on BorrowBox visit your local library TODAY!

We have delayed the start of our **Adults Creative Writing** course to enable us to recruit two more participants. We have a definite six students but need eight to be commercially viable. Please let us know if you would like to join in. Initially running for 5 weeks on a Saturday morning with 10 hours of tuition from Janet and costing £36. We are really keen to get this course up and running ASAP. Sue will be back in the Spring with three courses.

**Spanish for Beginners.** We have a few spaces available in Patrick's new "Spanish for Beginners" class. This Course is aimed at learners with no prior knowledge. It will equip students with phrases and vocabulary needed in daily situations, greetings, socialising ordering food and drinks etc. Starting Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> of February, 2.15pm – 4.15pm and running initially for five weeks. This course costs £50. Tutor, Patrick is always happy to chat to anybody who has any questions on 077080 27372.

For any Adult Learning Courses please pop into the Library to book in and pay by cash or cheque. Alternatively book online and pay using your debit or credit card. For all other enquires please pop into the library on the Birmingham Road or contact the library through calling -

The Hub on 01905 822722

Email [alvechurchlib@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:alvechurchlib@worcestershire.gov.uk)

Website [www.worcestershire.gov.uk](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk)

Find us on Facebook

# Obituary

## Julian Border - Born March 1954 died December 2016

Julian was born on 17th March 1954, to John and June Border, the second of three boys, Mark was his big brother and Jonathan his younger. They lived in Rowney Green, an ideal spot for a child fascinated by nature. Julian was passionate about badgers and would spend hours badger watching.

When he left school Julian first joined the police and for a few years was a police constable in Birmingham, then the army, when he served in Northern Ireland and in Canada until he became ill and returned to the family home.

Julian was a tender-hearted person with a very sweet nature. He loved to give; his family remember the day he came home without his shoes; he'd encountered someone in Redditch walking around barefoot, so he just took his shoes off and gave them to him. His illness meant he had many admissions to Hillcrest psychiatric unit and there too he was known for his generosity.

Julian was a man for whom faith was very important. He always carried around a new testament and psalms. He loved to talk about God and heaven with anyone who would stop and listen, whether in The Lounge, or sitting on the bench in the square. And all this was accompanied by innumerable cups of coffee. Sitting in the square with his Bible, his cigarettes and his cup of coffee Julian has been an essential part of village life.

His funeral, led by Sue Phillips at St Laurence church was held on 22nd December, after which his body was laid to rest in the churchyard. We sang Morning Has Broken and O Love That Will Not Let Me Go. The 80 or so people who came to his funeral were evidence of the place he held in our local community.

It's impossible to pay tribute to Julian without also paying tribute to his Mum June who has cared for him throughout the 37 years of his illness, and understood the importance of faith to him. As she said to me when we were preparing the service *'I believe he's somewhere much nicer'*.

## Thank you

June Border sincerely thanks all the wonderful people of Rowney Green and Alvechurch for the beautiful cards, letters and warm wishes received on the sudden tragic loss of her beloved son Julian.

I was overwhelmed by the love and warmth shown at his funeral, such a great comfort in the sad and dark days. We certainly will miss him.

Thank you and God Bless you all,  
June Border



# Flowers for FEBRUARY

	February 5	February 12	February 19	February 26
Sanctuary	Monica Clarke	Virginia Davis		
Lady Chapel	Monica Clarke	Virginia Davis		
In Memory Of	Her father Felix Ward	Her mother Mrs Catley		

I would like to record my thanks to my small band of stalwart flower arrangers who never let me down at our busy festivals. To Elizabeth Clement, Helen Gardener, Lynda Wolstencroft and Monica Clarke I am truly grateful. Ann Thurrell - 0121 447 7668 - [annthurrell@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:annthurrell@hotmail.co.uk)

## I Am A Christian

*Gordon Parsons writes...*

A long standing friend whose Muslim husband died over the Christmas period recently handed me a found poem which is helping her through the rawest elements of her grief. It comes from a well known newspaper and was published anonymously, author unknown. As a collection of words it has no equal. Please read, see if you agree.

### *"I AM A CHRISTIAN"*

'When I say "I am a Christian" I'm not shouting "I've been saved."  
 I'm whispering "I get lost - that's why I chose this way".  
 When I say "I am a Christian", I don't speak with human pride.  
 I'm confessing that I stumble - needing God to be my guide.  
 When I say that "I am a Christian" I'm not trying to be strong.  
 I'm confessing that I'm weak and pray for strength to carry on.  
 When I say "I am a Christian", I'm not bragging of success,  
 I'm admitting that I've failed and can never pay the debt.  
 When I say "I am a Christian" I don't think I know it all,  
 I submit to my confusion, asking humbly to be taught.  
 When I say "I am a Christian", I'm not claiming to be perfect,  
 My flaws are all too visible, but God believes I'm worth it.  
 When I say "I am a Christian, I still feel the sting of pain,  
 I have my share of heartache, which is why I seek His name.  
 When I say "I am a Christian" I do not wish to judge,  
 I have no authority, I only know I'm loved.

## From The Registers



### Funerals and Cremations

*May they rest in the peace of Christ*

December 22    Julian Border  
 January 13     Victor 'Alan' Hibbert

# 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 Mr Roger Wardle, 21 Brookside Close, B48 7LW, 445 0505
PCC Secretary	Mrs Lysandra Notley, 38 The Buckleys, B48 7NF
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 Natalie Wise, 07792535661
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	

### 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	Alison Smith

### Task Committee

Mick Fletcher	Dick Russell
Graham Clark	Sue Phillips

### Peru and Missionary Committee

Sue Phillips	Dick Russell
Gordon Parsons	Margaret Haste
Sally Bubbers	

# Calendar for FEBRUARY



- Wednesday 1      7.45pm Hillside at Alvechurch WI: Talk by Georgina Jacobs:  
entitled Introduction to Geology: The Ark
- Thursday 2      9.30am Mums The Word: The Ark  
12.15pm Ark Café: Glazed Gammon and Parsley Sauce
- Saturday 4      7.00pm The Midland Sinfonia Quiz & Supper: The Ark  
for 7.30pm
- Monday 6      1.45pm Forget-Me-Nots: The Ark  
7.45pm Alvechurch Historical Society: AGM & Memorabilia: Museum,  
School Lane, Alvechurch
- Thursday 9      9.30am Mums The Word: The Ark  
12.15pm Ark Café: Roast Lamb  
7.30pm Rowney Green Horticultural Society: Talk by Simon Gulliver:  
Peace Hall, Rowney Green
- Monday 13      7.30pm Ark Angels WI: The Ark  
7.30pm Alvechurch WI: Talk by Alan Rogers 'A Policeman's Lot':  
Alvechurch Village Hall
- Tuesday 14      MARCH GRAPEVINE GOES TO PRESS**  
*articles to [thearkalvechurch@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:thearkalvechurch@yahoo.co.uk)*
- Wednesday 15      10.30am CAN YOU HEAR ME? "Let's talk about HEARING AIDS!" with  
Jessica Scully Snr Clinical Audiologist: Alvechurch Cricket Club
- Thursday 16      9.30am Mums The Word: The Ark  
12.15pm Ark Café: Roast Pork  
7.30pm Barnt Green WI: Talk: Step Up to Serve by Kate van der Plank:  
Barnt Green Baptist Church
- Wednesday 22      2.00pm St Laurence Women's Fellowship: Entertainment from Tony  
Bredon The Music Man: Tanyard Centre, Alvechurch
- Thursday 23      7.30pm Rowney Green Flower Club: Flower arrangement demonstration  
"Spring into Spring" by Tammy Keford: Peace Hall, Rowney Green

**PLEASE NOTE - Thursday 23rd No MUMS THE WORD or ARK CAFÉ - Half Term**  
**Maintenance work is scheduled in The Ark hall week commencing 20/02**