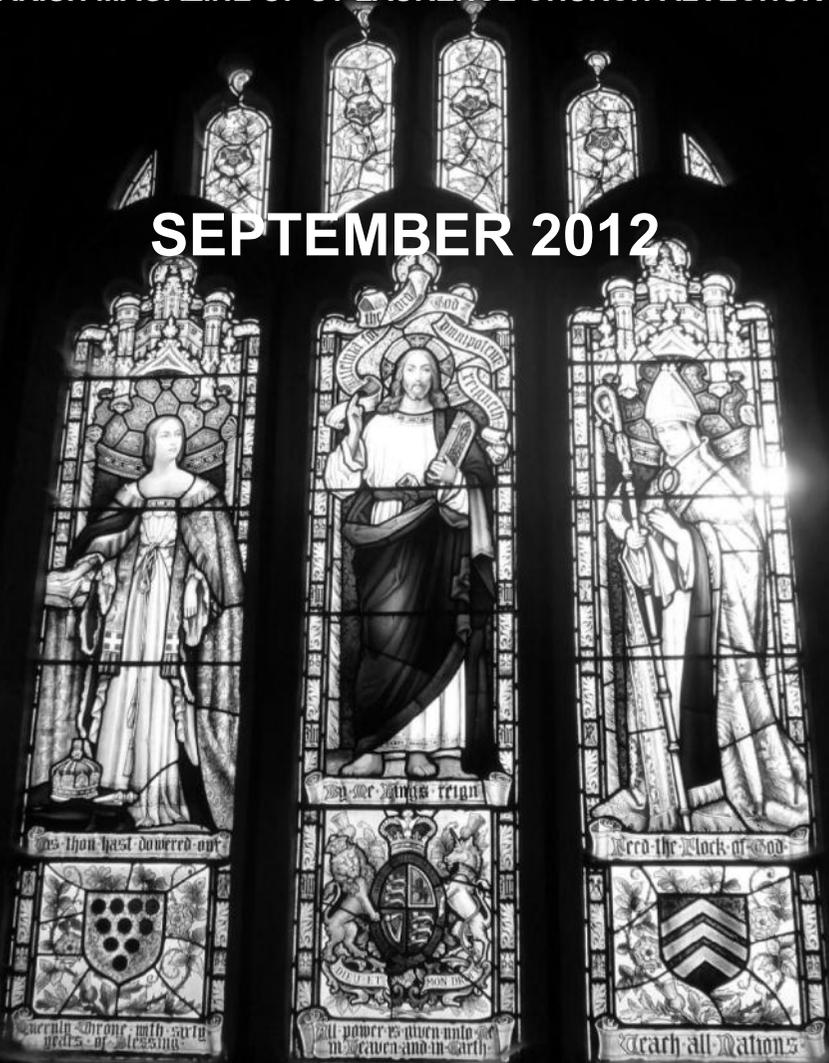


The Grapevine

THE PARISH MAGAZINE OF ST LAURENCE CHURCH ALVECHURCH

SEPTEMBER 2012



Online at www.alvechurch-stlaurence.org

St Laurence Church Alvechurch

SUNDAY SERVICES

8.00.am Holy Communion

9.30.am Family Service

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

11.00.am Parish Eucharist

6.00.pm Evensong

At Rowney Green Shared Church

9.30.am Methodist/Anglican Service

with Holy Communion on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month

DAILY SERVICE

9.00.am Monday to Friday

In St Laurence Church

ORGANISATIONS

Sunday Club	Sundays at 9.30.am in the church and Ark (445 1854)
Forget-me-not	Alternate Mondays at 1.30.pm in The Ark (445 3620)
Choir	Thursdays at 7.45.pm in church (445 3569)
Bellringers	Sundays at 10.30.am and 5.30.pm Tuesday Practice at 7.30.pm (01527 64077)
Women's Fellowship	4th Wednesday of the month at 2.00.pm in Tanyard Lane Community Centre (445 2125)
Mum's the Word	Thursdays at 9.30.am in The Ark (07876390154)
Ark Café	Thursdays during term time at 12.15.pm (447 7017)
Home Group	Thursday, 7.30.pm at the Coach House (445 2547)
Messy Church	Bimonthly on a Saturday in The Ark (445 1985)

THE ARK

Enquiries to Ian Price 0121 447 7955

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The Rector Writes...

Right And Wrong

My dear friends

Recent discussion concerning the proposal to accord homosexual partnerships the status of marriage has brought into sharp relief the difference that exists between Christian morality and secular morality.

The prevailing secular moral view is that everyone should be free to act in whatever way they wish. According to this way of thinking, if one is no longer happy with one's spouse one should divorce and find someone else who will make one happy. If one derives sexual gratification from watching pornographic films one should be free to do so. Whatever people do in private is up to them and of no concern to other people. It is an Existentialist form of morality with its roots in the philosophy of Nietzsche and Jean-Paul Sartre – both of whom, not surprisingly, were atheists. It is essentially a subjective form of morality. Whatever makes you happy is fine.

Christian morality, however, is objective. It is based upon the revealed will of God as recorded in the words of Holy Scripture. The most famous moral code in the Old Testament is The Ten Commandments. It begins with the words, "God spoke these words and said ...". The basis of the British legal system is built upon this objective moral code – or has been up until very recent times.

The morality of the New Testament is enshrined in the Sermon on the Mount [Matthew chapters 5 – 7] and the Pauline epistles. In his epistles, St Paul takes the moral commandments of Jesus and applies

them to real-life situations – including marriage, divorce and various forms of individual and social behaviour.

Christian morality is firmly anchored in the revealed will of God and seeks to follow it. Therefore, it is important we all know and understand the revealed will of God.

I think it is very important that young children are clearly taught Christian moral principles, otherwise they embark upon life rudderless and without a clear compass-point from which to take their bearings. Learning The Ten Commandments is every bit as important as learning multiplication tables, in my estimation. Learning multiplication tables may help one become a shrewd financial operator and put one in the running for becoming a millionaire, but learning the Ten Commandments leads to eternal life – an infinitely more precious prize.

In the past, the people of Britain were exposed to Christian morality week by week through Sunday church attendance. Hearing the Scriptures read and pondering the words of God, most people had a clear idea of what was morally right and what was morally wrong. One of the casualties of less frequent churchgoing is a vagueness about what is right and wrong. Secularism is very good at promoting its own agenda. There is a clear need to return to the basis of Christian morality in order to know what is pleasing to God and what is not. Therein lies our eternal destiny.

With all best wishes and every blessing,
Yours in Christ,
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Local Teachers In Peru

Veronica Porter and Ann Russell, two teachers from Crown Meadow School, set off for San Lucas School, Arequipa at the end of July carrying with them a beautiful banner made by the children of Year 4. The banner is one of two each composed of 30 squares. The 60 squares were each designed and made by one of the Year 4 children on the theme of weather and festivals. The banners capture aspects of English life. One banner travelled to Peru with Mrs Porter and Mrs Russell, the other remains in Crown Meadow School, symbolising the link between the two schools.

News from Peru is that the English teachers are working hard but thoroughly enjoying an enriching experience that they will bring back to their pupils in September.

Mrs Porter writes ...

Day 1

I am in an internet cafe, having just completed the first day in school.....it has been a lovely day, although quite tiring. The bus journey is quite an experience! We met Suzanne (an English missionary) on Saturday with Maria Louisa, and talked for hours! Suzanne is a volunteer in San Lucas so her English is a huge help - (although our Spanish is improving). We went to the church around the corner on Sunday (Padre Juan Carlos' church), so it was lovely to see him. About four of the teachers from San Lucas were there too, including Maria Louisa and Carmela. We are on local radio on Wednesday morning (in Spanish), have been invited to Carmela's house after school on Thursday and are being shown all around Arequipa on Saturday morning by Maria Louisa and her husband. We then go back to their home for lunch with their two children and Padre Juan Carlos and his wife.

The school experience is amazing. We were honoured at their morning flag ceremony ...by being allowed to raise the flag of Peru. We then made the presentation of the children's banner, each of us speaking in Spanish. We then went into two classes to observe and had morning tea with Director Jorge. We gave him his gift (a wall plaque from Worcester Cathedral) which immediately went on his wall. From midday we were teaching a Year 2 and then a Year 5 class. Delightful, with all the children on their best behaviour. We have two conversational English classes later in the week too, and we want to teach the children an English folk dance, especially as folk dancing is such a huge thing in this week's celebrations. The experiences are very rich.

Day 2

Just had the most amazing morning in the school. The classes are all celebrating Arequipa Day. They each had prepared food - all Arequipan dishes - and then Ann and I had to go round to each class (11 of them) to taste the food ... followed by a whole table of food as a buffet for the staff ... and us of course! I have, for the first time in my life, eaten pig's head! School has finished early, after a display of Peruvian folk dances by the students. Stunning! The parades are about to start in the main square, so we are grabbing a lemonade before going to do the tourist thing.

It looks as if Crown Meadow children are in for a great treat when their teachers return with so many experiences to share.

Nothing Messy

The planned session of Messy Church on Saturday 8th September has had to be cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances. The next Messy Church will be Saturday 10th November.

The Silver Threads Club

A lovely day in Staffordshire awaits those who like gardens, writes Margaret Gardner

A coach outing to TRENTHAM GARDENS Staffordshire has been arranged for WEDNESDAY 19 SEPTEMBER by The Silver Threads Club. The coach leaves Tanyard Lane crossing at 9.00am. The cost to members is £11.00 but non-members are very welcome at a cost £12.00 each (COACH ONLY).

If you have never been to Trentham Gardens you are in for a real treat. There is a shopping outlet with plenty of bargains, many places to eat and drink, a garden centre and of course the lovely gardens themselves.

There is a charge to go into the gardens with a concession for older people. If it is a dry day, the gardens are well worth seeing and you can take your own picnic or buy food. The choice is yours!

If you are interested, please phone Pat Riley on 0121 447 8630.

THE SILVER THREADS meet the first Wednesday afternoon of the month at 1.30pm in the Village Hall for an enjoyable afternoon of pleasant mixed company, Bingo, tea and biscuits. Some months we have a fish and chip lunch and two or three coach outings during the year. If you are in need of company and a cheerful afternoon out, do come and join us.

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Forget-Me-Not

With a new autumn programme starting on **MONDAY 3 SEPTEMBER**, Sue Phillips gives a preview and extends a warm welcome to new members.

Forget me Not is a group for people who have been bereaved, whether recently or at some point in the past, and would like to meet with others in a similar situation.

We have taken a break during August but are ready to start a new series of meetings with a slightly different format for the autumn. From September to December there will be two parts to our twice-monthly programme. One part will be the continuation of our drop-in coffee and chat sessions, and the other will be a new series of exploratory sessions. The exploratory sessions have been planned as a series of 4.

The idea is that those who would appreciate a more structured approach to working through issues surrounding their bereavement will join at the start of the series and work through the four sessions. People who have missed the start of the series will be invited to wait for a new series to begin so that they will be able to follow the series from start to finish. These meetings will alternate with the usual drop-in tea and chat sessions which will continue to be open to all.

Some people may only want to follow the series, others may only want to come to the drop-in sessions, and some people may want to come to both parts of the programme. Each person is welcome to decide what they would find most helpful.

The programme starts on **MONDAY 3 SEPTEMBER**, with an introduction to the way we expect it to work and an invitation to everyone to talk about what issues they would like covered. We will talk about what people's expectations are and agree how best we can support one another.

The following meeting (2 weeks later) will be the first of the series. It will be open to anyone who would like to follow the series of 4 sessions. After this point new people will be welcomed to the drop-in sessions but will be invited to wait for the start of the next series before joining the structured session.

The structured programme will be facilitated by Jayne Burgess and Philippa Brakes, and Sue Phillips and Annette Thomas will host the drop-in sessions. All meetings are held on a Monday at the ARK from 1:30-2:45pm.

Here is the programme for the next 3 months.

date	topic	facilitators
3.9.12	Setting the scene drop in	Annette, Sue, Jayne, Philippa
17.9.12	Session 1	Jayne and Philippa
1.10.12	Drop in	Annette and Sue
15.10.12	Session 2	Jayne and Philippa
29.10.12	Drop in	Annette and Sue
12.11.12	Session 3	Jayne and Philippa
26.11.12	Drop in	Annette and Sue
10.12.12	Session 4	Jayne and Philippa
17.12.12	Christmas mince pies & mulled wine drop in ALL WELCOME	Annette, Sue, Jayne, Philippa

Do come and join us on Monday 3rd September at 1:30 in the ARK to hear about the new programme. We really look forward to meeting you. For more information call Sue Phillips 445 3620, Annette Thomas 445 5180 or Philippa Brakes 445 3983 or Jayne Burgess 447 7468.

This Month's Cover

The cover of this month's *Grapevine* is a reproduction of the west window of St Laurence Church. It is unusual in that it shows Queen Victoria as a young girl rather than as an elderly matron.

The thee-light window in the tower, unveiled by Lady Plymouth of Hewell Grange on the 4th October 1899, commemorates the 'sixtieth anniversary of the long, noble and wise reign of Victoria, Queen of Great Britain and Ireland, and Empress of India, A.D. 1897'. The window was a result of subscriptions by parishioners.

Christ is depicted in the centre light.

In the left light, a young Queen Victoria is illustrated in the gold embroidered cloak over a white robe which she wore when taking her coronation oath.

A Bishop of Worcester is shown in the right light, a reference to the fact that the See of Worcester had a palace in Alvechurch in former times. The window was made by William Pearce of Birmingham.

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Platinum Anniversary

Rowney Green Horticultural Society celebrates its 70th
Anniversary with a Flower Show in the Peace Hall on
SATURDAY 1 SEPTEMBER, to which all are welcome.

On THURSDAY 13 SEPTEMBER, Ann Bird, who is an expert on
roses, will give a talk in The Peace Hall entitled *A Rose
Miscellany*. All enquiries can be made to Andrea Halse on 0121
445 1929.

Alvechurch Historical Society

*A talk on local farms and a peek at the exhibits inside the
Historical Society Museum are on offer this month, writes
Margaret Gardner.*

Our first meeting after the summer break is on MONDAY 3
SEPTEMBER at 7.45pm in the Museum Hut in School
Lane. There is plenty of parking behind the Catholic Church
with their kind permission.

Our speaker will be our old friend Mr Richard Churchley
telling us about the farms in the Alcester and Feckenham Areas
and their history.

Our OPEN DAYS at the Museum will be on SATURDAY 8
SEPTEMBER and SATURDAY 15 SEPTEMBER from 2.00pm to
4.00 pm. There will be special displays on the theme of
Educational in Alvechurch.

If you have never visited our Museum, now is the time to
come and have a 'cuppa' with us and see many photographs of
Alvechurch past. Perhaps you might be able to spot someone
you know in the school photographs of yesteryear.

All Together

One of the many positive characteristics of the Christian
Church in Alvechurch is the way in which those of different
traditions and denominations regularly worship together.
Every month, on the second Sunday of the month, the four
churches of Alvechurch and Rowney Green cancel their
evening services and join together for an ecumenical act of
worship.

This month it is the turn of the Baptist Church in Red Lion
Street to host the service. It is taking place on SUNDAY 9
SEPTEMBER at 6.30pm. Because the Baptist chapel is
currently undergoing restoration, the service will be held in
the hall at the rear of the church. What could be more
conducive to fellowship and friendship?

Quiz And Supper Evening

Marian Barwell tells of a forthcoming Quiz and Supper in aid of The Midland Sinfonia.

There will be a General Knowledge Quiz and Supper Evening on SATURDAY 20 OCTOBER at 7.30.pm (prompt start) in The Ark, St Laurence Church, Alvechurch organised by The Midland Sinfonia. The doors open at 7.00.pm

Last year saw a new format to the evening that proved a great success. Once again Simon Raine will be acting as the quizmaster.

Tables can be booked now. If you cannot bring a full team (up to six) we will link you up with others to enjoy the evening. The cost is only £8 per person which includes fish and chips. A Bar will be available for wines and soft drinks.

For further information or to reserve your table (essential for catering) please contact:

Marian: marian@midlandsinfonia.co.uk or 0121 447 7040.

Ark Cafe

Michael Davenport writes ..

The Ark Café will re-open on THURSDAY 20 SEPTEMBER. The Menu on the 20th is Alvechurch Cottage Pie and , on the 27th, Chicken Casserole.

Please come and join us. No advanced booking is required. Simply come along.

We are holding another Beef Carvery Luncheon on Thursday 25 October at a cost of £10. This is a ticket-only meal, and tickets can be obtained on any of the Thursdays beforehand.

CAN YOU HELP US?

The Café is currently experiencing a shortage of waiting staff for its weekly customers. We are very keen to maintain our current high level of service.

If you are able to help out on a Thursday lunchtime – even just once a month – please contact Veronica Rogers on 0121 447 7017. She will supply all the necessary details.

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Church Services

As mentioned in last month's *Grapevine*, four experimental services are being trialled in St Laurence Church during September and October. The Parochial Church Council Worship Subcommittee is keen to gauge worshippers' reactions to new forms of service.

The two experimental services this month are on SUNDAY 16 SEPTEMBER and SUNDAY 30 SEPTEMBER at 10.30.am. They will replace the normal 9.30.am and 11.00.am services.

Following the final experimental service on 28 October, there will be a Shared Lunch in The Ark during which reactions to the services will be gauged. In order to have an informed opinion, it is desirable to attend all four services. The results will shape the future pattern of worship at St Laurence Church.

Harvest Festival

This year's Harvest Festival will be on SUNDAY 7 OCTOBER. It is preceded by the traditional Harvest Supper on SATURDAY 6 OCTOBER at 7.30.pm in The Ark.

The Harvest Supper is always one of the social highlights of the year, with a sumptuous three-course, sit-down meal, aperitifs, wine and liqueurs, followed by entertainment that is always – what shall we say? – a little unusual. Tickets are limited and are sold on a first-come-first-served basis. They can be obtained from The Parish Office on any weekday morning at a cost of £10. Great value for money!

Not Many Avoid It

Arthritis is one of those afflictions that befall most people as they grow older – and some people much younger in life. Members of the Alvechurch Village Society will be learning how arthritis can be controlled and managed when Chandrika Gordhan speaks at a meeting of the Village Society on WEDNESDAY 26 SEPTEMBER. Chandrika is the manager of the Birmingham Arthritis Resource Centre. The meeting takes place in The Village Hall and begins at 7.45.pm. All are welcome.

Evensong

The beautiful Sunday evening service of Evensong continues in St Laurence Church at 6.00.pm with the church choir singing the following anthems:

- Sept 2nd. O taste and see. *Ralph Vaughan Williams*
- Sept 9th. No Evensong: Service at the Baptist Church
- Sept 16th. Lord for thy tender mercy's sake. *Richard Farrant*
- Sept 23rd. Rejoice in the Lord alway. *Henry Purcell*
- Sept 30th. Turn thy face from my sins. *Thomas Attwood.*

The perfect way to end a Sunday!

St Laurence Churchyard

Andy Humphries, the Chairman of the Churchyard Committee, casts an eye over the churchyard.

You don't need me to tell you that 2012 has been wetter than usual! More rain may be good for the average garden but it does make the churchyard grass grow and this year, the churchyard maintenance team (Basil Booth, Clive Stevens and Irene Hoare) have had to work extra hard to keep on top of things. No sooner had the Spring snowdrop-planting finished, than the mowers were out in earnest. Our regular Tuesday morning maintenance sessions have been topped up with many hours on other daysand all of our volunteers have done a superb job keeping the churchyard looking tidy.

They are supported monthly by a second group of "volunteers" - young offenders under the supervision of the West Mercia Probation Trust who carry out unpaid work in a scheme known as Community Payback. These groups also do valuable work for the Parish Council in The Meadows and occasionally in other parts of the Parish. At St Laurence, they trim the areas of the churchyard that slope down towards Bear Hill. These areas are difficult to maintain due to the slope and the fact that many graves have stone-surrounds hidden in the grass.

Visitors to St Laurence often comment on the churchyard as they stroll through it - and their comments are nearly always complimentary. These compliments simply reflect all the effort and hard work carried out by the two groups.

Could you spare a little time to help our volunteers? Even an hour or so would be much appreciated. All tools etc are provided. Have a word with me on 0121 445 5955 if you'd like to know more.

Tea And Cake Bonanza

Jill Woolley reports on a very successful afternoon

The St Laurence Women's Fellowship held its Tea and Cake Afternoon at The Ark on August 15th. Despite the very wet weather, over 50 people came along and enjoyed an afternoon of tea, cake and chat, supporting the Bring & Buy Stall and the Raffle. As a result, we have been able to send £350 to the St. Mary's Hospice who do such valuable work supporting the terminally ill and their families. Our thanks go to all the ladies who made such lovely cakes, to Michael Davenport for all his help, to the Committee for all their hard work and to everyone who came along to support us in such atrocious weather.

In September we begin our Autumn programme:-

- September 26th Simon Beckett from Becketts Farm "How did we become Becketts Farm?"
- October 24th Colin F. Bell – Bechstein Keyboard. Wide range of music plus song books.
- November 28th Derek Clarke – "Perseus & Andromeda Fountains at Witley Court."
- December 12th Mike & Pat Ledbury – A Victorian Family Christmas Party.

We meet in the Tanyard Centre on the 4th Wednesday of each month at 2pm. Come and join us for an afternoon of fellowship with a good cup of tea and biscuits.

Get Fit At The Ark

Did you know The Ark hosts a number of brilliant fitness classes?

MONDAY'S & FRIDAY'S AT THE ARK - PILATES

Monday 6pm to 7pm

Fridays 9.30am to 10.30am.

Pilates helps to reshape your body, making it longer, leaner and more toned. It will also improve your posture, achieving the perfect balance between strength and flexibility, and it is a great way to relieve unwanted stress and tension. **THE FIRST SESSION IS FREE!!!**

Classes are held in the upstairs room at The Ark and have a maximum of 12 people, so booking is essential. For more details contact Jenny Bird on: 07968 363529 or e-mail: jennyjanebird@gmail.com

TUESDAYS AT THE ARK - ZUMBA CLASS

7pm to 8pm

The Latin-inspired, easy-to-follow, calorie-burning, dance fitness-party comes to The Ark. Come along to THE ARK every Tuesday 7pm - 8pm. Join in and experience the fun. You will forget you are even exercising.

Exercise should be fun, and with Zumba you can party your way into shape and lose yourself in the music. Zumba is for everyone - all ages, shapes and fitness levels. There is no dance background required, just move your body and follow the leader. It's easy!

Just £4 per class. For class details contact your licensed Zumba instructor: Wendy Ball – on 07866447513 or e-mail wendyball@live.co.uk

Children's Parties At The Ark

Are you planning a children's party? Why not hire The Ark?

You can hire the hall, kitchen and lounge by the hour. Why not include any of the following –

* Magician (1 hour or 2 hour shows) * Face Painting * Bouncy Castle * Drumming * Cuddly Animal Encounter * Disco * Themed Parties - Princess & Superheroes, Harry Potter, Doctor Who, Toy Story, Glee, High School Musical, Street Dance Hip Hop, Disney and many more. The Ark works in partnership with recommended local companies to bring you endless party options.

We can also provide the catering for your party using one of our local partners. . A party bag option and cake is also available.

To book The Ark or to discuss your party package requirements call Ian Price between 9:00am – 1:00pm Monday to Friday 0121 447 7955 or e-mail - thearkalvechurch@yahoo.co.uk

Details on The Ark Website – www.thearkalvechurch.co.uk

Sunday Club

A special club for children meets every Sunday morning in The Ark from 9.30.am until 10.30.am. Stories, songs, art and craft, fun and laughter are the regular ingredients.

The Sunday Club is overseen by Ms Gloria Wilson and has a bevy of adult helpers (all of whom have been CRB cleared) who bring their own enthusiasm and ideas to the Club.

The beginning of the new school year is an ideal time for children to join the Sunday Club. Parents are invited to attend the Family Service whilst their children experience church in their own way in the Sunday Club. Simply turn up!

Trips And Memories

A full summer's programme of outings and events by the Alvechurch Ex-Services Association is reviewed by Arthur Pearsall, who also tells of a trip taking place this month.

Veterans have been quite active since our last report but seem to be standing up well to the activities placed upon them, with very few exceptions. It must be the Philisan!

June saw us enjoying our annual Anniversary Dinner with a scrumptious meal provided once more by our caterers Pascal, Alison and Family. There was super entertainment from our local singer/guitarist, John Dale. An event to be remembered!

July saw our visit to Bridgnorth via the Severn Valley Railway. It was one of the warmest days of the year so far. Consequently, members and friends were in great evidence at the many, many pubs, teashops and ice cream parlours in this delightful little town that, somehow, remains "unspoilt by progress!"

On a more sombre note, Veterans gathered on the Memorial Green on 15 August, which was the anniversary of the end of World War Two with the surrender of the Japanese in 1945. We particularly remembered the villagers who served in the Far East at that time, many of whom were in the 14th Army or, as we Vets call them, to our country's shame "The Forgotten Army." The Alvechurch Ex-Services Association does not forget them!

Our last summer trip this year is to Weston-super-Mare on TUESDAY 11 SEPTEMBER, leaving the village at 09.00 hours. Please note the day and date, which is a change from our usual arrangement. Weston is well-known to most of us and is always a popular venue. The rebuilt pier has created a very favourable impression on those who have made a recent visit, and so there is something to anticipate.

The cost is £11.25 per person. A call to Auriel on 0121 445 1398 will confirm the availability of seats.

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Your God Is Too Small

Dick Russell, who this year celebrates fifty years as a Licensed Lay Minister in the Church of England, reflects on "The God Particle".

Have you ever done what I remember doing as a boy, for a bit of a lark, namely walking along a busy street with a friend, and suddenly stopping – looking up and pointing in a certain direction, to which one's friend responded by doing likewise; then waiting a while as others become curious and scan the scene in the same direction also, leaving quietly while they remain searching for something that was never there in the first place, and beginning to ask each other what they are looking at?

Had I done that at night, looking up into the sky, I would not have to do much searching to find some object to interest me, especially if I was in possession of a telescope or binoculars. There are constantly, around the world, scientists with astronomical telescopes and dishes, who do this night after night; and new discoveries, along with the application of theories and mathematics that endeavour to interpret what is seen or measured, are happening all the time.

My younger son, Matthew, has a telescope in his garden that he uses to follow objects in the night sky as they appear to move across it. Using long exposure photography, he has a website on which his pictures are displayed. Although merely an amateur, the beauty of these pictures amazes me. I know there are a number of villagers here who follow his site regularly. That these pictures come to us across thousands of millions of miles, yet even of light-years, it is even more staggering.

Meanwhile other scientists, quantum-physicists, are firing the most infinitely small particles of matter at each other, around underground tunnels, using powerful electromagnetic fields, in order to see what results if these actually collide. They hope to discover among others, a new particle, (indeed some think they already have), which would help to explain why we are here at all, and able to do these things. This particle is known as the Higgs-Boson Particle, named after scientists who have predicted its existence. Some scientists with an inflated ego have dubbed it the 'God Particle'!

As I understand it, this is a free particle of 'anti-matter', a name that entered the popular vernacular with the stories of the 'Starship Enterprise' on TV. It is argued that such must have existed in order to spark the notorious 'Big Bang'.

No doubt if Jesus were on Earth today he would have told the parable of the Higgs-Boson Particle rather than that of the Mustard Seed as an example of what the Kingdom of Heaven is like!

The well-known Christian apologist and translator J B Phillips, once wrote a book entitled, *Your God is too small*. Of those scientists who would liken God to such a particle I would reply, "How right he was!"

Nurse Tatton

Many Alvechurch mothers will remember Mrs V.T. Frost, or Nurse Tatton as she was known, who lived and worked in the parish for twenty years as District Nurse, Midwife and Health Visitor. She writes ...

I would like to say a belated Thank You to all the Mums and Families who sent me cards on my 90th Birthday in May. It really was a lovely surprise and brought back many happy memories. I loved looking after you and your babies.

Mrs V.T. Frost, 13 Mayfly Close, Fordingbridge, Hants, SP6 1LQ.

Vacancy

The Trustees of the Alvechurch Almshouse Charity give notice that a vacancy exists at the premises in Station Road, Alvechurch known as "Lewkner Houses"

The accommodation available consists of a sitting room, one bedroom, bathroom and kitchen in a ground floor flat.

Applications are invited from persons who have lived in the Parish of Alvechurch for at least twelve months, whose present residence is not appropriate to their physical needs and who are in difficult financial circumstances.

Applications forms should be requested in writing from the Clerk to the Trustees. Completed applications must be received no later than 30th September 2012.

Mrs C Johnston, Clerk to the Trustees, 44 Withybed Lane, Alvechurch, B48 7NY

A Walk In The Woods

The September Footpath Walk organised by Alvechurch Village Society is a walk in Lickey Woods and is on SUNDAY 2 SEPTEMBER. Starting from The Barnt Green Inn Car Park at 2.30.pm the walk will be led by Tony Armond. Further details can be obtained from him on 0121 445 5071.

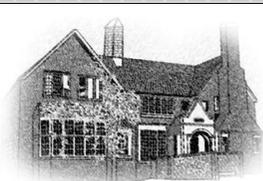
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FREE ESTIMATES

Help For The Elderly

The Local Policing Team offers practical advice and information on how to help protect yourself and your family. Including how to help safeguard your property and help build a safer community.

If you are an older person, you may feel more vulnerable to some crimes. But older people are actually less likely to become victims. A few simple steps can help reduce your risk of crime.

Quick tips:

- Think about joining a community alarm scheme, especially if you are feeling at risk at home or if you do trip or fall. NEW lifeline is one such service operated within the Redditch and Bromsgrove Districts.
- Some companies operate a password scheme for older or vulnerable customers – their representatives are expected to confirm a password to prove that they are genuine.
- Don't keep large sums of cash at home – use a bank account instead.
- Many areas run schemes aimed at assisting older people with their home security and general maintenance. You should ask for advice from the police, the local authority or a voluntary group.
- Have a list of useful numbers by the telephone. These may include the numbers of your family, local police station, local council, etc.

NEW lifeline is a service available 24 hours per day, 365 days per year to any vulnerable person living within the Redditch and Bromsgrove Districts. It supports those who may be elderly, living alone for the first time, living with a disability or a serious health problem. The aim of the Service is to give the user confidence to continue living independently in their own home and to

provide security and peace of mind to them and their families.

The NEW lifeline Monitoring Centre is staffed 24 hours-a-day by friendly, caring Operators who are fully trained to respond promptly and efficiently upon receiving an emergency call.

How does the system operate? The Lifeline Unit allows you to summon assistance by pressing either the red button on the control unit or the portable pendant also supplied, which you wear as you move around your home. Upon receiving a call, the Monitoring Centre Operators are able to identify who the caller is and where they live; speak to them, arrange for the necessary help or assistance and advise the next of kin or other personal contact what has happened at any time of day or night. For more information contact the NEW Lifeline office on 01527 534060.

HOW TO DEAL WITH BOGUS CALLERS

Most people who call at your home will be genuine. But sometimes someone may turn up unannounced, with the intention of tricking his or her way into your home. If someone calls on you:

- LOCK – keep your front and back doors locked, even when you are at home.
- STOP – Before you answer, stop and think if you are expecting anyone. Check that you have locked the back door and taken the key out. Look through a spy hole or window to see who it is.
- CHAIN – If you decide to open the door, put the chain or bar on the door first (if you have one). Keep the bar or chain on while you are talking to the person on the doorstep.

- **CHECK** – Even if they have an appointment, check the identity card carefully. Close the door while you do this. Still unsure? Look up a phone number in the phone book and ring to verify their identity. Do not use a phone number on the identity card, as this may be false.

Bogus callers may be smartly dressed and claim to be from the council, police or utility companies. They can also turn up as builders or gardeners and try to trick you into paying for unnecessary work. You should never agree to have work done by someone just passing by. If you think work needs to be done, get at least two quotes from reputable companies.

If you think a bogus caller has called on you, report it to the police immediately.

If in doubt, keep them out!

For more information or any further advice on any of the topics mentioned, please contact your Local Policing Team.

Alternatively contact CSO 6715 MARK HYDER at Wythall Police Station.

You can find out who your LPT is by visiting the website: www.westmercia.police.uk/localpolicing/

Obituary

RICHARD GEORGE PERCIVAL

On 13th July, after a short stay in the Alexander Hospital, Richard Percival from Hinton Avenue died at the age of 93.

Richard and Jose had lived in their Hinton Avenue home from when it was first built in 1964. He was a keen follower of Alvechurch Football Club, being a regular attender at matches until a year before his death. Richard came from Birmingham. He left school at 14, beginning his career as a sheet metal worker and ending up as works manager. He was a thrifty, determined and generous man, in days when cash was short. He uncomplainingly walked home from the factory in Rubery at the end of a shift.

Since he worked in a reserved occupation, Richard was not called up to do war service. However, he pleaded with his boss and eventually was released to sign up. He joined the Warwickshire Regiment and ended up in the Royal Berkshires serving on the front line in Burma, narrowly escaping death on a

number of occasions. Amongst his papers, his son Nicholas found a commendation from his commanding officer which described him as an exemplary soldier who had seen active service. Quite an understatement when the stories of his war service emerged later on in his life!

After the war, Richard returned to work and remained with the same company for 50 years. He married Jose in 1949 and they set up home in Small Heath, Birmingham, before moving to Alvechurch in 1964 where they brought up their only son, Nicholas. After his retirement Richard spent 15 years caring for Jose who died in 2005.

After a funeral at Redditch Crematorium on August 1st his ashes were buried in the churchyard alongside those of his wife.



Flowers

Rota for September 2012

	2 nd September	9 th September	16 th September	23 rd September	30 th September
Sanctuary		Dorothy Davenport		Mary Sidwell	
Lady Chapel		Dorothy Davenport		Mary Sidwell	
In Memory of		Geoffrey Davenport		John Sidwell	

Christian Aid Total

The Christian Aid Week House-to-House Collection in May raised the incredible sum of £2,022.30p. This greatly exceeded last years total.

Grateful thanks are extended to those who acted as door-to-door collectors and to those who gave so generously to assist the poorest of the world's poor.

Can we do even better next year? New collectors are always required. Would you be willing to do something for the world's poor next year?

From the Registers



Baptisms

We welcome you into the Lord's family

July 22 Finley Christopher Quelch-Fitzhenry Hollington Road

Photographs of the newly-baptized can be found on the church website

Funerals and Cremations

May they rest in the peace of Christ

August 1 Richard George Percival aged 93



Who's who

Rector	Revd David Martin, The Rectory, School Lane 445 1087 davidmartin@lynksolve.net
Licensed Lay Ministers	Mr Dick Russell, 2 Gothic Cottages, Radford Rd 445 3083 Ms Sue Philips Withybed Green 445 3620
Authorised Lay Ministers	Mrs Helena Allen, 117 Birmingham road 445 5605 Mr Phil Burgess Highlands, School Lane, 447 7468 Mr Graham Clark, The Coach House, School Lane, 445 2547 Ms Gloria Wilson, 11 Bear Hill Drive 445 1854 Mrs Philippa Brakes, 56 Callow Hill Road 445 3983 Mrs Lynne Clark, The Coach House, School Lane 445 2547 Mrs Jayne Burgess, Highlands, School Lane 447 7468 Mrs Annette Thomas 8 Snake Lane 445 5180
Churchwardens	Mr Graham Clark, The Coach House, School Lane. 445 2547 Mr Mick Fletcher , 52 Callow Hill Road 445 6431
Deputy Wardens	Mr Colin Bennett, 122 Redditch Road, 01527 64077 Mr Andy Humphries, Sunnymead, Station Road 445 5955 Mr David Richmond, The Ferns, Chapel Lane 445 3569 Mrs Alison Smith, 12 Hollington Road 447 7293
PCC Secretary	Mrs Enid Brumsen 32 Callow Hill Road 445 0663
PCC Treasurer	Mr Bob Dale Weatheroak Farm 01564 822486
Organist & Choirmaster	Mr David Richmond, The Ferns, Chapel Lane 445 3569
Electoral Roll Officer	Mr Jeremy Roberts, 7 Redditch Road, Hopwood 445 2041
Tower Captain	Mr Colin Bennett, 122 Redditch Road 01527 64077
Singing Group	Mrs Lynda Wolstencroft 49 Hinton Avenue Tel: 445 3212
Mum's the Word	Mrs Bib Paterson, 57 Birmingham Road 07876390154
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)	Mr Ian Price, the Ark School Lane, 447 7955 thearkalvechurch@yahoo.co.uk
Grapevine Editor	Revd David Martin, The Rectory, School Lane 445 1087 davidmartin@lynksolve.net

PCC Special Responsibilities

Finance and Standing Committee

David Martin	Graham Clark
Mike Fletcher	Alison Smith
Bob Dale	Jeremy Roberts

Children and Youth

Martin Allen	Mike Fletcher
Marion Thompson	Pat Booth

Buildings and Fabric

Mick Fletcher	Colin Bennett
David Richmond	Jill Woolley

Development

Alison Smith	Jeremy Roberts
Margaret Haste	

Churchyard

Bob Dale	Andy Humphries
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Peru and Missionary

Sue Phillips	Dick Russell
Sue Brotherton	Margaret Haste

Worship

Barbara Scane	Martin Allen
Graham Clark	Enid Brumsen
David Richmond	

Calendar



SEPTEMBER

Saturday 1		Rowney Green Flower Show in The Peace Hall
Sunday 2	2.30.pm	Footpath Walk from Barnt Green Inn Car Park
Monday 3	1.30.pm 7.45.pm	Forget-me-not in The Ark Historical Society: Local Farms and their history.
Saturday 8	2.00.pm	Museum Open Afternoon
Sunday 9	6.30.pm	Ecumenical Service in the Baptist Church
Tuesday 11	9.00.am	Ex-Services Outing to Weston-super-Mare
Thursday 13	7.45.pm	Rowney Green Horticultural Society in The Peace Hall
Saturday 15	2.00.pm	Museum Open Afternoon
Sunday 16	10.30.am	Experimental Service at St Laurence Church
Monday 17	1.30.pm	Forget-me-not in The Ark
Wednesday 19	9.00.am	Silver Threads Outing to Trentham Gardens
Thursday 20	12.15.pm	Ark Café Re-opens
Wednesday 26	2.00.pm 7.45.pm	Women's Fellowship in Tanyard Community Centre Village Society in The Village Hall
Sunday 30	10.30.am	Experimental Service at St Laurence Church