

# The Grapevine

THE PARISH MAGAZINE OF ST LAURENCE CHURCH ALVECHURCH



**DECEMBER 2018**

Online at [www.alvechurch-stlaurence.org/monthly-magazine](http://www.alvechurch-stlaurence.org/monthly-magazine)

# St Laurence Church Alvechurch

## SUNDAY SERVICES

### **8.00am Holy Communion**

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

### **9.30am Family Service**

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

### **11.15am Parish Eucharist**

### **6.00pm Evensong**

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

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

## At Rowney Green Shared Church

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

## DAILY SERVICE

**9.00am Monday to Friday in St Laurence Church**

## ORGANISATIONS

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

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

**Bellringers - Sundays at 10.45am**

**Tuesday Practice at 7.30pm (01527 64077)**

**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

**Enquiries to Ian Price 0121 447 7955**

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## Martin Allen writes...

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from everyone at St Laurence. Whether you're joining us in a service or spending time with those you love; we pray this will be a peaceful time for you.

This Christmas sits between some important historical events. Recently we have had the remembrance of the centenary of the end of World War 1. Though one hundred years ago, those events have cast long shadows ever since. It is right that we remember, give thanks for the sacrifices and try not to repeat past conflicts. On the other side of Christmas we have events, which for current generations, could be as important. Brexit is not the same as global war, but may cast unpredictable shadows into the future, whatever the final outcome.

Some people in 1918 would have heard Reverend Eric Milner-White's first use of the service of Nine Lessons and Carols. Returning from bad experiences in WW1, he felt the words and songs of church services were inadequate to speak to the needs of communities damaged by the war. The simple service fulfilled his desire to offer "*Colour, warmth and delight with aesthetic as well as spiritual consolation in only the simplest and most direct language.*" This Christmas Eve the service, largely unchanged since 1918, will again be transmitted from Kings College Cambridge where he was Dean.

What form of songs and words do we need for Christmas 2018? What can speak to our fearful divided society as we face upheaval and uncertainty?

I'd like to offer some words from a modern song:-

*Do you feel the world is broken? (We do)*

*Do you feel the shadows deepen? (We do)*

*But do you know that all the dark won't stop*

*the light from getting through? (We do!)*  
*Do you wish that you could see it all made new? (We do)*

*Is all creation groaning? (It is)*

*Is a new creation coming? (It is)*

*Is the glory of the Lord to be the light within our midst? (It is)*

*Is it good that we remind ourselves of this? (It is)*

*Does the Father truly love us? (He does)*

*Does the Spirit move among us? (He does)*

*And does Jesus, our Messiah hold forever those He loves? (He does)*

*Does our God intend to dwell again with us? (He does)*

Andrew Peterson *Is He Worthy?* (video at <https://youtu.be/Olahc83Kvp4>)

It is a baby born in a stable to a poor family who can provide us with the colour warmth and delight which can counter the fears we face. That child, grown into full manhood, is the one who can answer our questions. He can give us answers to the meaning of life, help us unite our divided society, and seek peace. Like our WW1 heroes, this cost him his life.

Understanding his teachings and applying them to life may not be easy. Doing so means we acknowledge we are in the wrong and need help. Acknowledging that, allows the barriers between God and man to be removed. Restoring that link can be a pattern for how to relate to each other. We can then truly experience "*colour warmth delight and spiritual consolation*" in all their fullness. With all good wishes that you encounter Christ this Christmas.

Martin Allen ALM St Laurence

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## Parish Prayers

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

**Crown Meadow – 2 December**

**Cygnat Close – 9 December**

**Dagnell End Road – 16 December**

**Dellow Grove – 23 December**

**Foxhill Lane – 30 December**



## And All That Jazz

*Margaret Haste writes...*

To everyone who was at the Ark on the 19th October,  
in whatever capacity, a big thank you for your support.  
We were treated to a great evening of Dixieland jazz  
by Sauce City and raised the sum of £382.40 towards  
the Church Restoration Fund. Hope to see you all next  
year.

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## January 2019 Grapevine Deadline

PLEASE NOTE - the deadline for  
anyone wishing to submit  
articles for our January 2019  
edition is Wednesday 5th  
December 2018

Wishing all our readers a very  
**Happy Christmas and good health  
for the New Year**

# 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. On the 13th December we will welcome Samantha Hopes a young plant enthusiast who has worked at Ashwood Nursery, Birmingham Botanical Gardens and Wisley. Her subject will be "Winter in Bloom". Guests are always welcome - £3.50 including refreshments.

The Society would like to wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and a Healthy & Prosperous 2019.

Should you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact Lindsay Smith on 01527 592874.



Sam Setchell Communications Officer writes...

#FollowTheStar is the Church of England's 2018 Advent and Christmas Campaign. It seeks to encourage everyone to follow in the footsteps of the Wise Men, on their journey to meet Jesus. There are 14 daily reflections, starting on Christmas Eve and ending on the Epiphany (6 January).

Archbishops Justin Welby and John Sentamu said: "For many of us, Christmas brings up so many emotions, memories and expectations. We have one nativity story, but it can seem like we all have very different Christmases. But just like the unexpected assortment of people who were invited to meet the baby Jesus, Follow the Star doesn't ask you to be perfect. It says: come just as you are to take the life-changing Christmas journey."

Resources for churches and families are available on the Church of England website:  
[www.churchofengland.org/christmas](http://www.churchofengland.org/christmas)

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## Letter from the Bishop of Worcester



**The Christian faith is essentially about  
love – because God is love.**

At Christmas we celebrate God's love for us in coming to share our human life in the person of Jesus. At Easter we celebrate the depths of that love in dying for us, and its triumph over death itself in the resurrection. At Pentecost we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit, '*power from on high*', to enable us to love as God has loved us.

It's as simple as that, really. The problem – in case you hadn't noticed – is that we don't manage to love as God loves us. As we celebrate the Advent of the Prince of Peace this Christmas, the world is filled with conflict. One hundred years after the ending of what was referred to at the time as 'the war to end all wars' there is still so much violence, bloodshed and oppression in the world.

Why is that? I suggest that the main reason we do not love as we ought is that we cannot, deep down, believe that we are loved or even loveable. Most of our 'sinfulness' – in Christian terminology – derives from an insecurity, a deep dis-ease within.

Ever since I became a Christian I have believed that I am unconditionally loved – in my head. The trouble is I couldn't quite believe in my heart that anyone, let alone I, could be unconditionally loved. Until I became a parent, that is. I then felt an extraordinarily powerful and quite unconditional love for my children, and still do. I spoke to my daughter about this the other day and she feels the same about her two year-old-daughter.

Now I can believe that God loves me unconditionally – with my heart as well as my head. I have a long way to go but it has made me more loving.

My prayer this Christmas is that, whether or not we are parents, we shall be given grace to believe with all our heart that God loves us more than we can possibly imagine with a love that is stronger than death and which will stretch into all eternity. Then we might be able better to love as God loves us.

+John

# The Ark Café



We hope that our customers have enjoyed their Thursday lunchtime meals during 2018 and we thank them for their support during the year.

There may be some places left on the Christmas lunch on Thursday, 6th December, price is £15, so if you want to come give Ian Price a ring on 0121 447 7955. He's in the Ark Office Monday to Friday 9am to 2pm.

We are then closed over the Christmas period and reopen on 10th January 2019.

Happy Christmas to you all and good wishes for 2019.



## The Worcester-Birmingham & Droitwich Canals Society

The Worcester-Birmingham & Droitwich Canals Society will be holding their annual Christmas Natter, Noggin & Quiz Night on Tuesday 4th December with a 7.45pm start. All are welcome to come along as you don't need to be a member of the society to attend.

We get together in the meeting room just behind The Weighbridge Pub, Scarfield Hill, Alvechurch, B48 7SQ. Our first meeting of 2019 is on Tuesday 8th January, 7.45pm start.

For any further information please email [contact@wbdc.org.uk](mailto:contact@wbdc.org.uk) or phone Tony on 07763 468893.

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# Christmas Without The Tinsel

There will be a service, "*Christmas without the tinsel*", particularly for those who find the Christmas season difficult for whatever reason. It will be held in St Laurence's on **Sunday 9 December at 6 PM**.

It will be a reflective United Service for all the churches in Alvechurch and Rowney Green, and will be led by Richard Bubbers.

Everyone is welcome.

# Christmas Services

The churches in Alvechurch are preparing for the special services during the Christmas season.

St Laurence will be holding a **special joint Communion Service at 10:30 AM on Sunday 23 December**, after an **8 AM** Communion Service (Book of Common Prayer); and the Service of **Nine Lessons and Carols** will then be held in the evening at **6 PM**. This is part of a long tradition of telling the Christmas story in readings and music with some well-known carols for everyone.

Our two Family Nativity Services will be held on **Christmas Eve** (Monday): these services will include favourite carols and the story of the Nativity. Children are preparing to perform in the drama at the **4 PM** service and at the **6 PM** service.

Our Midnight Communion Service on **Christmas Eve** begins at **11.30 PM** and welcomes in Christmas Day.

There will be one service for everyone on **Christmas Day** (Tuesday) with an All-age Christmas morning service at **10:30 AM**.

# St Laurence Women's Fellowship

*Jill Woolley writes...*



We were all very sad to hear of the death of our Vice - President and Treasurer, Dorothy Davenport. She had been a member of the Fellowship for over forty years and for most of that time she served on the Committee. We owe her a big debt of gratitude for all she did for us. She attended our meeting in October and enjoyed sampling Neil Hughes delicious chocolate as he told us about the processes of making it.

Our last meeting in 2018 will be on December 12th when we will celebrate Christmas with a shared buffet lunch starting at the earlier time of 1.30pm. We send our Christmas greetings to you all.

Our first meeting in 2019 will be on January 23rd when Mrs Helen Eyre will entertain us with songs from films, shows and old songs.

We meet in the Tanyard Centre at 2pm. You are welcome to join us.

# Alvechurch Historical Society

*Hilary Taylor writes...*

The final meeting of the year is fast approaching –

**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.

The first meeting of 2019 will be the AGM in February, followed by the first talk in March.

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 5955.

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# Autumn Wedding Bells

Joanne Hall, who grew up in Alvechurch, and Andrew Wilson met at work on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2015. Love blossomed, and they 'tied the knot' at St Laurence Church on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2018.



Jo, the daughter of John & Sue Hall, was escorted into church on her father's arm wearing an ivory dress with a lace keyhole back and belt. She was attended by chief bridesmaids, Tina Jarvis and Amy Hall (both sisters) together with bridesmaids, Holly Seymour (niece), Becci Follis and Dannii Hayward (friends).

Andy, the son of John & Susan Wilson, chose his best friend, Christopher Sly, as best man with his brother, Mark Wilson, and friends, Shaun Boyes, Nick Ayers and Phil Gifford assisting as ushers.

The reception at Gorcott Hall, Redditch was followed by a honeymoon on Mykonos, Greece. The couple are making their married home together in Hunt End, Redditch.



# A Beautiful Autumn Day



Frankie Crawley married her fiancé Jonathan Smith on 20<sup>th</sup> October in St Laurence Church, accompanied by their beautiful daughter Florence, who was Frankie's Flower Girl. Jonathan grew up in Alvechurch and was a former pupil at Alvechurch C of E Middle School. He met Frankie through their occupation and both moved into Hollington Road, which became their family home. Jonathan and Frankie have since followed their dream of living by the sea and moved to Cornwall last year but frequently visit family in Alvechurch.

Frankie was accompanied in to the church on her Father's arm wearing an ivory lace fit and flair dress. The bridesmaids, Kirsty Crawley, Deb Harris and Claire Jones wore different shades of lilac. The Flower Girls, Florence Smith and Evelyn Crawley wore ivory dresses with matching shoes and had a great time turning the congregation into frogs during the signing of the register with their heart shaped wands. Everyone commented how spiritual the marriage ceremony was and we would like to thank Rev'd Bubbers for performing such a memorable service and for making our wedding day so special and personal to us.

The reception was held at Ettington Park near Stratford upon Avon and Jamie Knight and his fantastic band kept our family and friends on the dance floor until late. It was a wonderful day and many happy memories will live on forever.



# Nativity Word Search

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



angels  
Christmas  
donkey  
innkeeper  
Jesus  
Joseph    manger  
king        Mary  
              nativity  
              salvation  
              sheep  
              shepherds  
              star  
              wisemen

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## Mum's the Word

*Sarah Linton writes...*

We welcome all Parents, Grandparents and your Little Ones to join us for our final session this year, on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> December, which will be our **Christmas Celebration**. Our usual chat and play time will include mince pies and special biscuits with our refreshments. We will also have a Christmas themed craft activity for you to do with your children and will have Carols and the Nativity Story to finish with. Simple dressing up clothes for the Nativity Story will be provided, but please feel free to bring your child's own if you wish. The session will be our usual time: 9.30 am – 11.00 am ish.

**2019** sessions will then begin on **Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> January**.

*Do come along and join us, as often as you wish. Spread the word and bring friends.*

**To find out more: Contact Sarah Linton at [sarah100work@gmail.com](mailto:sarah100work@gmail.com)**

## Advent All-Age Service at St Laurence Church

We invite everyone to come along to our Advent All-age Service on **Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> December** at **9.30 am**.



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South Birmingham

# Christmas Wishes

A very Happy Christmas and a peaceful new year to all our friends, from Veronica Rogers, Gloria Wilson, Margaret Haste, Susi and David Owen, Linda Helmore, Alison and Michael Smith, Mick and Lynn Fletcher and Sue Brotherton.



To all my dear friends of Rowney Green and Alvechurch who have sent messages of love to me, I wish you all a lovely Christmas and a happy new year. Bless you all, love June Border.



Happy Christmas and New Year from Rosina, John and Caroline Spreckley.



# Alvechurch WI

*Pam Horsfield writes...*

As this was an open evening when visitors were welcome to join us, we had a very good audience to hear Paul Harding of Discover History, talk about the Armistice and Remembrance Day. The hall was decorated by jam jars painted with poppies which were painted by the Lounge teenagers and our WI members. We also had cake, symbolic of the war with a poppy on top.

As usual, Paul took us on a journey through time, starting on the excitement felt at the start of the Great War in 1914, the war to end all wars. In fact, it took us to the brink of destruction, as nothing would ever be the same again. Women's lives had changed. Rationing had brought a lot of the poor to starvation, while those who returned home often returned to find that the flu had taken loved ones. 1918 and 1919 was a time of collecting or making souvenirs, while towns were building war memorials. As usual Paul held our attention throughout. He and Helen are always welcome and we were delighted to give them a card wishing them a very happy wedding day next month.

This month several members are going on the trip to Chester; we are going to the Group Meeting at Wythall and others are making decorations for our tree for the Baptist Tree Festival.

On Monday December 10th we will be having a fun craft evening making notepads and Christmas table decorations, which we hope will start a festive spirit for all our members.

## Hillside at Alvechurch WI

*Linda Helmore writes...*

At our last meeting held on 7th November we welcomed 10 hand Bell Ringers from Kings Norton. They gave us some of the history of hand bell ringing, which originated when it was too cold to play the tower church bells! Many of their tunes, therefore, started as hymns and carols but their repertoire has now extended to other tunes such as folk and classical music. The ten players played 35 bells between them ranging from tiny ones to large and very heavy bells. They entertained us with some very complicated tunes including English and German carols and some harvest songs. It was a very enjoyable and relaxing evening followed by wonderful home made cakes and tea.

Our December meeting will be a festive Christmas tea at Southcrest Hotel.

At our January meeting we will be entertained by Alan Clarke an actor with the Alvechurch Dramatic Society. The meeting will be held at the Ark on Monday 7th January. New members will be made very welcome.

## Rowney Green Flower Club

*Celia Hitch writes...*

Rowney green Flower Club are holding their special Christmas Demonstration and Buffet on Thursday evening, 6th December, at 7pm. This will be a lovely evening, with buffet included, and our demonstrator for the evening will be Carole from Pinks Florists (back by popular demand).

Tickets will be £4 for members and £7 for non-members. All are welcome. Come along and enjoy yourself. Contacts: Felicity 0121 445 2371 or Jane on 01527 64817.

## Thank You

*Celia Hitch writes...*

Macmillan Biggest Ever Coffee Morning, held at Rectory Cottage, Old Rectory Lane, Alvechurch on Friday 28th September was a great success! We had a lovely day, lots of visitors and raised an amazing £1,045. The best ever result! Thank you to all my wonderful helpers. Celia, Vicky and Nick Hitch.

## Gordon Parsons has contributed these quotations:

*“ Things do not change: we change”* (Henry David Thoreau)

*“We must live together as brothers – or perish as fools”* (Martin Luther King Jr)

# THE MIDLAND SINFONIA

St Laurence Church, Alvechurch B48 7SB

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via website / 0121 447 7040  
or 'Gin & Pickles', The Square, Alvechurch

disabled access & free parking on site / [www.midlandsinfonia.co.uk](http://www.midlandsinfonia.co.uk)

# Flowers for DECEMBER



By tradition during Advent we do not have flowers in church until Christmas.

If anyone, young or not so young, could be available to help with decorating our church for the festive season please do get in touch with me. I can be contacted either by phone or email or personally in church.

Ann Thurrell 0121 447 7668

Email [annthurrell@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:annthurrell@hotmail.co.uk)



## Thank You

On behalf of myself and my sister Julia, I would like to take this opportunity of thanking everybody for all their cards, kind thoughts and expressions of sympathy following the death of our mother Dorothy Davenport. It is so encouraging to know there is so much support and help around at this sad time. Thank you all again.

Michael Davenport



## Weddings

*Those whom God has joined together*

20 October

Jonathan Smith and Frances Crawley

3 November

David Scriven and Jamie-Lee Averill



## Funerals and Cremations

*May they rest in the peace of Christ*

30 October

Donald Bennett

13 November

Maureen Evans

19 November

Dorothy Davenport

# Who's who

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Rector  | Revd Richard Bubbers, Priest-in-charge, School Lane, 445 1087<br>stlaurencealvechurch@yahoo.co.uk   |
| Licensed Lay Ministers                        | Mr Dick Russell, 2 Gothic Cottages, Radford Rd, 445 3083<br>Mrs Sue Phillips Wardle, Withybed Green, 445 3620<br>Mrs Helen Ayling, "Tarncroft", Hewell Lane, Vigo, 445 6176   |
| Authorised Lay Ministers                      | Mrs Helena Allen<br>Mr Martin Allen, 445 5605<br>Mrs Philippa Brakes, 56 Callow Hill Road, 445 3983<br>Mr Graham Clark, The Coach House, School Lane, 445 2547<br>Mr Michael Fletcher, 13 Red Lion Street, 447 8451<br>Mrs Annette Thomas, 8 Snake Lane, 445 5180 |
| Churchwardens                                 | Mr Graham Clark, The Coach House, School Lane, 445 2547<br>Mr Mick Fletcher, 13 Red Lion Street, 447 8451   |
| Deputy Wardens                                | Mr Colin Bennett, 122 Redditch Road, 01527 64077<br>Mr David Richmond, The Ferns, Chapel Lane, 445 3569<br>Mrs Alison Smith, 12 Hollington Road, 447 7293<br>Mr Andy Notley, 445 5653<br>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<br>(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 DECEMBER



- Saturday 1 7 for 7.30pm The Midland Sinfonia: Candlelit Concert: St Laurence Church
- Monday 3 7.45pm Alvechurch Historical Society: Talk by Philip Jarvis: *"The Changing Face of Redditch Railways"*: Museum, School Lane
- Wednesday 5 **January GRAPEVINE GOES TO PRESS (PLEASE NOTE EARLY DEADLINE)**  
*articles to thearkalvechurch@yahoo.co.uk*
- Thursday 6 9.30am Mums The Word: Sarah Linton  
12.15pm Ark cafe: Roast Turkey Christmas Lunch: The Ark: **TICKET ONLY**  
7.00pm Rowney Green Flower Club: Christmas Demonstration and Buffet: Ticket event: Peace Hall, Rowney Green
- Sunday 9 6.00pm Special Service: *"Christmas without the tinsel"*: St Laurence Church
- Monday 10 7.30pm Ark Angels WI: Wreath Making and AGM: The Ark  
7.30pm Alvechurch WI: Christmas Craft Evening: Alvechurch Village Hall
- Tuesday 11 7.30pm Finance Committee Meeting: The Ark
- Thursday 13 9:30am Mums The Word Christmas Celebrations: Sarah Linton  
No Ark Cafe today  
7.30pm Rowney Green Horticultural Society: Talk by Samantha Hopes: *"Winter in Bloom"*: Rowney Green Peace Hall
- Monday 17 11.00am Alvechurch Middle School Carol Service: St Laurence Church  
& 7.30pm
- Sunday 23 8.00am Communion Service: St Laurence Church  
10.30am Special Joint Communion Service: St Laurence Church  
6.00pm Service of Nine Lessons and Carols: St Laurence Church

## CHRISTMAS EVE

- Monday 24 4.00pm Family Nativity Service: St Laurence Church  
6.00pm Family Nativity Service: St Laurence Church  
11.30pm Midnight Communion Service: St Laurence Church

## CHRISTMAS DAY

- Tuesday 25 10.30am All-age Christmas Morning Service: St Laurence Church