

# The Grapevine

THE PARISH MAGAZINE OF ST LAURENCE CHURCH ALVECHURCH



**DECEMBER 2019**

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)**

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

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

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

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## ***Sue Phillips Wardle writes...***

Promises, promises, promises. Will politicians ever run out of things they promise to capture our attention and persuade us to vote for them. On 12th December we will be doing just that and before Christmas we may even have a new Government in place. Whatever the outcome of the election we will certainly have newly elected politicians in the House of Commons, endeavouring to work together to deliver on the promises they made during their campaigns. Time will tell whether as individuals, as Political Parties and as Government, they are able to deliver what they promised.

The Christmas season is a season of promise, and I don't just mean the promises made by Santa and his helpers to our bright eyed children. I'm thinking too of the image portrayed on our screens of gifts that delight, of happy families, delicious food, and festive cheer. The over-promise of the advertiser wooing us to spend our money on their particular product by associating it with other desirable images.

In church the whole of December is a season for revisiting God's promises made over many centuries. We call the season Advent, (dictionary definition: 'the arrival of a notable person or thing). In the Christian church it's a time when we prepare for the coming (the advent) of Christ into the world. Jesus' birth in Bethlehem more than 2,000 years ago was an event signposted over centuries. Each Sunday during Advent we light a candle, four candles leading up to Christmas Day when the fifth candle representing Jesus is lit. Each week we revisit the promises made to the Jewish people that there would come a time when everything changed. The Messiah would come, and bring in a new era, transforming the evils of the day by his presence. So each candle represents a different era of promise; the promise of God to Abraham that though childless, his offspring would be more numerous than the sand on the seashore; the promise of the prophets that rescue would

take place at the birth of a child; the promise to a childless priest that his wife would have a baby in her old age who would grow to be the forerunner of the Messiah; the promise to Mary, that though a virgin, she would miraculously conceive a child who would be Saviour of the World.

These promises sustained the people of their time through periods of doubt and fear for the future. They had people pondering their meaning and checking their sources. There must have been many people over many years who, on remembering the promises, felt that they had been broken and God had let them down. But in the end the Saviour was born, he was born in exactly the right place (Bethlehem) to exactly the right person (a virgin) and his ministry was announced by the very person whose surprise arrival in the world had been accompanied by the appearance of an angel and his father being struck dumb.

It's an incredible story but it's the one that launched the Christian faith, followed 33 years later with a cruel death that appeared for 3 days to annul all promise. The resurrection and ascension of Jesus reversed all that, and before a couple of centuries were up, much of the Roman world had been transformed by the message of Jesus.

That in a nutshell is the Christian story. It's a story of promise, of waiting and trusting (and sometimes doubting) and eventually one of fulfilment of promise.

In this time of promise let's celebrate the long-awaited Saviour, be realistic in what we ourselves promise, and prayerfully support our politicians as they strive to work together to deliver on the promises they have made.

Do join us in church at one or more of Christmas services as we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, Child of Promise. Happy Christ-mas!

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## Alvechurch Historical Society

*Hilary Taylor writes...*

Our next talk will be the last of 2019. There will then be a break until our AGM in February and our first talk of 2020 in March, both on the first Monday of the month.

### Monday 2nd December 7.45pm

Former history teacher Max Keen is an enthusiast for bringing history to life. This time his subject is **Sir Francis Drake - England's Greatest Naval Hero?** Come along and hear the arguments for and against, and possibly a few words from the great man himself.

If you need any more information, please contact our chairman, Anne Humphries on 0121 445 5955. Our meetings are held at 7.45pm, in the museum hut on School Lane. Parking is available behind the Catholic Church, with their kind permission.

## Hillside @ Alvechurch WI

At our November meeting we welcomed Wendy Moore from Johnson's Coaches, a family run business which started 110 years ago in Henley-in-Arden, and is still 'going strong' over 100 years later. A credit to good management and forward planning. A donation was given to their chosen charities which this year are Helping hands and The Scouts.

A post Christmas Meal is in the planning stage and will probably be held in January, something to look forward to in the New Year.

Our next meeting is on Monday December 2nd in the upstairs room at the Ark. Mince Pies and Mulled Wine to look forward to.

There is NO meeting in January, the February meeting is also on a Monday, the 3rd and also in the upstairs room.

We wish all members and friends a very Happy and Peaceful Christmas.

# Alvechurch WI

*Pam Horsfield writes...*

We had a very busy and lively meeting in November when 55 members sat down to a fish and chip supper provided by our local fish and chip shop. Delicious, with a mug of tea. We've found that sitting around the small tables as well as the long ones is proving interesting, as we now meet new members and can mix more. This is good as this year we've gained several new members, including four at last night's meeting, and want to help them feel welcome.

Julie thanked Sheila Dickinson for her effort in creating our craft entry for the competition at Malvern, along with Paula Husband who supported the 'Allotment' theme. The entry gained a very respectable total of points and some good comments. Di Davies's dolphin also looked impressive in the Art section. The friendly Craft group kindly brought their banner and fabric pumpkins which had been displayed at the Pumpkin Festival previously, and Jackie Perks was thanked for our table decoration. Tony Brannon then gave us a good time playing his ever popular Musical Bingo with excerpts of music from the 60s and 70s. You just can't help singing along, as you may not be able to remember where you've put your keys, but you can all remember the words or music of the songs from that era! Lots of folks won prizes of chocolates and we all went home having had a good night.

Our next meeting is on Monday December 9th at 7:30pm in the Village Hall when our speaker will be telling us about 'Christmas past to Christmas present.' Do feel free to join us.

## January 2020 Edition Grapevine Deadline

**PLEASE NOTE - the deadline for anyone wishing to submit articles for our January 2020 edition is -**

**THURSDAY 5TH DECEMBER 2019**

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

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## Christmas Without The Tinsel

There will be a service, "*Christmas without the tinsel*", particularly for those who may find the Christmas season difficult for whatever reason. It will be held in St Laurence's on **Sunday 8th December at 6.00pm.**

It will be a reflective United Service, organised by all the Churches in Alvechurch and Rowney Green, and 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 **10:30am** on **Sunday 22nd December**, after an **8.00am** Communion Service (Book of Common Prayer); and the Service of **Nine Lessons and Carols** will then be held in the evening at **6.00pm**. 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** (Tuesday 24th December): these services will include favourite carols and the story of the Nativity. Children are preparing to perform in the drama at the **4.00pm** service and at the **6.00pm** service.

Our Midnight Communion Service on **Christmas Eve** (Tuesday 24th December) begins at **11.30pm** and welcomes in Christmas Day.

There will be one service for everyone on **Christmas Day** (Wednesday 25th December) with an All-age Christmas morning service at **10:30am**.

## Jazz Concert Success

*Margaret Haste writes...*

Those attending this event on the 11th October were treated to an evening of great trad jazz, thanks to the Sauce City Jazz Band. It was very well attended and the sum of £301 was raised for the Church Restoration Fund so very many thanks to all who participated, in whatever shape or form.

# Christmas Wishes

June Border wishes everyone a Peaceful Christmas and New Year and many thanks for your kind support and good wishes.



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



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

## A Christmas Poem - The Holy Night

by Elizabeth Barrett Browning (1806-1861)

*We sate among the stalls at Bethlehem;  
The dumb kine from their fodder turning them,  
Softened their horned faces  
To almost human gazes  
Toward the newly Born:*

*The simple shepherds from the star-lit brooks*

*Brought their visionary looks,  
As yet in their astounded hearing rung  
The strange sweet angel-tongue:*

*The magi of the East, in sandals worn,  
Knelt reverent, sweeping round,*

*With long pale beards, their gifts upon the ground,  
The incense, myrrh, and gold*

*These baby hands were impotent to hold:  
So let all earthlies and celestials wait  
Upon thy royal state.*

*Sleep, sleep, my kingly One!*

Source: <https://www.familyfriendpoems.com/poem/the-holy-night-by-elizabeth-barrett-browning>

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## The Ark Cafe



The Christmas lunch on Thursday, December 5th is now fully booked.

The Cafe will now be closed over the Christmas period and reopen in 2020 on Thursday, 9th January.

We wish all our customers a Happy Christmas and New Year and look forward to seeing you all in 2020 and to your continued support.



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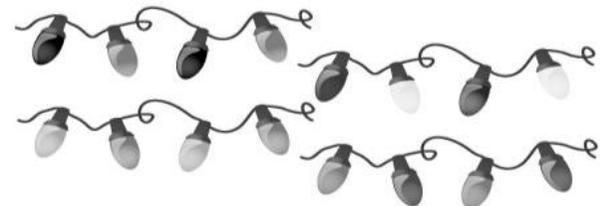
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## Christmas Lights in the Forecourt at Alvechurch Baptist Church



On Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December when the village will celebrate the switch on of the Christmas Lights, the forecourt at Alvechurch Baptist Church will be lit, the church open, carols playing and mulled wine served to those passing by.



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## Alvechurch Village Society Walks

Walks are held on the first Sunday of the month, unless this conflicts with a Bank Holiday. Weather conditions occasionally mean a walk has to be cancelled; check with the leaders if necessary.

**Sunday 1st December at 2.30pm**

**Walk: Charlie's Mystery Walk**

Leader: Charlie Simmonds

Meet: Tanyard Lane car park

**Thursday 26th December at 10.30am**

**Walk: Boxing Day Traditional Walk**

Leaders: Ray & Norma Yarnell (0121 445 5739)

Meet: Lickey Hills Visitor Centre car park

## Rowney Green Horticultural Society

*Lindsay Smith writes...*

Rowney Green Horticultural Society usually meets at The Village Hall on the second Thursday of each month at 7.30pm. There will be no meeting in December as we feel this is a very busy period for people; Christmas shopping, visiting relatives etc. So the Committee would like to wish all its members and readers of The Grapevine a very Merry Christmas and a Healthy New Year. We look forward to announcing the programme for 2020 very shortly. For more information please telephone Lindsay Smith on 01527 592874.

## Thank You

*Jill Woolley writes...*

A very big thank you to everyone who sent me their good wishes and prayers after my unfortunate accident in September. I was overwhelmed by the number of lovely 'Get Well' cards I received and they did much to speed my recovery. Pleased to say I am making good progress and hope to be out and about very soon. It has been good to have visitors and I am especially grateful to those who have given me lifts. So thank you all. With my love and gratitude Jill.

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# Ark Tots and Toddlers Group at St Laurence church

*Are you a Parent, Grandparent or Carer looking after a baby or little ones who are not yet in full-time school? Would you like a friendly play environment to bring them along to?*

A warm welcome awaits you and your Little Ones, for our Stay and Play group at St Laurence church. Held in the Ark from **9.30 – 11.00** on **Thursdays** during school term times.

It's a relaxed and friendly time to chat and to play with your Little Ones with a wide range of toys and activities and on-going refreshments. At the end of each session we finish with a singing time.

Although we don't make a specific charge, we welcome your contribution towards the facilities, refreshments and new toys/equipment.

Our final session this year will be **19<sup>th</sup> December**:

## **our Christmas Celebration**

Come and join us for our **usual playtime with Christmas craft activity, fancy biscuits/mince pies/crisps, Christmas story and carols in the church, for babies and toddlers at 10.45**

*No session on 26<sup>th</sup> December or 2nd January.*

**We re-start on January 9th**



## **Sunday Club** at St Laurence church

*As part of the **weekly 9.30 Family Service** St Laurence provides a range of activities for babies, children and young people in The Ark.*

*Age-appropriate activities include:*

*Singing, Bible stories, Drama, Craft activities, Activity Sheets, Adult-led Discussion group, Prayers*

*We also have occasional **All-Age Worship Services**, with everyone participating together in a varied mix of worship activities in the church. These are specially designed and led in a way that is accessible to all, including: Praise Songs, Bible stories/readings, Interactive Prayer, Drama and other activities relevant to the theme for that Sunday.*

*Our next All-Age Worship Service will be **9.30 on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December**.*

*Do come along and join us at St Laurence as we worship together Sunday by Sunday.*

*St Laurence Church warmly invites you to  
come along to*

***Our special ADVENT All-Age Worship Service***

***Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December at 9.30am***

***Appropriate for Babies, Toddlers, Children and Adults***

*A chance for everyone to participate together in a varied mix of worship activities in the church, specially designed and led in a way that is accessible to all, Including: Bible stories/readings, Interactive Prayer, Drama and other activities, all relevant to the theme of ADVENT*



***AND LOTS OF CHRISTMAS CAROLS***  
*So come along and have fun*



## **Bells for Eglantyne**

Save the Children will celebrate their centenary by ringing bells in December.

Eglantyne Jebb is remembered each year on 17 December as the founder of international children's charity, Save the Children, in 1919.

For the organisation's centenary year, churches and other supporters will ring their bells on Sunday 15 December to commemorate the life, work and vision of Eglantyne and her sister, Dorothy Buxton, a co-founder, whilst also remembering them in prayers.

Save the Children was founded in the aftermath of the First World War, after the founders spoke up for the starving children trapped behind British blockades. Eglantyne once said, *"Each generation of children offers mankind the possibility of rebuilding his ruin of a world."*

Today, Save the Children continues the commitment to secure the rights of the world's most deprived and marginalised children. This year, the charity aims to highlight the global issue of children in conflict. It is estimated that over 350 million children, one in six worldwide, are living in conflict zones. Many are deprived of sufficient food, medical care, schooling or protection, whilst suffering atrocities like sexual violence and exploitation. Save the Children draws attention to these injustices and drives change through local and international engagement.

# A New Resource To Help Talk About Money

*A new resource has been launched to help churches to talk about money with our congregations and community groups.*

The *Jesus Money* card game has been developed as a partnership between the Just Finance Foundation, Transforming Churches Together and the Diocese of Lichfield. David Primrose, Social Responsibility Officer for the Diocese of Lichfield, said: *“Jesus talked a lot about money, but in our parishes, the conversation is often skewed towards how we can meet parish costs. As churches, we come into contact with people who might be struggling with money but don’t want to ask for help. Jesus Money is a way to start the conversation.”*

Similar to the *Grave Talk* resource, *Jesus Money* contains cards with questions which are designed to be discussion starters for small groups. There are four different colour coded subject matters – save, spend, borrow and give. Some of the questions are completely general and others have more of a church-focus. All are designed to give the opportunity to talk about money in a completely non-threatening way.



Matt Adcock, Head of Communications for the Church Urban Fund of which Transforming Communities Together is a part, said: *“We trialled a whole range of different questions before producing the pack, using a score card to work out which ones resulted in the best discussion starters. Some of the questions are quite challenging, but all give the opportunity to say things out loud in a safe space. When you start using the cards, you don’t know where the discussion will take you – there are no right & wrong answers. If there’s a topic that people don’t want to talk about, you can just turn over to the next card.”*

The cards are recommended for use in small groups where everyone gets the chance to participate. They could be used in a church context, or in existing community groups organised by the church. *Jesus Money* cards cost £6 (£10 including postage). More information is available from [www.justfinancefoundation.org.uk/jesusmoney](http://www.justfinancefoundation.org.uk/jesusmoney).



# Christmas

## Birth of Jesus Word Search

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 I W O E E K I R S N G W A S W  
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- |              |           |         |            |
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| BETHLEHEM    | GOLD      | MARY    | SON OF GOD |
| CENSUS       | INNKEEPER | MESSIAH | STABLE     |
| DONKEY       | JESUS     | MYRRH   | STAR       |
| EAST         | JOSEPH    | NIGHT   | STRAW      |
| FRANKINCENSE | KINGS     | SHEEP   | WISE MEN   |

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## Churches Together in Alvechurch and Rowney Green

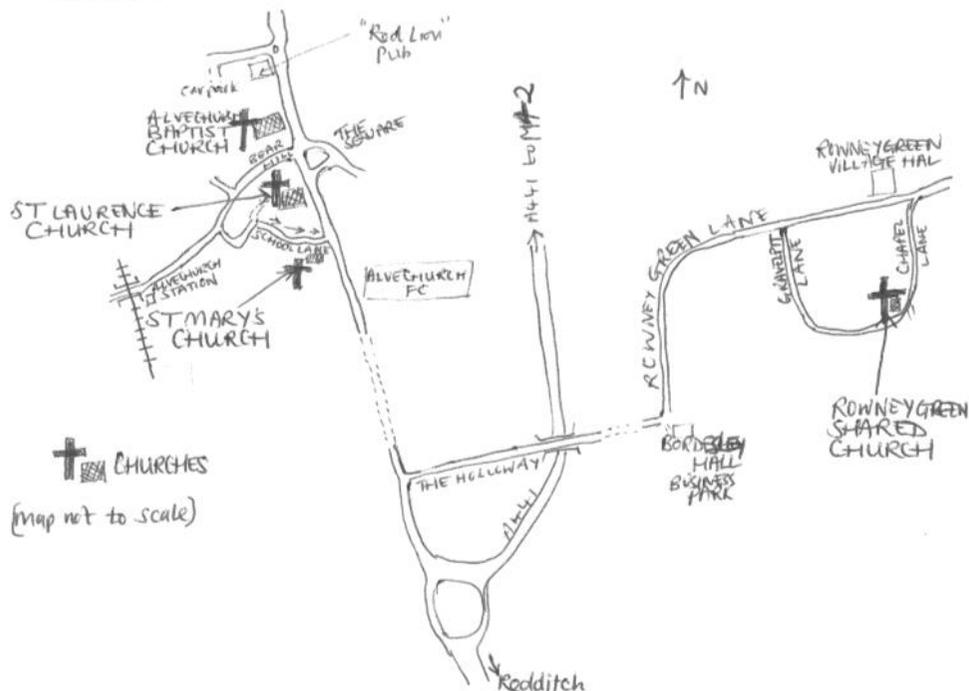
Warmly invite you to

## Open Churches

On Saturday morning, January 18<sup>th</sup> 2020, 9 am to 12 noon, at

- St Laurence Church, School Lane, Alvechurch, B48 7SB
- Alvechurch Baptist Church, 29 Red Lion St, Alvechurch, B48 7LG
- St Mary's Church, School Lane, Alvechurch, B48 7SA
- Rowney Green Shared Church, Chapel Lane, Rowney Green B48 7QJ

We are celebrating the annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and as part of this we are welcoming everyone who would like to visit the Churches. You will be able to meet parishioners and see the various Churches.



# Letter from the Dean of Worcester



In many churches and cathedrals, people are invited to light candles and to write down their prayers. Often children do this, and often they are thoughtful and thought-provoking. Here is one I read some time ago. It simply said, *“Dear God, everyone misses you”*.

Now I don’t know what passed through that child’s mind as he or she wrote those words. Were they just the sort of words you write on a holiday postcard to a much-loved grandparent, or on a get-well card to a poorly aunt: an affectionate phrase that seemed the right sort of message to send to God? Or was there more to it than that? Whatever that child had in mind, I think those words bear thinking about. *“Dear God, everyone misses you”*.

The Christmas story is the story of the God who is missed. For centuries, the prophets had foretold the coming of the Saviour, but when he came how few noticed it! How many doors were closed against him? Our failure to recognise the Christ when he comes is a theme that runs through the gospels, in the stories of his infancy, his ministry, his suffering and death, and his resurrection. Everyone, or almost everyone, *“misses God”*.

But the words have another way of being read. *“Everyone misses you”*: that is, everyone would love you to be here, everyone longs for you; there is in every human heart a deep yearning for God, a desire for the meaning and purpose and peace of mind that God alone can give. *“Everyone misses you”*.

And the message of Christmas is that God acted decisively to meet this human need for him. God has drawn near, God has made his home with us: *“the Word”*, says St John, *“was made flesh and dwelt among us”*. The God whom all the ages have longed for has come to us at last. And the message of Christmas, and of Christianity, is not of the rumour of some far distant God, but of God who has made himself one with us: in the person of his blessed Son he has shared our birth, and our life, and our death; and in his resurrection he points us to the life which lies beyond this life and lifts us into the gracious presence of the Father. *“Dear God, everyone misses you”*. *“Dear child”*, says God, *“but you have come home to me and I have come home to you”*.

*Yea, Lord, we greet thee  
Born this happy morning,  
Jesu, to thee be glory given;  
Word of the Father,  
Now in flesh appearing:  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

# THE MIDLAND SINFONIA

St Laurence Church, Alvechurch B48 7SB

**SATURDAY 7 DECEMBER 2019**

7.30pm - doors/bar open 7pm

## ‘BOLD AS BRASS’

Holborne Brass play a cocktail of seasonal delights

Medleys of Christmas music

and traditional Carols

Jazz standards and

Classical Favourites

including Vivaldi’s ‘Winter’

and Saint-Saëns’ ‘Serenade d’Hiver’



Tickets: £13

In advance £12: [www.midlandsinfonia.co.uk](http://www.midlandsinfonia.co.uk)  
or ‘Gin & Pickles’, The Square, Alvechurch  
accompanied children & students free



parking free on site, disabled access/facilities  
reg.charity no. 1095563

## Martin Gorick to be next Bishop of Dudley

Downing Street has today announced that the Venerable Martin Gorick will become the next Bishop of Dudley, working with Bishop John across the whole of Worcestershire and Dudley. Martin is currently the Archdeacon of Oxford and Residentiary Canon at Christ Church College and Cathedral.

In his current role, Martin has particular responsibility for the churches and clergy in the city of Oxford, as well as being Diocesan Interfaith Adviser. He has held strategic responsibility for growing new congregations of all shapes and sizes across the three counties that make up the Diocese of Oxford, overseeing an ambitious £5million bid to support church revitalisation and planting, fresh expressions of church and pioneering ministry in major new housing areas. Martin has always enjoyed the Church of England's connections with people and places outside the church, and oversees and supports the work of over 100 chaplains in prisons, schools, colleges, military bases and hospitals.

Martin was ordained in 1987 and prior to moving to Oxford in 2013, was Vicar of 'Shakespeare's Church' in Stratford-upon-Avon where he was also Chaplain to the Royal Shakespeare Company. From 1994-2001, Martin was Vicar of Smethwick Old Church and Area Dean for the Black Country Deanery of Warley. He has also worked as Bishop's Chaplain for Richard Harries in Oxford and started his ordained life as Curate of Birtley, an industrial and mining town near Gateshead in the Diocese of Durham.

On his appointment, Martin said: *"I'm looking forward to joining God's people in Dudley and the wider Diocese of Worcester as they seek to live lives of love, compassion, justice and freedom. We're currently living in a challenging times with many divided communities. The Church has a key role to play in offering a place*

*of safety and sanctuary where all people can come together to share their common humanity under God. As Bishop of Dudley, I would want to lead that work while supporting and encouraging all in our congregations to live out their faith in Jesus at home, at work and at school as well as in church."*

The Bishop of Worcester, Dr John Inge, said: *"Martin is a hugely gifted priest with an enormous amount of experience in ministry, not least as a vicar in the Black Country. I look forward greatly to working with him for the growth of God's Kingdom in this diocese to which he is already committed. I pray that he and his wife Katharine will find much joy in their new life here."*

The Bishop of Oxford, Dr Steven Croft, said: *"Martin has served with real distinction for six years as Archdeacon of Oxford and Residentiary Canon of Christ Church. He has a passion for mission and for the Church of England to be a church for everyone. Martin has been a wise colleague in the Oxford Area and across the Diocese in his work with chaplains and on engagement with other faiths and has pioneered and led our diocesan strategy for forming new congregations. As a Diocese and Cathedral, we will miss Martin and Katherine very much, but our prayers and love go with them in the joys and the challenges of Martin's new role."*

Martin was born in Liverpool in 1962, and grew up in Nottingham. He read Theology and Religious Studies at Selwyn College, Cambridge 1981-4. He enjoys sport, especially football, supporting Liverpool and Notts County. He values walking, gardening, travelling and bird-watching. Martin is married to Katharine, who is County Lead for Visual Impairment in Oxfordshire and they have three adult children.

Martin will be consecrated as a Bishop on 28 January and will be officially welcomed into his new role in the Diocese of Worcester with events in Worcester and Dudley in February.

# Flowers for DECEMBER

I would like to record my thanks to a new resident of Alvechurch, Linda O'Malley who volunteered help with church flowers. She and I worked together to honour the fallen of the wars with Poppy displays and to all those who entered St. Laurence appreciated.



By tradition there are no flowers in church during the four week season of Advent. I anticipate Monday 23rd December will be the most convenient day to begin the Christmas Day flowers although this may change depending on levels of help offered. Please contact me if you can help in any way with this very pleasant task.

Many thanks,

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

## Parish Prayers

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

- 1 December – The Rise**
- 8 December – The Square**
- 15 December – Tonyon Close**
- 22 December – Tranter Avenue**



## From The Registers



### Funerals and Cremations

*May they rest in the peace of Christ*

31 October Ray Woodcock

# Who's who

Rector	Revd Richard Bubbers, Rector, School Lane, 445 1087 stlaurencealvechurch@yahoo.co.uk
Licensed Lay Ministers	Mr Dick Russell, 2 Gothic Cottages, Radford Rd, 445 3083 Mrs Sue Phillips Wardle, 55 Birmingham Road, 445 0505 Mrs Helen Ayling, "Tarncroft", Hewell Lane, Vigo, 445 6176
Authorised Lay Ministers	Mrs Helena Allen Mr Martin Allen, 445 5605 Mrs Philippa Brakes, 56 Callow Hill Road, 445 3983 Mr Graham Clark, The Coach House, School Lane, 445 2547 Mr Michael Fletcher, 13 Red Lion Street, 447 8451 Mrs Annette Thomas, 8 Snake Lane, 445 5180
Churchwardens	Mr Graham Clark, The Coach House, School Lane, 445 2547 Mr Mick Fletcher, 13 Red Lion Street, 447 8451
Deputy Wardens	Mr Colin Bennett, 122 Redditch Road, 01527 64077 Mr David Richmond, The Ferns, Chapel Lane, 445 3569 Mrs Alison Smith, 12 Hollington Road, 447 7293 Mrs Janet Wright, 28 Callow Hill Road, Alvechurch, B48 7LP Mr Andy Notley, 445 5653 Mr Roger Wardle, 55 Birmingham Road, 445 0505
PCC Secretary	Mrs Lysandra Notley, lysnotley@icloud.com, 07989327043
Parish Safeguarding Officer	Mrs Sue Lambert, 7 Cygnet Close, B48 7PX, 07769110608
PCC Treasurer	Mrs Janet Wright, 28 Callow Hill Road, Alvechurch, B48 7LP
Organist & Choirmaster	Mr David Richmond, The Ferns, Chapel Lane, 445 3569
Electoral Roll Officer	Mrs Janet Wright, 28 Callow Hill Road, 445 4335
Tower Captain	Mr Colin Bennett, 122 Redditch Road, 01527 64077
Singing Group	Mrs Lynda Wolstencroft, 49 Hinton Avenue, 445 3212
Ark Tots & Toddlers	Mrs Sarah Linton, sarah100work@gmail.com
Flower Co-ordinator	Mrs Ann Thurrell, Top Barn, Scarfield Hill, 447 7668
Ark Bookings Secretary & Grapevine Editor	Mr Ian Price, The Ark, School Lane, 447 7955 thearkalvechurch@yahoo.co.uk

## PCC Special Responsibilities

### Finance and Standing Committee

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

### Buildings, Fabric and Churchyard for Mission Committee

Bob Dale	Colin Bennett
Graham Clark	Peter Freeman
Mick Fletcher	Andy Humphries
Janet Wright	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



- Sunday 1            2.30pm Alvechurch Village Society Walk: *'Charlie's Mystery Walk'*:  
Meet at Tanyard Lane car park
- Monday 2            7.30pm Hillside WI: Mince Pies & Mulled Wine: The Ark Upper Room  
7.45pm Alvechurch Historical Society: Talk by Max Keen: *'Sir Francis  
Drake: England's Greatest Naval Hero?'*: Museum, School Lane
- Thursday 5            9.30am Ark Tots and Toddlers: Sarah Linton (Upper Room)  
12.15pm Ark Cafe: Christmas Roast Turkey Lunch: **SOLD OUT**  
**January GRAPEVINE GOES TO PRESS (PLEASE NOTE - EARLY DEADLINE THAN NORMAL)**  
*articles to thearkalvechurch@yahoo.co.uk*
- Saturday 7    7 for 7.30pm The Midland Sinfonia: Holborne Brass Ensemble - Bold as Brass  
featuring various Christmas Songs: St Laurence Church
- Sunday 8            6.00pm *'Christmas Without The Tinsel'* service: St Laurence Church
- Monday 9            7.30pm Ark Angels WI: Christmas Crafts and AGM: The Ark  
7.30pm Alvechurch WI: *'Christmas past to Christmas Present'*: Alvechurch  
Village Hall
- Thursday 12            9:30am Ark Tots and Toddlers: Sarah Linton  
No Ark Cafe today
- Monday 16            11.00am Alvechurch Middle School Carol Service: St Laurence Church  
& 7.30pm
- Thursday 19            9:30am Ark Tots and Toddlers Christmas Celebrations: Sarah Linton  
No Ark Cafe today
- Sunday 22            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**
- Tuesday 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**
- Wednesday 25    10.30am All-age Christmas Morning Service: St Laurence Church
- BOXING DAY**
- Thursday 26            10.30am Alvechurch Village Society Walk: *'Boxing Day Traditional Walk'*:  
Meet at Lickey Hills Visitor Centre car park