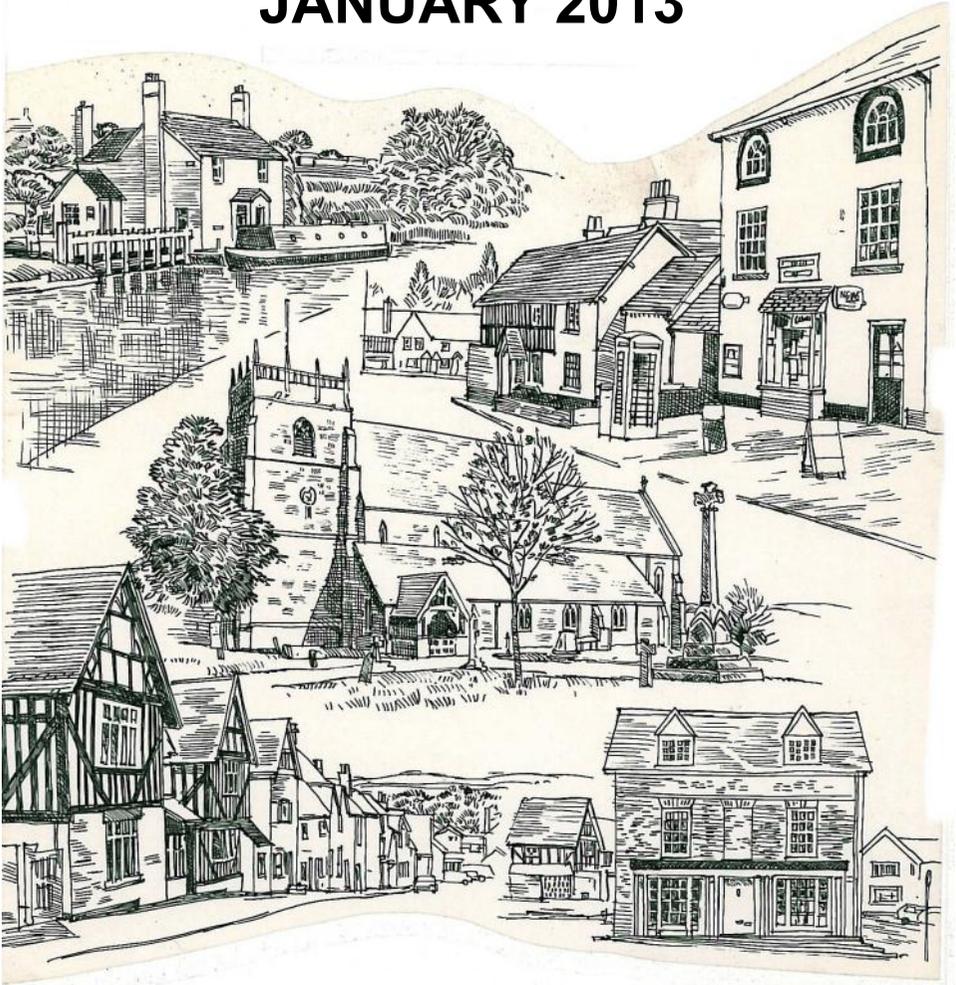


The Grapevine

THE PARISH MAGAZINE OF ST LAURENCE CHURCH ALVECHURCH

JANUARY 2013



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)
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	Quarterly on a Saturday in The Ark (445 1985)

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The Rector Writes...

Winning The National Lottery

My dear friends

A recent survey attempted to gauge the level of happiness of those living in Great Britain at present. It revealed we are all less happy than we were ten years ago. A television reporter went on to the streets to do a *vox pop* – what the man in the street thought about happiness. One of the passers-by interviewed said, “I would be happy if I could win the National Lottery.”

This set me thinking. Would a big win on the National Lottery make us happy? It would certainly remove anxieties that many have at present over their ability to pay off the credit card balance after the Christmas shopping bonanza. It would probably be welcome news to those who are unemployed or who are seeing their financial assets dwindling in the present economic climate. But would a big win on the National Lottery really make us happy? I have my doubts.

A big win on the National Lottery would immediately separate us from our friends and neighbours. People with a lot of money can do things and go places that other people cannot. This immediately puts a barrier between them and other people and undermines friendships.

Also, the sin of envy is sure to creep in. If a Lottery winner does not always stand a round of drinks in the pub, or pay for the minibus to get home, or foot the bill at the restaurant, people are prone to whisper behind his or her back and the cancer of envy eats away at formerly firm friendships.

And then there are the begging letters and phone calls. Once it is known that someone has a large amount of money, fraudsters and tricksters abound making it impossible to know who are one's friends and who are those simply interested in getting their hands on your money. Lottery winners become suspicious of their fellow men and women and often build a wall around themselves.

It seems to me that money cannot buy happiness. More often than not it isolates people, makes them suspicious of others, and acts as a barrier in our relationships with others.

I maintain that real happiness is found in relationships. Most people experience the summit of happiness when they fall in love for the first time. Being loved by someone else is the most incredible experience most of us ever experience. And even lesser relationships are what nourish us and give meaning to our lives.

Living in a community such as Alvechurch, in which many people help each other in times of need, and many put themselves to trouble running community societies and organising events that bring people together, is another cause of happiness.

But the greatest cause of happiness, I would claim, is our relationship with God. A deep and loving relationship with God provides us with the security and confidence of knowing that, whatever may befall us, nothing can separate us from His love. He loves us more than any human father can ever love his children. He holds us safe in his loving arms. He listens to us when we pray to Him. He will never forsake us. This realisation is worth more than all the gold in the world. Herein lies the secret of true happiness.

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One of our modern hymns says

As the deer pants for the water
So my soul longs after You
You alone are my heart's desire
and I long to worship You.

I want You more than gold and silver,
only You can satisfy.

You alone are the real joy-giver
and the apple of my eye.

Finding God is the greatest cause of happiness there is.

I wish you all, not a prosperous New Year (in the sense of winning the National Lottery), but a New Year in which each of us discovers or re-discovers the secret of true happiness.

Yours in Christ,

DAVID MARTIN

News from the Tower

Geoff Franklin writes....

At the beginning of December we ran our regular Christmas Coffee Morning and raised £132 towards the Bell Fund. Our thanks to everyone who supported us and to the Baptist Church for the use of their hall.

We took a lot of photos at every stage of the bell restoration work and we've had the draft of a commemorative album printed. This means that we can show people what was going on behind the scenes. The album raised a lot of interest amongst visitors at the Coffee Morning. It will also be a permanent record of something that won't happen again for a hundred years or so. The restoration work has been a little bit of village history and we wanted to make a permanent record before we forgot the details. We've now got to go through the draft again, correct the mistakes, complete the story by adding something about all the fundraising events over the years, and then get some final copies produced.

You may have seen the recent BBC report saying that ringing is excellent exercise for mind and body so I'll finish with my usual appeal for a few more ringers. January's a good time to start learning because it's a quiet time of year. After a few months' practice you'll be able to join in with the weddings through the summer and then ring for Christmas. Make a New Year's resolution and come up to see us in January.

The Ark Café



Following last month's magnificent Christmas Lunches, the Ark Café offers an equally magnificent choice of lunches for the New Year.

Starting on THURSDAY 17 JANUARY diners are offered Succulent Roast Lamb served with seasonal vegetables followed by yummy homemade desserts. Glazed Gammon features on the menu on 24 January and Zummerzet Chicken on 31 January.

Why not treat yourself to a meal at Alvechurch's premier luncheon venue? No booking necessary. Please be down-seated by 12.30.pm.

Christmas Thanks

So much special work and effort, by so many people, went into celebrating Christmas at St Laurence Church this year. Thanks go to ...

... GRAHAM CLARK and his team for erecting the illuminated stars on the church tower.

... DAVID RICHMOND and the members of the church choir for the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

... to COLIN BENNETT for the gift of the Christmas Tree in the church

... to GRAHAM CLARK, COLIN BENNETT, STEVE THOMPSON, and NIGEL JAMES who wrestled to erect the enormous Christmas Tree in the church, and to those who decorated it.

... to the CAST of the CHRISTMAS EVE PLAY

.... to DONALD WRAPSON and the CORYDON PLAYERS for their Carol Singing in the residential and nursing homes of the parish.

... to COLIN BENNETT and the tuneful team of BELLRINGERS for calling the faithful to the Christmas Services

... to ANN THURRELL and the team of flower-arrangers for the lovely Christmas decorations in the church

... and to ALL who donated Advent Purses for Peru. The amount raised will be announced in the February *Grapevine*.

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Prayers For Use During WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY 2013

FRIDAY 18 JANUARY

Lord Jesus Christ,
who said to your apostles,
'Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you':
look not on our sins but on the faith of your Church
and grant it the peace and unity of your kingdom;
where you are alive and reign with the Father
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

SATURDAY 19 JANUARY

Heavenly Father, you have taught us to maintain the unity of
the Spirit in the bond of peace:
forgive our complacency with the present divisions in your
Church.
Break down the barriers of pride and misunderstanding which
keep us and fellow Christians apart.
Make us more humble and deepen our love for one another;
and show us how we can more closely worship and work
together as members of the one Body of Christ our Lord.

SUNDAY 20 JANUARY

Heavenly Father,
in whose eyes your Church is one in spite of human prejudice
and sin:
give to us your servants
such penitence for our divisions,
such love for one another,
and such devotion to your service,
that we may find again our unity
in your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

MONDAY 21 JANUARY

O God our Father,
bless your Church with unity, peace and concord.
Make her here and all over the world a true fellowship of the
Spirit,
in which no distinction is made because of race or colour, party
or class:
a fellowship of love in which all are really one in Christ.
We ask it in his name, who is our one Lord.

TUESDAY 22 JANUARY

O God, whose will it is that all your children should be one in Christ:

we pray for the unity of your Church.
Pardon all our pride and our lack of faith,
of understanding and of charity,
which are the causes of our divisions.
Deliver us from our narrow-mindedness,
from our bitterness,
from our prejudices.

Save us from considering as normal that which is a scandal to the world and an offence to your love.
Teach us to recognise the gifts of your grace among those who call upon you and confess the faith of Jesus Christ our Lord.

WEDNESDAY 23 JANUARY

Lord Jesus, the day before you died for us, you prayed that your disciples might be one as you are one with the Father.
Help us, divided as we are, to grieve for our unfaithfulness.
Give us the honesty to acknowledge and the courage to reject our apathy, our mistrust, and our intolerance.
Make us one in heart and mind,
that being bound together in true fellowship we may present a united witness to the world,
according to your will
and for the glory of your name.

THURSDAY 24 JANUARY

Heavenly Father,
you have called us in the Body of your Son Jesus Christ to continue his work of reconciliation
and reveal you to the world:
forgive us the sins which tear us apart;
give us the courage to overcome our fears
and to seek that unity which is your gift and your will;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.



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Alvechurch In The Cathedral

St Laurence Church and the people of Alvechurch are being remembered in Worcester Cathedral on SATURDAY 5 JANUARY at 5.30.pm during Evening Prayer. This is part of the Cathedral's cycle of prayer for the parishes of the diocese. Although the cathedral choir will not be in residence, an invitation is extended to any members of the parish who wish to join the cathedral clergy on 5 January.



Saying Thank You

Those who have been baptized at St Laurence Church in recent years are invited to a Service of Thanksgiving for Baptism on SUNDAY 13 JANUARY at 9.30.am. With the aid of photographs of recent baptisms displayed on the large screen, prayers will be offered for the recently baptized. There will be well-known hymns and children's songs and a special activity for all to join in. A warm St Laurence welcome awaits all who come to say thank you.

Quiz And Curry

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity commences on FRIDAY 18 JANUARY. Churches Together in Alvechurch and Rowney Green (CTARG) is organizing a Social as part of the week, so that Christians of all denominations and none can meet together informally and share each other's company.

This year, the Unity Social is taking the form of a Quiz and Curry Evening on FRIDAY 18 JANUARY at 7.30.pm in The Ark. For a mere £7 teams can pit their wits against each other and enjoy a tasty curry midway through the evening. Tickets are now available from Barbara Parker, Elizabeth Richmond, Felicity Rixon and David Martin.

Chairmanship of CTARG

This year the Chairmanship of Churches Together in Alvechurch and Rowney Green (CTARG) moves from the Methodist Minister in charge of Rowney Green Shared Church to The Reverend Fiona Lee, the Minister of Alvechurch Baptist Church.

The formal hand-over will take place at an Ecumenical Service held in Alvechurch Baptist Church on SUNDAY 20 JANUARY at 6.30.pm. CTARG seeks to provide opportunities for Christians of different traditions to meet and worship together in response to Jesus' Prayer (in John's Gospel, chapter 17) that his church might be one.

Butterflies, Tubes And Triplets

Forthcoming meetings of the St Laurence Women's Fellowship are previewed by Jill Woolley.

The first meeting of 2013 of the St Laurence Women's Fellowship will be on WEDNESDAY 23 JANUARY when Peter Preece will give a talk entitled "*Butterflies and Mammals*".

On February 27th we welcome Dave Wornham for a fun afternoon with his "*Tuneful Tubes*". Bring ear plugs if your ears are sensitive!

Ann Blaxham and sister will be with us on March 27th to tell us of their Life as Triplets.

On April 24th we end our year with our AGM.

We wish everyone a Happy New Year. If you are looking for a new activity come along and join us for a friendly afternoon of fellowship – at the Tanyard Community Centre at 2 p.m.

The Under Fours

The little people have their very own church service this month on THURSDAY 24 JANUARY at 10.15.am. Designed especially for children under the age of four and their parents, the monthly Tiny Tots Service enables children to experience the awesome church building, listen to a story from the Bible and sing some simple action songs. This month's story is entitled *Rainy Days*. Come and join the Rector on the carpet for the service that lasts no more than twenty minutes. Entrance to the church is via The Ark.



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Messy Church

Martin Allen writes...



Dear Messy friends.

Happy New Year. We are looking forward to seeing you on the following dates— 9 March 2013, 15 June 2013, 14 September 2013, 30 November 2013 between 14:30 and 16:30. We'll be providing the usual range of fun, messy crafts, worship and food! The Alvechurch Messy Team.

Alvechurch Historical Society

A hidden manor house, almost on our doorstep, was recently revealed to members of the Alvechurch Historical Society, writes Margaret Gardner.

At our December meeting we had an interesting talk by Mr George Gascoyne He told us the history of Chadwick Manor and its estate. It lies just north of Lydiate Ash and people using the main road to Rubery pass it every day without realising a grade 2 listed farmhouse is tucked away there.

The original Manor is a short distance away but the farmhouse was in better condition and just as big and so the family moved there. It has been owned by the National Trust since 1925 but it is not open to the public. The land is still farmed. At one time Waseley Hills and Lickey Hills were part of the estate. But in 1904 George Cadbury bought a large portion of the estate, stretching from the Lickey Hills to Bourneville to build his factory and many houses for his workers. Mr Gascoyne showed us many slides of the inside of the Manor.

Please remember we do not have a meeting in January so our first meeting of 2013 will be in February. May I take this opportunity of wishing everyone a Happy New Year.

Rowney Green Horticultural Society

Rowney Green Horticultural Society meets in The Peace Hall on the second Thursday of each month at 7.45.p.m. New members are always welcome.

The New Year Programme starts on THURSDAY 10 JANUARY when Phil Aubrey, who is well-known to members, will speak about Growing Vegetables.

The Spring Show in March gives time to plant pots of bulbs and other spring flowers.

A Happy Growing Year to you all. Andrea 0121 445 1929.

Blowing His Own Trumpet

Elizabeth Waters reflects on the recent Christmas concert given by the Midland Sinfonia and looks forward to someone blowing his own trumpet.

It was wonderful to see St Laurence Church so full for the December concert by the Midland Sinfonia. Thank you for your support. Now for February. Take a short drive to the Artrix in Bromsgrove for another wonderful evening of music on SATURDAY 2 FEBRUARY at 7.30 pm

Entitled *Farewell My Lovely*, the concert includes *The Siegfried Idyll* by Wagner, Haydn's "Farewell Symphony" and Mozart's Symphony No 33 in B Flat Major. The concert culminates in a performance of Hummel's Trumpet Concerto in which the guest soloist is Steve Lee. The concert is conducted by Richard Lang and admission is £16 (with children, accompanying an adult, free). Full-time students and the unemployed are £5. Tickets can be pre-booked from the Artrix www.artrix.co.uk or 01527 577330. To read more about us or to see details of the full programme go to www.midlandsinfonia.co.uk

The Train Now Departing ...

Stationmaster David Richmond thanks those who kept the trains running at the Railway Exhibition in November.



Many, many thanks to all those who helped assemble, dismantle and clean up, those who sold tickets and, of course, the kitchen ladies who were as efficient and popular as ever.

Takings on the door, donations from traders, sales of cars etc. gifted to us, profits from food sales and sales on the Bell Team Stall gave us a total of over £560 for the Bell Fund.

This was only a small show, but everyone seemed to enjoy it.

Two dates are reserved for 2013. These are June 29th and November 16th. Please put them in your diaries.

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Give Me Oil My Lamp

The Local Policing Team offers the following practical advice and information on how to safeguard supplies of heating and diesel oil

Theft of heating and diesel oil has been a problem for many years and this crime often increases whenever the price of crude oil rises. A rise in the price of fuel at the petrol pumps inevitably leads to a rise in the cost of heating oil. This makes oil a more attractive proposition for thieves and they are now actively targeting fuel tanks at farms, transport depots and domestic properties.

The thief may be using the oil for their own central heating or selling it on at a handsome profit. These tanks can contain thousands of pounds worth of oil and it therefore makes good sense to take a few precautions to protect them. The purpose of this article is to give you a few ideas about what can be done to make life more difficult for thieves.

OFTEC (the Oil Firing Technical Association for the petroleum industry) offers advice and guidance for those who use and store oil at their premises. There are certain rules and regulations that may apply to you and OFTEC will help clarify these for you.

They can be reached at www.oftec.org or by calling 0845 6585 080. They also produce an 'easy guide to domestic oil storage' which is a very straightforward and useful document.

Siting your oil tank

The position of the tank can have a significant effect on how hard a target it is in the eyes of the thief. If the tank is close to the house, with one or more windows capable of giving a view of it, then the thief may consider the chances of being seen too high. If the tank is close to a road, path, drive or alleyway then it will be a far easier target. Hiding the tank behind the garage, shed or some other type of outbuilding is fairly commonplace, but it does give the thief the advantage. Not many oil tanks are works of art so who wants a tank in full view? While it may not be desirable, or legal, to have the tank

close to the house some sort of compromise location would be sensible. Of course this will not only be a major consideration when a new tank is to be installed but may be necessary if the tank has been targeted before. They do need to be within a reasonable distance of the road otherwise the oil supply company may not be able to refill it for you.

Control switches

Control switches that control the flow of oil should be turned off and the electricity supply isolated when the tank is not in use.

Padlocks

A thief will usually come equipped with a limited range of tools to attack your tank so it's worth spending a little more on good quality locks. Close shackle padlocks are the best as they offer most resistance to the most popular of burglar tools: the bolt cropper! It is advisable to use a padlock on a surrounding cage or fence, rather than on the tank itself. There have been occasions where tanks have been drilled by thieves, so a cage or fence provides an extra level of defence (see the 'Securing your oil tank' below for more details).

Oil level gauges

Remote electronic oil level gauges are now available which will set off an audible alarm if the oil level in the tank suddenly drops or falls below a quarter full. These gauges can be located in the kitchen, or perhaps a utility room to warn of any potential problem.

Security lights

Security lights can have a very positive effect and make any property a much harder target for thieves. It's not always necessary to floodlight the area with high power beams, as a more subtle level of lighting may be all that is needed. Low energy 'dusk 'til dawn' lights positioned close to the tank should, in most cases, provide sufficient light to illuminate any suspicious activity. This type of light can be both effective and inexpensive. High powered lights can be used but care should be taken not to cause any nuisance to neighbours or road users.

Defensive planting

Defensive planting is nature's way of helping to reduce crime. Thieves will not want to force their way through or over a prickly hedge. The smallest trace of blood or shred of ripped clothing could help the police identify the offender. West Mercia Police has produced a 'Nip Garden Crime in the Bud' leaflet which gives more information about defensive planting and a list of shrubs suitable for this purpose. These shrubs can, if planted around your tank, provide an effective and decorative thief-proof barrier. To obtain a copy, contact your local crime risk manager or download it from the Advice Centre on the force website.

Securing your oil tank

Fences, sheds, walls and trellis can also be used to screen an oil tank. For safety reasons there are minimum distances that these should be located from the tank. Details of fire separation distances are published on Oftec's website or seek advice from an Oftec Registered Technician. Oil tank security products such as metal enclosures can also be used to increase security. They will often cost less than one tank full of oil and will last for many years.

Closed circuit television

The use of CCTV as a crime- prevention and a crime detection tool has grown massively in recent years. It could play a part in the protection of oil tanks but before you spend lots of money on equipment make an assessment of your needs. Ask yourself:

1. What do I hope to achieve by using CCTV?
2. How much am I prepared to spend?
3. Is there a reasonable level of light where the cameras will be operating or do I need to think about using cameras with low light capability? (Most thefts take place at night).
4. What am I going to record the captured images on? Digital recording is best.
5. How am I going to provide the police with any evidence I may capture?

For more information on heating and diesel oil security, you can contact one of the force's crime risk managers. Alternatively, visit the Advice Centre on the force website where you can also find crime prevention advice for your home and garden.

Or 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 our website:

www.westmercia.police.uk/localpolicing

Can You Hear Me?



The hard-of-hearing are promised a morning of fun by Pat Booth.

A happy New Year to you all! We are starting our New Year with a social event that is both visual and full of fun. It is entitled 'CONFESSIONS OF A DAME' (the pantomime variety!).

If you have a hearing loss, or have a friend or relative with a hearing loss, you are welcome to join us at Tanyard Community Centre on WEDNESDAY 16 JANUARY 2013 at 10.30am.

No more wondering what is happening....You will have access to a loop system and be amongst friends who understand that it is not always easy to be in a group. If you want any further information please phone me on 0121 445 1985.

Obituary

Robert Major Oulsnam



A Memorial Service was held in St Laurence Church Alvechurch on Tuesday 4 December to celebrate the life of estate agent Robert Oulsnam, who died peacefully on November 7 on his 92nd birthday.

Robert Oulsnam, who was born in Barnt Green and lived in the village all of his life, started Robert Oulsnam and Co in 1971.

The business has offices in Bromsgrove, Redditch, Droitwich, Barnt Green and Rubery, along with several Birmingham branches, including Hagley Road, Northfield, Moseley and Kings Heath.

Prior to having his own company, he began his career with estate agent Donald Dixon, which later became Dixons.

He was also was a founder member of the Bromford Housing Association and a trustee of the Michael Blanning Trust, which builds accommodation for the elderly.

In his early days he had a dance and jazz band 'Robert Oulsnam and his Orchestra' in which he played the vibraphone. The band

played at Birmingham Town Hall amongst other venues. He was heavily involved in the Alexandra Theatre in Birmingham being Chairman of the Board for a period of time.

He was a former chairman of the City of Birmingham 41 Club, an organisation for former members of the Round Table who are aged 40 and over. This prestigious role is now occupied by his son, Andrew.

He said his father, as well as being a very shrewd businessman, was also very generous and kind and had a loving family.

Away from business, he also served on Bromsgrove Council for 14 years and spent some of his time in office as chairman of the authority.

He served his country during the Second World War, as a staff sergeant in the Royal Army Medical Corps. His army role as a nurse also saw him treating civilians in Northern France, after the D-Day landings.

He is survived by his second wife Pat, his son Andrew and his daughter Paulette.

STOP PRESS

SAY IT WITH FLOWERS

Mrs Ann Thurrell expresses her thanks to those who gave freely of their time to decorate the church with flowers for Christmas.

January flowers are being provided by Lynda Wolstencroft on 13 January (in memory of her father Ken Broadway) and by Janet Wright on 27 January to celebrate the marriage of her daughter, Rebecca to Trevor Arnold.

Do you have a special event or anniversary to celebrate this year ? If so, why not provide church flowers? Details from Ann on 0121 447 7668

Sarah Vera Allen

A former teacher who spent the last three years of her life at The Lawns Residential Home, died on 20 November at the age of 98.

Sarah Vera Allen, who was always known as Vera, was born in Preston, Lancashire. In 1940 she married Bernard Allen and they shared sixty-five years as husband and wife prior to his death in 2005. She was the mother of John and Mary, grandmother to Abby, David, Mark, Rachel and Stephen, and great-grandmother to Colby, Caleb, Lily, Joshua, Paige and Ryan.

After attending Teacher Training College in London she began her teaching career at Dudley Road Primary School. In 1955 she moved to West Heath Primary School where she taught for nineteen years until her retirement in 1974. She was a passionate teacher who often had classes of fifty-two children to teach. She will be remembered with love and affection by countless people who were taught by her to read and write.

She made her married home in Grassmoor Road, Kings Norton where she lived for sixty-nine years. She was a member of St Nicholas Church, Kings Norton.

In 2009 she moved to The Lawns and quickly became a much-loved resident.

She will be remembered as a caring, patient and kind person with a strong Christian faith that undergirded her life.

Her funeral took place at Redditch Crematorium on Monday 3 December. The hymns sung were *Morning has broken and All things bright and beautiful*.

Marilyn Willmott

A lady who worked as a home care assistant in Alvechurch and tended many who were housebound and isolated, died on 1 December at the age of 65.



Marilyn Willmott, who was known as Mal, was one of three girls born into a Redditch family. Her youngest sister, Jeanette, predeceased her and she is survived by her sister, Barbara.

After attending Batchley First School, Bridge Street Junior School and Bridley Moor Secondary School she worked in the drawing office of the Royal Enfield Company in Redditch. She later transferred to the electrical manufacturers MEM.

In 1969 she married John Willmott and supported her husband in his business. She was the mother of two children – Colin and Emma – and grandmother to five grandchildren – Hannah, Olive, Charlie, Caitlyn and Dylan. She also acted as guardian to her deceased sister's daughter, Amelia.

In 1989 she commenced employment with St Martin's Residential Care Home and this stimulated her interest in caring for the elderly.

She then joined the Worcestershire County Home Help Team and visiting housebound and infirm people in Alvechurch, Hopwood and Wythall. She went far beyond the call of duty in undertaking clothing alterations for those in her care and attending to their personal requests.

She lived at Tilehouse, Redditch and then in Headless Cross. She was a life-long supporter of Liverpool Football Club and enjoyed Grand Prix Motor Racing. She was a talented dressmaker and enjoyed walking. She visited Switzerland three times a year, where her son resides.

She will be remembered as a big-hearted, caring person who thought of others before herself.

Her funeral was held in St Laurence Church on Friday 7 December and was followed by burial at Westall Woodland Burial Ground near Inkberrow.

Winifred Lily Sabell



A lady who celebrated her seventieth wedding anniversary last year and spent the last months of her life at The Leas Residential Home, Old Birmingham Road, died on 30 November at the age of 95.

Winifred Lily Sabell was one of three children born into a Northfield family. Her two brothers – who used to give her rides on the pillions of their motorcycles – predeceased her.

In 1942 she married Harry Sabell and their marriage spanned seventy years. She was the mother of two children – Stephen and Eileen – and grandmother to two grandchildren – Andrew and Kate.

During the Second World War she worked at “The Aero” in Longbridge riveting Hurricanes and Stirling bomber aircraft. After the war she worked as a seamstress at Mills of Northfield and then at Linguard, Musgrave Road, Winston Green where she specialised in making wedding dresses.

In her mid-sixties she commenced work as a Dinner Lady at St Laurence Primary School, Northfield, which had been her former school. She worked there for three years.

After living in Prescott Street, Handsworth and New Oscott in Kingstanding, she and her husband moved into Middlemoor Road, Northfield. They remained here for more than sixty years. During that time she was Treasurer of the Co-operative Women’s Guild and travelled widely in South Africa and Scotland. She and her husband spent the last six months at The Leas.

She will be remembered as a “make-do-and-mend” person, who was an excellent cook and had green fingers that made all she touched in the garden blossom and grow.

Her funeral was held at Lodge Hill Crematorium on Monday 17 December and the hymns sung were *All things bright and beautiful* and *Love divine all loves excelling*.

Annie May Parker

A lady who moved to Alvechurch in 1969 and was often complimented on her beautiful garden in The Gaunts, died on 4 December at the age of 80.

Annie May Parker, known as May, was the youngest of six children born in Talley, mid-Wales. During the Second World War she was evacuated to Ireland where she lived from the age of eight to the age of 13

Upon returning to Wales she worked on a farm at Cwmd before undertaking work in the NAFFI where she met her husband-to-be, Norman Parker. They married in 1954. She was the mother of four daughters – Bronwen (who died at birth), Karen, Jennifer and Diane – grandmother to Matthew, Natalie, Hannah, Sarah, Jemma, Christopher and Gareth, and great-grandmother to Jayden, Brooklyn and Summer.

She made her married home first in Priory Road, Edgbaston and then in Kings Heath where she took in Iraqi students (one of whom has kept in contact with her ever since). In 1969 she moved into Warbank Close.

Then, in 1973, she moved to Red Lion Street where she lived for twenty-three years. In 1996 she moved to The Gaunts where she has lived for the past sixteen years.

She had numerous jobs during her life from working on her brother-in-law's grocery market stall to bar work in *The Red Lion* and a spell at the Flexible Spring Company located

in the brickyards at the bottom of Scarfield Hill.

Despite the limitations of osteoporosis she maintained a most beautiful garden on the corner of The Gaunts and Snake Lane which elicited many expressions of appreciation.

She was known affectionately as Nanny May or Pips and will be remembered for her hard-working nature, determination and no-nonsense attitude to life.

Her funeral was held at Redditch Crematorium on Wednesday 19 December and the hymns sung were *Morning has broken* and *All things bright and beautiful*.

Thank You

The family of the late Joy Surman would like to thank everyone for their messages, cards and support in their sad loss. Also, all the donations given to the Acorns Hospice in memory of Joy.



The Epiphany

This year, the Feast of the Epiphany, falls on a Sunday: SUNDAY 6 JANUARY. On this, the twelfth day after Christmas, the Christian Church remembers the journey of the Magi to the Christ Child.

The main morning services at 9.30.am and 11.00.am will include a journey around the inside of the church, bearing gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh, to the Christmas Crib where prayers will be offered.

All wise men, women and children are cordially invited to come on the journey.



From the Registers



Baptisms

We welcome you into the Lord's family

November 25 Chloe Gemma Harris Cofton Hackett

[Pictures of the baptisms and wedding can be found on the church website - www.alvechurch-stlaurence.org]

Funerals and Cremations

May they rest in the peace of Christ

December 3	Sarah Vera Allen	aged 98
December 7	Marilyn Willmott	aged 65
December 17	Winifred Lily Sabell	aged 95
December 19	Annie May Parker	aged 80



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 thearkvalvechurch@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

JANUARY 2013



Saturday 5	5.30.pm	Evensong in Worcester Cathedral at which Alvechurch is remembered
Sunday 6		The Feast of the Epiphany: Services at 8.00.am, 9.30.am, 11.00.am and 6.00.pm
Thursday 10	7.45.pm	Rowney Green Horticultural Society: The Peace Hall
Sunday 13	9.30.am	Baptism Thanksgiving Service
Wednesday 16	FEBRUARY GRAPEVINE GOES TO PRESS 10.30.am	Can You Hear Me? Tanyard Lane Community Centre
Thursday 17	12.15.pm	The Ark Café Re-opens
Friday 18	7.30.pm	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins Curry & Quiz Evening in The Ark.
Sunday 20	6.30.pm	Unity Week Service in the Baptist Church
Wednesday 23	2.00.pm	Women's Fellowship: Tanyard Lane Community Centre
Thursday 24	10.15.am	Tiny Tots Service