

# The Grapevine

THE PARISH MAGAZINE OF ST LAURENCE CHURCH ALVECHURCH

July 2013



*Farewell*

Online at [www.alvechurch-stlaurence.org](http://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**

<b>Sunday Club</b>	<b>Sundays at 9.30.am in the church and Ark (445 1854)</b>
<b>Choir</b>	<b>Thursdays at 7.45.pm in church (445 3569)</b>
<b>Bellringers</b>	<b>Sundays at 10.30.am and 5.30.pm Tuesday Practice at 7.30.pm (01527 64077)</b>
<b>Women's Fellowship</b>	<b>4th Wednesday of the month at 2.00.pm in Tanyard Lane Community Centre (445 2125)</b>
<b>Mum's the Word</b>	<b>Thursdays at 9.30.am in The Ark (07876390154)</b>
<b>Ark Café</b>	<b>Thursdays during term time at 12.15.pm (447 7017)</b>
<b>Home Group</b>	<b>Thursday, 7.30.pm at the Coach House (445 2547)</b>
<b>Messy Church</b>	<b>Quarterly on a Saturday in The Ark (445 1985)</b>

## **THE ARK**

**Enquiries to Ian Price 0121 447 7955**

**Registered as a Charity in England and Wales: Charity Number 1131783**



My dear friends

This is my final *Grapevine* letter as Rector of Alvechurch.

## The Rector Writes... ... for the last time

On 21 July I retire after twenty-two years as Rector of the parish. I have greatly enjoyed my time in Alvechurch. It is such a welcoming and friendly community and we all seem to get along with each other – most of the time!

My forty-two year ministry has brought me into contact with an incredibly wide range of people. I have sat at table with a dowager countess eating caviar and I have ministered to a dying man in a room littered with dog faeces. I have been welcomed into people's homes at moments of great joy, such as the birth of a child, and at moments of great sorrow, such as the death of a loved one. I have been privileged to celebrate the love of over 300 Alvechurch couples on their wedding day, and I have prepared nearly a hundred people for Confirmation. My job has been truly amazing. I can think of no other job quite like it.

During the course of my ministry I have worked in four different parishes. First, I served a three-year curacy at All Saints Sedgley. Here I met Elizabeth, my wife, who has been such a support and tower of strength over the years. She is the brains of the outfit. It is she who has the good ideas and tells me when I am going wrong. I would be lost without her.

Next followed a seven-year stint as the Diocesan Youth Chaplain. This saw me travelling around Worcestershire and the West Midlands undertaking project work in schools and assisting parishes with their youth work. It was great fun, but, by the time I reached my mid-thirties, I knew it was time for a younger person to take over!

A spell of ten years as a rural vicar then followed looking after three village churches on the outskirts of Malvern. It was here that our four children were born.

Finally, in 1991, completely out of the blue, I received a telephone call from the Archdeacon of Dudley asking if I would be interested in coming to Alvechurch. I came to have a look – and the rest, as they say, is history.

Now the end is almost here. I will greatly miss Alvechurch. I have enjoyed being part of a vibrant community. I will miss the people I meet in the street who greet me with a smile and a kind word. I will miss the beautiful church on the hill, which has been my spiritual home for the past twenty-two years; and I will miss the loyal band of Christians who ensure the church is maintained and offers worship to God that is worthy of His name.

But life is a constant process of change. I am now going to undertake a different sphere of ministry and I feel sure you will welcome my successor with the same warmth and support that you have given me. I promise to remember you in my prayers and ask for God's blessing upon you as you move into a new and exciting chapter in the life of the parish.

I do hope you will be able to join me in church on SUNDAY 21 JULY at 6.00pm for my final service. It will be Songs of Praise with hymns chosen by me and the missus, followed by a gathering in The Ark. I hope to see you then so we can say our goodbyes.

With all best wishes and every blessing,  
Yours in Christ,

DAVID MARTIN

## Huntleys

### Funeral Services

Serving your community for 130 years

Your local family orientated funeral directors of distinction, offering a traditional and caring service with attention to detail

FOR 24 HOUR IMMEDIATE  
ATTENTION

**01527 892900**



12 Feckenham Road

Astwood Bank

Branch also at

58 Ipsley Street, Redditch

01527 62106

Providers of the Perfect Choice Funeral Plan

FUNERAL  
PARTICIPES  
1977

## Normal Service Will Be.....

..... maintained as far as possible.

*The Churchwardens write ...*

When a Rector leaves a parish, to retire or to move on elsewhere, inevitably they leave a big gap. That is the situation in which we find ourselves at St Laurence with Rev David Martin retiring on July 21st. But it is at times like this that the members of the church and the support services of the wider church spring into action.

We are fortunate in St Laurence to have a good band of experienced people who can pick up many of the tasks previously handled by David. And there is a full set of ordained personnel in the surrounding area on whom we can call for those times when we need an ordained priest.

It will be the Churchwardens who pick up the responsibility for ensuring that the church runs as smoothly as possible during the 'interregnum' (the time we are without a priest, which will probably be about a year). We can call on the support of an experienced team of worship leaders and a strong pastoral team at St Laurence. The Rural Dean acts as our link man into the wider church and will coordinate that support.

It would be unrealistic to suppose that nothing will change. We will miss David greatly. His ministry has been widespread and greatly valued. But we are laying plans to move into a new phase in the life of St Laurence's Church. The Parochial Church Council (PCC) has set up a group to look to the future, to draw up a profile of the parish and a person specification for the appointment of a new priest. As part of this process they will actively seek out views, opinions and feedback from the wider parish.

In the meantime, if you need the support of the church the contact points will remain the same. David's phone number will be diverted to where it will either be manned or there will be an answer phone to leave a message. These messages will be picked up daily and someone will get back to you. Similarly his mail will be diverted to where it can be dealt with. Contact details are, as usual, on the inside back cover of this magazine

This will be a time of challenge and of opportunity. Please help us to ensure that "normal service is maintained as far as possible".

*Graham Clark and Michael Fletcher*

## SUNSHINE HOLS IN TENERIFE

TO VIEW GO TO  
[www.tenerifewithtony.com](http://www.tenerifewithtony.com)

• LOS GIGANTIS •

2 Bed Apartment

• LAS AMERICAS •

3 Bedroomed House

OR A 1 Bed Apartment

Or if you fancy a  
break in LIVERPOOL –

3 bedroomed house

LOCAL OWNER

RING TONY

**07775651337**

## N.B.JAMES

Ground works  
contractor

All types of work undertaken

Foundations,

Soakaways,

Ponds,

Drives,

Drainage,

Fencing,

Decking.



Ring Nigel

**07974960366**

# Alvechurch Village Society

Alvechurch Village Society has two events planned for July. Firstly an evening stroll on Wednesday evening 10th July, led by Adrian and Linda Smith (07941508881) starting at *The Red Lion* car park at 7.00pm and ending at *The Red Lion* for a traditional end of walk social drink.

The second event is a summer outing to the Barber Institute, which is a renowned art gallery within the University of Birmingham . The trip is planned for 11.00am on SATURDAY 13 JULY , and it is expected to last until 1.00pm. Admission is free, and it is expected people will make their own way there, although anyone needing a lift can contact Ray Yarnell .For further information ring Ray on 07931 328023.

## St Laurence Women's Fellowship

*Jill Woolley writes...*

Sue Watson came and talked to us in May and told us a little of her life working in the BBC and how she came to write her book *"Fat Girls and Fairly Cakes"*. Also in May four of us attended the Annual Gathering of Fellowships this year held at St. Godwald's in Finstall. We joined with members from five other Fellowships for a short service which was followed by a sumptuous tea in the Parish Hall. A pleasant afternoon of extended fellowship.

At our meeting on WEDNESDAY 24 JULY our speaker will be Patricia Boyd who will tell us what *"The Bride Wore"*. Then on August 14th we will hold a Charity Tea in The Ark in aid of *"The Lounge"*. We will be serving tea and tray bakes; there will be a raffle and a Bring and Buy stall. Please try and join us and support this worthy cause.

We continue to meet at The Tanyard Centre on the 4th Wednesday of the month at 2.pm. N.B. Parking is not allowed anywhere in Tanyard Close. Come and join us—a warm welcome awaits you.

## Evensong

During July, St Laurence Church Choir will sing the following anthems at Evensong:

July 7th. Day by Day. *Martin How*

July 21st Sunset and Evening Star. *C Hubert Parry.*

July 28th Christ is our Cornerstone. *David Thorne.*

A warm welcome is extended to these traditional, *Book of Common Prayer* services that begin at 6.00.pm.

THE VILLAGE ELECTRICIAN

**NJM**  
Electrical Ltd



DESIGN SUPPLY INSTALL MAINTAIN



Call Nathaniel Martin:

**01527 878316**

**M: 07791 923459**

[www.njmelectrical.com](http://www.njmelectrical.com)

Commercial - Domestic - Industrial

## BANNOCKS OF SOLIHULL

Monumental Masons



Five generations of quality manufacturing and service.

All aspects of Monumental Masonry. Large Display.

117 Streetsbrook Road,  
Solihull, B90 3PF  
0121-744 1727

[www.bannocksmemorials.co.uk](http://www.bannocksmemorials.co.uk)

## Quality Carpenter & Joiner

For all your building needs, Furniture, Fire Surrounds & fittings

**RICHARD BENNETT**

Peacehaven, Grange Lane, Alvechurch, Birmingham, B48 7DJ

Phone: 01527 66774  
Mobile: 07966229582

## J & D Mason

OPTICIANS

Providing Quality Eyecare  
For Over 30 Years

Selected Designer Frames  
**HALF PRICE**

23 The Square  
Alvechurch  
B48 7LA  
0121 447 8682

### harlequinprint limited

- Letterheads
- Brochures
- Business cards
- Leaflets
- Labels
- Flyers
- Envelopes

Full Design  
& Print Service

[www.harlequinprint.co.uk](http://www.harlequinprint.co.uk)  
Email: [sales@harlequinprint.co.uk](mailto:sales@harlequinprint.co.uk)

**0121 459 3454**

26 Castle Road, Kings Norton Business Centre  
Birmingham B30 3HZ



### Burcot Grange Residential Care Setting for the Elderly

A unique blend of luxury country house living and quality forward thinking care. Burcot Grange is the perfect place for retirement living.

#### Long term care

Individually designed independent living  
suites

Short stay convalescent and holiday  
accommodation

For more information or to arrange a visit  
go to [www.burcotgrange.com](http://www.burcotgrange.com)  
Burcot Grange, 23 Greenhill, Burcot,  
Bromsgrove, Worcestershire, B60 1BJ.  
0121 445 5552 [admin@burcotgrange.com](mailto:admin@burcotgrange.com)

## Alvechurch Historical Society

*Margaret Gardner writes...*

Anne Bradford, our speaker for June, told us about the rise and fall of the Royal Enfield car. Their bicycles and motorbikes were very successful but they were really pioneers of their time in making the first motor cars. The factory was in serious money trouble by the turn of the century and in 1906 the car section separated from the cycle section. The cycles and motorbikes became very popular but the car side struggled and eventually closed. But they had paved the way for the manufacture of cars and the Austin Motor Co and the Ford Motor Co became very successful a few years later. In the 1960's The Royal Enfield, Redditch closed down but there is still a factory producing the motorbikes in India.

We do not meet in July and August but two outings have been arranged. THURSDAY 4 JULY Chedham Yard, Wellsbourne. The guided tour starts at 11.00am. If anyone wishes to join this group and needs transport and directions contact Janette our outing Secretary on mobile telephone 01789 400 885.

Thursday August 8th Castle Bromwich Hall Gardens Again the guided tour starts at 11.00am. Contact Janette again for transport help and directions.

I would also like to thank Anne Humphries and Mary Green for the evening tour around the St. Laurence Churchyard where we were shown the burial places of past well-known members of Alvechurch, also several graves of young men killed in the Two World Wars, British, Canadian and Australian. It was a sunny evening and Mary told us about the many wild flowers growing there and also the many different trees. A very enjoyable and informative evening, Thank you.

Please make a note of the August clean-up of the Museum which will take place on Wednesday, 28 August at 10.30am. Bring your Marigolds, polish and feather dusters! It will be nice and clean for our meeting on Monday 2 September when our talk will be The Story of Avoncroft Museum.

Enjoy your summer holidays - Margaret Gardner (0121 445 1649).

# All The Fun Of The Fair

Crown Meadow First School and Nursery will be celebrating summer with a Summer Fair on SATURDAY 13 JULY from 12-3pm.

Join us for a fun afternoon with lots of fantastic stalls and activities for all ages, including a soft play area for younger children. In keeping with this year's seaside theme, there will be pony rides, candy floss and popcorn stalls and an ice cream van. There will also be tombolas, cake and plant stalls, a bar, barbecue and a number of games.

We have a local celebrity getting involved with Guiliano from Free Radio opening the event at 12 noon.

Live entertainment will be provided throughout the afternoon with performances from a number of local groups as follows\*:

1pm	Kicks Dance School
1.30pm	Karate demonstration
2pm	Wythall Gymnastics Club

At the end of the day the Grand Summer Raffle will be drawn. There are loads of great prizes including family tickets to Hatton Adventure Farm, Black Country Living Museum and the Thinktank. You will be able to buy raffle tickets on entry to the Summer Fair. Entrance is just 50p for adults and free for children (who must be accompanied by an adult).

Please come along and join in the fun!

\* provisional timetable, subject to change

## Ark Café

THURSDAY 4 JULY will be the last Thursday we are open currently. We are having cold Salmon with a salad buffet on that date.



We will then be closed for two weeks and will reopen on THURSDAY 25 JULY. We will then be having our light lunches menu available from that date, which will compromise salads, sandwiches and desserts. These will be available each Thursday until August 29th.

## Kathryn Collinson

BA Hons, BEd Hons, ALCM

Lessons  
from  
20 minutes  
to  
1 hour



### Music tuition – All Styles

- Classical, Bass and Electric Guitar
- Piano and Keyboard
- For exams or just for fun

### Maths and English Tuition

- SATS / confidence building
- Special needs
- Ages from 5-11 years

Tel: 0121 445 3523



THE LAWNS  
RESIDENTIAL CARE

Exceptional quality accommodation for senior adults and the elderly.

24 hour care from professional, caring staff.

All set within beautiful gardens and terraces.

School Lane, Alvechurch, B48 7SB  
Tel: 0121 445 4098  
Fax: 0121 445 4544  
[www.thelawnsresidentialcare.co.uk](http://www.thelawnsresidentialcare.co.uk)

## Advertise here

for as little as £12.50. per month  
and reach 2,400 readers  
in Alvechurch, Rowney Green,  
Hopwood  
and Bordesley.

Details from  
Ian Price  
0121 447 7955

email: [thearkalvechurch@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:thearkalvechurch@yahoo.co.uk)

## D SEELEY AND COMPANY

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS AND  
REGISTERED AUDITOR  
40 BEAR HILL, ALVECHURCH  
TELEPHONE 0121 445 2445  
Email: dseeley.co@btinternet.com

*We offer a comprehensive service  
including book-keeping, payroll, VAT,  
accounts and taxation for sole traders,  
partnerships, charities and  
limited companies*

Contact David or Susan Seeley to discuss  
how we can help you  
Registered to carry out Audit work by the  
Institute of Chartered Accountants in  
England & Wales

## THOMAS BROTHERS

Funeral Directors

**Prepayment Plan,  
Private Chapels,  
"Woodland Burial"  
24 hour Personal Service**

*A family-owned funeral directors  
offering a friendly, dignified service,  
paying attention to detail.*

12A Red Lion Street  
Alvechurch B48 7LF  
0121 445 3422  
S.A.I.F.

## A. Pullen

• MEMORIALS •

*Additional Inscriptions  
& Renovations*



**All Work  
is to the  
Highest  
Standard**

**BRAMM**

**Showroom and Workshop**  
338 Alcester Road, Burcot,  
Bromsgrove B60 1BH  
Tel: (01527) 876200  
07710976744

## Events At The Library

From September 2013 a range of fun and informative courses will be running in the library in Alvechurch, making use of our fabulous space, right in the heart of the community.

A jewellery-making course is running from September 2013 . Good timing for those of you looking to create a really thoughtful and personal Christmas present!!! Also for the creative people amongst us, the library is offering a Beginners' Digital Photography course, (learn how to use last year's Christmas present!!!).

Also on offer at the Alvechurch Library is a First Aid course. Come and learn what to do in an emergency and gain valuable knowledge that could literally save a life.

Our courses generally run over a period of ten weeks with a cost of around £80. **A reduction in the price can apply in certain circumstances.**

Please ring Alvechurch Library on 01905 822722 to register your interest and nearer the time we will confirm exact dates, course details and prices.

The library is available to host day and short courses such as card-making or scrapbooking. If you have a skill that you would like to teach or share with others, give us a call to see about sharing our lovely library space.

We have a number of borrowers who have expressed an interest in playing Bridge in a day-time session, Friday morning being the preferred time. Again, please ring the Alvechurch Library to register your interest.

## Prayers Around The Parish

Each week a different road in the parish is remembered in prayers at the parish church. During July, the roads being prayed for are:

Bittle Farm Road (w/b 7 July)  
Scarfields 9 (w/b 14 July)  
The Drive, Hopwood (w/b 21 July)  
School Lane (w/b 28 July)

## Singing For Peru

*A concert with a Peruvian flavour comes to Alvechurch this month, writes Sue Phillips.*

St Laurence Church and Crown Meadow First School are once again joining forces to create a concert with a Peruvian flavour. Regular readers of *The Grapevine* will know that both the church and the school have links with Peru. Indeed it is only a year since two teachers from San Lucas School, which is run by the Anglican Diocese of Peru to give excellent education to children from poor backgrounds, came to Alvechurch and taught for a week in Crown Meadow School.

This year, the children from Year 4 are using a range of skills they have learned during the school year: ICT skills, music and singing, cookery and numeracy to prepare the programme. The concert will be held in The Ark on FRIDAY 12 JULY at 6:30pm. Do come and join with the children and their parents; listen to the children sing and buy from their stalls.

The evening will include items by Year 4 children, Alvechurch Community Choir (ACC), St Laurence Singers and two songs sung in Spanish by all three choirs together. Refreshments will be available. Tickets can be bought either through St Laurence Church (call Ian Price, Mon-Fri mornings, on 0121 447 7955) or Crown Meadow School and Nursery. Proceeds will be sent to support educational projects in Peru.

## The Old School

The old Victorian school in School Lane is now St Mary's Roman Catholic Mass Centre. This month, on SUNDAY 14 JULY, it will be throwing open its doors at 6.30pm for an ecumenical service to which those of other denominations and none are welcome.

Many from the parish will remember the location as the place where they spent their school days. Why not return and see the old buildings as they now are and share your memories with the other folk present?

## James Giles & Sons

A FAMILY OWNED FUNERAL DIRECTORS  
ESTABLISHED 1916

**Serving all communities  
with dignity and  
understanding**

- Private Chapel of Rest
- Day and Night Service
- Woodland Burial
- Golden Charter and Help the Aged Funeral Plans
- Catering and Floral Tributes

**Telephone 01527 872318**  
24 Stourbridge Road  
Bromsgrove, Worcs, B61 0AE



**The Leys Residential Home**  
Old Birmingham Road  
Alvechurch B48 7TQ

Offering a warm, welcoming and caring environment for later years.

For further information, or to arrange a visit, please call

0121 445 5587

**Private Tuition**  
for 5 – 11 year olds  
**English and Maths**  
and

**Piano lessons for  
beginners**

**Please call Jennifer,  
an experienced  
primary school  
teacher on**

**0121 445 1947**

**"Rectory Cottage Bed and Breakfast"**  
**Old Rectory Lane,**  
**Alvechurch**

offers  
warm and welcoming accommodation,  
with super breakfasts and attractive,  
spacious bedrooms.



Contact Celia on  
0121 445 4824, or visit our website  
[www.rectorycottage-alvechurch.co.uk](http://www.rectorycottage-alvechurch.co.uk)

# It's All Happening At The Ark



Did you know there are various regular weekly classes and events at the Ark?

**Mondays** - Pilates with Jenny. The classes start at 6pm and 7pm.

**Mondays** - Forget-Me-Not our own very informal bereavement group running once a fortnight at 2pm.

**Mondays** - Our very own monthly Ark Angels W.I. Group. Normally on the 2nd Monday of the month at 7pm.

**Tuesdays** - Zumba with Wendy. The class starts at 7pm.

**Wednesdays** - Little Pebbles children's group starting at 10am. Run by the charity Action For Children.

**Thursdays** - Our very own children's play group 'Mums The Word' starting at 10am.

**Thursdays** - The ever popular Ark Café serving from 12.15pm.

**Thursdays** - Latin & Ballroom dance classes starting at 7.30pm. Run by Clive from Invitation to Dance. Clive also runs a monthly social dance at 8pm on the second Saturday of every month.

**Fridays** - Yes even more Pilates with Jenny. Classes start at 9.30am and 10.30am.

**Saturdays** - Children's dance classes run by Jo from Kicks School of Dance. Restarting in September.

Starting 9.30am Monday 16th September is a new computer class "Computing & Online Basics" run by New College.

For more details of any events at the Ark call Ian Price on 0121 447 7955 or e-mail [thearkalvechurch@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:thearkalvechurch@yahoo.co.uk)



## WHERE NEXT ASSOCIATION

### Garden Centre

Opening hours  
Mon-Fri 9 to 5, Sat 10 to 4

Woodwork  
Packing / assembly  
Landscaping / maintenance

Support your local charity which offers people  
with special needs the opportunity to  
experience the real world of work.

Wellesbourne Close  
Easmore Road, Redditch  
B98 8ER  
01527 69955



## KenDry

**Eco-Friendly Carpet  
Cleaning That  
Doesn't Cost The Earth**

**Ken Wainwright  
of  
Alvechurch**

**0121 445 4247**

**[www.kendry.co.uk](http://www.kendry.co.uk)**

# Be Safe, Be Secure!

The Local Policing Team would like to offer you practical advice and information on how to help protect yourself and your family. Including how to help safeguard your property and help build a safer community. This month:

## CITADEL – BRINGING DOWN BURGLARY

Operation Citadel is a force-wide initiative aimed at driving down the number of burglaries committed in the West Mercia Police force area.

Burglary of people's homes and catching the criminals who commit these offences is a high priority for the Chief Constable and the force. In conjunction with the Police Authority, we have set ourselves stringent targets to ensure that no more than 10 burglaries a day are committed across Herefordshire, Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin and Worcestershire.

While burglary levels remain low compared to other parts of the country, there have been around 140 more burglaries this year against the targets we have set. That's why we've launched Citadel to drive burglary rates back down to where we expect them to be.

We're using a variety of tactics to target known or suspected criminals and these are already having results: since April, we have arrested more than 600 people, many of whom when convicted will be sent to jail.

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

Does your home stand out to thieves?

To reduce your chances of being burgled you need to:

- Make sure your windows and doors are locked and secure
  - Put a light on when you go out to give the impression that someone is in
  - Report suspicious activity in your neighbourhood - call us on 101 if you see something unusual or you suspect someone you know might be involved in burglary
- Help us find people wanted for burglary - [visit](#)

[the West Mercia Wanted website](#) and tell us if you've seen any of the people listed.

Remember that if a home has been burgled near to where you live, your chances of becoming a victim increase. We know that when there has been a burglary in an area burglars are likely to come back to that same area and, as a result, nearby residents will be 23 times more likely to be a victim of a similar burglary - so take action to make sure you're not next.

Most house break-ins are opportunistic. Don't give thieves a chance!

Be mindful of items of property within your home which can be seen from outside by passers-by. You may not wish to advertise to criminals that you have a large flat screen TV or games console, consider the positioning of these high value items and draw your curtains when you have your lights switched on inside your home.

To assess your own home security and identify any potential vulnerability which a burglar may exploit, you can conduct a simple test by asking yourself two simple questions: What would I do, and how would I do it? If you can think of a potential vulnerability, you may wish to consider taking preventative measures.

## Help us catch a burglar

Have you noticed anything suspicious recently? For example, people acting strangely or suspicious vehicles that do not belong in the area? Do you know of a burglar or someone who handles stolen goods?

You can get additional information by following us on [twitter.com/wmerciapolic](https://twitter.com/wmerciapolic) and [facebook.com/westmerciapolic](https://facebook.com/westmerciapolic)

For any further advice on any of the topics mentioned, please contact your Local Policing Team. You can find out who your Local Policing Team is by visiting our website: <http://www.westmercia.police.uk/localpolicing/> alternatively contact PCSO 6715 MARK HYDER at Wythall Police Station.

# The New Altar Frontal

*The colourful, new altar frontal in the Lady Chapel was made by a group of ladies from St Laurence Church during a weekend spent at Westhope College in Shropshire. Janet Wright, the co-ordinator of the group, tells the story of its making.*



The St. Laurence Church Embroidery Group has just returned from its annual weekend at Westhope College near Ludlow. Our project this year was to make a new altar frontal for the Lady Chapel. I originally had an idea for this project two years ago and made some initial design sketches but we decided the 'Hanging Walls', that have replaced the blue curtains behind the choir stalls, were more urgent, so the altar frontal went on the back burner. Unfortunately I am so disorganised that I couldn't find those sketches when we planned to make the altar frontal this year and so I had to draw out the ideas again from memory. I'm sure there's a moral in the story somewhere!

Eight members of the Embroidery Group plus a few friends working on their own projects met at the college on Friday night full of anticipation. After supper I presented each person with a pack containing the design for their section of the altar frontal and talked through what I had in mind for us to do. Fortunately everyone seemed to be able to visualise my plans so we were confident we

would be able to make a successful end-product. We had taken all the materials and threads we needed with us as the college is in the middle of nowhere so you can't just pop down to the shops if you forget something.

We had high hopes of completing the altar frontal before leaving on Sunday afternoon but despite working into the night on Friday and on Saturday we all came back with homework. We were slightly delayed on Sunday morning as our after-breakfast walk turned into something of a route march when we missed our turning and kept walking on in the hope of finding an alternate route which never materialised. We were forced to retrace our steps. (Ironically we should have turned where two of the group rushed into a field to rescue a ewe which had somehow managed to end up on her back in a gully and couldn't get herself out.) After their good deed for the day we should have continued down the field and back round to the college but chose to continue through the woods. We did see the most wonderful displays of wood anemones which made getting lost worthwhile.

Back home we set a deadline to complete all the separate sections for the altar frontal still leaving me time to stitch it all together so it could be installed before I went on holiday. Everyone worked hard and all was completed in time and the altar frontal is now in place in the Lady Chapel. The diamond panels on the front reflect the panes in the stained glass windows above the frontal and the colours are also selected to match.

We hope you like the finished piece of work. We have included lots of creatures as part of the design which we hope children will enjoy finding amongst the lilies. I would like to thank Betty Bushell, Lynne Clark, Jenny Hanks, Anne Humphries, Elizabeth Martin, Susan Seeley and Lynda Wolstencroft for all their hard work getting the altar frontal completed.

# My Favourite Bible Story

*Rector David Martin tells of his favourite bible story which concerns his namesake.*



My favourite bible story – ever since I was a little boy and was given a Ladybird Book containing it – is the story of David and Goliath. It is found in the Old Testament, in the First Book of Samuel, chapter 17.

The Israelites were having a hard time against the Philistines. The Philistine army was arrayed on one hillside and the Israelite army on the opposite hillside, with a valley in between. The Philistines had a prize fighter, called Goliath, who was over nine feet tall.

Every day he would challenge the Israelite army to send someone to fight him, on condition that whoever won would take possession of the other's kingdom. The Israelites had no one to match the strength and military might of the giant Goliath and so they quaked in their boots.

The shepherd boy, David, visited the Israelite army with some supplies for his brothers, who were fighting in the army. When he learnt of the proud Goliath's boast and the cowardice of the Israelite soldiers, he offered to deal with Goliath. At first he was ridiculed by the members of the Israelite army, but, as no one else was volunteering to fight Goliath, King Saul agreed to the contest.

Shunning the armour and weaponry that King Saul offered him, David chose instead five smooth stones from a stream. Taking his shepherd's staff and his sling, he advanced on the giant Goliath. When Goliath saw him, he laughed and said, "Am I a dog that you come to me with a stick?" But David was not disheartened.

Placing one of the smooth stones in his sling he hurled it at the giant. It hit Goliath on his forehead sending him senseless to the ground. It was but the matter of seconds before David advanced on the recumbent Goliath, grabbed his sword and cut off his head, thus securing a famous victory for the Israelites.

I love this story. It shows that God is on the side of the downtrodden. He is able to bring down the boastful and raise up the humble and meek. David placed his trust in God rather than in weaponry and physical might, and God did not let him down. Also, David was not cocky. By placing five stones in his pouch he made allowances for mistakes. I think it is a great story and it always gives me a frisson of excitement whenever I read it.

# To The Sound Of A Violin



When Sara Ann Tuohy walked up the aisle of St Laurence Church to wed her fiancé, Matthew David Allmark, on Saturday 25 May, she did so to the sound of an electric violin playing *The Flower Duet* from Delibes' opera *Lakmé*.

The bride, who is the daughter of Christopher and Barbara Tuohy of Redditch Road, Alvechurch, was escorted into church on the arm of her father. She was accompanied by her chief bridesmaid, Jordan Towler (friend) and Emily Rymill (best friend's daughter).

She wore a simple ivory dress with beading around the bodice. Her chief bridesmaid wore a long aubergine dress and the flower girl an ivory dress. The bride carried a bouquet of ivory roses and purple cola lilies.

The groom chose his friend Oliver Arundel to be his Best Man and the Ushers were Ross Tuohy (bride's brother), Mark Fowler (friend), Kristien Hayfield (friend) and Steward Lostitch (friend). After a Reception at *The Oak*, Hockley Heath, the couple left for a honeymoon in Sorrento, Italy.

The bride, who works as a Personal Assistant, and the groom, who is a graphic designer, will be making their married home in Redditch.



## With Trumpets And Horns



Two music teachers – Hannah Wolstencroft and Liam Hall - married in St Laurence Church, Alvechurch on Saturday 1 June to a blaze of brass instruments.

Hannah Wolstencroft, who is the daughter of Christopher and Lynda Wolstencroft of Hinton Avenue, was escorted into church on the arm of her father to the sonorous sound of a brass quintet playing music by Handel. The bride wore a champagne Alfred Angelo gown and was accompanied by her chief bridesmaid, Vikki O'Brien (best friend) and Linda Corn and Lisa Whear (friends). The bridesmaids wore teal dresses made by Diane Preece. The bride carried a bouquet of pink fuchsias and gerbras.

The groom chose his best friend, Andrew Ward, to be his Best Man and the Ushers were Daniel Wolstencroft (bride's brother), Barry Swann, Nick Barnard, Andrew Burson and Andrew Craig – all friends.

All the music at the wedding was provided by friends of the couple from the various societies to which they belong.

After a reception at Manor Hill House, Upton Warren, the couple plan to honeymoon in Thailand. The couple are making their married home in Redditch.



# Obituaries

## Trish Heal



A former postmistress at Hopwood Post Office, and organiser of the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme on the Redditch Road, Hopwood, died on 16 May at the age of 58 after a short battle with cancer.

Patricia Heal – who was known as Trish – was born in Hamburg, West Germany where her father served in the armed forces. She was an only child and spent much of her childhood moving from Germany to Cyprus and then Great Britain. In 1975 she married Geoffrey Heal and they shared 38 years of married life together. She was the mother of two daughters – Nicky and Louise – and grandmother to three grandchildren – Jordan, Isobel and Daniel.

After leaving school, she trained as a Police Cadet with the Gloucestershire Police Force. Then followed a spell in the army before she returned to Gloucestershire as a Police Officer. Subsequent jobs included store detective, cashier, postmistress of the Hopwood Post Office and manager of Supercigs and Bodycare in Redditch.

She had a number of homes during her lifetime – in Downend, Bristol, Church Hill, Redditch, Wythall and Redditch Town Centre before moving to Hopwood. Once at Hopwood

she set about forming a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme to cover the main, busy Redditch Road.

She will be remembered as a kind and caring person, who was loyal to her family, understanding and blessed with a sense of humour and an infectious laugh.

Her funeral was held at Redditch Crematorium on Friday 31 May and was followed by the release of white doves.

## Betty Doreen Armstrong



A lady who lived in Withybed Close for fifty years and worked in Alvechurch for most of her life, died on 22 May at the age of 84.

Betty Doreen Armstrong was one of three children born into a family in Northfield. She is survived by her sister Sheila and her brother, Christopher.

In 1949 she married Albert William Armstrong and they shared 59 years of married life together until his death in 2008.

She was the mother of four children – Rhydian, Annette (who, alas, predeceased her), Colin and Brian – grandmother to seven grandchildren – Amanda, Glen, Mark, Amy, Callum, Dominic and Alfie – and great-grandmother to Jake. She was a very family-orientated person and an extremely supportive mother.

She had numerous jobs during her working life, beginning in the catering department of the Co-op (where her cream horns were something to write home about!). Then followed work at the Austin Motor Company (in the offices and also the sewing room during the Second World War), Terry Springs, Anglepoise Lighting and Flexible Springs before becoming a School Dinner Lady and a Home-help to Mrs Larkham in School Lane.

She had a number of different homes during her life including ones in Hockley, Selly Oak, West Heath and Wythall before coming to Withybed Close in 1963. She was a member of the Ladies Darts Team at Greenfields Club and was a well-known figure around the village walking her dogs. She enjoyed caravanning at Abergelly, Sandy Bay Devon and Bream.

She will be remembered as a determined person who used to say "There is no such word as can't". She was forthright and strong-willed and placed her family at the centre of her life.

Her funeral was held at Redditch Crematorium on Tuesday 18 June and the hymns sung were *Jerusalem* and *Lord of all hopefulness*. Her cremated remains were later interred in the grave of her husband in the churchyard.

## David Adrian Clarke



A man who attended local Alvechurch schools and spent most of his working life as a HGV driver, died on 13 May at the age of 45.

David Adrian Clarke was born in Bedford and was one of four children. He is survived by his mother, Margaret, and his sisters, Jeanette, Amanda and Patricia. He 1996 he married Karen, who died this year. He later married Gemma. He was the father of six children: Chris, Sophie, Daniel, Ryan, Jack and Harry.

After leaving the Abbey High School he worked on a Youth Training Scheme with the Alvechurch firm of Delsons. Then followed a spell at Aeroquip in Redditch before he found his true metier as a HGV driver. He undertook long-haul journeys to Ireland, Italy, Spain and Europe. His last job was with Eddie Stobart. He loved his work.

He had numerous homes during his lifetime – in Redditch, Bromsgrove, Cirencester, Wiltshire and, finally, Tanyard Lane. He was a keen golfer and belonged to the Abbey Park Golf Club and Pitcher Oak Golf Club (where he scored a hole in one!).

He will be remembered as a happy person who was good fun to be with.

His funeral was held in the parish church on Friday 24 May and the hymns sung were *All things bright and beautiful* and *Praise my soul the king of heaven*. Afterwards, his body was laid to rest in the churchyard, in the grave of his father, John Clarke, who died in 1998.



# Flowers For July

	7th July	14th July	21st July	28th July
Sanctuary		Lynda Wolstencroft	Anne & Andy Humphries	Wedding
Lady Chapel		Lynda Wolstencroft	Anne & Andy Humphries	Wedding
In Memory of		Barbara Parsons	Leslie Brookes & Olive Humphries *	

\* In memory of Olive Humphries, mother of Andy Humphries died 9th August 1983 aged 66 and Leslie Brookes, father of Anne Humphries died 22nd July 1963 aged 44.

I would like to thank those who have helped with the removal of flowers over the last month or so including my husband Tom. Because of a reoccurring spinal problem I have been unable to manage heavy lifting - flowers, water & wet oasis blocks are heavy! Therefore I am asking if anyone would be willing to help me in the future as my deputy? This may not happen often but on occasions following weddings or church events we are left with quite a lot of arrangements that need clearing and disposal.

Many thanks Ann Thurrell 0121 447 7668.

## From The Registers



### Marriages

*Those whom God has joined together*

May 25 Matthew David Allmark and Sara Ann Tuohy  
June 1 Liam Hall and Hannah Wolstencroft



### Funerals and Cremations

*May they rest in the peace of Christ*

May 24 David Adrian Clarke aged 45  
May 31 Patricia Heal aged 58  
June 18 Betty Doreen Armstrong aged 84

# 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 Phillips 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 Graham Clark, The Coach House, School Lane 445 2547
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 Tel: 445 3212
Mum's the Word	Mrs Liz Deeble, 24 Glebe Road 07903 961511
Flower Co-ordinator	Mrs Ann Thurrell, Top Barn, Scarfield Hill 447 7668
Women's Fellowship	Mrs Jill Woolley, 111 Birmingham Road 445 2125
Ark Booking Secretary ) & Grapevine advertising ) Grapevine Editor)	Mr Ian Price, the Ark School Lane, 447 7955 thearkalvechurch@yahoo.co.uk

## PCC Special Responsibilities

### Finance and Standing Committee

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

### Children and Youth

Martin Allen	Mike Fletcher
Pat Booth	

### Buildings and Fabric

Mick Fletcher	Colin Bennett
David Richmond	Jill Woolley
Janet Wright	

### Task Committee

Alison Smith	Jeremy Roberts
Lynne Clark	Sue Phillips
Bob Dale	

### Churchyard

Bob Dale	Andy Humphries
Mike Fletcher	

### Peru and Missionary

Sue Phillips	Dick Russell
Sue Brotherton	Margaret Haste

### Worship

Barbara Scane	Martin Allen
Graham Clark	Enid Brumsen
David Richmond	

# Calendar



## JULY

Monday 1	2.00.pm	Forget-Me-Not (bereavement group) : The Ark
Thursday 4	11.00am	Historical Society: Trip to Chedhams Yard and Wellsbourne Contact Janette on 01789 400 885
	12.15.pm	Ark Café serving Salmon with salad buffet
Wednesday 10	7.00.pm	Alvechurch Village Society: evening stroll led by Adrian and Linda Smith (07941508881) starting at the Red Lion car park
Friday 12	6.30.pm	Peru Concert in The Ark
Saturday 13	12 noon	Crown Meadow First School and Nursery Summer Fair
Sunday 14	6.30.pm	Ecumenical service at St Mary's Roman Catholic Mass Centre
Monday 15	2.00.pm	Forget-Me-Not (bereavement group) : The Ark
Tuesday 16		AUGUST GRAPEVINE GOES TO PRESS
Sunday 21	6.00pm	Revd David Martin's final service followed by a gathering in The Ark
Monday 22	2.00.pm	Forget-Me-Not (bereavement group) : The Ark
Wednesday 24	2.00.pm	St Laurence Women's Fellowship: With speaker Patricia Boyd on what " <i>The Bride Wore</i> "
Thursday 25	12.30.pm	Ark Café re-opens with the Summer menu