

# The Grapevine

THE PARISH MAGAZINE OF ST LAURENCE CHURCH ALVECHURCH



**DECEMBER 2014**

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 2nd and 4th 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 (07773509390) Tiny Tots Service 10.15.am 2nd Thursday of the month</b>
<b>Ark Café</b>	<b>Thursdays during term time at 12.15.pm (447 7017)</b>
<b>Home Group</b>	<b>Thursdays, 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**

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## Dick Russell Writes...

Immanuel - God with us.

A story that begins in: THE DESERT.

Christmas is celebrated one way or another by most people living in this country. But what do they celebrate, and how do they do it?

For so many people Christmas both begins and ends in a desert. The word desert implies desertion, but what, or who, has been deserted? Sadly the answer lies in the name '*Christmas*' itself. It is God himself, and his willingness, indeed his greatest desire, to '*be with us*' that has been deserted and denied by increasing numbers of people. So many who do this are even now wrapping up gifts for their children, their families, their friends, forgetful of the '*gift*' that started it all. Even the most common gift of all that is sent out at Christmas time, the Christmas Card, seems rarely these days to want to remind us of the baby that was born, during a necessity of migration, by a mother forced to give birth in a cow-shed and lay her infant in a feeding trough. And our over-eating and over-drinking does not help to bring this to mind either.

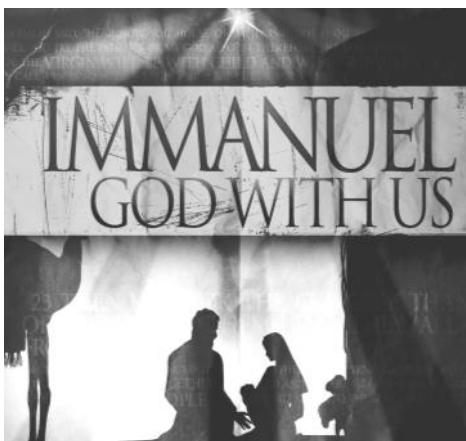
Most of us feel the need to '*prepare*' for Christmas. As soon as the summer holidays are over the shops from which Christmas gifts are purchased do not hesitate to remind us of this. The Hebrew people, among whom the ideas materialised of the sort of God Christians today believe in, also gave birth to

the idea that God wished to be with us. The word in my heading above, Immanuel, is to be found in the prophesies of Isaiah. He talks of a desert of the sort I have described, and makes of it a metaphorical image of a highway being built across such a desert along which God could come to reign among his people, and of a voice being heard shouting from that desert inviting people to welcome their King.

In the New Testament of the Bible we read of John the Baptist saying, "*that voice you read about in Isaiah is mine. Prepare for that King by coming here and repenting of your desertion of God.*" And thousands did!

When you read this, it will be in the period of 'preparation for Immanuel' in which we are encouraged to recognise our corporate desert lives. This period is called ADVENT.

Why not think about joining one of the congregations at St Laurence during this period, and prepare to experience Immanuel, '*God with you*' as a gift from Him to you this Christmas.



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# The Homeless and Needy Would Like Your Help



## Birmingham City Mission

As Christmas approaches we start to think of all the gifts we would like to give to our friends and family but in the back of our minds are those who don't have the support of loved ones. It is good to have an opportunity to help those less fortunate than ourselves. The Birmingham City Mission tries to provide the homeless and families in need, with food and clothing, especially as the weather gets colder and more inclement. The homeless are able to get a hot meal several times a week, and food parcels and clothing are distributed from the resource centre.

All this help is much appreciated by the recipients but the Mission have highlighted some gaps in the items they can offer. Can you help? Many items of tinned food are handed out but not all have the convenience of ring-pulls so the Mission would like to be able to hand out tin-openers with the food parcels.

Personal hygiene is difficult if you are living rough or in a hostel so toothbrushes and tooth paste are always in great demand.

If you can supply a simple tin-opener, tooth brush or toothpaste your gift will be much appreciated by those who benefit from your generosity. Our village green grocer '*The Market*' has very kindly offered to be a collection point so please drop off items for the Mission there.

There is also an ongoing need for good quality men's clothing. Anything from socks and underwear to overcoats would be gratefully received by those trying to keep themselves clean and warm over the winter months.

If you have any suitable clothing items please call Maureen on 0121 445 2119 to arrange for its delivery. You can be sure that anything you are able to give will make a real difference to someone in need. Thank You.

## **Letter From Nikki Archdeacon of Dudley - *Christmas Unwrapped***

The rituals of gift giving associated with Christmas come from a multitude of sources, some mythological, some religious, many commercial. The Bible tells us that wise men from the East brought gifts for Jesus, and we celebrate Christmas with much exchanging of presents. But how many of us take time to see beyond this ritualistic giving and reflect on the real meaning of Christmas; to 'unwrap' Christmas so we can see what it's really about. We're always very keen to get the wrapping off our gifts quickly and not just admire the packaging, but are we prepared to do the same to the heart of Christmas, to see beyond the ribbons and bows to the truth of the underlying message?

That very first Christmas, only some people could see beyond the wrapping, or were prepared to look. Most were deceived by outward appearances. God's people were awaiting the gift of a Saviour, the Messiah who would come announcing a new age, heralding the start of God's kingdom on earth, setting them free from oppression and captivity, bringing peace. They had expectations of what this Messiah would be like - a king, a mighty warrior. They were expecting a governing prince, the Son of the most high God. That kind of Saviour would surely arrive with a flourish, a fan fare, making a massive impact.

But Jesus came effectively in disguise, a refugee born to a teenage mum in a borrowed stable. So most people missed him, missed the significance of his birth, and the life which was beginning. People failed to see beyond outward appearances then, just as they do now. Some shepherds though, simple folk out in the fields, were surprised by angels. Angels who told them that the Saviour had been born, not in a palace, where shepherds like them would never get a security pass, but in a stable; not wrapped in the finest of regal garments, but wrapped in strips of cloth. They declared this child would bring peace to the world. And the shepherds took these angels at their word. They went and found the baby, lying in a manger. They saw beyond the strips of cloth and the impoverished surroundings. They had eyes to see who this baby was to become, and with joy and confidence they went out to spread the good news of his birth. News of peace and joy.

We too can be surprised if we take time to unwrap Christmas; to seek God now as wise men and simple shepherds sought him long ago; to explore the real message of Christmas, which is most certainly more than the clamour of commercials to spend, spend, spend and the ringing of cash tills in our ears. At Christmas time we receive so many presents we don't really need, while God offers us a gift we cannot do without - the gift of peace, and relationship with him. I pray you may receive and unwrap the gift of life this Christmas.

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# Alvechurch Village Society

*Ray Yarnell AVS Chairperson writes...*

The December walk will be at 2.30pm on Sunday 7th December, and will be "My Favourite Rowney Green Winter's Walk" which is another of a series of my favourite local walks. The walk will start at Rowney Green Village Hall and will be led by Maurice Kenny (01527 66071).

The Boxing Day traditional walk will start at 10.00 am on 26th December at the Lickey Hills Visitor centre and will be led by Norma and Ray Yarnell (0121 445 5739)

The December social event will be The Christmas Party on Saturday 6th December in the Village hall. This great evening will be a repeat of previous years with music and dancing, a bar and fish and chip supper. Proceeds will be in aid of the Lounge youth club, and tickets will be available through Ray Yarnell (0121 445 5739).

## Alvechurch GP Surgery News

### Patient Online Access for patients aged 16 years and over

You can now go online at any time to:

- \* Book and cancel appointments
- \* Order current repeat prescription items
- \* View a summary of your medical record

The service is available 24/7. All you need is access to a computer which will help when you cannot get through to the surgery to book or cancel appointments. You will need to register with the surgery receptionist who will explain the procedure to you.

### Shingles Vaccinations

This is now available to certain people in their 70s. You can still have the vaccine even if you have already had shingles. It's given as a single injection for people who meet the following criteria:

Aged 70: dob between 2.9.1943 and 1.9.1944

Aged 78: dob between 2.9.1935 and 1.9.1936

Aged 79: dob between 2.9.1934 and 1.9.1935

You will only need to have the vaccination once and you can have it at any time of the year.

### More information is available at

<http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/pages/shingles-vaccination.aspx>. or at the surgery. If you would like the vaccine, please make an appointment with the practice nurse.

# Alvechurch Historical Society

Our speaker on **Monday 1 December** will be Simon Beckett, telling us the History of Becketts. Come and find out how the business grew from a farm to the multi-faceted business of today.

We meet on the first Monday of the month in the Museum, School Lane at 7.45 p.m. plenty of parking behind the Catholic Church with their kind permission. An early reminder that there is no meeting in January.

## Parish Prayers For December

Prayers will be offered by St Laurence Church for the residents of the following roads -

7<sup>th</sup> December – Scarfield Hill

14<sup>th</sup> December – School Lane

21<sup>st</sup> December – Smedley Crooke Place

28<sup>th</sup> December – Snake Lane



## Rowney Green Horticultural Society

The usual monthly meeting will not be held in December 2014. Our next meeting at The Peace Hall will be held on Thursday, 8th January 2015 at 7.30pm, more details will shown in the January edition of The Grapevine.

New Members will be very welcome at the start of our 2015 Horticultural Year which includes excellent speakers on various subjects and organised trips in the summer.

The Committee would like to take this opportunity to wish all readers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. For more information please telephone Janet on 01527 69399.

## Christmas Wishes

Mick, Lyn, Jill, Veronica, Alison, Mike, Margaret, Gloria, Anna and SueB wish all their friends -



A Very Happy Christmas

And



A Peaceful New Year

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# Auction For Stained Glass Windows



*Barbara Griffiths writes...*

Following on from last month's article I am gratified to have received some further items for the auction - you can now expect to be able to bid for a £200 voucher from Ken Wainright for carpet cleaning, a heavy cut glass fruit bowl, a plain Dartington Crystal Bon Bon dish, two framed prints by a local artist, two hand turned wooden gavels and pads, four hand turned wooden bowls of differing sizes – these are just a few of the pieces currently donated.

I have also been surprised and touched by someone who has been unable to supply an object for the auction itself but has sent a most generous donation in lieu. They obviously believe, as I do, that the stained glass windows are a most important part of St. Laurence and well worth preserving - I find this most rewarding.

For future reference, a reminder of my contact details - Barbara Griffiths 0121 445 3041.

## While Shepherds Watched

*Enid Brumsen writes...*

*While shepherds watched their flocks by night All seated on the ground The angel of the Lord came down And glory shone around.*



The Union of Shepherds has complained that it breaches health and safety regulations to insist that shepherds watch their flocks without appropriate seating arrangements being provided. Therefore benches, stools and orthopaedic chairs are now available. Shepherds have also requested that due to the inclement weather conditions at this time of year, they should watch their flocks via CCTV cameras from centrally heated shepherd observation huts.

Please note, the angel of the Lord is reminded that before shining his/her glory around she/he must ascertain that all shepherds have been issued with glasses capable of filtering out the harmful effects of UVA, UVB and Glory.

# Grapevine Deadline Dates For 2015

Ian Price writes...

The table below gives the deadline dates (copy deadline) for articles for 2015.

If anyone would like to submit any articles for inclusion please take a note of these dates. We have stuck with our usual copy deadline of the 16th with the exception of December 2015.

Articles for inclusion to - [thearkalvechurch@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:thearkalvechurch@yahoo.co.uk)

Month	Copy Deadline	To Printer	Collate For Dispatch
January	Friday 16	Friday 23	Thursday 29
February	Monday 16	Friday 20	Thursday 26
March	Monday 16	Friday 20	Thursday 26
April	Thursday 16	Friday 17	Thursday 23
May	Saturday 16	Friday 22	Thursday 28
June	Tuesday 16	Friday 19	Thursday 25
July	Thursday 16	Friday 17	Thursday 23
August	Sunday 16	Friday 21	Thursday 27
September	Wednesday 16	Friday 18	Thursday 24
October	Friday 16	Friday 23	Thursday 29
November	Monday 16	Friday 20	Thursday 26
December	Wednesday 9	Friday 11	Thursday 17

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## More Christmas Wishes

Wishing all our friends and neighbours a very  
**Happy Christmas & New Year**

Rosina, John and Caroline Spreckley



# The Stars

Graham Clark writes...

Two thousand years ago a star attracted the attention of a group of Eastern mystics and caused them to follow its progress across the sky to Bethlehem. Their beliefs told them that this was a portent of a royal birth. (Before anyone comments – despite various translations of the earliest Greek text, we don't know that there were three of them and we don't know that they were kings. We just know that they came from the east and brought three gifts).

In Bethlehem they looked in the king's palace, the obvious place to find a royal child. But the child they sought was born in much humbler circumstances. They eventually found him, presented their gifts and worshiped him.

And ever since the star has been an abiding symbol of Christmas.

For the first Christmas of the new millennium stars were erected on the top of the tower at St Laurence church. They have been shining their light across the village every Christmas since then, attracting people to come and worship Jesus Christ, the King and Saviour of the world. The church's year starts four weeks before Christmas; in church-speak, "*Advent*". So that's the time to switch on the stars and begin our preparations. This year that falls **on Sunday November 30<sup>th</sup>** and the stars will be turned on during the **9.30 Family Service** that day.

Will you come and join us this Christmas? After all, trite as it may sound, Christmas begins with "*Christ*".



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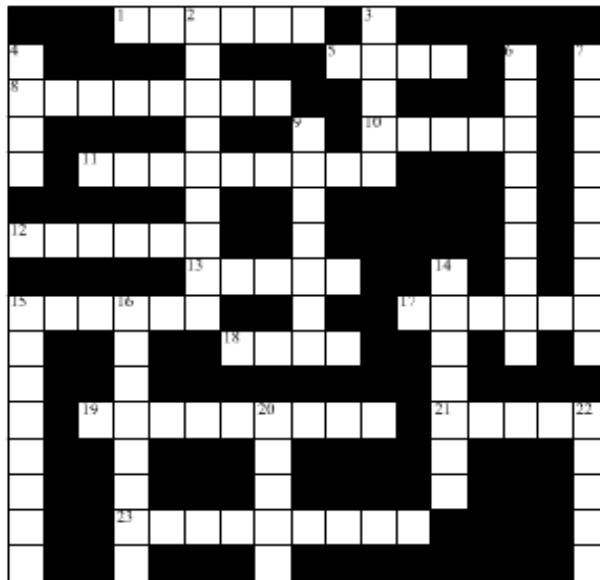
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# Kids Corner

## The Nativity



### ACROSS

- 1 Jesus' earthly father
- 5 Mother of Jesus
- 8 Where Jesus grew up
- 10 Where Joseph took Jesus and Mary after the wise men left Bethlehem
- 11 King of Judea after Herod
- 12 A trough: an open box from where cattle feed
- 13 Joseph and Mary were of the lineage of this former king

of Israel.

- 15 A multitude of these praised God, saying "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."
- 17 God had promised him that he would not die before he saw the Christ.
- 18 Precious metal: one of the gifts
- 19 Father of John the Baptist
- 21 An aromatic herb:

One of the gifts  
23 Mary's cousin and mother of John the Baptist

### DOWN

- 2 Those watching over sheep
- 3 Joseph and Mary went to Bethlehem to pay these
- 4 A widow who served in the temple: she saw Jesus at His dedication.
- 6 City where Jesus was born
- 7 Cloth used to wrap babies
- 9 The angel who visited Mary and told her she would have a Son.
- 14 These came from the East and brought gifts
- 15 Roman emperor at the time of His birth
- 16 God with us
- 20 This empire ruled the western world at the time of His birth.
- 22 King of Judea at the time of His birth

**Answers on page 14**



# CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING

IN AID OF ST LAURENCE CHURCH  
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at Alvechurch Village Hall  
Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December 10am to 1pm

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BOOKS \*



# The Ark Café

We hope that all those who attended the Christmas Lunch on November 27th enjoyed the occasion. There is a further one to be held on December 4th in The Ark.



The Café is now closed over the Christmas period and will reopen in 2015 on 15th January.

Our thanks during 2014 to all our customers for their loyal support for the café and to all our volunteers who enable the Café to function week by week.

## Nativity Crossword Answers



# St Laurence Churchyard

Andy Humphries writes...

Christmas isn't too far away and the churchyard year is fading fast....so time for an "*end-of-term*" report. 2014 brought us a wettish Spring followed by a dry, warm Summer ...good conditions for keeping the churchyard looking reasonably tidy....well, that's the theory !

The reality was that the churchyard equipment store suffered two burglaries in June and July. Although our mowers weren't stolen, most of the portable hand tools (strimmers, hedge cutters etc) were, which stopped us strimming for many weeks. The areas around trees and older headstones and our strewing area looked rather neglected at times and we're sorry that this annoyed one or two visitors. Both burglaries involved parts of the store roof being ripped off and after the first of these had been repaired, we decided on a radical solution. Some of you may have noticed the large grey shipping container which arrived in September, complete with extra security. All our replacement equipment has now been moved into the container and treated with SmartWater, a forensic chemical "fingerprint", invisible to humans, but favoured by the Police for linking criminals to stolen goods. We've sited the container as discreetly as possible but have kept the original store for hand tools, rock salt etc.

The burglary saga made maintenance work a lot harder as most tools had to be stored off-site until the container arrived. So it's a special thank you to all our volunteers for coping with that and still managing to keep the grass and churchyard edges looking reasonably good. I must also thank some new volunteers who've joined the team this year ....Barry and Lizzie Lunn have done sterling work with the mowers and strimmers, Laurie Baldwin has been weeding around the church itself and Mark and

Gillian Shepherd have been tackling saplings on graves and removing grass from churchyard paths....all valuable tasks. Seasoned regulars Basil Booth, Irene Hoare and Clive Stevens have done their usual great job too.

Churchyard blossom and flowers were again a delight in the Spring and early Summer and to commemorate the Great War centenary, poppies were planted near to the porch and were still flowering into early November.

The winter months will see the volunteers doing their usual pruning and cutting back, with the occasional bonfire to get rid of the vast quantity of material involved. We hope you'll understand that a few fires are necessary and hope they don't cause too many issues for near-neighbours to the church.

Finally...the vast majority of our visitors treat the churchyard with respect and we're grateful for that. Can we politely ask dog walkers to keep their dogs on leads and bag-up their faeces.... and ask all visitors to leave wreaths, floral tributes and plastic bags etc in the bins provided rather than outside them, where animals can rip them open. We empty those bins twice a week but if they are full, please help us by taking the rubbish to the large yellow wheelie bin in the turning circle near The Lawns. As in previous years, we will leave Christmas wreaths on graves until the end of February, but then clear them as they will have died by then. If you wish to re-use a wreath, please remove it before then.



## Christmas Services 2014

The Churches in Alvechurch are planning and rehearsing for the special services of the Christmas season.



St Laurence will hold the **Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols at 6.00.pm on Sunday 21st December**. This is a long tradition of telling the Christmas story in readings and song with well-known carols for everyone. It started in Truro in 1880 and the first Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols at Kings College Cambridge was held on Christmas Eve 1918, just after the end of the First World War.

St Laurence will **hold two services on Christmas Eve** (Wednesday this year) including favourite carols and the story of the Nativity. Younger children will perform in the drama (including the usual suspects of shepherds and angels as well as Mary, Joseph and Jesus) in the **4.00.pm** service and older children and adults in the **6.00.pm** service.

**The Midnight communion** service at St Laurence starts at **11.30.pm** and welcomes Christmas Day with music and readings.

A short, informal service will be held at St Laurence at **10.00.am on Christmas morning** (Thursday).

## St Laurence Women's Fellowship

Jill Woolley writes...

We enjoyed our October meeting when Nigel Strong sang to us reviving many musical memories. It cheered a grey dull afternoon. At our meeting on December 17th - a week earlier than usual - Avril Pulley will bring her Porcelain Flowers & Christmas Plaques with some items for sale. Her talk is entitled "*Too Good to Eat*" but we will have some Christmas refreshments.

We start our 2015 programme on January 28th with a visit from Richard Westcott who is a Pantomime Dame and gives a demonstration of costumes and make-up "*Oh Yes he will!*".

Come and join us in the Tanyard Centre at 2pm but note that we are unable to park there. You will receive a warm welcome.

## Churches Together

The Churches Together Social event for Christian Unity week will be a Shared Supper at the Ark, starting at 7.00pm on Friday 23rd January 2015, followed by a Murder Mystery Evening. The cost is £5, but please bring a plate of food for 6 people, and your own drinks.

There will be prizes for the table/tables who can solve the "*Whodunnit?*".



Tickets available from Elizabeth Richmond on 0121445 3569, Rev. Fiona at the Baptist church, or Felicity on 0121 445 2371.

# Obituaries

## Dr Sybil James

A Memorial Service for the distinguished scientist Dr. Sybil James, née Luckett, was held in the Church on Wednesday 5th November.

The Reverend Ian Firmstone conducted the service. Her daughter Ann and son Stephen and her colleague, Dr. Rosemary Waring paid tributes. The service began and ended with music by Handel, and the congregation of former colleagues, students, family and friends, joined in her favourite hymns.

Sybil James died at The Lawns, on 25 October. Four years earlier she had left her home in Selly Oak, Birmingham, and returned to the village where she grew up. Born in Harborne in 1917, she came to Alvechurch as a young child, living first in rooms over the old Co-op premises before moving to one of the Matthews' houses in Old Rectory Lane.

She attended the village school and the Baptist Church Sunday school. She loved to wander in the fields and along the hedgerows. She found spotted orchids and a skylark's nest. She had piano lessons with Miss Newbold, and Mrs. Edmonds from the school taught her about butterflies and encouraged her life-long love of botany.

At the age of nine she won a Scholarship to the County High School where she continued to prove herself an outstanding student, as well as being head girl and captain of the hockey XI. She excelled in the School Certificate examinations, and won one of only 80 nation-wide State Scholarships. This enabled her to go in 1934, with the encouragement of her parents, to Birmingham University to study Chemistry and Botany.

As an undergraduate she continued to excel, winning the Frankland Prize for the best Chemistry student in her year. Supported by a State Studentship, she went on to write a Ph. D. The Professor of Chemistry (Sir Walter Norman Haworth who won the Nobel Prize in 1937 for his work on the constitution of Vitamin C) thought highly of her, and took her on to the staff. She was to continue to work there, in evolving fields of research, moving to Biochemistry, and in the 1970's setting up a new course in Toxicology. Devoted to scientific research, meticulous and clear thinking, she worked at the highest standards. Equally she took great pains with her teaching and with getting the best from her Ph D students. They speak of her great kindness and support. Always highly regarded by colleagues in universities and in industry, she was awarded the prestigious degree on Doctor of Science in 1960.

She married Eric W. James of The Bridges, Alvechurch in the Baptist Chapel in 1939 and they moved to a flat in Edgbaston. but the bombing saw them taking refuge in Old Rectory Lane. Later Sybil continued to visit Alvechurch to see her parents until 1972 when her mother, Clare, became ill and had to leave to live with her daughter Barbara.

Sybil is survived by three children, eight grand children and two great-grand children both born after Eric died in 2000. All of them, in England and Australia, will remember with love and admiration a woman who was ahead of her time.



## **Flowers**

There are no flowers during Advent.

## **Grapevine Volunteer Deliverers**

There are three rounds for Grapevine delivery that are not being covered at the moment. 2 are in Hopwood, one centred on the Redditch Road and the other on the area by the Plant Nursery. The third is Tanyard Lane in Alvechurch.

If anyone would like to help cover any of these rounds please contact Dick Russell on 445 3083.

## **Rowney Green Shared Church Windows Restoration Fund**

**Thank you** to all our friends who supported the Gemini Choir Concert last month. We raised £340, almost half a window!



## **From The Registers**



### **Baptisms**

*We welcome you into the Lord's family*

November 23 Tillie Dawson



### **Marriages**

*Those whom God has joined together*

November 7 Richard Gannon and Sophie Cooper



### **Funerals and Cremations**

*May they rest in the peace of Christ*

November 25 Mary Glaze

November 28 Lilian Jacques

# **Who's who**

Rector	To be confirmed, The Rectory, School Lane, 445 1087 stlaurencealvechurch@yahoo.co.uk
Licensed Lay Ministers	Mr Dick Russell, 2 Gothic Cottages, Radford Rd, 445 3083
Authorised Lay Ministers	Ms Sue Phillips, Withybed Green, 445 3620 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, 13 Red Lion Street, 447 8451
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, 445 3212
Mum's the Word	Mrs Kate Grove, 07773509390
Flower Co-ordinator	Mrs Ann Thurrell, Top Barn, Scarfield Hill, 447 7668
Women's Fellowship	Mrs Jill Woolley, 111 Birmingham Road, 445 2125
Ark Booking Secretary )	Mr Ian Price, The Ark, School Lane, 447 7955
& Grapevine advertising )	thearkalvechurch@yahoo.co.uk
Grapevine Editor)	

## **PCC Special Responsibilities**

### **Finance and Standing Committee**

Graham Clark                   Mick Fletcher  
Alison Smith                   Bob Dale  
Janet Wright

### **Children and Youth Committee**

Martin Allen                   Mick Fletcher  
Thomas Birchall               Lynne Clark

### **Task Committee**

Jill Woolley                   Bob Dale  
Alison Smith                   Sue Phillips  
Martin Allen

### **Peru and Missionary Committee**

Sue Phillips                   Dick Russell  
Gordon Parsons               Margaret Haste

### **Buildings, Fabric and Churchyard Committee**

Mick Fletcher                 Colin Bennett  
David Richmond               Jill Woolley  
Janet Wright                   Andy Humphries

# Calendar for DECEMBER



Monday 1	2.00pm	Forget-Me-Nots: The Ark
	7.45pm	Alvechurch Historical Society : Talk by Simon Beckett on the History of Becketts
Wednesday 3	7.30pm	Hillside WI Group: Carol Service: Church & The Ark
Thursday 4	9.30am	Mums The Word: The Ark
	12.15pm	Ark Café: Christmas Lunch (ticket only)
Sunday 7	2.30pm	Alvechurch Village Society: "My Favourite Rowney Green Winter's Walk": Meet at Rowney Green Village Hall
Monday 8	7.30pm	Ark Angels W.I. Group: The Ark:
Thursday 11	9.30am	Mums The Word: The Ark
	10.15am	Tiny Tots Service: Church No café today

**January GRAPEVINE GOES TO PRESS** articles to [thearkalvechurch@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:thearkalvechurch@yahoo.co.uk)

Saturday 13	10.00am	Christmas Coffee Morning: in aid of the St Laurence Stained Glass Windows: Alvechurch Village Hall
	7.30pm	Midland Sinfonia: Candlelit Concert: St Laurence Church
Monday 15	2.00pm	Forget-Me-Nots: The Ark
Wednesday 17	2.00pm	St Laurence Women's Fellowship: Porcelain flowers and Christmas Plaques (items for sale): Tanyard Centre
Thursday 18	9.30am	Mums The Word: The Ark No café today
Sunday 21	6.00pm	Nine Lessons and Carols: Church
Wednesday 24	4.00pm	Christmas Eve Carol Service and Nativity: Church
	6.00pm	Christmas Eve Carol Service and Nativity: Church
	11.30pm	Christmas Eve Midnight Service: Church
Thursday 25	10.30am	Christmas Day Carols around the crib: Church
Friday 26	10.00am	Alvechurch Village Society: Walk: meet at Lickey Hills Visitors Centre

