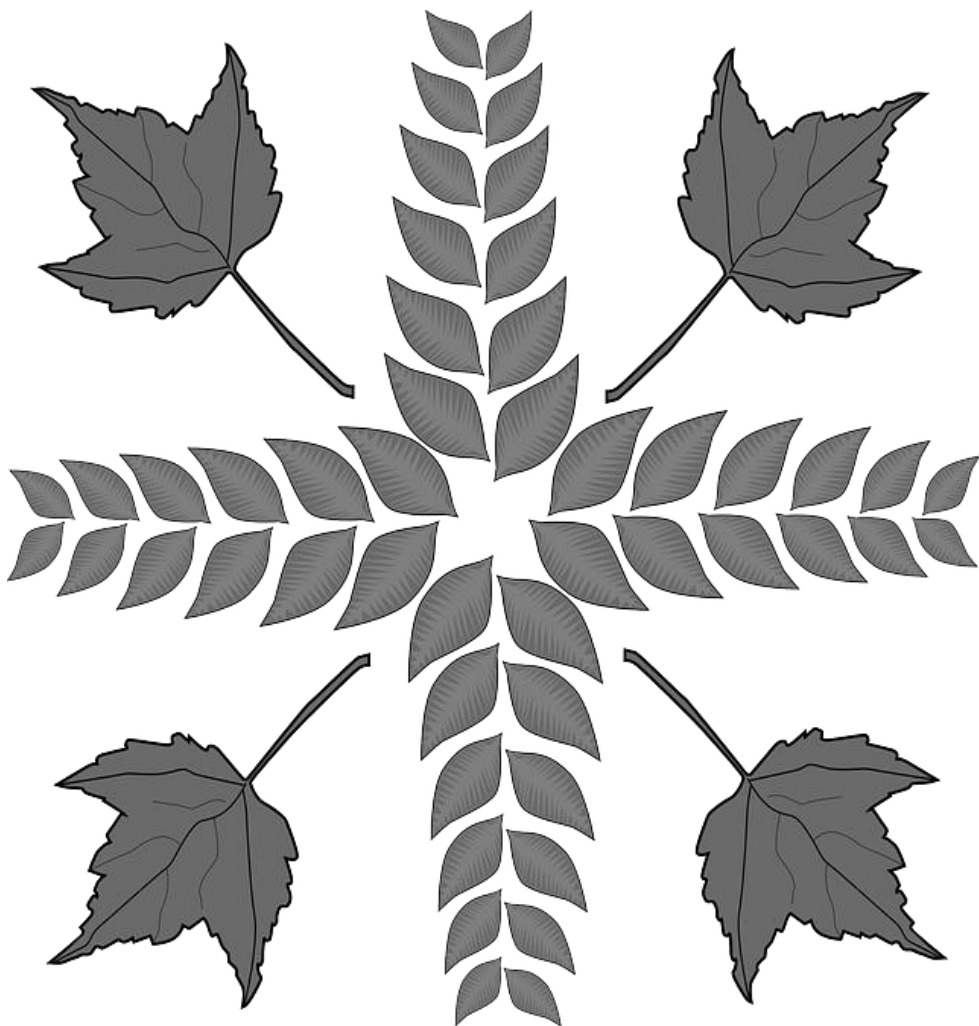


The Grapevine

THE PARISH MAGAZINE OF ST LAURENCE CHURCH ALVECHURCH



SEPTEMBER 2018

Online at www.alvechurch-stlaurence.org/monthly-magazine

St Laurence Church Alvechurch

SUNDAY SERVICES

8.00am Holy Communion

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

9.30am Family Service

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

11.15am Parish Eucharist

6.00pm Evensong

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

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

At Rowney Green Shared Church

9.30am Methodist/Anglican Service

DAILY SERVICE

9.00am Monday to Friday in St Laurence Church

ORGANISATIONS

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

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

Bellringers - Sundays at 10.45am

Tuesday Practice at 7.30pm (01527 64077)

**Women's Fellowship - 4th Wednesday of the month at 2.00pm
in Tanyard Lane Community Centre (445 2125)**

Mum's the Word - Thursdays 9.30am to 11am in The Ark (sarah100work@gmail.com)

Tiny Tots Service - 10.15am 4th Thursday of the month

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

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

THE ARK

Enquiries to Ian Price 0121 447 7955

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Richard Bubbers writes...

So where do our values come from?

On Netflix there is now a second series of “*Roman Empire*”, which tells the story of the rise of Julius Caesar and the fall of the Roman Republic. In order to establish his power base so that he could make a bid to become a consul of the Republic and then “*dictator*” (literally the Latin word for one person who holds supreme power), Julius Caesar went off to conquer Gaul and is reported to have killed a million Gauls and enslaved a million more. It is a graphic reminder of the cruel and callous use of power in the service of the ambition of the powerful: no consideration is shown to the concerns of the powerless unless it serves the purposes of the search of the powerful for more power, money and glory. Weakness is despised, and empathy is nowhere to be found. The values are based on power and wealth; quite simply, might is right – it is survival of the strongest. The great body of classical literature which survives from the period was of course written from the point of view of those at the top: little attention is given to the brutish and short lives of the great mass of the people lower down the social order.

Julius Caesar eventually overreached himself and was famously assassinated, but not before his name had become a byword for power: “*Caesar*” became the title for each of the rulers in the Roman Empire which came after the Republic, and it was copied by the Russian Empire with the title “*Tsar*” and by

the German Empire with the title “*Kaiser*.”

Coincidentally, one of my sons recently pointed me to an interview on YouTube with Tom Holland, a historian who has written extensively on the ancient world. He does not claim to be a Christian believer, but he speaks of his eventual and profound realisation that his moral values come not from ancient Greece or Rome but from deeply Christian roots. It was, he says, not just the extremes of callousness in the ancient Greek and Roman world that he came to find shocking, but the lack of a sense that the poor or the weak might have any intrinsic value. He refers, for example, to the absolute rights of male Roman citizens when it came to slavery and the sexual economy.

By contrast, right back at the beginning of the Judaeo-Christian tradition in Genesis 1.26 human dignity is foreshadowed in humankind being made “*in the image and likeness of God*,” an emphasis not seen in other near Eastern creation stories.

St Paul says in 1 Corinthians 1.23, “*We preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles [non-Jews]*”: the idea that God might have been vulnerable and suffered torture and death on a cross was so shocking as to be repulsive to Jews, Greeks or Romans of Paul’s day. Crucifixion was the most cruel and degrading method of execution, perfected by the Romans and usually reserved for slaves, revolutionaries and criminals. Our familiarity with the biblical story of the crucifixion may have dulled our sense of what a completely new idea this was in the ancient world, where it was the role of gods to uphold their power by inflicting punishment and not by suffering it themselves.

Continues on page 4.....

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Paul developed this; he advocated respect for human life by declaring our bodies to be the temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6.19); and he reinforced our common humanity by showing that in Christ "*there is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female*" (Galatians 3.28).

Tom Holland likens the role and writings of Paul to "*depth charges*" being dropped under the values of the ancient world which would explode at different times in the centuries to follow: Paul's letters in the New Testament, together with the four Gospels, rather than Greek and Roman philosophers and writers, have been the significant motivators in the development of human rights as we understand them: every human life is of equal value.

In the Sermon on the Mount in the Gospels Jesus explores what it means to live the values of the Kingdom of God, rather than the values of the Empire of Caesar - where Jesus is Lord, rather than Caesar is Lord.

We will be looking at what this can mean for us today in St Laurence's Sunday morning services at 9:30am and 11:15am from **Sunday 2 September** during the autumn: you are very welcome to join us.

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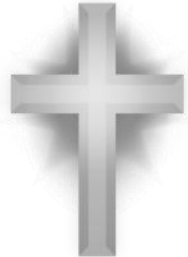
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"A family concern"

Parish Prayers

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



Birmingham Road, Alvechurch – 2 September

Birmingham Road, Bordesley – 9 September

Birmingham Road, Hopwood – 16 September

Bittell Farm Road – 23 September

Bittell Road – 30 September

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Alvechurch Historical Society

Hilary Taylor writes...

AUTUMN TERM

Monday 3rd September 2018

At our first meeting the speaker will be Richard Churchley, whose subject will be *"Worcestershire Carriers before the Railway Age"*. He will tell us about local trade and transport in the age of horse, cart and canal.

Monday 1st October 2018

The second meeting of the autumn term will take us far from local events, when John Butterworth comes to speak about *"The Nurse Who Changed Guinea-Bissau"*.

OPEN DAYS

Two open days will be held on **Saturdays 8th and 15th September 2018**, 2.30pm - 4.30pm, on the theme of *"Remembrance"*. A display will commemorate people from Alvechurch who served in the First World War. There will also be our usual display of old photographs of the area, and our cabinets of local *"treasures"*.

All are welcome, tea and coffee will be served. The Alvechurch Historical Society hut is in School Lane.

To contact AHS, please telephone our chairman, Anne Humphries on 0121 445 5955.

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Rowney Green Horticultural Society

Lindsay Smith writes...

Rowney Green Horticultural Society meets at the Village Hall on the second Thursday each month at 7.30pm. At the meeting on September 13th we will welcome Jamie Butterworth, RHS Ambassador. After becoming a finalist in BBC3's Young Gardener of the Year Jamie went on to co-found Younghort in 2013 to inspire more young people to choose gardening as a career. His subject will be "A Year at RHS Wisley". Guests are always welcome - £3.50 to include refreshments.

On Saturday, 1st September the Society will hold its Main Produce and Flower Show. The general public will be able to view the wonderful entries from 3.00pm onwards, and at 4.00pm the prizes will be presented by David Morgan, Worcestershire County Organiser, RHS Garden Scheme.

Should you wish to make an entry you will find the Entry Form on our website -

www.rowneygreenhorticultural.co.uk

All entries will be received at The Village Hall on the preceding Thursday evening from 7.00pm until 8.00pm. For any further information please do not hesitate to contact Lindsay Smith on 01527 592874.



St Laurence Women's Fellowship

Jill Woolley writes...



Dr Colin Harris brought us many interesting objects to look at when he gave his talk, *101 Great British Curiosities*, at our meeting in July.

We look forward to starting our Autumn season on **September 26th** when Denzil Smith will talk about the work of a Prison Visitor.

On **October 24th** Neil Hughes from Kneales Chocolates will visit us, hopefully bringing some samples!

On **November 28th** we will welcome Catherine Clark with her selection of hats.

Looking for something new to do in the months up to Christmas? Come and join us in The Tanyard Centre at 2pm and enjoy a cup of tea and a chat.

The Ark Café



Now September is here we start off again with our hot meals at the Ark Cafe.

We will be **closed on September 6th** but the menus for the remaining weeks are as follows:

13th September - Somerset Chicken

20th September - Roast lamb

**27th September - Salmon with Watercress
Sauce**

We look forward to your continued support as we start the lunches up again.

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Large Bring and Buy table, (please bring along something) and also a wonderful raffle and a walk round the gardens.

Celia Hitch, 0121 445 4824.

Alvechurch WI

Pam Horsfield writes...

We held our Natter Night as usual at Alvechurch Cricket Club and took as our theme '*Ploughmans, Puddings and Poems*'. Julie thanked members for coming, and the committee for providing a delicious supper. Members then read favourite poems, varying from Pam Ayers to a Ghanaian poem. It was a lovely relaxed evening and enjoyed by all.

Since the July meeting members have visited Coughton Court where they were able to learn about the history of the Throckmorton family and also enjoy the gardens on a very summery day.

This month several members are going to visit Churchfields Farm near Droitwich where they will go on a tour to see the ice creams produced there. They will then stay and enjoy afternoon tea together.

Next month we have the pleasure of Virginia Davis who will create floral arrangements on her theme of '*Jam and Jerusalem*'. Virginia and her sister grew up being involved with WI, as their mother, Mrs Catley, was a charismatic member for many years. Do come and enjoy this meeting on Monday September 10th at 7:30pm in the Village Hall.

Mum's the Word

Did you know?.....

We have a Stay and Play group which meets in The Ark every Thursday 9.30 - 11.00am during school term time, and often during the half term holidays as well. We welcome Mums, Dads and Grandparents with children from birth up to school age. A time to chat and to play. We provide a friendly environment with refreshments and a range of toys and each session finishes with singing time.

Although there is no specific charge, we welcome donations towards the running costs of the facilities, refreshments, toys and equipment.

Tiny Tots in Church

Once a month, on the 4th Thursday of each month, instead of our usual singing time we invite parents / grandparents to bring their little ones into the church. Come and join in with the short, simple dramatized Bible story and some songs. Have a go at the children's craft activity, which relates to the story theme, available for the children to do with you during their play session.

This relaxed and informal Tiny Tots service is designed especially for babies and children, with no worries about restlessness and noise!

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

To find out more: Contact Sarah Linton at :-
sarah100work@gmail.com

Harvest Festival Service at St Laurence Church

We invite you to come along with your children to our **Harvest Festival Service on Sunday 30th September at 9.30am.**

This service is a time when the whole family can join in together with songs / hymns and activities suited to all ages.

Following tradition, there will be an opportunity to bring non-perishable, long-life food items, or toiletries, which will be donated to local charity New Starts in Bromsgrove.

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Dear All, (people with aids or not sure whether you have a hearing loss!)



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The answers are in the techniques we learn and the continued patience of those around us. I am sure people don't 'MUMBLE' on purpose nor do they turn away so we lose the facial expressions and lip patterns that are an important part of our communication clues....yes we admit that we do a lot of guesswork...often laugh at the wrong joke and speak too loudly. Do we want to be part of the community...not bystanders withdrawing and sitting smiling as our only form of communication? Our hearing aids are our link with the world. The loop system is a life saver as the message is relayed directly to our aids and places us on an equal footing.

This is the invisible disability. We look normal we act normal but there is sometimes a vagueness in our eyes as we juggle words, as part of a jigsaw, to make sense of the message being transmitted to us.

Fortunately we can laugh at ourselves and value the relationships that accept us as we are. So... get that aid out of the box, out of the drawer and persevere to get the most out of top notch technology. There is an excellent service on the NHS ...talk to your audiologist.

DATES TO REMEMBER...Alvechurch Cricket Club 10.30am - 12noon

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Alvechurch Library

What's on in September 2018

Family Fun - There's lots going on for families at Alvechurch library this autumn, with our regular drop in Baby, Bounce and Rhyme sessions every Monday and Friday from 10 - 10:30am, and Storytimes on Tuesdays from 11 - 11:30am and Saturdays from 2:30pm. We also have a few spaces for children aged 8-12 years in our junior book club Chatterbooks. We meet monthly on a Monday afternoon from 3.30 - 4.30pm for fun activities based on books and reading.

Summer Reading Challenge - With over 200 children signed up for this year's Summer Reading Challenge there are lots of books being read throughout the village. If you have a child aged up to 12 years then there's still time to sign up, we challenge children to read, or in the case of really little ones to listen to 6 library books over the summer up until Saturday 22nd September. There's lots of Beano inspired incentives to collect and a grand medal ceremony for finishers in October, with a very special guest.

Happy Pets - Geraldine from the Blue Cross will be visiting us to give a fun talk about looking after your pets and staying safe around dogs. This is very useful talk that gives little ones tips on how to stay safe around dogs and caring for their pets. Join us for the drop in talk on Monday 8th October from 3.30 - 4.15pm.

Young People's Reward Card - The Young People's Reward Card is a library and young volunteer partnership project that has developed a reward card for people aged 11-24 years over the last year at Alvechurch and Wythall libraries. Sign up, borrow books and collect the stamps until your sixth visit, then you'll have your choice of rewards and participants have the chance to be part of a long term volunteer scheme that changes the shape of their local library.

For Adults - Our **Creative Writing** class with Irene is starting again in September and we are

keen to attract a few more people. Whether you're writing purely for pleasure or for profit this course will help you to find out what it is you really want to write and show you how you can do it. Course number 16016, starting Saturday 8th September 10.30am - 12.30pm and running for seven weeks. Fourteen hours of tuition costing £92 Workshop-style sessions full of opportunities to write, ideas to get you started, and helpful advice and direction to improve your writing and get it out there! Suitable for beginners, those with a little more experience and established writers alike.

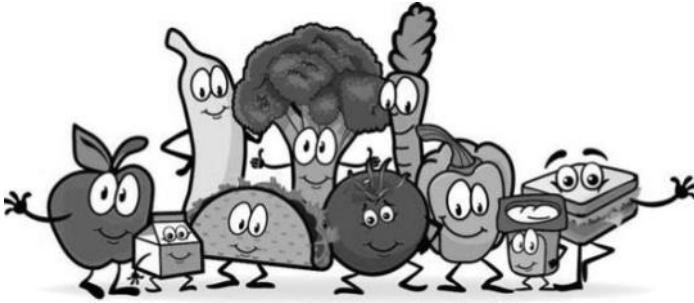
Patrick our fantastic language tutor will restart the **Spanish** classes at the end of September. Currently we have spaces for four new learners in both ongoing **Spanish** classes taught on Thursday and Friday. This is the perfect opportunity for Richard unless it clashes with his golf! Course numbers 15857 and 15859. Please email Patrick at - vdlt52@hotmail.co.uk to see if the level the class is being taught at would allow you to join in.

We are pleased to welcome back Mark and Simon from Sabre Skills and Training to deliver another informal Basic **Paediatric First Aid** for parents, grandparents or carers and their child together. Come and learn the essential skills to keep your little ones safe including, CPR skills, choking response, action for bleeding, burns, temperature management and meningitis recognition. Each class is delivered in a 1 hour session. 10th, 17th and 24th September, Monday mornings, 10.45 – 11.45am, £15.00

On Tuesday 11th September, 9.30 -12.30 we will be running a Basic **First Aid** course for adults, costing £15.00. This is an informal first aid course offered by Sabre Skills and Training which will deliver essential knowledge and useful information.

Any enquiries about any events pop into the library on the Birmingham Road, contact The Hub on 01905 822722, email - alvechurchlib@worcestershire.gov.uk and check out our Facebook page.

Harvest Festival Bring & Share Lunch



Our **Harvest Festival** will be on **Sunday 30th September at 12.30pm** after our services at 9:30am and 11:15am.

There will be a bring and share lunch in the Ark at lunchtime. **All are welcome** - there will be a signup sheet at the back of church for those who would like to come and contribute some food.

Hillside at Alvechurch WI

Linda Helmore writes...

At our last meeting held on 1st August we welcomed Adrian James, a garden and plant freelance photographer for Bodenham Arboretum. The arboretum has over 3000 trees and over 4 miles of paths.

Adrian spoke enthusiastically about and showed us beautiful photographs of some of the many plants and trees of Bodenham through the seasons, giving us an impression of the peace and tranquillity to be found there. He took us through the wonderful displays of spring daffodils and bluebells, the laburnum tunnel of early summer, the stunning autumn colours and the nativity trail at Christmas for families. A visit to Bodenham Arboretum is planned for **Thursday 27th September**.

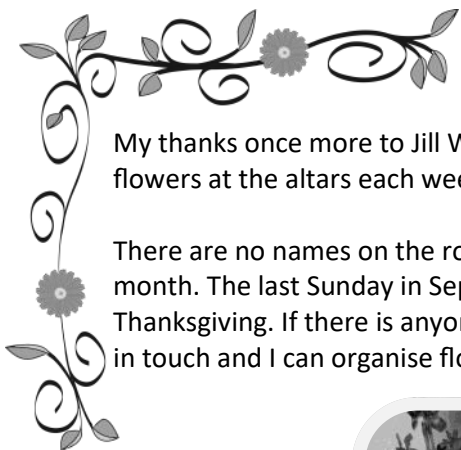


The talk was followed by tea and a selection of homemade cakes.

Our next meeting will be held at **the Ark on 5th September**.

New members are very welcome.

Flowers for SEPTEMBER



My thanks once more to Jill Woolley for making sure we have had flowers at the altars each week.

There are no names on the rota in church for providing flowers this month. The last Sunday in September will be celebrating Harvest Thanksgiving. If there is anyone who could help in this event please get in touch and I can organise flowers and people!



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



Weddings

Those whom God has joined together

11 August *Wedding Blessing - Martin & Grace Notley*



Baptism

We welcome you into the Lord's family

19 August Parker James Robinson

Who's who

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Licensed Lay Ministers	Mr Dick Russell, 2 Gothic Cottages, Radford Rd, 445 3083 Mrs Sue Phillips Wardle, Withybed Green, 445 3620 Mrs Helen Ayling, "Tarncroft", Hewell Lane, Vigo, 445 6176
Authorised Lay Ministers	Mrs Helena Allen Mr Martin Allen, 445 5605 Mrs Philippa Brakes, 56 Callow Hill Road, 445 3983 Mr Graham Clark, The Coach House, School Lane, 445 2547 Mr Michael Fletcher, 13 Red Lion Street, 447 8451 Mrs Annette Thomas, 8 Snake Lane, 445 5180
Churchwardens	Mr Graham Clark, The Coach House, School Lane, 445 2547 Mr Mick Fletcher, 13 Red Lion Street, 447 8451
Deputy Wardens	Mr Colin Bennett, 122 Redditch Road, 01527 64077 Mr David Richmond, The Ferns, Chapel Lane, 445 3569 Mrs Alison Smith, 12 Hollington Road, 447 7293 Mr Andy Notley, 445 5653 Mr Roger Wardle, Withybed Green, 445 3620
PCC Secretary	Mrs Lysandra Notley, lysnotley@icloud.com, 07989327043
Parish Safeguarding Officer	Mrs Sue Lambert, 7 Cygnet Close, B48 7PX, 07769110608
PCC Treasurer	Mrs Janet Wright, 28 Callow Hill Road, Alvechurch, B48 7LP
Organist & Choirmaster	Mr David Richmond, The Ferns, Chapel Lane, 445 3569
Electoral Roll Officer	Mrs Janet Wright, 28 Callow Hill Road, 445 4335
Tower Captain	Mr Colin Bennett, 122 Redditch Road, 01527 64077
Singing Group	Mrs Lynda Wolstencroft, 49 Hinton Avenue, 445 3212
Mum's the Word	Mrs Sarah Linton, sarah100work@gmail.com
Flower Co-ordinator	Mrs Ann Thurrell, Top Barn, Scarfield Hill, 447 7668
Women's Fellowship	Mrs Jill Woolley, 111 Birmingham Road, 445 2125
Ark Booking Secretary)	Mr Ian Price, The Ark, School Lane, 447 7955
& Grapevine advertising Grapevine Editor)	thearkalvechurch@yahoo.co.uk

PCC Special Responsibilities

Finance and Standing Committee

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

Buildings, Fabric and Churchyard for Mission Committee

Mick Fletcher	Colin Bennett
David Richmond	Jill Woolley
Janet Wright	Lynne Clark
Andy Humphries	Alison Smith

Children and Youth Committee

Martin Allen	Mick Fletcher
Thomas Birchall	Lynne Clark
Kate Birchall	Sarah Linton

Missionary Committee

Sue Phillips Wardle	Dick Russell
Gordon Parsons	Margaret Haste
Sally Bubbers	Sue Lambert

Calendar for SEPTEMBER



- Saturday 1 3.00pm Rowney Green Horticultural Society: 76th Annual Produce and Flower Show: Rowney Green Peace Hall: Admission Free
- Monday 3 7.45pm Alvechurch Historical Society: Talk by Richard Churchley: 'Worcestershire Carriers before the Railway Age': The Museum, School Lane
- Wednesday 5 7.30pm Hillside at Alvechurch W: The Ark
- Thursday 6 No Mums The Word or Ark cafe (both restarting 13th September)
- Saturday 8 2.30pm Alvechurch Historical Society: Open Day: With the theme of to 4.30pm "Remembrance": Tea & Coffee served: Museum, School Lane
- Monday 10 7.30pm Alvechurch W1: Floral arrangements with Virginia Davis on the theme: 'Jam and Jerusalem': Alvechurch Village Hall
- Thursday 13 9:30am Mums The Word: Sarah Linton
12.15pm Ark cafe: Somerset Chicken
7.30pm Rowney Green Horticultural Society: Jamie Butterworth, RHS Ambassador talk: "A Year at RHS Wisley": Peace Hall Rowney Gn
- Friday 14 **OCTOBER GRAPEVINE GOES TO PRESS** *Articles to thearkalvechurch@yahoo.co.uk*
- Saturday 15 2.30pm Alvechurch Historical Society: Open Day: With the theme of to 4.30pm "Remembrance": Tea & Coffee served: Museum, School Lane
- Thursday 20 9:30am Mums The Word: Sarah Linton
12.15pm Ark cafe: Roast lamb
- Wednesday 26 2.00pm St Laurence Women's Fellowship: Talk by Denzil Smith 'Work of a Prison Visitor': Tanyard Centre
- Thursday 27 9:30am Mums The Word: Sarah Linton
10.15am Tiny Tots Service: Sarah Linton
12.15pm Ark cafe: Salmon with watercress sauce
- Friday 28 11.00am Macmillan Biggest Ever Coffee Morning: To be held at Rectory Cottage, Old Rectory Lane, Alvechurch B48 7SU
- Sunday 30 12.30pm Harvest Festival Bring & Share Lunch: The Ark