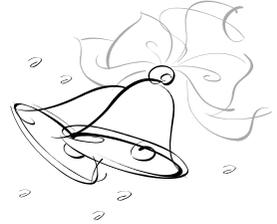


# The Grapevine

THE PARISH MAGAZINE OF ST LAURENCE CHURCH ALVECHURCH

May 2013



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**

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My dear friends

# The Rector Writes...

## Holy Wedlock

Twenty-two couples are getting married in St Laurence Church this year. This represents a tremendous increase on former years. Does it mean that the national trend away from marriage has finally halted and we are experiencing a realisation that marriage is the ideal way for men and women to live together and raise a family? I sincerely hope so.

As the Marriage Service reminds us, marriage is a gift of God in creation through which a husband and wife grow together in love and trust. It brings husbands and wives together in the delight and tenderness of sexual union and joyful commitment to the end of their lives. It is the foundation of family life in which children are born and nurtured and in which each member of the family, in good times and in bad, may find strength, companionship and comfort, and grow to maturity in love.

The vows that husbands and wives make on their Marriage Day, are truly awesome:

*I, N, take you, N,  
to be my wife/husband,  
to have to hold  
from this day forward;  
for better, for worse,  
for richer, for poorer,  
in sickness and in health,  
to love and to cherish,  
till death us do part;  
according to God's holy law.  
In the presence of God I make this vow.*

I know that some people shy away from making such a commitment because they are unsure what the future holds. But, the strange

paradox is that, by vowing to be true to each other "till death us do part," we derive the strength to cope with the difficulties that come our way. If marriage is for life, the problems that occur during marriage have to be resolved. It is impossible to run away from them. Herein lies the great strength of marriage.

Unless a person is an avowed atheist, I think it is right to be married in church. We all need the help of God in our marriages, and to begin married life by asking and receiving God's blessing is a great asset in the years that lie ahead.

Some people say they cannot afford to get married. Have I got news for you! It only costs £402 to get married in a Church of England church. There is absolutely no need to spend a fortune on a wedding. More and more couples are discovering that The Ark, with its exciting architecture and modern facilities, is the ideal venue for a wedding reception – and it is only a fraction of the price of a hotel or similar function venue.

I consider the money I spent on my marriage thirty-eight years ago was the best investment I ever made – and my wife agrees with me (Phew! that's a relief!). What more can I say?

With all best wishes  
Yours in Christ

DAVID MARTIN

### Footnote

After nearly twenty-two years as Rector of Alvechurch, the time has come for me to hand over to someone younger. I will therefore be leaving the parish at the end of July. My final Sunday will be 21 July when I hope as many of you as possible will join me for my final services in the church.

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## Wondrous Burials And Wonder Weapons

*The secrets of Black Country burials and a wonder weapon are revealed by Margaret Gardner of the Alvechurch Historical Society.*

The speaker at the April meeting of the Alvechurch Historical Society was Mr Ian Bott. He was warmly welcomed on Easter Monday when he showed slides and told us about Black Country Burials. Although it was an eerie subject Ian made it very interesting and told us many stories and read out many epitaphs both funny and informative. We finished the evening with Easter cakes and a cuppa.

**FOR TANK LOVERS** - Please note that our speaker for **MONDAY 6 MAY** will be Mr Roy Gallivan who will talk about *The Sherman Tank: the wonder weapon*. All ex-service men who are interested, are more than welcome to join us in the Museum Hut in School Lane starting at 7.45 pm. There is plenty of parking behind the Catholic Church with their kind permission.

## Who do you think you are?



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0121 445 6144

# Baby Loss Support Group

Thirteen people turned up for the first public meeting of the Redditch Baby Loss Support Group last month. The depth of the conversations, the compassion and support shared and the way the Group so quickly gelled and is looking to move forward means it will be a real help to those who have suffered the loss of a baby.

The group has agreed to meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month, at 7.30.pm in the Ecumenical Centre (Emmanuel Church) in the Kingfisher Centre, Redditch B97 4EX. A welcome is extended to individuals and families who have lost a baby and would like help to support their emotional needs.

Further information can be obtained from Andrew Fisher, the Chaplain of the Alexandra Hospital, on 01527 505723 or by emailing [andrew.fisher@worcsacute.nhs.uk](mailto:andrew.fisher@worcsacute.nhs.uk)

## Election Results

The following were elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on Tuesday 16 April:

Churchwardens: Mr Michael Fletcher and Mr Graham Clark  
Deputy Churchwardens: Mrs Alison Smith, Mr Colin Bennett,  
Mr Andy Humphries and Mr David Richmond  
New members to the Parochial Church Council: Mrs Pat Booth and Mrs Janet Wright  
Electoral Roll Officer: Mrs Janet Wright  
PCC Secretary: Mrs Enid Brumsen  
PCC Treasurer: Mr Graham Clark  
Vice Chairman of the PCC: Michael Fletcher

## Village Messy Church

*Pat Booth, Martin Allen and a host of friends say*

Hi Folks! Do remember that the next Messy Church is on Saturday 15th June. We will be thinking about 'Our Father' as a theme - especially our heavenly Father.

We'll be getting MESSY with a variety of activities, listening to a story and then having tea together as families. Whether you have been before or not, do check it out. Doors open at 2.30pm and we aim to finish at 4.30pm.

  
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# mentor Link

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Mentor Link is looking for volunteer mentors to help at schools in Redditch.

If you could spare an hour a week to befriend, support and encourage young people facing issues which are impacting on their education and well-being, Mentor Link would like to hear from you.

No qualifications are necessary as Mentor Link, supported by the Big Lottery Fund, provides free initial and on-going training.

All that is needed is to be a good role model with a listening ear and a desire to help. Mentor Link like successful applicants to volunteer for a minimum of six months and all training and travel expenses are paid. Enhanced DBS clearance is required which they can arrange for you. They offer the service to both Middle and Secondary schools in the Redditch area and are looking to recruit for all of the schools in this area.

To find out more please contact Karen Arnold by telephone on 07875 438659 or via email [karen.arnold@mentorlink.org.uk](mailto:karen.arnold@mentorlink.org.uk)

## Rambles And Chuckles

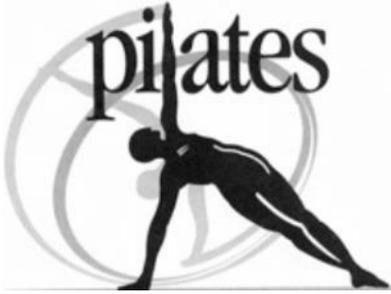
*Ray Yarnell, the new Chairman of Alvechurch Village Society, extends an invitation to experience a mystery and a chuckle.*

Alvechurch Village Society's next walk is on SUNDAY 12 MAY, when Charlie Simmonds (0121 445 3447) will lead a walk called *A Mystery Ramble Around Alvechurch*. Please meet at The Red Lion Car Park at 2.30.pm.

Alvechurch Village Society has its regular talk planned for WEDNESDAY 22 MAY at 7.45 pm in The Village Hall. The talk is to be given by John Yates of the Birmingham Registry Office, and is entitled *A funny thing happened at the Registry Office*.

# Pilates At The Ark

Jenny Bird invites men and women to experience the benefits of Pilates.



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If you are keen to keep mobile and active throughout your life, want to help joint/spine health, improve balance and core strength and alleviate stiffness then come and try it out - what have you to lose?

Classes are held on Monday evenings and Friday mornings. For further details or to book a place either email [jennyjanebird@gmail.com](mailto:jennyjanebird@gmail.com) or telephone 07968 363529.

## Come And See....At ABC

Have a sneak preview of the refurbished Baptist Church, says John Hill, and pick up a bargain as well.

We are grateful for the interest shown by many in the community in the progress of our refurbishment of the Baptist Church building. If you would like to see the "space" in its current form, do drop in to the Art Exhibition in the church on SATURDAY 18 MAY. At the same time, come and enjoy refreshments, pick up a bargain book/toys/bric-a-brac, choose a home-baked cake or purchase your bedding plants fresh from the nursery - all at our Spring Fayre in the halls from 10.00am - 2.00pm.

We hope to see you then.

If you cannot manage to come, use the church website to follow progress:- [www.alvechurchbaptist.org.uk](http://www.alvechurchbaptist.org.uk)

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## Taste-Bud Ticklers



There is nothing like home-cooked meals to tickle the taste-buds and get the gastric juices flowing. And so, if you fancy a delicious freshly-cooked meal straight from Granny's Cookery Book, why not treat yourself to lunch at The Ark on any Thursday in May?

On 2 May there is Cottage Pie, just like granny used to make it. Then on 9 May comes a real West Country favourite – Zummerzet Chicken – positively oozing with the juice of Somerset apples. On 16 May there is Leaping Salmon.

But, if you really want to push the boat out, order a ticket for the Turkey Lunch on 23 May. This is a special summer offer from The Ark Café team which also includes musical entertainment provided by David Richmond. Tickets cost £9 and are available from The Ark Office, Mondays to Fridays, between 9.00.am and 1.00.pm. Order yours now by phoning 0121 447 7955.

## Right Plant, Right Place

*Don't miss the last indoor meeting of the Rowney Green Horticultural Society, writes Andrea Halse.*

Rowney Green Horticultural Society next meets at the Peace Hall on THURSDAY 9 MAY, 7.30pm for a 7.45pm start. Frank Hardy gets us in the gardening mood with a talk entitled, "Right plant, Right place". Visitors welcome.

This is the last meeting before the summer programme of garden visits and shows.

For more information please contact me on 0121 445 1929.

## Designed By The Bride



When Zoë Brakes married Daniel Wilson in St Laurence Church on Saturday 13 April, she wore a wedding dress that she had designed herself using the skills she had acquired as part of her Costume Design degree.

Zoë is the twin daughter of Richard and Philippa Brakes of Callow Hill Road. She wore a cream/ivory, lace, heavily-beaded dress with cap sleeves and low back which she had designed herself and which was made by her friend Heather Coad. She was escorted into church by her father and accompanied by Yvette Brakes (twin sister), Hannah Moore (sister), Sarah Sibley (sister) Gemma Wilson (groom's sister) and Rose Fisher (friend). The bridesmaids wore knee-length coral dresses.

The groom, who works as a Senior Support Worker, chose his cousin, Steve Tierney, to be his Best Man and the Ushers were Steve Albutt, Alex Read, Ben Hughes and Mike Hartnett (friends).

The couple met eight years ago at school. They were introduced by Tom Raine, who travelled from Ireland to be with the happy couple on their wedding day.

After a Reception at Avoncroft Museum, the couple left for a honeymoon in Mexico. They will be making their married home in Bournemouth.

## A White Wedding



It was not just the bride's wedding dress that was white when John Edwin Ryan and Emma Louise Mosley arrived in St Laurence Church for their wedding on 23 March. The whole of the village was clothed in a mantle of snow and a

pathway had to be cleared to allow the bride to reach the church door. It was a white wedding to remember.

The bride, who is a Nursery Nurse, was escorted down the aisle of the church by her brother, Michael Mosley.

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She wore an A-line vintage-looking lace dress with a white fur shoulder-stole. She was accompanied by two bridesmaids: Jade Way and Laura Lake. They wore Spring lilac floating dresses.

The groom, who is an ICT Technician, chose his best friend, John Huson, to be his Best Man, and the Ushers were Andy Keeley and Jonathan Cleaver. The snow did nothing to interfere with the Reception because it was held in the beautifully--decorated Ark adjoining the church and the guests flowed effortlessly from the church into The Ark.

The couple later left for a honeymoon at Ambleside in the Lake District. They will be making their married home in High Wycombe.

## An Easter Wedding



The bells pealed out and St Laurence Church radiated its Easter beauty for the marriage of Alexander David Broomhall and Lisa Whitby on Easter Eve, 30 March.

The bride is the daughter of Kevin and Carol Whitby and she was escorted into church on the arm of her father.

She wore an ivory detailed dress with a long trail and was accompanied by eight bridesmaids: Kirsty Whitby (sister), Mia Broomhall (daughter), Rebecca Broomhall, Louise Broomhall and Kirsty Broomhall (sisters of the groom) and Alicia Howe, Annie Lacey and Grace Currall, with Alfie Brown acting as Page Boy.

The bridesmaids wore royal-blue, ankle-length dresses. The groom chose two Best Men: Andrew Broomhall (brother) and Alistair Brown (best friend). The Ushers were Tom and Jack Broomhall (brothers of the groom).

After a reception at the Abbey Hotel, Redditch, the couple left for a honeymoon in Mexico. The bride, who works as a Social Worker, and her husband, who works as an electrician, will be making their married home in West Heath.

# Kidderminster School Wedding



A primary school teacher from Kidderminster wedded her automotive technician fiancé at a service on Saturday 6 April in St Laurence Church conducted by the vicar of the bride's school parish.

Jessica Margaret Gardner was escorted into church on the arm of her step-father, Stephen Walker. She wore a vintage lace wedding dress. She was accompanied by her chief bridesmaid, Kate Ward (best friend), and Jennie Gardner (sister) and Jenny Breen (friend). The bridesmaids wore duck-egg-green, nineteen-fifties-inspired, knee-length dresses.

The groom, Jeremy Richard Cartwright, chose his best friend, Oliver Chew, as his Best Man and the Ushers were Marcus Walker (bride's brother) and Jon Cartwright (groom's brother).

The service was conducted by The Reverend Owain Bell, the Team Rector of St Mary's Church, Kidderminster, at whose church school the bride teaches. Following the service, a reception was held in Rock Village Hall. The couple are making their married home at Menith Wood, Worcester.

## Zumba at The Ark

*Wendy Ball writes ...*

The Latin-inspired, easy-to-follow, calorie-burning, dance fitness-party runs at The Ark every Tuesday 7pm - 8pm. Join in and experience the fun. You will forget you are even exercising.

Exercise should be fun, and with Zumba you can party your way into shape and lose yourself in the music. Zumba is for everyone - all ages, shapes and fitness levels. There is no dance background required, just move your body and

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# Springing Into Action

*Members of the Alvechurch Ex-Services Association are looking forward to the start of Spring outings, writes Arthur Pearsall.*

The long winter has not deterred Veterans and friends from meeting regularly twice monthly for formal and social events, including quizzes and live music. The weather prevented our Burns Night Celebration, which was cancelled early enough to save wasted journeys. This decision was justified as several inches of snow fell on that day.

April saw the start of our day-visits with a tour of the Cotswolds on the agenda.

WEDNESDAY 22 MAY will see us visiting the National Memorial Arboretum at Alrewas, Staffordshire. The Arboretum is the nation's centre of remembrance where one can explore 150 acres of beautiful woodland gardens and more than 200 memorials representing all aspects of military service and charities. Our coach will later travel to Lichfield for the cathedral, shops etc., returning to the Arboretum for those wishing to spend the day there. All villagers are welcome to join us for this visit at a cost of £10 per person. Please contact Auriel on 0121 445 2395 to book a place.

WEDNESDAY 8 MAY is the VE Day Anniversary and, as usual, members and friends will gather at the Memorial Green, Bear Hill, to remember the sacrifices made by so many to make that day a reality. Villagers are more than welcome to join us on The Green, commencing at 1200 hours.

## From On High

The day that separates the men from the boys – (and the women from the girls, for that matter) – is Ascension Day, with its 7.00.am early morning service in the parish church. This year, Ascension Day falls on THURSDAY 9 MAY.

It is the fortieth day after Easter and commemorates Christ's Ascension into heaven. Many countries on the continent have a day's holiday, but not so England. Instead, those wishing to celebrate the festival need to be up early and in church for the 7.00.am service. Those who wish can then climb the church tower to sing an Ascension hymn from the top of the tower.

A full English cooked breakfast will then be served in The Ark. If you are able to stay for breakfast, please sign up on the notice in the church porch to help the caterers know how many sausages, eggs, rashers of bacon, baked beans, hashbrowns, tomatoes, toast, coffee, orange juice, marmalade and associated bits and pieces to buy.



# Christian Aid Week

Helping the poorest of the world's poor to grow food and become self-sufficient is the primary aim of Christian Aid. Each year the charity sponsors new projects in under-developed countries to bring irrigation to parched land and develop new strains of crops that can survive hostile climates. This is helping the poor to help themselves.



The work, however, depends on charitable donations. The annual Christian Aid Week door-to-door collection in May is the major fund-raising event. The more people who donate, the more lives can be transformed elsewhere in the world.

Last year, the kind people of Alvechurch raised £2,000. We could do even better if more collectors helped. Are you willing to do something to help the world's hungry people?

If so, give Delyth Davies (0121 447 7844), Barbara Scane (0121 445 1380), Felicity Rixon (0121 445 2371) or Elizabeth Richmond (0121 445 3569) a call and offer to cover a road. But don't delay. Christian Aid Week begins on SUNDAY 12 MAY.

## Pentecost

Pentecost – or Whitsun, as it used to be called – is the Festival of the Holy Spirit, commemorating the outpouring of God's Spirit upon the twelve disciples to empower them to proclaim the gospel.

The Christian Church celebrates this event as the Birthday of the Church. This year, Pentecost falls on SUNDAY 19 MAY. There will be services in St Laurence Church at 8.00.am, 9.30.am, 11.00.am and 6.00.pm. The altar will be draped in red – the colour of the Holy Spirit. Those attending services are invited to wear red to enter into the spirit of the day. (Pun intended).

## Tiny Tots

The monthly service for parents and pre-school children is taking place in St Laurence Church on THURSDAY 23 MAY at 10.15.am. Attendance in recent months has numbered almost forty children, parents, grandparents and carers. This month's service will include the story of Teddy Horsley and the Holy Spirit, plus some action songs and prayers. A warm invitation is extended to all with pre-school children. Please enter the church via The Ark.

## Question And Answer

Question: Where can you experience Church of England Evensong with a robed choir and a weekly anthem?

Answer: St Laurence Church, Alvechurch, every Sunday at 6.00.pm

During May the choir will sing the following anthems:

May 5	O sons and Daughters.	<i>Walford Davies</i>
May 19	God is Gone Up.	<i>Arthur Hutchings</i>
May 26	Holy, Holy, Holy.	<i>Franz Schubert</i>

## Bless This House

The houses of the parish, and those who live in them, are remembered in prayers at the parish church, week by week. During May, homes in the following roads will be remembered:

Redditch Road (Week beginning 5 May)  
Weatheroak Hill (w/b 12 May)  
Robins Hill Drive (w/b 19 May)  
Arrowfield Top (w/b 26 May)

## Tiptoe Through The Bluebells

There is a rare chance to tiptoe through the bluebells in Peck Wood, Rowney Green and enjoy a Cream Tea on WEDNESDAY 15 MAY from 2.30.pm until 6.00.pm. There will also be a Bring and Buy Stall with all proceeds shared between Peckwood Centre and Rowney Green Church.

## Beware Of Trains

*The Fat Controller, David Richmond, (who is not in the slightest bit fat) issues a warning and a plea.*

Watch out! The next Railway Exhibition is closer than you think. It is on SATURDAY 29 JUNE. The mixture will be as usual: model trains in all common sizes on display and for sale. There will also be table-top sales, demonstrations and Veronica's team serving up lovely food. If you can help out on the door, or on a sales stand, or cleaning up at the end, please let me know as soon as possible.

I am ready to receive items for sale; i.e.: model/toy trains, buses, cars, Meccano in any condition – even odd bits. Please rummage around for anything you wish to dispose of and ring me on **0121 445 3569**. Please book the date and come and support the show.

## Cup Cakes And Fat Ladies

*Members of St. Laurence Women's Fellowship are in for a treat this month, writes Jill Woolley, with a meeting dominated by fat ladies and cupcakes.*

At our meeting in March, triplets Mary and Margaret Blaxham told us of their lives growing up with their sister Georgina. They were all born at home in 1937 so were growing up at a time of no washing machines, no disposable nappies, none of the modern aids we now take for granted. It was an interesting and amusing talk. In April we held our A.G.M. and made plans for the 48th year of our Fellowship. Our meeting on WEDNESDAY 22 MAY is entitled "Fat Ladies and Cupcakes". Sue Watson will bring along copies of her book and will sign them in pink ink! On June 26th the talk will be Affordable Weddings and Events. Hats and jewellery will be on display and Afternoon Tea will be served.

We continue to meet in the Tanyard Community Centre - despite the strict parking restrictions – on the 4th Wednesday of each month at 2pm.

# My Favourite Bible Story



*This month, Annette Thomas, shares the story of Moses in the Bulrushes, that she first read when she was four years of age.*

Pharaoh was worried about the Hebrews increasing in number and so he gave an order to kill all new-born baby boys. One couple – Jochebed and Amram, from the tribe of Levi - had a son but hid him for a few months. When Jochebed thought she could hide him no longer, she made a waterproof basket and laid her baby in it. She then hid it among the reeds, getting her daughter (the baby's sister) Miriam, to watch what happened to it.

Pharaoh's daughter came down to the river to bathe, and, seeing the basket, looked in it. She felt sorry for the baby who was crying. Then Miriam approached her and asked if she would like a nursemaid for the baby. Pharaoh's daughter said she would and asked Miriam if she could find her one. Miriam fetched her mother, who was asked to look after the baby until he was older when Pharaoh's daughter adopted him and called him Moses – because the name meant "lifted out of the water".

I was fascinated by this story when I first went to Sunday School at the age of four. My first prize for attendance was a book telling this story. It became my favourite story. I was thrilled the baby was able to have his own mother look after him and thought how clever Miriam was for so quickly seeing the chance to bring that about.

As I understood my Christian faith more, I realised how this story showed God's plan for people, in spite, sometimes, of over-whelming odds of them being in the right place for Him to work through. That "chance" is not really chance at all but the hand of God.

You can re-read the story for yourself in Exodus chapter 2.

## Celebrity Chamber Music

Presented by The Midland Sinfonia

**7.30pm Saturday 18 May 2013, St Laurence Church, Alvechurch**

*with*

David LePage and Catherine Leech, violin  
Cathy Bower and Myriam Guillaume, viola  
Richard Jenkinson and Nick Stringfellow, cello  
Allan Schiller, piano  
Charles Wall, double bass

Schubert ~ Piano Quintet 'The Trout'  
Mahler ~ Piano Quartet Movement in A Minor  
Tchaikovsky ~ Souvenir de Florence

Tickets on the door £13, or £12 in advance from The Village Green Grocer or contact [marian@midlandsinfonia.co.uk](mailto:marian@midlandsinfonia.co.uk) 0121 447 7040. (Children accompanying an adult free)

F/T students and reg. unemployed £5

For more information see [www.midlandsinfonia.co.uk](http://www.midlandsinfonia.co.uk)

# Obituaries

## Adrian Andrew Slater



A man who loved music festivals and came to live in Alvechurch five years ago with his wife and young daughter, died on 13 March at the age of 49.

Adrian Andrew Slater was one of four children born in Smethwick. He is survived by his mother, Valerie, step-father Gary, brothers Shane and Lance and sister Tracey. In 1999 he married Julie and they shared thirteen years together. He was the father of Holly and loved his family.

After attending Rounds Green Infants School and St Michael's CE High School he worked first at Critalls before moving to Feridax, the motorcycle specialists, as a Sales Manager. He later branched out on his own setting up Midwest Marketing Ltd., and importing motorcycle clothing and helmets.

He and his wife lived in Rowley Regis for over twenty years before moving to Alvechurch in 2008. He loved music and would regularly attend the big music festivals held at Reading and elsewhere. He was a keen cyclist and walker and enjoyed athletics in his younger days. He was a loyal Aston Villa supporter.

He will be remembered as a forthright and truthful person, who was affable, sociable and possessed a good sense of humour.

His funeral was held at Redditch Crematorium on Friday 22 March. Three of his favourite music tracks were played – *Wolf's Law* (The Joy Formidable), *No-one's going to love you* (Band of Horses) and *This is not the end* (The Bravery).

## Valerie Mavis Leney



A resident of Withybed Close, who was born in Johannesburg and displayed great courage and dignity in her final illness, died on 31 March at the age of 71.

Valerie Mavis Leney was one of five children born in South Africa in the days of apartheid. She is survived by her sisters Beryl and Jackie. In 1966 she married Ron Leney and their marriage spanned forty-six years until his death last year. She was the mother of four children - Bella, Jane, Stuart (who died in infancy) and Penny – grandmother to five grandchildren – Mia, Amber, Kyle, Chelsea and Carly-Luke – and great-grandmother to Tia, Hollie and Xavier.

She began her working life as a beautician in South Africa before travelling to England in 1969 and working in such stores as John Lewis. She returned to South Africa for a brief period but, in 1978, returned to this country, living in Liverpool, Birmingham and finally Alvechurch.

She will be remembered for her hospitable nature which meant she always kept an open house and put her culinary skills to good use. She was knowledgeable in the areas of classical music, art and books and had a forgiving nature.

Her funeral took place in St Laurence Church on Tuesday 9 April. An Address was given by the Revd Suskia Barnden, Chaplain of St Mary's Hospice, Birmingham, who had known Valerie during her final stay in the hospice. The hymns sung were *The old rugged cross*, *Make me a channel of your peace* and *All things bright and beautiful*.

## Paul Dallaway



A man who was born in the house that is now Darren Blower Estate Agents in Red Lion Street, and who lived the remainder of his life in Red Lion Street, died on 3 April at the age of 69.

Paul Dallaway was born at the former greengrocer's shop in Red Lion Street, along with his brother, Adrian. As a boy he sang in the church choir and enjoyed the company of his cousin, Lloyd, who lived at Lilac Cottage on the corner of Meadow Lane. At the age of nine or ten he moved into 18 Red Lion Street to live with his half-sister, Pamela, and he remained there ever afterwards.

He met Jackie Lowe when they were both pupils at Woodrush Secondary School and they later came together and have shared the past twenty-nine years. He accepted Jackie's three daughters – Karen, Lorraine and Joanne – and her six grandchildren – Bianca, Ben, Jarvis, Branden, Natasha and Mega – as his own.

He had a number of engineering jobs during his working life, working for Delsons in Alvechurch, High Duty Alloys and finally Hymatic prior to being made redundant. He put his engineering skills to good use making two exemplary model steam engines in the company of his friend, Dennis.

He enjoyed the simple things of life – gardening and growing vegetables and going on regular weekly walks with his friends Trevor and Derek. In his younger days he went ballroom dancing. He was a member of Alvechurch Sports and Social Club and a regular Blood Donor.

He will be remembered as a man who was well-liked and took life in his stride. He was kind and gentle and refused to see wrong in others.

His funeral was held at Redditch Crematorium on Tuesday 16 April and the hymns sung were *Morning has broken* and *Praise my soul the King of heaven*. His cremated remains are to be buried in his parents' grave in the churchyard.

## Stanley Breeze



A man, who saw active service in the Middle East and moved into Callow Hill Road forty-five years ago, died at the end of March at the age of 94. Stanley Breeze was one of six children born into a family in Smethwick at the beginning of the twentieth century. He is survived by his brothers, Ray and Dennis. In 1940 he married Susie and they shared forty-eight years together before her death in 1998. He was the father of one son, Brian, who later became his carer.

During the Second World War he joined the army and served with the Cheshire Yeomanry as a cavalryman in Egypt, Palestine, Transjordan, Iraq and Lebanon. He later joined a signals unit where he acted as a dispatch rider for six years. His entry into a cavalry division was because, after leaving school, he worked with horses, delivering bread for the Co-operative Bakery. After the war he purchased and ran a Transport Café for four years. Then followed a brief spell as a Fish and Chip Shop owner in Kings Norton before moving to another Café – this time in Selly Oak. The last nine years of his working life were spent in the stores at British Telecom.

After living for a time in Winson Green and Handsworth, he moved into Callow Hill Road in 1968. Here he pursued his love of gardening. The final ten months of his life were spent at Bowood Court Nursing Home, Redditch.

He will be remembered as a man who was sure of his convictions, sociable, home-orientated and always willing to go to the help of anyone in need.

His funeral service was held in St Laurence Church on Tuesday 16 April and the hymns sung were *O God our help in ages past* and William Blake's *Jerusalem*. Afterwards, his body was laid to rest in the churchyard.

## Flowers

Rota for May

	5th May	12th May	19th May	26th May
Sanctuary	Monica Clarke	Wedding		
Lady Chapel	Monica Clarke	Wedding		
In Memory of	Phyllis Ward			

*Ann Thurrell writes ...*

Easter was a particularly busy time this year with a wedding and a wedding blessing on Holy Saturday and the End of Term School Service on Maundy Thursday. My thanks to Monica Clarke, Elizabeth Clement, Helen Jones and Lynda Wolstencroft who worked hard fitting in with all these extra events. Also to Dawnie Macdonald who was unable to help during the week but came on Saturday to add her touch to the lovely arrangements. Without these lovely ladies, who are so willing to give of their time and talents, we would struggle to make such a beautiful impact in the church on this most holy occasion.

## From The Registers



### Marriages

*Those whom God has joined together*

March 23	John Ryan and Emma Mosley
March 30	Alexander Broomhall and Lisa Whitby
April 6	Jeremy Cartwright and Jessica Gardner
April 13	Daniel Wilson and Zoe Brakes



### Funerals and Cremations

*May they rest in the peace of Christ*

March 22	Adrian Andrew Slater	aged 49
April 9	Valerie Mavis Leney	aged 71
April 16	Paul Dallaway	aged 69
April 16	Stanley Breeze	aged 94

# 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 Mrs Enid Brumsen 32 Callow Hill Road 445 0663
PCC Secretary	Mr Graham Clark, The Coach House, School Lane 445 2547
PCC Treasurer	Mr David Richmond, The Ferns, Chapel Lane 445 3569
Organist & Choirmaster	Mrs Janet Wright, 28 Callow Hill Road 445 4335
Electoral Roll Officer	Mr Colin Bennett, 122 Redditch Road 01527 64077
Tower Captain	Mrs Lynda Wolstencroft 49 Hinton Avenue Tel: 445 3212
Singing Group	Mrs Liz Deeble, 24 Glebe Road 07903 961511
Mum's the Word	Mrs Ann Thurrell, Top Barn, Scarfield Hill 447 7668
Flower Co-ordinator	Mrs Jill Woolley, 111 Birmingham Road 445 2125
Women's Fellowship	Mr Ian Price, the Ark School Lane, 447 7955
Ark Booking Secretary ) & Grapevine advertising )	thearkalvechurch@yahoo.co.uk
Grapevine Editor	Revd David Martin, The Rectory, School Lane 445 1087 davidmartin@lynksolve.net

## PCC Special Responsibilities

### Finance and Standing Committee

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

### Children and Youth

Martin Allen	Mike Fletcher
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



## MAY

- Thursday 2      12.15.pm Ark Café: Cottage Pie
- Monday 6      7.45.pm Historical Society: *The Wonder Weapon*
- Wednesday 8      12noon VE Day Commemoration at The Village Green
- Thursday 9      7.00.am ASCENSION DAY Service, Ascent of the Tower and Breakfast  
12.15.pm Ark Café: Somerset Chicken  
7.45.pm Rowney Green Horticultural Society: *Right plant, right place*
- Sunday 12      CHRISTIAN AID WEEK commences  
2.30.pm Footpath Walk from the Red Lion Car Park
- Wednesday 15      2.30.pm Peckwood Bluebell Woods open
- Thursday 16      JUNE GRAPEVINE GOES TO PRESS  
12.15.pm Ark Café: Salmon
- Saturday 18      10.00.am Baptist Church Art Exhibition and Spring Fayre  
7.30.pm Midland Sinfonia Concert in St Laurence Church
- Sunday 19      PENTECOST: Services at 8.00.am, 9.30.am, 11.00.am and 6.00.pm
- Wednesday 22      Coach Trip to National Memorial Arboretum  
2.00.pm Women's Fellowship: *Fat Ladies and Cupcakes*  
7.45.pm The Village Society: Village Hall: *A funny thing happened ...*
- Thursday 23      10.15.am Tiny Tots Service: Church  
12.15.pm Ark Café Special Turkey Lunch with entertainment
- Sunday 26      12.30.pm Party in the Park: The Meadows