

The **Grapevine**

THE PARISH MAGAZINE OF ST LAURENCE CHURCH ALVECHURCH



FEBRUARY 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

except 4th Sunday "All Age Worship" at 3.30 pm

DAILY SERVICE

9.00am Monday to Friday in St Laurence Church

ORGANISATIONS

Sunday Club - Sundays during term time 9.30am Church & Ark (445 1854)

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 1st Thursday of the month

Ark Café - 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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The challenge of change

I once had a colleague who had spent much of her life moving from place to place because of her husband's job. When he left the army and they could finally put down roots she found it quite unsettling. Moving house was such a feature of her life that staying put became a serious challenge to her.

For most of us, however, it isn't maintaining the status quo that is the challenge, but change. The challenge of change was something that marked many Bible characters, for some this even involved changing their names; Abram becomes Abraham, Simon becomes Peter, Saul becomes Paul, but more frequently an encounter with God led people to change their lifestyle. Abram journeyed without a homeland; Jonah changed from a person who judged others to one who shared the message of God's forgiveness; Samuel developed from a young man who didn't recognise God's voice into a prophet who confidently identified the inner voice of God.

Jesus was himself a huge challenge to the people of his day. An obscure carpenter emerged from a backwater town to challenge both the religious leaders of the day and an oppressed populace. His challenge to them was to receive the love of God expressed in word and deed. Some welcomed his call and gave up their jobs and the security of the familiar to follow him, others welcomed his message into their inner beings and allowed his love to transform their lives, and some took what he offered and went on their way, apparently unchanged by their encounter.

Sue Phillips writes...

Sometimes we are challenged by enforced changes, the unexpected death of a loved one, a diagnosis that stops us in our tracks, or the joyful yet turbulent change brought into our life by a new-born baby. Whether the change is welcome or unwelcome the reality is that there is no going back. The challenge is to allow ourselves to be transformed, to become something new. An image used by St Paul to describe those whose lives have been transformed through meeting with Jesus is that of becoming a new kind of person, making a completely fresh start, with the old life left behind and a new life, lived in close relationship with God, replacing what has been in the past. That is a really radical change, an inner transformation that goes on and on...., no room for boredom, no need to keep on moving house, instead an ongoing challenge to live a life listening to God and trying to follow.

Last month at St Laurence's we made a New Year's resolution:

'As a church, we resolve to spend more time listening to God and talking to him, so that we recognise when He asks us to do something, and we are ready to do it'.

That's a resolution to be ready to change, in the way we pray, in the way we listen and in the way we respond. Why not try it for yourself? It may lead you to new ways of listening and new ways of being. I'm pretty sure it won't lead to boredom. As a modern hymn written by John Bell of the Iona community puts it *'Lord your summons echoes true, when you but call my name, let me turn and follow you and never be the same....in your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show, thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me'.*

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Events at Alvechurch Library

On Friday 2nd March, 14.15 – 16.45, we will be hosting a short workshop, Understanding and Supporting **People with Dyslexia**. The aims of this workshop are to provide learners with a detailed understanding of dyslexia and how it can affect people. Learning key techniques to support people and how to motivate and engage those with dyslexia. Discover some of the other difficulties people with dyslexia may experience and address common misconceptions.

The cost of this workshop is £11.25 or free. Course is FREE to those who meet certain criteria – If you work under 16 hrs per week and earn less than £330 per month, Receive JSA, ESA or Universal Credit OR you receive Working Tax Credit - proof is required on attendance at first session.

Our **Creative Writing** class with Irene is taking a break for a few weeks but we are keen to attract a few more people for the next course, due to start in the spring. Please let us know if you would like to register your interest.

Patricks **Spanish Continuing Beginners** class running on a Thursday afternoon has a few spaces available at the moment. Please contact Patrick on 07708 027372 or email vdt152@hotmail.co.uk to see if the level the class is being taught at would allow you to join in.

Explore Learning is an award-winning maths and English tuition centre whose goal is to build confidence. They get to know every child as an individual, giving them the space to unlock their imagination and discover the magic of learning. They love to meet new families in the community and will be running exciting free workshops in Alvechurch Library in the February half term holiday!

In **"Space Mission"** you can learn all about the universe and everything in it! This alien inspired literacy workshop will help you to crack your creative writing! (age 8-10). Monday 19th February, 14.15 - 15.15.

Or, are you fascinated by Mother Nature? Join us for our **"Natural Hazards"** workshop as we find out more about tsunamis, hurricanes, tornadoes and volcanoes, and brush up on our research skills (age 11+) 15.30 - 16.30. No charge for either of these workshops but please book ahead to reserve a place.

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

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St Laurence Women's Fellowship

Jill Woolley writes...



The snow prevented us from holding our Christmas celebrations but by the time you read this we will have had a small celebration at our meeting in January.

On February 28th we welcome back Richard Churchley who will talk about the Wildlife in our Gardens.

On March 28th we have more wildlife when Mrs Barbara Royle will talk about Falconry and hopefully bring two birds of prey to meet us.

We meet in the Tanyard Centre at 2pm. We are pleased to welcome new members and visitors.

Parish Prayers

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

- Stonehouse Lane – 7 February**
- Storage Lane – 14 February**
- Swan Street – 21 February**
- Swan's Length – 28 February**



Rowney Green Flower Club

Celia Hitch writes...

Rowney Green Flower Club are holding their February meeting (and also their March meeting) in the afternoons. Thursday 22nd February is our next get together. We are pleased to welcome a new Flower Demonstrator, Carole from Pinks Florists at Becketts Farm. She is a delightful lady and very enthusiastic. She will be doing at least 5 arrangements and they will be raffled at the end of the session.

Tea, coffee and biscuits will be served as usual. Doors open at 2.00pm and the demo commences at 2.15pm. Please come along and support your local flower club.
Contact: Celia Hitch 0121 445 4824.

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The Ark Café



Our menu for February is as follows:

- February 1st - Roast Lamb**
- February 8th - Somerset Chicken**
- February 15th - Roast Pork**
- February 22nd - Closed for Half Term**

Later in March we are having another **Beef Carvery Lunch** together with the usual Raffle on **Thursday, 22nd March for £12**. This includes a roast Beef Lunch, Home Made Dessert, Cheese and Biscuits and Tea or Coffee. If you would like a ticket, they are available on a Thursday lunchtime from the Ark or from Ian Price at the Ark Office, Monday to Friday 9am to 2pm 0121 447 7955.

Ark Cafe Christmas Lunch Raffles

The raffles at our two Christmas lunches raised **£307** for the **Montgomery Heights Orphanage in Zimbabwe** and this has now been sent out there. Thank you to all those who attended and gave so generously towards it.

Christmas Thanks

Mick Fletcher writes...

All at the church would like to give their Christmas thanks to all those who given up their time and skills to help make Christmas special for us all.

To Lorena and Colin Bennett for their donation of the Christmas tree, to Tim for transporting the tree to the Church, to Gareth, Tim, Dave and Jim for their help in erecting the tree, to Lynda for dressing the trees.

To Richard for the Christmas without the tinsel, to all involved in the Nine lessons and Carols. For all those who helped with the Christmas Nativity, Steve controlling the lighting, Mark on the sound desk, Tom behind the scenes with the projection.

Especially then the children who were all great, their parents for helping with the children's lines and costumes, and lastly to Lysandra who worked tirelessly in all aspects of the play.

Lastly to everyone who helped clean and tidy everything away, thanks to Gareth, Steve, James, Tom, Sally, Lynda and Charlotte.

Finally all the ladies for their skill in their arranging of the Christmas flowers, thank you Ann. If I have missed anyone please forgive me. God bless.

The Midland Sinfonia

General Knowledge Quiz & Supper Evening

Friday 9 February doors open 6.45pm for a
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The Midland Sinfonia

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Friday 2 March 7.30pm

St Laurence Church, Alvechurch

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Mozart – Clarinet Quintet

Schubert – String Quartet in D Minor 'Death and the
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Alvechurch WI

Pam Horsfield writes...

Our January meeting began with time thinking about the loss of a very special member, Lorna Sage, who had been in our WI for around 70 years. She had been a witty, amusing and fun filled person who lived life to the full and gave pleasure to many. Members recalled memories of incidents and sayings with Lorna and most comments left us smiling. What an epitaph!

Julie, our president, then welcomed our speaker, visitors and members and wished several a happy birthday for this month.

This month we have a 'Dates for Diary' list as there are several workshops and events that we can go to, organised by County. We can also go to our local Group Meeting at Hollywood in March, and hear Graham Walton talk in Pershore in April about his life in a house with so many daughters.

Our own speaker was Dr Doug Richards talking on 'Running Hot and Cold'. He was excellent. He spoke of how his interest in running developed into a desire to run marathons in every continent in the world. It's taken him to so many interesting places where he's met fascinating people. His talk links with his really good slide show and many members said how much they enjoyed his company.

Next month our meeting will be on Monday February 12th at 7:30pm in the Village Hall, when our speaker will be a person from Tesco talking on food waste. Visitors are always welcome to our meetings.

Also in February, having cancelled our Christmas Party due to heavy snow last month, we're now looking forward to a Valentine/Friendship Party on Monday the 19th at Barnt Green Cricket Club with Nick Jones as our friendly musical entertainer.

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.

The meeting on 8th February our guest speaker will be Simon Gulliver, a gardens consultant with the National Trust and his subject will be "Easy Care Garden Plants". Guests are always welcome - £3.50 including refreshments. For more information please contact Lindsay Smith on 01527 592874.

Alvechurch Historical Society

Hilary Taylor writes...

The first meeting of the New Year will be held on Monday 5th February 2018. This will be the AGM, followed by Members' Memorabilia. Our 2018 programme of illustrated talks begins on Monday 5th March. Members are reminded that the date of our party evening is Monday 19th March, with the usual mix of food, tombola and quiz. Tickets will be available at the AGM.

Our meetings are held on the first Monday of the month, at 7.45pm, in the museum hut on School Lane. Parking is available behind the Catholic Church, with their kind permission. Visitors are always welcome, just come along, or contact our chairman, Anne Humphries on 0121 445 5995.

Hillside at Alvechurch WI

Cathy Taylor writes...

We started the New Year with an interesting and informative talk about Food Banks. Peter Evans explained how the Food Bank had been set up and how it is run. He gave us compelling statistics on the numbers of people who are helped and the need for a wide range of volunteers to maintain the service. Donations of food and money are vital to enable the service to help the wide variety of people who are referred to the Food Bank.

We had about 20 minutes to put in our bids for the Silent Auction. Refreshments including delicious cakes were served. We had time to chat before we collected the items from the auction which we had won.

Future Events

7th February Christmas Party and meal 7 for 7.30pm at Barnt Green Cricket Club. This party had to be postponed because of bad weather in December.

Coffee and Cake at Willowbrook Garden Centre, date and time will be notified.

1st March Visit to Birmingham Back to Backs.

7th March Meeting and speaker Alan Thornton 'A Day in the Life of a Seaside Hotelier' at 7.30pm. Visitors welcome at the Ark refreshments including delicious cakes will be served.

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i	m	a	t	l	a	n	t	f	s
n	d	b	l	o	s	s	o	m	r
s	s	g	r	o	w	t	h	o	e
p	i	t	g	e	o	w	t	h	w
r	a	i	n	e	l	u	t	a	o
i	o	r	b	i	t	l	i	x	l
n	x	h	t	r	a	e	a	y	f
g	l	p	a	c	i	f	i	a	n



spring
flowers
blossom
rain
lambs
umbrella
growth



Letter from Archdeacon of Dudley



Do you, like me, love to see people of all ages growing in faith and enjoying the love of God?

One of our four priorities within the Kingdom People vision is to increase our engagement with children, young people and their families across the diocese. Our newly formed team of ***Calling Young Disciples*** Mission Enablers are already having an impact in their host parishes and further afield. We now have six, working under the leadership of Project Director Ruth Walker, the final two having started in January.

I have been greatly encouraged to hear stories emerging as this creative team build relationships with congregations and both equip them, and help them to think differently!

Adam, for example, tells of how Messy Church is developing parish-wide as resources and talents are pooled and how it's being increasingly seen as an additional congregation rather than something to feed into the 9.30 am service.

Anne, Helen and Amy have enthused about the willingness to try something new from people who haven't been on the radar of clergy, people who have had a '*holy unrest*'. The introduction of a Mission Enabler to poke and shake things up has helped to revive the fire in people. They have had '*God moments*', when children, young people and adults have spoken about God and faith, and there has been a strong sense of God preparing the way in the places where they're allocated. They have seen evidence of where people have been working beneath the surface to progress the Kingdom People ethos and are now ready and willing to move with the tide.

Alongside the work of this team, as well as that of our Youth Officer, Simon and Children's Officer, Emma, we also had the privilege of a day's training from Lucy Moore on how to keep the discipleship focus of Messy Church in November. Nearly a hundred people were inspired and enthused to take their Messy Churches to the next level, and from some of the tweets I saw leading up to Christmas, this had excellent results.

I long to see churches across the diocese truly engaging with all ages effectively – our churches need to be multi-generational if they are to reflect the welcome of God's kingdom. I am looking forward to many more encouraging stories as we intentionally focus on this, and hope that all those families who packed out our special Christmas services will be invited back for other events soon. Please join me in praying for the work of the Calling Young Disciples Team, and our Diocesan Youth and Children's Officers, giving thanks for seeds sown, green shoots appearing, and the promise of more to come. I am sure we have an exciting year ahead!

“Les Miserables “: the Ecumenical Lent course for 2018

CTARG (Churches Together in Alvechurch and Rowney Green) are arranging another series of Ecumenical Lent Housegroups, beginning from Ash Wednesday on 14 February. Everyone is welcome to whichever group meets at the most convenient time for them.

This year we are using a course based on the film, *“Les Miserables“*, an epic musical drama (2012) which is based on the musical of the same name which is in turn based on the 1862 French novel by Victor Hugo.

For those who may wish to join one of the groups, there is an opportunity to see a showing of the film in its entirety at Alvechurch Baptist Church on Friday 9 February at 7.30pm.

The groups are listed below. Please choose a group and then contact the leader of that group to tell them of your interest and to check details:

Day	Time	Start date	Leader	Venue
Wednesday	10:15am	14th February	Felicity Rixon 445 2371 felicityrixon@hotmail.com	St Mary's, School Lane
Wednesday	2:00pm	14th February	Dick Russell 445 3083 russell2gothic@btinternet.com	2 Gothic Cottages, Radford Road
Thursday	7:30pm	15th February	Graham and Lynne Clark 445 2547 clarkalvechurch@sky.com	The Coach House, School Lane
Monday	7:30pm	19th February	Revd Fiona Lee 447 7369 revfiona@alvechurchbaptist.org.uk	40 Hinton Avenue
Monday	10:30am	19th February	Sue Phillips 445 3620 sue@suephillips.org.uk Gloria Wilson 445 1854 gloria.wilson1@uwclub.net	Venue: Crown Pub
Thursday	10.:15am	1st March	Judy and Barry Lakeman 445 5251 thelakemans@btinternet.com	35 Hollington Road

Churchyard News -

19th Century Memorials Needing Attention

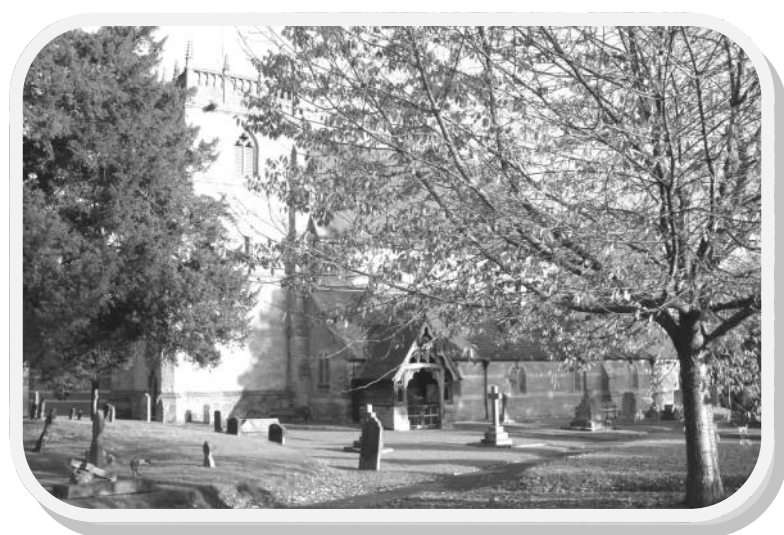
As highlighted in the November Grapevine, earlier this year St Laurence had a quinquennial inspection (QI) by the church architect, of both church fabric and churchyard. The Parochial Church Council has now reviewed the detail of that inspection and, in terms of the churchyard, carried out a safety inspection of a number of memorials. The following 19th century memorials were identified as needing attention:

1. Joseph King 1871

2. John Manghan and Mary Elizabeth Tomson 1800s, (various dates) and adjoining grave next to path

Maintenance of memorials is first and foremost the responsibility of families, and so we would encourage any descendants (or anyone who is in touch with descendants) to contact the church office 0121 447 7955 or by email to - stlaurencealvechurch@yahoo.co.uk as soon as possible. If no descendants make contact by the end of March 2018, the church will need to take sole responsibility for making the memorials safe, after obtaining permission from the Diocese of Worcester.

If any memorials become acutely unsafe, the church reserves the right to take remedial action to ensure the safety of visitors and the public.



Flowers for February 2018

	4 February	11 February	18 February	25 February
Sanctuary	Monica Clarke	Virginia Davis		Lent No Flowers
Lady Chapel	Monica Clarke	Virginia Davis		Lent No Flowers
In memory of	her father Felix Ward	her mother Mrs. Catley		

I do hope you all enjoyed and appreciated the Christmas flowers. My thanks are due to Elizabeth Clement and Helen Jones for helping me. We worked very hard and even though I fell down from the pulpit we still enjoyed a coffee and stollen afterwards!

We are now entering the period of Lent when traditionally we don't have flowers in church until Easter Day which, this year is on 2nd April.

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

Women's World Day of Prayer

The Annual service for the Women's World Day of Prayer will be held on **Friday March 2nd in the Baptist Church at 1.45pm**. Refreshments will be served after the service for a time of fellowship. This Year's Service has been prepared by the women of Suriname and is entitled All Gods Creation is very Good. Please join us and help to keep our link in the prayer chain that will stretch across the world on that day. Men and women young and old all will be welcome.

From The Registers



Funerals and Cremations

May they rest in the peace of Christ

5 January Clifford Harris
9 January Leonard Rogers
16 January Jim Parker

Who's who

Rector	Revd Richard Bubbers, Priest-in-charge, School Lane, 445 1087 stlaurencealvechurch@yahoo.co.uk
Licensed Lay Ministers	Mr Dick Russell, 2 Gothic Cottages, Radford Rd, 445 3083 Ms Sue Phillips, Withybed Green, 445 3620 Mrs Helen Ayling, "Tarncroft", Hewell Lane, Vigo, 445 6176
Authorised Lay Ministers	Mrs Helena Allen, 117 Birmingham Road, 445 5605 Mr Martin Allen, 117 Birmingham Road, 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, 38 The Buckleys, B48 7NF Mr Roger Wardle, 21 Brookside Close, B48 7LW, 445 0505
PCC Secretary	Mrs Lysandra Notley, 38 The Buckleys, B48 7NF
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) & Grapevine advertising) Grapevine Editor)	Mr Ian Price, The Ark, School Lane, 447 7955 thearkalvechurch@yahoo.co.uk

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

Buildings, Fabric and Churchyard Committee

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

Peru and Missionary Committee

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

Calendar for FEBRUARY



- Thursday 1 9.30am Mums The Word: The Ark
10.15am Tiny Tots service: St Laurence Church
12.15pm Ark cafe: Roast Lamb
- Monday 5 1.45pm Forget-Me-Nots: The Ark
7.45pm Alvechurch Historical Society: AGM followed by Members'
Memorabilia : Museum, School Lane
- Thursday 8 9.30am Mums The Word: The Ark
12.15pm Ark cafe: Somerset Chicken
7.30pm Rowney Green Horticultural Society: Speaker Simon Gulliver:
"Easy Care Garden Plants": Peace Hall, Rowney Green
- Friday 9 6.45 for 7.30pm The Midland Sinfonia Quiz & Supper: The Ark
Advanced booking essential
- Monday 12 7.30pm Ark Angels WI: The Ark
7.30pm Alvechurch WI: Tesco representative food waste talk: Village Hall
- Wednesday 14 **MARCH GRAPEVINE GOES TO PRESS**
Articles to thearkalvechurch@yahoo.co.uk
- Thursday 15 9.30am Mums The Word: The Ark
12.15pm Ark cafe: Roast Pork
- Monday 19 1.45pm Forget-Me-Nots: The Ark
- Thursday 22 9.30am Mums The Word: The Ark
No Ark Cafe today (half term)
2.00pm Rowney Green Flower Club: Flower Demonstration from Carole
(Pinks Florists - Becketts Farm): Peace Hall, Rowney Green
- Wednesday 28 2.00pm St. Laurence Women's Fellowship: Talk by Richard Churchley:
Wildlife in our Gardens: Tanyard Centre