

The Grapevine

THE PARISH MAGAZINE OF ST LAURENCE CHURCH ALVECHURCH



APRIL 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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Is Easter important?

By the time you read this, we will probably have just celebrated Easter. I wonder what Easter means to you? Is it simply an opportunity for a long weekend near the beginning of spring, with some chocolate eggs and hot-cross buns? Or is it of greater significance and importance? Does it have anything to say about the reality of the universe in which we live?

What strikes me when I watch the Star Wars movies is the idea that there is a reality in the universe which is deeper than our senses can understand, a reality which underpins everything and impinges on everything: there is a *"force"*, which is beyond what we can see and touch, and which affects our daily lives now. But these films show the *"force"* as impersonal, morally neutral, and able to be manipulated; and the extent to which it will or will not *"be with you"*, depends on the genes and the training you have.

This picture is radically different from the personal, righteous, and unmanipulatable trinitarian God of the Bible. In general, before the biblical revelation humanity did not expect love from God, or to be invited to love God in return. Even today most humans feel that God's love and attention must be earned, and this can be a deep source of resentment. Often people are still into fearing God and trying to control God instead of loving God. They never really think that mutual love is possible, given the inequality of bargaining power. When one party has all the power – which is most people's definition of God – all you can do is fear and try to control.

The only way fear can be dispelled is for God, from God's side, to change the power equation, and invite us into a world of mutual

Richard Bubbers writes...

love and vulnerability. This is where Easter comes in, and why it is so important: our living image of that power change is called Jesus. Through his life, death and resurrection, God took the initiative to overcome our fear and our need to manipulate God, and made honest loving relationship with the divine possible.

This unthinkable relationship is already planted in human consciousness with the Old Testament idea of *"covenant love"*. There are five words to describe God which, as Walter Brueggemann says, keep on appearing in the Hebrew Scriptures: this God that the people of Israel discovered is consistently seen to be *"merciful, gracious, faithful, forgiving, and steadfast in love."*

Jesus, through his teaching (for example, in the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew Chapters 5 to 7) and the way he lived, embodied these values and characteristics (he called it the Kingdom of God) - and, more than that, he backed this up by allowing himself to be vulnerable in the most profound way, through submitting to a totally unjust trial and unspeakably cruel execution at the hands of the religious and political leaders of his day. This is what we remember on Good Friday.

The good news of course is that the Easter story does not end there: it goes on three days later to Easter Day when we celebrate Jesus' resurrection – he was raised from death to life: God is alive, and proactively working out his purposes in time and space, in your life and mine.

Easter announces the good news of Jesus' cosmic victory on the cross over death and all that is wrong in the universe. A new era opens up the possibility of you and me being able to know God for ourselves. This relationship does not have to be earned or deserved: it only has to be received.

May the Lord be with you.

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Winter Wedding



Local resident Joanne Wilson married
Thomas Jarvis in St Laurence Church on
Saturday 27 January.

The bride, youngest daughter of Noel & Cheryl Wilson,
was escorted into church on her father's arm, after
arriving in a jeep from the film Jurassic Park.

The bride wore an ivory, beaded, diamante floor length
dress and carried a bouquet of dusky pink roses.

She was accompanied by all her sisters, Chief
Bridesmaid, Lindsey Kirkham and Bridesmaids, Emma
Wilson & Victoria Wilson. The Bridesmaids were
dressed in different coloured floor length dresses and
held bouquets of dusky pink roses.

The groom chose his friend Tim Hodgins to be his best
man and the ushers were his brothers Jeremy & Theo
Jarvis.

After a reception held at The Midlands Art Centre, the
couple left for a honeymoon in Cornwall with their
border collie Copper. The Bride & Groom will be making
their married home in Pestilence Lane.

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Rowney Green Horticultural Society

Lindsay Smith writes...

Rowney Green Horticultural Society meets at The Village Hall on the second Thursday of each month at 7.30pm.

At the meeting on 12th April our guest speaker will be Victoria Logue, who started her own Nursery in the Cotswolds. She is an enthusiastic beekeeper and her subject will be "Gardening with and for Wildlife".

Guests are always welcome - £3.50 including refreshments. For more information please contact Lindsay Smith on 01527 592874.

Sight Concern Bromsgrove Group

Local support for people with sight loss and the partially sighted



A local support group for people with sight loss is looking for new members to come and join them. Sight Concern Worcestershire is a countywide charity supporting blind and partially sighted people to lead independent and fulfilling lives. We hold weekly meetings at The Methodist Centre in Bromsgrove on Thursday mornings from 10am – 12.30pm.

We have a range of different speakers and entertainment, trips out and pub lunches as well as providing practical information and support for people living with sight loss. Coming up with have -

29th March - Pub lunch in Bromsgrove

5th April - Indoor Bowls at Bromsgrove & District Indoor Bowling Club

12th April - The 'Sing-Alongs' at the Methodist Centre

19th April - Meal out at The Ark, Alvechurch

For more information contact Helen Beardes on 07804 723 597.

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The Ark Cafe



The Ark Cafe is closed over the Easter break and will
reopen on 19th April The menu will be as follows for the
remaining two weeks in April:

April 19th Roast Turkey Lunch

April 26th Beef Casserole

The Roast Turkey Lunch will be at the usual price of £6
and booking is not necessary, just turn up as usual.

We are having another Beef Carvery Lunch on Thursday,
24th May at the usual price of £12. As usual, the tickets
are available on a Thursday lunchtime at the Ark or from
Ian Price at the Ark office Monday - Friday 9am - 2pm
0121 447 7955.

We look forward to your usual support.

St Laurence Women's Fellowship

Jill Woolley writes...



A few brave ladies braved the bitterly
cold weather to attend our February meeting- we just
beat the snow! Richard Churchley was our speaker
whose talk, "Wildlife in my Garden" we all enjoyed.
Everything from roe deer and herons to frogs, toads,
spiders & slugs and of course all the lovely garden birds.

Sadly our speaker for March 28th is unable to come We
hope to see her birds of prey sometime next year.
Instead Mrs Rae Fowler has kindly agreed to talk about
Working with Children.

On April 25th we hold our Annual General Meeting and
plan our activities for the year ahead.

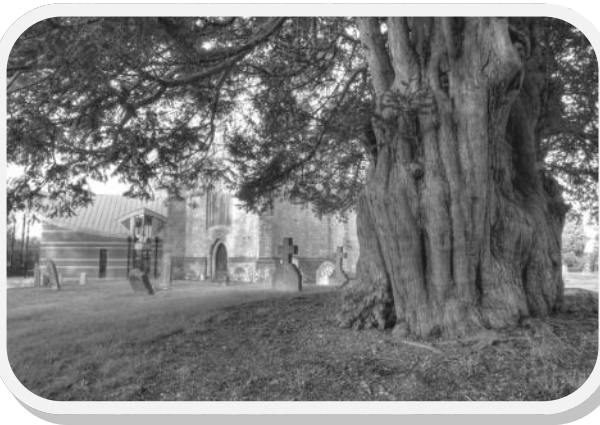
We meet in the Tanyard Centre at 2pm and are pleased
to welcome visitors and new members.

God Is Intentional

By Gordon Parsons

Theorists and theologians, when considering the cosmos, are apt to talk of "intelligent design" to describe the handiwork of the Creator. Yet there is a further dimension, sometimes overlooked, that reveals the loving kindness, the parental ownership, exercised naturally and supernaturally by His power, His divine connivance and planning, His scheme of things.

That is; - God intended for each of us, each animal, bird, fish, reptile, insect, plant, every organism capable of living growth, to come into existence, to pulse with the cyclical rhythms of the seasons, to have being and enjoy the breath of life. Yes, plants breathe, too. (If they didn't, neither would we, since they replenish the air we inhale with the life giving gases essential to our breathing apparatus. Next time you contemplate a tree, imagine!)



The intentionality of God applies to all your circumstances. Your situation, work life, if you have any, your relationships. More fundamentally to precisely when you were conceived, and born, your early learning and the formation of the you that you are, as well as your journey through time and space to this moment and forever.

Isn't it comforting to know that you are "God's Intended" ?

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Buildings, Fabric and Churchyard Team

Since the last update in the November Grapevine, the team have been hard at work attending to the most urgent repairs and maintenance highlighted in the Quinquennial Inspection, engaging specialist contractors where needed.

The most important jobs in maintaining our beautiful church and the Ark are keeping the guttering and Down-pipes clear, and the heating working. Repairs to the large heating pipes in the church are underway, and the down-pipe on the west wall of the church (which tends to block) has been cleared, with a new access point introduced for easier maintenance. Boiler services have been carried out, the floor and wall heating grills in the Ark have been cleaned out and fixings checked, and the radiator in the Ark foyer repaired. Unfortunately we have now found leaks in the church boiler room roof and in the choir vestry, so these are the next priorities.

We are fortunate in having been able to establish a new Project Group which, with the help of the church Architect, will be planning and overseeing the larger pieces of work, including the Stained Glass Windows conservation project and repairs to the Tower Roof and South porch.

Winter is a quieter time of year for the churchyard, but a new bin has been installed in the lower churchyard, and the consultation on the two unstable memorials in the churchyard (as advertised in the Village magazine, the Grapevine and on the memorials themselves) has been undertaken and closed at the end of March. This work will now be taken forward with the guidance of the Diocese.

With thanks to all those volunteers who help maintain the church, the Ark and the churchyard in any way, however small. Any offers of help (practical or financial) with the maintenance of the parish church and churchyard are much appreciated.

Alison Smith, Chair

Alvechurch Historical Society

Hilary Taylor writes...

The March meeting had to be cancelled when the “*Beast from the East*” travelled through Alvechurch, leaving the hut without water and the car park slippery with ice. However by the time of our April meeting spring will surely have arrived, with the Spring Equinox, the beginning of British Summer Time, and Easter Sunday all being behind us.

The next two meetings both fall on bank holidays, **Monday 2nd April** (Easter Monday) and **Monday 7th May** (early May). Our guest speaker at both these meetings will be **Ron Gallivan**, who will be presenting an in-depth look at the Mulberry Harbours. These were prefabricated portable harbours developed by the United Kingdom during the Second World War to facilitate the rapid offloading of cargo onto beaches during the Allied invasion of Normandy in June 1944. The April talk will be about “*The Design and Development of the Mulberry Harbours*”, and the May talk will be about “*The Delivery and Operation of the Mulberry Harbours*”. Either talk can be enjoyed on its own, so do come along if you can only attend one of them, although both talks will give a more complete picture of events.



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 5955.

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Bible Wordsearch

Wordsearch 262

Matt. 13:16-30

Wheat & Tares

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CROP	APPEARED
EARS	BLESSED
ENEMY	BUNDLES
EYES	COLLECT
FIELD	FORMED
GOOD	GATHER
GROW	HARVEST
HEART	HEAVEN
JESUS	KINGDOM
LISTEN	MESSAGE
ROCKY	PARABLE
SOWED	PROPHETS
THORNS	RECEIVED
TRUTH	SERVANTS
WEALTH	SNATCHES
WEEDS	SPROUTED
WHEAT	YIELDING
	UNFRUITFUL
	RIGHTEOUS

After you find all the hidden words the left over letters spell out a

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An illustration of a tea set including a teapot and two cups with saucers, positioned on the left side of the top banner.

TIME FOR TEA

The logo for 'Dine for Dignity' featuring a fork and spoon as the letter 'I' in 'DINE', and a small teapot icon above the word 'DIGNITY'. The text is set against a background with a scalloped white border.

**DINE
FOR
DIGNITY**

**Sunday 13th May 2018 - 3.00pm
at The Ark in Alvechurch**

Come along and join us with a table of your favourite friends. Have fun and socialise whilst raising money for Brainhouse Academy, a slum school in Kenya. Help those children access the dignity of new “green” toilets.

How does it work:

You let us know that you would like to host a table of your friends. We save you a table and give you some invites to send out to up to eight of your friends.

You can either arrange a “bring and share” where, between your group, you bring all your refreshments; or you can ask us to provide the food. You can theme or decorate your table however you wish to help your guests have a fun and dignified afternoon. There will be quizzes and activities, a raffle and small craft items for sale. Or you can just natter and nibble!

At the end your guests will be invited to donate the amount that they might expect to pay for an Afternoon Tea. Everyone’s generosity will be truly valued!

Contact alisonhalford@gmail.com to book your table

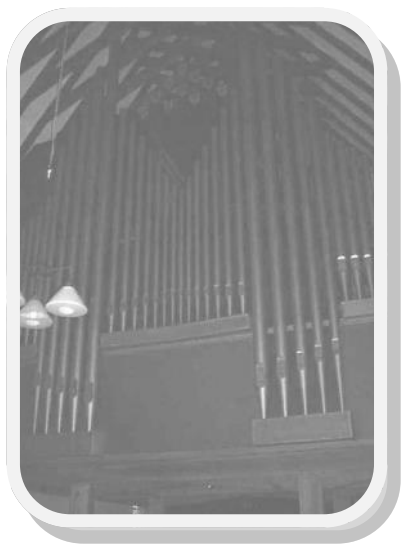
Pulling Out All The Stops at St Laurence

On **Saturday, 12th May** the organ at St Laurence Church, Alvechurch, will be taking centre stage when Keith Hearnshaw, who has performed internationally, gives a recital. Margaret Haste, the organiser, said that the idea had come to her when visiting the small church on the Baddesley Clinton estate. *"There, outside the entrance, was a sign advertising monthly organ recitals and I thought, if they can do this, why can't we? We have a very fine organ at St Laurence which, sadly, hardly ever gets the exposure it deserves"*.

She said the theme will be The Best of British and will feature some of our major composers, including Elgar; William Walton; Eric Coates and Handel. *"I know the latter wasn't British but he was a great anglophile and, of course, composed some wonderful works for the court of George III. The theme was inspired by the fact that this year is the centenary of not only the end of the first world war but also the first victory in the fight for female emancipation so what better way to mark this than with some stirring British music"*.

There will be a bar, opening at 6.45pm and the concert begins in the church at 7.30pm. Tickets will cost £10 (children free) and can be purchased on the door.

All proceeds will go to the Church Restoration Fund.



New Fitness Class for MOMS

Starts Monday 9th April at The Ark



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**The Ark,
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Starting 9th April**



**St Annes Church,
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Stay for a cuppa and a chat with other local moms!

The Midland Sinfonia

Friday 20th April 7.30pm

St Laurence Church, Alvechurch

Strings Attached

CPE Bach

Symphony in A, WQ 182/4

Saint Saens

Prelude to le Deluge

Mozart

Eine Kleine Nachtmusik

Tchaikovsky

Legend from Children's Songs for Voice and Piano

Arensky

Variations on a Theme of Tchaikovsky

Nielsen

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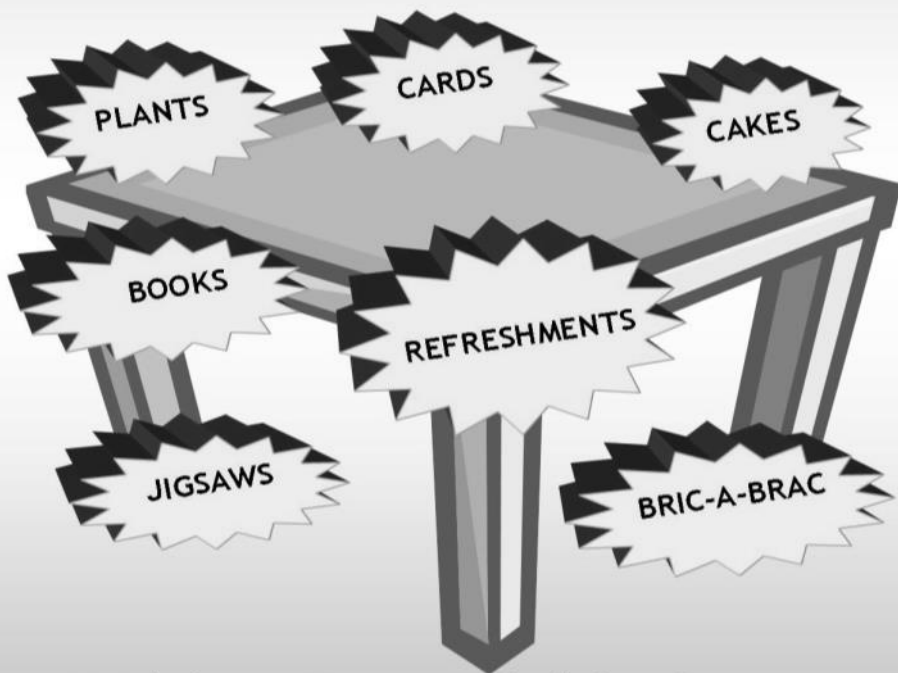
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ANNUAL TABLE TOP SALE

Saturday 28th April 10.30am – 3pm
The Ark, St Laurence Church, Alvechurch

FREE ADMISSION



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Parish Prayers

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

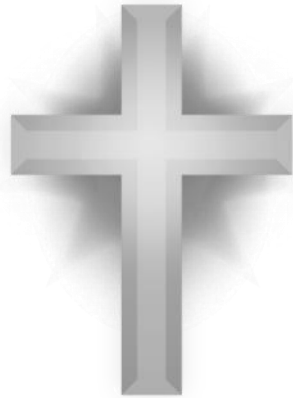
The Buckley – 1 April

The Drive – 8 April

The Gaunts – 15 April

The Holloway – 22 April

The Rise – 29 April



Hillside at Alvechurch WI

Cathy Taylor writes...

Members enjoyed a very entertaining talk given by Alan Thornton entitled "*A Day in the Life of a Seaside Hotelier*" on the 7th March. Alan and his wife had left the Midlands and bought a guest house in Weymouth intending to start their business without any experience or training. The guest house needed a substantial amount of work on it before they could open to visitors. They worked incredibly hard to achieve an attractive working guest house. Alan and his wife survived the ups and downs of running their business, and went on to buy and run a hotel on the front. Alan had many stories to tell and we all enjoyed them.

On 4th April, Lotte Shaw will give a talk on "*Tax, Care and Toy Boys*". Visitors are welcome to join us at 7.30pm at the Ark. There will be time to chat and to enjoy home made cakes and tea or coffee.

Future Events

St George's Day Tea 23rd March in the Village Hall. Members were asked to sign up and make cakes for the tea.

County Spring Meeting at Pershore 30th April.

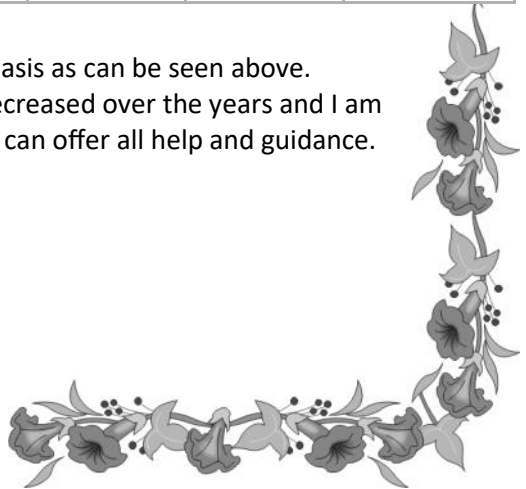
Tetbury outing 15th May. The visit to Chavenage House will be at 2pm.

Flowers for April

	1st April	8th April	15th April	22nd April	29th April
Sanctuary	Easter Day				Monica Clarke
Lady Chapel	Easter Day				Monica Clarke
In Memory of					her mother Phyllis Ward

I am still needing help on a monthly basis as can be seen above. My small group of volunteers have decreased over the years and I am really hoping for some new recruits. I can offer all help and guidance.

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



From The Registers



Funerals and Cremations

May they rest in the peace of Christ

12 February
15 February
23 February

Eileen Terry
Frederick "Ted" Best
Jean Davis

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 APRIL



Sunday 1 Easter Day	10.30am 6.00pm	Joint Easter Day Communion Service celebration: St Laurence Evensong: St Laurence
Monday 2 Easter Monday	7.45pm	Alvechurch Historical Society: Talk by Ron Gallivan: " <i>Design and Development of the Mulberry Harbours</i> ": Museum, School Lane
Wednesday 4	7.30pm	Hillside WI: Talk by Lotte Shaw " <i>Tax, Care and Toy Boys</i> ": The Ark
Thursday 5		No Mums The Word or Tiny Tots service No Ark cafe today (restarting 19th April)
Thursday 12		No Mums The Word No Ark cafe today (restarting 19th April) 7.30pm Rowney Green Horticultural Society: Speaker Victoria Logue: Peace Hall, Rowney Green
Saturday 14		MAY GRAPEVINE GOES TO PRESS <i>Articles to thearkalvechurch@yahoo.co.uk</i>
Monday 16	1.45pm 7.30pm	Forget-Me-Nots: The Ark Ark Angels WI: Mosaics with Jackie Nash: The Ark
Thursday 19	9.30am 12.15pm 7.30pm	Mums The Word: The Ark Ark cafe: Turkey Lunch (usual price £6 booking is not necessary) Joint Plenary Meeting for all Lent groups: The Ark Upper Room
Friday 20	7.30pm	The Midland Sinfonia Concert: ' <i>Strings Attached</i> ': St Laurence Ch
Tuesday 24	7.30pm	PCC APCM meeting: The Ark
Wednesday 25	2.00pm	St. Laurence Women's Fellowship: AGM: Tanyard Centre
Thursday 26	9.30am 12.15pm 7 for 7.30pm	Mums The Word: The Ark Ark cafe: Beef Casserole Worcestershire Federation of WI's: County Quiz: The Ark (FULL)
Saturday 28	10.30am	Annual Table Top Sale: The Ark: FREE ADMISSION