



The Grapevine

THE PARISH MAGAZINE OF ST LAURENCE CHURCH ALVECHURCH

May 2014

Online at 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

Sunday Club	Sundays at 9.30.am in the Church and Ark (445 1854)
Choir	Thursdays at 7.45.pm in Church (445 3569)
Bellringers	Sundays at 10.30.am and 5.30.pm Tuesday Practice at 7.30.pm (01527 64077)
Women's Fellowship	4th Wednesday of the month at 2.00.pm in Tanyard Lane Community Centre (445 2125)
Mum's the Word	Thursdays at 9.30.am in The Ark (07773509390) Tiny Tots Service 10.15.am 2nd Thursday of the month
Ark Café	Thursdays during term time at 12.15.pm (447 7017)
Home Group	Thursdays, 7.30.pm at the Coach House (445 2547)
Messy Church	Quarterly on a Saturday in The Ark (445 1985)

THE ARK

Enquiries to Ian Price 0121 447 7955

Registered as a Charity in England and Wales: Charity Number 1131783

Alison Smith writes... Worth The Wait

Just a few weeks ago, it seemed that we had been waiting forever for the rain and cold to end, but then one day there were snowdrops in the churchyard, then daffodils all around, trees and shrubs in bud, and suddenly spring is here! Even when times are difficult, this does help to put joy into our hearts, and we thank God for the beautiful earth he made for us.

Waiting patiently is a hard thing to do. Since the Rector retired last summer we have been waiting whilst the proper processes of appointing a new priest for our parish take place, whilst doing our best to carry on as usual. This has been a challenge for the Churchwardens and Readers in particular and all those who have been helping and supporting them. We have all needed to pray a lot and wait for God's guidance along the way, and this continues as we move nearer to a new priest being appointed for our parish.

As we all know, Easter was 'late' this year, so there has been a need for patience here too. Lent is an important time for reflection, so that at Easter we can really REJOICE! As the Bishop of Worcester John Inge said in his Easter message:

'Christians believe that, because of the resurrection of Jesus, death is not the end. Because Christ was raised from the dead, we too can be raised from the dead if we wish to accept God's invitation to eternal life through Jesus. The resurrection of Jesus can seem unbelievable. For two thousand years, though, it has given millions of people all over the world a kind of hope which nothing else can offer.'

Looking forward to the summer, the Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby is inviting people to plant poppy seeds on April

30th (or as soon as possible after) 'to remember the terrible events of the First World War and as a sign of our hope in Jesus Christ for peace in the future.' The tradition of selling poppies began as, and remains, a way to remember the people who had given their lives for peace and freedom, and raise money for the ex-Service community. The idea of this 'centenary campaign' is that, if the seeds are planted now, the poppies will be in flower on and around the anniversary of the start of the war, 100 years ago on July 28th. If you would like to and are able to take part, packs of Flanders poppies are on sale and can be bought at B&Q for £2, with a pound being donated to the Royal British Legion.

Following on from one lovely wedding in February, the month of May sees the start of the main wedding season, with many more couples being married this year in our beautiful church and in the sight of God. May we wish them all a fantastic day, and a happy life together with God's blessing.

Alison Smith
Deputy Churchwarden



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Alvechurch Historical Society

We had a very enjoyable social evening on the 24th March with good company, food and quiz, although it did test our memories for children's' nursery rhymes of the thirties.

Our speaker that week was Mr Max Keen, who gave us a wonderful account of the English Civil War in Worcestershire. He came dressed as a Monarchist and when a slide was shown of King Charles he gave a magnificent flamboyant bow to him.. He called the Civil War *'The Great Rebellion'*. He moved quickly from one battle to another, showing the flaws in defences and attacks. He ended with the battle of Worcester and then the reinstatement of Charles II to become a constitutional Monarch in 1651. Max was a retired teacher of History and his pupils must have looked forward to their classes as he brought history to life. A super talk.

We are having an outing to Avoncroft on July 10th using our own transport.

Our next meeting is on Bank Holiday Monday, 5th May when Mr Tony Deakin will tell us a saucy tale of Mr Lea and Mr Perrins. We meet in the Museum, School Lane at 7.45pm. Plenty of parking behind St. Marys with their kind permission. See you then – Margaret Gardner (0121 445 1649).

St Laurence Women's Fellowship

Jill Woolley writes...

After our A.G.M. in April we now commence our 48th year as a Fellowship with a series of talks arranged by our Programme Secretary Ros Tyler.

28th May - Maureen Sutherland: with her talk: *'I was a live Kidney Donor'*.

25th June - A Magistrate and a Probation Officer: talk: Local Crime Community Sentence.

23rd July - Cheryl Godfrey: with her talk *'From The Cotswold's to Costa Del Sol and back'*.

Come and join us at any of these talks held in the Tanyard Community Centre at 2pm. Tea and biscuits are served and you will be made very welcome.

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News From The Tower

Geoff Franklin writes...

We had a very successful Table Top Sale on the 12th April and we'd like to thank everyone who donated goods, everyone who came to buy, and especially the helpers in the kitchen who kept us going all day with cakes and drinks and bacon butties.



We raised £400 for the bells so we should soon be able to get on with the soundproofing and the maintenance of the clock.

Rowney Green Horticultural Society

Andrea Halse writes... Rowney Green Horticultural Society next meets Thursday May 8th 7.45pm, at the Peace Hall, when Andrew Humphries will talk about his time as head gardener at Wollaton Hall.

The Rose Show is on Saturday, June 26th. Schedules are available in Rowney Green at Goat and Trousers (hall) and Corner Hollow (porch), also in Alvechurch at the Library and the Post Office. We look forward to visitors and members joining us on these occasions.

More details from Secretary Janet on 0152769399 or Andrea on 0121 445 1929.

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Have You Got Your New Priest Yet?

Sue Phillips writes...

I've lost count of the number of times I've been asked that question. But if you are one of the people who hasn't recently asked me, here's the answer. Not yet!

But the advert for the post is now out. The closing date is 6th May and interviews are scheduled for mid-June. That's the timetable.

As ever the more interesting information lies in the detail. The person whom we are looking for as our new parish priest will need to be very special. While he or she will be living in the rectory on School Lane, only 50% of their job will be in the parish. The other 50% will be spent as a workplace chaplain in Redditch's industrial scene.

Until David Martin's retirement, Alvechurch was one of the few parishes in Worcestershire to have its own priest appointed solely for duties within the parish. Most of our neighbouring parishes have moved into what is known as a Team Ministry, where a group of clergy cover a number of churches, each meeting the needs of their congregations and community according to their gifts, interests and time available. Indeed clergy from local teams have played a significant part in enabling us to maintain our regular pattern of worship at St Laurence. Our parish now joins the number of those who share their 'vicar' with others, but for us the sharing will be with the ecumenical organisation, Faith at Work in Worcestershire (FWW) who work as chaplains to local industry and commerce.

A small group of members of the church, we call them the Task Team, have been working on the documentation that will be used to tell a prospective candidate about our parish and our church. That's called the Parish Profile, and the first copy of this has been on our website and in Alvechurch Library since before Christmas. Well now there's a new version which also describes our new partners. For the past 3 months FWW and St Laurence task team have been getting to know each other. There's a lot to learn, and we'll be doing more to introduce some of the FWW people to our community over the next couple of months.

Meantime you can look at the profile on our website, or browse a copy in the Library, and please join us in praying for all who are attracted by the challenge, that amongst them we may find the best person to take on this dual role in our community.

Hello Borrowers

Just wanted to let you all know about a forthcoming event that Alvechurch Library is hosting in June.

We have invited Steve R Dunn, a local author from Barnt Green to tell us about the biography that he has written, *The Scapegoat*.



THE SCAPEGOAT; the life and tragedy of a fighting admiral
By Steve R Dunn
ISBN 978 184624 971 6

The Scapegoat is the first biography ever written about one of Britain's most marginalised military figures. In 1914 Rear Admiral Sir Christopher Cradock known as Kit, was held responsible for the worst naval disaster for 100 years, The Battle of Coronel, in which he and 1660 men died. The man who led the charge against Cradock, in a bid to save his own reputation, was First Lord of the Admiralty Winston Churchill. Steve's book sets out to challenge the premise that Kit Cradock was to blame. For a century Kit's story has been untold; for the first time it is revealed in a biography which aims to right a longstanding wrong and presents a fresh view of a man maligned by history.

Steve has undertaken extensive research into what happened at the Battle of Coronel and believes that his book will show that Rear Admiral Sir Christopher Cradock was a hero. After 20 years of in-depth research, including talking to Kit's only living relative and accessing many previously unseen papers, Steve's book challenges the official version of events.

Please join us on Friday 20th June at 10.30am to meet Steve at a book selling and signing event and hear about how he went about writing his book.

Call 01905 822722 to book a space.

Looking forward to seeing you on the 20th June at 10.30am.

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Also At The Library

Also on offer in Alvechurch Library, Kate Jones, talented local florist, will be continuing our series of contemporary floristry workshops. Join us on Friday May 16th 2:30pm-4:30pm to create fabulous buttonholes. Learn the basic technique and then create your own buttonholes or unique gift-wrap decorations to take home. All equipment, accessories and flowers will be provided. No experience needed. £20.00.

On Saturday 17th May, Kate will be back again to teach us how to make a gorgeous seasonal contemporary table arrangement. The cost for this workshop is £38.00. 10:30am - 12:30pm. No experience needed, all tools and flowers will be included and you get to take your arrangement home and stun all your friends with your expertise!!

Please call 01905 722822 to book a space. Spaces are limited.

Ark Café

The Ark café reopens on
Thursday 1st May.



The menu for the month of May will be as follows -

MAY 1ST	SHEPHERDS PIE
MAY 8TH	SOMERSET CHICKEN
MAY 15TH	SALMON
MAY 22ND	COLD MEAT & SALAD
MAY 29	CLOSED

There will be another BEEF CARVERY LUNCH on Thursday, 3rd July. If you would like to come, please contact Ian Price at the Ark on 447 7955 Monday to Friday 9am to 2pm and we will add you name to the list. Or call in at the Ark any Thursday lunchtime. Tickets are £10.00.

We look forward to your continued support for the lunches during the Spring & Summer.

Rhythm Time at The Ark

Rhythm Time classes are education and fun music classes involving singing, building confidence, encouraging creativity and co-ordination for babies, toddlers and pre-schoolers. Babies are born with many musical abilities but not only this, we understand that every child is different and by encouraging and nurturing these skills, their all-round intelligence will be developed. It is education in a really fun and exciting way.

Our classes grow with your child, so come along and enjoy the many activities that encourage children to develop their senses, language and listening skills as well as confidence and creativity.

It's a great opportunity to make new friends too. We play instruments, use scarves, count, conduct, sing, jump in puddles, catch bubbles, bounce teddies, learn long and short sounds, be animals, make ourselves small and large, be a tree, tap a tune and so much more.

Our classes encourage speech - we work with beats, clapping out syllables and rhyming.

We also understand that parents/carers need some time away from the house to interact with their child and with other parents/carers.

Rhythm Time classes start at the Ark on 2nd May at 13.30 for Pre-schoolers and 14.10 for Toddlers.

To book or for more information please contact Vicky Taramasco on 0121 447 7632 or e-mail vicky@rtmusic.net
We look forward to hearing from you.

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Saturday 3rd May 2014, 7.30pm

The Ark, St Laurence Church, Alvechurch

Charlotte Beresford, lead and violin, Caroline Bodimead
Violin, Ellen Brookes viola, Elizabeth Garside cello, and guest
singers Hazel Watson and Peter Miles



Borodin ~ Nocturne *from* String Quartet No. 2
and Theme ~ An American in Paris

Anything You Can Do ~ Annie Get Your Gun

There's No Business Like Show Business ~ Annie Get Your Gun

Don't Cry for Me Argentina ~ Evita

Sit Down You're Rocking the Boat ~ Guys and Dolls

The Bare Necessities ~ The Jungle Book

On My Own ~ Les Misérables

Get Me to the Church on Time ~ My Fair Lady

Reviewing the Situation ~ Oliver!

All I Ask of You ~ Phantom of the Opera

Mack the Knife ~ The Threepenny Opera

I Will Wait For You ~ The Umbrellas of Cherbourg

America & I Feel Pretty ~ West Side Story

Somewhere ~ West Side Story

Somewhere Over The Rainbow ~ The Wizard of Oz

and The Sound of Music Medley ~ *singalong!*

Tickets: on the door £13, In advance £12 from The Village
Green Grocer Alvechurch FT students £5, children free when
accompanied by an adult.

Contact marian@midlandsinfonia.co.uk 0121 447 7040 or
reserve tickets on our website www.midlandsinfonia.co.uk



LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE

Instructions:

- First cross out all words that are days of the week
- Second cross out all words that are colors
- Third cross out all words that are names of animals
- Fourth cross out all words that are numbers



SUNDAY	BROWN	SEVEN	LET	PIG	WHITE	SIXTEEN
THREE	YOUR	TURTLE	GOLD	EIGHT	LIGHT	FRIDAY
SHINE	HORSE	FOUR	RED	BEFORE	TUESDAY	ORANGE
PURPLE	OTHERS	WEDNESDAY	ALLIGATOR	FIVE	THAT	FIFTY
RACCOON	THEY	FROG	BLUE	MAY	MONDAY	TWO
THIRTEEN	GREEN	SEE	THURSDAY	NINETEEN	SNAKE	YOUR
SATURDAY	GOOD	SQUIRREL	DEEDS	SUNDAY	TIGER	AND
GLORIFY	YOUR	PINK	TUESDAY	YELLOW	FATHER	BLACK
BEAR	IN	FRIDAY	HEAVEN	GIRAFFE	FIVE	WEDNESDAY



What do the remaining words say? Write them in order on the lines below.

Matthew 5:16 NIV

St Laurence Church Choir

Elizabeth & David Richmond write...

We don't know when a choir first sang in our church to lead the congregational singing, but we have music in the cupboard going back to the 1890's (some of it marked as belonging to Hopwood church and some from Rowney Green). There are one or two pictures of the choir of earlier times in the Alvechurch Past and Present books.

We are told that in the 1930's St Laurence Church Choir was invited to sing for the BBC, but the Rector of the time thought he might lose his best singers, and vetoed it! We were, however, recorded and appeared on TV on the occasion of the late Harold Fenn's celebration of 70 years in the choir. That, we think, was in February 1995.

The longest serving member of the present choir has been a chorister here for 50 years. She, and others, can tell us about many of our predecessors. Come and have a look at the plaques on the backs of the choir stalls, where you will find the names of some of them.

Now, as then, we exist to lead the singing in the services. There are 12 of us, not all able to attend every service, but each attending as often as we can.

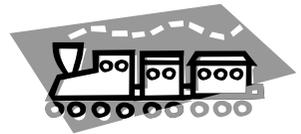
We practise in the church every Thursday evening, and sing an anthem every week. We have a repertoire of over 50 anthems, ranging in date from the 14th to the 21st century.

We love the work we do for our church and do it to the best of our ability, from the

beautiful Evensong to end our Sundays, to more modern music for other occasions.

If you would like to see how we work please come along one Thursday evening at 7.45pm to join in, or just listen. We always need tuneful new members and, if you did decide to join us and give it a try, we would be delighted to welcome you.

Model Railway Exhibition July 12th



It's time to think about our next railway Exhibition. This year it will be on Saturday July 12th. The summer one often raises over £1,000. It would be nice to do even better this year.

We expect nine layouts, from N gauge to gauge 1, and at least 12 traders, not just in model railways but also of a general nature and, of course, wonderful food all day long!

If you have any model railway items you wish to donate or sell please let me know (0121 445 3569). Items of any age or condition, or just bits, can be useful, ie: trains, buses, cars, Meccano etc.

The main thing is --- just come and enjoy the fun.

David Richmond



Quiz answer from page 11



Let your light shine before others that
they may see your good deeds and
glorify your Father in heaven.

Matthew 5:16 NIV

Forget-Me-Not Group

Anita Walker writes...

In 2011, I moved to Alvechurch with my husband, who has early onset dementia, to be close to family for support.



Eventually, after a long struggle and in stressful circumstances, it was decided that my husband needed full time care in a residential home. So in 2013, I found myself bereft and very lonely. Family works full time and, apart from neighbours I had had no time to make friends in the village.

Outside help was needed and sought. I found the Forget-Me-Not group advertised in the Village magazine offering support for those who have suffered bereavement or loss. Sue Phillips met me in my home, offering friendly advice and help. I joined the Forget-Me-Not group along with a few other new members. It was so much easier to talk and listen to others in a similar situation to myself.

Since meeting up with the group last year, not only have I joined pilates sessions and an art group with other members, but we have been out and about as a group.

One member of the group, an ardent and knowledgeable ornithologist, arranged a visit to Upton Warren. After an enjoyable pub lunch, we trekked to the bird hide armed with telescopes and binoculars and were able to identify and study many species of water fowl. Eventually we ended up in Webbs Garden Centre for coffee and cake.

Another outing was to the local Selvas Cottage Quiet Garden; a beautiful, peaceful and serene afternoon of sunshine.

A pre-Christmas outing by train included the German Market and Birmingham's new library – most enjoyable.

Our next outing takes us on a canal narrow boat trip from Tardebigge to Hopwood where we shall be stopping for lunch. If you are interested, and maybe, need friendship and support, why not join us at the Hopwood House (B48 7AB) between noon and 2.00pm on Monday 12th May.

We shall be recognised by having forget-me-not flowers on our table. Introduce yourself and have an informal chat. It would be lovely to meet new people.

The group meets every two weeks on Mondays between 2.00pm and 3.30pm. You will be made most welcome.

Village Messy Church

Pat Booth writes...

Hi Folks....WHOOPS!...change of date. Village Messy Church will be at the Ark on 17TH MAY 2014 in The Ark 2.30pm to 4.30pm.

Plenty of fun, loads of activities for all ages, a good story and a sit down tea for all. Families, Friends Aunts, Uncles, Neighbours and Grandparents are all part of Alvechurch Village Messy Church.

Come and join in a warm, friendly and relaxed afternoon of sharing and enjoyment. We start at 2.30pm and finish at 4.30pm If you want more information about this session please contact Pat 0121 445 1985 ..Hope to see you!



Flowers for May 2014

	4 May	11 May	18 May	25 May
Sanctuary	Monica Clarke	WEDDING of	Alvechurch WI	
Lady Chapel	Monica Clarke	WEDDING of	Alvechurch WI	
In memory of	Phyllis Ward	Alice Murphy & Thomas Taverner		

Just one week where I have no one on my list. If you would like to provide flowers for this week please get in touch on 0121 4477668 or email me annthurrell@hotmail.co.uk.

Many thanks Ann Thurrell

From The Registers



Baptisms

We welcome you into the Lord's family

Photographs of the newly-baptized can be found on the church website - www.alvechurch-stlaurence.org

April 27 Max Webb



Marriages

Those whom God has joined together

May 3 Dean Gathercole & Amy Williams
 May 10 Thomas Taverner & Alice Murphy
 May 24 David Wallace & Michelle Marlow-Coles
 May 24 Brian Didd & Jennie Sayers



Funerals and Cremations

May they rest in the peace of Christ

April 25 Ted Stanton

Who's who

Rector	To be confirmed, The Rectory, School Lane, 445 1087 stlaurencealvechurch@yahoo.co.uk
Licensed Lay Ministers	Mr Dick Russell, 2 Gothic Cottages, Radford Rd, 445 3083 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, 13 Red Lion Street, 447 8451
Deputy Wardens	Mr Colin Bennett, 122 Redditch Road, 01527 64077 Mr Andy Humphries, Sunnymead, Station Road, 445 5955 Mr David Richmond, The Ferns, Chapel Lane, 445 3569 Mrs Alison Smith, 12 Hollington Road, 447 7293 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, 445 3212
Singing Group	Mrs Kate Grove, 07773509390
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) Grapevine Editor)	thearkalvechurch@yahoo.co.uk

PCC Special Responsibilities

Finance and Standing Committee

Graham Clark	Mick Fletcher
Alison Smith	Bob Dale

Task Committee

Alison Smith	Bob Dale
Lynne Clark	Sue Phillips

Children and Youth

Martin Allen	Mick Fletcher
Pat Booth	

Churchyard

Bob Dale	Andy Humphries
Mick Fletcher	

Buildings and Fabric

Mick Fletcher	Colin Bennett
David Richmond	Jill Woolley
Janet Wright	

Peru and Missionary

Sue Phillips	Dick Russell
Sue Brotherton	Margaret Haste

Worship

Barbara Scane	Martin Allen
Graham Clark	Enid Brumsen
David Richmond	

Calendar for MAY



- Thursday 1 9.30am Mums The Word: The Ark
12.15pm Ark Café: Shepherds Pie
- Saturday 3 7.30pm The Midland Sinfonia: Enigma String Quartet: The Ark
- Monday 5 7.45pm Alvechurch Historical Society: Talk by Mr Tony Deakin '*A saucy tale of Mr Lea and Mr Perrins*' at the Museum, School Lane
- Tuesday 6 8.00pm Men's Group: Tom Burchill: The Ark
- Thursday 8 9.30am Mums The Word: The Ark
10.15am Tiny Tots Service: Church
12.15pm Ark Café: Somerset Chicken
7.45pm Rowney Green Horticultural Society:
Talk from Wollaton Hall Head Gardener : The Peace Hall
- Thursday 15 9.30am Mums The Word: The Ark
12.15pm Ark Café: Salmon
- Friday 15 2.30pm Floristry fabulous buttonholes workshop: Alvechurch Library
- Saturday 17 10.30am Floristry table arrangements workshop: Alvechurch Library
2.30pm Village Messy Church: The Ark
- Thursday 22 9.30am Mums The Word: The Ark
12.15pm Ark Café: Cold Meat & Salad
- Wednesday 28 2.00pm St Laurence Women's Fellowship: Talk: I was a live Kidney Donor:
Tanyard Community Centre
- Thursday 29 9.30am Mums The Word: The Ark
Ark Café: CLOSED TODAY