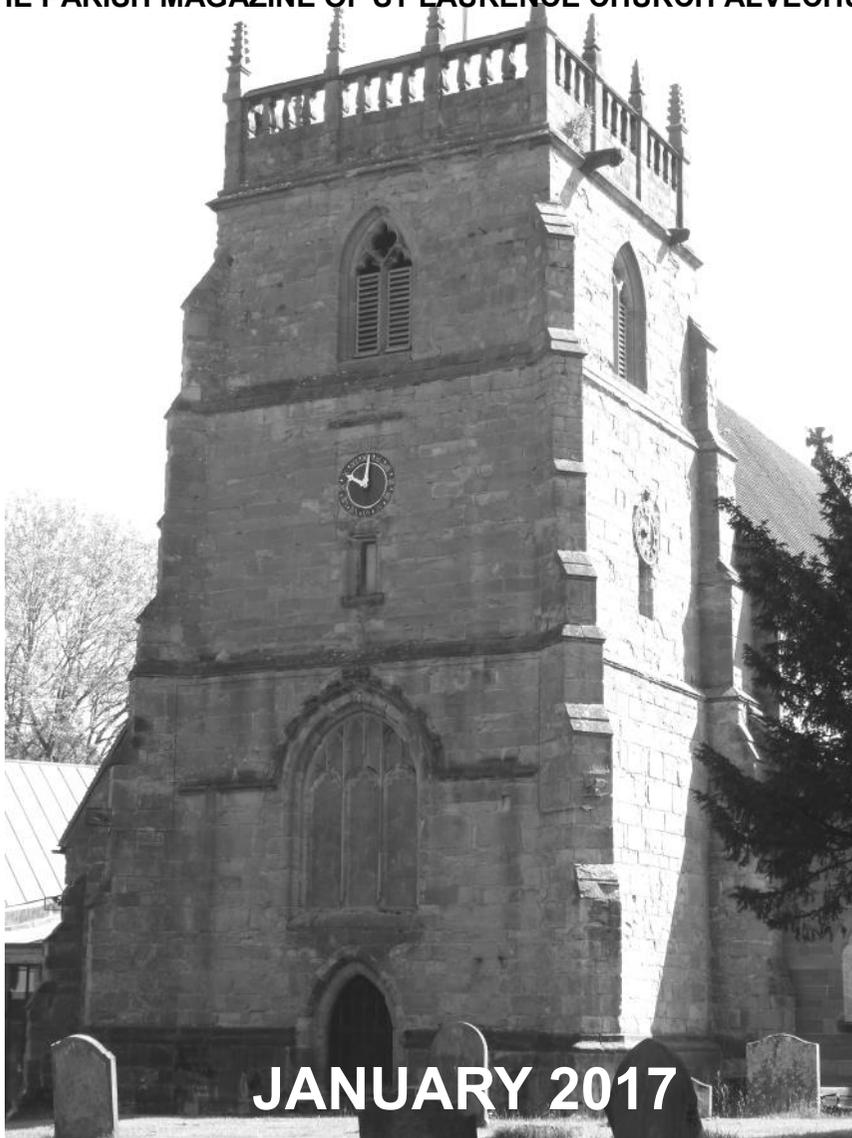


The Grapevine

THE PARISH MAGAZINE OF ST LAURENCE CHURCH ALVECHURCH



JANUARY 2017

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

At Rowney Green Shared Church

9.30am Methodist/Anglican Service

with Holy Communion on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month

DAILY SERVICE

9.00am Monday to Friday In St Laurence Church

ORGANISATIONS

Sunday Club	Sundays at 9.30am in the Church and Ark (445 1854)
Choir	Thursdays at 7.45pm in Church (445 3569)
Bellringers	Sundays at 10.30am and 5.30pm 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 at 9.30am in The Ark (07792535661) 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

Richard Bubbers writes.. Have a restful, not restless, New Year

Recently I heard a speaker who has spent his academic life writing on how to add value to business, reflecting on the current political and economic climate in which we are living. The result of our referendum and the election of America's President-elect, apart from other events going on in Europe and other parts of the world, were seen as symptoms of something broader and deeper: there is a feeling on the part of many that life has become more complex, more volatile and more uncertain, along with a loss of control and a feeling of powerlessness. There can be an almost overwhelming sense of unceasing change.

This can be seen almost wherever we look – politically, economically, ecologically, socially, technologically. We are ever increasingly aware of growing issues around the global economy, the environment, the virtual world and threats from extremism.

It is as if we are on a sea of continuous change, and we cannot find a shore where we can rest, while all the time we are being buffeted by a continuous succession of high waves.

If ever there is a good time to reflect on priorities and what is really important, it would seem to be at the start of this New Year. Is it right just to work even harder, or should we make it a priority to be able to switch off from the busyness of life?

There is neuroscience research which provides evidence of the importance for us, as human beings, of having "downtime". The analytical part of our brain (the left hemisphere of our brain) has three main ways of working: focusing, multitasking and "downtime" – you could say downtime is what we do when we are not focusing and multitasking. If we are not able to have such downtime or rest from the other exertions of the left brain, over time we will not only be less productive but also less creative. It is as if our brain needs time to regroup and reorganise itself if it is to continue giving of its best and engaging well with the

world around us.

In a remarkable way, this is in line with the ancient wisdom enshrined near the beginning of the Judaeo-Christian tradition. The God who rescued the Hebrew people from the slavery of Pharaoh in Egypt, wanted them to understand that he was very different from the gods of Pharaoh they had experienced in Egypt.

The experience as slaves in Egypt was of endless production of more bricks, which could be used along with their slave labour for the building of more "store cities" in which Pharaoh could store his endless supply of material wealth in the form of grain (Exodus 1.11). Because the system was designed to produce more and more surplus (see Genesis 47.13 – 26), there was always more need for storage units which in turn generated more need for the bricks with which to construct them. Thus there was a real link between the endless work required from the slaves, with the surplus wealth which was produced and seen as a gift of the gods of Pharaoh.

In this system, there was no room for any Sabbath rest. The economy reflected the splendour of the gods who legitimated the entire system - and the cheap labour was an indispensable requirement. Thus prior to the giving of the 10 Commandments the Hebrew people lived in a "no Sabbath" environment, and were completely caught up in a commitment to the grind of endless production.

Into this system of hopeless weariness erupts the God of the burning bush (Exodus 3.1 – 6). That God heard the despairing fatigue of the slaves, resolved to liberate the people from slavery, and recruited Moses for the human task of freeing them. "Let my people go!" (Exodus 5.1) is the message which God gave to Moses for Pharaoh. After rescuing the people of Israel, in the desert God gave the Ten Commandments, the fourth of which for Sabbath rest showed that the people of Israel were released from the insatiable production quotas of Egypt and its gods.

**ACCUO ACCOUNTING
LIMITED**

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
AND REGISTERED AUDITOR
40 BEAR HILL, ALVECHURCH

TELEPHONE 0121 445 2445

Email: david@accuo.co.uk

Website: www.accuo.co.uk

*We offer a comprehensive service
including book-keeping, payroll,
VAT, accounts and taxation for sole
traders, partnerships, charities and
limited companies.*

Contact David or Susan Seeley to
discuss how we can help you.

Registered to carry out Audit work by
the Institute of Chartered
Accountants in England & Wales

**THOMAS
BROTHERS**

Funeral Directors

Prepayment Plan,

Private Chapels,

"Woodland Burial"

24 hour Personal Service

*A family-owned funeral directors
offering a friendly, dignified service,
paying attention to detail.*

12A Red Lion Street
Alvechurch B48 7LF
0121 445 3422
S.A.I.F.

A. Pullen

• MEMORIALS •

Additional Inscriptions
& Renovations



**All Work
is to the
Highest
Standard**

BRAMM

Showroom and Workshop
338 Alcester Road, Burcot,
Bromsgrove B60 1BH
Tel: (01527) 876200
07710976744

The Sabbath rest of God is the acknowledgement that God's people in the world are not commodities to be dispatched for endless production. God is revealed as the God of restfulness, in contrast to the gods of Egypt who were about restlessness.

Jesus follows on in this tradition, in the context of the occupying Roman Empire and its gods. Jesus offers this alternative: "*come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest* (Matthew 11.28)."

In our day, we too have a choice of restlessness or restfulness. The reality of restlessness in our contemporary society is obvious, as referred to at the beginning of this editorial. There is an endless pursuit of greater security and greater happiness, a pursuit which is always unsatisfied, because we never have got or done enough..... yet. The "*other gods*" of this system are the gods of market ideology that summon to endless desires and needs that are never met but that always require yet greater effort.

Perhaps this New Year will give us fresh opportunity to reflect on making more time than previously for Sabbath rest. The key thing is not precisely when we have the rest – for many now Sunday itself is a working day: the important thing is to have that quality of rest at some time during the week. Also, this is not about legalistic restrictions and life-denying practices, but about life-affirming freedom and what is personally restorative for you – freedom from what you usually do in the rest of your week, and the opportunity to be more restful and not just restless.

St Laurence

Women's Fellowship

Jill Woolley writes...



We wish everyone a happy, healthy, and peaceful New Year.

We begin our meetings in 2017 on January 25th when we go travelling with Ann Davenport a courier from Johnson's coaches.

On February 22nd we welcome Tony Breden the Music Man who will entertain us with well known songs.

Come along and join us in The Tanyard Centre at 2pm for a warm welcome and tea and biscuits.

Sacred Space

Sue Brotherton writes...

The services at St Laurence on the fourth Sunday of the month in the evening at 6 PM are called Sacred Space, and are a really lovely way to finish the day and help you to cope with the week ahead.

The last Sacred Space service in November was a "*Service of Lament*", and this highlighted that Christmas is not always a happy time for everyone for one reason or another.

It was a lovely service led by Revd Richard Bubbers, and as I was walking home, and during the day after, the words that came to my mind whilst thinking about the service were comforting, calming, peaceful, gentle, reflective and thoughtful.

I really can recommend these monthly services, even if you do not come to church regularly, but feel you would like a bit of an uplift in a space with some quiet and reflection: this could be just for you.

Some Tips For Your Relationships In The Year Ahead...

It is what we do with our solitude that makes us fit for company.

- CS Lewis

Friendship flourishes at the fountain of forgiveness. - William A Ward

There is nothing stronger than gentleness.

Our days are happier when we give people a bit of our heart rather than a piece of our mind.

Speak your kind words soon, for you never know how soon it will be too late.

(Source Parish Pump subscription)

"Rectory Cottage Bed and Breakfast" **Old Rectory Lane,** **Alvechurch**

offers
warm and welcoming accommodation,
with super breakfasts and attractive,
spacious bedrooms.



Contact Celia on
0121 445 4824, or visit our website
[www. rectorycottage-alvechurch.co.uk](http://www.rectorycottage-alvechurch.co.uk)

WHERE NEXT **ASSOCIATION**

Garden Centre

Opening hours

Mon-Fri 9 to 5, Sat 10 to 4

Woodwork

Packing / assembly

Landscaping / maintenance

Support your local charity which offers people
with special needs the opportunity to
experience the real world of work.

Wellesbourne Close
Easemore Road, Redditch
B98 8ER
01527 69955



KenDry

**Eco-Friendly Carpet
Cleaning That
Doesn't Cost The Earth**

**Ken Wainwright
of
Alvechurch**

0121 445 4247

www.kendry.co.uk

GARDEN MAINTENANCE SERVICE

Semi-retired commercial grower of bedding plants, shrubs & climbers for 35 years.

Looking for work within the Parish for a low cost approach.

**PLEASE PHONE TONY
THE PLANT MAN
ON
07881527117 (ANY TIME)
01527 63375 (AFTER DUSK)**



THE LAWNS
RESIDENTIAL CARE

Exceptional quality accommodation for senior adults and the elderly.

24 hour care from professional, caring staff.

All set within beautiful gardens and terraces.

School Lane, Alvechurch, B48 7SB
Tel: 0121 445 4098
Fax: 0121 445 4544
www.thelawnscare.co.uk

Kathryn Collinson

BA Hons, BEd Hons, ALCM

Lessons
from
20 minutes
to
1 hour



Music tuition – All Styles

- Classical, Bass and Electric Guitar
- Piano and Keyboard
- For exams or just for fun

Maths and English Tuition

- SATS / confidence building
- Special needs
- Ages from 5-11 years

Tel: 0121 445 3523

Parish Prayers

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



1 January - Altheston Close
8 January - Alvechurch Road
15 January - Aqueduct Lane
22 January - Ash Lane
29 January - Bear Hill

Women's World Day of Prayer

Jill Woolley writes...

The Annual Women's World Day of Prayer service will be held in the Baptist Church on Friday March 3rd 2017 beginning at 1.45pm.

The service has been prepared by the women of the Philippines and members from all four local Churches will be taking part in the great wave of prayer that crosses the world that day. Come and join us women men and children are all welcome.

Hillside at Alvechurch WI

Cathy Taylor writes...

We went to Barnt Green Cricket Club for our Christmas meal 1st December and Jeff and his staff gave us a delicious buffet. Nick Jones, the Singing Vicar, entertained us with a wide range of songs and music and sang many songs requested by members. Nick ended the evening with two carols. It was a very enjoyable evening.

Our first meeting in the New Year will be 4th January, when we will hold a Silent Auction. Members are asked to bring items for the auction including books and CDs and gifts. Visitors are welcome to join us, and there will be time to chat while we enjoy tea and cakes.

Afternoon Tea at Beckett's Farm Restaurant has been arranged on the 17th January, £20 for two including unlimited tea and coffee.

Staying positive!

Here's a test! Who said, "*I dare not marry; the future is so unsettled.*" Was it Olympic multi-medallist Katherine Grainger? Wrong - it was William Wilberforce in 1801. Who said, "*There is scarcely anything about us but ruin and depression.*" Maggie Smith? No - it was William Pitt in 1805. Who said, "*In industry, commerce and agriculture there is no hope.*" Gordon Brown perhaps? No - it was Benjamin Disraeli in 1844.

Life can always seem difficult. But let the Bible help! Deuteronomy 33:25 serves as a golden Bible promise for believers facing the unknown: '*As your days,*' declared Moses, '*so shall your strength be.*' Here's a promise for New Year: More days - more strength!

Think now of the terrain that would test God's ancient people, there on the borders of the Promised Land. First, they would face:

THE ENDURING HIGHWAY

Before the ancient people of God, there lay many scary adventures - but they were to see the way ahead as God's appointed path. For us today, 'the highway' is a portrayal of the lifelong discipleship of the Christian believer. Think prayerfully about 2017! Then there was also:

THE ACCOMPANYING ROCK

In Deuteronomy 32, Moses

had described the Lord as '*the Rock of salvation*' - contrasting Israel's faith with the empty rituals of the godless society: '*For their rock is not as our Rock, as even as our enemies concede.*'

Against the surrounding rocks of idolatry and superstition stood Israel's Rock of Creation, the rock face of the Ten Commandments - and the abiding love by which God was pledged to His people. Later, Paul declared that the Rock accompanying God's people - is Christ himself (1 Corinthians 10: 4).

Here's a third piece of terrain awaiting us!

THE BECKONING LAND

Moses could see it from afar - the Land of Promise. For the Christian of today '*The Land*' stands for salvation itself - with sins covered, the promise of a new inner power, the presence every day of Jesus - and assurance of life in the hereafter. In the words of hymn-writer, Isaac Watts:

If we could climb where Moses stood, and fear that view no more; Nor Jordan's stream nor death's cold flood would keep us from that shore.

Stay with the pace, then; More days, more strength!

(Source Parish Pump subscription)

THE ARK

for
**PARTIES
WEDDINGS
MEETINGS**
and much more

Call - Ian Price
0121 447 7955

E-mail -

thearkalvechurch@yahoo.co.uk

Spring View Care Nursing Home



Spring View Care provides small homely nursing home where our residents are at the heart of everything. We aim to provide nursing homes where we ourselves would be happy to stay.

We operate two high quality Nursing Homes:

- 1: Grosvenor House in Alvechurch
- 2: Tutnall Hall in Bromsgrove

To arrange a visit call

Tel: 0121 445 0033

www.springviewcare.co.uk

Do you need a Helping Hand?

Our local care team has been providing award winning quality homecare since 1989.

We offer a homecare service from **30 minutes per week to full-time Live-in Care**, which enables you or your loved one to remain at home with compassion and dignity.

To find out how we can help, call: 01527 810 889 or visit: www.helpinghands.co.uk

J & D Mason

OPTICIANS

Providing Quality Eyecare
For Over 30 Years

Selected Designer Frames
HALF PRICE

23 The Square
Alvechurch
B48 7LA
0121 447 8682

Huntleys Funeral Services

A life well remembered lives on. A funeral is a time to say goodbye and to remember the life of a person you love. It's our privilege to be at your side. Visit us at www.huntleysfunerals.co.uk

Redditch
58 Ipsley Street
01527 62106



Funeral Partners
funeralpartners.co.uk



Burcot Grange Residential Care Setting for the Elderly

A unique blend of luxury country house living and quality forward thinking care. Burcot Grange is the perfect place for retirement living.

Long term care

Individually designed independent living suites

Short stay convalescent and holiday accommodation

For more information or to arrange a visit go to www.burcotgrange.com
Burcot Grange, 23 Greenhill, Burcot, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire, B60 1BJ.
0121 445 5552 admin@burcotgrange.com

The Ark Café



Happy New Year to all our customers and as we start a new year at the Ark Cafe we look forward to your continued support in 2017.

We hope you all enjoyed the Christmas Lunches in December.

The forthcoming menu for January will be as follows:

January 12th - Somerset Chicken

January 19th - Roast Lamb

January 26th - Roast Pork

We look forward to seeing you all on 12th January.

Rowney Green Flower Club

Celia Hitch writes...

Rowney Green Flower Club are meeting at The Ark, St Laurence Church, Alvechurch for a lovely lunch on Thursday 28th January. We will get there 12.15pm or a bit before that, and enjoy one of their home cooked, delicious meals. The puds are great too, and if you don't want a cooked meal there are sandwiches and salad available. Please let us know if you would like to join us, - Clare Kenny, Secretary on 01527 66071, - so that we can give the kitchen staff notice of about how many hot meals we require.

Our February flower demo re-commences on Thursday evening, 25th February, at The Peace Hall, Rowney Green. Our demonstrator will start at 7.45pm. Come and join us. Seasons Greetings to you all.

Churches Together Social Evening in Alvechurch Baptist Church at 7pm on Friday 20th January: Ben-Hur (2016 film)

Churches Together in Alvechurch and Rowney Green (CTARG) will be holding its annual social event on Friday 20th January at 7pm in Alvechurch Baptist Church: there will be the opportunity to see 2016's remake of the classic film "Ben-Hur". This is the epic story of Judah Ben-Hur, a prince falsely accused of treason by his adopted brother Messala, an officer in the Roman army. Stripped of his title, separated from his family and the woman he loves, Judah is forced into slavery. After years at sea, Judah returns to his homeland to seek revenge, but an encounter with Jesus leads him to the Crucifixion, where he discovers forgiveness and finds redemption.

Rowney Green Horticultural Society

Lindsay Smith writes...

We meet at the Peace Hall on the second Thursday of each month at 7.30 pm. The meeting on 12th January 2017 our guest speaker will be Phil Aubury, former director of Birmingham Botanical Gardens and his subject will be "No Plot - No Problem". Guests are always welcome - £3.50 including refreshments. For more information please contact Lindsay Smith on 01527 592874.

On behalf of Rowney Green Horticultural Society may we wish everyone at The Grapevine a very Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year!!

Alvechurch Historical Society

Hilary Taylor writes...

OUR PROGRAMME FOR 2017

There will be no meeting in January, and our 2017 programme begins with the AGM in February. From March we have a series of monthly talks on a wide variety of historical topics.

FUTURE DATES

Monday 6th February

AGM followed by "Members' Memorabilia"

An opportunity to share small items of historical interest with other members of the society.

Monday 6th March

"The Dig for Victory Campaign"

Ron Gallivan, of the Mercian Military History Society. In this talk Ron will explain how the campaign played a large part in creating the incredible British wartime spirit that got us through those dark years.

AHS meetings are held on the first Monday of the month, at 7.45pm, in the museum on School Lane. Parking is available behind the Catholic Church, with their kind permission.

New faces are always welcome, just come along, or contact our chairman, Anne Humphries on 0121 445 5955.

James Giles & Sons

A FAMILY OWNED FUNERAL DIRECTORS
ESTABLISHED 1916

Serving all communities
with dignity and
understanding

- Private Chapel of Rest
- Day and Night Service
- Woodland Burial
- Golden Charter and Help the Aged Funeral Plans
- Catering and Floral Tributes

Telephone 01527 872318
24 Stourbridge Road
Bromsgrove, Worcs, B61 0AE



- Letterheads
- Brochures
- Business cards
- Pull up Banners
- Flyers
- Envelopes

Full Design
& Print
Service

www.positive-print.co.uk
Email: sales@positive-print.co.uk

0121 459 3454

26 Castle Road, Kings Norton Business Centre
Birmingham B30 3HZ

The Answer's Yes!

Your local
ELECTRICIAN

- Fault Finding/ Repairs
- Extra Lights and Sockets
- New Fuse Boards
- Rewires
- Landlord Inspections
- Qualified Electrician
- Free Quotes
- Fully Insured
- Tidy Work
- Reliable Service
- Satisfaction Guaranteed

Call Nat on:
01527 878316 or 07791 923459

www.njmelectrical.com
WE ACCEPT DEBIT AND CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS

Letter from The Archdeacon of Dudley

It is the time for new year's resolutions again. I wonder if you have made any, and whether if so, they have been broken already! Last year I resolved to lose weight, regain my fitness, and train to run a 10k, which I hadn't done for a few years. I'm proud to say I did it! As the pounds fell off, I completed the Worcester City 10k in September, and knocked seven whole minutes off my personal best. An enjoyable achievement, but one for which I had to work very, very hard.

Resolutions about health and exercise are good to make and keep, but even more important is maintaining our spiritual health, our journey of discipleship. In the letter to the Hebrews we read, "*.... let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.*" (Hebrews 12:1-2).

Just as we can only run a physical 10k if we train for it, we can only run the race set before us spiritually if we exercise spiritual discipline. The new year is a good time for a spiritual health check, and an opportunity to resolve to build some good training patterns.

To strengthen our discipleship muscles, we may wish to commit to reading a Bible passage each day, and meditating on it, using notes, a commentary, or one of the wide range of apps now available. We might try a new pattern of prayer – perhaps lighting a candle for an allocated time each day in a regular place, creating space to encounter God, or booking in a quiet day or retreat at Mucknell Abbey or Glasshampton Monastery. It might even be a good time to find a *'training partner'* with whom you can pray, or join a group in your church seeking to grow together.

In this season of new beginnings, let's commit to run our race with perseverance, knowing we have Jesus as our coach and Personal Trainer.

Wed In Red



On Saturday 29th October, Kelly Chiang and Simon James Head were married at St Laurence Church by Peter Holzapfel who according to many guests, gave a highly entertaining and thought provoking service. The church was beautifully decorated in autumnal floral arrangements from the *'Alvechurch flower fairies'*.

Dressed in red, the bride was accompanied down the aisle by her father, Chit Wai followed by three sister bridesmaids (Elaine, Fiona and Jenny) and two flower girls (Sienna and Izabella - both god-daughters of the bride and groom).

The groom was supported by his best man, Richard, a friend from t'up North. Simon's brother Martin and close friends Daniel and Thomas Tennant were excellent ushers.

Readings were given by Simon's mum, Christine, and Aga Tennant (mum of Thomas and Izabella) and the signing of the register was witnessed by Simon's dad, Mike, and Kelly's mum, Karen. All-in-all this was certainly a complete family affair!

Following the service, the reception was held at Redhouse Barn in Stoke Prior.

Simon and Kelly would like to thank all those involved in helping them organise this important day in their lives. They are currently eating oodles of noodles in Japan.

'A Disorder for everyone! – exploring the culture of psychiatric diagnosis'

Sue Brotherton writes...

I went to this day workshop in the Ark on 15th October with no idea what to expect or even if I would understand a word.

But the title intrigued me because I think we all have '*disorders*' of some sort or another.

As far as I could gather nearly everyone there seemed to be counsellors. They were all very friendly and I certainly didn't feel out of place.

The day started with Jo McFarlane reading some of her inspirational poems which are all in a book called "*Stigma and Stones*". Lucy Johnstone, Clinical Psychologist, then spoke about her view that being labelled with psychiatric diagnoses and treated with medication, does not, in most cases, help and could even sometimes make the problem worse. We should ask people 'what has happened to you?' and then listen with understanding and compassion. This seemed a much better way to me.

We then had a lovely lunch and in the afternoon there was a workshop exploring '*formulation*' with fictitious clients. I didn't really feel I could contribute much to this but it was very interesting listening to others in my group. Lucy then answered questions.

The day came to an end with a spoken word performance by Jasmine Gardosi which was very inspirational.

The day was really well presented and organised by Jo Watson and I would certainly recommend any one who is interested to go if there is another one in our area.

Alvechurch WI

Pam Horsfield writes...

Denise, the committee and all the members of Alvechurch WI would like to wish you a Happy Christmas and a peaceful and healthy new year.

Despite not yet having had our annual Christmas Party at the time of going to print, we know that we'll have an excellent evening at Barnt Green Cricket Club with Geoff and all his helpers to look after us. Not only that, but we'll also have our own entertainers to give us a laugh and help us sing carols.

We are also looking forward to taking part in the Baptist Christmas Tree Festival between the 11th - 18th as it was a beautiful experience last year.

We would like to thank Worcester Federation for arranging the shopping trip to Bristol and also Ark Angels for the Group Meeting with Prue Leith which many of us thoroughly enjoyed.

We look forward to 2017 and our first meeting will be on Monday January 9th at 7:30pm in the Village Hall. This is when we have our Silent Auction and we have time to meet and greet one another after the family festivities. Non members are very welcome to join us for the evening.

Kids Corner



Positive affirmations—God loves you so love yourself!

IAMACHILDOFGOD
IAMAGOODCOOK
IAMAGOODDAUGHTER
IAMAGOODFRIEND
IAMAGOODLISTENER
IAMAGOODMOTHER
IAMAGOODTEACHER
IAMAGOODWIFE
IAMAHARDWORKER
IAMBEAUTIFUL
IAMCREATIVE
IAMFUNNY
IAMGENTLE
IAMHONORABLE
IAMJOYFUL
IAMLOVING
IAMLOYAL
IAMPEACEFUL
IAMPOSITIVE
IAMPREPARED
IAMRATIONAL
IAMRESPONSIBLE
IAMSMART
IAMTRUSTWORTHY

I I A M R E S P O N S I B L E U N V J E
D O G F O D L I H C A M A I Y R L M F L
E E I A M A G O O D T E A C H E R V H T
I R A A O R E E X I N K I T D S E G M N
A I M V M L X R V T A M W Y Z F Q Y F E
M A A K W A F J B I Z M N O I J H W D G
A M G S L N G N I F T N L W N T N E X M
G A O D U O S O N A U I D O R C R I U A
O H O E F I G U O F M O S O Y A F I D I
O A D I I T R N M D O C W O P A I G A A
D R L A T A M A I G D T R E P A L M B M
F D I M U R I A A V S A R E M M A U J H
R W S P A M V M L U O P U S A G A X V O
I O T E E A A X R Y M L M G O T G I Q N
E R E A B I X T C A H A M O H W I Y G O
N K N C M K M Y I T R D D A G T O V E R
D E E E A A N E N T J C W K I L E F E A
I R R F I A M A G O O D M O T H E R Z B
T I R U J K Y S I O R T A C N G M I R L
U O F L B D L G K I A M J O Y F U L T E



I WAKE UP everyday
with a smile
because I know I have
something to be
thankful for.

Obituary

Brian Shephard

29/11/42 – 3/11/16



Brian was born in Matlock Derbyshire where his mother had been evacuated during the second world war. His father was killed in action and the family returned to Birmingham where life was hard for his mother who was a single parent looking after Brian and his 3 brothers.

Brian married his first wife Gill in 1962 and moved to Cannock. Although trained as a painter and decorator, Brian worked as a delivery driver serving bread and cakes with his usual cheerful smile.

He had 3 children namely Deborah, Beverley and Christian but sadly his marriage ended in divorce and he moved back to Birmingham. He met his second wife Mary in 1982 and they married in 1984. He became step father to Penny and Mark and from that point looked on them as his own children.

He was an amazing man who had a real love of life. Although self-taught, his DIY skills were second to none and he was never happier than when mulling over the best way to tackle one of his many projects.

But it was in his garden where Brian really excelled. His artistic eye coupled with his green fingers meant that wherever he lived, his garden was a joy to behold.

He lived life to the full and loved the thrill of travelling to far flung places particularly India where he had a deep affinity.

After retiring from his job as an HGV driver, Brian spent most of his time doing jobs for the family and from the grandchildren came

the nickname “*Jobby*”. When he and Mary moved to Alvechurch in 2013 to be nearer the children the name just stuck and many people in the village just knew him as “*Jobby*” and never queried that he might have a “*proper*” name!

He was a man of his generation with a strong work ethic, a suspicion of anything to do with technology, and a deep love of family.

His world was shattered when his beloved grandson Finlay was diagnosed with a brain tumour in 2014 and he worked tirelessly supporting Fin’s parents and doing everything he could to help raise money for Brain Tumour Research. When Fin lost his battle in November 2015 a light went out in Brian’s life and he was unable to come to terms with what he felt was the injustice of Fin being taken at such a young age.

There was an amazing turn out of family and friends at his funeral which was held at St Laurence Church on Tuesday November 29th which would have been Brian’s 74th birthday. The service was taken by the Rev Fiona Lee who has been such a wonderful and constant source of comfort and support to the family throughout this painful year.

The coffin was carried in by his son, his son in law, his step son and his 3 eldest grandsons. Eulogies were read by his wife Mary and all of his children and stepchildren.

It was fitting that following the service, everyone met at the Dilshad Indian restaurant in the village which was Brian’s favourite eatery!

Brian was a wonderful man who was very much loved by many and his passing leaves an enormous hole in the hearts and lives of his family.

Brian has been buried in the graveyard at St Laurence just a few feet away from Finlay. Reunited at last.

Flowers for JANUARY

	1st Jan	8th Jan	15th Jan	22nd Jan	29th Jan
Sanctuary			Lynda Wolstencroft		
Lady Chapel			Lynda Wolstencroft		
			In memory of her father Ken Broadway		

I do hope you all have had a very happy and blessed Christmas.

I would love to welcome some new ladies, children or gentlemen? to help with providing and arranging flowers in church. If you have never arranged flowers in church before I am very happy to offer some guidance. I have a variety of vases and plenty of equipment and arrangements can be as simple or elaborate as you are able. Please think about whether you could assist me in this pleasurable task. Thank you and wishing you all a very happy new year.

Ann Thurrell
0121 447 7668

From The Registers



Baptisms

We welcome you into the Lord's family

November 27 Sebastian Wolstencroft-Hall

November 27 Viola Tess Hartland



Funerals and Cremations

May they rest in the peace of Christ

November 24 Susan Higgs

November 29 Brian Shephard

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
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 Mrs Lynne 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 Ms Gloria Wilson, 11 Bear Hill Drive, 445 1854
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
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 Natalie Wise, 07792535661
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

Task Committee

Mick Fletcher	Dick Russell
Graham Clark	Sue Phillips

Peru and Missionary Committee

Sue Phillips	Dick Russell
Gordon Parsons	Margaret Haste
Sally Bubbers	

Calendar for JANUARY



- Wednesday 4 7.30pm Hillside WI: Silent Auction: The Ark: Visitors very welcome
- Thursday 5 9.30am Mums The Word: The Ark
- Monday 9 1.45pm Forget-Me-Nots: The Ark
7.30pm Alvechurch WI: Silent Auction: Alvechurch Village Hall
- Thursday 12 9.30am Mums The Word: The Ark
12.15pm Ark Café RESTARTS: Somerset Chicken
7.30pm Rowney Green Horticultural Society: Talk by Phil Aubury, former
director of Birmingham Botanical Gardens: Peace Hall, Rowney G
- Saturday 14 FEBRUARY GRAPEVINE GOES TO PRESS**
articles to thearkalvechurch@yahoo.co.uk
- Thursday 19 9.30am Mums The Word: The Ark
12.15pm Ark Café: Roast Lamb
- Friday 20 7.00pm Churches Together Social Evening: Screening of the 2016 remake
of Ben-Hur: Alvechurch Baptist Hall
- Monday 23 1.45pm Forget-Me-Nots: The Ark
- Wednesday 25 2.00pm St Laurence Women's Fellowship: with Ann Davenport a courier
from Johnson's coaches: Tanyard Centre, Alvechurch
- Thursday 26 9.30am Mums The Word: The Ark
12.15pm Ark Café: Roast Pork



ADVANCED NOTICE

The Midland Sinfonia Quiz & Supper evening

Saturday 4 February 2017 at 7.30pm
The Ark, St. Laurence Church, Alvechurch



The Midland Sinfonia's annual fundraiser – an entertaining general knowledge quiz plus fish and chips. Teams of up to six with singles accommodated. A great fun evening that has become an annual event not to be missed.

£8.50 pp to include fish & chip supper. Usual bar available or corkage payable.
Booking essential: midlandsinfonia@gmail.com Tel: 0121 447 7040 | 07889 147 861