

The Grapevine

THE PARISH MAGAZINE OF ST LAURENCE CHURCH ALVECHURCH



APRIL 2015

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 2nd and 4th 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 1st 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)

THE ARK

Enquiries to Ian Price 0121 447 7955

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Rev Richard Bubbers Writes...

Who do you want to vote for on 7 May?

Later in this edition of Grapevine you will see a report on the pastoral letter which has been issued by the Bishops of the Church of England, entitled "*Who is my neighbour?*" But why have they bothered to do this, and, more specifically, why is this important?

We are living in a nation with many disaffected voters. The last three elections have seen the lowest turnout in living memory, and, despite the long run-up because of the fixed term parliament, there is no indication that 2015 will be any different. This is all in the context of a possible hung parliament, with no party having an overall majority, and the continuing ramifications of the Scottish independence referendum. Many may be tempted to follow the advice of Russell Brand and not vote.

But for Christians hopelessness and despair is not something which we subscribe to, and the purpose of the Bishops' letter to the people and parishes of the Church of England is to encourage participation through a bigger vision of society. The bishops note how both the Labour government of 1945 and then the Thatcher government from 1979 "*changed the political weather.*" But neither of these transformative ideologies – either establishing a welfare state or freeing markets from state interference – is enough today, they say, because neither vision

addresses where we are now. If we put our faith in either state interference on the one hand or the free market on the other, this will not move us forward and may simply reduce us to a series of narrow interest groups, and will not help build up the common good. If we do not seek to build up the common good, we will be left with sterile arguments about who might manage the existing system best. If we want a change for the better, we cannot simply follow our own narrow self-interests.

The bishops defend the right of the Church to enter into the political arena: it is not possible to separate the way a person perceives his or her place in the world from their beliefs, religious or otherwise, about how the world's affairs should be arranged. A living, growing Christian faith affects the whole of our lives – mind, body and spirit – and not just when we are on our own or worshipping in church. Would it not feel rather shallow if our beliefs and spiritual life in no way affected our character and behaviour? Also the Church of England, unlike many organisations, has a presence in every community across England, and it remains one of the primary agents of social action and social care in parishes across the country.

May the bishops' contributions – and the hustings on Friday, 17 April at 7.30 pm at Alvechurch Baptist Church in Red Lion Street, Alvechurch – help each one of us to consider how best we may use our vote responsibly on 7 May, even if it may have to be a vote for something less than a vision which inspires us.

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General Election 2015 - Who is my neighbour?

Whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

Philippians 4:8

A Letter from the Church of England House of Bishops to the People and Parishes of the Church of England for the General Election 2015

encourages Churches and individual Christians to participate fully in the forthcoming election on May 7th.

<https://www.churchofengland.org/media/2170230/whoismyneighbour-pages.pdf>

And, as the Church of England strives to be a church which seeks the good of all the people of the country, they hope that others, who may not profess church allegiance, will nevertheless join in the conversation and engage with the ideas they are sharing.

The letter explains that Anglicans do not have a single view on which political party has the best mix of answers to today's problems. If anyone claims that the letter is "really" saying "Vote for this party or that party", they have misunderstood it.

However, it warns that unless we exercise the democratic rights that our ancestors struggled for, we will share responsibility for the failures of the political classes. *'It is the duty of every Christian adult to vote, even though it may have to be a vote for something less than a vision that inspires us.'*

The bishops support policies which respect the natural environment, enhance human dignity and honour the image of God in our neighbour. The privileges of living in a democracy mean that we should use our votes thoughtfully, prayerfully, and with the good of others in mind, not just our own interests. Pursuing the common good is a Christian obligation and is expressed in how we approach our role as voters as much as in our personal priorities.

The bishops encourage all voters to support candidates and policies which demonstrate the following key values:

- Halting and reversing the accumulation of power and wealth in fewer and fewer hands, whether those of the state, corporations or individuals.
- Involving people at a deeper level in the decisions that affect them most.
- Recognising the distinctive communities, whether defined by geography, religion or culture, which make up the nation and enabling all to thrive and participate together.
- Treating the electorate as people with roots, commitments and traditions and addressing us all in terms of the common good and not just as self-interested consumers.
- Demonstrating that the weak, the dependent, the sick, the aged and the vulnerable are persons of equal value to everybody else.
- Offering the electorate a grown up debate about Britain's place in the world order and the possibilities and obligations that entails.

If you are not registered to vote you can now do so online by Monday 20th April at <http://www.parliament.uk/get-involved/elections/register/> by Monday 20th April.

If you would like to help question our local candidates on some of these issues, the hustings is on Friday, 17 April at 7.30 pm at Alvechurch Baptist Church in Red Lion Street, Alvechurch.

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Parish Prayers

Prayers will be said at St Laurence Church
for the following roads in the parish.

Sunday 5th April – The Square
Sunday 12th April – Tranter Avenue
Sunday 19th April – Warbank Close
Sunday 26th April – Washhills Lane



The Ark Café

We re-open again after the Easter
break on Thursday, 16th April and
we look forward to your continued
support.



Our menu for the next four weeks is as follows:

April 16th Roast Pork

April 23rd Somerset Chicken

April 30th Roast Lamb

May 7th Election Day Turkey Lunch - Ticket Only
see full details in the article below.

Election Turkey Lunch



As you are probably aware May 7th is an important day in
our calendar as it is the date of our General Election, so in
order to complement this day, we are holding a special
'Election Turkey Lunch' on Thursday, 7th May at 12.30pm in
the Ark.

It will be a three course meal and tickets will cost £10 and
are available from Ian Price at the Ark Mon-Fri 9am-2pm 447
7955 or on a Thursday lunchtime at the Ark.

We hope you will be able to support building this event and it will
include the usual raffle.

Alvechurch Historical Society

At our most recent meeting Ron Gallivan made a welcome return visit to tell us about a British government campaign, known as the victory harvests, which ran from 1939 – 1954. It aimed to supply home-grown, unrationed, basic foods for people and farm animals. Three crops were cultivated; wheat, potatoes and sugar beet. It was a carefully planned and successful campaign which made a huge contribution to preventing starvation in Britain during and just after, the second world war.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 7 April 2015, this is a change from our usual day as the first Monday in April falls on Easter weekend. Nigel Gilbert will be telling us about three generations of the Stretton family, in a talk entitled “Three Doctors Stretton: the History of Kidderminster Hospital 1856 – 1952”.

We meet at the Museum, School Lane at 7.45pm. There is plenty of parking behind the Catholic Church, with their permission. New faces are always welcome, just come along or contact our chairman, Anne Humphries on 0121 445 5955.

70th Anniversary of VE Day *Weekend at St.Philip’s, Webheath*

To mark the 70th anniversary of the Second World War there will be an exhibition at St. Philip’s Church, Church Road, B97 5PD, May 8th-10th. There will be a display using models, displays and photographs showing events which took place between 1939-1945 on land, at sea and in the air, for example the D Day Landings; the Dambusters raid (with a Redditch connection); the Battle of the Bulge; Pearl Harbour and the Battle of Britain. The exhibition will also portray how Redditch contributed to the war effort, when the Blitz came to Redditch in 1940 and how the town celebrated the end of the war with photos of street parties and victory parades. On VE Day Friday 8th May there will be a film evening showing war time films of that era. Please come and support this event.

Opening times: May 8th 11am-7pm (Film evening from 7.30pm)

May 9th 9.30am-5pm

May 10th 12.30pm- 5pm

Admission is free. Donations in aid of St. Philip’s Building Extension Fund and the Organ Fund.

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Chris Hims Remembered 40 Years On

The life of Chris Hims, who was one of our bellringers in the late 60's and early 70's was tragically cut short when he died in a road accident in the town on January 25th, 1975. Close to the 40th anniversary date, eight of his bellringing friends from all over the country gathered at Studley Church to ring a thanksgiving and memorial peal of 5040 changes of Stedman Triples. Before the peal, four of them met in St Laurence churchyard to ring handbells at his graveside. Members of the band recall their friend.

Martin Kirk of Leicester remembers first meeting Chris when he moved to Leicester in 1971, his long straight hair, dark rimmed specs and his much loved maroon corduroy suit – *“very avante garde for the Cathedral belfry of the 1970s!”*

Martin Whiteley of Somerset remembers first meeting Chris in 1971 in Somerset where they relished the opportunity to ring with experienced ringers on heavy and challenging bells.

Chris Pickford now of Kinver, who grew up with Chris remembers how he helped get him into ringing – and especially into ringing with Geoff and Shirley Drew, then of Bredon and two of the leading lights of the era; of listening to the tales of Geoff Hemming of Evesham and Peter Warren of Pershore, another two of Worcestershire's bellringing legends.

John Pladdys of Cornwall remembers Chris frequently asking direct, inquisitive questions in a manner demanding an answer but not in a way that would offend.

John Harrold of Leicester remembers being dragged to dances where the only thing that would get Chris up on his feet was *“Status Quo”!* And ringing handbells at Chris's *“digs”* in Leicester.

Roger Hunt of Fladbury who also grew up with Chris through bellringing recalls his broad grin and heavy mop of hair continually falling over his bespectacled face and the characteristic flick of his head to clear his vision while bellringing. And the waxed jacket in which he seemed permanently to live sat astride his motorcycle as he visited bellringing practices around the county.

Michael Uphill, of Southwark Cathedral in London, who arranged many of the bellringing tours that the two Chris's and Roger went on, particularly remembers Chris's *“not-quite black country accent”*.

These very personal memories give a flavour of someone who would have become one of the great *“characters”* of bellringing had his life not been so cruelly cut short.

Alvechurch Village Society

Ray Yarnell writes...

The April walk will be at 2.30pm on 12th April and will be "A Dip into Barnt Green" which is another of a series of my favourite local walks. The walk will start At Tanyard Lane car park Alvechurch, and will be led by Tony Armond (0121 445 5071 .

The April evening event will be a joint presentation by The Alvechurch Marina and the Canal Society titled "200 Years of the Canal on your Doorstep" which will be held at 7.45pm on Wednesday 22nd April in the Alvechurch Village Hall. Everyone is most welcome , whether you are an AVS member or not.

Rowney Green Horticultural Society

Rowney Green Horticultural Society meets at the Peace Hall on the second Thursday each month at 7.30 pm. On April 9th our guest speaker will be Andy Humphries, head gardener Wollaston Old Hall and his subject is "Ultimate Garden Plants" - plants with a long flowering period or more than one season of interest.

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

St Laurence Women's Fellowship

At our February meeting Nigel Higgenbottam gave us tips on making a will, appointing power of attorney and estate management.

On April 22nd we will hold our AGM and so begin the 50th year of our Fellowship which was started in 1965 by the Rev. Patrick Blackiston. We will elect our committee and plan events for the year ahead- a special one for us.

We meet on the 4th Wednesday of each month at the Tanyard Centre at 2.00pm; beware of parking restrictions! We have welcomed new members recently so do come and join us.

The Women's World Day of Prayer service was held as always on the first Friday in March. It was well attended. Members of the four Churches in the village took part in the service and some of the children performed a short play. We are grateful to everyone who came along and helped to keep our link in the chain of prayer that crossed the world that day.

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Bellringers Annual Table Top Sale

The Bellringers will be holding their Annual Table Top Sale in the Ark on Saturday, 25th April from 10.30am until 3pm. If you would like to have a table at this event, please contact Karen on 445 4980. The cost will be £5.

Also, if you have any suitable items for the Table Top Sale such as books, jigsaws, pictures, crockery, china or any bric-a-brac, please let any of the Bellringers know, or contact Ian Price at the Ark any weekday mornings on 447 7955.

Alvechurch WI

Alvechurch WI held an excellent meeting this month in the Village Hall. Jackie Stacey expressed our sadness at Pam Smith passing away and several members felt that they would go to her funeral as she had been a member for many years.

Our speaker was Richard Churchley who told us the historic background to several folk songs from around the local counties and Birmingham. As we're a group who love to join in with any singing such as this, both Richard and our members really enjoyed themselves - in fact, we hope to see/hear him again sometime.

As usual we are busy with a variety of trips. The Committee and their helpers had a good annual celebration at Hillers; two groups are going in March visiting Fisher House on the QE site to look around the house and take cakes for the service people in hospital and their families, while in April we're joining with Hopwood, Hillside@Alvechurch and Beoley WI to organise St George's day tea and cakes in the Village Hall on April 23rd. Come and join us between 2:00 - 4:00pm with family and friends, and bring your children when you collect them from school.

Don't forget Picnic in the Park on May 3rd either...Alvechurch WI will have a stall selling all sorts of crafts from buttons and fabrics, to cakes, pickles and jams.
All we need now is a sunny day!

In June and September we are celebrating 100 years of WI so watch this space for more information about what is happening across the country...the world...and of course, Alvechurch and our fellow WIs!!

If you want more information about visiting us on the second Monday in the month at 7:30pm in the Village Hall, either see our board on the wall by the chip shop, or phone Jackie on 07811 618012.



ALVECHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

16 THE SQUARE, ALVECHURCH, B48 7LA

Tel: 0121 447 8016

e-mail – clerk@alvechurch.gov.uk

Clerk - Yvonne Goode

To all voluntary groups in the Parish of Alvechurch

Annual Parish Meeting - As in previous years, you are invited to attend to speak about the activities of your particular group over the last year and to share your plans for the future. This will incorporate the Community Safety meeting (PACT).

The meeting is to be held in Alvechurch School Hall on Monday 20th April 2015, starting at 7.00pm. If there is a specific item you would like on the agenda, please contact the Clerk. We look forward to seeing you.

A FAMILY FUN EVENING with LIVE SONG & DANCE



With
Irene
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Friday 8th May
7–10pm

The Ark, St Laurence Church,
Alvechurch



Family Ticket—£10

Single Ticket—£6



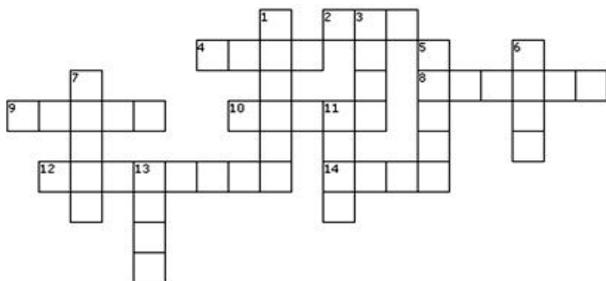
Refreshments available

Tickets available from The Village
Greengrocer (445 2446) or on the
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He is not here. He has risen!

Words taken from John 20:1-18 (NIV)



ACROSS

2. To shed tears
4. The opposite of alive
8. A heavenly being
9. The thing that covered the entrance to Jesus'tomb
10. The color that is the opposite of black
12. A person who takes care of plants and flowers
14. The name of the woman who discovered Jesus' empty tomb

DOWN

1. The male parent
3. Return to an upright position after lying down; to return from the dead
5. The opposite of late
6. A period of seven days
7. An adult female person
11. A place where someone is buried; another name for grave
13. The opposite of light

Words Used

early	angels	gardener	rise
week	white	Mary	dead
dark	woman	tomb	
stone	cry	father	



Easter Jokes



How does the Easter Bunny stay fit?
EGG-xercise and HARE-robics!

Why can't a rabbit's nose be 12 inches long?
Because then it would be a foot!

What did the rabbits do after their wedding?
Went on their bunnymoon!

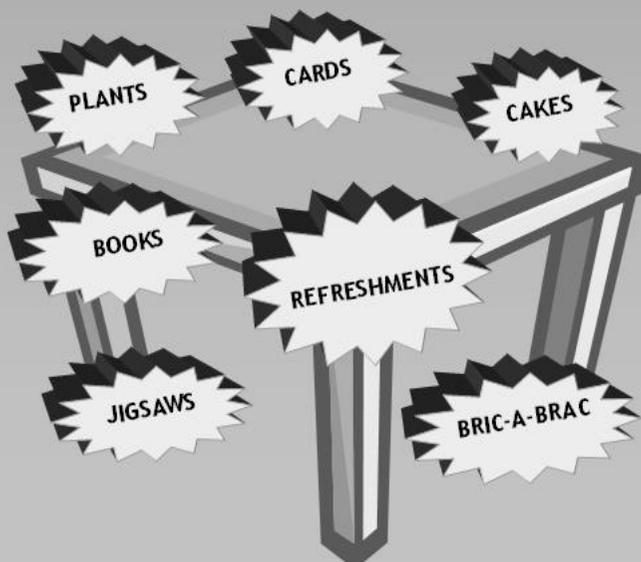
What happened when the Easter Bunny met the rabbit of his dreams?
They lived happily ever after!

How does the Easter Bunny keep his fur neat?
With a hare brush!



ANNUAL TABLE TOP SALE

Saturday 25th April 10.30am – 3pm
The Ark, St Laurence Church, Alvechurch
FREE ADMISSION



Tables £5 available from
Karen on 445 4980

DING DONG MERRILY

An evening of Fun with Handbells

At the Baptist Church Hall at 7:30pm on Friday April 24th, the
DROITWICH HANDBELL RINGERS will bring an evening of
fun, skills and sweet music for all the family.

Tickets £9/£5 to include a CHIME-ESE MEAL!

Please call Andy Parker 0121 445 2506 for tickets and info.

Auction Success

Barbara Griffiths writes...

It was gratifying to see how many people attended the Auction held on the 21st February for the Stained Glass Windows. The afternoon went well with competitive bidding taking place which raised a total of £2,006.50 on the day. Donations in lieu of items had also been received totalling £760 - these will bring in a further £125 in Gift Aid, making a grand total of £2,891.50. I am sure you will all agree it was well worth the effort. I gained the impression that people were enjoying the refreshments plus the convivial atmosphere, which was an added bonus for me.

A great deal of assistance received on the day makes it difficult to express my gratitude individually – I do not wish to miss anyone out. I therefore hope everyone concerned, whether companies, people donating items or money, or helping with the Auction will accept my grateful appreciation for all you have contributed, in whatever form. Thank you



Advance notice

Model Railway Exhibition 4th July 10.30am - 4.00pm

Featuring

East Dean. A scale model, with full sound, of a GWR style Branch line.

Thomas the tank engine and friends. 6ft x 6ft of trains, road vehicles, and maybe a helicopter.

At least 8 other layouts.

Stalls selling model railway items of many sizes, birthday cards, general books and bric-a-brac etc.

Not forgetting refreshments served all day.

The Midland Sinfonia
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'Beautiful Film Classics'

Saturday 18 April 7:30pm

The Ark, St Laurence Church, Alvechurch

Enigma String Quartet

**Charlotte Beresford and Caroline Bodimead, violins,
Ellen Brookes, viola and Elizabeth Garside, cello**

The programme will include:

Barber – Adagio (Platoon)

Ravel – Bolero (10)

plus music from

**Out of Africa, Dr Zhivago, The Mission, The Deerhunter
and Gone with the Wind**

Tickets: on the door £13, In advance £12 from The Village Green Grocer,
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FT students free with NUS card, schoolchildren accompanying an adult free.

For more information: marian@midlandsinfonia.co.uk or 0121 447 7040

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LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOUR...THINK PRAY VOTE.

How do we make the decision to use our vote in a meaningful and responsible way?

Maybe the following thoughts will help you to ask the right questions.

The Anglican bishops write that this election provides the opportunity to “sow the seeds of a new politics” and encourages voters to support candidates and policies that demonstrate the following six values:

- 1) Halting and reversing the accumulation of power and wealth in fewer and fewer hands whether those of the state, corporations and individuals.
- 2) Involving people at a deeper level in the decisions that affect them most.
- 3) Recognising the distinctive communities, whether defined by geography, religion or culture, which make up the nation and enabling all to thrive and participate together.
- 4) Treating the electorate as people with roots, commitments and traditions and addressing us all in terms of common good and not just as self-interested consumers.
- 5) Demonstrating that the weak, the dependent, the sick the aged and the vulnerable are persons of equal value to everybody else.
- 6) Offering the electorate a grown-up debate about Britain’s place in the world order and the possibilities and obligations that entails.

WANT TO EXPLORE THESE ISSUES FURTHER?.....YOU HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO JOIN US IN
A WORKSHOP IN ALVECHURCH-LEADER- DAVID MCGLOUGHLIN

SATURDAY.....11TH APRIL.....10.30AM - 2.30PM.....ALL WELCOME.

VENUE.....ST MARY’S R.C.CHURCH, SCHOOL LANE, ALVECHURCH B48 7SB

For further information please ring 01527 875722

Easter Poems

Easter Love

On Easter we celebrate love,
love coming down from heaven,
love blanketing the earth
in a transforming embrace;
unique and infinite love,
giving more than we can imagine
for us, to cleanse our sin,
a perfect sacrifice, Lamb of God,
the walking, talking Word.
He is teacher, role model, friend,
this God in human form,
dying, then rising from the dead,
proving all who believe
will also rise
to have eternal life, with Him,
Lord of all.
Oh, Happy, Happy Easter!

By Joanna Fuchs

This Life on Earth

Easter means that this life on earth
is not all there is.
Jesus went *"to prepare a place for us"*
in His Father's heavenly mansions
for all eternity.
Jesus died for our sins,
paying our penalty,
so that we could be forgiven.
He was resurrected, to prove
that death has no hold
on those who repent
and accept Him as Saviour.
This life on earth is a prelude
to eternal joy with our Lord.
Easter is a celebration
of our eternal destiny.

By Joanna Fuchs

Without Easter

Without Easter,
there would be no hope of heaven.
Without the hope of heaven,
there would be no repentance,
no personal transformation,
no attempt to follow biblical principles.
Without Easter,
the world would be in chaos
and darkness.
Jesus' death and resurrection
means we can be reborn,
to live better, to do better,
to shine light into the shadows.
Hallelujah!
Happy, Happy Easter.

By Joanna Fuchs



A Letter From The Archdeacon of Dudley

“Be who you were created to be, and you will set the world on fire.”

St Catherine of Sienna said this, and it is probably my very favourite quote – other than Biblical ones of course! So often we try to be someone else, to fit in, or because we think that’s how we will get on in life. In fact, the only way to be fully alive is to be fully ourselves.



God formed each of us uniquely. David praised God for this incredible personal attention to detail: *“You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother’s womb. Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvelous.”* (Psalm 139 *The Message*) We are God’s hand-crafted works of art, not assembly-line products, mass-produced without thought, rather custom designed, one-of-a kind, original masterpieces.

George Barna, in a book called *Growing True Disciples*, says *“Discipleship is about passion to reach our full potential in Jesus Christ.”*

As Kingdom People, followers of Jesus, we’re not here just to survive, we’re here to make a difference, to live impactful lives. We’re all wired up differently, we’re all at different ages and stages, but we all have gifts, and we all have a part to play in our churches, in our homes, our workplaces and the wider community, which only we can play. Growing as disciples is about discovering together how we can use the gifts God gives us as we serve together and engage in his mission.

I pray we will set this part of the world on fire as we do this!

APCM

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting is taking place in The Ark on TUESDAY 21 APRIL at 7.30.pm.

This meeting is open to all whose names are on the Church Electoral Roll. It is the meeting at which reports are given about the life of the church during the past year, the annual accounts are presented, churchwardens are elected, as are members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC).

It is also the opportunity to flag up any issues you would like the PCC to address during the coming year.

What's happening in Alvechurch Library Spring 2015

Caren Battle writes...

If you need a little bit of advice or somebody to talk to, please visit **The Citizens Advice Bureau** held in Alvechurch Library every first Tuesday of the month at 2pm. Unfortunately the CAB has had to close its doors in Redditch but The Churches Together here in Alvechurch make it possible for us to be able to host the CAB once a month. Feel free to just drop in or give us a call to book an appointment.

Our **watercolour** painting classes are ongoing and the artists under the tutelage of Andrew Clacher are going from strength to strength. Perhaps we should hold an exhibition of their paintings later in the year. Watch this space! New 10 week course starts in April.

We have held three busy **Ebay** and **Paypal** courses since January and we are keen to run some more. Currently we have a waiting list for the next Ebay course, just need to add a few more names and we can run it, please call us to add your name to the list.

Library Worms our childrens reading group who meet the last Monday in the month at 3.30pm has been 're-branded' to '**Chatterbooks**' and now we are working hand in hand with The Reading Agency encouraging children's love of books.

Our **day time readers group** continue to meet, albeit with only a few members. If you are looking for a readers group that runs in the day time, they meet up on the last Tuesday in the month, 2pm till 3.30pm. It would be lovely to see a few more faces.

Looking forward to Easter, the **Crafty Ladies** will be holding a craft sale, 10am – 1pm and 2pm – 4pm. Another opportunity to purchase a range of beautifully handmade gifts and homemade cakes. Bunting, aprons, jewellery, soft toys,

baby blankets and much much more. We are really proud to say that over the last 18 months, these craft sales have generated an income that has seen considerable donations to various Alvechurch village groups and societies, including the library.

During the Easter school holidays we are holding our own version of **Who Wants to be a Millionaire?** Thursday 2nd April, 2.30pm - 3.30pm, £1.50 per child, ages 8 and over. Limited spaces, give us a call.

Explore Learning will be here on Friday 10th April, 2pm – 3pm. The first workshop will be a numeracy session for children aged 5-6. Come along and get speedy with number bonds 10-20. The second session for children aged 7 – 9 at 3.15pm will be a creative writing workshop, put yourselves in the shoes of Willy Wonka and design and write about a new chocolate bar. No charge but please ring to book a space.

Withybed Poets will be visiting Alvechurch Library at 2pm on Monday 20th April. Hear this talented and enthusiastic poetry group reading aloud a range of their work. Some of their poetry readings will be based on the subject of '*windows*' while other pieces of work are about childhood memories, local characters, sleep and colonic irrigation! Join us for coffee and Hobnobs.

Alvechurch Library hosts one-to-one **Computer Sessions** for people wanting to learn the basics. If you need help with your emails or advice on surfing online then why not pop into the Library to arrange for free tuition. Tuition is provided by our group of talented volunteers on Tuesdays mornings. Learners can use the library computers or we have a laptop that can be used. We have facilities to print and also a scanner is available.

To reserve a place at any of our workshops and activities please call Alvechurch Library 01905822722 or email alvechurchlib@worcestershire.gov.uk

Obituaries

Mary Joan Burton

29th September 1919 -30th January 2015

Joan, as she was always called, was known and loved by many in Alvechurch, where she had lived most of her married life, with her husband Jim, and where they were active attenders and supporters of St Laurence Church; he having been a long-standing member of the PCC, and whose name is recorded on the board of churchwardens.

Both lived a long life-span, but Joan outlived him by six years, two of which were spent in The Lawns Care Home, before moving to Bromsgrove, firstly in sheltered accommodation and finally at Breme House.

She was born in Alcester, but her family moved to Bromsgrove when she was two years old, and her memories of her childhood close to the station and the Lickey Incline there are remembered vividly in a short account she wrote in later life.

Her schooling was completed at Bromsgrove County High School, from where, after passing the School Certificate exam, she moved to Secretarial College where she became a proficient shorthand typist. This enabled her to become the first woman bank clerk in Bromsgrove, where she worked for 15 years, becoming known as "Auntie" by the other employees.

She was, none-the-less, an out-door girl by nature, and cycling and tennis were among the areas of her sporting prowess; and it was as a club tennis player she met Jim in an inter-bank contest. It was not long before he plucked up courage to ask her to go to

the pictures with him, to which she consented with some eagerness, and in 1952 they were married, and lived in Hagley, prior to moving with their son, Andrew to a new house in Bromsgrove.

In the sixties they moved to Alvechurch, where their friends remember them as an inseparable and devoted couple. Joan was active in the Village Society, the W.I., the Footpath Maintenance Group and the Historical Society, and took painting lessons, some of her pictures being displayed at the reception following the funeral at the Redditch Crematorium and the Memorial Service at St Laurence Church which followed. She will be remembered as a devoted mother and grandmother, and a stalwart of the local community.

In later life Jim and Joan did a Meals-on-Wheels round for the WRVS and Joan was responsible for drawing up the rotas for the many rounds being undertaken. At the time they retired from this they were older than most of the clients they visited. They themselves were later regular partakers of the meals at the 'Ark Cafe' on Thursdays.

The farewell services referred to were conducted by Dick Russell, Reader at St Laurence, and Tribute and Scriptural Readings were read by her son, David, and Grandson, Jon.

The concluding hymn was 'O Lord my God, how great thou art'.



Linda Pashley

Phyllis Linda Pashley, always known as Linda, was born on the 6th of April 1930 to Vera and Stanley Moore. She was the 3rd of their 4 children, sister to Barbara, John and Margaret and grew up on Lye Bridge Farm in Alvechurch.

Her interests while growing up were amateur dramatics and singing and she was an accomplished piano player. Her considerable ability in drawing and design was recognized at senior school and she put these talents to good use in her first job with Whitlocks Photographers in Birmingham. Alongside her day job Linda also reared pigs on her parents' farm in order to earn enough money to buy her first car.

Linda had always had a natural affinity with children and in her early 20s Linda founded the Alvechurch Nursery School which at first was situated at a farmhouse in Alvechurch, then as numbers grew it moved to St Laurence Church Hall on School Lane and then finally at the Baptist Hall in Alvechurch.

Linda's nursery school instilled a love of learning in all her pupils and even after they had left Linda took a keen interest in all her ex-pupils and was so very proud of their achievements.

When Linda was 24 she met the man who would become her husband, soulmate and the love of her life – John Pashley. The morning after they first met John flew over Linda's home in his red aeroplane – what a way to impress a girl!! They married at St Laurence church on the 2nd of March 1957 and started married life in Solihull, then Ullenhall and then built a new farmhouse at Lodge Farm Alvechurch. In 1979 they moved into their final home in Barnt Green. They had two children Guy and Anna.

Throughout their life together Linda supported John in his career in industry. She

was very sociable, had a great sense of fun, was very practical and organized, was a great listener and was always ready to offer good advice.

She was a very loving, caring and devoted daughter, sister, wife, mother, grandmother, teacher and friend, kind and thoughtful she was one of the first to help anyone in need.

Linda touched so many lives and she will be very greatly missed by all of those so very privileged to have known her. Her funeral took place at Redditch crematorium and her memorial service was held at St Laurence church on 3rd March.

Jack Squibbs

Jack Squibb of Redditch Road Alvechurch, died in hospital after a fall at his home. He was 95 years old. His funeral was held on Wednesday 11th of February at Redditch crematorium.

Jack was born in London in Battersea and spent his childhood there. During the war he served as a sergeant in the Royal Army medical corps, both in Africa and in Italy. He and his wife Marjorie had three children John, Martin and Peter and they were together until 5 years ago when Marjorie died.

They came to Alvechurch in 1957 when Jack, who worked in accountancy all his life, became Works Manager and Company Secretary to a firm making filing systems that was based on Bear Hill, next to the Post Office. When the company moved to Alcester Jack left and joined Partridges fishing tackle at Redditch.

Jack was very involved in village life both through the Village Hall and the Social Club, and during the 1960's was an active member of the Conservative Party.

He will be sadly missed by friends and his family including his grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Flowers for April

	5 April	12 April	19 April	26 April
Sanctuary	EASTER DAY			
Lady Chapel	EASTER DAY			
In memory of				

I am pleased to be back organising the flower rota and thank everyone who has helped by taking responsibility for making sure our church is decorated at festivals, in memory of loved ones and celebrating happy moments in their lives.

I will be asking for help with decorating the church on Saturday 4th April from 9am and will have a board on the table in church for signing up to offer help. I will also be producing a new rota for the year and this will also be displayed on the table in church. I can be contacted either by telephone or email should it be more convenient.

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

From The Registers



Baptisms

We welcome you into the Lord's family

March 22 Arthur Rudge



Marriages

Those whom God has joined together

March 21 Mathew Lee Nickless and Allison Taylor



Funerals and Cremations

May they rest in the peace of Christ

March 3 Linda Pashley
 March 13 Pamela Smith
 March 18 Peggy Peel

Who's who

Rector	Revd Richard Bubbers, 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
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	Andy Humphries

Task Committee

Jill Woolley	Bob Dale
Alison Smith	Sue Phillips
Martin Allen	

Peru and Missionary Committee

Sue Phillips	Dick Russell
Gordon Parsons	Margaret Haste

Calendar for APRIL



Wednesday 1	7.30pm	Hillside WI: The Ark
Thursday 2	MAUNDY THURSDAY	
		No Mums The Word or Ark Café today
	7.30pm	Maundy Thursday Communion Service: St Laurence Church
Friday 3	GOOD FRIDAY	
	2.00pm	Joint Good Friday Service at Alvechurch Baptist Church, led by Revd Fiona Lee and Revd Richard Bubbers <i>"A quiet reflection on Jesus' words from the Cross".</i>
Saturday 4	9.00am	Decorating the church for Easter: St Laurence Church
	6.30pm	Easter Vigil: St Laurence Church
Sunday 5	EASTER DAY SERVICES at 8am, 9.30am, 11am and 6pm	
Tuesday 7	7.45pm	Alvechurch Historical Society: Three Doctors Stretton: History of Kidderminster Hospital 1856 - 1952: Museum, School Lane
Thursday 9	9.30am	Mums The Word: The Ark (No Ark café today)
	7.30pm	Rowney Green Horticultural Society: Talk <i>"Ultimate Garden Plants"</i> : Peace Hall
Saturday 11	10.30am	<i>Think Pray Vote</i> workshop: St Mary's RC Church, School Lane
Sunday 12	2.30pm	Alvechurch Village Society: Walk: <i>'A Dip into Barnt Green'</i> : meet at Tanyard Lane Car Park
Monday 13	7.30pm	Ark Angels WI: The Ark
Thursday 16	MAY GRAPEVINE GOES TO PRESS <i>articles to thearkalvechurch@yahoo.co.uk</i>	
	9.30am	Mums The Word: The Ark
	12.15pm	Ark Café: Roast Pork
Friday 17	7.30pm	Election Hustings: Alvechurch Baptist Church, Red Lion Street
Saturday 18	7.30pm	Midland Sinfonia: Enigma String Quartet: Film Classics: The Ark
Monday 20	1.45pm	Forget-Me-Nots: The Ark
	2.00pm	Withybed Poets: Poetry readings: Alvechurch Library
	7.00pm	Alvechurch Parish Council AGM: Alvechurch School Hall
Tuesday 21	7.30pm	Annual Parochial Church Meeting: The Ark
Wednesday 22	2.00pm	St Laurence Women's Fellowship: AGM: Tanyard Centre
	7.45pm	Alvechurch Village Society: presentation <i>'200 Years of the Canal on your Doorstep'</i> : Alvechurch Village Hall
Thursday 23	9.30am	Mums The Word: The Ark
	12.15pm	Ark Café: Somerset Chicken
	2.30pm	Joint local WI St George's Day Tea & Cakes: Village Hall
Friday 24	7.30pm	Fun With Handbells & CHIME-ESE MEAL!: Baptist Church Hall
Saturday 25	10.30pm	Bellringers Tabletop Sale: The Ark
Thursday 30	9.30am	Mums The Word: The Ark
	12.15pm	Ark Café: Roast Lamb