

GRAPEVINE

ST LAURENCE CHURCH, ALVECHURCH

October 2024



St Laurence Church, Alvechurch,
Awarded £189,000 National Lottery
Heritage Fund Grant for Vital
Restoration and Heritage Conservation

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Deadline for submission for November Grapevine
is 14th October

REVD GAIL WRITES...



What a joy it was to come together and celebrate Heritage Day! It was a wonderful community event, filled with connection, laughter, and shared memories. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributed to making the day such a success. Whether you volunteered, performed, or simply attended, your presence made it truly special. A particularly exciting highlight was the announcement of a remarkable £189,000 grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund. This generous grant will play a key role in the restoration of the Tower at St Laurence Church, helping to secure its future as both a place of worship and a vibrant community hub. The day continued with the beautiful voices of Crown Meadow First School Choir, who treated us to a moving performance, including the song “Ain’t it crazy what love can do?”

Standing amidst the rich heritage and tradition of St Laurence’s Church, I found myself reflecting on the generations who have gathered here before us. For hundreds of years, people have come to this place to pray, to find solace, and to connect with the sacred. And yet, the church is not just a building from the past. It is full of life, hope, and new possibilities. The Tower restoration project isn’t just about preserving a structure; it’s about ensuring that this space remains a place of belonging, community, and reflection for future generations.

At the heart of all of this is the love that sustains and connects us. The Bible reminds us that “God is love” (1 John 4:8). That love was so evident throughout Heritage Day—in the joy of the choir’s voices, in the shared smiles and conversations, in the community’s generosity. The song “Ain’t it crazy what love can do?” was a beautiful reminder of how love moves through us, transforming our lives and the world around us.

The story of St Laurence’s is one of love—love for community, love for heritage, and love that transcends time. This love has been woven into the fabric of our church for hundreds of years, and it continues to guide us forward today. As we look ahead, there is much to anticipate. Our Harvest celebrations are just around the corner, a time to gather in gratitude for all we have been given. During Baby Loss Awareness Week, we will come together in compassion, remembering those who have experienced loss. As we approach Remembrance Sunday, we will take time to honour those we have loved and lost.

Looking further ahead, we are also preparing for Christmas, and we are delighted to once again host our Christmas Day Community Lunch. This is a wonderful opportunity to come together and share in the spirit of love and generosity. You can find more details about all these upcoming events in this edition of Grapevine.

In all these moments—whether through community gatherings, celebrations, or times of remembrance—love is at the centre. Just as St Laurence’s Church has been a place of reflection and connection for centuries, it remains a beacon of hope, joy, and inclusion.

Come and be part of this ongoing story—the story of love in Alvechurch and beyond.

“Ain’t it crazy what love can do!”

With prayers and blessings

Rev. Gail

PRAYER SPACE

At St Laurence Church, our Lady Chapel provides a peaceful space for prayer, reflection, and connection. Whether you’re familiar with prayer or just exploring it, we offer a few different ways to engage.

You are welcome to light a candle at our candle stand, a visual reminder that your prayers are offered to God. Alternatively, you can write or draw your prayer and hang it on our prayer tree. If you’d like your prayer to be included during Sunday worship, a prayer folder is available in the chapel, it is located on the alter table. Please ensure you have permission if including someone’s name.

If you’re unsure whether your prayer is suitable for public worship, lighting a candle or using the prayer tree may feel more personal. You’re also welcome to simply sit in silence and be still before God—being present is a prayer in itself. For those wishing to speak with someone, our prayer ministry team is available every Sunday between 10:30 and 11:00 a.m.

As St Augustine once said,
"True prayer is nothing but love."



St Laurence Church, Alvechurch, Tower Project (Phase 2) awarded grant by The National Lottery Heritage Fund to restore the church tower.



Press Release

St Laurence Church in Alvechurch is delighted to announce a £189,000 grant from The National Lottery Heritage Fund. This will provide 2/3 of the cost of the work necessary to protect and conserve the church's rich heritage, with a focus on completing essential works to restore the church tower and clock face, securing their preservation for future generations.

The grant will enable the restoration of these key historical features, ensuring the iconic tower and clock face continue to be prominent landmarks within the community. Additionally, the project will aim to invite wider interaction, allowing both locals and visitors to engage more deeply with the church's architectural and cultural heritage.

The funding, made possible thanks to National Lottery players, will also help create a sustainable future for the church, promoting wider appreciation of its historical significance while ensuring it remains a vital community hub for years to come.

St Laurence Church is a Grade II* listed building, with the Tower forming the oldest part of the structure as it stands today. Without this vital support from The National Lottery Heritage Fund, the tower would continue to decay and become unusable. This would mean the loss of the rhythm of time marked by the clock chimes, and the bells would fall silent due to the building becoming unsafe for use. Without intervention, this treasured heritage, and rhythm could be lost forever.

The restoration project will focus on preserving the historic tower and clock face, which are vital components of the Grade II* listed building. By halting the current decay, this project will safeguard the architectural integrity of the church and ensure that its historic significance remains intact for future generations. The church's heritage as a central landmark in the community, with its tower dating back centuries, will be restored and protected, keeping the cultural legacy alive.

The project acknowledges the diverse environment of the church and churchyard throughout the restoration process. Efforts will be made to contribute to the long-term preservation of existing natural and built resources, aligning with environmental conservation efforts.

The restoration will create opportunities for the local community to engage with their heritage through workshops, guided tours, and educational programs. By enhancing awareness and participation, the project will ensure that a broader audience can appreciate the church's cultural and historical importance.

The funding will support the development of a sustainable future for St Laurence Church by creating plans to ensure its ongoing maintenance and operation. The church's ability to remain a functional space for both worship and community activities will be strengthened, enhancing its role as a community hub. Through improved accessibility, participation, and engagement, the church will attract more visitors and increase community involvement, leading to long-term financial sustainability.

Revd Gail Rogers, Vicar of St Laurence Church, Alvechurch said: "We are thrilled to have received this support from The National Lottery Heritage Fund. Thanks to money raised by National Lottery players we can restore and preserve our historic church tower and clock face, through which we aim to increase community engagement, and ensure the long-term viability of St Laurence Church as both a cultural landmark, a place of worship and a community hub.

'Thanks to National Lottery players'

About The National Lottery Heritage Fund

As the largest dedicated funder of the UK's heritage, The National Lottery Heritage Fund's vision is for heritage to be valued, cared for and sustained for everyone, now and in the future as set out in our strategic plan, Heritage 2033.

Over the next ten years, we aim to invest £3.6 billion raised for good causes by National Lottery players to bring about benefits for people, places and the natural environment.

We help protect, transform and share the things from the past that people care about, from popular museums and historic places, our natural environment and fragile species, to the languages and cultural traditions that celebrate who we are.

We are passionate about heritage and committed to driving innovation and collaboration to make a positive difference to people's lives today, while leaving a lasting legacy for future generations to enjoy.

Follow @HeritageFundUK on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram and use #NationalLotteryHeritageFund www.heritagefund.org.uk



Restoration Survey

Have you visited St Laurence Church, are you interested in keeping up to date with the Tower Restoration project? If so, please can you fill out our visitor survey it only takes a few minutes and it will help us to know the best way to communicate widely this project as it develops over the next 12/18 months.

The information below is for filling the survey out online, if you would prefer a paper copy please do pop into church or The Ark to pick one up.

Many thanks.

St Laurence Church Visitor Survey

Welcome to St Laurence Church!

We're delivering the Alvechurch Tower – Tales of Heritage and Sawfish project, which has secured National Lottery Heritage Fund support. The project will enable essential repairs to be carried out to the Tower, new information about the history of the Church, and initiatives to engage the local community and visitors to the area with the Church and its history.

We're keen to understand more from visitors to the Church to inform our planning. Please spare 5 minutes to complete our visitor survey.

At the end of the survey, you will have the option to enter a prize draw to win a £100 Love2Shop Voucher Booklet.

Either visit: <https://bit.ly/4d25qmG>

OR

Use your smartphone camera to scan this QR code.

This will direct you to our survey.





HARVEST SUPPER

FRIDAY 4TH OCTOBER

AT 7PM

IN THE ARK

Harvest Supper will be a voluntary donation

SUNDAY FAMILY WORSHIP AND ARK TIME

Our 9.15am Family Services are for all ages, with activity bags available for little ones.

As well as singing and praying in church with their families, **babies, children and Young People** are invited through for **Ark Time**.

Led by DBS-cleared adults, in The Ark we listen to Bible stories and join in activities. **Under 8's** enjoy Bible stories, songs and craft activities with Jack the Labrador puppet.

Over 8's explore similar Bible story themes, along with craft and drama activities.

So do come along and join us.

6th October - 9.15am Family communion with Ark Time

13th October - 9.15am Family Service with Ark Time

20th October - 9.15am Café style service all together in The Ark (breakfast pastries served from 8.45am)

27th October - 9.15am Family Service with Ark Time



St Laurence Church
Lights of Love

Sunday 13th October, 5pm - 7pm

A quiet and reflective space for those who have lost a baby during pregnancy, at birth or infancy.
Church will be open for you to come and go as you please.

Battery lights of love will be offered to place at our Angel of Love in the churchyard as you leave.



Baby Loss Awareness Week, observed annually from 9th to 15th October, is a time of reflection, remembrance, and support for families who have experienced the loss of a baby during pregnancy, at birth, or in infancy. It is a week dedicated to raising awareness about pregnancy and infant loss while providing a space for those affected to remember their little ones. Across the UK, communities come together to offer comfort and solidarity to grieving families, honoring the memories of the babies they have lost.

As part of Baby Loss Awareness Week, our church will be open on Sunday, 13th October, from 5pm to 7pm. This will be a quiet, reflective space for anyone who has experienced such a loss to come, be still, and remember. There will be no formal service, allowing visitors to use the time as they feel led. Our chapel prayer space will also be open for private reflection, and we will offer battery candles for anyone who wishes to place one around our Angel of Love in the churchyard.

This evening is intended to be a peaceful and supportive environment for those who seek a moment of solace.

Remembrance Sunday: A Time to Reflect and Unite

This Remembrance Sunday, we will once again come together with Alvechurch Parish Council to honour and remember those who have sacrificed so much. This important and moving event is open to all members of our community, and we invite you to participate in whatever way feels meaningful to you.

The day will begin at St Laurence Church at 10:15 a.m. with a short service, during which a wreath will be laid at the memorial inside the church. Following the service, we will process together to Memorial Green, where the Act of Remembrance will take place at 10:50 a.m. This solemn moment will give us an opportunity to pause, reflect, and remember those who have served and continue to serve.

We warmly welcome you to join us at any point in the service. Various groups and organisations from our wider community will be represented, making this a truly inclusive event that unites us all. Whether you attend the entire service or join later at Memorial Green, your presence will be a valued part of Alvechurch's remembrance.

Let us gather together as a community to reflect, remember, and honour those who have given so much.

ALVECHURCH PARISH REMEMBERS

St Laurence Church and Alvechurch Parish Council are coming together again for Remembrance Sunday. Representatives from our community have been invited to take part as Alvechurch Parish Remembers together.

Please note that Bear Hill will be closed to traffic up to Snake Lane between 10.30am - 12pm

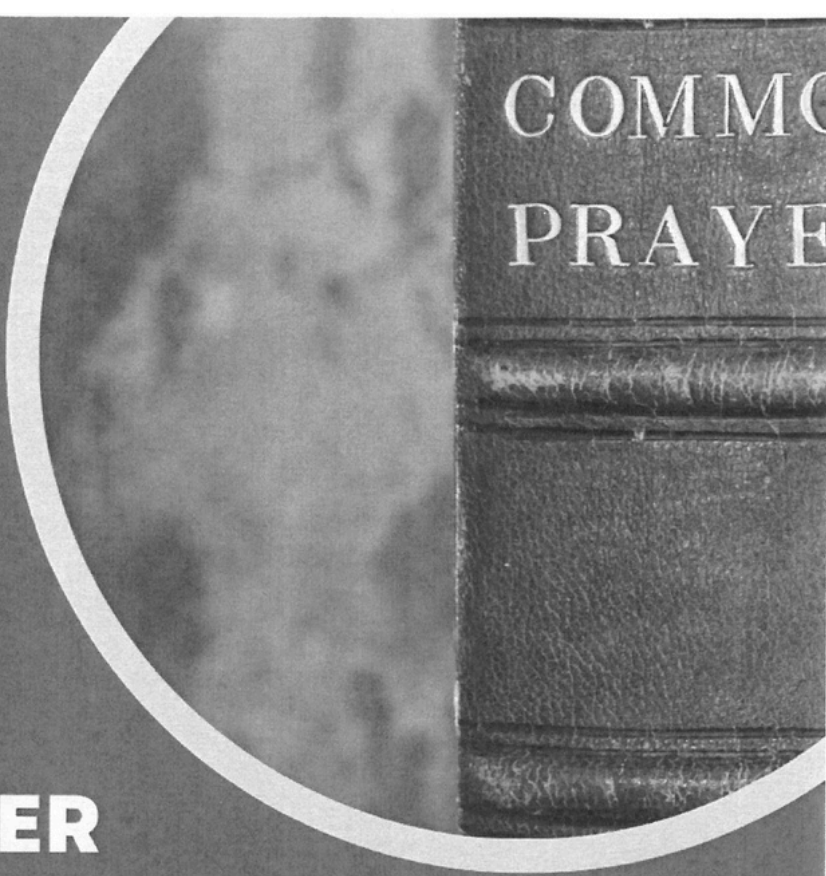
On 11th November there will be no formal Act of Remembrance at Memorial Green, although you may wish to gather for a time of quiet reflection.

Sunday 10th November

**St Laurence Church at 10.15am and at
the Memorial Green from 10.50am.**



10AM HOLY COMMUNION FROM THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER



**ST LEONARD'S,
BEOLEY**

1ST THURSDAY OF MONTH

October 3rd
November 7th
December 5th

2025

January 2nd
February 6th
March 6th
April 3rd
May 1st
June 5th
July 3rd
August 7th
September 4th
October 2nd
November 6th
December 4th

**ST LAURENCE,
ALVECHURCH**

3RD WEDNESDAY OF MONTH

October 16th
November 20th
December 18th

2025

January 15th
February 19th
March 19th
April 16th
May 21st
June 18th
July 16th
August 20th
September 17th
October 15th
November 19th
December 17th

A Poem: Heritage Day 2024



On a bright, sunlit September day,
The church bells rang, in joyful sway.
Alvechurch stirred, from near and far,
Not for Sunday—this day was set apart.

A Saturday, for heritage shared,
Worries lingered—who would care?
Yet faith, though slight, saw doors swung wide,
And through them poured the joyful tide.

Choirs sang, their voices soared,
Morris dancers took the floor.
Tango twists and line dance grace,
The church became a vibrant space.

The Midland Sinfonia played its tune,
Lifting spirits high as noon.
Boats in the font, classic cars displayed,
In the churchyard, a festival parade.

Tea was sipped, and cakes were shared,
Teddy bears from towers dared.
Children's laughter, tours begun,
Games and crafting—joy for everyone.

And each time the grant was named,
Applause erupted, hearts inflamed.
Heritage, God, and community stood,
In celebration of all that's good.

Next year we'll gather once again,
September 13th, mark it then.
For on that day, we'll meet in cheer,
To honour heritage, love, and faith most dear.

Take a look at a few of the photos from the day on the back page of Grapevine

***A big thank you to everyone that helped and all of you that attended
our 2024 National Heritage Day.***

The Ark



On our Heritage Day several of our Ark user held stalls or took part in demonstrations. Many thanks for supporting the wonderful community day. We have captured some of them on camera below.



*Tango Unplugged
(held 2nd and 4th
Mondays here at The Ark)*



*Little Kitchen Club was a
great hit with the children
(held Mondays here at
The Ark)*

Contacts for class and group regular events

Alvechurch Historical Society - Anne - 0121 445 5955

Karate - Chris 0756 4604613

Adult Irish dancing - donnagriffinacademy.com

Places of Welcome - Lynda - 0121 447 7955

Wednesday Yoga and mediation - Sally - myyogamind.co.uk

Line Dancing - Bryan - 07975569065

Hillside WI - Pat - 0121 628 4121

Tots & Toddlers - Sarah- sarah100work@gmail.com

Physio Led Pilates - www.elizabethalexanderphysiotherapy.com

Zuu Move 2Bfit - Cliff- [CliffHocoxfitness](https://www.facebook.com/CliffHocoxfitness) on Facebook

Mini-Athletics - Steph - www.miniathletics.com

Little Kitchen Club - hb.littlekitchenclub@gmail.com

The Monday Milonga Club -Andy 07788756174

**For booking your own event , class or party contact
Charlotte - admin@thearkalvechurch.co.uk or 0121 447 7995**

MONTHLY

Ark Schedule

MONDAYS

LITTLE KITCHEN CLUB 9.45AM -
12.45PM

TANGO UNPLUGGED 7PM - 11PM
(2ND AND 4TH OF EACH MONTH)

TUESDAYS

KARATE 6.15PM - 7.45PM

ADULT IRISH DANCING 8PM -9PM

WEDNESDAYS

PLACES OF WELCOME 10AM -
12PM

YOGA 1PM-2.15PM
MEDITATION 2.25PM-3PM
YOGA 7PM-8.15PM

LINE DANCING 6PM - 7PM

THURSDAYS

TOTS AND TODDLERS 9.30AM
-11AM

PILATES 6PM - 8PM

MOVE 2B FIT 7PM - 8PM

ADULT IRISH DANCING 8PM -9PM

FRIDAYS

MINI ATHLETICS 9.30AM -
11.30AM

WEEKENDS

AVAILABLE TO HIRE

PLEASE CONTACT

CHARLOTTE
0121 447 7955

ADMIN@THEARKALVECHURCH.C
O.UK

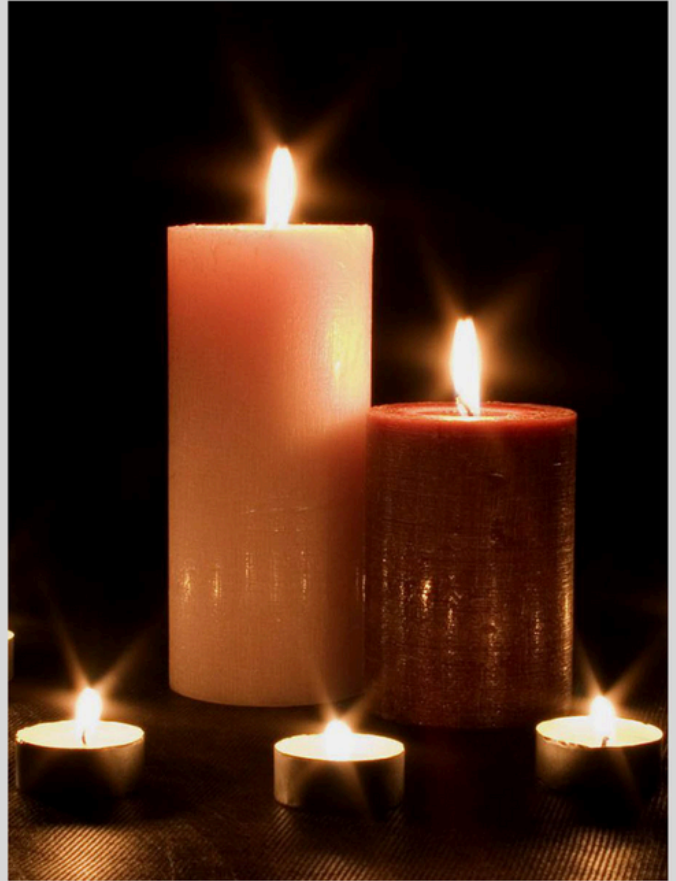
Commemoration of the Departed

St Laurence Church

At this quiet and contemplative service we come together to remember by name those who we love and have died.

We will read out name by name and lit a candle for all those whose funeral's a minister from St Laurence Church has taken, whether it took place in church or at the crematorium over the last three years.

If you would like a name added to our list (whether they died recent or several years) please contact Penny in the office.



Sunday 3rd November 2023, 6pm

AS TIME GOES BY

MEMORIALS THAT REFLECT A LIFETIME

*Supplier of Headstones &
Cremation Tablets*

KEVIN PORTER

Tel: 01527 550505

Mobile: 07835 523640

Email: kfporter@blueyonder.co.uk

Web: www.astimegoesby.org.uk



Unit 5, Dunlop Road, Hunt End Industrial Estate, Redditch, Worcestershire B97 5XP

Radical Hospitality: A Call to Inclusive Church

In September, we launched our commitment as a faith community to exploring welcome and hospitality using the Inclusive Church resources to guide us. Here is an adapted version of Revd Gail's sermon as she encouraged us to enter into this new phase of growing together with generous and loving hearts, trusting in the transforming power of the Holy Spirit to lead us.

As we begin our journey exploring what it means to be an Inclusive Church, we are reminded of the radical hospitality we are called to show. Inclusive Church is a network that believes in a church where every person is welcomed and celebrated, stating:

"The Inclusive Church network believes in a Church which welcomes and serves all people in the name of Jesus Christ in a way which is scripturally faithful; seeks to proclaim the Gospel afresh for each generation; and which, in the power of the Holy Spirit, allows all people to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Jesus Christ."

The Scripture passages from Romans 15:1-13 and Luke 14:1, 12-23 provide a powerful foundation for this vision. In Romans, we are urged to bear with one another's weaknesses and to accept one another just as Christ accepted us. It's a call for unity across differences, reminding us that Christ's love is for all people—regardless of background, strength, or vulnerability.

In Luke, Jesus challenges us to practice hospitality that goes beyond reciprocity. We are called to welcome those who are often excluded. The parable of the Great Banquet paints a picture of God's realm where everyone, especially the marginalised, has a place at the table.

These passages urge us to reflect on who we might be unintentionally excluding in our church and communities. Whether through barriers of ability, race, gender, neurodiversity, mental health, poverty, or sexuality, we are called to widen our embrace, welcoming everyone with the same love that we ourselves have received.

As a church, we are committing to explore these areas over the next year. We will focus on the themes of **disability, neurodiversity, mental health, sexuality, poverty, gender, and ethnicity**, both in our worship and through midweek discussions. We will reflect on what it means to live out the radical welcome of God, seeking to be a place where everyone, without exception, is truly included.

May we be open to the guidance of the Spirit, learning to embody God's inclusive love in all we do, creating a community that welcomes and celebrates each individual as they are.



Friday 13th December

Arrive from 12.30pm,
entrance through St Laurence Church

The Ark Christmas Lunch

MENU

Main

Turkey or Nut Roast
Roast Potatoes
Pigs in Blankets
Stuffing Balls
Veg: Sprouts, Carrots
Cauliflower Cheese and Peas
Gravy

Dessert

A Selection of festive puddings
including Cheese and Biscuits

Drinks

Wine served with Main
non-alcoholic alternative is available.
Tea and Coffee to finish

Tickets £15 per person

Booking in advance only

For more details contact Charlotte

0121 447 7955 /

admin@thearkalvechurch.co.uk

Christmas at St Laurence,

Follow the Star

Sunday 1st December, 5pm
*Advent readings with Carols and Hymns
and switching on of the Advent Star*

Christmas Movie Night

Friday 6th December, 7pm

Christingle

Sunday 15th December, 9:15am
*Gathering in The Ark for café Church,
breakfast served from 8.45am*

Christmas without the Tinsel

Sunday 15th December, 6pm
A quieter service without the busyness and jollity of Christmas

Nine Lessons and Carol

Saturday 21st December, 6pm
*This year we are gathering at St Leonard's Church, Beoley,
please join us there.*

Christmas Eve Services

Tuesday 24th December

Nativity

4pm

First Communion of Christmas

11.30pm

Christmas Day

Crib and Communion
10am



May this season bring love, peace and joy to all!

ST LAURENCE CHURCH DIARY

OCTOBER 2024

What's going at St Laurence Church, The Ark and Alvechurch Community

Open Church Wednesday 2nd October 10.00am -12pm

Places of Welcome Wednesday 2nd October 10.00am - 12pm

Ark Tots and Toddlers Thursday 3rd October 9.30am

A BCP Service of Holy Communion
St Leonard's Church, Beoley Thursday 3rd October 10am

Wedding Enquiries, bookings and planning
St Leonard's Church, Beoley Thursday 3rd October 6-8pm

Harvest Supper Friday 4th October 7pm for 7.30pm Start

Family Worship with Holy Communion and Ark Time
Sunday 6th October 9:15am

Morning Worship
Sunday 6th October 11:15am

Open Church Wednesday 9th October 10.00am -12pm

Places of Welcome Wednesday 9th October 10.00am - 12pm

Ark Tots and Toddlers Thursday 10th October 9.30am

Family Worship with Ark Time Sunday 13th October 9.15am

Celebration of Holy Communion Sunday 13th October 11.15am

Lights of Love: Baby Loss Sunday 13th October 5-7pm

A BCP Service of Holy Communion
St Laurence, Alvechurch Wednesday 16th October 10am

DIARY OCTOBER CONT...

What's going at St Laurence Church, The Ark and Alvechurch Community

Open Church Wednesday 16th October 10.00am -12pm

Places of Welcome Wednesday 16th October 10.00am - 12pm

Ark Tots and Toddlers Thursday 17th October 9.30am

Short harvest festival service for little ones 10.45 - 11am

Café Church, breakfast pastries served from 8:45am

Sunday 20th October, 9:15am

Morning Worship Sunday 20th October, 11.15am

Open Church Wednesday 23rd October 10.00am -12pm

Places of Welcome Wednesday 23rd October 10.00am - 12pm

Ark Tots and Toddlers Thursday 24th October 9.30am

Family Worship with Ark Time Sunday 27th October 9.15am

Healing Eucharist Sunday 27th October 11.15am

Open Church Wednesday 30th October 10.00am -12pm

Places of Welcome Wednesday 30th October 10.00am - 12pm

Family Christmas Movie Evening

After the success of movie Mondays during the summer holiday's, in December we are hosting a Family Christmas Movie Evening.

Save the date and come and join us for a fun and festive Christmas movie. To watch the movie is free, we will be selling (for a small charge) popcorn, pop and mulled wine and mince pies to help us get into the Christmas spirit.

SAVE THE DATE !!

CHRISTMAS MOVIE NIGHT

ST LAURENCE CHURCH SCHOOL LANE
ALVECHURCH B48 7SB

POPcorn POPcorn

CINEMA TICKET

ADMIT ONE
45612389

CINEMA TICKET

ADMIT ONE
45612389

JOIN US FOR A FREE FESTIVE CHRISTMAS MOVIE NIGHT!

6 DECEMBER, 2024 | **START AT 7:00PM**

Let's create precious memories and enjoy the charm of this season with a festive film in our very own church

No need to book ... don't miss out on the festive fun!

Festive film choice released in
Novembers Grapevine

ARK TOTS AND TODDLERS

A friendly play environment for babies and little ones under 5, with their parents or carers.

A time to play and chat, with each session ending in singing time.

Thursday 9:30am - 11am - Termtime

£2 per session, per family, with as many drinks and biscuits as you like

For more information contact sarah100work@gmail.com.



Christmas Day Community Lunch: A Time for Togetherness

After the wonderful success of last year's Christmas Day Community Lunch, we are thrilled to announce that it's happening again this year! This special event was made possible by the incredible support from the wider community, and we hope to see that same spirit of togetherness come alive once more.

Our Christmas lunch is for anyone who would enjoy good company and a warm, festive meal on Christmas Day. Whether you're a family, an individual, or part of a larger household, you are most welcome to join us. This is not just a meal—it's an opportunity to connect, share stories, and be part of something meaningful on what can be a lonely day for some.

Do you know someone who might particularly appreciate some companionship on Christmas Day? Please spread the word! While everyone is welcome, it helps our planning if people can book ahead. We're excited to already have some bookings too! But, if you're unable to plan or change your mind on the day, please know that you can simply come along.

How Can You Help?

The success of this event depends on the generous efforts of volunteers like you! Here are a few ways you can get involved:

- **Help with Setup & Decoration:** We'll be transforming The Ark into a festive space, and we could use help setting up and decorating.
- **Preparing Food:** Chopping vegetables, setting tables—there's plenty to do in the kitchen before and during the event.
- **Transport:** Could you offer someone a lift to or from the meal? Many of our guests would really appreciate a friendly face to help with transport.
- **Clearing Up:** After the meal, we'll need help tidying up and restoring the space.

If there's anything else you feel you could contribute to make this day even more special, we'd love to hear your ideas!

We're holding a **Volunteer Meeting on Monday 18th November at 7 pm** at St Laurence Church (entrance via The Ark). If you're interested in helping, please join us as we plan for another memorable Christmas together.

Immediate Help Needed

Right now, we need volunteers to distribute leaflets and put up posters around the village to help spread the word. If you can help, please contact Penny in the office.

Let's come together to make this Christmas a joyful celebration for all. We can't wait to see you there!

Christmas Day

COMMUNITY LUNCH, 1PM

The Ark, Alvechurch

Do you fancy some company on Christmas Day?

Whether you live alone, you are a couple or a larger family unit you are invited to join us at The Ark for a Christmas Day Community Lunch.



MENU

A tradition Christmas lunch with Turkey or Nut Roast and all the trimmings.

Dessert will be a selection of Christmas treats including cheese and biscuits.

Wine, soft drinks and tea and coffee.



TRANSPORT

Would you like to come but need help in getting to The Ark?

We can help with this too!

Call and speak to us.



BOOKING

If you know that you are definitely coming, please book in advance,

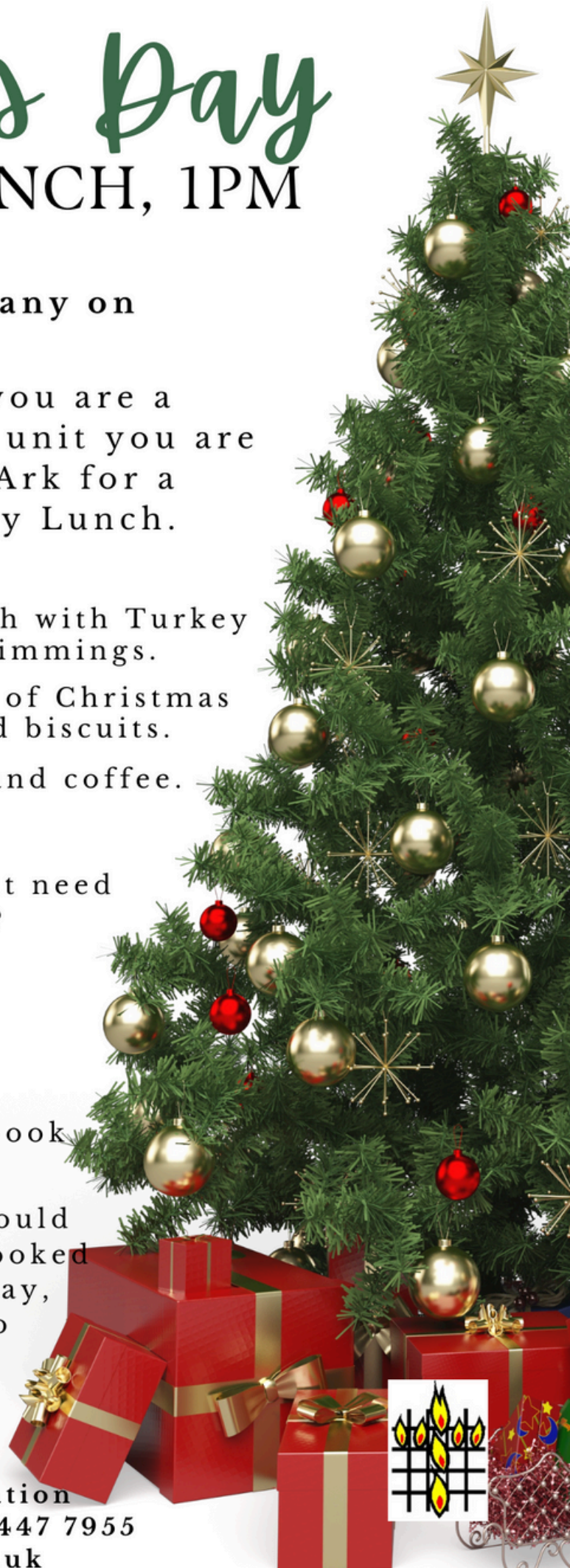
If on Christmas Day you would like to come but haven't booked please do come along anyway, there is always plenty to go round.



COST

Free. There is no cost

To book or for more information please contact The Ark 0121 447 7955
admin@thearkalvechurch.co.uk



**PRAYERS AND ANOINTING FOR
HEALING AND WHOLENESS**

Healing Eucharist

**St Leonard's Church,
Beoley**

Sundays at 11.15am

15th September
17th November

2025

19th January
16th March
18th May
20th July
21st September
16th November

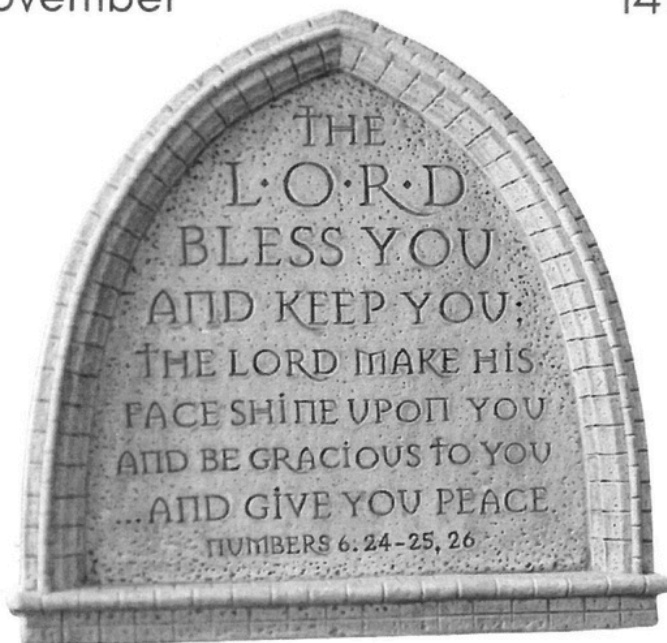
**St Laurence Church,
Alvechurch**

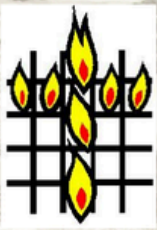
Sundays at 11.15am

27th October
22nd December

2025

23rd February
27th April
22nd June
24th August
26th October
14th December





Quiz and Chips

Friday 8th November

7:30pm start, doors open at 7pm

The Ark, School Lane, B48 7SB

Teams of up to 6 people max

£12 per person including fish and chip supper.

Veggie option available, please request on booking.

Licensed bar on evening.

*Booking in advance and payment of ticket by
Monday 4th November.*

For tickets see Graham or Charlotte in the Parish Office

CHURCH AND ARK OFFICE

Phone: 0121 447 7955

Charlotte is in the office

Monday - Thursday 9.30am - 2.30pm

Email: admin@thearkalvechurch.co.uk

Penny is in the office

Monday - Thursday 9.30am - 1.30pm

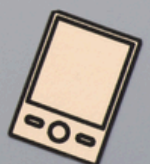
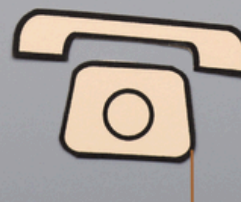
Email: church-beoleyandalvechurch@outlook.com

Keep up to date via our website:

<https://www.alvechurch-stlaurence.org/>

Follow us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/arkalvechurch>



SPONSOR A PIPE ON OUR ORGAN



^{In}
As part of our campaign to raise money for essential works and upgrade our organ we are inviting you to, 'Sponsor a pipe!' We have 1,348 pipes all waiting to be sponsored. Displayed in church we have a Sponsor a Pipe chart waiting to be filled with names. These names will then be remembered as part of the refurbishment and upgrade as part of the history of the organ. Each month we will print in Grapevine names added during the previous month.

You can sponsor a pipe in your own name, in remembrance of a loved one, or why not even gift a pipe to someone, we can even print off a certificate if you wish to give to them.

How to sponsor a pipe

Pop your £10 in an envelope with the name of the person you wish the pipe to be sponsored to and we will do the rest.

Many Thanks to our sponsors who have sponsored a pipe in September

David Richmond
Elizabeth Jane Richmond
Sydney Richmond
Essie Maude Lydia Richmond
Charles William Richmond
Mary Richmond
Alfred Charles Lionel Price
Eva Price
Susan Gomme

Thank you

St Laurence would like to say a special Thank you to Caroline Hopcraft who attended our National Heritage Open Day on Saturday the 14th of September and presented us with two cheques.

In memory of her late husband John Hopcraft who died on the 21st Of January 2024, and a further cheque in memory of the Catley Family

Your kind donations will make a big difference for the restoration of the St Laurence Church Organ Pipes

Praying for Alvechurch

"If the only prayer you ever say in your whole life is 'thank you' that would suffice." Meister Eckhart

At this harvest time, we give thanks for the abundance around us— for the food that sustains our bodies, the hands that work the land, and the hearts that come together in our community.

We pray for all those who contribute to our daily bread, from farmers in the fields to workers in shops. We give thanks for our Community Larder and for all who volunteer there.

We pray for neighbours who share and those in need of support, may we all feel the blessing of connection and compassion.

May God's love flow through us, not only in times of plenty, but especially in times of need, that all may experience hope, peace, and belonging.

We pray for all who live and work in Alvechurch, with a focus on all who live in Tanyard Close, The Rise and Swans Length.



T Together @ Harvest



Deuteronomy 24 v 19–22

When you are gathering your harvest in the field and leave behind a bundle of grain, don't go back and get it. Leave it there for foreigners, orphans, and widows so that the LORD your God can bless everything you do. When you beat your olive trees to knock the olives off, don't beat the trees a second time. Leave what is left for foreigners, orphans, and widows. When you harvest the grapes in your vineyard, don't pick the vines a second time. Leave what is left for foreigners, orphans, and widows. Remember that you were slaves in Egypt; that is why I am commanding you to do this.

Why do you think God told his people to leave behind some of their harvest?



Who is God asking us to support today?

What does our family have which we could share or give to others?



Celebrate Harvest together with our grain challenge

G Give some food to a local food bank or community fridge to share with those in need.

R Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Repair! Harvest is a great time to think of our own environmental impact. What can your family do to save our planet?

A Ask somebody in your community if you can do their food shopping for them this week or collect anything they need from the shops.

I Invite somebody to share a meal with you. If you cannot meet because of social distancing why not arrange to drop off a meal which they can heat up and join together virtually as you eat.

N Get out into **nature** together and spend some time thanking God for the many different plants and animals He has created.



A harvest prayer

Dear God,

Help us at harvest time to remember that you are our provider who gives us what we need. Help us to always remember to say thank you for all the good gifts that you give us.

We pray for all those who are struggling to buy the food they need for their families and for all the food banks and local projects who work so hard to support those in their communities.

In these difficult times help us not to be greedy, to only take what we need and to share what we have with others.

Amen

Alvechurch Knit and Natter Group

Alvechurch Knit and Natter group knit toys and garments to sell in order to support charities every year and they are keen to welcome some new members.

The charities are:

Brain Tumour Research (in memory of Finlay Church)
Motor Neurone Disease (as one of the group has this condition)
The Lounge Café (giving support to Alvechurch's youth)



***If you would like to know more contact Cynthia Lawton
07909606961***

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN ALVECHURCH
AND ROWNEY GREEN INVITES YOU TO A

PEACE SERVICE

followed by a
shared supper
in The Ark

Saturday 12th October, 5pm
at St Laurence Church

An illustration on a dark blue background showing several hands of various colors (yellow, pink, orange, blue, purple, green) reaching upwards from a teal-colored ground. The hands are arranged in a cluster, symbolizing unity and peace.

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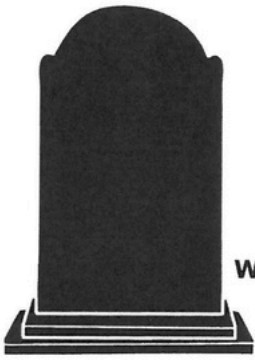


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2024
homecare.co.uk

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Samantha Anderson
Home Care Manager - Midlands




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Rossini - String Sonata No.5 &
Glazunov - Saxophone Concerto in E flat



SATURDAY
5TH OCTOBER
7.30pm
St Laurence Church
Alvechurch B43 7SB

Saxophone soloist
SAMANTHA ATKINSON

£16/£3 students & under 16s *on the door* OR
£14/£3 students & under 16s *in advance from...*
'Gin & Pickles' or 'The Lounge', Alvechurch &
www.midlandsinfonia.co.uk

Find us on:






PLACES OF WELCOME

Places of Welcome is a network of safe places where people can connect, belong and contribute.

Free refreshments, including toast!

Wednesdays
10am – 12pm

St Laurence Church and The Ark,
School Lane, Alvechurch, B48 7SB



ALVECHURCH VILLAGE SOCIETY – UPCOMING EVENTS

EVENT

Sun. Oct 13th 10:00 am
AVS Family litter picking session.
Meet in the village square.

Wed. Oct 16th at the Village Hall, 7:30pm
“Working with the Red Cross in War Zones: Lighting a Candle”
A talk by Dr Frank Ryding

WALKS

Sunday Oct 6th 2pm
A Leisurely Walk Through The Lickeys.
Meet at Lickey Hills Visitor Centre B45 8ER

Sunday Nov 3rd 2pm
A Walk Around Alvechurch
Meet at Alvechurch Station steps B48 7SD

For more information and membership see the AVS website: www.alvechurchvs.org

Hillside at Alvechurch WI

On the 7th August some of our members met up for a walk accompanied by Mary Green who who is an expert on flora and fauna and was able to give a very informative talk about all the plants as they walked along the canal path in Alvechurch. This was followed by an excellent meal at the Crown, Withybed Green.

Our speaker for our September meeting was *Dave Morgan* who is Worcestershire’s County Organiser for everything garden and came along to share a talk entitled ‘I’m not much good at gardening’ which ran along side a slide show. It was both fascinating and very humorous and having seen slides of his own beautiful garden I think he’s a much better gardener than the title implies. Plant cutting were taken along from members gardens for those who were green fingered and wanted to add to their garden.

Another very successful meeting.

Quality care in Edgbaston you can trust

When a family is thinking about care for a loved one, they want the best - they want to know that the care home they choose will put their loved one's safety, happiness and well-being first.

Metchley Manor is managed by award-winning provider Care UK - one of the UK's most highly successful care home operators* with over 40 years' experience delivering high quality care to older people.

Metchley Manor stands out from other care homes with its large apartment-style living and luxury facilities. The home offers a choice between two room types, each with their own ensuite bathrooms, private dining areas and kitchenettes. Our one bed suites are ideal for individuals, whilst our companion suites offer an additional room, perfect for couples to enjoy as an extra living area. Offering residential and dementia care, including short-term respite stays, the grand facilities and lovely grounds at Metchley Manor will change your view of care homes for the better.

The lifestyle teams at our home organise a huge variety of group and one-to-one activities, with plenty going on each day, and residents can enjoy trips out and visits from the local community too.

Residents at Metchley Manor also enjoy award winning hospitality, with the home winning Best Dining Experience in 2022, and Head Chef Scott Tame recently being



shortlisted for the Public Sector Catering Awards in 2023 as Chef of the Year. Scott has been praised for ensuring that residents dine with dignity, have plenty of choice, and are served great food that looks, tastes and is of the same standard as fine dining.

Metchley Manor care home
5 Church Road, Edgbaston - Birmingham,
West Midlands B15 3SH
careuk.com/metchley-manor

Visit our website or call 0121 468 9344.



*As rated by the Care Quality Commission in England and the Care Inspectorate in Scotland.

Discover Chaplaincy

An evening exploring the place of chaplaincy in the Church's mission in Redditch



Come and learn about what chaplains do, and this vital part of the mission of our Churches to organisations in our town, and the wider community. Volunteers are needed for chaplaincy in a variety of settings, including:

- The Alexandra Hospital
- HMP Hewell
- The Kingfisher Shopping Centre.

Chaplains

- Are good listeners.
- Want to share the love of God with those they meet, through careful listening and prayerful concern.
- Have a few hours each week.
- Are interested in putting their faith into action in a practical way.



Could you offer to be a chaplain volunteer?

With speakers from different local chaplaincy teams, working in a variety of contexts. An opportunity to ask questions and find out more about training and support provided to volunteers.



Please tell us if you plan to attend by phoning Elaine on 07836 644445

Thursday October 24th 7.00 – 8.30 p.m.

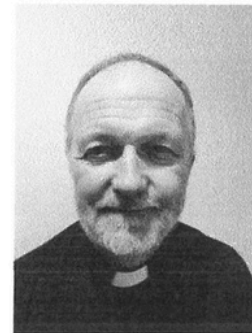
The Ecumenical Centre, Redditch

(entrance off Evesham Walk, parking at St Stephen's Church)

Our Team



Revd Gail Rogers
Priest in Charge
The Rectory, School Lane
0121 824 5257
07867 853813
revdgail@icloud.com

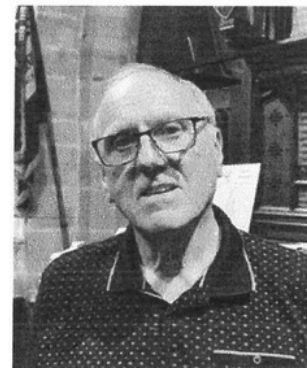


Revd Martin Allen
Assistant Curate
117 Birmingham Road
07788 872738

Churchwardens



Michael Davenport
0121 447 7955



Mick Fletcher
Authorised Lay Minister
0121 447 7955



Penny Walker
Ministry Support Administrator
Tuesday - Thursday 9.30am -1.30pm
0121 447 7955
church-beoleyandalvechurch@outlook.com



Charlotte Palethorpe
Ark and Facilities Administrator
0121 447 7955
admin@thearkalvechurch.co.uk



Sue Phillips Wardle
 Licensed Lay Minister
 55 Birmingham Road
 0121 445 0505



Helen Ayling
 Licensed Lay Minister
 "Tamcroft", Hewell Lane
 0121 445 6176

Authorised Lay Ministers



Helena Allen



Graham Clark



Sarah Linton



Sue Sperring

Deputy Churchwardens



Andy Notley

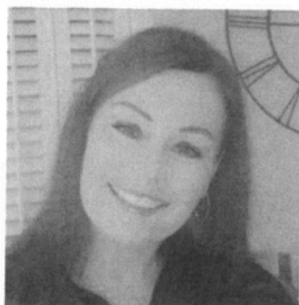


Susan Lambert
 Safeguarding Officer
 07769110608



Colin Bennett
 Tower Master
 01527 64077

Mark Linton



Michelle Read
 Finance Officer
stlaurencetreasurer@outlook.com



Announcement of £189,000 National Lottery Heritage Fund Grant



Crown Meadow First School Choir



Face Painting



Model Power Boat Association has a wonderful day with us



Teddy Bear Parachutes from the church tower are always a favourite!



Alvechurch Morris Men joined us again and even managed to recruit a new dancer!

We also welcomed Aelfgythe Border Morris, ladies too.



The Midland Sinfonia



Selfie station !



Thank you Pete for bringing these excellent examples of Heritage Cars to our Heritage open day ... Lightning McQueen himself even made an appearance !