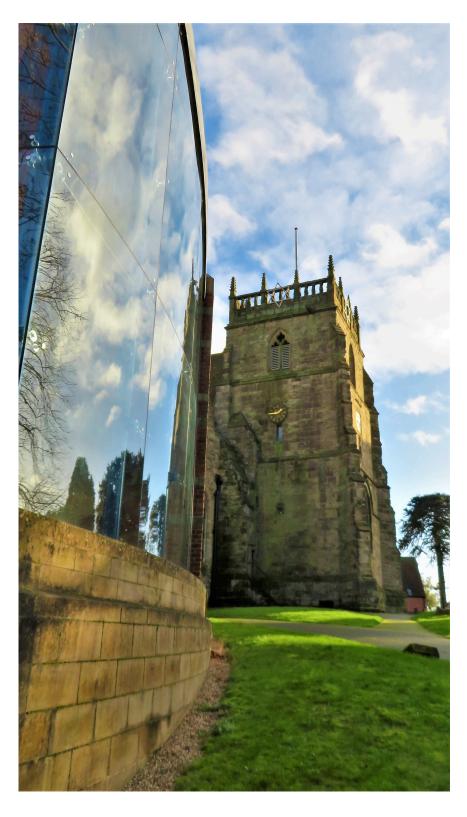
## GRAPEVINE

ST LAURENCE CHURCH, ALVECHURCH

July 2024



Hoping, Planning and Resting

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## REVD GAIL WRITES...

As we enter into the summer months, there are three things on my mind. The General Election, fundraising initiatives (of which there are three we are needing to pay attention to at St Laurence Church) and summer breaks. How does the Christian faith speak into these and inform how we are called to respond and encourage others to respond to?

In the gospel of Matthew, chapter 5 verses 13-16 Christians are called to be salt and light in the world. These metaphors convey important aspects of Christian identity and mission. Being salt and light means living out one's faith in a way that preserves and enhances goodness in the world, illuminates truth and hope, and serves as a visible, guiding example of God's love and righteousness.

Participating in elections is a way to influence society positively and advocate for policies that reflect Christian values such as justice, compassion, and the dignity of all people. To do this with integrity we need to be informed voters, understanding the issues and candidates, and seeking guidance through prayer and biblical principles.

In the Letter 1 Timothy, the Bible encourages prayer for leaders and those in authority and during election seasons we are urged to pray for wisdom and discernment in choosing leaders who will govern justly and righteously.

We also know that elections can be divisive. As Christians we are called to promote unity and respect for others, even those with differing views, maintaining a Christ-like attitude of love and grace. As we approach the 4th July, I pray that we can all hold onto the integrity of God who is love and use our vote to support policies that support the flourishing of all people and the communities that we live. Please do go and vote.

Fundraising is big on our agenda here at St Laurence, we need to raise money for our general fund which pays for the day to day bills and activities of our work and ministry. The income for our Churchyard maintenance fund doesn't cover the outgoings and we are still needing to raise funds for the essential maintenance and upgrade needed on our organ. Churches are charities, we don't receive any outside or government funding to cover our responsibility of maintaining the church building, the churchyard, and the cost of our mission and ministry. Apart from a small percentage of the fees from weddings and funerals we are only sustained via the generosity of others, of people like you who committed to supporting us through donations. This can be a one -off donation, a regular weekly, monthly or annual donation, all are gratefully received and much needed for the sustainability of our future.

Giving through our general QR code, plate giving in church, cash donations points, which can be found in The Ark and in church alongside our contactless machine will support our General Fund. If you would like to donate to the churchyard fund we have a separate QR for that, likewise for the organ fund. If you would like to donate by cash you can do so by writing the name of the fund on a envelope with you donation inside. We also have our sponsor and organ pipe to encourage donations here, see the article about this inside this edition of Grapevine. The Bible encourages generosity and cheerful giving (2 Corinthians 9:7) and our fundraising efforts should reflect these principles, promoting a spirit of generosity within the wider community of which we serve. Generosity will be lived out differently amongst us, some able to offer more than others, but no donation is too large or too small, what reflects the love and grace of God is the generosity and cheerfulness of the donation.

Finally, with all this going on, I am looking forward to a break. Summer breaks can be seen as an extended Sabbath, a time for rest and renewal. The Bible emphasises the importance of rest and summer can be a season to rejuvenate physically, mentally, and spiritually. It's an opportunity to spend quality time with family and friends, deepening relationships and fostering community, reflecting the biblical value of fellowship. With the longer days we may have more time to do things we wouldn't usually do, so they may also be a time for service, participating more within local community projects, embodying the call to serve others. Whatever, you are doing this summer, may you know some rest and renewal.

In this edition of Grapevine there is lots of information about our upcoming Heritage Day in September, save the date! This year we are doing a Prize Draw and already have some fantastic prizes to be won, do buy your tickets and sell some for us too if you are able. All money will go into our General Fund. There is also lots of information about the life of St Laurence Church and the community of Alvechurch, take a look and come and join in. A warm and friendly welcome awaits you.

With prayers and best wishes

Revd. Gail



## \_\_ THE ARK SUMMER LUNCH

#### MAIN

#### Ploughman's Lunch

Ham or Stilton Cheese
served with salad potatoes,
pork pie, a wedge of cheddar,
pickles and a selection of breads.
('no pork' pie vegetarian option available)

#### **DESSERTS**

Cheesecake or Spring Decorated Cupcakes

### ALL SERVED WITH A GLASS OF PROSECCO

Tea and coffee with also be served.

## Thursday 8th August £12 per person

Arrive from 12:30pm with food served at 1pm To book please contact the office 0121 447 7955

admin@thearkalvechurch.co.uk



# SAVE THE DATE

# St Laurence Church and The Ark Heritage Day

## SATURDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER 2024 10AM -4PM

Join us for tours of the church and churchyard, local stalls, games and presentations from local groups. Food and refreshments served all day including pre-ordered afternoon tea!

Keep a look out closer to the date for a full programme of activities.



Heitage Day Raffle Prizes and Sponsons

1st Prize £100 2nd Prize £50





Current Sponsors of the raffle with more to follow!

HOMELY PRINTSCO







THANK







#### Raffle Tickets - Can you help?

We are looking for people to help spread the word about our upcoming Heritage Open Day on Saturday 14th September 2024

If you are a member of a group, a small business or could pass tickets onto friends and family we would really appreciate it.

We can deliver tickets locally or they can be collected from The Ark.

If you are able to help please contact
Charlotte 0121 447 7955
admin@thearkalvechurch.co.uk or pop into the Ark.
Thank you

#### SUNDAY FAMILY WORSHIP AND ARK TIME

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

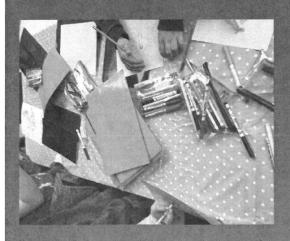
As well as singing and praying in church with their families, babies, children and Young People are invited through for Ark Time.

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.



7th July Family communion with Ark Time

14th & 28th - 9.15am Family Service with Ark Time

**21st - 9.15am** Café style service all together in The Ark (breakfast pastries served from 8.45am)

#### **What is Café Church**

Café Church is a new style of worship offered once per month as part of our regular pattern of Sunday worship. On the third Sunday of each month for our 9:15am 3rd Sundays at 9:15am

Café Church

worship instead of gathering in the church building we will meet in The Ark where our worship will begin with sharing breakfast. This will then lead onto a more informal style of worship. It will still have songs, prayers, a bible reading but instead of longer sermon it will have a 'thought for the day' followed by a selection of responses to suit our learning and interactive preferences to a bible story.

#### What can I expect when I come?

A warm welcome, delicious breakfast pastries, followed by friendship, conversation and worship. and an invitation to be all that you have been created to be.

#### Why do you meet in The Ark and not in church?

We love St Laurence Church it is beautiful place to worship and to pray. But we don't have much space to offer more creative styles of worship such as a Café style church. Café Church is 'church' in its truest sense, (in the bible the church is the people, not the building) offering the same welcome and hospitality that is always part of who we are as a community of faith.

#### Who is Café Church for?

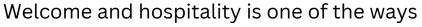
It is for everyone - younger, older. Those of us who have been attending church for a long time, and those of us who have never

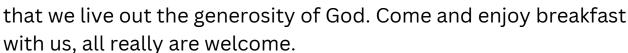
been to church before. It is for people strong in their faith, those whose faith is wavering and those who don't yet know of they have a faith or not. Come along and meet some familiar faces, and meet some new ones too.



#### How much does it cost to have breakfast?

Nothing, it is absolutely free!







However, we are very happy to receive donations towards the work of St Laurence Church and a collection box is in the room should you wish to donate this way. If you would like to become a regular giver we can give you more information about this too.

Café Ch

If you have anymore questions, drop us a message and we will do our best to answer it.

Our next Café Church is on

### **Sunday 21st July**

A selection of breakfast pastries and refreshment will be served from 8:45am with our worship beginning at 9.15am.

Please note that Cafe Sundays there is no Ark Time, we all stay in together.





#### IMPORTANT NOTICE ABOUT ACCESS TO ST LAURENCE CHURCH AND THE ARK

### WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL PUBLIC NOTICE

Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984

(U23242 School Lane, Alvechurch) (Temporary Closure) and The County of Worcester (School Lane, Alvechurch) (One-Way) Order 1958 (Temporary Suspension) Order 2024

Proposed Order: to close that part of U23242 School Lane from its junction with C2001 Bear Hill for a distance of 80 metres in a north-easterly direction and to temporarily suspend The County of Worcester (School Lane, Alvechurch) (One-Way) Order 1958 to allow two-way traffic to be able to access residents and businesses for the duration of the Order.

Reason: Replacement gas main by Cadent Gas.

Exemptions: to permit access to any land or premises fronting the highway affected where there is no other form of access; and to allow the works to be undertaken.

Alternative route: C2001 Bear Hill, C2291 Swan Street and vice versa.

Maximum duration: 18 Months. Anticipated duration: 15 days (24hrs)

Commencing: 15 July 2024





## **Praying for Alvechurch**

#### Prayer should be the key of the day and the lock of the night.

George Herbert

We pray for the general election, for all candidates standing and all who support them. May there be wisdom, vision and courage in policy, campaigning and voting. May the flourishing of all people and community be at the heart of all decision making.

We pray for our children and young people attending transition days as they move to new schools and colleges. May their nerves be held gently, and their excitement be a source of joy.

We pray for all schools, for teachers and all who work to offer care, safety and sustenance for our younger people. May this last term of the academic year be filled learning and fun. As we approach the summer break, may it be a time of renewal and refreshment.

We give thanks for the work of Alvechurch Educational Trust in supporting families and young people. May thier work continue to be a blessing to those who use it.

We pray for all who live and work in Alvechurch, with a focus on all who live in Hollington Road, Blythesway and Callow Hill Road.

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## **CHURCHES TOGETHER**

**WORSHIP AND BRING AND SHARE SUPPER** 

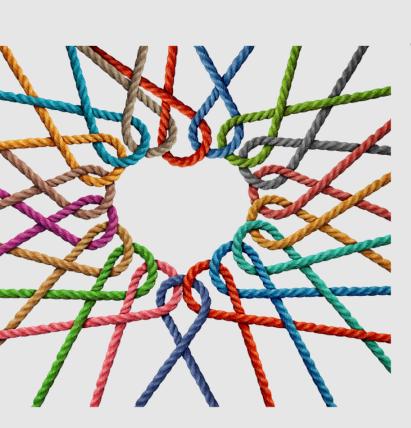
GIVING THANKS FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY IN ALVECHURCH AND ROWNEY GREEN, GATHERING AT



## St Mary's Church

St Mary's Church, School Lane Alvechurch

## SATURDAY 20TH JULY, 5PM



Join us for worship as we celebrate our diversity and give thanks for our unity in The Body of Christ.

Our worship will continue afterwards with supper.

As you are able please bring cold buffet food to the shared table.

THIS IS A CHURCHES TOGETHER IN ALVECHURCH AND ROWNEY GREEN EVENT

## ROGER WARDLE WRITES...

What makes your heart sing?

The relevance of this question should become clearer later, but suffice to say I am at the time of life when I often find myself mulling over big and difficult questions. Questions like, "Why am I on this earth?", "What have I achieved in life?"; and, yes, "How will I be remembered?

It is generally thought that as people age, they become wiser. Have I developed the ability of 'judging rightly and following the soundest course of action, based on knowledge, experience and understanding'? I'm not sure that I have, but I try to keep learning (these days, usually from my grandchildren) and I find myself increasingly noting words of wisdom expounded by others. Things like, "it's not the years in your life, it's the life in your years," and "as you get older, keep saying yes" (to new experiences and opportunities).

It was at one my more reflective moments I heard on the radio someone of a certain age say, "as you get older do what makes your heart sing." It caused me to stop and think what exactly does that phrase mean. In my life I have been fortunate enough to enjoy many special or magical moments; my wedding day; witnessing the birth of my children; smelling the fragrance of a particularly beautiful rose, etc. etc.

But there are some moments which transcend even the magical. Moments when not just your heart starts racing, but when where you are and what you are experiencing lifts you up to another level entirely. When you are drawn into a spiritual dimension, when you are literally unable to find words to describe how you feel. Other than you feel your heart singing for joy.

You may have heard of a particular location being described as a 'thin place'. It may be a religious building, it may be outside in a lovely garden, it may be a mountain top, but a place where you can experience the nearness of God, a place where earth and heaven meet. I think that may well be, for me, a similar experience to when my heart starts singing, except the place itself may not be important. It's your emotional and spiritual connection with what you are experiencing that is critical. The common denominator of these two experiences, for me, is the presence of God.

When my heart really does sing is not only when I experience God's presence, his nearness, but also feel God's love. As part of the repertoire of Alvechurch Community Choir of which I am a member, as well as in church services, I/we sing this song:-

Love I give to you, I give to you, my love. Let it flow to one another, Let it flow, let it flow.

May God's love flow to you in the same way as it has to me. When it does any wisdom I have gained over the years tells me that you will find your heart singing too.

## Heritage Day Afternoon Tea

14th September available between 12pm - 3pm St Laurence Church and The Ark

As part of our Heritage Day event we are offering Afternoon tea. Please note that this is by prebooking only and must be paid for in advance.

#### Menu

A selection of sandwiches
(Gluten free and vegetarian sandwiches availible. Please sate when booking

Scone with jam and clotted cream and a selection of patisseries

Pot of tea or coffee

## £12 per person

To book please contact Charlotte in the office. Email: admin@thearkalvechurch.co.uk\_\_\_\_



## THANK YOU

In May we gave thanks for the work of Graham Clark as churchwarden, stepping down after 15 years and for Lynda Lewis our Administrator as she retired. Both were given gifts of thanks and send messages extending their personal thanks to the church and community for the well wishes and gifts they were given.

Graham was given a voucher for a 'Blacksmith' experience where he had an informative day learning a new skill. As part of the day he made the items below, which he bought home as a momentum of our thanks and the wonderful time he had.







#### A message from Lynda ...

I would like to thank everyone for their kind wishes on my retirement. I was overwhelmed by the number of people who took time to attend my leaving event, and for the very generous gifts and vouchers I received. I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know so many of the church and community during my time here. Thanks particularly to Revd Gail for her friendship and support, for the patience and understanding of all of those who I have worked with, and my very best wishes to Penny, Michelle and Charlotte as they continue forward.



## ST LAURENCE CHURCH DIARY JULY 2024

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

Places of Welcome Wednesday 3rd July, 10.00am - 12pm

Open Church Wednesday 3rd July, 10.00am -12pm

Ark Tots and Toddlers Thursday 4th July, 9.30am

A BCP Service of Holy Communion St Leonard's Church, Beoley

Thursday 4th July, 10am

Wedding Enquiries, bookings and planning

St Leonard's Church, Beoley Thursday 4th July 6-8pm

Family Worship with Holy Communion and Ark Time

Sunday 7th July 9:15am

**Morning Worship** 

Sunday 7th July 11:15am

Places of Welcome Wednesday 10th July 10.00am - 12pm

Open Church Wednesday 10th July, 10.00am -12pm

Ark Tots and Toddlers Thursday 11th July, 9.30am

Family Worship with Ark Time Sunday 14th July 9.15am

**Celebration of Holy Communion** Sunday 14th July, 11.15am

**Redditch Mission Area Commissioning Service** 

at John's Greenlands Sunday 14th July, 4pm

## DIARY JULY CONT.

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

A BCP Service of Holy Communion

St Laurence, Alvechurch

Wednesday 17th July, 10am

Places of Welcome

Wednesday 17th July, 10.00am - 12pm

**Open Church** 

Wednesday 17th July 10.00am -12pm

**Ark Tots and Toddlers** 

Thursday 18th July, 9.30am

Wedding Enquiries, bookings and planning

St Leonard's Church, Beoley

Thursday 18th July 6-8pm

Café Church, breakfast pastries served from 8:45am

Sunday 21st July, 9:15am

**Morning Worship** 

Sunday 21st July, 11.15am

Places of Welcome

Wednesday 24th July, 10.00am - 12pm

**Open Church** 

Wednesday 24th July, 10.00am -12pm

**Ark Tots and Toddlers** 

Thursday 25th July, 9.30am

Family Worship with Ark Time

Sunday 28th July 9.15am

Celebration of Holy Communion

Sunday 28th July, 11.15am



Refreshments are served in The Ark, in between our services, please do stay after the 9:15am service or come early for the 11:15am service.



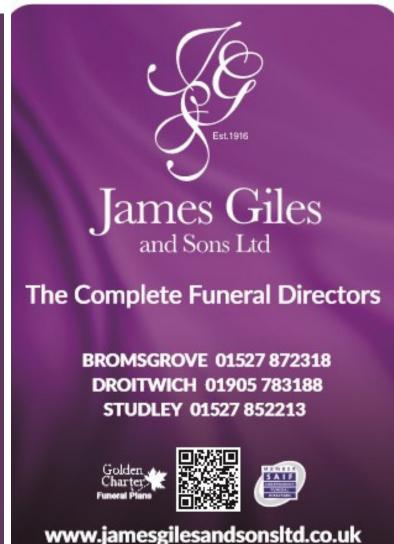
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#### Family Concert' - May 2024

A packed audience delighted in the young choir from Crown Meadow School and the expressive Translucent Dancers on a lovely Saturday afternoon. Wonderful music included Harry Potter, Wonka, The Pink Panther and Wind in the Willows. The concert concluded with 'The Story of Alice in Wonderland' narrated by the Mad Hatter!



The concert took place in church with many people gathered.

Year 4 Crown Meadow First School Choir rehearsing in The Ark before the concert.





## SUMMER FETE

1.30 - 4.30 PM

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Local Entertainment | Games
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dave4margie@gmail.com

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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
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<sup>\*</sup>As rated by the Care Quality Commission in England and the Care Inspectorate in Scotland.





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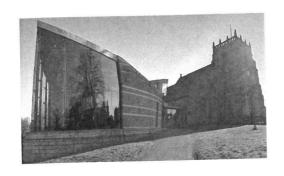
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# The Ark July Events

### Contacts for class and group regular events

The Monday Milonga Club at The Ark - Andy 07788756174
Alvechurch Historical Society - Anne - 0121 445 5955
Karate - Chris 0756 4604613
Adult Irish dancing - donnagriffinacademy.com
Places of Welcome - Charlotte - 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 on Facebook
Mini-Athletics - Steph - www.miniathletics.com

Amber's popular retreat returns - for details and booking contact www.ambersoundhealing.com...

## Are you able to volunteer and help with opening up and locking up the Ark?

Following Graham's retirement we are looking for volunteers who are able to assist with the opening and locking up of the Ark before and after events. Even just the odd occasion would be appreciated.

If you are able to assist the please speak to Charlotte in the office

For booking your own event. class or party please contact Charlotte - admin@thearkalvechurch.co.uk or 0121 447 7955

## D Day Alvechurch and Rowney Green Remembers



Rowney Green Memorial to the Canadian Airmen who lost their lives in a plane crash in nearby fields.



On 6th June Alvechurch and Rowney Green took part in remembering the 80th anniversary D Day and the battle of Normandy. Normandy will forever be marked by the D-Day Landings and the Battle of Normandy that led to the liberation of France and Europe.

Such momentous occasions are also an opportunity for us to remember our commitment to peace and reconciliation.

As part of the celebrations St Laurence church bells rang out at 6.30pm with the national 'ringing for peace'. This was then followed by an event at Alvechurch Cricket club where the beacon was lit at 9:15pm at the same times as other beacons throughout the country.



D Day Beacon at Alvechurch Cricket Club



Alvechurch village green, with flagpole and dedicatory plague



The Beacon alight



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#### Hillside at Alvechurch WI

Kath Ryan, known as The Cake Lady who runs the charity Cakes 4 Casualties was the speaker at our June meeting. Kath proved to be an amusing and inspirational individual who began the charity by chance when visiting her sister at Selly Oak Hospital with a cake. A nurse mentioned that a badly injured soldier on the ward could do with a cake to cheer him up.

Fifteen years later Kath has made tens of thousands of cakes and visits military personnel at the QE weekly. She explained a slice of cake can help someone feel loved and cared for and bring back memories of happier times. A simple idea which has helped the injured and their families cope with trauma and made a difference to so many people's lives.

We have a visit to Whitledge Gardens near Hartlebury planned for 26th June. Hopefully the weather will be kind to us. In August we are planning a walk with Mary Green followed by a meal at The Crown. Plans for a Christmas meal were also discussed.

The meeting on 3rd July, 7.45 at The Ark will be the 56th birthday of our WI and we plan to mark the occasion with a cream tea and toast our longevity with a glass of something bubbly. Our speaker Kevin Ward, is the Bromsgrove Town Crier and will be talking about the history of the town crier.

Don't forget visitors are always welcome.

Follow us on Facebook at Hillside WI at Alvechurch or contact Marian Clemons on 07586354826

#### **ALVECHURCH VILLAGE SOCIETY**

WALK - Friday July 5th 6.30pm
End of season evening walk
Tony's Mystery Walk
Meet at Alvechurch Station by the bike racks
Finish at The Weighbridge

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









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

#### Places of Welcome is run by volunteers.

Can you spare a couple of hours once every 4-6 weeks to serve drinks and toast?

Yes! Please contact Charlotte in the Office for more details.



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St Laurence Church and The Ark, Alvechurch

## ARK TOTS AND TODDLERS

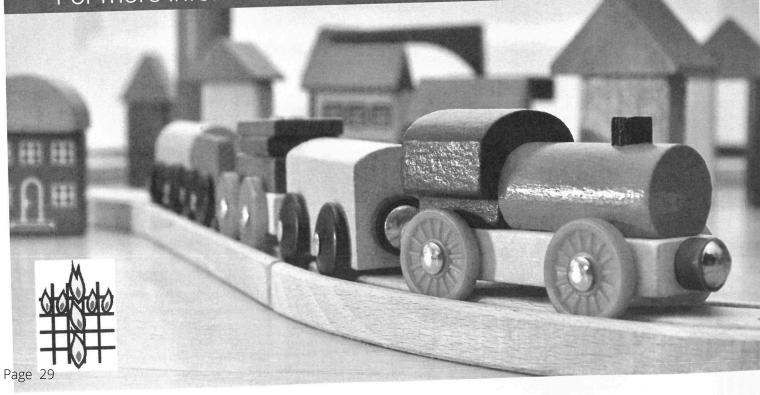
A friendly play enviroment for babies and little ones under 5, with their parents or carers.

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.



## SPONSOR A PIPE ON OUR ORGAN

In 1971 the church organ was rebuilt by Thomas Sheffield of Solihull and placed on a free standing gallery in the north aisle. This



instrument replaced an earlier one built by the Hill Organ Company at the beginning of the twentieth century. The present organ has 1,348 pipes of which 180 came from the old instrument.

As part of our campaign to raise money for essential works and upgrade our organ we are launching, '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 refurbishbent 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.





Revd Gail Rogers
Vicar

### **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



Michelle Read
Finance Officer
stlaurencetreasurer@outlook.com

### PARISH OFFICE

Phone: 0121 447 7955

Email: admin@thearkalvechurch.co.uk

Charlotte is in the office Monday - Thursday 9.30am - 1.30pm

Keep up to date via our website: https://www.alvechurch-stlaurence.org/



Follow us on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/arkalvechurch





