

GRAPEVINE

ST LAURENCE CHURCH, ALVECHURCH

November 2022



Remembrance and Hope

Jesus said, "Come to me all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest."

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REVD GAIL WRITES...



When I talk to nursery school children about Remembrance I teach them this little song...

'In November, we remember,
all the good things that God gives,
so that nothing is forgotten
and our special memories live'.

It has actions too, ask me to teach you when you see me around the village. But why mention this song here? For me, it's simplicity it holds much depth. It holds the importance of remembering, whether this be 'remember, remember, the 5th of November' or our loved ones who have died at All Saints and All Soul's or the national day of remembering those who have died during conflict.

Remembering can be painful and traumatic, but it can also be beautiful. We can remember 'the good old days' with joyful nostalgia but also recognising all that we have lost. Remembering plays an important role who we understand ourselves in relationship with other, our community and with the world. Remembering is also deeply important to God.

Remembrance runs throughout the bible, not as an act that is passive but rather as something we do in action. Remembrance in ancient Greek (the language the New Testament of the bible is written in) is linked to the same root word used in the word resurrection. Like resurrection, remembrance should lead us to not focus on impossibility but instead focus on the God who does the impossible. Our remembrance should lead to a new and deep sense of hope.

God wants us to live in hope, to be a people of remembrance who

through God and God's remembering of us, are re-membered as a whole people. People living as one, not people divided. The bible calls this The Body of Christ.

As our little song says, remembrance is about life, us holding the whole of life, the past, the present and the future. Remembering in lament, in thankfulness, in hope and in praise all that has gone before us in the hope of a future where all life and creation flourishes in its fullness of being.

In this issue of Grapevine you will find lots more information about the life of St Laurence Church and The Ark. We also have more information about our services over the Christmas period. Please do make a note of the dates knowing that you are very welcome to come and join us where you can.

Prayers and best wishes

Rev. Gail

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN ALVECHURCH AND ROWNEY GREEN

Nativity Adventure

Alvechurch Village Christmas Light Switch on
Saturday 3rd December from 5pm at
Alvechurch Baptist Church

Nativity Crafts

Nativity Display

Free Mulled Wine and Hot Chocolate
Donations welcome

A white silhouette illustration of a nativity scene set against a red background with bokeh light effects. The scene includes three camels on the left, a stable with Mary and Joseph, a baby in a manger, a donkey and sheep on the right, and three shepherds with staffs. Palm trees are visible in the background.



The Ark Christmas Lunch

THURSDAY 15TH DECEMBER
ARRIVE FROM 12:30PM

MAIN

Turkey or Nut Roast

Roast Potatoes

Pigs in Blankets

Stuffing Balls

Veg: Sprout, Cauliflower Cheese and Peas

Gravy

DESSERTS

*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 £10 PER PERSON
BOOKING IN ADVANCE ONLY

For more details contact Lynda
0121 447 7955 / admin@thearkalvechurch.co.uk



“Everyday faith” is the Church of England’s initiative to help people think about God as they go about their daily lives – not just Sunday worship!

with Mark Linton

Tell us about yourself.

I’m Mark and married to Sarah. We live in Redditch, but Sarah used to live in Alvechurch and worshipped at St Laurence. After marrying we returned to St Laurence to worship and for Sarah to help with the Toddlers and Children’s groups. We have a blended family with 6 children between us. They are all grown up, married, and finding their own way in the world. We are very fortunate to have 9 grandchildren who keep us on our toes as well.

Where might we find you every day, and what sort of things would you be doing or being?

I work for Jaguar Land Rover as an Engineering Manager looking after a team of 15 Engineers. I have recently suffered with health issues and so am off work awaiting open heart surgery. So, my normal everyday has changed dramatically in the last 8 weeks!

How do you experience God in the joys and challenges of everyday life?

I try to live my life as a follower of Jesus, with him as the centre of my life. Being an Engineer I am interested in how things work. My current health issues mean that I need to understand how the human body works to appreciate my limitations in everyday living. The body is so intricate that I can’t help but look at it and see God’s design. Now being at home all day is a challenge especially waiting for appointments and test results. So, I try to see God in all things even the timing of each appointment.

How do you share your faith with others in everyday life?

At work and at home I see my faith as a part of me. I don’t hide that I go to church and that I am a Christian. When appropriate, my faith might come into conversations, but otherwise I believe that my actions speak louder than my words. I find people respect this, as they know I not only respect them, but I will always be true and honest with them.

(How) Does your faith grow through everyday living?

I try to spend some quiet time each day to read the bible and pray. I am not perfect and sometimes miss a day or two! Through reading Christian books, the bible and listening to Christian music I feel a closeness with God. I sense that he is there, standing with me through issues at work or when I have poor health.

St Laurence's desire is to be a church for the whole community. Through being a Christ like presence to all we meet in this place, we worship and proclaim the love and hope of God. How does your everyday faith support that desire?

I believe my actions speak louder than my words, I agree that St Laurence church should be at the heart of the community. Supporting people, as we move from the Covid pandemic into the cost-of-living crisis is important.

“Ministry” is what all believers are called to, not just for those ordained. How can we support you in yours?

In August we started a men's study group at St Laurence. It's for guys to come together to talk about everyday issues and to have support when times are tough. The men's study group is open to all and for those who cannot make it regularly we plan a social event soon.

How can we pray for you?

I have been a Christian for many years. I still though sometimes need reminding of how Great God is. No matter what I am going through in life he has got hold of me. So, I would value your prayers that I can support others and always remember, that we have an amazing God.

How do you live out your faith in your everyday life? We would love to hear from you, to take part in this regular feature, please do get in contact.

everyday
faith



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

An Angel of Love

In the southeast corner of St Laurence's churchyard there are several graves where still-born or neo-natal babies are buried.

Some of these graves are unmarked.

They date back to the days when such infants were not offered a "proper" funeral.

The children involved are all but forgotten by the community. Remembered only by their parents and families.

This aberration has long been a source of sorrow for members of St Laurence and this year we have been able to do something about it. An on-going project has

been started to go some way to right the wrong of the past. The work is being funded by specific donations from members of the church and local community. The undergrowth has been cleared away from the graves and the overhanging tree branches will shortly be cut back,

A memorial stone is being donated by A Pullen Memorials to be installed by the graves. We thank Pullen's for this generous donation.

Just by this area there used to be a magnificent cherry tree which delighted the eyes every spring with its blossom. Sadly that lost a great limb in a storm a few years back and the stump has been sitting waiting for someone to think what to do with it.



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An Angel of Love



Putting these two things together, the church commissioned local sculptor Andy DeComyn to create something appropriate. (Andy also created the serpent in The Meadows and the sculptures in Finn's Garden.)

Cherry Tree stump
before



Andy creating our
Angel of Love

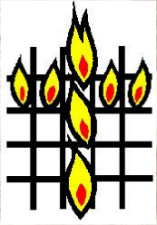
The result is the beautiful angel which you can now see as you walk by. The Angel of Love was unveiled by Rev Gail and Andy after a short service on Sunday October 9th, the start of "Baby Loss Awareness Week"

It is hoped that this will act as a focal point and a place of commemoration and memorial for all whose lives have been affected by the loss of an infant, whether they be in our churchyard or not.



Lights of Love from our Baby
Loss memorial service before the
unveiling of our Angel of Love





Quiz and Chips

Saturday 19th November

7:30pm start, doors open at 7pm

The Ark, School Lane, B48 7SB

Teams of up to 6 people max

£10 per person including fish and chip supper.

Veggie option available, please request on booking.

Licensed bar on evening.

*Booking in advance by payment of ticket by
5th November.*

For tickets see Graham or Lynda in the Parish Office



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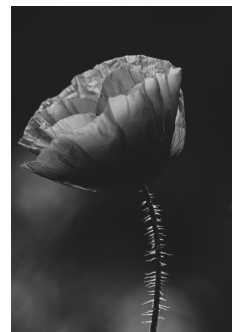
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ALVECHURCH REMEMBERS



Sunday 13th November

**St Laurence Church at 10am and at
the Memorial Green from 10.30am.**

St Laurence Church, Alvechurch Parish Council and the Alvechurch Services Association have come together to plan a service for Remembrance Sunday.

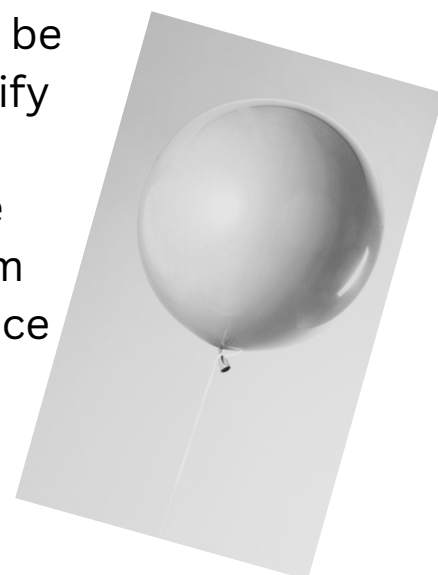
Representatives from our community have been invited to take part as Alvechurch Remembers together.

*Please note that Bear Hill will be closed to traffic up to Snake Lane
between 10.15am - 11.30am*

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.

On Remembrance Sunday all our war graves will be mark by red balloons, this will help you to identify them more easily.

After the service in St Laurence Church as we process down to Memorial Green children from Alvechurch Middle School will lay a remembrance cross on each grave.



At the going down of the sun and in the morning We will remember them

BURIED CLOSE TO HOME

Service men who died as a result of World War 1 or 2 and who are buried in war graves in St Laurence churchyard are remembered in November by the placing of poppy crosses on their graves.

It was decided that bodies of men who died abroad would not be repatriated and that all should be treated in the same way regardless of rank and have the same white headstone of Portland stone. This also applied to the many men who died in the UK from wounds or illness resulting from service abroad or those who served at home having been found to be unfit for foreign service.

There are seven war graves in the churchyard, three from World War 1 and four from World War 2. Six are the traditional Portland stone Commonwealth War graves, the seventh was a family grave and a CWGC stone was added at the foot in 2016.

World War 1

Two graves in area of churchyard to left of drive

Thomas Davis Private, Labour Corps. Son of Thomas and Elizabeth Davis, of Birmingham Road, Alvechurch. Died from bronchitis and pneumonia aged 35 on 18th November 1918 at Cliveden Hospital, Taplow, buried on 23rd November 1918.

Thomas had done war work at the Birmingham Gas Company and on the land; before enlisting he was a highly respected member of the church choir.

Thomas Trueman Private, Labour Corps. Son of William and Mary Trueman, of Withybed Green, Alvechurch; husband of Edith Trueman, 27 Mill Lane, Northfield, Birmingham. Died aged 37 on 28th December 1918 at Sobraon Military Hospital, Colchester, buried on 4th January 1919.



Roland Matthews (Grave near base of tower and Ark door) Private, 13th Battalion Australian Infantry Australian Imperial Force.

Son of Richard and Mary Ann Matthews, of Poolbank, Cofton, Northfield, Birmingham, born at Alvechurch. Died of wounds on 2nd January 1918 in the Tankerton Military Hospital, Whitstable, Kent, aged 27. Buried on 8th January 1918.

Roland had emigrated to Australia but the consequences of war saw him return to England, buried next to his family.

World War 2 -Three graves in West churchyard to left of the turning circle.

Harry Busby Private, 1st Battalion Worcestershire Regiment. Son of Henry and Margaret Busby, of Barnt Green, Worcestershire. A despatch rider, he died in hospital in Kent aged 21 on 13th May 1944 following an accident.

William Price Company Quartermaster Sergeant, 8th Battalion North Staffordshire Regiment. Died on 11th October 1941.

Alfred Reading Ordinary Seaman, H.M.S. Argus Royal Navy. Son of John and Ellen Reading of Alvechurch and husband of Millicent Amelia Daisy Reading, of Alvechurch. Died aged 35 on 10th June 1947.

William Keeling (Family grave near the wooden fence dividing churchyard from The Lawns – CWGC Portland stone added). Lance Corporal, Royal Army Service Corps. Husband of J. Keeling, of Alvechurch. Died on 23rd November 1940 in Ireland. CWGC stone was added at the foot in 2016.

After the war it was decided to bring an unidentified body from France which could serve as a symbol for the families whose loved ones were buried abroad or who had no known graves and were simply listed on one of the huge memorials to the missing such as Thiepval or Tyne Cot. Lieutenant-Colonel Edward Anthony Gell M.C., the son of a one-time rector of Alvechurch Francis Gell, was Deputy of the then Imperial War Graves Commission and assisted with the process of selection of this Unknown Warrior. The chosen body was returned to England and was buried in Westminster Abbey on 11 November 1920 when thousands of people lined the streets to see it pass.

Article published in The Village Magazine 2015, revised May 2022

St Laurence Church, War Memorial

The wooden screen war memorial in St. Laurence Church was designed by Arthur Stansfield Dixon (1856-1929).

Dixon was the eldest son of Birmingham M.P. George Dixon and was a metal worker and architect, founded the Birmingham Guild of Handicraft and designed their HQ in Great Charles Street. He also designed St. Andrew's Church in Barnt Green, but not their war memorial which is by the Bromsgrove Guild, and the church of St. John and St. Basil now the base for the St. Basil's charity. In 1917 he designed Seoul Anglican Cathedral in Korea, this was started in 1922 but not completed until 1996 after the original plans had been discovered. His son James who was in the Royal Warwickshire's was killed in 1916 and Dixon designed the Regiment's memorial in St. Philip's Cathedral in Birmingham.

The Alvechurch Memorial was given by Alfred and Margaret Wiggin of Bordesley Hall in thanks for the safe return of their son William. A service of dedication of the "Memorial Screen" was held on 3rd October 1920 as part of the morning service. The names of those listed on the memorial were read followed by last post and reveille. The recessional hymn was "God of our fathers, known of old" written by Rudyard Kipling who had also lost a son in the conflict.

This hymn was originally a poem called "Recessional" written by Kipling to mark Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1897. Four of the five verses end with the line "Lest we forget – lest we forget", lines which later came to be very much associated with remembering the fallen of World War 1. The hymn is sung on Anzac Day in Australia to the tune of "Eternal father strong to save" and was also sung at Kipling's funeral in 1936. Kipling was involved with the Imperial (later Commonwealth) War Graves Commission and selected the phrases "Their name Liveth for Evermore" and "Known Unto God" used in the cemeteries as well as "The Glorious Dead" on the Cenotaph in London.



Follow the Star

Advent readings with
Carols and Hymns
and switching on of the Advent Star

The star on top of St Laurence Church tower is a local tradition that can be seen for miles.

This year we are going to mark the switching on of the star with a new service of Advent readings with a mixture of traditional and contemporary music.

This service will include our church choir, music group and pupils from Alvechurch Middle School.

Hot Chocolate will be served in The Ark afterwards.

Sunday 27th November at 5pm
St Laurence Church, Alvechurch



CHURCH FLOWERS

There have been many kind comments regarding the flower arrangements that we produced in memory of our late Queen Elizabeth in September. I would like to thank Lynda Wolstencroft, Elizabeth Clement and Helen Jones for their help in this respect.

Going forward I am hoping that, with help, we can have more flower arrangements in our beautiful church.

I do need offers of help to make this possible. I am unable to commit every week as in the past but I can organise a rota and offer advice as needed. Please consider what we can do as a congregation and open up to our friends in the village to make this possible.

Many thanks, Ann Thurrell.

Email: annthurrell@hotmail.co.uk; Telephone: 0121 447 7668.



ST LAURENCE CHURCH DIARY

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

Places of Welcome Wednesday 2nd November, 10.00 - 12pm

Open Church Wednesday 2nd November, 10.00 - 12pm

**Family Worship
with Holy Communion** Sunday 6th November, 9.15am

Morning Worship Sunday 6th November, 11.15am

**A BCP Service of Holy Communion
at St Leonard's Church, Beoley** Tuesday 8th November, 10am

Places of Welcome Wednesday 9th November, 10.00 - 12pm

Open Church Wednesday 9th November, 10.00 - 12pm

Remembrance Sunday: Sunday 13th November

Morning Worship 10am St Laurence Church

Act of Remembrance and Commitment to Peace
10:40am at Memorial Green

Places of Welcome Wednesday 16th November, 10.00 - 12pm

Open Church Wednesday 16th November, 10.00 - 12pm

Quiz and Chips Saturday 19th November, 7.30pm

Family Worship Sunday 20th November, 9.15am

Morning Worship Sunday 20th November, 11.15am

**A BCP Service of Holy Communion
at St Phillips, Webheath** Tuesday 22nd November, 10am

DIARY CONT.

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

Family Worship

Sunday 27th November, 9.15am

Celebration of Holy Communion

Sunday 27th November, 11.15am

Follow the Star: Service of Advent Readings and songs with switching on of the Star

Sunday 27th November, 5pm

Places of Welcome

Wednesday 30th October, 10.00 - 12pm

Open Church

Wednesday 30th November, 10.00 - 12pm



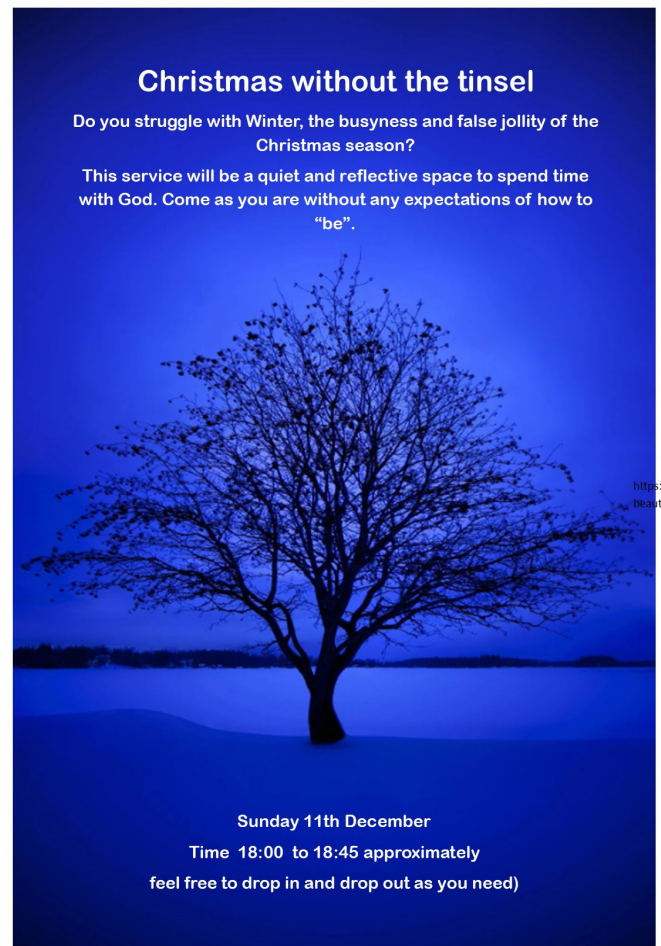
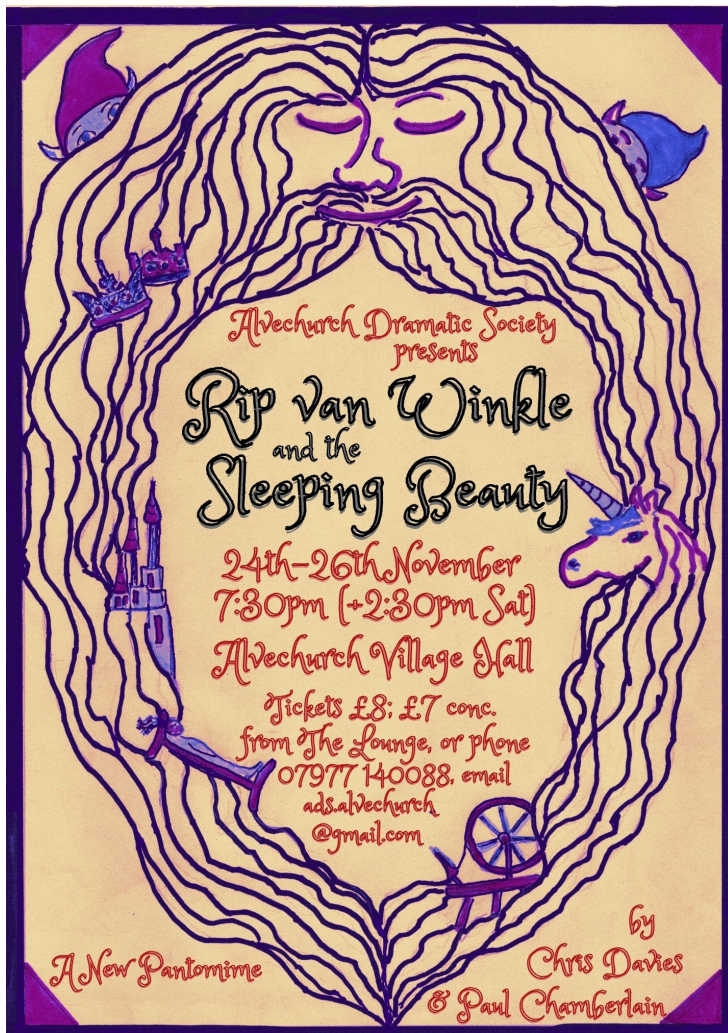
REFRESHMENTS

in between our 9.15am and 11.15am worship we serve refreshments.

All are welcome to come and joins us - either stay after or come a bit earlier!

Prayer Ministry

Each Sunday confidential, personal prayer support is offered. If you need a listening ear and prayer, you are invited to gather in the Lady chapel between 10:30 - 11am where a member of our pastoral team will be waiting to welcome you.



Alvechurch Community Larder

Open Meeting

Village Hall Wednesday 2nd November

at 7.30pm

A group of four people who attended the Churches Together 'Life on the Breadline' Lent Course earlier this year are planning to set up a Community Larder as a direct response to the call for action. The aim is to help everyone in the community with the cost-of-living crisis as well as reducing food waste.

The purpose of the Open Meeting is to explain in more detail what is proposed and to gain the views of other interested parties and the community at large. It is also hoped to recruit 3 or 4 people to join the planning group and others to help with the day to day running of the Larder.

If you wish to know more, please contact
Roger Wardle on 0121 445 0505

Martin Allen writes...



How do you remember tasks, events, or people?? Some of us have a good memory and don't forget. Others need ways to remember. Many of us use a diary, a phone or fridge door calendar.

Visiting Lindisfarne Castle recently, we found a way some people remember. We walked round the shoreline and found a pile of stones built one on another - a cairn. It was not alone - there were over a hundred - a lot of memories!



Cairns are a way for people to remember an event or loved ones who have died. They go back beyond Old Testament times. In the story of the people of Israel crossing the red sea, God pushed back the water and they crossed on dry land. God told their leader Joshua to collect 12 stones from the riverbed and build a cairn. People asking why it was built were told it was a visible reminder of God's promise to love and look after his people.

Recently our media outlets have helped us remember Queen Elizabeth 2nd. We may remember her service and faith or perhaps her Jubilees or even Coronation. We may not have built cairns for her but the queue to view her coffin conveyed the desire to remember her.

In November we remember our uniformed personnel. Many have served, at great personal cost, and some paid the ultimate price. On 11/11 we remember, giving thanks for them and the freedoms they have bought us.

How does Christian faith help us think about faith?

This conversation between Jesus and a thief as they were both dying on a cross gives us a clue: -

Then the thief said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." Jesus answered him, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."

We can be sure Jesus will always remember us whatever our remembering is like. I pray God grants you ways to remember His wonderful love for you and what Jesus sacrificed for us. We'd be delighted to explore that with you in church or maybe in a conversation? Do remember to get in touch....

Remember...

Remembering God is good



Joshua 3-4



Joshua and the Israelites went through some challenging stuff. At times like this God can feel absent. But, what helped Joshua was REMEMBERING that God was with them all the time. God NEVER LEFT THEM.

At the end of the story, Joshua built an altar made of stones. At this altar Joshua worshipped God in thanks and praise.

This rock pile is sometimes called a Cairn

Create
Memory
Stone

God is Good

Find a stone and write on it 'God is Good!'

You wish to do it as a family and build a thanksgiving Cairn

Write: A Memory Box

Write down a story of God's goodness. Throughout the year keep adding more stories. Keep them in a box or a jar. At the end of the year read them all.



Discuss

- Why is remembering a good thing?
- What can we do to help us remember?
- What things should we forget?
- Does God remember every thing?

God is good all the time

Love came down at Christmas

Nine Lessons and Carols

Saturday 17th December at 6pm
St Leonard's Church, Beoley

Nativity

Saturday 24th December at 4pm
St Laurence Church, Alvechurch

Family Crib Service

Saturday 24th December at 6pm
St Leonard's Church, Beoley

First Communion of Christmas

Saturday 24th December at 11.30pm
St Leonard's Church, Beoley
and St Laurence Church, Alvechurch

Christmas Day Family Communion

Sunday 25th December at 10am
St Laurence Church, Alvechurch

New Years Day Family Communion

Sunday 1st January at 10am
St Leonard's Church, Beoley

Christmas at St Laurence, Alvechurch and St Leonard's, Beoley

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St Laurence Churchyard Appeal

No donation is too large or too small, all donations are gratefully received.
Please do support as you can. With thanks from St Laurence PCC

The Churchyard at St Laurence Church is a space used by many people in the village and beyond. Whether you are regular visitor to a grave, or you enjoy the peaceful surroundings on a walk, it is a beautiful part of our community.

The section of churchyard currently in use is in desperate need of a new path, this is going to cost the church over £30,000. To fulfil our commitment to maintaining the churchyard we are in urgent need of funding. To help us fulfil these works we have a Churchyard Appeal.

You can donate to the churchyard fund in the following ways –

QR Code

Just point with the camera on your phone and follow the instructions



Text "STLAVLECHURCH" followed by either 5 (for £5) 10 (for £10) or 20 (for £20) to 70085.

Your text will cost the donation amount plus one standard rate message.



ST LAURENCE CHURCH AT 9:15AM

SUNDAY FAMILY WORSHIP AND ARK TIME

Bring along your Babies, children, or grandchildren to join us for our Family Worship.

We all worship together for our Communion Worship on 6th November, led by Revd Gail.

On the Sundays below our worship includes Ark Time.

Under 8's, including toddlers, enjoy singing, stories and craft activities with loveable Jack the Labrador puppet.

October 30th 'Lost and Found': The Sheep and Zacchaeus.

November 20th 'Gideon Becomes Brave'

November 27th 'David meets Goliath'

Over 8's Group explore similar Bible stories and themes, along with activities.

We look forward to meeting you.

ARK TOTS & TODDLERS

Do you have a baby, toddler or pre-schooler on Thursday mornings, during school term time?

Then come and join us at The Ark between 9.30 and 11.00 for our Stay and Play and Chat session. Refreshments. Singing Time. £2 per family.



The Ark Tots and Toddlers Team look forward to seeing you soon. For further details, please email Sarah at sarah100work@gmail.com



ST LAURENCE CHURCH, ALVECHURCH

SUNDAY

9.15am

Family Service

1st Sunday Holy Communion

Ark Time for younger people

Refreshments are served in The Ark between services.

11.15am

1st, 3rd, 5th Sunday

Service of the Word

2nd and 4th

A Celebration of Holy Communion

All are Welcome

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT LYNDY IN THE PARISH OFFICE ON 0121 447 7955

WORSHIP TIMES



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**

Funerals

September

Rebekah Herbert
Margaret Bartleet

October

Marilyn Gould
Pam Thorogood



... go forth from this world:
in the love of God, the Father who created you,
in the mercy of Jesus Christ who redeemed you,
in the power of the Holy Spirit who strengthens you.

AS TIME GOES BY

MEMORIALS THAT REFLECT A LIFETIME

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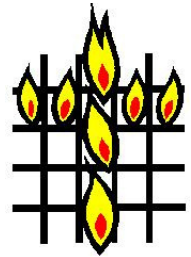
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Web: www.astimegoesby.org.uk



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

Supporting St Laurence Church



St Laurence Church isn't just a place we gather on a Sunday for worship, it is a place of prayer and a symbol of hope at the heart of the community and has been for hundreds of years.

Being custodians of this beautiful building is a privilege that we hold for a short time only and is a responsibility we take seriously playing our part in making sure it continues as a place of peace for centuries to come.

St Laurence is a Grade II* listed building, and we receive no outside funding to support its upkeep. We rely on the generosity of giving from the church congregation and visitors.

On top of this we have the costs of the mission and ministry of the church, for the church as a people to continue to be present and reach out in love to the parish Alvechurch and beyond.

Supporting your church financially couldn't be easier.

If you were to buy two bottles of wine at the cost of £6 per bottle each month that would cost you £12 per month. If you donated £12 per month to the church that would be £144.00 per year. If you gift aided your donation it would increase your giving to £180.00 per year at no extra cost to you.

Signing up through the **Parish Giving Scheme** couldn't be easier. please contact Lynda at admin@thearkalvechurch.co.uk or call 0121 447 7955 for a Parish Giving Pack.



Thank you for your support and generosity.

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News from The Ark

Classes old and new!

On Tuesday evenings from 8pm to 9pm, Donna Griffin is running adult Irish dancing lessons
<https://donnagriffinacademy.com/>



ZUU is high intensity interval training (HIIT) based on primal movements, such as pushing, pulling, crawling, bending, twisting, squatting and lunging.
Open to all ages from 6 upwards and all abilities

On Thursday evenings from 7pm to 8pm Cliff's Zuu Fitness class is held in the main Ark hall
<https://www.facebook.com/Move2Bfitt/>

Alvechurch Historical Society

AHS meets at 7:45pm on the first Monday of the month

Monday 7th November 2022 "Plague, Pestilence & Pox: Deadly Diseases in Days Gone By" Richard Churchly

Monday 5th December 2022 "The History of Dudley Castle" Max Keen

Please contact Anne Humphries 0121 445 5955 if you need further information

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

Hillside WI meets in the Ark on the first Wednesday of each month at 7:30pm.

The next meeting is 2nd November, when members and visitors will be making glass Christmas Tree hangings.
Future events include Christmas shopping trip to Cardiff - 23/11/22, and visits to Christmas fairs.

Contact : Pat McDonagh 0121 628 4121



BOOKING - THE ARK

St Laurence is blessed to have a design award winning facility - The Ark. Or hall is an attractive, spacious and accessible building available to hire at competitive prices.

The Ark includes a large hall, fully fitted catering kitchen, spacious lobby area and upstairs lounge.

The building has a lift, fully accessible toilet and accessible parking.



The Ark is available for both regular group bookings and one-off events, such as conferences, retreat days and parties.



To discuss availability and pricing, please contact Lynda on 0121 447 7955 or email admin@thearkalvechurch.co.uk

Lynda is available from 09:30 to 13:30 Monday to Friday

OUR TEAM



Revd Gail Rogers

Priest in Charge

The Rectory, School Lane

0121 824 5257

07867 853813

revdgail@icloud.com



Lynda Lewis

Parish Administrator

0121 447 7955

admin@thearkalvechurch.co.uk



Sue Phillips Wardle

Licensed Lay Minister

55 Birmingham Road

0121 445 0505

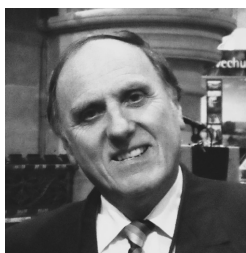


Helen Ayling

Licensed Lay Minister

"Tarncroft", Hewell Lane, Vigo

0121 445 6176



Michael Fletcher

Church Warden

13 Red Lion Street

0121 447 8451



Graham Clark

Church Warden

The Coach House, School Lane

0121 445 2547



Michael Davenport

Deputy Church Warden

Contact details:

Andy Notley

Deputy Church Warden

0121 445 5653



Colin Bennett

Bell Tower Master

01527 64077

News from the Tower

I had an interesting question in the week - "Why do you always ring the same tune?". The truth is that it's not always the same tune but we are very restricted in what we can do.

The problem is that we ring the bells by swinging them through a full circle and the bell can only sound once during that swing. We get a "ding" as the bell swings one way and we get a "dong" as it swings back a second or so later. With each of our bells weighing up to half a tonne there's not a lot that a ringer can do change the rhythm.

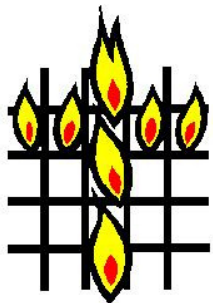
This severely restricts our choice of music. There's not a chance of getting a run of semiquavers out of a bell - it just can't move that quickly. The only tunes we can manage are slow ones where all the notes are the same length, and all the notes are different. "Pop Goes the Weasel" and "The Archers" theme are two (utterly inappropriate) possibilities.

What we ring are "Methods". They're mathematical patterns rather than music but they're none the worse for that; maths and music have always been closely linked.

New ringers always welcome!

contact: alvechurchbells@yahoo.co.uk

CONTACT US



PARISH OFFICE

Phone: 0121 447 7955

Email: admin@thearkalvechurch.co.uk

Lynda is in the office

Monday - Friday 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>



Deadline for Grapevine December 2022/January 2023 Edition

Our next grapevine will be a bumper edition. If you wish to submit an article or advert for December/January the deadline is -
14th November.