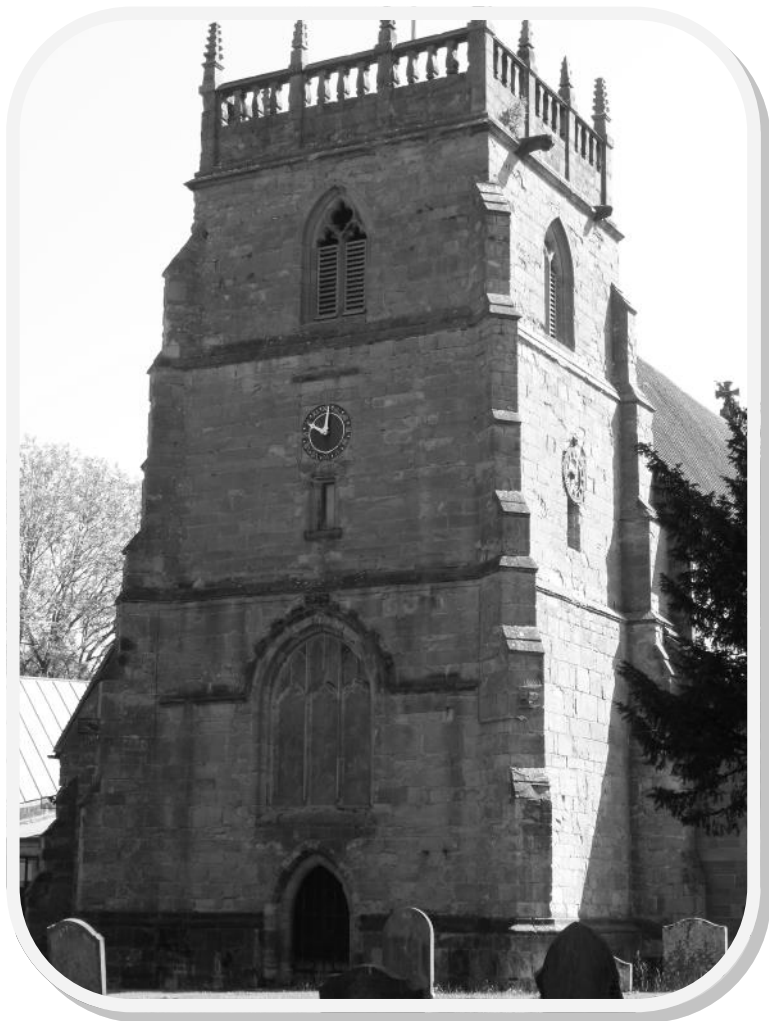


The Grapevine

THE PARISH MAGAZINE OF ST LAURENCE CHURCH ALVECHURCH



AUGUST 2018

Online at www.alvechurch-stlaurence.org/monthly-magazine

St Laurence Church Alvechurch

SUNDAY SERVICES

8.00am Holy Communion

Book of Common Prayer Communion Service, will take place on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month. On the other Sundays there will be an 8.00am Book of Common Prayer Communion Service at St Leonard's in Beoley

9.30am Family Service

*with Holy Communion on the 1st Sunday
and Baptisms on the 4th Sunday*

11.15am Parish Eucharist

6.00pm Evensong

On the 4th Sunday of the month at 6pm there will be Sacred Space, a quieter more reflective space for worship

On the 2nd Sunday of the month (4th in January), there will be a United Service (Churches Together in Alvechurch and Rowney Green), rotating between Alvechurch Baptist Church, St Mary's Roman Catholic Church, Rowney Green Shared Church and ourselves

At Rowney Green Shared Church

9.30am Methodist/Anglican Service

DAILY SERVICE

9.00am Monday to Friday in St Laurence Church

ORGANISATIONS

Sunday Club - Sundays during term time 9.30am Church & Ark (445 1854)

Choir - Thursdays at 7.45pm in Church (445 3569)

Bellringers - Sundays at 10.45am

Tuesday Practice at 7.30pm (01527 64077)

**Women's Fellowship - 4th Wednesday of the month at 2.00pm
in Tanyard Lane Community Centre (445 2125)**

Mum's the Word - Thursdays 9.30am to 11am in The Ark (sarah100work@gmail.com)

Tiny Tots Service - 10.15am 1st Thursday of the month

Ark Café - Thursdays during term time at 12.15pm (447 7017)

Home Group - Thursdays 7.30pm at the Coach House (445 2547)

THE ARK

Enquiries to Ian Price 0121 447 7955

Registered as a Charity in England and Wales: Charity Number 1131783

Martin Allen writes...

A significant Birthday?

Each week the Family Service starts with celebration and thanksgiving – “*The Birthday Slot*”. We celebrate someone’s birthday or Wedding Anniversary, a baby’s birth, exam results or gratitude for health. We sing a song, blow out a candle and give a card - the things families do on birthdays. Being thankful people and a grateful Church community is an important Christian witness. Gratitude to God for his free gift of grace is what drives us. It is a part of our worship as we give back to God in gratitude of our time, talents and money.

One of the questions in the Birthday Slot is – “*is it a significant birthday?*” (ie does it have a zero?). One senior worshipper when asked that question is known to reply “*at my age they are all significant!*” We have recently seen a media focus on the 70th Birthday of our “*National Religion*” -the NHS. This got me thinking - is the NHS’s birthday significant?

Certainly it has a 0 in it! It is also significant in achieving a “*ripe old age*” - sadly a number of its clients don’t make that age. Would those who created the NHS and helped its complex birth (just like some babies today) have expected such longevity I wonder?

It is significant because we can give thanks to God for medicine based as it often has been on Christian principles. Like God’s free gift of forgiveness and grace the NHS was free at the point of delivery and accessible to all. Like faith it isn’t always seen that way now but still shares important foundations with faith. We can give thanks for advances in health medicine and truly amazing life saving developments.

70th birthdays are a significant time to look back from and also forwards. Currently there are many issues to cause the NHS problems with its own health. It seems always in crisis, overworked, understaffed and in our times of austerity expensive. The diagnosis of the NHS’s state of health is relatively easy -the solutions are hard though there may be help coming. Some solutions acknowledge that, where we can, we need to look after ourselves better by adopting healthy lifestyles.

A 2008 report from the New Economics Foundation (Five Ways to Wellbeing: The Evidence - <http://neweconomics.org/2008/10/five-ways-to-wellbeing-the-evidence>) gave five recommendations for preserving health and wellbeing which as Christians we can support:-

- Give - its more blessed to give than receive!
- Be active - exercise and mental activity
- Keep learning - when did the Gospel last make you think?
- Connect - to other people
- Take notice - of things in life - a flower, a baby’s smile.

Whether we are of any faith or none, all these can help keep us physically and spiritually healthy. Perhaps you’d like to consider giving in some way – perhaps through church or connecting to your community as part of St Laurence’s family? Happy Birthday NHS!
See #NHS70 or <https://www.england.nhs.uk/nhs70/> too.

ACCUCO ACCOUNTING
LIMITED

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
AND REGISTERED AUDITOR
40 BEAR HILL, ALVECHURCH

TELEPHONE 0121 445 2445

Email: david@accuco.co.uk

Website: www.accuco.co.uk

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

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

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

Hillside at Alvechurch WI

Linda Helmore writes...

The members of Hillside at Alvechurch W.I. celebrated its 50th birthday meeting at its last meeting held on 4th July. We welcomed many other members from the Weatheroak group of W.I.'s and also Sue Chilton an area advisor for the Worcestershire W.I.

Members and visitors were welcomed with a glass of Prosecco or Schloer. We were then entertained by our speaker, Paul Harding, who gave an excellent and amusing talk about holidays through the ages which he brought to life using various props such as 'ice-cream licks' straw boaters and knotted handkerchief hats.

He talked of how the great British holiday started in Victorian Times with Royal approval. Seaside towns flourished with the development of hotels, piers and promenades, Punch and Judy, donkey rides and fish and chips. Sea bathing was popular and until the 1950's bathing costumes were made from wool. Sadly, in the 1960's holidays abroad became a cheaper option and the weather more predictable. However, more people seem to be opting again for a 'Staycation' and with global warming who knows what will happen.

The talk was followed by a fantastic assortment of homemade cakes which were enjoyed by everyone.

On August 1st

Bodenham Arboretum is the subject of the talk at the next meeting. This will be followed by a visit to the Arboretum in September.

Our meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month at the Ark and new members are always very welcome.

An Independent Family Owned Funeral Directors



THOMAS BROTHERS

Family owned funeral homes in Redditch, Bromsgrove,
Wythall & Alvechurch. We provide a friendly,
dignified service paying special attention to detail.



REDDITCH
01527 547777

BROMSGROVE
01527 831700

WYTHALL
01564 822001

ALVECHURCH
0121 445 3422

www.thomasbrothers.co.uk
email: admin@thomasbrothers.co.uk

"A family concern"

A. Pullen

• MEMORIALS •

*Additional Inscriptions
& Renovations*



**All Work
is to the
Highest
Standard**

BRAMM

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

Alvechurch Historical Society

Hilary Taylor writes...

HUT CLEAN

Members are reminded that this will be on **Wednesday 29th August 2018, at 10am**. Volunteers welcome!

FIRST MEETING OF AUTUMN TERM

Monday 3rd September 2018 Our speaker will be Richard Churchley, whose subject will be *“Worcestershire Carriers before the Railway Age”*. He will tell us about local trade and transport in the age of horse, cart and canal.

OPEN DAYS

Two open days will be held on **Saturdays 8th and 15th September 2018**, 2.30 - 4.30pm, on the theme of *“Remembrance”*. A display will commemorate people from Alvechurch who served in the First World War. There will also be a display of old photographs of the area, and our cabinets of local *“treasures”*.

All are welcome, tea and coffee will be served. The Alvechurch Historical Society hut is in School Lane.

To contact AHS, please telephone our chairman, Anne Humphries on 0121 445 5955.

Model Railway Exhibition

David Richmond writes...

In spite of Wimbledon, The World Cup, and hot weather,(!) we did very well at the annual model railway exhibition this year. Over 200 adults and oodles of children came. Many thanks to all who came and supported the event. Without you it would not be worth the effort.

Food was being cooked very early on for the hungry exhibitors, who know from past experience that it will be excellent.

Thank you to everyone who helped in any way; cooking, collecting money, assembling and dismantling and in any other way. There is no way we could have managed without you all. On a personal note there is no way I could have managed without my family! Thank you.

Several traders, demonstrators and layout owners have already said they like the atmosphere and would like to come again.

We raised £1080 to go to the *“windows fund”* I must add how grateful I am to Nigel for taking over much of the organising. Do keep 13th July 2019 in your diaries, it will all happen again with new, as well as familiar displays.

“Rectory Cottage Bed and Breakfast” Old Rectory Lane, Alvechurch

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



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

WHERE NEXT ASSOCIATION

Garden Centre

Opening hours

Mon-Fri 9 to 5, Sat 10 to 4

Woodwork

Packing / assembly

Landscaping / maintenance

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

Wellesbourne Close
Easemore Road, Redditch
B98 8ER
01527 69955



- CARPET & UPHOLSTERY
- CLEANING SPECIALISTS
- DOMESTIC & COMMERCIAL
- ECO FRIENDLY

FAMILY RUN SINCE 1980

 01527 459776
 07748 801658
www.WainwrightsCarpetCleaning.co.uk

ADVERTISE HERE

Just £150 for 12 months.

Other options available.

Reach readers in
Alvechurch, Rowney Green,
and surrounding areas.

For more details contact Ian
Price on 0121 447 7955 or email -
thearkalvechurch@yahoo.co.uk



THE LAWNS
RESIDENTIAL CARE

Exceptional quality
accommodation for senior
adults and the elderly.

24 hour care from
professional, caring staff.

All set within beautiful
gardens and terraces.

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

Kathryn Collinson

BA Hons, BEd Hons, ALCM

Lessons
from
20 minutes
to
1 hour



Music tuition – All Styles

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

Maths and English Tuition

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

Tel: 0121 445 3523

The Ark Cafe



The Cafe will be open every Thursday in August when we will revert to our Summer Menu of Salads and Cold Desserts, so we look forward to seeing you all during that time.

We will then be closed on Thursday, 6th September and reopen on Thursday, 13th September for hot meals when we will be serving Somerset Chicken.

Rowney Green Horticultural Society

Lindsay Smith writes...

We will not be holding our usual monthly meeting at The Village Hall on the second Thursday of the month but we are pleased to advise everyone re events that take place in August. There is a visit arranged for members to visit Ashwoods Nursery (DY6 OAE) on Thursday, 9th August at 2.00pm. A guided tour will take place of John's garden. Cost is £6.00 per person, which can be paid on the day - it will be necessary to make your own way to the Nursery to arrive at approx. 1.45pm as the tour commences at 2.00pm. A very worthwhile visit. Our Main Show will be held on Saturday, 1st September 2018 but entries need to be registered on the preceding Thursday between 7.00pm and 8.00pm at The Village Hall. You can find the necessary Entry Form on the website: www.rowneygreenhorticultural.co.uk also including the Schedule. Schedules can be found in Alvechurch Post Office, Oasis Florist in Barnt Green and The Goat & Trousers in Rowney Green. We are pleased to announce that David Morgan, Worcestershire County Organiser RHS Garden Scheme will present the prizes.

We look forward to receiving many entries to make this a most successful Main Flower and Produce Show. Should you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact Lindsay Smith on 01527 592874

St Laurence Women's Fellowship

Jill Woolley writes...



We met together in June and once again enjoyed watching Virginia Davies creating her lovely flower arrangements on the theme Summertime. She again made us laugh with her anecdotes about life in her new home.

Please come and support our Charity Tea in the Ark on August 21st at 2.30pm. Proceeds to the Motor Neurone Association.

On September 26th we resume our meetings at the Tanyard Centre at 2pm when Denzil Smith will talk about the work of a Prison Officer. Come and join us, you will be made most welcome.

The Funny Side



The Sermon

A little girl became restless as the preacher's sermon dragged on and on. Finally, she leaned over to her mother and whispered, "Mommy, if we give him the money now, will he let us go?"

Church Announcement

There is the story of a preacher who got up one Sunday and announced to his congregation: "I have good news and bad news. The good news is, we have enough money to pay for our new building program. The bad news is, it's still out there in your pockets."

Funeral Instructions

An elderly woman died last month. Having never married, she requested no male pallbearers. In her handwritten instructions for her memorial service, she wrote, "They wouldn't take me out while I was alive, I don't want them to take me out when I'm dead."

Quality Carpenter & Joiner

For all your building needs, Furniture, Fire Surrounds & fittings

RICHARD BENNETT

Peacehaven, Grange Lane, Alvechurch, Birmingham, B48 7DJ

Phone: 01527 66774
Mobile: 07966229582

Spring View Care Nursing Home



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

We operate two high quality Nursing Homes:

1: Grosvenor House in Alvechurch

2: Tutnall Hall in Bromsgrove

To arrange a visit call

Tel: 0121 445 0033

www.springviewcare.co.uk



MORTONS
FUNERAL DIRECTORS

Prearrange Your Funeral

Be sure of your funeral arrangements, with or without prepayment.

Contact us for more information

Telephone: 0121 453 9111
www.mortonsfunerals.co.uk

W F Kelly Decorators
Interior / Exterior

A personal service from a long established one-man business

Self-prepared rooms re-papered only if required

Preparation and painting service also available

Tel: 0121 445 1265

Mob: 07976 574878

12 Warbank Close,
Alvechurch, B48 7PA

Est 1981



**ALVECHURCH
KITCHENS LTD**

Wide range of traditional and modern kitchens

Free designs and written quotes

07932 631248 or
0121 445 6218

alvechurchkitchens.co.uk



**BURCOT
GRANGE**

**Luxury
Care Home
in Burcot**



Greenhill, Burcot,
Bromsgrove, B60 1BJ

Tel: 0121 445 5552

cinnamoncc.com/burcot

ST LAURENCE CHURCHYARD – NEEDS YOUR HELP

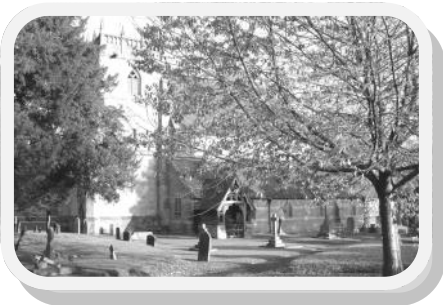
In the past, St Laurence has been lucky to have a team of volunteers to maintain large parts of the churchyard. From a team of 6 a few years ago, the number has fallen due to health issues and family commitments. This year the team of just 3 people has been doing the job, with only one of them able to use the ride-on mower and strimmers. That's put a lot of pressure on us and visitors will have noticed the grass growing particularly long in May and June. Some people like the natural look of a churchyard with long grass and wild flowers but a number of families did contact the church during that period to say how untidy they think it looked. At St Laurence we try to balance tidiness with natural areas but we're sorry if you felt the churchyard looked a little uncared for. In 2018 this has been a result of not enough volunteers rather than bad weather.

Can you help us ? We're looking for a couple of extra pairs of hands, particularly someone able to handle the ride-on mower and/or strimmers. If you've never used a ride-on mower before (but have always fancied a go), ours has no gears and is easy to drive. We can give you a little training if needed! The more volunteers we have means mowing can be spread out and not become a regular commitment for one person.

The volunteers currently meet on Monday mornings but this is flexible and we can accommodate someone who can only make other times. A coffee break is standard and a good time for a social chat. If you'd like to know more, have a word or email me on -

andyhum@btinternet.com

Many thanks
Andy Humphries



Alvechurch WI

Pam Horsfield writes...

Our meeting had a celebratory feel this month as Mary Lewis and Barbara Waller were given flowers from members for their special birthdays. Thanks also went to Sybil and her husband Martin for designing and printing our membership cards for us.

Members were invited to join us for our Group Quiz night on Monday July 23rd in the Village Hall and, by the end of the evening, we had three teams entering. I'm sure it will be a good evening.

Pam reminded members coming on the visit to Coughton to bring bottles of water as it's forecast to be hot again. Max Keen was our speaker for the evening as our booked speaker wasn't well. Max entered the hall wearing the costume of a person in the civil war and went on to tell us about Prince Rupert and his life, particularly when he was fighting in the Worcestershire area. What a dynamic speaker Max is: his talk was packed with historical facts which we'll probably retain as he uses humour, slides and artefacts to back up his talk! We were lucky to get him at such short notice, and members have been commenting on what a good night it was because of his enthusiasm.

Future dates

Next month is our Natter Night at Alvechurch Cricket Club and do remember that it's starting at 7 o'clock. The theme is *'Poems and Puddings'*, so bring some poems to read and enjoy some tasty puddings.

This will be followed on the Wednesday after by our visit to Churchfields Ice Cream factory/farm in Droitwich, where we're going on a short tour and then will enjoy afternoon tea together.

James Giles & Sons

A FAMILY OWNED FUNERAL DIRECTORS
ESTABLISHED 1916

**Serving all communities
with dignity and
understanding**

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

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



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

**Full Design
& Print
Service**

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

0121 459 3454

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

The Answer's Yes!



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

Call Nat on:

01527 878316 or 07791 923459

www.njmelectrical.com

WE ACCEPT DEBIT AND CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS





THE BIBLE WORD SEARCH



BiblePuzzles.org.uk

BAPTISM	GOOD NEWS	NAZARETH
BIBLE	HEAVEN	PRAYER
CHRIST	HOLY	RESURRECTION
CREATION	ISRAEL	REVELATION
EARTH	JERUSALEM	SALVATION
FOREVER	KINGDOM	SAVIOUR
GARDEN OF EDEN	LIFE	SIN
GENESIS	MARY	SPIRIT
GLORY	MESSAGE	TEMPTATION
GOD	MOSES	WATER

BluWave

Community Transport

Do you need help with transport for your appointments to G. P's, Hospitals, Day centres etc.? If you live in Bromsgrove or Redditch **BluWave** may be able to help.

Our dedicated group of volunteers provide transport on weekdays to all hospitals, surgeries, and social activities. They will wait and return you home all for a modest cost. Should you need an escort with you they will travel free of charge. We are unable to transport wheelchair users.

We welcome volunteers to join us to help support with this service. If you can spare a few hours, please call the number below. All expenses are paid, and training is provided.

Telephone Celia or Carole on

01527 759 650

for more details



ST LAURENCE WOMENS FELLOWSHIP

**Charity Tea and Cake Afternoon
in THE ARK on
Tuesday August 21st at 2.30pm**



**Bring and Buy
Raffle**



Entrance Tea & Cake £4



**In Aid of the
Motor Neurone Association**

JustGiving

Janet Wright writes...

Attending church on Sunday used to see children arriving clutching a 'penny' for the church plate (collection). Times have changed and that 'penny' is more likely to be a pound coin with adults contributing 'notes'.

Occasional visitors to church may wonder why the regular congregation do not seem to be putting a contribution in the 'Offertory (collection) Plate' or are putting in a small card instead. This is not because the regular congregation are not supporting the church, quite the opposite. Most of the congregation now donate to church by 'Standing Order' or 'Bank Transfer'. This is easier for the congregation who don't have to think about the offertory each Sunday and for the volunteers who manage church finances as they don't have to bank as much money. 'Win, Win' as the saying goes.

Occasional visitor to church are just like the rest of us and don't carry much cash these days. The passing of an offertory plate during the service can then become an embarrassment. Not a situation the church wishes to cause. So **JustGiving** or **JustTextGiving** may offer a solution if people would like to make a donation but don't carry any cash.

There are many parishioners who don't wish to attend church each week but feel a strong family link with the building where family members were baptised or married, where funerals were held and where ancestors may be buried in the churchyard. St Laurence Church is the listed Grade 11* parish church for Alvechurch. The money collected weekly from the congregation is used for the weekly running of the church (to ensure utility bills are paid and regular maintenance takes place), and for the maintenance of its mission and ministry. But the contributions made by the regular congregation can't cover the great cost of repairing years of the effects of weather and erosion on this historic building not to mention Victorian design faults.

St Laurence Church has set up a **JustGiving** account and a **JustTextGiving** account so anyone who wishes to help preserve their parish church for future generations can make a donation towards the cost of restoration. The first phase include restoration of the beautiful 'Stained Glass Windows'. This work is to be supported by the National Heritage Lottery Fund but the grant needs to be matched by donations. Please support your parish church by supporting fund raising events or by making a JustGiving donation (Gift Aided if you are a UK tax payer).

JustGiving donations can be made on the **JustGiving** charity page for '**Alvechurch PCC**' or **JustTextGiving** text ASTL18 and the amount to 70070.

Thanks for your support and keep an eye on how the money is being used once the work can begin.

Centenary of Women's Suffrage

Sam Setchell Communications Officer writes...

We take for granted our right to vote in national and local elections, whether we choose to exercise our democratic right or not. A hundred years ago, only property-owning men could do this.

The Representation of the People Act of 1918 enabled all men over twenty-one, and 8.5 million of the 15 million women of Britain to vote, as long as they were over the age of thirty and owned property. Full parity for women came only in 1928. Many people think that the campaign for women's right to vote began with the suffragettes of the 20th century, but it began much earlier. Groups of women and men lobbied Parliament, spoke at public meetings, and raised awareness of injustice throughout the 19th century.

One such group was the Church League for Women's Suffrage. The Worcester branch was led by a Cathedral Canon, James Maurice Wilson, who ran meetings from his home with his wife, Georgina. The Dean of Worcester, William Moore Ede, and his wife, Sarah, were also active members, as was the Bishop.

The Church League shunned violent protest, but, by connecting equality with Christian principle, added to the tide of opinion that made the 1918 Act inevitable.

O God, the light of the nations,

we thank you for all who strive for justice and challenge our
complacency.

Grant that we may use our voices and our votes for the good
of all people,

and that our faithfulness to your all-embracing love may be
known

not just in our words, but also in our deeds.

Through Jesus Christ, our hope and salvation. Amen.

Stop Loan Sharks

In May, the Diocesan Modern Day Slavery conference in Wordsley heard something about the dangers of illegal money lending. It is one of the ways in which some people can get trapped in slavery. It is also just as easy to hide as other slavery related crimes, but some simple awareness and a willingness to report it, can make all the difference and change people's lives.

A loan shark is someone who lends cash as an unauthorised business and they are not always easy to spot. They will at first appear friendly, just part of the community, but when you cannot pay, they will turn on you.

A loan shark will often resort to threats, violence and intimidation, even if the debt has been paid off several times over. They will typically have little paperwork and, will add penalty charges for late payments. Sometimes they will add random sums to the bill.

Many victims keep paying because they think they can afford the agreed weekly sum, but they do not realise how much their continuing weekly payments add up to or they are too afraid to stop payments.

Mike's Story

Aged 17, Mike was keen to buy his first car. When Peter offered to lend him £250, Mike agreed and began paying back in instalments until the loan was repaid. It was only then that Peter mentioned additional interest; Mike wasn't expecting this and found it difficult to repay, so Peter offered him a further loan to pay off the first.

This became a cycle and continued over the next two decades. Mike was trapped in a never ending spiral of debt, and struggled to get by, despite working two jobs. He would make large repayments but his outstanding balance would never drop below £9000. Over the years Mike paid a staggering £90,000 to the loan shark, all from an initial loan of £250.

On more than one occasion, Mike attempted suicide.

"You wouldn't wish it on anybody" he said "It affected my relationship with my wife. If I wasn't at work, I was home arguing, and it affected the kids. They had nothing. Every Friday and Saturday he was sat outside my work. It was a living nightmare."

The turning point was when Mike spotted an article in his local paper about a loan shark who had been prosecuted by the Team. Peter was now threatening to harm Mike's wife and realising he could not take any more Mike called the confidential hotline.

From that point forwards he was supported and Peter was prosecuted and imprisoned.

"I wish I'd known there was somewhere to go years ago," Mike said. "The Team were fantastic, they offered so much support, and delivered on every promise they made. It was such a relief when I found out Peter was arrested and then put in prison. I would tell anyone who is borrowing from a loan shark to be confident to stand up and speak out- the Team will support you the whole way. Even a year later the Team are always there for me, regularly in touch and always on the end of the phone."

If you're worried about the impact of a loan shark, call the Team in confidence on 0300 555 2222, text: 07860 022116, email: reportaloan shark@stoploansharks.gov.uk or visit: www.stoploansharks.co.uk.

@Ivechurch Amen!

Martin Allen writes...

This short section is a brief “catch up slot” with some of the interesting faith news over the last few months.

I think most people will have enjoyed the Royal Wedding with Harry and Meghan clearly the stars. Almost eclipsing them was the Revd Michael Curry’s sermon (<https://youtu.be/fTMWJU9Nafk>). If you are interested in hearing more from him then look at, <https://youtu.be/oheb3MpISHE> where you’ll find the new campaign to emphasise the inclusive nature of faith in Jesus rather than it being “my country first”. The video also includes a few other notables such as Tony Campolo preacher and the wonderful Richard Rohr.

On the theme of inclusivity many of us find the music of the Iona Community accessible and inclusive. One of the things about visiting Iona is that you need to be fit and if you have a mobility problem getting round in the Abbey or staying is difficult. Well, you may now find it easier as they have just raised enough funds to make the island more accessible for those with mobility issues. Their “miracle in May” events have raised £330,000! (<https://iona.org.uk/2018/05/28/still-time-to-be-part-of-the-miracle-in-may/>).

Are you too busy to pray or stuck for words to say? Well, now if you have an Amazon device with Alexa you can ask her to find something suitable for you – just try “open the Church of England”. If you want to see an Archbishop asking it for the Lord’s Prayer see <https://www.churchofengland.org/alexa>

If you like other reflections for prayer then try Taize where you’ll find some really helpful resources: https://www.taize.fr/en_article167.html. If listening is more your thing then their services are on the web as podcasts eg:- http://www.taize.fr/IMG/mp3/taize_podcast_2018-05-30.mp3.

The city of Salisbury has been through some hard times recently with nerve agent attacks and much of the town being affected. People have feared for their safety. So it’s appropriate that the cathedral is trying to address those issues and restore a sense of balance with an art installation. The artist Michael Pendry discusses his installation and the fundamental rights we all have to peace and hope; see <https://www.salisburycathedral.org.uk/news/thousands-white-doves-bring-message-peace-and-hope> or #SalisburyCityofDoves.

Happy surfing!

Events at Alvechurch Library

Children's Events this August - The Summer Reading Challenge has started with a bang, with over 140 children already signed up and reading their first few library books. With lots of lovely new stories to pick from, why not pop down to the library and see what catches your imagination. We have lots of super Summer Reading Challenge Events and all our regular events like Baby Bounce and Rhyme and Storytime continuing throughout the summer too.

Create your own Comic Strip with Explore Learning - Tuesday 9th August 2.15-3.15pm for 5-7 year olds and 3.30-4.30pm for 8-11 year olds. Make up a comic character and take them on a journey in your very own comic strip. Free to join, no need to book.

Day at Croome Park in Worcestershire. Wednesday 22nd August from 10-4pm. An exciting day of workshops and author talks at National Trust Croome Park and Court, near High Green in Worcestershire WR8 9DW. Free to join, no need to book.

Mischievous Slime - Tuesday 28th August 2.30-4.30pm. Join Mango Slimee who will return to the library for a fun packed making workshop. Ann and Kate will be showing you how to make new concoctions and delights. Please book, £2 per child. Booking essential through the library.

For Adults - Our **Creative Writing** class with Irene is starting again in September and we are keen to attract a few more people. Whether you're writing purely for pleasure or for pleasure and profit this course will help you to find out what it is you really want to write and show you how you can do it. Learn how to become the writer that you really want to be! Course number 16016, starts Saturday 8th September 10.30- 12.30 and runs for seven weeks. Fourteen hours of tuition costing £92, with workshop-style sessions full of opportunities to write, ideas to get you started and helpful advice and direction to improve your writing and get it out there! Suitable for beginners, those with a little more experience

and established writers alike. Patrick our fantastic language tutor is taking a break over the summer holidays but will restart his classes towards the end of September.

Patrick has taught here in Alvechurch library three years now and his classes are on ongoing. Please email Patrick at vdlt52@hotmail.co.uk to see if the level the class is being taught at would allow you to join in. We are also looking to start a new beginner's language class in the autumn, **French** or **Spanish**, take your pick, and let us know by registering your interest with a member of the library staff or by dropping Patrick an email.

We are pleased to welcome back Mark and Simon from Sabre Skills and Training to deliver another informal Basic Paediatric Course for parents, grandparents or carers and their child together. Come and learn the essential skills to keep your little ones safe including CPR skills, choking response, action for bleeding, burns, temperature management and meningitis recognition. Each class is delivered in a 1 hour session. Parents, Grandparents or Carers are welcome to bring their child (of any age) to take part in the training course. 10th, 17th and 24th September, Monday mornings, 10.45am - 11.45am, £15.00.

On Tuesday 11th September, 9.30 -12.30 we will be running a Basic First Aid course for adults, costing £15.00. Learn how to recognise and help in scary situations. Come and learn the essential skills to keep your friends and family safe including adult basic life support and defibrillation, choking, bleeding, burns, heart attack recognition and stroke management. Again this is an informal first aid course offered by Sabre Skills and Training which will deliver essential knowledge and useful information.

For enquiries about any events at Alvechurch Library please pop into the library on the Birmingham Road, contact The Hub on 01905 822722, email - alvechurchlib@worcestershire.gov.uk or check out our Facebook page.

Flowers for AUGUST

	5 AUGUST	12 AUGUST	19 AUGUST	26 AUGUST
Sanctuary	Jill Woolley			
Lady Chapel	Jill Woolley			
In Memory of	Wedding anniversary			

There may be a problem with Altar flowers for some weeks as I am still unable to care for the church flowers following my surgery. It would be much appreciated if there are some offers of help to provide a vase of flowers during the above period.

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

Parish Prayers

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

- Ash Lane – 5 August**
- Bear Hill – 12 August**
- Bear Hill Drive – 19 August**
- Birches Lane – 26 August**



Funerals and Cremations

May they rest in the peace of Christ

- 29 June Margaret Guy
- 5 July Valerie Shipley

Who's who

Rector	Revd Richard Bubbers, Priest-in-charge, School Lane, 445 1087 stlaurencealvechurch@yahoo.co.uk
Licensed Lay Ministers	Mr Dick Russell, 2 Gothic Cottages, Radford Rd, 445 3083 Ms Sue Phillips, Withybed Green, 445 3620 Mrs Helen Ayling, "Tarncroft", Hewell Lane, Vigo, 445 6176
Authorised Lay Ministers	Mrs Helena Allen Mr Martin Allen, 445 5605 Mrs Philippa Brakes, 56 Callow Hill Road, 445 3983 Mr Graham Clark, The Coach House, School Lane, 445 2547 Mr Michael Fletcher, 13 Red Lion Street, 447 8451 Mrs Annette Thomas, 8 Snake Lane, 445 5180
Churchwardens	Mr Graham Clark, The Coach House, School Lane, 445 2547 Mr Mick Fletcher, 13 Red Lion Street, 447 8451
Deputy Wardens	Mr Colin Bennett, 122 Redditch Road, 01527 64077 Mr David Richmond, The Ferns, Chapel Lane, 445 3569 Mrs Alison Smith, 12 Hollington Road, 447 7293 Mr Andy Notley, 445 5653 Mr Roger Wardle, Withybed Green, 445 3620
PCC Secretary	Mrs Lysandra Notley, lysnotley@icloud.com, 07989327043
Parish Safeguarding Officer	Mrs Sue Lambert, 7 Cygnet Close, B48 7PX, 07769110608
PCC Treasurer	Mrs Janet Wright, 28 Callow Hill Road, Alvechurch, B48 7LP
Organist & Choirmaster	Mr David Richmond, The Ferns, Chapel Lane, 445 3569
Electoral Roll Officer	Mrs Janet Wright, 28 Callow Hill Road, 445 4335
Tower Captain	Mr Colin Bennett, 122 Redditch Road, 01527 64077
Singing Group	Mrs Lynda Wolstencroft, 49 Hinton Avenue, 445 3212
Mum's the Word	Mrs Sarah Linton, sarah100work@gmail.com
Flower Co-ordinator	Mrs Ann Thurrell, Top Barn, Scarfield Hill, 447 7668
Women's Fellowship	Mrs Jill Woolley, 111 Birmingham Road, 445 2125
Ark Booking Secretary)	Mr Ian Price, The Ark, School Lane, 447 7955
& Grapevine advertising (Grapevine Editor)	thearkalvechurch@yahoo.co.uk

PCC Special Responsibilities

Finance and Standing Committee

Richard Bubbers	Mick Fletcher
Graham Clark	Alison Smith
Bob Dale	Janet Wright

Buildings, Fabric and Churchyard for Mission Committee

Mick Fletcher	Colin Bennett
David Richmond	Jill Woolley
Janet Wright	Lynne Clark
Andy Humphries	Alison Smith

Children and Youth Committee

Martin Allen	Mick Fletcher
Thomas Birchall	Lynne Clark
Kate Birchall	Sarah Linton

Missionary Committee

Sue Phillips	Dick Russell
Gordon Parsons	Margaret Haste
Sally Bubbers	Sue Lambert

Calendar for AUGUST



Wednesday 1 7.30pm Hillside WI: Talk on Bodenham Arboretum: The Ark

Thursday 2 No Mums The Word or Tiny Tots Service
12.15pm Ark cafe: Summer menu

Thursday 9 No Mums The Word
12.15pm Ark cafe: Summer Menu

Tuesday 14

SEPTEMBER GRAPEVINE GOES TO PRESS *Articles to thearkalvechurch@yahoo.co.uk*

Thursday 16 No Mums The Word
12.15pm Ark cafe: Summer Menu

Tuesday 21 2.30pm Alvechurch Women's Fellowship: Charity Tea: The Ark

Thursday 23 No Mums The Word
12.15pm Ark cafe: Summer Menu

Wednesday 29 10.00am Alvechurch Historical Society members reminder - '*Hut Cleaning*':
Volunteers welcome: The Museum, School Lane

Thursday 30 No Mums The Word
12.15pm Ark cafe: Summer Menu