

# The Grapevine

THE PARISH MAGAZINE OF ST LAURENCE CHURCH ALVECHURCH



**JANUARY 2018**

Online at [www.alvechurch-stlaurence.org/monthly-magazine](http://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**

**except 4th Sunday "All Age Worship" at 3.30 pm**

## **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**

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### *New Year's endings and beginnings*

As we go into 2018, we say goodbye to a year which saw in October the 100th anniversary of the Russian Revolution, and we greet a year which will see in November the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War. These were two of the most cataclysmic times of the 20th century. Yet even in such desperate times, we see how endings lead to new beginnings, something which is often on people's minds at the start of a New Year, not least at the start of 2018.

Death and new life – loss and renewal – are the cycle of life in the physical and biological universe, and you cannot have resurrection without death: they are two sides of one coin.

The foundational pattern of death and resurrection – death leading to new life – is given us by Jesus himself. When Jesus began his ministry, he made it clear that he was all about new beginnings (see what he says in Luke chapter 4.14-21). This really upset the religious leaders of his day: they saw him as subversive and a threat to their power – and eventually they had him killed by way of a cruel death which was completely unjustified. But Jesus was true to his word and even out of this he was able to make a new beginning – by being raised to new life after three days, and starting a movement which has changed the world.

Jesus is the archetypal pattern for all of us, if we want to experience, a way to new life. By his death on the cross and his being raised to new life three days later, we are shown the

## **Richard Bubbers writes...**

fundamental pattern of authentic human life – after death there is new life; after loss/suffering, there is new life.

The genius of Jesus' ministry is that he reveals that God uses tragedy, suffering, pain, betrayal, and even death itself, not to wound you but, in fact, to bring you to God. So, the good news is that nothing in your life is wasted. Everything can be used and everything can be transformed.

After all, on the cross, God took the worst thing, the killing of the God-man, and made it into the best thing – the saving of the world. If we gaze upon the mystery of the cross long enough, where God's own Son endured unimaginable suffering, we will become slow to call things totally bad. We will realise that God uses the bad for good. At the cross we can learn humility, honesty, patience, and compassion, and all of the qualities that really matter and can make an enduring difference in our lives.

At some point, life is likely to lead us, as it did for Jesus, into a place where we cannot fix it, where we cannot control it, and where we cannot explain it or understand it – where we are beyond what our own limited resources can deal with. That's the place where transformation and new life can most easily happen. That's when you are most especially in the hands of God.

Such a place can be called liminal space - a place where you are on the threshold of something new and life-changing. You are neither as you were or as you will be – you are in the "in between" space, between your old state and your new state. This is your opportunity for real transformation – if you can see it, and take it, and not try to go back.

*Continues on page 4*

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When you hold the pain of this space consciously and trustingly, you are in a very special place – this can be a moment of awakening, when you have the possibility of breaking through to a deeper level of faith and consciousness. As God transforms you through it, you will then be an instrument of transformation for others.

Unfortunately, our natural instinct is to try to fix pain, to control it, or even to try to understand it. Our ego-self does not like to lose control. That is why Jesus praised an attitude of "faith": it is the ability to stand in such liminal space, to stand on the threshold, to hold the contradictions which cause us pain, until we move to a deeper level, where it all eventually makes sense in the great scheme of God and his grace, usually after the event, when we can look back.

This message of death and resurrection is profoundly hopeful, because there is always the hope of resurrection, whatever may be happening to us in our lives. May 2018 be a year for each of us when we move forward on our own spiritual journey, at whatever stage we may be, and whatever the circumstances we may be facing, not trusting in our own limited resources, but in the one who raised Christ from the dead and who can bring each one of us through to new life

## Support Hopwood Village Hall

Hopwood Village Hall has been chosen by the Co-op as one of their charity good causes for the next few months. May I encourage those of you who have one or encourage you to apply for their loyalty card to use your Co-op card and to specify Hopwood Village Hall as your chosen charity.

We are looking to improve facilities internally and externally for the enjoyment of all who use our hall which was given to the community over 100 years ago. We are volunteers who are as enthusiastic as those who originally gave the premises to the villagers.

Many thanks  
Ann Thurrell (Trustee)

# St Laurence Women's Fellowship

*Jill Woolley writes...*



We wish you all a Happy New Year.

We enjoyed Craig Leonard's talk about his experiences as a film extra at our meeting in November.

We now look forward to our meetings in 2018 as follows.

January 24th Sandy and Tony Lewis talk about Peg the Dog.

February 28th Richard Churchley returns to tell us about The Wild Life in our Gardens.

March 28th Mrs Barbara Royle will visit, hopefully with two birds of prey.

April 25th will be our AGM when we will review the past year and make plans for the next, which will be our 53rd.

Start something new this year and join us at the Tanyard Community Centre at 2pm. We will make you very welcome and offer you tea and biscuits.

## Parish Prayers

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



**7 January – Smedley Croke Place**

**14 January – Snake Lane**

**21 January – St Laurence Close**

**28 January – Station Road**

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## The Ark Café



Welcome to 2018!

The Cafe menu for January is as follows:

**January 11th Roast Lamb**

**January 18th Somerset Chicken**

**January 25th Roast Pork**

We look forward to seeing you all then. Happy New Year!

## Deep Relaxation and

Information on labour & Childbirth



### 'Empowering Gentle Childbirth'

You are welcome to come along to a two hour session on practical information regarding labour, induction, waterbirth, different ways of Birthing inc Caesarean section & the early days of being a parent. Tailored to your needs, inc the opportunity to ask questions. An introduction to Hypnobirthing also included. I am a midwife with 24 years experience and also qualified in complementary therapies & Hypnobirthing. The aim is for women & babies to have a positive birthing experience that is just right for them.

To be held on \*Mon 15th Jan, 19.00 to 21.00 hrs at The Ark, Alvechurch (Please book first) cost £25 per couple.

For further details & other dates please see below:-

**[Http://Empoweringgentlechildbirth.ltd](http://Empoweringgentlechildbirth.ltd)**

Or tel **Angela 07465 440574**

**[am.gentlebirth@gmail.com](mailto:am.gentlebirth@gmail.com)**

# Alvechurch Walking Buddies

A new walking group has recently been set up in Alvechurch by local residents Tony Brannon & Diana Ball. The group normally meet up somewhere local and go out on a walk every Thursday morning at 10:30. They usually pop into on their way or end their walks at a local café or pub to enjoy a drink and maybe a bite to eat.

The group is more 'walk & talk' as they don't go at a fast pace, let folks have a chat whilst walking and always try to make them dog friendly. Although walks are usually local they do go farther afield on occasion. Recent walks have included Dunnage Woods, Barnt Green, Rowney Green and Earlswood Lakes.

Anybody, young or old, are more than welcome to join the group. They have a Facebook page – just search for @alvwb. If you don't do Facebook then contact Tony either via email [tonybrannon@talktalk.net](mailto:tonybrannon@talktalk.net) or call/text him on 07763 468893.

The group are always looking for new members to join them and is a great opportunity for people to meet old friends and make new ones.



*A recent walk took 'Alvechurch Walking Buddies' down the canal to Dunnage Woods*

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## Hillside at Alvechurch WI

*Cathy Taylor writes...*

Members from Alvechurch WI joined us on 27th November in the evening and made attractive Christmas Door hangings. It was a very enjoyable evening and an opportunity to chat and to get to know people. Our thanks go to Monica for providing bases with oasis.

The WI coach trip to Waddesdon Manor on 30th November was very successful. The house was beautifully decorated, and there were a wide variety of stalls in the market area. Lots of tempting samples of food were on offer. Our members enjoyed their lunch in a wigwam.

Our Christmas Party will be held on Friday 8th December at Barnt Green Cricket Club. We are looking forward to a to a delicious meal, and music to follow.

We will start the new year on 10th January, at 7.30pm in the Ark, a week later this year to give us time to recover from other engagements close to New Year's Day. It will be a Silent Auction so please bring attractive and useful items, including books and CDs for the auction. There will be time to chat over coffee, tea and cakes. Visitors will be very welcome.

### Future Events

We hope to arrange a fish and chip supper in February and a visit to the Birmingham Back to Backs in March.

## Rowney Green Flower Club

*Celia Hitch writes...*

Rowney Green Flower Club are meeting up at "The Ark" on Thursday lunchtime, 25th January 2018 (12 noon) for a get together and some of their lovely food. Anyone who is interested please contact Celia (0121 445 4824) or Clare Kenny (01527 66071). We need some idea of numbers for the Ark kitchen. Please come and join us.



# Rowney Green Horticultural Society

Lindsay Smith writes...

**ROWNEY GREEN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY** meets at the Village Hall on the second Thursday each month at 7.30pm. The meeting on 11th January 2018 our guest speaker will be Phil Aubury, former director of Birmingham Botanical Gardens and he will give us a survival guide for "*Conservatory and House Plants*".

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

On behalf of Rowney Green Horticultural Society may we wish everyone at The Grapevine a very Merry Christmas and a Prosperous 2018!!

# Alvechurch Historical Society

Hilary Taylor writes...

There will be no meeting in January, so the first meeting of the New Year will be held on Monday 5th February 2018. This will be the AGM, followed by Members' Memorabilia.

Our meetings are held on the first Monday of the month, at 7.45pm, in the museum hut on School Lane. Parking is available behind the Catholic Church, with their kind permission.

Visitors are always welcome, just come along, or contact our chairman, Anne Humphries on 0121 445 5995.

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# Fruit of the Spirit Word Search

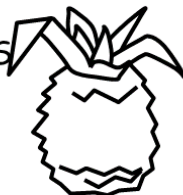
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## Activities at Alvechurch Library

Following a hugely successful Christmas Craft Sale at Alvechurch Library, we would like to say a massive thank you to the Alvechurch Library Crafty Ladies for all their hard work, dedication and support for the library and local community. The Crafty Ladies meet at Alvechurch Library every Monday and Friday morning and produce an array of handmade gifts which are sold and donated as raffle prizes at both Christmas and Easter craft sales, fundraising to benefit the local community. This year's Christmas sale was a record breaker, raising over £550 - donations have been made to the Basement Project, Where Next?, Cramar Cats, Alvechurch Baptist Church, Baby Ava Charity and a local resident to support funds for a motorised wheelchair. The Crafty Ladies also raised £180 for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. Huge thanks to all our customers who participated in the events and contributed to their success.

Alvechurch Library is currently seeking volunteers to help support the day to day running of the library. Do you have a passion for customer service and at least 3 hours per week to volunteer as part of a regular rota? If so, we'd like to hear from you. E-mail Nicola Hinton, Library Manager - [nhinton@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:nhinton@worcestershire.gov.uk) for further details and an application form.

Early in the New Year, we will be hosting a short workshop, *"Understanding and Supporting People with Dyslexia"*. The aims of this workshop are to provide learners with a detailed understanding of dyslexia and how it can affect people. Learning key techniques to support people and how to motivate and engage those with dyslexia. You will gain an understanding of what dyslexia is and how it affects people through their school and adult life, including how it is diagnosed. Discover some of the other difficulties people with dyslexia may experience and address common misconceptions. The tutor will provide strategies for supporting people with dyslexia, including techniques to aid with spelling and comprehension. You will learn how to play to their strengths and how to build self-confidence. To be kept informed as to when the workshop is on, please register your interest.

Our Creative Writing class with Irene is taking a break for a few weeks but we are keen to attract a few more people for the next course, due to start in the New Year. Please let us know if you would like to register your interest.

Patrick's Spanish Continuing Beginners class running on a Thursday afternoon has a few spaces available at the moment. Please contact Patrick on 07708 027372 or email [vldt52@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:vldt52@hotmail.co.uk) to see if the level the class is being taught at would allow you to join in.

Any 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](mailto:alvechurchlib@worcestershire.gov.uk) and check out our Facebook page.

# THE MIDLAND SINFONIA

The Ark, St Laurence Church, Alvechurch B48 7SB

## Friday 9 February 2018

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# Churchyard News -

## 19th Century Memorials Needing Attention

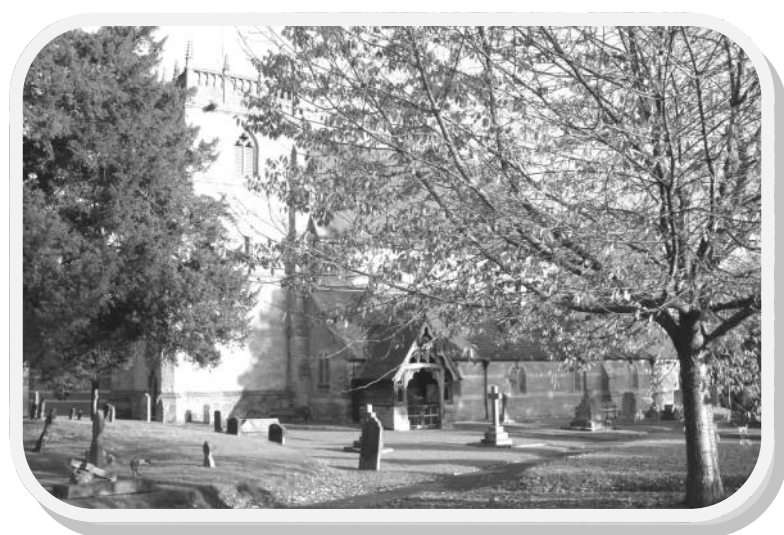
As highlighted in the November Grapevine, earlier this year St Laurence had a quinquennial inspection (QI) by the church architect of both church fabric and churchyard. The Parochial Church Council has now reviewed the detail of that inspection and, in terms of the churchyard, carried out a safety inspection of a number of memorials. The following 19th century memorials were identified as needing attention:

### 1. Joseph King 1871

### 2. John Manghan and Mary Elizabeth Tomson 1800s, (various dates) and adjoining grave next to path

Maintenance of memorials is first and foremost the responsibility of families, and so we would encourage any descendants (or anyone who is in touch with descendants) to contact the church office 0121 447 7955 or by email to - [stlaurencealvechurch@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:stlaurencealvechurch@yahoo.co.uk) as soon as possible. If no descendants make contact by the end of March 2018, the church will need to take sole responsibility for making the memorials safe, after obtaining permission from the Diocese of Worcester.

If any memorials become acutely unsafe, the church reserves the right to take remedial action to ensure the safety of visitors and the public.



# Flowers for January 2018

	8th Jan	15th Jan	22nd Jan	29th Jan
Sanctuary	Christmas Arrangements	Lynda Wolstencroft	Lillian Willis	Wedding
Lady Chapel	Christmas arrangements	Lynda Wolstencroft	Lillian Willis	
In memory of		Her father Ken Broadway	Tom Willis	

The flowers on 22nd January are given by Lillian Willis in memory of her late husband Tom who was born on 8th January 1919.

Ann Thurrell  
0121 447 7668

## From The Registers



### Baptisms

*We welcome you into the Lord's family*

November 19

Alyssa Sophia Lena Hodgetts



### Funerals and Cremations

*May they rest in the peace of Christ*

7 November

Kenneth Brazier

20 November

Valarie Mercier

29 November

Edna Hathaway

5 December

Joyce Jones

# 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
Authorised Lay Ministers	Mrs Helena Allen, 117 Birmingham Road, 445 5605 Mr Martin Allen, 117 Birmingham Road, 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 Mrs Helen Ayling
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, 38 The Buckleys, B48 7NF Mr Roger Wardle, 21 Brookside Close, B48 7LW, 445 0505 Mrs Lysandra Notley, 38 The Buckleys, B48 7NF
PCC Secretary	Mrs Sue Lambert, 7 Cygnet Close, B48 7PX, 07769110608
Parish Safeguarding Officer	Mrs Janet Wright, 28 Callow Hill Road, Alvechurch, B48 7LP
PCC Treasurer	Mr David Richmond, The Ferns, Chapel Lane, 445 3569
Organist & Choirmaster	Mrs Janet Wright, 28 Callow Hill Road, 445 4335
Electoral Roll Officer	Mr Colin Bennett, 122 Redditch Road, 01527 64077
Tower Captain	Mrs Lynda Wolstencroft, 49 Hinton Avenue, 445 3212
Singing Group	Mrs Sarah Linton - (sarah100work@gmail.com)
Mum's the Word	Mrs Ann Thurrell, Top Barn, Scarfield Hill, 447 7668
Flower Co-ordinator	Mrs Jill Woolley, 111 Birmingham Road, 445 2125
Women's Fellowship	Mr Ian Price, The Ark, School Lane, 447 7955
Ark Booking Secretary ) & Grapevine advertising ) Grapevine Editor)	thearkalvechurch@yahoo.co.uk

## PCC Special Responsibilities

### Finance and Standing Committee

Graham Clark	Mick Fletcher
Alison Smith	Bob Dale
Janet Wright	

### Children and Youth Committee

Martin Allen	Mick Fletcher
Thomas Birchall	Lynne Clark

### Buildings, Fabric and Churchyard Committee

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

### Peru and Missionary Committee

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

# Calendar for JANUARY



- Thursday 4      9.30am Mums The Word: The Ark (*no Tiny Tots Service this month*)
- Monday 8      1.45pm Forget-Me-Nots: The Ark  
7.30pm Hillside at Alvechurch WI: Silent Auction: The Ark
- Wednesday 10      7.30pm Hillside WI: Silent Auction: The Ark
- Thursday 11      9.30am Mums The Word: The Ark  
12.15pm Ark café restarts: Roast Lamb  
7.30pm Rowney Green Horticultural Society: Talk: Phil Aubury on  
*"Conservatory and House Plants"*: Peace Hall Rowney Green
- Sunday 14      **FEBRUARY GRAPEVINE GOES TO PRESS**  
*Articles to [thearkalvechurch@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:thearkalvechurch@yahoo.co.uk)*
- Thursday 18      9.30am Mums The Word: The Ark  
12.15pm Ark café: Somerset Chicken
- Friday 19      7.00pm Churches Together Social Quiz: The Ark
- Monday 22      1.45pm Forget-Me-Nots: The Ark  
7.30pm Pastoral Team meeting: The Ark
- Wednesday 24      2.00pm St Laurence Women's Fellowship: Talk by Sandy and Tony Lewis  
about Peg the Dog: Tanyard Lane Centre
- Thursday 25      9.30am Mums The Word: The Ark  
12.15pm Ark café: Roast Pork