

# GRAPEVINE

ST LAURENCE CHURCH, ALVECHURCH

May 2024



Farewells and New beginnings!

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# REVD GAIL WRITES...

Welcome to May's edition of Grapevine. May is an important time for us at St Laurence as on Sunday 5th we hold our APCM worship. The APCM is our annual meeting where we appoint officers, PCC members and celebrate and give thanks for the whole mission and ministry of our church in 2023. Last year we moved it to be part of regular worship pattern as way of offering all that we do as worship God. We are partakers of God's vision and mission and offering it in our gathered worship is an opportunity to value and recognise the variety of gifts and ministry that make up The Body of Christ here. It is also an opportunity to share these wider, and to invite others to be partakers of God's mission and ministry too. This year all reports and worship are put together into one booklet, we encourage them to be taken them so you can continue to pray for them over this next year. They will also help you to discern where you gifts are, calling you to come and join in too.

At our APCM we will be saying farewell and welcome to people stepping down and into roles. One of these is Graham Clark who has been churchwarden for 15 years. Do read the article to learn more about the last 15 years and our farewell to him. But, don't worry, Graham isn't going anywhere, he will remain as part of our worship team as an ALM worship leader. We don't yet know who will be stepping into this role, so come along to the meeting on May 5th at 10:30am as we welcome them into this role.

At the end of May, we are also saying farewell to Lynda Lewis who is retiring. Lynda has been a valued staff member overseeing the The Ark and some church administration too. We are sad to see Lynda go, but it does mean we are welcoming new people to our staff team. Take a look at the articles in this edition for more information on us saying farewell to Lynda and introductions to our new staff.

On Saturday 4th May, I am holding an exploring ministry morning at St Leonard's Church, this is an opportunity to begin the conversation of where God is calling you. In this edition of Grapevine there is an article explaining some of the authorised and licensed ministries, but there are lots of ways to get involved. Do come along for an informal conversation as we begin explore ministry together.

In this issue of Grapevine you will find lots more information about the life of St Laurence Church and The Ark. You are very welcome to join us where you can.

With prayers and best wishes

*Rev. Gail*

St Leonard's Church

Thursday 9th May, 10am

# Ascension Day

Holy Communion

**All Together at St Laurence Church**  
Gathering in The Ark for Café Style worship



## Pentecost

Sunday 19th May, 10:30am

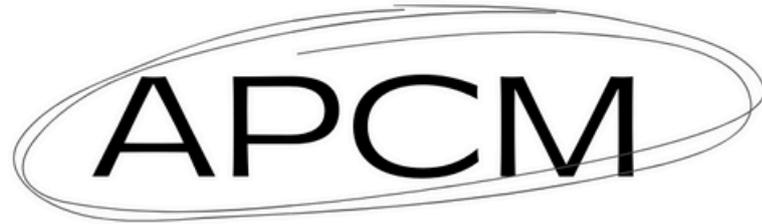
Refreshments service from 10am

ST LAURENCE CHURCH

# Sunday 5th May



10.30am



Our APCM will be held together through our worshipping together and we give thanks and praise to God for the ministry and mission of St Laurence Church

## Important information as we prepare:

- Electoral Role is now closed for new additions. The new electoral roll is operational. Any errors need to be corrected within 14 days. It will re-open after the APCM meeting
- Nominations forms for Churchwardens and Deputy Church Wardens new PCC members and Diocesan Synod are opened.
- APCM Agenda and Reports are available.
- A copy of the accounts is displayed in church.

All nomination forms are in church, they need to be supported and seconded. If you require more information about any of the positions, please do speak to Revd Gail.

# LICENCED AND AUTHORISED MINISTRIES

We are very fortunate to have a diverse team of ministers, these include, ALM's, LLM's and Clergy. Each of these ministries are supported and trained by the Church to enable and support its work, ministry and mission and in church and society. Supported by the diocese, we believe that a shared ministry of ordained and lay people develops a healthy Church and a world-facing discipleship.

This article aims to do two things, inform us on the different ministries that are part of who we are and to encourage you to think about whether God is calling you to one of them, or do you see particular gifts in others and wish to encourage them to explore it further.

## **Authorised Lay Ministers (ALM's)**

Lay ministry is thriving in many ways, and Authorised Lay Ministry affirms this. Many people want to offer their time and talents in particular ways, and this scheme offers them a short but focussed diocesan training course, to equip them for specific roles in their parishes.

The primary responsibility for selecting, authorising, supervising, and supporting authorised lay ministers lies with the parish priest. Names are put forward to the PCC who agree on that person continuing to training.

All ALM's are selected following the current diocesan safer recruitment process. This includes an expectation that the candidate will do the appropriate level of safeguarding training (currently Basic and Leadership).

There are several pathways within the ALM's training:

- Children's and Youth Worker
- Evangelist
- Pastoral Worker
- Worship Leader

Authorisation is done in your local church by your parish priest.

Our current ALM ministers are: Mick Fletcher, Graham Clark, Helena Allen, Sarah Linton and Sue Sperring.

## **Licensed Lay Ministers (LLM's)**

Licensed Lay Ministers (also known as Readers) are part of the nationally recognised and accredited public ministry of the Church of England. It is a voluntary, unpaid ministry with approximately 10,000 Licensed Lay Ministers nationally and around 160 in Worcester diocese. The minimum age for training is 16.

LLM's are trained in theology, pastoral work, and a variety of ministerial skills, and one of their key roles is to help people think with clarity and imagination about God's presence and activity in the world. For this reason Licensed Lay Ministers are sometimes described as 'lay theologians' because they help the church 'do theology' – in other words they help people connect faith and life.

The heart of the role is a ministry of the word: that is a ministry of teaching, preaching and leading worship. However, according to their gifts, Licensed Lay Ministers are also engaged in a wide variety of other ministries, such as pastoral work, funeral ministry, chaplaincy work and community involvement.

Whatever their work they seek to minister in partnership with lay and ordained colleagues, and to encourage other people's gifts. They are part of a team of ministers working under the authority of an incumbent (parish priest).

For Licensed Lay Ministry, there is a period of exploration when you work with others on discerning your calling. This is done with diocesan appointed Wardens of Readers and involves a selection process. If selected, training for Reader ministry takes place in partnership with the Queen's Foundation, Birmingham.

The course is followed over two years, with weekly meetings following the timetable of the school term, and holidays in between. At some point between the beginning of May in your first year, and the end of July, you will complete a short placement in a church which is in a significantly different context to your own. Most of the training is done in 7 week modules, on one evening a week. For two of those weeks, usually the first and fourth, training is onsite at Queen's, the other five weeks are delivered over Zoom. In each year, one module is delivered over three Saturdays, one each term, based at Holland House Retreat House near Evesham.

Our current LLM ministers are: Sue Wardle-Phillips and Helen Ayling.

## **Ordained Ministry**

Some people, though, find themselves increasingly feeling themselves called to take a particular responsibility of God's Church by becoming ordained ministers. This is a very public ministry: ordained men and women are very often the 'public' face of the Church that we see.

Such a calling needs testing. It isn't enough to believe yourself to be called by God to be ordained. The Church takes time to discern with you whether this is, indeed, your particular vocation.

Those who will try to help you discern whether you have a vocation to ordained ministry will want to be able to answer two fundamental questions:

- Is this person called by God to ordained ministry?
- Do they have the necessary gifts to undertake such ministry?

Ordained ministry is discerned wider than the parish, it probably begins with a time of discerned with the parish priest who then recommends them to the diocese to begin a more formal discernment process. As this progresses it includes a national panel of advisors too.

In 2022 Worcester Diocese trialled a new 'Auxiliary Pathway' to ordination. This was for people who felt called to local ministry in the parishes they are already part of. It means that they are not widely deployable but stay as local context ministers. Training on this pathway is not via a theological college route but in diocese training instead. Revd Martin Allen was in the first cohort of ordained minister's on this pathway.

The auxiliary pathway is an example of how training for ordination offers several pathways to explore as part of the discernment process.

Our Ordained minister's are: Revd Gail Rogers (Vicar) and Revd Martin Allen (Assistant Curate)

## **Other Ministries**

There are lots of other ministries within the church too, all with varying degrees of responsibility. These range from writing and leading prayers or reading the bible reading during a service, Eucharistic Minister, chalice assistants, sacristan, hospitality and welcome. The roles with this section of other ministries have no minimum age requirement either so they are open to all.

# Exploring Ministry

Do you feel called to any of these ministries, or recognise these gifts in someone else? Is there another ministry not mention here that you would like to chat about?

If you would like to explore further, Revd Gail is holding an informal morning on the following dates:

Saturday 4th May, 10am in The Tapestry Room, St Leonard's Church  
Saturday 28th September, 10am at The Ark, Alvechurch

For more information speak to Revd Gail, or just turn up on the day.



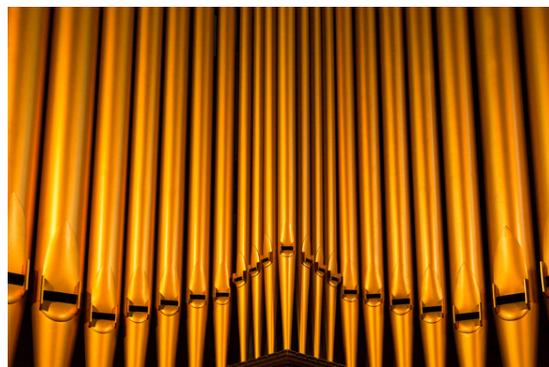
## Sunday 19th May

For our Pentecost service we are gathering All Together with St Leonard's Church in the Ark. This will be an interactive Café style worship with Holy Communion.

A selection of pastries and refreshment will be served from 9:45am with our worship beginning at 10.30am.



# SPONSOR A PIPE ON OUR ORGAN



In 1971 the church organ was rebuilt by Thomas Sheffield of Solihull and placed on a free standing gallery in the north aisle. This instrument replaced an earlier one built by the Hill Organ Company at the beginning of the twentieth century. The present organ has 1,348 pipes of which 180 came from the old instrument.

As part of our campaign to raise money for essential works and upgrade our organ we are launching, 'Sponsor a pipe!'

We have 1,348 pipes all waiting to be sponsored. Displayed in church we have a Sponsor a Pipe chart waiting to be filled with names. These names will then be remembered as part of the refurbishment and upgrade as part of the history of the organ. Each month we will print in Grapevine names added during the previous month.

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

## How to sponsor a pipe

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





# HELP!!

## OUR CHURCH ORGAN NEEDS SOME WORK

*We need to raise £13,000  
plus VAT to be able to carry  
out these essential works.*

There are several ways to donate:

- use the QR code
- post cash writing on the envelope 'Church Organ Fund'
- or contact the office to donate via any other means.





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from [www.midlandsinfonia.co.uk](http://www.midlandsinfonia.co.uk)

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# 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

## Volunteers required

In 2022 a network of more than 300 trained and vetted, Nightstop hosts across the UK opened their homes to young people aged 16 to 25 years, offering a safe place, hot meal and washing facilities, providing a safety net for young people when they leave home unplanned.



Redditch Nightstop has successfully been providing hosted accommodation since 1997, however we need to recruit more volunteer host families in the Redditch and Bromsgrove areas; do you have a spare bedroom? Would you like to put this room to good use by accommodating a young person on a night-by-night basis, or a longer term supported lodging placement? We provide support to our hosts and pay a fee. Would you like to support us in our aim to equip young people with the confidence, skills, and resources they need to thrive? If you would like further information about hosting or our support services, please visit [www.redditchnightstop.co.uk](http://www.redditchnightstop.co.uk) or [depaul.org.uk/Nightstop](http://depaul.org.uk/Nightstop). If you would like to discuss this opportunity, please call 01527 66036.

# THE ARK

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## SUMMER LUNCH

### MAIN

#### **Ploughman's Lunch**

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

### DESSERTS

Cheesecake or  
Spring Decorated Cupcakes

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Tea and coffee with also be served.

**Thursday 8th August**  
**£12 per person**

Arrive from 12:30pm with food served at 1pm

To book please contact the office 0121 447 7955  
[admin@thearkalvechurch.co.uk](mailto:admin@thearkalvechurch.co.uk)

*Advance booking only. Payment on booking.*  
*Please select your Ham or Cheese and vegetarian options upon booking.*

# Unsung Hero Award

At the Parish Council Meeting on Monday 8th April, alongside four other local people, Michael Davenport was recognised as an 'Unsung Hero'.

Michael was nominated for the award for his care and support to individuals and groups in the parish and beyond.

Michael has been a long term member at St Laurence, he is a member of the choir and the bell-ringing team. For the last twelve months he has been one of our churchwardens too. But these are not the reason for his nomination.

Michael is a support to many, especially the older members of our congregation who were friends of his beloved parents before they died. Michael was central to bringing back The Ark Lunches, albeit in a different way to pre-covid, but it was his passion of bringing people together that sparked its return. Without Michael taking on the organisation, and doing most of the physical preparation they wouldn't be able to take place. He was also a key person in the organising of Christmas Day Community Lunch, again showing his commitment to the many people he supports, so they wouldn't be alone on Christmas Day.



It is only right that we here from some of the people that we supports.

*'Michael is one of the most caring people I know. I couldn't do without him. He visits me, transports me to where I need to go, church, WI, Places of Welcome and the various other groups I attend. If Michael didn't do this, I would be isolated and lonely'*

*'Michael supports me in lots of ways, he helps me manage day to day activities. He picks me up. drops me off and then picks me up and drops me home too. He is good company, and I look to him as a friend'*

*'If it wasn't for Michael, I would be isolated. I wouldn't be able to get to the doctors or hospital appointments. He also transports me to social events even though he doesn't attend them himself.'*

# Unsung Hero Award

Alongside all of this, Michael volunteers weekly at Redditch Foodbank, and the Community Larder and he is a National Trust Volunteer too. In his spare time he is a member of the Barnt Green Choral Choir and Bromsgrove Choir, Church Choir and Bell-ringing. His role as churchwarden supporting Revd Gail is a quite a commitment too. Michael does all of these things because he is passionate about community, about people gathering together for social activities.

Michael, is feeling rather shy about this attention, but he really is deserving of this award, and we are thrilled that he has been recognised for the life-giving support he offers to many in the Alvechurch community.

Congratulation Michael on your Unsung Hero award.

## Praying for Alvechurch

**“Pray as though the outcome is from God; work as though the outcome is from you.”  
St Augustine of Hippo**

We pray for Crown Meadow First School and Alvechurch Middle School. At they approach half term may our teachers, school staff and children have a restful break.

We pray for Picnic in the Park, that this will once again be wonderful community event. We give thanks for all the organisers, stall holders and people offering entertainment and fun.

We give thanks for the beauty of creation, the glorious colours of summer. As we enjoy the longer days may we use them for rest and play, to enjoy time with family and friends. May they be an opportunity for self-care and seeking a good well-being.

We prayer for new people moving to the area, may they settle well into our communities. May we be people of welcome and encouragement.

We pray for all who live and work in Alvechurch, with a focus on all who live in Altheastan Close, Birches Lane and Coopers Hill



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Bromsgrove / Droitwich

# Graham Clark

## Serving as a Churchwarden

Way back in 2009 when Rev David Martin asked me if I would consider becoming one of the two Churchwardens in St Laurence, I had little knowledge of what it entailed. He explained that it involved fundamentally three things. Firstly, working with the Vicar to coordinate the running of the church, secondly overseeing the care and maintenance of the church's buildings and ornaments, and thirdly making sure that church services proceed in an orderly fashion. Now, bearing in mind that at that time I was in full time employment, I thought, "That doesn't sound too onerous, and I could do a lot of it by phone while I was at work". So I said "Yes". And the rest, as they say, is history!

I've not had to throw any drunks or heretics out of a service; overseeing the care and maintenance is a straightforward procedural thing; and I've managed to survive working with three very different vicars!

What hadn't I anticipated was that I would still be doing the job 15 years later.

Churchwardens are elected each year and should not serve more than six successive years. But, of course, if the present holder of the role is reasonably competent and prepared to stand again, and there is on one else clamouring to take over, then it's human nature that the present holder gets re-elected. That seems to be what happened to me.

Most of the time I have enjoyed my time in the role and have certainly welcomed being able to serve the church community of St Laurence in this way. But now it is time to let someone else have a go. I shall be stepping down at the APCM in May. I've not found the role to be too onerous because I have had the support and backing of the congregation. Thank you all for your support, which I am sure you will continue to give to my successor.

Michael Davenport is St Laurence's other Churchwarden and Mark Linton and Andy Notley are Deputy Wardens. I am sure that I will be leaving the role in good hands.

Graham Clarke  
Churchwarden 2009- 2024

Graham has been a committed churchwarden for many years. I will miss working with him in this way. He has been a supportive colleague and friend, always checking in on how I am doing. I will miss our weekly cheeky banter at churchwarden meetings, but also his wise and questioning input to our discussions and planning.

I know you will still be around as part of the ministry team in your role as an ALM worship leader but, on behalf of the everyone at St Laurence and myself, we thank you Graham for your dedication to the role of churchwarden.

Revd Gail

# ST LAURENCE CHURCH DIARY

## MAY 2024

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

**Places of Welcome** Wednesday 1st May, 10.00am - 12pm

**Open Church** Wednesday 1st May, 10.00am -12pm

**Ark Tots and Toddlers** Thursday 2nd May, 9.30am

**A BCP Service of Holy Communion**  
**St Leonard's Church, Beoley** Thursday 2nd May 10am

**Exploring Ministry**  
**St Leonard's Church, Beoley** Saturday 4th May 10am

**APCM Worship** Sunday 5th May, 10.30am

**Places of Welcome** Wednesday 8th May, 10.00am - 12pm

**Open Church** Wednesday 8th May, 10.00am -12pm

**Ascension Day Holy Communion**  
**St Leonard's Church, Beoley** Thursday 9th May 10am

**Ark Tots and Toddlers** Thursday 9th May, 9.30am

**Quiz and Chips** Friday 10th May, 7pm for 7.30pm start

**Family Worship with Ark Time** Sunday 12th May, 9.15am

**Celebration of Holy Communion** Sunday 12th May, 11.15am

**A BCP Service of Holy Communion**  
**St Laurence, Alvechurch** Wednesday 15th May, 10am

**Places of Welcome** Wednesday 15th May, 10.00am - 12pm

# DIARY MAY CONT.

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

**Open Church** Wednesday 15th May, 10.00am -12pm

**Ark Tots and Toddlers** Thursday 16th May, 9.30am

**Café Church All Together for Pentecost, gathering in The Ark**

Sunday 19th May,

pastries served from 9:45am worship begins at 10:30am

**Places of Welcome** Wednesday 22nd May, 10.00am - 12pm

**Open Church** Wednesday 22nd May, 10.00am -12pm

**Ark Tots and Toddlers** Thursday 23rd May, 9.30am

**Family Worship with Ark Time** Sunday 26th May, 9.15am

**Celebration of Holy Communion** Sunday 26th May, 11.15am

**Places of Welcome** Wednesday 29th May, 10.00am - 12pm

**Open Church** Wednesday 29th May, 10.00am -12pm

**Ark Tots and Toddlers** Thursday 30th May, 9.30am

As we transition the Church@4 style of worship our Sunday morning worship we will be pausing the 4pm Church@4 for a few months. Instead of pudding, come and join us for breakfast instead.



# Farewell Lynda

On Thursday 30th May Lynda Lewis is retiring, meaning we will be saying farewell. Lynda joined us two years ago as The Ark and Parish Administrator and Book-keeper and has been an asset to both the church and The Ark. Lynda's organisational skills and attention to detail has enhanced the outreach and potential of The Ark, she has always been willing to go the extra mile for users and visitors creating a friendly and approachable space.

Alongside the day to day of her role, Lynda has been key in the administration and book-keeping of The Ark Lunches, The Christmas Day Community Lunch, Organ Fundraising, Places of Welcome and Heritage Day. It is through these that Lynda has become a well-loved member of the team not only in church but the wider community too.

Lynda has been valuable support to the Revd Gail and the churchwardens and will be missed around the place as a colleague and friend.

On Thursday 30th May between 11:30am - 1:30pm there will be cakes and refreshments in The Ark as we send Lynda off with lots of love and blessings wishing her a very happy retirement. If you would like to pop in and say goodbye then please do, I know Lynda will be thrilled to see you.



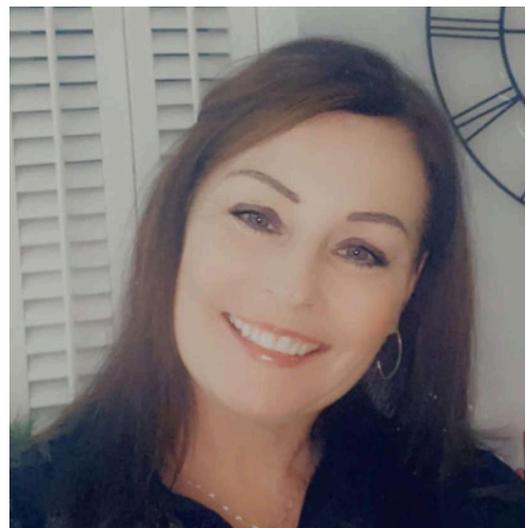
# WELCOME TO...

Lynda's retirement was an opportunity for us to rethink The Ark roles, especially in light of the incredible work that Lynda has done, the foundations she has laid and where we would like to see ourselves in the future. These re-evaluations led us to creating two new roles - 'Ark and Facilities Administrator' and a 'Finance Officer'. We are thrilled with those we have appointed and look forward to welcoming them to team and working with them.

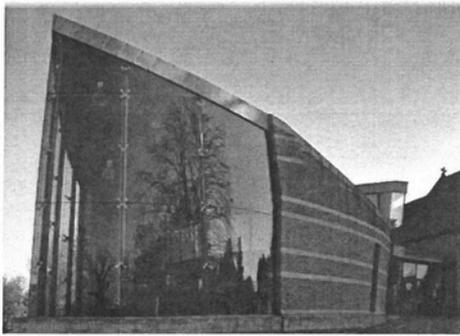
In mid-May Charlotte Palethorpe will be starting as our new Ark and Facilities Administrator.



Michelle Read, our new Finance Officer began working with us mid-April.



Welcome to the team, we look forward to working with you both.



# The Ark May Events

## **Quiz and chips - Friday 10th May**

Please see page 24 for further details  
PLEASE NOTE THIS IS A RE-SCHEDULED DATE

## **Midland Sinfonia Family Concert - 3pm Saturday 11th May**

Please see page 10 for further details

## **Retreat - Sunday 12th May 2pm to 5pm**

Amber's popular retreat returns - for details and booking contact  
[www.ambersoundhealing.com...](http://www.ambersoundhealing.com...)

## **Worcestershire WI annual craft show-Tuesday 14th May**

The Ark is very pleased to be hosting this WI county event. This year's theme is Bright and Beautiful. Entries will include floral art, photography, sugar craft and preserves. A talk and slide show of The Red Dress project (the dress itself is currently on tour in the USA) will be given by British artist Kirstie Macleod.

For tickets please contact your WI secretary or for anyone not a WI member, please contact the Federation Office on 01905 641672

### **Contacts for class and group regular events**

Alvechurch Historical Society - Anne - 0121 445 5955

Karate - Chris 0756 4604613

Adult Irish dancing - [donnagriffinacademy.com](http://donnagriffinacademy.com)

Places of Welcome - Lynda - 0121 447 7955

Wednesday Yoga and mediation - Sally - [myyogamind.co.uk](http://myyogamind.co.uk)

Line Dancing - Bryan - 07975569065

Hillside WI - Pat - 0121 628 4121

Tots & Toddlers - Sarah- [sarah100work@gmail.com](mailto:sarah100work@gmail.com)

Physio Led Pilates - [www.elizabethalexanderphysiotherapy.com](http://www.elizabethalexanderphysiotherapy.com)

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

Mini-Athletics - Steph - [www.miniathletics.com](http://www.miniathletics.com)

**For booking your own event. class or party please contact Lynda  
[admin@thearkalvechurch.co.uk](mailto:admin@thearkalvechurch.co.uk) or 0121 447 7955**

# AS TIME GOES BY

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AT 10.30AM**

**UNTIL 1.00PM**

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Sunday 12th May 2024

200 - 500pm



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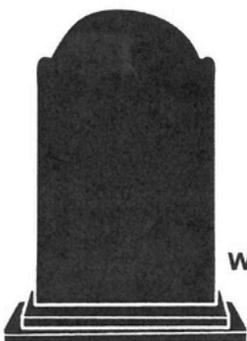
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# Quiz and Chips



**Friday 10th May**

**7:30pm start, doors open at 7pm**  
**The Ark, School Lane, B48 7SB**

Teams of up to 6 people max  
£12 per person including fish and chip supper.  
*Veggie option available, please request on booking.*  
*Licensed bar on evening.*  
*Booking in advance and payment of ticket by 6th May.*  
*For tickets see Graham or Lynda in the Parish Office*



## 10AM HOLY COMMUNION FROM THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER

**ST LEONARD'S, BEOLEY**  
1ST THURSDAY OF MONTH

**ST LAURENCE, ALVECHURCH**  
3RD WEDNESDAY OF MONTH

- May 2nd
- June 6th
- July 4th
- August 1st
- September 5th
- October 3rd
- November 7th
- December 5th

- May 15th
- June 19th
- July 17th
- August 21st
- September 18th
- October 16th
- November 20th
- December 18th

**PRAYER MINISTRY**

**10:30-11:00**  
**EVERY SUNDAY MORNING**  
**IN THE LADY CHAPEL**

**HERE TO SUPPORT YOU**  
**IN PRAYER**

# Quality care in Edgbaston you can trust

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

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

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

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

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



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

**Metchley Manor care home**  
**5 Church Road, Edgbaston - Birmingham,**  
**West Midlands B15 3SH**  
**[careuk.com/metchley-manor](https://careuk.com/metchley-manor)**

**Visit our website or call 0121 468 9344.**



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

# FLOWERS IN REMEMBRANCE

St Laurence church had flowers in church most of the year, (exclusions are Lent and Advent). Would you like to sponsor the flower arrangement for an anniversary, birthday or any other special or significant date. Name and date would be displayed in church and in Grapevine.



We have plenty of greenery and suggest a donation of around £20 person arrangement.

Contact Penny in the office for more details.

## SUNDAY FAMILY WORSHIP AND ARK TIME



5th May - 10:30am

Join us for the Annual Celebration (APCM) of all that St Laurence has done in the past year  
**Activity bags will be available for all children**

19th May - 10:30am Café style

Come and celebrate the birthday of the Church (Pentecost) all together in The Ark with St Leonard's

12th and 26th May - 9:15am Family Worship

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

In The Ark we listen to Bible stories and join in activities.

**Under 8's** enjoy Bible stories, songs and craft activities with Jack the Labrador puppet.

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

**So do come along and join us with all your family.**

For more information, email [sarah100work@gmail.com](mailto:sarah100work@gmail.com)

# **Come and Sing Evensong**

**Led by The Venerable Paul Taylor  
Emeritus Archdeacon of Sherborne**

Paul studied organ with John Webster (University College, Oxford) and H.A. Bate (St James, Muswell Hill) Before ordination was organist and choirmaster at St Paul's, Mill Hill (London) and whilst a student at Westcott House, Cambridge was Director of the Chapel Choir at Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge.

Organist. Cyril Verey, B.Sc., M.Sc., M.Ed., A.T.C.L  
formerly Head of Maths at The Marling School, Stroud

**Booking Required**  
**Rev SJ 07456 549969**

**Sunday 26th May 2024**  
**Rehearsal starts at 3pm**  
**Service at 6pm**  
**Afternoon Tea included**  
**St. Bartholomew's, Tardebigge**

# Martin Allen writes

Times when life changes are odd aren't they? There is an odd mix to them of looking back, thinking about now and wondering about the future.

We may look back with a mix of feelings -remembering what has been good and being grateful. We may also have regrets and wish that our lives had turned out differently. There is often a sense of anxiety, a questioning if things will be all right and what will the future bring? We may have that anxious feeling with us each day or when thinking about the future.

I have recently been going through another time of life with changes. After one substantial change to life with ordination as a Deacon in September 2023, I have now retired from my GP practice. Disconnecting and saying goodbye to folk has needed attention and careful planning. My colleagues have helped and supported amazingly well helping our clientele and me adjust. It has been humbling to receive thanks and good wishes for the future. There have been times of recalling shared experiences – some good some bad. I have been fortunate to “leave well” when for so many work has never been possible or leaving it has been damaging.

When we leave a team or a group and move on there can be a natural anxiety about how things will be without us. There can be a worry whether those we leave behind will cope or not. In the end the way to work that out is to do it and move on!

In this Easter season I am struck by how many times Jesus prepared the disciples for his leaving. My retiring is completely different to Jesus leaving through his death and resurrection. I now though understand a bit more about what he was doing. I relate to him preparing people to cope with the shocks they faced and the uncertainty of their futures.

He got them to try and live their lives in a unique way -His way.

He gave them more than wise sayings to live by -he gave them Himself

He left them feeling unsure what to do but gave them scaffolding. Scaffolding on which to graft their new lives.

What was that scaffolding like I hear you say? Well, he gave them a prayer -the Lord's Prayer to say and remember if they forgot everything else.

He gave them a new purpose to "go into all nations and baptise people" in His name.

He gave them a meal to remember him by which we call communion.

In his next life change he returned to Heaven and released the Holy Spirit as a friend and helper. Like the disciples that same Holy Spirit can help us today to be fully equipped and flexible to cope with life's changes.

I suspect the disciples wanted Jesus around longer to answer more of their questions. If though he had done that things might not have changed, and the church might not have been born. So, moving on can be a time of growth and change for us but also for those we leave. It certainly was for those disciples and the early church.

Whatever our feelings about past and future changes there is Good News. That is that our God who loves us is beside us every step of the way and that we have all the things outlined above available to us as we go through changes. With changes God helps us to adapt and cope. He does not expect us to change in ways we cannot bear and always seeks what is best for us through change. Why? Because He loves us as we are but wants us to be the best version of us, we can be.

Anyone up for a change?

## ALVECHURCH VILLAGE SOCIETY – UPCOMING EVENTS

### TALK

Wednesday May 15th at the Village Hall, 7.30pm

"Bumblebees"

A talk by Dr Richard Comont from the Bumblebee Conservation Trust  
Free to members and £1 for guests, including a drink and biscuit.

### WALKS

Sunday May 12th 2pm

A walk from the Coach and Horses

Meet at The Coach and Horses, Weatheroak B48 7EA

Sunday June 2nd 2pm

A walk from Saint Michael's Church

Meet at Saint Michael's Church car park B45 8BD

For more information and membership see the AVS website:

[www.alvechurchvs.org](http://www.alvechurchvs.org)

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## Hillside WI

We had a good meeting in April. Our guest speaker was Sheila Parker. Her topic was RMS Titanic. Through her lifelong interest in the tragic events of April 1912, she had been selected to sail on the memorial trip to the wreck site. The passengers re-enacted the five days up to the accident, and later visited the graves of some of the victims in Halifax Nova Scotia. Sheila donated her fee to the Macular Society.

After refreshments we continued with a little business.

Names were taken for the 2025 Diaries.

The resolution chosen to go forward to the AGM at National was Dental Health Concerns.

The Annual Craft Show is on Tuesday 14th May between 10.30am and 1.30pm, in The Ark St Laurence's Church.

Subs were paid and the books have gone to audit.

A trip is being organised to go to Hardwick Hall in Derbyshire. The home of Bess of Hardwick, an Elizabeth noble woman. Names will be taken for the trip which is on June 24th.

Our next meeting is on May 1st and is our AGM, followed by a music quiz.

Come and join our friendly WI all visitors and guests are welcomed.

Enquiries to Pat McDonagh 0121 628 4121

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# OUR TEAM



## Revd Gail Rogers

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



## Revd Martin Allen

Curate  
117 Birmingham Road  
07788872738  
allnix@btinternet.com



## Lynda Lewis

Ark and Parish Administrator  
For all Ark and Event enquires  
0121 447 7955  
admin@thearkalvechurch.co.uk  
Monday - Thursday 9.30am - 1.30am



## Penny Walker

Ministry Support Administrator  
For enquiries about wedding, baptism, funeral and other church services  
0121 447 7955  
church-beoleyandalvechurch@outlook.com  
Tuesday - Thursday 9.30am - 1.30am



## 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 Davenport

Church Warden

0121 447 7955



## Graham Clark

Church Warden

The Coach House, School Lane

0121 445 2547



## Mark Linton

Deputy Church Warden

## Andy Notley

Deputy Church Warden



## Colin Bennett

Bell Tower Master

01527 64077

### **Deadline for Grapevine June 2024 Edition**

If you wish to submit an article or advert the deadline is -  
Monday 13th May

# THE ARK

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## SUMMER LUNCH

### MAIN

#### **Ploughman's Lunch**

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

### DESSERTS

Cheesecake or  
Spring Decorated Cupcakes

ALL SERVED WITH A GLASS OF PROSECCO

Tea and coffee with also be served.

**Thursday 8th August**  
**£12 per person**

Arrive from 12:30pm with food served at 1pm

To book please contact the office 0121 447 7955  
[admin@thearkalvechurch.co.uk](mailto:admin@thearkalvechurch.co.uk)

*Advance booking only. Payment on booking.  
Please select your Ham or Cheese and vegetarian options upon  
booking.*

