

COMMON GROUND

ST LEONARD'S CHURCH

SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF
ABBEY PARK, BEOLEY AND CHURCH HILL

Spring 2025



Living the Resurrection: Service,
Community, and New Beginnings

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REVD GAIL WRITES...



Dear Friends,

Lent is often seen as a time of giving something up—a season of restraint, reflection, and preparation as we journey towards the cross. It's a time to pause, to take stock, and to ask ourselves: what is truly important? Yet, at its heart, Lent is not only about sacrifice but about making space—space for prayer, for acts of kindness, and for encountering God afresh.

As we move through Holy Week into the joy of Easter, we are reminded that the story does not end with the cross. The empty tomb speaks of new life, of hope that cannot be extinguished. Just as seeds lie dormant before bursting into bloom, so too are we invited to step from reflection into renewal. The risen Christ meets us in our doubts, in our fears, and in our joys, calling us to be people of resurrection—bringing life and light into our communities.

Easter is the heartbeat of our faith, the foundation of all that we do as a church. It reminds us that transformation is possible, that new beginnings are real, and that God's love is always at work among us. This is especially significant as we gather for our ADCM in May, where we will be welcoming a new treasurer, churchwarden, and hopefully a DCC secretary. These individuals are offering their lives in service to God, a visible sign of faith in action and a source of hope for our community. Their willingness to serve is a reminder that the Church is not just a building or an institution but a living, breathing body shaped by those who give of themselves in love and service.

As a church, we are called not only to celebrate resurrection but to live it out in practical ways. This means reaching out in mission, focusing on our priority to engage with children and families, and offering spaces of welcome and belonging. How does the resurrection shape us? It compels us to be a church of open doors, of generous hospitality, and of active faith that reaches beyond our walls into the lives of those around us. It encourages us to support one another, to share in the work of the Gospel, and to create a community where all can flourish.

It is in this spirit that we look ahead to our summer fête. Though it may seem a long way off, it is, in many ways, a reflection of the Easter message—an event that gathers people together, celebrates life, and offers welcome to all. Just as Lent prepares us for the joy of Easter, our planning and preparations now will shape a day that embodies hospitality, generosity, and joy. The fête is not just a fundraiser or a social event; it is a witness to our calling to be a church of community, joy, and shared life.

So, as we walk through this season together, may we find time for both reflection and renewal, for pausing and preparing, for remembering and rejoicing. And may we, as a church and a community, continue to grow into the abundant life that Christ offers.

With prayers and blessings

Revd. Gail

PRAYERS AND ANOINTING FOR HEALING AND WHOLENESS

Healing Eucharist

**St Leonard's Church,
Beoley**

Sundays at 11.15am

- 18th May
- 20th July
- 21st September
- 16th November

**St Laurence Church,
Alvechurch**

Sundays at 11.15am

- 27th April
- 22nd June
- 24th August
- 26th October
- 14th December



HOLY WEEK

13TH - 20TH APRIL

Palm Sunday

Gathering St Leonard's and St Laurence gathering all together at St Laurence Alvechurch 10.15am at The Square or 10.30am at church.

Holy Monday/ Tuesday/Wednesday

Night Prayer on Facebook, 8pm

Maundy Thursday

ST LEONARD'S CHURCH, BEOLEY
10am Holy Communion followed by Stripping of Altar

ST LAURENCE CHURCH, ALVECHURCH

7pm Share a simple meal reflecting the Last Supper in The Ark, followed by Gethsemane prayers in church

Good Friday

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN ALVECHURCH AND ROWNEY GREEN

ALVECHURCH BAPTIST CHURCH

10.30am Good Friday Prayers

ST LEONARD'S CHURCH, BEOLEY

Three Hours of Prayer

12pm - 2pm Reflective Prayer ~ 2pm The Good Friday Liturgy

ST LAURENCE CHURCH, ALVECHURCH

7.30pm Tenebrae and Taizé

Holy Saturday

ST LAURENCE CHURCH, ALVECHURCH

7pm Vigil and Service of Light

Easter Sunday

ST LEONARD'S CHURCH, BEOLEY

10.30am Easter Communion

ST LAURENCE CHURCH, ALVECHURCH

9.15am Cafe Church, with Communion

11.15am Easter Communion

PALM SUNDAY – A JOYFUL BEGINNING TO HOLY WEEK

Join us as we begin Holy Week together, remembering Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. We gather All Together at St Laurence, starting in two ways—either in The Square at The Village for a joyful procession to church, or inside St Laurence for the reading of the Palm Gospel, before making a shorter walk outside to meet the procession.

This Holy Communion service is filled with Hosannas and celebration, echoing the crowds who welcomed Jesus with palm branches. It is a moment of joy and excitement, reminding us of the hope he brings. Yet, this joyful beginning also prepares us for the deeper journey ahead, as we walk with Jesus through the events of Holy Week, moving from celebration to reflection, from triumph to sorrow.

Come and be part of this special service—whether you walk in the procession or wait in the church, you are invited to share in the story, the joy, and the journey.



All Together for Palm Sunday

**Sunday 13th April
St Laurence Church, Alvechurch
at 10:15am**

If you would like to join us for a short procession, please join us at The Square, Alvechurch Village

Alternatively, gather at St Laurence Church ready at for the Palm Gospel before welcoming the procession outside the church.



Please note that there will be no worship at St Leonard's, Beoley on this day. We are joining All Together at St Laurence, Alvechurch

#CUT IT OUT

RAISING AWARENESS OF AND TACKLING DOMESTIC ABUSE

FREE SESSIONS

North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership are delighted to be working with Martin Lakeman, (Domestic Abuse and Safeguarding Consultant) in raising awareness around the devastating impact of domestic abuse through the #Cut It Out initiative. This training is open to any professional working in any sector, and members of the public. For businesses, take a step back and ask yourself “what’s your most important asset”? PEOPLE

1 in 4 women and 1 in 6 men will experience domestic abuse at some point in their life. #Cut It Out recognises that certain professionals are in a position of privilege with their clients, not only working physically close to them but also very often, they are someone trusted to talk to or confide in. This initiative aims to help

professionals recognise the signs of domestic abuse, whilst raising awareness of where they can signpost family members, friends, friends of friends, business colleagues, clients to get help and importantly give professionals the confidence to start that difficult conversation. ‘Our aim is that as many professionals have the opportunity to come to a FREE Session and learn what domestic abuse is and what they can do to recognise the signs’

“Brilliant. Empowering, and a must for every professional” - A Hairdresser *“I thought the training last week was excellent, thank you”* - A Financial advisor *“This was one of the most worthwhile mornings I’ve spent”* - A Professional *“Inspiring, emotional, brilliant, lifesaving”* - A Professional

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/north-worcestershire-community-safety-partnership-7447613>

ALL SESSIONS ARE 9:30am - 11:30am

Monday 20th January 2025

Redditch Kingfisher Centre

Monday 24th February 2025

Wyre Forest House

Wednesday 26th February 2025

Bromsgrove Rugby Club

Monday 17th March 2025

Redditch United FC Ground

Monday 31st March 2025

Bromsgrove Sporting FC Ground



North Worcestershire
Community Safety Partnership



John Campion
Police and Crime Commissioner
West Mercia

NIGHT PRAYER (COMPLINE) – A GENTLE END TO THE DAY

On Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of Holy Week, we invite you to pause, reflect, and pray with us as we share Night Prayer (Compline) online. These short, peaceful services will be recorded and posted on the St Laurence and St Leonard's Facebook pages, offering a quiet space for prayer at the close of the day.

Compline is a traditional service of night prayer, marking the end of the day in stillness and trust. Rooted in centuries of Christian devotion, it is a simple yet profound time of scripture, psalms, and prayers, drawing us into God's peace before we rest.

In the busyness of life, these moments of prayer invite us to slow down and reflect on Jesus' journey to the cross. They help us step into the quiet of the evening, bringing our thoughts, emotions, and burdens before God. As we listen to ancient words of comfort and hope, we are reminded that even in darkness, Christ's presence is near. Wherever you are, take a few moments each night to join us in prayer, drawing close to Jesus as we prepare our hearts for the days ahead.

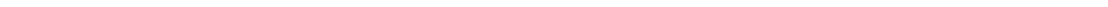




Bromsgrove & Redditch Knowledge Bank

Online directory of local services & support available to you.

<https://knowledgebank.bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk>



Bromsgrove Partnership

REDDITCH PARTNERSHIP

Bromsgrove and Redditch Network

Bromsgrove District Council
www.bromsgrove.gov.uk

Redditch Borough Council
Working together for our communities

Quiz and Chips

Friday 6th June 2025

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

For tickets see Graham or Charlotte in the Parish Office

MAUNDY THURSDAY MORNING HOLY COMMUNION & STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR

On Maundy Thursday morning, we gather for a quiet and reflective Holy Communion service, entering into the solemnity of Jesus' final hours. This is a traditional and contemplative service, inviting us to reflect on the Last Supper, where Jesus shared bread and wine with his disciples, offering them a new commandment: to love one another as he has loved us.

Following the service, we share refreshments in The Tapestry Room, a time of fellowship before we return to the church for the Stripping of the Altar.

Stripping of the Altar is a deeply symbolic act marking the transition from the Last Supper to Jesus' betrayal and arrest. As the altar is stripped bare and all decorations are removed, we are reminded of how Jesus was abandoned, left alone in the Garden of Gethsemane. The emptiness of the church mirrors the growing darkness of the Passion, preparing us for Good Friday.

This service is a quiet but powerful moment in Holy Week's journey, drawing us deeper into reflection and prayer.



Maundy Thursday Morning

Holy Communion & Stripping of the Altar

Holy Communion
10am

Prayers and Psalm
with Stripping of the Altar
11.30am

St Leonard's Church, Beoley
Thursday 17th April

SoBS
invites you to

SpeakOUT

A safe space to talk about **LGBTQ+** suicide loss

SpeakOUT is a free & confidential online peer-support group for anyone who identifies as LGBTQ+ who has lost a loved one to suicide. We also support the loved ones of an LGBTQ+ person who has died by suicide.

Meeting (virtually)
The last Monday of the month
7pm - 9pm

If you need to speak to someone urgently
please call:

Survivors of Bereavement by Suicide support line
Open 9am - 7pm every day.
0300 111 5065

Switchboard - the national LGBTQIA+ support line
Open 10am -10pm every day.
0800 0119 100



For more information:



speakout@uksobs.org



www.uksobs.com

COME TO THE TABLE – A SHARED MEAL FOR MAUNDY THURSDAY

On the night before he died on a cross, Jesus gathered with his friends for a meal, sharing bread and wine, serving them in love, and giving them a new commandment: to love one another as he had loved them. This meal is a time to remember that night—not as a re-creation of the Passover but as a Christian act of fellowship, service, and reflection.

We will share a simple meal, serve one another in a spirit of humility, and take part in Holy Communion. As the meal ends, we will move into church for quiet prayer, keeping watch with Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. This is an opportunity to pause, reflect, and be part of the story of love, sacrifice, and hope.

- 📅 Thursday 17th April at 7pm
- 📍 St Laurence Church and The Ark
- 🍽️ A Light, Seasonal Meal Provided
(Donations on the evening towards the cost of the meal)

⚠️ All Are Welcome. Please sign up so we know numbers to cater for.

Come, eat, remember, and be part of the story.

Come to the Table A Shared Meal for Maundy Thursday

This meal is a time to remember that night—not as a re-creation of the Passover but a Christian act of fellowship, service, and reflection.

At the end of the meal, around the table we will share in Holy Communion.

Menu

Spring Chicken and Vegetable Stew or
White Bean and Spring Vegetable Stew (VE) (V)

Selection of Breads and Cheese (VE)
(Gluten Free Breads Available)

**The Ark at St Laurence Church
Thursday 17th April, 7pm**

*Please do book by completing the sign up sheet or calling the church office so we know numbers for catering purposes.
Donations on the evening are welcome towards the cost of the meal.*

GETHSEMANE PRAYERS – SITTING WITH JESUS IN HIS AGONY

Following the shared meal, we invite you to gather in St Laurence Church for a time of Gethsemane Prayers, marking a moment of deep reflection and spiritual connection. As you enter the church, you are invited to step into the Garden of Gethsemane, a sacred space for prayer and silence. During this time, we will read psalms and prayers, followed by moments of quiet contemplation, where you are free to come and go as you wish.

In Gethsemane, Jesus faced the weight of his coming suffering, wrestling in prayer with God in the shadow of his impending betrayal and death. This time of prayer offers us a chance to sit with Jesus in his sorrow, acknowledging his vulnerability and surrender to God's will. It is a powerful opportunity to reflect on the depth of Jesus' love and to join him in the silence of his struggle, even as we prepare to walk through the pain of the cross.

By entering into this sacred silence, we are invited to share in Jesus' agony and faithfulness, offering us a chance to face our own struggles and doubts in the presence of Christ. This is a profound act of companionship with Jesus, as we witness his prayerful submission and love.

Come back on Sunday to witness how the sorrow and pain of the Garden of Gethsemane are transformed into the glory of the Resurrection garden—a new hope and new life emerging from the darkness.



Confirmation and Baptism: Milestones on Our Journey of Faith

Baptism and Confirmation are two significant rites in our Christian journey. They are moments of commitment, renewal, and belonging—opportunities to affirm our faith and receive God's grace in a tangible way.

Why Are Baptism and Confirmation Important? Baptism is the sacrament by which we become part of the Church, welcomed into the family of God. Whether we are baptised as infants or later in life, it marks the beginning of our journey in faith. Confirmation is an opportunity to affirm for ourselves the promises made at baptism, often accompanied by a deepening of our understanding and commitment to following Christ. The Bishop lays hands on the candidate and prays for the Holy Spirit to strengthen and guide them.

What If I Am Not Yet Baptised? It is never too late to take this step! If you were not baptised as a child but feel drawn to deepen your faith, you can be baptised and confirmed together. This is a wonderful way to affirm your personal commitment to Christ in a meaningful and public way. For many, it is a powerful experience of renewal and a deepened connection to the Church community.

If you are considering Baptism or Confirmation, we invite you to explore what this might mean for you. This year, we have three opportunities to take part in a Confirmation service:

- 8th June, 17:30 – Worcester Cathedral
- 26th October, 17:30 – A local church in Redditch or Bromsgrove (venue TBC)
- 23rd November, 17:30 – Worcester Cathedral

Preparation is an important part of Baptism and Confirmation. It is a time to reflect, ask questions, and grow in understanding. We offer a six-week preparation course, which allows you to discern whether this is the right next step for you. Journeying in a group as you prepare for Confirmation is a gift—it offers a space to share experiences, support one another, and grow in faith together. Learning alongside others can deepen your understanding and give you the confidence to embrace this step with the encouragement of your fellow candidates.

If you are aged 10 or over and would like to explore Baptism and/or Confirmation, please speak to either Revd Gail or Revd Martin. We would love to journey with you as you consider taking this important step in faith.

Wherever you are on your faith journey, know that you are welcome, valued, and supported in exploring God's call in your life.

GOOD FRIDAY - A DAY OF SORROW AND REFLECTION

On Good Friday, we gather at different times and places to reflect on the suffering and sacrifice of Jesus. This solemn day invites us into lament, prayer, and contemplation, as we stand at the foot of the cross and remember Christ's love poured out for the world.

10:30am | Churches Together Worship

Alvechurch Baptist Church

Join with Christians from across Alvechurch and Rowney Green as we come together in shared worship, reflecting on the meaning of Jesus' death and its significance for us today.

12pm – 2pm | Reflective Prayers

St Leonard's, Beoley

A quiet space for personal prayer and reflection. Come and go as you wish, taking time to sit in silence, pray, and contemplate the depth of Good Friday's message.

3pm | The Good Friday Liturgy

St Leonard's, Beoley

A deeply traditional and solemn service, the Good Friday Liturgy takes us into the heart of this day of sorrow. Through scripture, silence, prayers, and the veneration of the cross, we remember Jesus' suffering and death. This service is one of lament, where we sit in the grief of the crucifixion, waiting in the stillness of loss before the hope of Easter.

7:30pm | Tenebrae & Taizé

St Laurence Church

As night falls, we gather for a service of Tenebrae and Taizé, a deeply moving experience of scripture, song, and darkness.

Tenebrae, meaning "shadows" or "darkness," is an ancient service in which candles are gradually extinguished as the Passion story unfolds. The encroaching darkness mirrors the growing sorrow of Jesus' suffering, leading us into deep contemplation and stillness. Alongside the Tenebrae readings, we will also sing Taizé chants—simple, meditative songs that draw us into prayerful reflection. This service offers a profound way to enter into the mystery of Good Friday, sitting with the weight of the cross, yet held in the quiet hope of God's presence.



ST LEONARD'S CHURCH, BEOLEY

SUMMER FÊTE

SATURDAY 5 JULY

1.30-4.30 PM FREE ENTRY!

GAMES | CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

REFRESHMENTS | STALLS

ENTERTAINMENT | PRIZE DRAW

Praying for our Communities

Prayer does not equip us for the greater work.

Prayer is the greater work.

Oswald Chambers

Loving God,

We bring before You the communities of Beoley, Church Hill, and Abbey Park. Bless the people who call these places home—those who have lived here for generations and those who are newly arrived.

May our churches be places of welcome, hope, and love, Shining Your light in every street, school, and home.

Amen.

God of wisdom,

We pray for the nurseries, schools, and colleges in our communities.

Bless the children as they learn and grow,

The teachers and staff as they guide and nurture,

And the parents and carers who support them.

May these places be full of joy, kindness, and opportunities for every child to thrive.

Amen.

Compassionate God,

We lift before You all who struggle in our communities—

Those who face financial hardship, loneliness, or uncertainty.

We pray for the work of the YMCA and all who offer care and support.

May they be met with kindness, dignity, and practical help,

And may we, as Your people, be part of the answer to their prayers.

Amen.

God of unity,

In Beoley's village life, Church Hill's neighbourhoods, Abbey Park's streets,

Among farms, businesses, and town centre shops,

May we learn to see one another as neighbours and friends.

Help us to build a community where all are valued,

Where generosity overcomes division,

And where love is at the heart of all we do.

Amen.

HOLY SATURDAY - THE EASTER VIGIL & SERVICE OF LIGHT

As the sun sets on Holy Saturday, we gather outside around a firepit (weather permitting) for the Easter Vigil, a powerful and ancient service that bridges the sorrow of Good Friday with the joy of Easter's dawn.

In the stillness of the night, we listen to scripture readings from Genesis through to the New Testament, telling the great story of God's faithfulness, grace, and promise to humankind. This journey through salvation history leads us to its climax—the resurrection of Jesus—as we prepare to welcome the light of Christ.

As darkness falls, we move from the vigil into the Service of Light, marking the beginning of Easter. In the Jewish understanding of time, the new day begins at sunset, meaning that Easter Day has already begun. The resurrection does not wait for the dawn—it breaks into the world as soon as the third day arrives.

We light the Paschal Candle, the great symbol of the risen Christ, and carry the light into the church, where darkness gives way to hope. This moment is deeply symbolic: Christ, the Light of the World, has overcome death, and a new creation begins.

The Easter Vigil is often called the most important and beautiful service of the Christian year. It is a time of deep anticipation and joy, reminding us that even in the darkest moments, God's light is never extinguished. This service invites us to step into the mystery of the resurrection, to wait in faith, and to celebrate the victory of life over death.

As part of this service, we renew our baptismal vows, reaffirming our commitment to follow Christ, just as the early church did when new believers were baptized at Easter.

But the story does not end here. The conclusion of this service is found in the joy of Easter Sunday morning, when we gather again for a Holy Communion service, fully celebrating the risen Christ.



Holy Saturday
The Easter Vigil & Service of Light

Gather around the firepit (weather permitting) as we hear scripture telling God's story of salvation. As night falls, we light the Paschal Candle, carrying the light of Christ into the church to celebrate the beginning of Easter.

All are welcome to step into the mystery and joy of Easter's beginning!

St Laurence Church, Alvechurch
Saturday 19th April, 7pm

Authorised Lay Ministry at St Leonard's

For many years, St Leonard's Church has been blessed by the ministry of lay worship leaders. Their contributions have enriched our worship and strengthened our community. As we continue to encourage and develop this ministry, it is important that we align with the expectations set by the Diocese of Worcester.

The Diocese requires that all individuals regularly participating in lay worship leadership be DBS checked, complete basic Safeguarding training, and undergo ALM (Authorised Lay Ministry) training. Once these steps are completed, the parish priest officially authorises them for this vital ministry. To help us meet these requirements and continue fostering lay leadership, Revd Gail will be leading ALM training at St Leonard's Church.

Training Details The training will take place in The Tapestry Room and consists of preparation, group discussions, smaller group work, and group presentations across eight sessions, structured in two blocks:

Preparatory Work

Before the course begins, participants will receive preparatory materials to work through in advance.

Block 1: Building Blocks

- Week 1: Thinking about Worship
- Week 2: Elements of Worship (Exploring a Service of the Word)
- Week 3: Leading Intercessions (Building on Existing Experience)
- Week 4: Readings and Rhythms (Understanding the Lectionary and Calendar)
-

Block 2: Crafting Worship

- Week 5: Structures of Worship
- Week 6: Presidency and Flow
- Week 7: Engaging the Word (Alternatives to the Sermon)
- Week 8: Putting it all Together
-

Next Steps Before training begins, those interested in participating should first speak with Revd Gail. An application form will need to be completed, and applicants must have the support of both the DCC and PCC. If a DBS check has not already been completed, this will also need to be arranged. Additionally, participants must complete basic safeguarding training while on the course.

This is a wonderful opportunity for those called to serve in leading worship. If you feel drawn to this ministry, we encourage you to take this next step in deepening your faith and service to the church community.

EASTER SUNDAY – CELEBRATE THE RISEN CHRIST

Easter is the heart of the Christian faith—a celebration of hope, new life, and victory over death. It marks the resurrection of Jesus, showing that God's love is stronger than sin and suffering.

Through the resurrection, Jesus transforms despair into joy, darkness into light, and death into life. Easter reminds us that no matter what we face, God's love and grace bring renewal and hope. It is an invitation to step into the promise of new beginnings and a life shaped by love, forgiveness, and faith.

That's why we celebrate! Easter is not just a story of the past—it is a living reality that changes everything.

Join us on Easter morning as we rejoice in the resurrection and the hope it brings!

- **9:15am | Café Church at St Laurence** – A relaxed and accessible way to engage with the Easter story through craft, activities, and conversation, starting with bacon & sausage baps from 8:45am.
- **10:30am | St Leonard's Church** – A united Holy Communion service, blending traditional and informal worship as we celebrate together.
- **11:15am | St Laurence Church** – A traditional Holy Communion service, rejoicing in the risen Christ.

Easter is the heart of our faith—a day of joy, hope, and new beginnings. Whether you've heard the Easter story before or are exploring it for the first time, a warm welcome awaits at all our services. Come and celebrate!



ATTENTION

IMPORTANT NOTICE!

ST LEONARD'S CHURCH ADCM WORSHIP
SUNDAY, 18TH MAY 2025, 10:30AM

Our ADCM Worship offers us a moment to reflect on the year 2024, giving thanks to God for the life and outreach of the church throughout the year.

It is also a time to express gratitude and pray for all who will serve the church in the coming year, as well as to elect new members to church roles, to the DCC and PCC.

During this time of worship, we recommit ourselves to the call of being the church in the year ahead, praying for God's guidance and blessing in all areas of church life.

WHAT IS THE ADCM, AND WHY DOES IT MATTER?

If you've ever walked past a church noticeboard and seen 'ADCM' advertised, you might have wondered what it means. It sounds official—and, in some ways, it is! But it's also an important moment for the whole church community, whether you attend regularly or not.

As we gather for the Annual District Church Meeting (ADCM), we take time to reflect on the life of our church over the past year. This meeting is not just about administration—it is an opportunity to give thanks for all that has been, to acknowledge the dedication of those who serve, and to look ahead with prayerful expectation.

At the ADCM we also elect people to key roles that help shape the ministry and mission of our church, including Churchwarden, Secretary of the DCC, Treasurer, members of the DCC and PCC, and Deanery Synod representatives. Each of these roles carries a responsibility for the life of our church community, ensuring that we continue to be a place of worship, welcome, and service.

But why does this matter to you? Our church is more than a building; it is a living community of faith. Throughout the week, different groups gather here, forming part of our ongoing ministry and outreach. The work of the church is not confined to Sundays but is expressed in the love and service shared daily.

The ADCM is a chance to help shape how our ministry continues.

We hold this meeting within our worship because living out the gospel—loving and serving one another—is at the heart of what we do, and is, in itself, an act of worship. As we pray for those stepping into leadership and give thanks for the past year, we remember that the church is a shared journey, one we walk together.

So, if you've ever wondered how churches run—or how you can have a voice in what they do—this is one of those moments. Whether by attending, voting (if you're on the church's electoral roll), or simply offering ideas and encouragement, the ADCM is a time for us all to take part in the life of the church.

Join us as we give thanks for the past and pray for those who will lead us into the future, may we be reminded that we are all called to share in God's mission.

A New Electoral Roll:

What Is This About, and Why Should I Join?

It is saying, "I belong"

The electoral roll is a list of people who consider themselves connected to St Leonard's, Beoley. Whether you join us for worship, live nearby, or simply feel part of this community, the roll helps us keep track of who is involved.

It's also important in the bigger picture of the Church of England, as the roll size is used to allocate resources across parishes.

Electoral Rolls provide a true indication of the real membership and strength of the church both locally and nationally. Putting your name on the roll is a way of saying "I belong"; it is an act of commitment to your local church and to the church as a whole. It is also an important statement of witness, and a step along the path of discipleship. With your name on the electoral roll, the strength of the church can be seen in the parish, the town, and the diocese. We are a church growing in numbers, and the electoral roll also allows us to demonstrate this to the world.

4 Who can join?

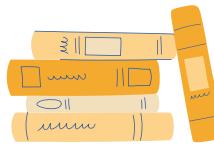


To join, you must:

- Be aged 16 or older (you can apply at 15 and join on your 16th birthday).
- Be baptised into the Christian faith.
- Consider yourself part of the Church of England.
- Either live in the parish or attend worship at St Leonard's.
- If you attend another church too, you can be on more than one electoral roll, as long as you meet the criteria above.

1

What does the bible say?



"Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one bread"
(1 Corinthians 10:17)

Every six years, we start fresh with a completely new electoral roll – and 2025 is the year for this at St Leonard's. Whether you've been on the roll before or this is new to you, **everyone needs to fill out a form to join**.

2

What is the electoral role?



3



Why Join the Electoral Roll?

It is saying, "I am here to serve"

By joining, you're making it official: you're saying, "I'm part of St Leonard's and its mission here in this community."

- Have your say: Being on the roll gives you the right to nominate, vote for, or stand for election to the DCC/PCC (District/Parochial Church Council). These manage St Leonard's buildings, finances, and mission.
- Show you belong: Joining the roll is a way of saying that this church matters to you – whether you worship here weekly, occasionally, or simply feel part of the family.
- Support the wider church: Joining the electoral roll opens up the way for greater involvement in the life of the church, at deanery, diocesan, and national levels. It is a statement of active and ongoing support for the church. This may mean different things for different people, but includes getting involved in the purpose we share across the parish of "being a Christ-like presence to all we meet"

5

What is expected of me if I join?



To show that you support.

There are no specific commitments tied to being on the electoral roll. However, we encourage everyone to:

- Take part in our shared life through prayer, worship, events, and volunteering.
- Consider how you might contribute your time, skills, or financial support.
- Join us for our Annual Meeting where our Trustees are elected onto the DCC/PCC.

A New Electoral Roll:

What Is This About, and Why Should I Join?

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

APPLICATION FOR ENROLMENT
ON THE CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL OF THE PARISH OF:
REDDITCH HOLY TRINITY, ST LEONARD'S DISTRICT

Full name: _____

Preferred title (if any): _____

Postal Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Email address (optional): _____

I declare that –

1. I am baptised, am a lay person and am aged 16 or over (or become 16* on _____)

* A person who is going to become 16 during the next 12 months may complete this Form, and will then be eligible to have his or her name entered on the Roll on his or her 16th birthday.

Tick only one of 2A, 2B and 2C

2A. I am a member of the Church of England or of a Church in communion with the Church of England and am resident in the parish.

OR

2B. I am a member of the Church of England or of a Church in communion with the Church of England, am not resident in the parish,
 [but have habitually attended public worship in the parish during the preceding six months]
 [and would have habitually attended public worship in the parish during the preceding six months but was prevented from doing so because ***]

2C. I am a member in good standing of a Church which is not in communion with the Church of England but subscribes to the doctrine of the Holy Trinity, am also a member of the Church of England,
 [and have habitually attended public worship in the parish during the preceding six months]
 [and would have habitually attended public worship in the parish during the preceding six months but was prevented from doing so because ***]

*** If you tick 2B or 2C in circumstances where a new Roll is being prepared, you must delete either the first set of words in square brackets or the second set. If you delete the first set, you must complete the second set by filling in the space at the end. See Note 3 for further information. (If completing the form digitally, use the check boxes to indicate which set of words is true)

I declare that the above answers are true and I apply for inclusion on the Church Electoral Roll of the parish.

Signed _____
Date _____

Form 1 Updated: November 2024

St
Leonard's
Beoley

6

How do I join?

Filling out the form is simple and only takes a few minutes. A form is available in church or via email from

Chris Prevett - chris@prevett.me.uk

Remember that a form needs to be filled out per person not person household so you may need multiple forms.



7

Your Privacy



We take your privacy seriously.

We are committed to keeping your information safe, and information is collected and processed in line with our Privacy Policy.

All the information requested is needed to confirm you are eligible for the electoral roll and to communicate with you about this.

We will publish only your name in church as part of the electoral role in 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029 and 2030. We will not publish your address, email address or any other information you provide.

Your name will appear on the roll, but your address and other details won't be shared publicly.

We'll only use the information you provide for electoral roll purposes.

Being on the electoral roll is about more than just having your name on a list. It's a way to show that you belong, to declare your commitment to the life and mission of the church, and to be part of shaping its future. It gives you the chance to have your voice heard and to contribute to the growth of a community that lives out faith, love, and service in Abbey Park, Beoley, Church Hill and beyond.

We hope you'll join the roll and be part of the life and future of St Leonard's, Beoley. Together, we're building something special.

INCLUSIVE CHURCH: AN INVITATION TO WELCOME AND UNDERSTANDING

Over the past few months, we at St Leonard's began exploring what it means to be an Inclusive Church. This has been an intentional journey of listening, learning, and reflecting on how we can better embody Christ's radical hospitality. Last year, our focus was on disability, and we were privileged to hear from Graham from Alvechurch, who shared insights from his work at Where Next, an organisation supporting people with learning disabilities. This Lent, we have turned our attention to the issue of poverty, seeking to understand its impact on individuals and communities, and how we as a church are called to respond.

Why are these issues important? Because inclusion is at the very heart of the Gospel. Jesus consistently reached out to those on the margins, challenging societal norms and embodying God's boundless love for all. Our reflections on disability and poverty have reminded us that inclusion is not simply about making room; it is about recognising and valuing the inherent dignity of every person as a child of God.

In the coming months, our exploration will continue as we consider other aspects of welcome and inclusivity, including ethnicity, gender, mental health, sexuality, language, and neurodiversity. Each of these areas invites us to reflect on how we shape our church community, how we minister to one another, and how we live out our faith in the world.

How do these themes impact us at St Leonard's? They call us to examine the ways in which we extend our welcome—both explicitly and implicitly. They challenge us to consider whether we are truly making space for all or whether there are barriers, seen or unseen, that make it difficult for some to belong fully. They also encourage us to reflect on the richness of diversity within our own congregation and how that diversity deepens our understanding of God. For if we believe that every person is made in the image of God, then each unique perspective, experience, and identity reveals something of the divine that we might not otherwise see.

A key question in this journey is: How do we avoid falling into the trap of 'them and us' thinking? The narrative of 'we' must be at the forefront. Rather than seeing inclusion as an act of charity or obligation, we recognise that we are all enriched when we embrace difference.

INCLUSIVE CHURCH:

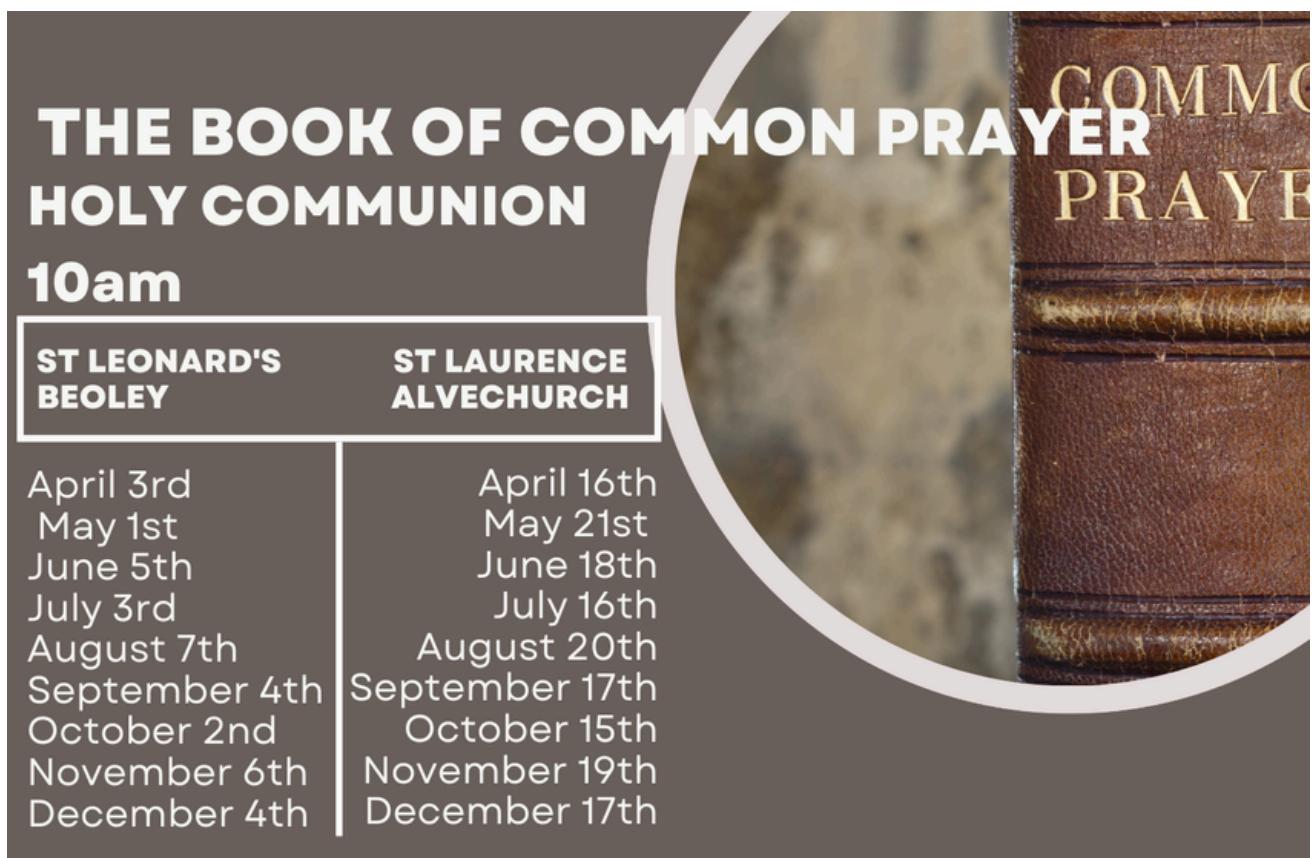
AN INVITATION TO WELCOME AND UNDERSTANDING

We are not welcoming 'them' into 'our' space; we are all part of the same body, learning from one another, growing together, and discovering new depths of God's love in the process.

Of course, we acknowledge that differences in opinion will exist—both in theology and personal experience. Can we hold these differences within the generosity of the Spirit? Can we honour the tension between diversity and unity without allowing it to divide us? This requires an openness of heart, a willingness to listen deeply to others, and a commitment to paying attention to our own reactions. If something stirs a strong emotional response in us, we might ask: Why? What is God revealing to us through this discomfort?

Ultimately, this is an invitation—an invitation to reflect, to engage, and to journey together in faith. May we continue to be a church that welcomes, questions, listens, and grows, ever seeking to reflect the boundless, inclusive love of God.

An Open Invitation Let us remain open to God's call to inclusion. Let us be attentive to those who may feel unseen or unheard. Let us hold space for one another with grace and generosity. And above all, let us walk forward together, embracing the beautiful, challenging, and transformative journey of being an Inclusive Church.



THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER
HOLY COMMUNION

10am

ST LEONARD'S BEOLEY	ST LAURENCE ALVECHURCH
April 3rd	April 16th
May 1st	May 21st
June 5th	June 18th
July 3rd	July 16th
August 7th	August 20th
September 4th	September 17th
October 2nd	October 15th
November 6th	November 19th
December 4th	December 17th

THE ARK PLOUGHMAN'S LUNCH

Join us for a delightful seasonal lunch filled with fresh flavours and warm hospitality!

MAINS

A generous and delicious spread featuring your choice of:

Hand-Carved Ham or Creamy Stilton Cheese

Served with:

Buttery salad potatoes

A rich wedge of mature cheddar

Traditional pork pie (or a 'no pork' vegetarian alternative)

Crisp, tangy pickles

A selection of freshly baked breads

DESSERTS

Sweet Treats to Indulge In

Choose from:

Indulgent cheesecake

Selection of cakes

A glass of prosecco included to toast the occasion!

Tea and coffee will also be served.

Thursday 8th May

£12 per person - Book in Advance!

Arrive from 12:30pm, lunch served at 1pm

Reserve your place now—payment required upon booking.

Call: 0121 447 7955

Email: admin@thearkalvechurch.co.uk

When booking, please let us know your choice of ham or cheese, and if you require the vegetarian option.

ALL TOGETHER PENTECOST

ST LEONARD'S CHURCH, BEOLEY
SUNDAY 8TH JUNE, 10:30AM

Join us for Spirit filled worship with
Holy Communion

A part of our Pentcost
celebrations Rose Akeroyd will be
licensed as Lay Minister

Our worship and celebrations will
continue with a Shared Lunch

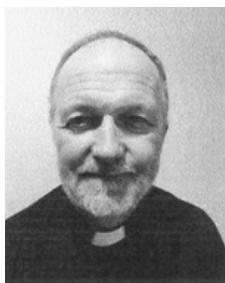
OUR TEAM



Revd Gail Rogers

Team Vicar

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0121 824 5257
07867 853813
revdgail@icloud.com



Revd Martin Allen

Assistant Curate

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Norma Walters

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E-mail: enidmullisicloud.com

Rose Akeroyd

Licensed Lay Minister

Rose will be licensed on 8th June 2025

OUR TEAM

Ros Prentice

Church Warden

Tel: 01527 62429

E-mail: rosprentice@gmail.com

Dennis Moore

Church Warden

Tel: 07770 652275

E-mail: den_moore@msn.com

For all church enquiries, including how to book a wedding or baptism please contact the church office.

Penny Walker

Ministry Support Administrator

Tuesday - Thursday 9.30am -1.30pm

Tel: 0121 447 7955

E-mail: church-beoleyandalvechurch@outlook.com

Address: The Ark School Lane Alvechurch B48 7SB

ST LEONARD'S CHURCH, BEOLEY

SUMMER FÊTE

SATURDAY 5 JULY

1.30-4.30 PM FREE ENTRY!

GAMES | CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

REFRESHMENTS | STALLS

ENTERTAINMENT | PRIZE DRAW