

Alvechurch FC Match Day Programme



V



2nd Qualifying Round
Saturday 22nd September
2018

Alvechurch FC

First Team Fixtures and Results - 2018/19

	Date	Opponents	Comp.	ko	F - A	W	Scorers	Att.	Pos.	
JULY	Tue 17	KIDDERMINSTER H.	H	WSC-SF	19:45	6 - 0	W	Turton (3p), March, O'Callaghan, Cook		-
	Thu 26	REDDITCH UNITED	N	WSC-F	19:45	3 - 1	W	March (2), Turton (p)		-
AUGUST	Sat 11	ROYSTON TOWN	H	SPC	15:00	0 - 0	D		177	13
	Tue 14	TAMWORTH	A	SPC	19:45	1 - 1	D	Cook	592	14
	Sat 18	COALVILLE TOWN	A	SPC	15:00	0 - 2	L		182	18
	Sat 25	BROMSGROVE	H	FAC-P	15:00	4 - 3	W	March, Yates, Turton (2p)	729	21
SEPTEMBER	Mon 27	REDDITCH UNITED	H	SPC	15:00	3 - 0	W	Bellis, Ezwele, Mills og	420	12
	Sat 1	NEEDHAM MARKET	H	SPC	15:00	3 - 0	W	Yates, Ezwele, Turton (p)	183	10
	Tue 4	BROMSGROVE	H	LC	19:45	1 - 0	W	Cook	361	10
	Sat 8	STRATFORD TOWN	A	FAC-Q1	15:00	1 - 0	W	Lloyd	283	10
	Sat 15	HITCHIN TOWN	A	SPC	15:00	1 - 1	D	March	363	11
	Tue 18	STOURBRIDGE	H	SPC	19:45	0 - 0	D		347	9
	Sat 22	CORBY TOWN	H	FAC-Q2	15:00					
	Wed 26	BILSTON TOWN	A	JWH-1	19:45					
	Sat 29	KETTERING TOWN	H	SPC	15:00					
	Mon 1			LCC1	19:45					
OCTOBER	Sat 6	BARWELL	A	SPC	15:00					
	Tue 9	HIGHGATE UNITED	H	BSC	19:45					
	Sat 13	ST IVES TOWN	H	SPC	15:00					
	Tue 16	STRATFORD TOWN	H	SPC	19:45					
	Sat 20	BEDWORTH UNITED	A	SPC	15:00					
	Sat 27			FAT-Q1	15:00					
NOVEMBER	Sat 3	KINGS LYNN TOWN	H	SPC	15:00					
	Mon 5			LCC2	19:45					
	Sat 10	HALESOWEN TOWN	A	SPC	15:00					
	Sat 17	ST NEOTS TOWN	H	SPC	15:00					
	Mon 19	RUSHALL OLYMPIC	A	SPC	19:45					
	Sat 24	LEISTON	H	SPC	15:00					
DECEMBER	Sat 1	BIGGLESWADE	A	SPC	15:00					
	Mon 3			LCC3	19:45					
	Sat 8	AFC RUSHDEN &	H	SPC	15:00					
	Sat 15	LOWESTOFT TOWN	A	SPC	15:00					
	Sat 22	ROYSTON TOWN	A	SPC	15:00					
	Wed 26	REDDITCH UNITED	A	SPC	15:00					
JANUARY	Sat 29	TAMWORTH	H	SPC	15:00					
	Tue 1	BANBURY UNITED	A	SPC	15:00					
	Sat 5	STRATFORD TOWN	A	SPC	15:00					
	Mon 7			LCC4	19:45					
	Sat 12	HALESOWEN TOWN	H	SPC	15:00					
	Sat 19	ST NEOTS TOWN	A	SPC	15:00					
FEBRUARY	Sat 26	RUSHALL OLYMPIC	H	SPC	15:00					
	Sat 2	KINGS LYNN TOWN	A	SPC	15:00					
	Sat 9	BEDWORTH TOWN	H	SPC	15:00					
	Sat 16	BIGGLESWADE	H	SPC	15:00					
	Mon 18			LCC-SF	19:45					
	Sat 23	LEISTON	A	SPC	15:00					
MARCH	Sat 2	AFC RUSHDEN &	A	SPC	15:00					
	Sat 9	LOWESTOFT TOWN	H	SPC	15:00					
	Sat 16	BARWELL	H	SPC	15:00					
	Sat 23	ST IVES TOWN	A	SPC	15:00					
	Mon 25			LCC-F1	19:45					
	Sat 30	HITCHIN TOWN	H	SPC	15:00					
APRIL	Sat 6	KETTERING TOWN	A	SPC	15:00					
	Sat 13	COALVILLE TOWN	H	SPC	15:00					
	Mon 15			LCC-F2	19:45					
	Sat 20	STOURBRIDGE	A	SPC	15:00					
Mon 22	BANBURY UNITED	H	SPC	15:00						
Sat 27	NEEDHAM MARKET	A	SPC	15:00						

Alvechurch FC – Who's Who?

Alvechurch Football Club Limited
Company Limited by Guarantee
Company ID 03031058
Registered Address Lye Meadow, Redditch Road, Alvechurch, Worcs B48 7RS

Members of:

Birmingham County FA, Worcestershire FA
Southern League and Midland Floodlit Youth League

PATRON

Alan Smith

PRESIDENT

Richard Jennings

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chairman ~ Richard Thorndike
Doug Griffiths, Steve Denny, Neil Tomlin, Paul Weaver, Peter Gwilliam

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Rob Waldron, Ray Yardley

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Ray Lloyd, Keith Rostill

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COMMERCIAL & EVENTS MANAGER

Richard Thorndike

MATCH SECRETARY

Alan Deakin

PROGRAMME EDITOR

Alan Deakin

SOCIAL SECRETARY

Paul Weaver

MATCHDAY PROMOTIONS

Trevor Ball & Sue Tomlin

GROUND MANAGEMENT

Neil Tomlin, Craig Nicholls, Rob Waldron

FOOTBALL MANAGEMENT TEAM

Manager ~ Ian Long

Assistant ~ Rich Colwell

Coaches ~ Keith Rostill, Chris Walwyn, Ollie Harthill, Chris Essex

Physio ~ Paul Millward, Kevin March

SOCIAL CLUB STEWARDS & HOSPITALITY

Neil Tomlin, Paul Weaver, Steve Patton, Fred Evans

Alvechurch FC – Honours

F.A. AMATEUR CUP SEMI-FINALISTS

1965/66

FA CUP THIRD ROUND PROPER

1973/74

BIRMINGHAM SENIOR CUP FINALISTS

1980/81; 1981/82; 2009/10

WINNERS

WORCESTERSHIRE COMBINATION DIVISION ONE - 1962/63; 64/65; 66/67

WORCESTERSHIRE COMBINATION DIVISION TWO - 1965/66

WORCESTERSHIRE SENIOR CUP

1972/73; 73/74; 76/77; 2018/19

WORCESTERSHIRE SENIOR URN

2003/04; 04/05; 07/08; 09/10; 12/13; 15/16

WORCESTERSHIRE CTY JNR CUP - 1968/69

WORCESTERSHIRE INFIRMARY CUP

2006/07; 07/08

WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY FA YOUTH CUP - 1979/80; 2007/08

NORTHERN PREMIER – SOUTH (Step 4) – Runners Up – 2017/18

MIDLAND FOOTBALL LEAGUE – PREMIER DIVISION (Step 5) –

Runners Up – 2015/16

CHAMPIONS – 2016/17

MIDLAND FOOTBALL LEAGUE – LEAGUE CUP – 2016/17

MIDLAND COMBINATION PREMIER DIVISION - 2002/03

MIDLAND COMB. DIVISION 1 - 1971/72

MIDLAND COMBINATION CHALLENGE CUP –

1964/65; 65/66; 67/68; 68/69; 71/72; 2002/03

MIDLAND COMBINATION INVITATION CUP

1966/67; 1967/68

Alvechurch FC – Honours

WEST MIDLANDS REGIONAL LEAGUE PREMIER

1973/74; 74/75; 75/76; 76/77

WEST MIDLANDS REGIONAL LEAGUE CHALLENGE CUP

1973/74; 74/75; 77/78

SOUTHERN LEAGUE MIDLANDS DIVISION - 1980/81

SOUTHERN LEAGUE CHAMPIONS (Championship Match) - 1980/81

SOUTHERN LEAGUE CUP - 1982/83

BIRMINGHAM SENIOR AM. CUP - 1973/74

J W HUNT CUP – 2016/17

BIRMINGHAM COUNTY FA JNR CUP - 1965/66; 67/68

BIRMINGHAM COUNTY FA YTH CUP

1978/79; 99/2000

PLANET CUP - 1964/65; 65/66

CHRISTCHURCH CUP - 1964/65; 65/66

LEN GOULDEN CUP - 1969/70

W. EDGAR LEE MEMORIAL CUP

1966/67; 69/70; 70/71; 72/73; 73/74; 76/77

TONY ALLDEN MEMORIAL CUP - 1969/70

GT BRITAIN POLICE CH. CUP 1976/77

SMEDLEY CROOKE CUP –

1982/83; 86/87; 2000/01

BORDER COUNTIES FLOODLIT LGE

1975/76; 76/77

MIDLAND FLOODLIT YOUTH LEAGUE

2000/01

Alvechurch FC – A Proud History

Alvechurch Football Club, with its picturesque ground providing a grandstand view of the rolling Worcestershire hills in the Arrow Valley and its Lye Meadow facilities which are steadily being added to and improved presents a far different picture from when the club was founded in 1929. Then the team had to change in a pub and walk over the road to the local playing fields to contest their minor league matches. The move to Lye Meadow in 1957 was the turning point in the club's history and it began to go from strength to strength.

The earliest mention of a Football Club in Alvechurch dates back to 1913 when a team called Alvechurch Juniors was recorded. By the 1920s, the team were known as Alvechurch Swifts and were playing football on Crown Meadow and using the Red Lion Inn as their headquarters.

They were a successful team winning the Redditch Cup and Shield in 1924.

1926 brought the General Strike followed by the depression. The club folded until late in 1929 when a team of young players, resurrected the Alvechurch Juniors name. To be called juniors the average age of the players had to be less than 21.

The Meadows at the end of Meadow Lane, had been donated to the village by Col. Wiggins, making an ideal venue for the team.

The team played successfully in the Redditch League until 1939, but was disbanded following the outbreak of war.

It took a little while after the war for Alvechurch Football Club to re-establish itself. Several village lads, after demobilisation, went to work at H.D.A. and joined the factory football team, which was a successful club playing in top class amateur football. When the village team was revived it attracted a number of these players. By 1948 a strong football committee had formed chaired by Major Border, with an excellent hard working secretary/groundsman in Frank Bullock and an equally excellent treasurer in George Louch. The president was Harold Norton, a gentleman whose word was his bond and gave support by attending matches and providing team strips.

The club became the hub of village life and a supporters club was formed under the chairmanship of Tom Atkins. The majority of the committee members were ladies, who organised social events such as the Christmas Whist Drive and on one occasion a Carnival with Roy Court and Angela Teague as the Prince and Princess. The club prospered from the funds raised by these events. Few village clubs at the time could own and use three different coloured strips in a season and what is more to have a committee who ensured that the kit was washed after each match. The level of support for Alvechurch F.C. was such that for a needle match against Feckenham, six coach loads of supporters travelled from the village.

During this successful period matches were still being played at the Meadows, but as this venue belonged to the village no admission charge could be made. A box would be passed round hoping for donations to the club, so when the opportunity arose to move to a new ground at the Guants, the club took the decision to do so. This was a field situated below the Church, off Snake Lane. Hence it was possible to make an admission charge, but when the land was required for building houses a further move was necessary. Mr Philip Palmer sold the field adjoining his house on Redditch Road to the club for £1,000. As a result of determined fund raising, the club was able to raise this sum in five years, this providing a permanent home – Lye Meadow.

In 1955 the club achieved a rare accolade from the "Birmingham Sports Argus" newspaper when it was voted "in the top ten in the midlands". Junior League Clubs, never mind a Worcestershire village team, were rarely given that kind of coverage at the time, if at all.

Following the move to Lye Meadow in 1957 the club captured the imagination and enthusiasm of the midlands in the mid-sixties with the team's giant-killing runs in the FA Amateur Cup. In the 1964/65 season Church reached the quarterfinals and then got to the semi-finals the following year, where a defeat against Wealdstone at Stamford Bridge denied the village club a Wembley appearance.



Alvechurch finished runners-up in the West Midlands Alliance League in 1961 under the guidance of Rhys Davies and joined the Worcestershire Football (now Midland) Combination in 1961/62 and claimed their first league title the following year. In twelve seasons they won the championship four times and were runners-up on five other occasions. They also claimed the League Challenge Cup five times and were runners-up twice in this period.

In their second year in the FA Cup Church reached the first round proper in 1971/72 after the 11 hour, 6 match marathon in the Fourth Qualifying Round against Oxford City. This tie is now recorded in the Guinness Book of Records.



However Alvechurch then went down 4-2 to Aldershot after a brave struggle in a match that was the 12th in three weeks for some of the team. In 1972/73 Church became the first amateur side to ever win the Worcestershire Senior Cup – retaining it the following year.

1973/74 was, in fact the most successful season in the clubs history. Joining the West Midlands (Regional) League, the club won the Premier Division Championship, the League Challenge Cup, the Birmingham Senior Amateur Cup and the Worcestershire Senior Cup. In the FA Cup Church reached the Third Round Proper, going down 4-2 at Bradford City after beating Exeter City at St James Park in the First Round Proper.

In 1974/75 again Alvechurch achieved the West Midlands League and Cup double despite losing five players, but were beaten in the final of the Worcestershire Senior Cup by a single goal.

In 1975/76 the club completed a hat trick of League Championships and also won the Border Counties Floodlit League.

1976/77 saw Church win the League Championship a fourth consecutive time and this was the year the Worcestershire Senior Cup and the Border Counties Challenge Cup returned to Lye Meadow.

The club gained entry into the Southern League for the 1978/79 season and as the only true village club playing in the league finished in a creditable third position.



1980/81 saw another milestone for Alvechurch with the winning of the Midland Division and the Championship of the Southern League having beaten Southern Division Champions Dartford in the two legged final.

The 1981/82 season produced a seesaw battle to retain the League Championship but Nuneaton finished the stronger to push Alvechurch into the runners-up position. During that season Alan Smith gained international honours when

representing the England Non-league team and subsequently joined Leicester City. He then joined Arsenal for £800,000 where he gained full international honours playing for England.



It was back to success in the 1982/83 season when having gained promotion to the Southern League Premier Division, the club won the Southern League Cup following a 7-2 aggregate win against Waterlooille.

Following the demise of benefactor Philip Palmer and the president Alan Wiseman, the club were relegated to the Midland Division of the league and there began a gradual decline. Geoff Turton of the Rockin' Berries pop group stepped in to keep the club alive aided by the sale of Andy Comyn to Aston Villa.



Financial speculators gained control of the club in 1992 resulting in closure the following November 1993.

In 1994 a dedicated band of supporters resurrected the club as Alvechurch Villa, rebuilding the seated stand and refurbishing the

clubhouse to gain admission to the Midland Combination Premier Division, finishing in fifth position in the league and beaten finalists in the Smedley Crook Cup. The team went on to reach the League Cup Final the following season, only to lose out to League Champions Bloxwich Town.

In 1996 the club reverted back to its original name and became simply, Alvechurch. The next few seasons were a struggle but the 2000/01 season ended with clubs first trophy since being reformed, when the Smedley Crook Cup was won.

Season 2001/02 introduced the management duo of Andy Hibbert and Neil Bryan, who were only given the job a couple of weeks before the season started, after a management and player exodus. The club struggled through the season, just escaping relegation finishing 20th. The board kept faith however and season 2002/03 witnessed Church's best season in 20 years with the League and Cup double, winning the Combination Premier League and Challenge Cup, a feat last completed in 1971/72.

At the end of the season, Church were promoted into the Midland Football Alliance. In season 2003/04 the Worcestershire Senior Urn was won for the first time and then retained the following season.

Season 2006/07 brought further success when the Worcester Infirmary Cup came to Lye Meadow for the first time, which was then retained the following year 2007/08. A double success was achieved that season with The Worcestershire Senior Urn returning to Lye Meadow for the third time.

In season 2009/10 Church reached their highest league position since reforming by finishing 7th in the Midland Football Alliance. In the cup the Worcestershire Senior Urn was won for the 4th time of asking and the final of the Birmingham Senior Cup was reached, falling to a stoppage time winner against Nuneaton Town.

Season 2010/11 proved to be a tumultuous one – with three sets of managers running the first team throughout the campaign, ending the season with Church's lowest MFA finish.

Season 2011/12: although finishing in 13th place following a dramatic improvement in form from February onwards, there was the disappointment of reaching the final of the Worcestershire Senior Urn and then losing out to the holders Bewdley Town.

Season 2012/13 saw more upheaval with Vaughan Pearshouse being replaced at the end of the first month of the season by Dean Holtham. The tie-up with Birmingham City's Football in the Community scheme was to bring about another spate of team changes throughout the season as more young blood took to the field – 34 players in total featuring for the first time from September onwards. The Worcester Senior Urn was captured at the end of the season after a penalty shoot-out win against Pershore Town, and a creditable 11th place finish in the MFA table after an entertaining season.

2013/14, the club finished 13th, after their best ever start to a MFA campaign and reached the 3rd round proper of the FA Vase before going out 1-0 to Westfields. The season also saw Dean Holtham leaving in early November, being replaced by Ross Thorpe as manager.

2014/15 saw the Midland Football Alliance and Midland Combination Leagues merge into the newly formed, Midland Football League, with Alvechurch playing in the Premier Division. Ross Thorpe was replaced at the end of August by new manager, Lee Adams. Adams himself left suddenly early in the new year, and was succeeded by Assistant Lee Knight who held the reins until the end of the season.

A complete overhaul in the summer of 2015 saw Tividale management team of Ian Long and Richard Colwell switch to Lye Meadow.

Having led the Black Country side to the MFL title in 2014 they had the pedigree to promise a

serious title challenge, and set about the task with the bringing of the bulk of Tividale's Northern Premier League side to Worcestershire. Reformed Hereford found themselves placed in the MFL, but Church pushed their illustrious rivals all the way in registering a record points total of 101 points but falling just short to claim the runners up spot.

A record breaking season in more ways than one as Alvechurch registered: most wins (32, and more than the previous two seasons combined), least losses (5), most goals scored (99) and least goals conceded (30) compared to the previous twelve seasons at this level.

Alvechurch also returned their first silverware since 2013 by capturing the Worcester Senior Urn for the sixth time, beating Bromsgrove Sporting 3-0 at Evesham FC.



The management team were retained at the end of the 2015/16 season, and the bulk of the squad announcing that they too were returning for the new season.



Season 2016/17 saw Church installed as favourites for the MFL crown after Hereford's promotion.

Early season form was not particularly good, and Church found themselves playing catch as Westfields came out of the blocks like a train, and established a commanding points advantage alongside their impressive FA Cup run.

But by the end of October, it was Church who held a 12 points advantage, although Westfields had 6 games in hand. Lye Town, Coleshill Town, and Sporting Khalsa were also very much in the frame.

By the end of November Church still held top spot – now only two points ahead of Lye, and seven in front of Westfields, with the challengers having two and six games in hand respectively.

Coleshill, who were in the middle of an impressive FA Vase run, were eight points adrift, and with two games in hand.

Church held onto their advantage into the new year, with Lye and Coleshill the nearest challengers, and Westfields still playing catch up having played five games less.

By the beginning of March, Westfields challenge had faded, and the closest threat was Coleshill, nine points behind, and just one game in hand. In March, a surprising home defeat for Church against Long Eaton put the title back in the melting pot, but Church could have sealed the title at rivals Coleshill on 15th April, but lost 2-0 to keep the nerves jangling. And a nervous win on Easter Monday at home to Boldmere finally set up a potential title winning game the following weekend.

The title was claimed with one game to spare on Saturday 22nd April 2017, with a 1-1 draw at relegation threatened Shawbury United, and the final home game against Rocester became a formality.

And there were still the matter of two cup finals to put the icing on the cake.



A 2-1 win in the League Cup final at Walsall's Bank's Stadium was followed a week later by a 4-1 win over Wednesfield at Wolves' Molineux Stadium, as Church claimed these two pieces of silverware for the first time.



[Above : League Cup success is celebrated at Walsall FC]



[And JW Hunt triumph at Wolverhampton.]

Promotion was confirmed with Church's acceptance into the Evostik League South for the 2017/18 season, heralding a return to this level exactly 25 years after leaving the Southern League in 1992.

Season 2017/18 saw Church elevated to the Northern Premier South.

Step 4:

After an opening day win over Leek Town, Church mustered 3 wins in their first 4 league games to give notice that this was not merely going to be a season of consolidation, but one of challenge.

There were strong runs in the FA Trophy and FA Cup too, with higher league opposition in the form of Grantham Town and Cambridge City being dispatched along the way. Redditch United, Stourbridge and Rushall were beaten in cup competition.

Church hit second spot on 4th November, and although dropping to 8th by New Year's Day, the Lye Meadow side had a clutch of games in hand, which when played saw a top two spot reclaimed by the end of February and for good after the 1-0 win over Cleethorpes on 27th March, after which six wins in the next eight games saw off the challenge of Frickley Athletic and Bedworth in particular.

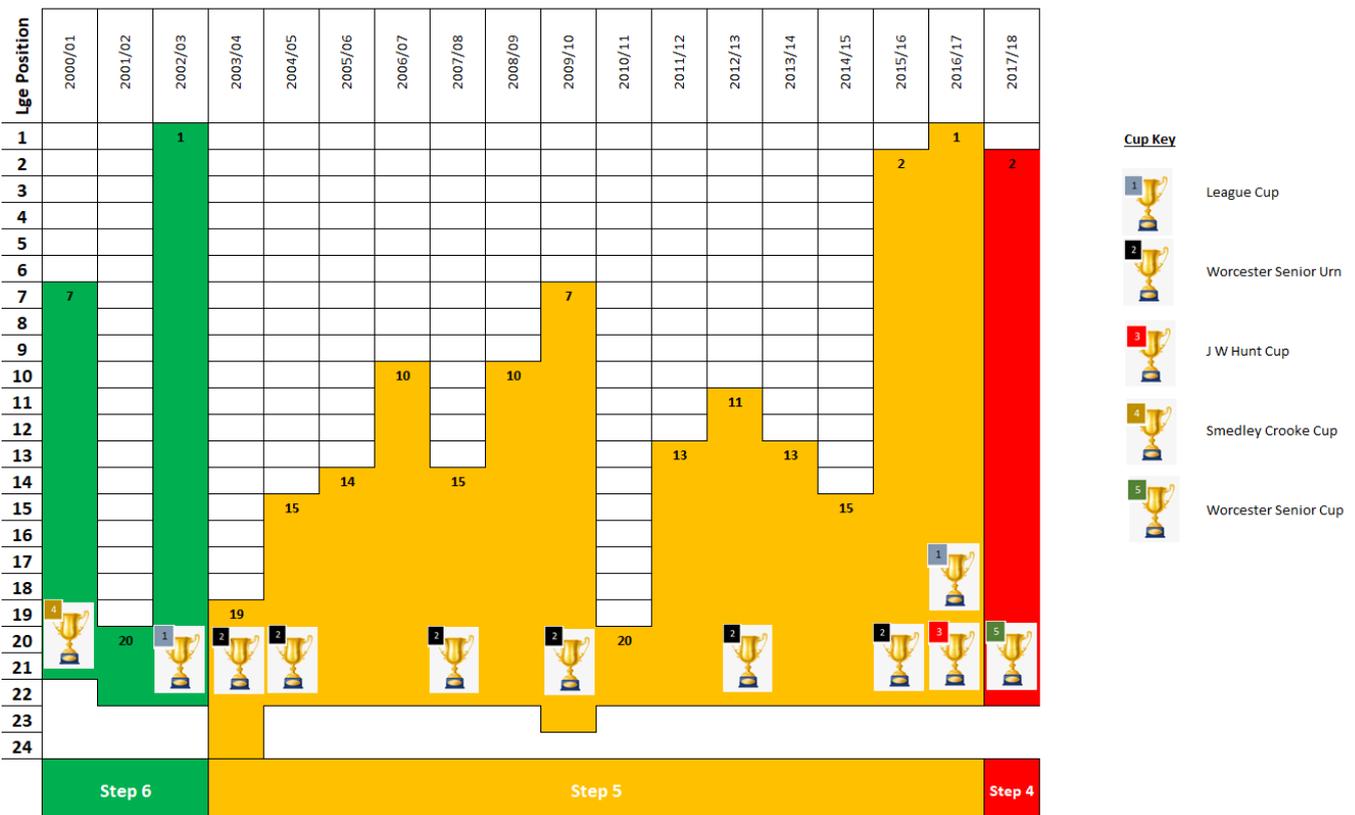
Church registered only seven league defeats all season, and their consistent form saw them through to secure runners up spot behind run-away champions Basford United. Promotion to the Evostik South Premier Central (Step 3) followed, and Church stamped their credentials with a pre-season Worcestershire Senior Cup win against Redditch United after defeating Kidderminster Harriers in the semi finals.

[Below: Church supporters celebrate after the award of the NLPS runners up trophy after the final game of the season.]



21st Century Church

Alvechurch's League and Cup Record Since 2000



The FA Cup

The world-famous FA Cup began way back in 1871.

FA secretary Charles Alcock had proposed at a meeting on 20 July of that year, declaring: "That it is desirable that a Challenge Cup should be established in connection with the Association, for which all clubs belonging to the Association should be invited to compete".

The FA was then eight years old. The original membership of 11 teams had slowly grown to 50. A stimulus was required and it was hoped that "The Cup" would provide it. Alcock recalled playing in an inter-house knockout tournament at Harrow School and felt that the formula could work on a bigger scale.

His proposal was met "with general favour" and the rules of the new competition were agreed three months later.

Fifteen teams had their entries accepted and the draw for the First Round threw up these ties:

Wanderers v Harrow Chequers

Clapham Rovers v Upton Park

Crystal Palace v Hitchin

Maidenhead v Marlow

Royal Engineers v Reigate Priory

Barnes v Civil Service

Queens Park (Glasgow) v Donington School (Spalding)

Hampstead Heathens had a bye.

The first FA Cup matches ever played all took place on Saturday, 11 November 1871.

The scores were:

Upton Park 0 Clapham Rovers 3,

Crystal Palace 0 Hitchin 0,

Maidenhead 2 Marlow 0

Barnes 2 Civil Service 0.

Fifteen clubs entered that first competition, although three withdrew without playing a game. In the final, held at Kennington Oval on March 16, 1872, Wanderers beat the Royal Engineers by a single goal, scored by Morton Betts under the pseudonym A H Chequer, as he was formerly a member of the Harrow Chequers Club.

Of the 15 original entrants, Queen's Park (from Glasgow) are now members of the Scottish League (Scottish teams entered the FA Cup until 1887). Marlow and Maidenhead (now Maidenhead United) are still around, and each have only missed a single season in the history of the Competition. A team from the Civil Service still exists, playing in Amateur Football Alliance competitions. The Crystal Palace team from 1871-1872 is not connected to the modern day Crystal Palace. The team from Hitchin in the 1870s reformed to become the modern Hitchin Town in 1928.

There were several occurrences in this first competition that would be considered bizarre today. Drawn matches were covered by Rule 8 of the competition which stated that "In the case of a drawn match, the clubs shall be drawn in the next ties or shall compete again, at the discretion of the Committee. In the event of a team refusing to play again or failing to play off the tie in which it has been drawn, within the stipulated time, it shall be adjudged to have lost the match". Queen's Park and Donington School could not agree on a date for their first round match, so both teams were allowed through to the second round where they were drawn together again - this time the School side scratched. Finally, Queen's Park could not afford to travel back to London for a semi-final replay, so their opponents Wanderers were given a walk-over to the final.

The historic first final took place at Kennington Oval before a crowd of 2,000. At the time football matches were played without crossbars or goalnets. There were no free kicks or penalties and the pitch markings did not include a centre-circle or a half-way line.

Wanderers gained the first of their five victories in the competition but it was only by a single goal scored by a certain Morton Peto Betts, mysteriously playing under the

pseudonym A.H.Chequer.

Wanderers had the pick of all the best players who had been at the public schools and universities, yet it was the Royal Engineers from Chatham who took the field as favourites. In truth, Royal Engineers were unfortunate, especially in losing Lieutenant Creswell after just ten minutes when he broke his collar-bone - the first recorded accident in football. Once Betts had opened the scoring from an acute angle after Vidal's long dribble, the Engineers did well to keep the margin down to one goal.

Wanderers, captained by FA Secretary Charles Alcock, had six future internationals in their side with Hooman of Charterhouse and Vidal, 'the prince of dribblers' from Westminster.

Team Details

Wanderers: R. de C. Welch; C.W. Alcock, M.P. Betts, A.G. Bonsor, E.E. Bowen, W.P. Crake; T.C. Hooman, E. Lubbock, A.C. Thompson, R.W.S. Vidal, C.H.R. Wollaston

Goals: Betts

Royal Engineers: Capt. Marindin; capt. Merriman, Lieut. Addison; Lieut. Creswell, Lieut. Mitchell, Lieut. Renny-Tailyour; Lieut. Rich, Lieut. Goodwyn, Lieut. Muirhead, Lieut. Cotter, Lieut. Bogle.

Referee: A. Stair (Upton Park)

It's lower league opposition for Church today in the first leg of a possible 12 to get to the final. In the magical FA Cup, there are hard draws and there are easier draws.

Manchester United did it the hard way in the 1947-48 season, being drawn against top-division opposition in every round. No other Cup winner has had to do that.

United defeated Blackpool in a classic Final 4-2 in that season but before that they had to take on and beat Aston Villa in the Third Round (won 6-4 away), Liverpool in the Fourth Round (won 3-0 at home), Charlton Athletic in the Fifth Round (won 2-0 at home), Preston North End in the Sixth Round (won 4-1 at home) and Derby County in the Semi-Final (won 3-1 at Hillsborough).

Six out of six ties against teams from the old First Division. And United's 'home' matches

weren't played at Old Trafford, which was still war damaged - but at Goodison Park, Leeds Road and Maine Road.

They registered 22 goals in that Cup campaign and Stan Pearson grabbed eight of them.

As a complete contrast some teams have won through to The FA Cup Final without playing any top-flight opponents on the way. West Ham United managed it in 1923, Bolton Wanderers in 1926, Blackpool in 1948, Bolton again in 1953 and Millwall in 2004.

To get to their Millennium Stadium date with Manchester United a few years ago, the Lions had to knock out Walsall (Division 1), Telford United (Conference), Burnley (Division 1), Tranmere Rovers (Division 2) and Sunderland (Division 1). Premiership United proved too strong for them in the Final, winning 3-0.

FA CUP 2018-19

736 Entrants accepted.

Returning and First time entrants: Abingdon United, Andover New Street, Anstey Nomads, Baffins Milton Rovers, Balham, Belper United, Blyth, Broadfields United, Cobham, Coggeshall Town, Esington Sports, Eccleshall United, Ellesmere Rangers, Fisher, Hamble Club, Frimley Green, Glasshoughton Welfare, Heather St Johns, Hebburn Town, Holyport, K Sports, Knaresborough Town, Langley Wanderers, London Lions, Lutterworth Town, Northallerton Town, Roman Glass St George, Pewsey Vale, Pinchbeck United, Prestwich Hayes, Racing Club Warwick, Saltash United, Sandbach United, Sanhurst Town, Selbe Town, Shirebrook Town, Silsden, Romsey Town, Tadley Calleva, Teversal, United Services Portsmouth, Wednesfield, Westbury United, Whickham.

2018-19 PRIZE FUND PAYMENTS

Extra Preliminary Round winners (184)	£2,250
Extra Preliminary Round losers (184)	£750
Preliminary Round winners (160)	£2,890
Preliminary Round losers (160)	£960
First Round Qualifying winners (116)	£6,000

Second Round Qualifying winners (80)	£9,000
Third Round Qualifying winners (40)	£15,000
Fourth Round Qualifying winners (32)	£25,000
First Round Proper winners (40)	£36,000
Second Round Proper winners (20)	£54,000
Third Round Proper winners (32)	£135,000
Fourth Round Proper winners (16)	£180,000
Fifth Round Proper winners (8)	£360,000
Quarter Final winners (4)	£720,000
Semi Final losers (2)	£900,000
Semi Final winners (2)	£1,800,000
Final runners-up (1)	£1,800,000
Final winners (1)	£3,600,000

Visiting Lye Meadow...

Corby Town

Corby Town Football Club were formed in 1948 and are the second club to represent the town, following Stewarts & Lloyds Corby, who were formed 13 years earlier in 1935. The club's nickname 'The Steelmen' derives from the old steelworks that were in Corby.

The first chairman of the club was local MP William Montgomery, whilst Reg Smith was named the first manager. Smith had previously played for Millwall and Dundee whilst representing England at international level. Things started well for the newly formed Steelmen, winning their first game 5-1 against Wellingborough Town on 21 August 1948 at Occupation Road, which was home to Corby Town until the move to the Rockingham Triangle in 1985.

It took the club only three years to win their first title, wrapping up the United Counties League in 1951 before doing the same again only a year later, with Ernie Middlemiss scoring a club record 135 goals in 136 games, a record that was to stand for 40 years. 1958 saw the introduction of floodlit football in Corby and in the same year the club moved from the Midland League to the Southern League.

The move to the Southern League looked to be a good one as the club narrowly missed out on promotion to the Premier Division in 1964, but promotion was gained the following year. The club made several unsuccessful applications to join the Football League, although they did receive one vote in 1966.

The club moved to the multi-purpose Rockingham Triangle venue in 1985 but it didn't prove to be a lucky move as the Steelmen were once again relegated from the Premier Division in 1990. They didn't spend long out of the Premier as they achieved a league and cup double the following season.

The mid-90s saw a cash crisis at the club which threatened to put the club out of business, and although they were spared, relegation was to follow.

The turn of the millennium brought about more positivity at the Triangle as they consolidated their mid-table position in the Dr Martens league. More was to follow in 2005 as they just missed out on a play-off place under manager Rob Dunion. Dunion's side went one better in 2006 as they were promoted once more.

Corby Town saw a change of ownership in 2007 as a new board made up of ex-Kettering Town chairman Peter Mallinger, David Dunham and Mick Leech and in 2009, under Graham Drury,

the Steelmen won the Southern League title. The Steelmen narrowly missed out on a play-off spot during their first season in the Conference North.

Club chairman Peter Mallinger sadly passed away in January 2011, just months before the club's new 3,000 capacity Steel Park stadium was due to open. His son David Mallinger took charge of the club and a positive start to life in their new home led the Steelmen into play-off contention and the first round proper of the FA Cup, where they were beaten by Bristol Rovers at the half-way stage.

Sadly off-field issues had an affect on results and Corby only managed to avoid relegation on the final day of the 2011/12 season, with Graham Drury leaving the club at the end of the campaign.

In the summer of 2012, a Leicestershire businessman took control of the club, with Ian Sampson being installed as manager. However after a tough start to the season Sampson departed and was replaced by his assistant manager Chris Plummer. The former Peterborough Northern Star manager could not repeat the survival act of the previous year however, with Corby Town being relegated from the Blue Square North at the end of the season.

Plummer remained in charge of the side, however resigned just two games into the 2013/14 season after heavy defeats against Burnham and Hemel Hempstead Town. The Chairman moved to appoint the managerial duo of Tommy Wright and Andrew Wilson, who helped to guide the club up the Southern League Premier Division table, however once again financial issues at the club prevented any real challenge to reach the play-offs.

In April 2014 it was announced that a local consortium of seven businessmen headed by Paul Glass had agreed a deal to purchase the club and save it from the threat of administration. Stevie Noble was appointed as the chairman and Tommy Wright was given sole charge of the first team, with Andrew Wilson departing.

In his first year in charge of the side Tommy Wright led his team to the Southern League Premier Division Championship. The Steelmen secured the title and promotion back to the Conference North with a dramatic 3-2 win on the final day of the season against Poole Town who had led the division by one point going into that fixture. Spencer Weir-Daley scored the winning goal for Corby with just nine minutes remaining.

However Corby suffered relegation after just one season in the National North. After a period of uncertainty as to which league Corby would be placed in by the F.A., we now make our first ever start in the Northern Premier League for season 2016/2017.

Tommy Wright was relieved of his position in early October 2016 after a poor start, he was replaced by Gary Mills ex Kings Lynn, and Wrexham Assistant manager in mid October 2016 as Corby look to kick start season 2016/2017.

However Mills was relieved of his position after just 6 months, the job being placed in Steven Kinniburgh's hands for the rest of this season 2016/2017 (Caretaker)

In early May 2017 David Bell was appointed Manager along with Rob Gould as his Assistant as Corby hope they can succeed in getting the club back into the 4th tier after 2 relegations in succession tumbling from the National North thro the Northern Premier Leagues in successive seasons.

After a poor start to the 2017/2018 season the club parted company with them in late September 2017. Director of Football Steven Kinniburgh taking charge in a capacity of interim manager.

Steven was made permanent manager in Late March 2018. He appointed Ashley Robinson as his assistant in June 2018.

Corby Town FC – Pen Pics – Season 2018/19

CONNOR KENNEDY (Defender/Midfielder)...D.O.B...17/04/1997.

Connor joined us in 2014.he has also played for Rushden & Diamonds,Kettering Town,and also had a spell at Desborough Town

JAMIE ANTON (Defender) ..D.O.B....25/02/1995 Jamie was born in Werrington and joined Leicester City becoming captain of the youth team..He first signed for us in may 2015 but left to play 1 season with St Neots.Returned to Corby in June 2016

ELLIOT SANDY (Forward)...D.O.B...07/08/85....He has played for Rushden & Diamonds, Kettering Town,Brackley Town, Cogenhoe, Northampton and Stamford. Corby Will hope his vast experience will help our younger players this season.

STEVEN KINNIBURGH (Defender)..D.O.B..13/06/1989

Born in Glasgow he played for Glasgow Rangers, Queen of the South, St Johnson before heading to England playing for Oxford Utd, Cambridge Utd, Bedford Town, He was also at Local Rivals Kettering Town for 3 ½ years before joining Corby in Mid-December 2016.Made permanent Manger in 2018 after a spell as interim Manager.

GREGORY LING (Midfield) ...D.O.B..31/12/1987

Greg was signed on the eve of the season by us from Newport Pagnell who play in the United Counties League 1 step below.

MILES SMITH (Full Back)...D.O.B..1/12/1992..Rejoins us from St Ives,had a spell at Steel Park in 2017/2018.Hard Tackling full back. Other clubs include St Neots,
Also was an apprentice at West Ham Utd.

SAMUEL WARBURTON (Defender)...D.O.B..10/10/1996

Signed from from Kings Lynn.Can also play out wide on the left wing. Sam joined Corby in the summer of 2017.

JORDON CRAWFORD (Forward) D.O.B...26/03/97.. A locally-born forward who initially joined Corby Town from Stewarts & Lloyds FC as a 17-year-old 2014. Jordan made nine first team appearances in 2014/15 and then spent the following season with Harborough Town. He returned to the Steelmen in the summer of 2016 and was a regular member of the starting XI throughout 2017/18.Voted young player of season in 2017/2018 by the NPL

GARY MULLIGAN...(Defender) D.O.B...23/04/85

Born Dublin he has played for Rushden& Diamonds, Sheff Utd, Gillingham. More recently at Northampton Town And Lately Kettering Town. Gary was made club captain on his arrival.

Gary joins us after 3 seasons with our local rivals.

DEAN McBRIDE.. (Defender) ..D.O.B...03/02/2000

Dean was Capt of our u18 side,more than capable of stepping up when needed.

DINO TUKSAR...(Midfielder)...D.O.B...01/01/1996

Dino joined us from Harborough Town after impressing our scouts with some good all round performances.

DENNIS NKRUMAH (Midfield)...D.O.B....03/01/2000.

Recently signed forms for the first team.

JAKE BETTLES (Midfielder) .. D.O.B...09/12/1993 Signed from Desborough Town

Looking to make the step up always full of running.Also has a eye for goal.

LEE GARVIE...(Midfielder) D.O.B...09/05/1986...joins us from Burton Park Wanderers a local club in Burton Latimer.

ASHLEY ROBINSON...(Wide Player).. D.O.B. 16/08/1988 Ash joined Corby from Peterborough Sports. Appointed Assistant Manager to Steven Kinniburgh in the summer of 2018.

SEB BUIZZA...(Defender)...D.O.B...26/05/2000.

Another promising product from our academy

LUKE ARIDEGBE (Midfield.)...D.O.B..11/12/1998.Luke is looking to break back into the 1st team after injury but now back to fitness.

ZACORIE ALLEN...(Striker) D.O.B...07/03/2000.....Zac has been impressive for our youth team scoring goals for fun,now looking to break into the first team.

JOEL CARTA...D.O.B...(Forward)30/06/1998..Joel joins us after some good performances in the pre-season friendly's.was previously with Harrowby Utd

DANIEL SMITH.....(Goal Keeper)....D.O.B. 22/02/1999 Made his first team debut in March 2018.came thro our youth team.

JORDAN FRANCIS (Forward)...D.O.B. 12/12/1994...Jordan joined Corby in July 2018 from Romulus FC. Likes playing on wing fast running and has a eye for goal.

DANIEL GEORGE (Goal-Keeper)...D.O.B...24/07/1995..Dan played for AFC Stamford, also numbers Peterborough Sports amongst his former clubs.

SIDIK ATCHA (Forward)...D.O.B...20/05/2001.Strong player never gives up

DANIEL OFOSU (Defender)...D.O.B...02/11/1999. Another player stepping up from our academy set-up.

REECE DAY (Defender)....D.O.B...Signed after some good performances for our Youth team.

BEN McCLAFFERTY (FULL BACK)....D.O.B. 30/04/02 After some solid displays for the youth team Ben signed for the first team in September 2018.

Last Time Here

Saturday 10th February 2018 – Evostik South

Alvechurch 1 Corby Town 0

Carter Strike Condemns Steelmen

Skipper Ashley Carter's 67th minute header condemns Corby to a sixth successive defeat and puts Church right back in the mix.

Church gained revenge for a poor performance at Corby back in October and in the process got their promotion push back on track. The three points, coupled with defeats for Bedworth and Frickley, who both sat above Church in the morning Evostik table, it turned out to be a good weekend at the end of an eventful week where two away draws had temporarily stalled Church's quest for the top two.

Early pressure from the start saw Church on the front foot, and after only two minutes an Ashmore ball into the box found March wrongly on target, forcing keeper Wilson to beat the ball away with a good save. Five minutes later, another effort for March, but this time his shot from a tight angle flew across the face of Wilson's goal and wide of the far post.

18 minutes on the clock and a free kick from deep in the Church half, and Carter and a looping header from Lloyd was inches wide of the post with Wilson just hoping.

Good approach work from Church throughout, but just the decisive break in front of goal missing.

On 21 minutes a Turton corner is met by Parsons, and his first time shot is blocked by bodies from point blank range, and the Corby goal survives again.

And it took until the 27th minute for Corby's first serious effort on the Church goal after Warburton had worked the ball inside, and Bettles fired a shot from the edge of the box, but Price is well behind it. A similar effort follows soon after, with a turn and shot from Gardner, but again it is more comfortable than it should be for Price.

Half Time: Alvechurch 0 Corby Town 0

A goalless first half, but Church are once again expected to come strong in the second.

Nine minutes in, a good run from Ceesay sets up Yates and the letter arrows a shot just wide of the far post. It's still Church with the lion's share of the possession in this second period, and just after the hour mark a Church free kick releases Lloyd with a sight of goal,

and his shot is deflected into the side netting by a sliding block tackle from Anton. From the ensuing corner March flashes a header wide.

It's only a respite however, as from the next corner Church find the breakthrough. A long ball upfield, and backpedalling, Malone is forced to head behind. Turton's corner is met by the head of Carter who arrows the ball into the top corner with power to put Church ahead.

A scare for Church on 70 when a Corby corner bounces around the Church box, before two defensive blocks with players putting their bodies on the line to keep the visitors at bay before an infringement is called by the referee.

But a well deserved three points for the side that showed more ambition and desire to win the game, even after the first goal had gone in.

Alvechurch v Corby Town

Previous Meetings

The two sides met in an FA Cup 3rd Qualifying Round tie in the autumn of 1991, when a side including Mark Lawrenson visited Lye Meadow and departed with a 0-2 defeat.

Church went on to lose 5-1 at Welling United in the next round and so missed out on a 1st Round Proper tie with Leyton Orient.

In league games, Church and Corby had a clutch of league meetings in the late 70's and early 80's. Starting in 1979/80 season, Church recorded two Southern League Midland Division wins, 4-1 at Lye Meadow and 5-1 in the away game.

The following season, Corby won their home game 2-1, and the return at Lye Meadow finished all square at 2-2.

Season 1981/82 saw Church record a 1-0 home win, and recorded a double with a 3-0 win at Corby. Church were promoted to the Premier Division at the end of that season, but Corby joined them for the 1983/84 season – Church winning 4-3 at Lye Meadow, and Corby getting the win with a 2-0 victory on their own patch.

1984/85 saw Church win on the road again with a 1-0 win, and the return in Worcestershire finished in a 3-3 draw. Another draw the following season as the game at Corby finished 2-2, but Church thumped their opponents 5-1 in the return game.

Two home wins in 1986/87, but then another double for Church the following campaign with a 4-1 win at home and a 1-0 win on the road for Church.

1988/89 saw Corby reverse their fortunes with a 1-0 win at Lye Meadow, with the return finishing all level at 1-1.

In 1989/90, as both sides struggled at the foot of the table, there was a 2-2 draw at Lye Meadow and a 3-1 win for Corby in their home game. At the end of the season Corby would finish 20th and Church 21st, and relegation for the latter followed.

The two clubs resumed league combat last season in the Northern Premier South, with Corby easing to a 3-1 win in the autumn before that 1-0 win for Church in the return.

Next Up at Lye Meadow

Alvechurch v Kettering Town

Evostik South – Premier Central

Saturday 29th September 2018 – 3pm

Alvechurch's FA Cup Record Club by Club

	P	W	D	L
AFC Wulfrunians	1			1
Aldershot	1			1
APV Peterborough City	2	1	1	
Atherstone	2	1		1
Banbury United	1			1
Barry Town	1	1		
Basildon United	1	1		
Bedworth United	5	1	1	3
Bewdley Town	1	1		
Bilston	1	1		
Bolehall Swifts	1	1		
Boreham Wood	1	1		
Bradford City	1			1
Braintree Town	1			1
Brierley Hill	1	1		
Bromsgrove Rovers	5	2	2	1
Buckingham Town	1			1
Burton Albion	1			1
Buxton	1			1
Cadbury Athletic	2	1	1	
Chasetown	1			1
Corby Town	1	1		
Darlaston	1	1		
Desborough Town	1	1		
Dunkirk	1	1		
Eccleshall	2	1	1	
Evesham	3	2	1	
Exeter City	1	1		
Grantham Town	1	1		
Gresley Rovers	1			1
Halesowen Town	3	2	1	
Hanley Town	1	1		
Haughmond	1	1		
Heath Hayes	1	1		
Hereford	1			1
Holbeach United	1	1		
Ilkeston Town	1			1

	P	W	D	L
Kidderminster	5		3	2
Kidsgrove Athletic	1			1
Kings Lynn	1	1		
Lye Town	4	2	1	1
Malvern Town	1	1		
March Town	1	1		
Market Drayton Town	1	1		
Moor Green	1	1		
Nuneaton Borough	2			2
Norton United	2		1	1
Oldbury United	1	1		
Oxford City	6	1	5	
Quorn	1			1
RC Warwick	2	1	1	
Redditch	5	2	1	2
Rothwell Town	1	1		
Stafford Rangers	4	1	2	1
Stourbridge	2		1	1
Stourport Swifts	1			1
Stratford Town	1	1		
Sutton Coldfield	1	1		
Tipton Town	1			1
Tividale	2	1		1
Ton Pentre	1	1		
VS Rugby	1			1
Welling United	1			1
Wellingborough Town	1	1		
Welton Rovers	1	1		
Witton Albion	1			1
Wolverton Town	1	1		
Worcester City	3		1	2

Total	110	49	24	37
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68 different opponents
86 ties
49 won
37 lost
24 replays

September 15th

It's a sixth match unbeaten in all competitions for Church following a 1-1 draw away at Hitchin Town.

Trailing at half time, Church were back level a few minutes into the second half with a Josh March equalising goal.

League Round Up

Kettering Town suffered their first defeat of the 2018/19 season when Leiston, switched from the Bostik League Premier, won 2-1 on their first-ever visit to Latimer Park.

Dominic Docherty gave the Suffolk visitors a 13th-minute lead that new record holder, Brett Solkhon, cancelled out after 34 minutes.

It looked like being a stalemate until Pat Brothers popped up with the Leiston winner with 4 minutes remaining.

Biggleswade Town remains the only unbeaten side now, but Lee Allinson's side earned the fifth draw from seven matches – this time 0-0 at Kirkby Road against Barwell.

Coalville Town's fifth win in seven pushed the Ravens up to the second spot.

Coalville hammered second-bottom Redditch United 5-1 at the Trico Stadium, leading 2-0 at the break through Tom McGlinchey after 12 minutes and Andy Wright 8 minutes before the whistle.

Montel Gibson gave the Reds hope when he pulled one back after 54 minutes, but Tim Berridge bagged a brace on 69 and 81 minutes and Wright added his second in between on 75 minutes to make it a nap hand.

Only Bedworth United are below Redditch as they remain to look for a first win after going down 3-1 to managerless Stratford Town.

Michael Taylor put the home side in front after 16 minutes, but Kai Tonge equalised just after the break.

Lewis Wilson restored Town`s advantage on 55 minutes and a third from Taylor again 11 minutes from the end sealed their win.

St Neots Town matched Stratford by winning for the second time this season to date – also 3-1 at Banbury United, for whom this was a first loss.

Ravi Shamsi gave Banbury the lead on 18 minutes.

But two goals from former Puritan Nabil Shariff on 31 and 38 minutes gave St Neots a 2-1 half-time lead.

And a superb strike from Dylan Williams into the top corner of the net just before the hour mark made it 3-1 and Banbury rarely looked like getting back into the game.

Back-to-back 2-1 defeats for AFC Rushden & Diamonds as they were beaten at Garden Walk by Royston Town.

Adam Murray gave the Crows a 15th-minute lead that Jack Bowen cancelled out on the hour-mark.

But the old adage of being a dangerous time when you`ve just scored proved right again as Sam Corcoran restored Royston`s lead almost straight from the restart.

Managerless teams are also dangerous as Lowestoft Town found to their cost at Crown Meadow against Tamworth.

And the Lambs achieved a 3-1 win, despite going a goal down to a 65th minute Kieran Higgs effort.

But just a few minutes later, the Trawlerboys had Shaun Bammant sent-off for a second yellow card.

Kyle Finn equalised 15 minutes from time and then Joe Kettle 6 minutes later and Tyrell Waite 2 minutes after that took the game away from the home side.

There were no goals in the game between St Ives Town and Stourbridge, while Needham Market and Rushall Olympic shared a 1-1 draw at Bloomfield where Danny Waldron`s 26th-minute penalty for the Pics was cancelled out by Luke Ingram just 7 minutes later.

Charlie Smith gave Hitchin Town the lead in the 11th minute at Top Field against Alvechurch, whose Josh March equalised 6 minutes after half-time to eventually earn a point.

It also ended all-square at The Grove between Halesowen Town and King`s Lynn Town, whose Craig Parker gave them an early 2nd-minute lead.

James Roberts equalised within 3 minutes and then former West Brom striker Lee Hughes gave the Yeltz the lead 4 minutes after half-time, with Harry Limb earning a late Lynn point 7 minutes from time.

Monday 17th September 2018

Redditch move for change:

Manager Paul Davis decided to step down following Saturday's 5-1 home thrashing from Coalville, a result which leaves the Reds second from bottom in Evo-Stik Southern League Central Division.

Davis said: "I spoke to the chairman Chris Swann after the game on Saturday and told him that I'd got new players coming in, but it would take more than a week.

"The chairman told me I'd got two games to turn things around and I replied it was unrealistic but that I would do my best.

"But after consulting with my staff and friends, I rang the chairman on Sunday and asked him to give me until Christmas, if not, that we should go our separate ways.

"When I first took the job I sat down with the chairman and we discussed a three year plan, yet just seven league games into three years and we've parted company.

"I know that Paul Smith has taken charge, but he's their fourth manager in nine months, which tells you something."

Statement from Redditch United FC

Decision made following the home defeat to Coalville Town on Saturday, Redditch United can confirm that Paul Smith has agreed to become First-Team Manager after Paul Davis left the club by mutual consent.

Davis and his backroom staff departed The TRICO Stadium following the home defeat to Coalville Town on Saturday. The club would like a place on record its thanks to Davis and his team for their commitment and wishes them well for the future.

Paul Smith, who will confirm his backroom staff in due course, is familiar with the club following a stint as an assistant manager during the 2009/2010 season. It was his time with The Reds that inspired him to become a manager. His first role in management was with Alvechurch, the club where he made more than 250 appearances as a player. In two seasons, he and his side achieved consecutive top-six finishes. He then moved to Studley, where, once again, he achieved top-six finishes – the club's best finishing positions for 15 years.

More recently, he was dubbed 'the greatest manager' in Bromsgrove Sporting's history. He joined The Rouslers in 2014 and led the club to a second-place finish in Midland League Division One. Another runners-up place and two cup final appearances awaited Smith and his players the following season, before achieving the almost impossible by ending the next league campaign unbeaten and becoming champions. That season, Sporting also reached the semi-final of the FA Vase before losing to eventual runners-up, Cleethorpes Town. He departed the club in March 2018, with the team sitting top of the Midland League Premier Division with 15 games to go. He then joined Highgate United as joint-manager this summer, but he left the club earlier in September and has now agreed to take the managerial post at Redditch United.

Redditch United Manager, Paul Smith, said: "I am delighted to be given the opportunity to manage a club as big as Redditch United. I want the football club and town to be united, with the supporters proud of their town and football club. There are solid foundations in place behind the scenes for the club to push on. My next job needed to be a long-term project and, having spoken with the chairman at length, I believe we share the same ambitions – I cannot wait to get started."

Redditch United Chairman, Chris Swan, said: "Paul Smith's record as a manager, especially with Bromsgrove Sporting, is terrific. He knows how to build a team, thanks to his passion, knowledge and professionalism, and all of those attributes are key ingredients as we look to emerge from what has been a difficult start to the season."

"It is a cliché but we are in transition once more. I will work closely with Paul to ensure the club achieves its potential, but, immediately, all of us need to get down to work and work hard to move away from the relegation zone. I ask our fans to give Paul a warm welcome and, as always, give your full support because we need them more than ever."

Tuesday 18th September 2018

Church extend their unbeaten run to 7 games in all competitions with a goalless draw at home to Stourbridge.

The visitors perhaps had the better of the chances, and might be ruing a missed opportunity to consolidate their position in the top six.

How the Other Side Saw It:

For the second time in four games Stourbridge were left to rue the lack of a cutting edge in front of goal in the absence of Luke Benbow. The Glassboys forced the pace for long periods at Lye Meadow, particularly down the slope in the second-half, but were guilty of not working home custodian Paul Evans enough throughout the course of the contest with any number of efforts flying wide or over the bar.

Darryl Westlake came into the side at right-back with Aaron Hayden moving to play in the centre alongside Paul McCone with Stuart Pierpoint ruled out. Leon Broadhurst was selected ahead of Robert Thompson-Brown with the latter named amongst the subs.

The game took a while to settle down. Alvechurch threatened when a teasing low cross from Taylor Morrison evaded ex-Glassboy Aaron Lloyd in the centre, while at the other end Jordaan Brown fed the ball into Callum Powell who cut in from the left flank before seeing

his low shot run wide. With 20 minutes played the visitors had a decent opportunity following a good advantage played by the referee which allowed Leon Broadhurst to drive into the right-hand side of the box only to fire his angled shot past the far post.

Stourbridge continued to make more of the running and on 32 minutes Powell slipped a tidy pass into the run of Brad Birch, however Jamie Willets covered well to intervene at the expense of a corner. Soon afterwards Chekaine Steele went close with a 25-yard drive that curled beyond the far top corner.

Stourbridge soon pinned the home side back after the re-start. In the 47th minute Darryl Westlake fed Steele and his low cross from the right found Broadhurst, but his shot was well blocked by a defender. Four minutes later Powell struck a 20-yard free-kick off-target before the Glassboys made their first change of the evening after 53 minutes with Robert Thompson-Brown replacing Birch.

In the 59th minute Thompson-Brown fed Powell who delivered in an inviting ball in from the left that flew across the face of the goal with nobody getting a touch. Three minutes later the visitors had one of the clearer chances of the match. Having recycled the ball Thompson-Brown whipped a fine cross into the near post area where Kaiman Anderson pushed his close range effort the wrong side of the upright.

Alvechurch had an opportunity of their own in the 64th minute when Lloyd charged down a clearance from Hayden, however he decided to take aim early rather than to try and drive closer to the Stourbridge box and his effort was comfortably gathered by Wren.

Stourbridge were quickly back on the attack with Brown producing a strong run down the left before laying a pass off into the path of Powell and his inswinging cross just evaded the stretching Broadhurst in the middle inside the six-yard box.

Greg Mills had recovered sufficiently from injury to enter the fray in place of Steele with 66 minutes gone which allowed Powell to switch over to the right flank.

A free-kick from 20 yards by Thompson-Brown cleared the cross bar on 73 minutes and then in the 81st minute Thompson-Brown took a quick free-kick to Mills and his centre was headed over by Hayden. Two minutes later the visitors were denied by the 'woodwork' as another ball in from Mills saw Evans come off his line but get no distance on his attempted punch to clear and Hayden looped a header against the crossbar.

In stoppage time a shot from Broadhurst drew a save from Evans low down to his right before home sub Kieran Cook shot wide for the visitors at the other end just before the final whistle.



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EVOSTIK SOUTH - PREMIER CENTRAL

as at Tuesday 19th September 2018

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Kettering Town	7	6-		1	15	5	10	18
2 Coalville Town	7	5	1	1	17	9	8	16
3 Leiston	7	4	2	1	17	11	6	14
4 Banbury United	7	4	2	1	10	7	3	14
5 Stourbridge	8	3	4	1	12	9	3	13
6 Biggleswade Town	7	2	5-		10	7	3	11
7 Royston Town	7	3	2	2	12	11	1	11
8 St Ives Town	7	3	2	2	5	5	0	11
9 Alvechurch	7	2	4	1	8	4	4	10
10 Lowestoft Town	7	3	1	3	9	9	0	10
11 Needham Market	7	2	3	2	16	10	6	9
12 Tamworth	7	2	3	2	10	8	2	9
13 Barwell	7	2	2	3	8	7	1	8
14 St Neots Town	7	2	2	3	6	6	0	8
15 Stratford Town	7	2	2	3	9	13	-4	8
16 AFC Rushden & Diamonds	6	2	1	3	10	9	1	7
17 Halesowen Town	7	1	4	2	7	9	-2	7
18 Rushall Olympic	7	1	4	2	7	11	-4	7
19 King's Lynn Town	7	1	2	4	6	10	-4	5
20 Hitchin Town	7	1	2	4	6	15	-9	5
21 Redditch United	7	1-		6	10	22	-12	3
22 Bedworth United	7-		2	5	6	19	-13	2

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PROFESSIONAL RANGE

ULTIMATCH

MATCH RANGE

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Results table [edit]

Home \ Away ^[1]	RUS	ALV	BAN	BAR	BED	BIG	COA	HAL	HIT	KET	KIN	LEI	LOW	NEE	RED	ROY	RUS	SIV	SNE	STO	STR	TAM
AFC Rushden & Diamonds															5-2							2-2
Alvechurch														3-0	3-0	0-0				0-0		
Banbury United								2-1				1-0							1-3		1-1	
Barwell						0-0				0-1						1-2				1-1		
Bedworth United			1-3										1-1		0-4							
Biggleswade Town	1-0				1-1				1-1													
Coalville Town		2-0		1-0									1-0				2-2			6-4		
Halesovien Town						1-1					2-2								1-1			
Hitchin Town		1-1	0-1							0-1					1-0							
Kettering Town					5-1			2-0			2-1	1-2										
King's Lynn Town						2-4													0-0	0-1		
Leiston							2-0								4-3							2-2
Lowestoft Town									3-2		1-0							0-1				1-3
Needham Market									8-1			2-2				1-1						
Redditch United				0-2			1-5											2-0				
Royston Town	2-1											2-5						1-2			2-2	
Rushall Olympic						2-2																
St Ives Town							0-1							1-1		0-3				0-0		1-0
St Neots Town	0-1				2-1												0-1					
Stourbridge	2-1							1-1													3-0	
Stratford Town					3-1					1-3			1-3									
Tamworth		1-1									0-1						2-0					

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Alvechurch

Paul Evans			Connor Kennedy
Matt Sargeant			Jamie Anton
Joshua Ezeweke			Elliot Sandy
Zack Foster			Steven Kinniburgh
Kyle Morrison			Gregory Ling
Andrew Parsons			Miles Smith
Jamie Willets			Samuel Warburton
Dave Bellis			Jordon Crawford
Aaron Birch			Gary Mulligan
Mitch Botfield			Dean McBride
Ben Tilbury			Dino Tuksar
Ryan Winwood			Dennis Nkrumah
Taylor Morrison			Jake Bettles
Kieron Cook			Lee Garvie
Aaron Lloyd			Ashley Robinson
Trea Bertie			Seb Buizza
Luke Yates			Luke Aridegbe
Josh March			Zacorie Allen
Danny O'Callaghan			Joel Carta
Tom Turton			Daniel Smith
			Jordan Francis

Corby Town

Match Officials



Mr Oliver Mackey



Mr Jack Weeks
Mr Andrew Cuthbert