

# St. Mary, Alderley Cheshire



**Parish Magazine**  
**April 2014**

**50p**

**Rector Writes:**

**April 2014**

“All major religious traditions carry basically the same message; love, compassion and forgiveness. The important thing is they should be part of our daily lives”

– Dali Lama

There are many wonderful and inspirational quotes that come from the Dali Lama. Often it is not their complexity which makes them profound but rather their simplicity. Like an everyday observation of a child which is so obvious and yet as adults we miss it or somehow filter it out. Jesus made his teachings simple and yet profound, he even stated that we should become like little children in order to enter the Kingdom of God. Jesus gave us a daily prayer which we know as the Lord's Prayer or the Our Father. In it forgiveness is both to be asked for and given. God's will is also to be done 'in earth as it is in heaven' – what is God's will? It is to love God and to love our neighbour as ourselves.

The daily recitation of the Lord's Prayer is an act of engagement with Christ's life and teaching. It is an attempt to make love and forgiveness part of our daily lives and if love and forgiveness are there then compassion is to be there also. Jesus' death on the cross speaks powerfully on these three virtues. His love for the world put him there and when there he showed compassion to the penitent thief which tradition accords the name of Dismas. To Dismas' searching heart Christ reached out and touched with words of consolation – 'today you will be with me paradise'. His last words whilst in utter agony were – 'Father, forgive them for they know not what they do'. Nailed to the cross in pain knowing that death will come and not to stop practicing love, compassion and forgiveness is a redemptive act in an otherwise horrific situation.

The Church teaches that Jesus was God incarnate. That in the form and substance of a man God dwelt among us. Therefore in Christ we have an understanding of who God is. In this way the Church can boldly say that it is through Christ that we come to the Father. The understanding of God's eternal character is derived from knowing Christ's example – his love, compassion and forgiveness tell us that God is Love, God is Compassion and God is Forgiveness. In this way the recitation of the Lord's Prayer is not simply an engagement with Christ's life and teaching it is an attempt to fashion our lives in the image of God. The fact that the Lord's Prayer is a daily prayer is a generous reminder from Christ that none of us succeeds fully in fashioning that image of God in our own lives. Daily we need to remind ourselves of love, compassion and forgiveness. We need to remember God's character and make that character our own.

**James**

## DIARY FOR APRIL 2014

<b>Sun.6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Fifth Sunday in Lent</b>	
	8.00am	Holy Communion at Birtles
	9.45am	Holy Communion at Alderley
	11.15am	Mattins at Birtles
	6.30pm	Evensong at Alderley
Thur.10 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Holy Communion at Alderley
<b>Sun.13<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Palm Sunday</b>	
	8.00am	Holy Communion at Alderley
	9.45am	Family Service at Alderley (Donkey)
	11.15am	Family Service at Birtles (Donkey)
	6.30pm	Holy Communion at Alderley (said)
	6.30pm	Joint Choral Evensong at St.Philips
Thur.17 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Holy Communion at Alderley
Sat. 19 <sup>th</sup>	1.00pm	Holy Matrimony at Alderley
<b>Sun. 20<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Easter Day</b>	
	8.00am	Holy Communion at Alderley
	9.45am	Holy Communion at Alderley
	11.15am	Holy Communion at Birtles
	6.30pm	No Service
Fri. 25 <sup>th</sup>	3.00pm	Holy Matrimony at Alderley
<b>Sun.27<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>First Sunday after Easter</b>	
	8.00am	Holy Communion at Alderley
	9.45am	Mattins with Sunday School at Alderley
	11.15am	Holy Communion at Birtles
	6.30pm	Evensong at Alderley
<b>May</b>		
Thur.1 <sup>st</sup>	10.00am	Holy Communion at Alderley
<b>Sun.4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Second Sunday after Easter</b>	
	8.00am	No Service
	9.45am	Holy Communion at Alderley
	11.15am	Family Service at Birtles
	6.30pm	Evensong at Alderley

**COFFEE** is available in the Parish Hall after the 9.45am Service.

At the end of the Morning Service coffee and biscuits are provided by a stalwart group of volunteers in the Parish Hall. Donations will be given to charity.

### COLLECTION TOTALS

<b>Week Ending</b>	<b>Gift Aid Envelopes</b>	<b>Non-Gift Aid &amp; Misc Cash</b>	<b>Standing Orders</b>	<b>Total</b>
Feb 2nd	455.50	18.50		473.50
Feb 9 <sup>th</sup>	322.00	30.10		352.10
Feb 16 <sup>th</sup>	322.00	37.00		359.00
Feb 23 <sup>rd</sup>	183.00	74.70		257.70
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1282.00</b>	<b>160.30</b>	<b>890.00</b>	<b>2332.30</b>

**ST MARY'S NEED NEARLY £6000 PER MONTH FOR RUNNING COSTS**

### **Easter Flowers**

If you would like to make a donation towards the cost of the Lilies and Easter Flowers in Church in memory of loved ones please place your donation in an envelope with your name and the names of those to be remembered clearly written on the outside. Envelopes to be handed to Michael Penlington or placed in the appropriate box just inside the entrance to the Church. Cheques to be made payable to; 'Alderley Church Flower Fund'

A list of loved ones to be remembered will be put in Church and published in the Parish Magazine.

### **Decoration of the Church for Easter**

We shall be decorating the church for Easter on Friday 18th April from 10.30am. Your help and gifts of foliage will be greatly appreciated. Please contact Michael Penlington (01625 530084) if you have foliage or wish to help.

### **THANK YOU**

Daisy Barber would like to thank everyone who sent her Birthday wishes. The many greetings she received meant a great deal to her. Thank you.

## SOCIAL COMMITTEE

We held a Special 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party for Daisy Barber and Hazel Highton on March 25<sup>th</sup>. A lovely time was had with balloons and candles. A big thank-you to Margaret Worthington for all she does for these teas.

The Coffee after 9.45 service is going well with much gossip and chat. Thank-you to all who help with the washing up! Why not call in it - is a very good way of getting to know the faces you see in Church?

The money collected in the Charity pot is still divided between The Oasis Project, The Young Oncology unit at Christies and The Hospice. It is good for the Church to support projects. On Mothering Sunday the monies went to support the charities of the Mothers' Union.

Wherever possible, we continue to support the activities of church life. The Social life of the church is fun and good that we can join together as a community. There was a delicious Supper following the Ash Wednesday Service organised by the Jubilee Committee, very much enjoyed by those who were able to go.

**Janet Adamson Tel: 01625 583320**

## ST MARY'S WALKING GROUP

**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> May – 10.00am start prompt**



**Walk:** Biddulph to Mow Cop by Congleton Edge and back by disused railway line. Great views from Congleton Edge & Mow Cop

**Starting Point:** Old Biddulph Railway Station.

**Grid Ref:** SK881584

**Map:** Explorer 268, Wilmslow, Macclesfield & Congleton

**Directions:** Take the A527 from Congleton but before the centre of Biddulph, turn right in front of the Biddulph Arms Hotel into Hall Road. At the junction with a road coming up from Biddulph on the left, carry straight on for a few yards before turning left into Smokies Way. The car park is immediately on your right.

**Length:** 8 miles. Easy/ Moderate

**Further info:** Bring your own refreshments.

**Leader:** Don Henderson 01625 584008 or 07919055941

## CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 11<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> MAY



WILL ALL COLLECTORS FROM PREVIOUS YEARS PLEASE ADVISE FIONA IF THEY FEEL NO LONGER ABLE TO COVER THEIR ROUND. It is appreciated that many of the collectors have given many years' service and are ready to stop.

I would very much appreciate others offering to take on this very worthwhile task, so that St Mary's can continue to make a meaningful contribution to the welfare of those who benefit from the work of Christian Aid.

I would also be keen to hear from anyone who would consider taking on / assisting with the role of St Mary's organiser who could breathe new energy into the role.

**Herbaceous Plant Sale** for Christian Aid -again to be hosted by the Methodist Church Alderley Edge -where the sale will be held on the morning of May 10<sup>th</sup>. Growers and helpers please contact Lynn Smith 01625 585245 or Fiona Ablett 01625 585180

It would be lovely to see members of St Mary's at our stall on the day. There will be coffee and other stalls.

Many Thanks, Fiona Ablett

### Lenten Services

#### *"Deadly Sins"*

April 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Chelford	D Wisener	Envy
April 9 <sup>th</sup>	Hulme Walfield	The Revd John Knowles	Pride

Services to start at 7.30pm, and to be followed with Lenten Refreshments.

### Lenten Groups

York Lent Course "Build on the Rock" which have been organised by Churches together in Alderley on Mondays in Lent at 11am (the each meeting lasts one hour)

Monday 31st March at St Pius Church Hall

Monday 7th April at St Pius Church Hall

Also organised by Churches together in Alderley on Thursdays in lent.

Meditation and Compline, 7.30pm at St Philip & St James Church

"The Sermon on the Mount":

April 3rd	Seek ye first (Matthew 6. 19-34)	James Milnes
April 10th	The narrow way (Matthew 7. 1-29)	Loveday Alexander

## THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

### Annual Box Opening

Amount donated: £740.27 (£541.12 last year)

#### The story of a beneficiary

The generosity of supporters is vital to innocent young people like Chris. He was so traumatised by his early life that many others had given up on him by the time he reached his teenage years.

Chris was born into a family devastated by drug and alcohol abuse and moved house many times. He struggled to feel safe and to make friends. At home, he witnessed scenes that he could barely talk about. Chris was so disturbed by his experiences that by the time he was 12, he was suffering from very poor mental health.

What others saw were his angry outbursts and anti-social behaviour but behind this was a boy with crippling low self-esteem. He could have been left isolated and without hope.

Thankfully, Chris was referred to The Children's Society Youth Inclusion programme. He was assigned a mentor with whom he could share his worries. Both Chris and his family were supported in order to deal with his behavioural and emotional problems. He became involved in group activities, played football and became able to socialise with his peers.

And so he became happier as he changed, from a lonely, withdrawn boy with no idea how to form positive relationships, into a popular member of the programme. Now he is taking exams, having earned a place at college. The transformation is remarkable - much of it due to the consistent support received from The Children's Society. Trust has been established and Chris knows that the Society's specialist staff will not let him down.

Thank you for the continuing support of boxholders which helps to provide the care so necessary to people like Chris.

Please telephone if you would like to support the work of The Children's Society by becoming a boxholder.

**Bert Wright 01625 584218**

## EASTER – the most joyful day of the year



Easter is the most joyful day of the year for Christians. Christ has died for our sins. We are forgiven. Christ has risen! We are redeemed! We can look forward to an eternity in his joy! Hallelujah!

The Good News of Jesus Christ is a message so simple that you can explain it to someone in a few minutes. It is so profound that for the rest of their lives they will be still be 'growing' in their Christian walk with God.

Why does the date move around so much? Because the date of Passover moves around, and according to the biblical account, Easter is tied to the Passover.

Passover celebrates the Israelites' exodus from Egypt and it lasts for seven days, from the middle of the

Hebrew month of Nisan, which equates to late March or early April.

Sir Isaac Newton was one of the first to use the Hebrew lunar calendar to come up with firm dates for Good Friday: Friday 7 April 30 AD or Friday 3 April, 33 AD, with Easter Day falling two days later. Modern scholars continue to think these the most likely.

Most people will tell you that Easter falls on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the Spring Equinox, which is broadly true. But the precise calculations are complicated and involve something called an 'ecclesiastical full moon', which is not the same as the moon in the sky. The earliest possible date for Easter in the West is 22 March, which last fell in 1818 and won't fall again until 2285. The latest is 25 April, which last happened in 1943 and is next due in 2038.

Why the name, 'Easter'? In almost every European language, the festival's name comes from 'Pesach', the Hebrew word for Passover. The Germanic word 'Easter', however, seems to come from Eostre, a Saxon fertility goddess mentioned by the Venerable Bede. He thought that the Saxons worshipped her in 'Eostur month', but may have confused her with the classical dawn goddesses like Eos and Aurora, whose names mean 'shining in the east'. So Easter might have meant simply 'beginning month' – a good time for starting up again after a long winter.

Finally, why Easter eggs? On one hand, they are an ancient symbol of birth in most European cultures. On the other hand, hens start laying regularly again each Spring. Since eggs were forbidden during Lent, it's easy to see how decorating and eating them became a practical way to celebrate Easter.

## Woodbine Willie - bringing love with cigarettes and the Bible

Here's a 'saint' that the Church of England remembers from the 1st World War - the Rev. Geoffrey Studdert Kennedy, MC, or 'Woodbine Willie', as everyone knew this popular, much-loved army chaplain on the Western Front.

Studdert Kennedy (27 June 1883 – 8 March 1929) had been born in Leeds as the seventh of nine children. After reading divinity and classics at Trinity College Dublin, he'd studied for ordination at Ripon Clergy College, and served his curacy at Rugby. By the time war broke out in 1914, Studdert Kennedy was vicar of St Paul's Worcester. He soon volunteered to go to the Western Front as a chaplain to the army. Life on the front line in the trenches was a desperate affair, but soon Studdert Kennedy had hit on a way of bringing a few moments of relief to the stressed out soldiers: as well as good cheer he gave out copious amounts of 'Woodbines', the most popular cheap cigarette of the time.

One colleague remembered Kennedy: "he'd come down into the trenches and say prayers with the men, have a cuppa out of a dirty tin mug and tell a joke as good as any of us. He was a chain smoker and always carried a packet of Woodbine cigarettes that he would give out in handfuls to us lads. That's how he got his nickname. He came down the trench one day to cheer us up. Had his Bible with him as usual. Well, I'd been there for weeks, unable to write home, of course, we were going over the top later that day. I asked him if he would write to my sweetheart at home, tell her I was still alive and, so far, in one piece... years later, after the war, she showed me the letter he'd sent, very nice it was. A lovely letter. My wife kept it until she died."

Kennedy was devoted to his men, so much so that in 1917 he was awarded the Military Cross at Messines Ridge, after running into no man's land in order to help the wounded during an attack on the German frontline.

During the war, Kennedy supported the British military effort with enthusiasm, but soon after the war, he turned to Christian socialism and pacifism. He was given charge of St Edmunds in Lombard St, London, and took to writing a number of poems about his war experiences: *Rough Rhymes of a Padre* (1918) and *More Rough Rhymes* (1919). He went on to work for the Industrial Christian Fellowship, for whom he did speaking tours. It was on one of these tours that he was taken ill, and died in Liverpool in 1929. He was only 46.

His compassion and generosity in the face of the horrors of the Western Front was immortalised in the song 'Absent Friends': "Woodbine Willie couldn't rest until he'd/given every bloke a final smoke/before the killing." He himself had once described his chaplain's ministry as taking "a box of fags in your haversack, and a great deal of love in your heart."

## St George of the Golden Legend

The Saint of an English Army before he was Patron Saint of England, St George may have been a soldier, but he was no Englishman. He was an officer in the Roman army under Diocletian, who refused to abandon his faith during the Terror, and was martyred at Lydda in Palestine about the year 300 AD - supposedly 23 April. Over the years St George became the example of a Christian fighting-man, a powerful helper against evil powers affecting individual lives. He was the soldier-hero of the Middle Ages, of whom remarkable deeds were reported.



In the Golden Legend of the 13th century, Jacobus de Voragine gave St George a handsome write-up. The story runs thus:

One day, St George rode up to the heathen city of Sylene in Lybia, where he found the citizens in great distress. A neighbouring dragon had forced them to surrender two sheep each day for its dinner, and when the sheep gave out, two of their children; and now they were about to sacrifice the King's daughter, dressed as if for her wedding. St George encountered the little party by a stagnant lake, where the dragon lived, and persuaded the sobbing Princess to tell him why she was so miserable. At that moment the dragon appeared, looking inexpressibly revolting. The Saint charged, and drove his spear into the gaping mouth. To everyone's amazement, he tumbled the monster over and over.

Then St George borrowed the Princess's girdle, tied it round the dragon's neck, and persuaded her to lead it back to Sylene herself. The sight of her approaching with the befuddled dragon on its makeshift lead emptied the town. When the inhabitants timidly crept back, St George promised to behead the dragon if they would all believe in Jesus Christ and be baptised.

It was a most effective form of evangelism, for everybody said 'yes' at once. So 15,000 people were baptised, and four carts were commissioned to remove the dragon's body.

St George thus became a symbol of the war against evil, and is usually portrayed trampling the dragon of sin under his horse's hoofs. The Crusaders had a vision of him helping them against the Saracens at Antioch, during the first Crusade, and so brought the story of St George back with them from Palestine. Presently England put herself under the protection of the Saint. His day was declared a holiday in 1222. A red cross on a white field is the flag of St George.

Press one for vicar, two for curate....12 for prayer....

The Rectory  
St. James the Least of All

My dear Nephew Darren

Now you have got your new telephone system in the parish, I shall not be calling you again. I refuse to wait for ten minutes every time I ring to have to listen to the cycle of "press 1 for the vicar, 2 for the curate, 3 for the secretary", until we end with "12 for requests for prayer". I was tempted to leave a message on 12 to ask that the wretched machine would break down, but then realised I would have to call a second time to leave a message on 13 for making a confession.

And if I have to listen one more time to someone playing "Thine be the glory" on one finger on an electric organ while I am "on hold" I will have him excommunicated. At least you have the grace while I am waiting not to ask me not to hang up, as my call is important to you. I would even warm to your system if a voice occasionally said that they couldn't care less whether I hung up or not as my call was utterly irrelevant to them.

Those poor people who have to wait to reach 7 for leaving messages regarding marriages might as well leave a second on 8 for baptisms and save on a large phone bill in months to come; in fact, another on 9 for funerals may well be necessary by the time that number comes up. Entire families could be born, marry and die before they hear that 15 is specially reserved for urgent calls. And may I suggest that your car parking attendant who stuck a note on my windscreen telling me not to park there again is given the number 666.

My own answerphone tells people firmly that the machine is specially designed not to accept incoming messages and that I only answer the thing personally on Thursdays between 10am and 12 noon, provided nothing better has turned up. Alternatively, they could write me a letter which may be answered at my convenience, or could be ignored if I disapprove of its contents. This has the added benefit that I have not received any invitations to buy photocopiers or to learn that I have been selected to have a new kitchen installed, for many a year.

For the few who have got hold of my mobile number, my response is to tell them that I am just about to enter a tunnel and then to switch it off. Callers from other parts of the country now believe that the parish of St. James the Least is honeycombed by mile-long tunnels, making communication all-but impossible.

You can now be assured that your new system means you will be contactable at any moment, wherever you happen to be. But don't call me to complain and expect to receive sympathy; I shall be just about to enter a tunnel.

Your loving uncle, Eustace

**ROTA FOR APRIL 2014**  
**LADY SIDESMEN / SIDESMEN / LECTORS**

DATE	TIME	SIDESMEN	LECTOR
6 <sup>th</sup>	9.45am	Mrs J Martin & Mr G Woolley	Miss S J Dunhill
	6:30pm	Mr A Cockitt	Mrs F Robinson
13 <sup>th</sup>	8.00am	Mrs B Essayan	
	9:45am	Mrs G Beeley & Mr M Stonehewer	Miss S Varden
	6.30pm	Mrs J Bean Said Holy Communion at St Mary's Alderley and Joint Choral Evensong at St Philip's and St James'	Mr P Bean
20 <sup>th</sup> EASTER DAY	8.00am	Mr H A Wright	
	9.45am	Mr M Wilkinson & Mrs J Robinson	Mrs E Jackson
27 <sup>th</sup>	8.00am	Mr P Bean	
	9.45am	Mr G Hilton & Mrs W Liddle	Mr & Mrs G Davis
	6.30pm	Mrs D Barber	Mr P Reynolds
4 <sup>th</sup> May	9.45am	Mr A Claridge & Mr S Welsh	Mrs J Lee
	6.30pm	Mr G Barrie	Mrs A Dodd

**Thank You**

I would like on behalf of all who came to the supper after the Ash Wednesday Holy Communion service, to say a big thank you to all the committee. We all enjoyed a lovely supper and a really pleasant social occasion afterwards. Events such as this don't just happen, a lot of thought and preparation are needed, so once again many thanks to all who helped in any way.

**Margaret Worthington**

*FROM THE REGISTERS*

*Funerals*

Mon 24<sup>th</sup> March Gladys Bates  
Tue 25<sup>th</sup> March Ida Maud Mosscrop

**FLOWER ROTA**

Apr 6<sup>th</sup> Lent  
Apr 13<sup>th</sup> Lent  
Apr 20<sup>th</sup> Easter  
Apr 27<sup>th</sup> Easter

**MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTIONS**

The deadline for the next magazine is **Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2014**  
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Large format copies of the magazine are available.