

# St.Mary, Alderley Cheshire



**Parish Magazine**  
**January 2014**

**50p**

**Rector Writes:**

**January 2014**

What a special Advent and Christmas we had at St Mary's Church. It was a particular privilege to welcome returning parishioners as well as visitors to our many Services. A little shy of two hundred people attended the St Boniface Service on Advent Sunday which made a wonderful start to the festive period. The Church looked splendid with the candles, greenery and poinsettias in place. The Christmas trees looked the part with the inside tree presenting the annual challenges which are always overcome. The Nativity tableau is such a beautiful reminder of the Christmas story. So many people said what a good and positive place St Mary's was at what is a busy and stressful time of year.

The journey to the crib throughout Advent will be replaced with our journey to the cross in Lent. However this year Lent does not begin until March. It is amazing how the Church year comes around and what journeys our own lives take. I will have been ordained nine years this year and six of the years will have been spent as your Rector. I started my theological studies at eighteen and completed placements and postings in my early twenties – when I add these to my years of ordination it comes out at seventeen years this year. Over the last year I wondered about moving to another parish I sent for parish profiles, spoke with the Archdeacon and Bishop and even filled in applications. I was offered a parish that wasn't right and didn't get a parish that I thought was right, both these were outside the Diocese. When I passed my selection panel at the age of twenty one I was marked as someone who might be a future theological educator. It had been suggested by the panel and supported by my Bishop that I should study for a PhD at Cambridge as part of my priestly formation. This didn't happen as things turned out and it has always been difficult to find the time to read and think. I wanted to experience the Church overseas and gained my first taste when at twenty I did a parish placement in Los Angeles – in fact I celebrated my birthday with Franciscan Friars in San Francisco. When I was a student priest I was pastoral assistant to the Archdeacon of France and assistant to the Bishop of the Seychelles. I loved these experiences and they have informed my ministry deeply.

Bringing these together it has been suggested that I take a sabbatical next year 2015 for three months – Jan to March inclusive. I am still very much at the planning stage but am hoping to go to Brazil, a country with a growing economy and place on the world stage. I hope to be attached to Our Lady of Peace, Ipanema and Our Lady of the Rosary for Black People in Salvador. As plans firm up I will let you all know but please keep me in your prayers. May 2014 be a good year for us all.

**James**

## DIARY FOR JANUARY 2014

<b>Sun.5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>The Epiphany</b>	8.00am	Holy Communion at Birtles
		9.45am	Holy Communion at Alderley
		11.15am	Family Service at Birtles
		6.30pm	Evensong at Alderley
<b>Thur.9<sup>th</sup></b>		10.00am	Holy Communion at Alderley
<b>Sun.12<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>First Sunday after Epiphany</b>	8.00am	Holy Communion at Alderley
		9.45am	Family Service at Alderley
		11.15am	Holy Communion at Birtles
		6.30pm	Holy Communion at Alderley (said)
<b>Wed.15<sup>th</sup></b>		2.00pm	Mothers' Union A.G.M.
<b>Thur.16<sup>th</sup></b>		10.00am	Holy Communion at Alderley
<b>Sun. 19<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Second Sunday after Epiphany</b>	8.00am	Holy Communion at Alderley
		9.45am	Holy Communion at Alderley
		11.15am	Mattins at Birtles
		6.30pm	Evensong at Alderley
<b>Thur.23<sup>rd</sup></b>		10.00am	Holy Communion at Alderley
<b>Sun. 26<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Third Sunday after Epiphany</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>Thur.30<sup>th</sup></b>		10.00am	Holy Communion at Alderley
<b>February</b>			
<b>Sun. 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>Fourth Sunday after Epiphany</b>	8.00am	Holy Communion at Birtles
		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>
Nov 3 <sup>rd</sup>	354.40	44.50		398.90
Nov 10 <sup>th</sup>	480.77	40.00		530.77
Nov 17 <sup>th</sup>	260.80	22.50		283.30
Nov 24 <sup>th</sup>	391.50	20.74		412.24
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1487.47</b>	<b>137.74</b>	<b>540.00</b>	<b>2165.21</b>

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

### STOP PRESS – CAROL SINGING

A big thank-you to all our hosts and to all our singers. We raised £1080 during 2 nights carol singing. The money has been split evenly between the NSPCC and Christian Aid.

### Homeless

I am just that homeless guy  
 You walk past and block out of your mind  
 I am just the hungry man  
 Who has to search every bin he can  
 I am just a hairy mess  
 With mud on my face and down my vest  
 I'm sat in a corner with my dog  
 When all I'd like is a home and a job  
 I'm that man with no self- respect  
 Begging on the streets is as good as it gets  
 So next time you walk past a man like me  
 Stop and chat or spare 50p  
 Maybe a pound because I'm skint  
 Or five hundred pounds would be mint.

**by Molly Rozsas age 12 (Granddaughter of Terry & Glenyse Fones)**

(The poem below was judged best in her year at Poynton High School)

## SOCIAL COMMITTEE

A Happy New Year to everybody!

The Christmas Coffee Morning was well supported and we had many visitors who were not regular church goers. Thank you to everyone who helped in any way. This year we realised a profit £700 after expenses. The total may yet rise!! The Barnby Choir did us proud. We collected £160 in church and to this there will be a small addition of tax reclaim. These monies will go direct in to the general church account, the aiming to try to offset the ongoing general expenses in a small way. The Choir told me it is one of the most magical places they sing in, and look Forward to next year.

On January 22<sup>nd</sup> the Tea Party people and friends are planning to go out for lunch, a belated Christmas and to celebrate the New Year. We shall, I am sure, have tea during late February, early March. If there is anyone who would like to join in do please let me know. It is fun and chatty!!

A **Bridge Drive** is organised for Monday February 10<sup>th</sup> in the church hall, starting at 1.30pm. The tables will cost £26.

**Please tell your friends. We need to advertise this. Everybody's support is necessary.**

Let me know if you would like a Table or know anyone who would be interested.

**Janet Adamson Tel: 01625 583320**

## ST MARY'S WALKING GROUP

**Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> February – 10.00am start**

Walk: Middlewood Way and Macclesfield Canal



**Starting Point:** Park Coppice Car Park Shrigley Road Poynton

**Grid Ref:** SJ 942 846

**Maps:**

**Walk Description:** mainly on surfaced footpaths, a minor proportion across fields. Proposed cafe stop at 5m: The Coffee Tavern.

**Length:** 6.45 miles

**Further info:** Bring packed lunch and coffee. Boots or strong shoes needed.

**Contact:** Jamie Smith (01625 585245) or (07791 60 40 99) with any questions



## The Prayer Book Society, Chester Diocese Branch

The Thomas Cranmer Competition

The diocesan heat was held last year on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2013 at St. John the Baptist, Guilden Sutton. Our own Sophie Vardon, lector and chorister, was successful as a 'quite junior' senior candidate (14 – 18 years).

Sophie will now go forward as the Chester Diocese Senior Representative to the National Finals in London in February 2014.

We congratulate Sophie on her success. She read the Collect, Epistle and Gospel for the 21<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Trinity from the Book of Common Prayer.

The judges congratulated her on her clarity of presentation and her connectedness with the congregation. As St. Paul urged in the Epistle and Gospel, Sophie read boldly, prayerfully and with understanding.

At the finals in London, candidates have to recite by heart, either two psalms or a Collect, Epistle and Gospel/ This is no mean feat. We wish Sophie well. Do encourage your young people to compete.

Sophie was presented with a certificate, a cheque for £50 and a £5- cheque for her church, St. Mary's for which the Treasurer will, no doubt, be most grateful.

**Anne Dodd (BCP Rep.)**

### "TREASURES OF NETHER ALDERLEY & GREAT WARFORD"

Originally this production was created in the year 2000 as part of our 700 year anniversary. There may be many of you who missed out on purchasing a copy!

This is a documentary DVD covering the ancient history of the area and the story of St. Mary's church, since its building in 1300.

In addition to visiting many historic buildings we also meet people whose families have lived here for centuries. They recall stories and experiences which clearly illustrate how life has changed for everyone during the last one hundred years. It is a wonderful keepsake!

Cost: £10 If you would like to purchase a copy, please contact:

**Jenny Youatt (01625 585226)**

## Thomas Henry Oliver Stanley (1927 -2013) by Rector

On Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> of December I attended the Funeral Service of Lord Thomas Stanley, 8<sup>th</sup> Baron Stanley of Alderley. The Service took place at St John the Baptist Church at Stanton St John Oxford. The Stanleys are tenant farmers at Rectory Farm in the village. I met Richard his son and Richard his brother, both were pleased that the Alderley connection with their family had been honoured by my presence representing the Church. The long standing connection of the Stanleys to Alderley goes without saying and the patronage received by St Mary's Church is evidenced all around. The fact that St Catherine's Church, Birtles was built in 1840 is said to be largely down to a fall out between the Hibbert and the Stanley families. In this way the historical influence of the Stanley family is with us in the present. The Stanley pew more than anything is a reminder of the historic Stanley presence in the parish, but it is most certainly fair to say that one cannot turn in St Mary's Church without seeing some reminder of the Stanley family. There are of course the effigy tombs of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Lord Stanley next to the Altar and the family motto 'sans changer' is represented in encaustic tile on the Chancel floor.

At the Service were many interesting people amongst them Professor Stefan Buczacki who is just about to publish a book on Venetia Stanley. He has personally visited Alderley and was shown around St Mary's by Jenny Youatt. He is a fount of knowledge on the Stanley family and enthused to me about his research at the 'Talk House' where the reception was held. After rounds and rounds of canapés and not a few glasses of champagne I was kindly taken to the station by Sir Richard and Lady Williams-Buckley of Beaumaris. They too have a Cheshire connection on the Buckley side of the family.

What was said by family members and friends both publicly in the tributes read in Church and privately over drinks was that things really do change -'sans changer' (without change) the family motto was not a maxim to justify denial of present day change and modern day realities. Thomas Stanley whose life we were honouring was a man who moved with the times and made the best of what he could. He knew that to survive and importantly to prosper one had to engage with the present. This he did especially in the world of farming. He represented the NFU in the House of Lords and was proud to be a working farmer. This in itself is a change from the life and reality of his forebears. In his autobiography Lord Stanley points out that two of his cousins who were Barons of Alderley in the 20<sup>th</sup> century failed to see the changed and changing socio-economic landscape. This ultimately lost the family its fortune.

The funeral was a positive acknowledgement of a man who lived for the future not the past and was a great reminder to us all that change is life.

## 'Give us our eleven days!'

The eleven days referred to here are the 'lost' 11 days of September 1752, skipped when Britain changed over from the Julian calendar to the Gregorian calendar, bringing us into line with most of Europe.

The Gregorian calendar is today's international calendar, named after the man who first introduced it in February 1582, Pope Gregory XIII.

Before 1752, Britain and her Empire followed the Julian calendar, first implemented by Julius Caesar in 46 B.C. However this calendar had an inbuilt error of 1 day every 128 years, due to a miscalculation of the solar year by 11 minutes. This affected the date of Easter, traditionally observed on March 21, as it began to move further away from the spring equinox with each passing year. To get over this problem, the Gregorian calendar was introduced. This is a solar calendar, based on a 365-day year divided into 12 months. Each month consists of either 30 or 31 days with one month, February, consisting of 28 days. A leap year every 4 years adds an extra day to February making it 29 days long.

First to adopt the new calendar in 1582 were France, Italy, Poland, Portugal and Spain. Turkey was the last country to officially switch to the new system on January 1st, 1927.

The Calendar (New Style) Act 1750 introduced the Gregorian calendar to the British Empire, bringing Britain into line with most of Western Europe.

Its introduction was not straightforward. It meant that the year 1751 was a short year, lasting just 282 days from 25th March (New Year in the Julian calendar) to 31st December. The year 1752 then began on 1 January.

There remained the problem of aligning the calendar in use in England with that in use in Europe. It was necessary to correct it by 11 days: the 'lost days'. It was decided that Wednesday 2nd September 1752 would be followed by Thursday 14th September 1752.

### Footnote:

Have you ever wondered why the tax year in Britain starts on the unlikely date of 6th April, rather than 1st January?

The official start of the year on the Julian calendar used to be Lady Day (25th March), and this was also the official start of the tax year. However the introduction of the new calendar and the loss of the eleven days in 1752 meant this date was changed to 5th April in 1753, to avoid losing 11 days of tax revenue.

Another change was made to the date in 1800, as this would have been a leap year in the Julian calendar but not in the new Gregorian calendar. So again the tax year was extended and the date changed to 6th April where it remains to this day.

Many, many thanks to everyone who so kindly donated to the Candle Fund, stripped their gardens of evergreen or assisted me in the preparation of the Church for Advent and Christmas.

It is only your generosity, kindness and valuable help that enables us to make our already beautiful Church "special" during Advent and Christmas. Thank you so much. **Michael Penlington**

**Brian and Cath Reeve send (belated due to moving upheaval!) Christmas and New Year Greetings Greetings**

**Their new address is 18, Mount Crescent, Stone, Staffs., ST15 8LR Tel: 01785 749178**

**Eyes down for our 'Valentine' Bingo night!**  
**Book early to avoid disappointment**

**Come and join us for a few cards of Bingo  
and a 'Robinson's sausage' and chip supper  
Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2014 at 6:30pm  
Nether Alderley Parish Hall**

**Tickets £6.00**

**Available from any member of the Jubilee Committee**

(Geoff & Maureen Woolley, Mark Wilkinson, Sarah-Jane Dunhill, Stephen & Jules Maynard, Cordelia Robinson, Tracy Crolla, Sally Hilldrup, Gail Hodgett, Alison Boddington or Fiona Robinson)

**A letter from Oasis**

Dear Janet and everyone at St Mary's Social Committee,

Thank you so much for your most recent donation of £50, raised through your Coffee collection, following morning service. The way you continually remember us blesses my heart.

I have put your donation into our Big Five Match Funding Christmas Challenge. This doubles your gift to £100. All in all the Oasis Centre has raised £5,000 which has now been doubled to £10,000.

We can now securely run our Freedom Ed 1 year Adult Basic Life Skills Training Programme for vulnerable and marginalised people living and sleeping rough in East Manchester.

Thank you also for the continuous loving support we receive from St Mary's. God Bless you all.

Veronica.

**(The Oasis Centre is a community day centre based in Gorton and serving the whole of East Manchester**

The Centre is a lifeline for over 100 people a week including families living on benefits, asylum seekers and refugees, the homeless, people struggling with alcohol or drug misuse and mental health issues. Open three times a week, we offer friendship and support; access to advice and help; affordable clothing and emergency provision; plus life skills training including an innovative Getting Work-Ready scheme.)

**Quarter Peal of Bells in Memory of  
John Michael Lee 1929 - 2013: Patron and Treasurer**

On Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2013 a quarter peal of 'Bob Doubles' was rung at St Mary's Church, Alderley in thanksgiving for the life and service to St Mary's of John Michael Lee.

**“A Christmas Carol’**

Gordon and Veronica Walker

Gordon and Veronica are members of ‘The Dickens Fellowship’ and travelled from their home in Wigan to give the ‘Friends of St Mary’s’ the enactment of this well-loved Dickens’ story.

Philip Webb introduced them briefly and gave the audience a background of Dickens and of this, one of his 5 novellas. He wrote it in 1843, 170 years ago, when he was 31 years of age and it immediately achieved critical acclaim. Charles Dickens made his living from performing readings of his novels and acting them; in one such public reading, he raised the incredible sum of £3000 which was donated to Great Ormond Street Childrens’ Hospital, a substantial gift to the hospital, which benefitted greatly in its early development from Dickens’ generosity.

Gordon and Veronica were dressed in the costume of the day and professionally acted the well-known story of Ebenezer Scrooge and his ideological, ethical and emotional transformation, resulting from supernatural visits from Jacob Marley and the Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Yet to Come. Their presentation lasted 80 minutes, and seasonal refreshments were served in the 20 minute interval.

The event was held in the Parish Room which was a pity for many as the Church would have been a perfect ‘stage’ for this story. However, attendance was unpredictable, the Parish Room easier to warm and there were enough attendees to fill the Parish Room, which thus gave the Speakers good support.

Thoughts now move to 2014 and requests have been circulated to gauge what members of the Parish feel about these meetings. They have now been staged for 5 years and the approx 25 meetings in that time have probably raised over £15,000 for Church Funds.

5 years is a good time for review and the favourable attendances we have had in that time should not be taken for granted – what do the ‘customers’ want and how do we further develop this activity at St Mary’s Church, for the benefit of the Church and all those who wish to attend?

Please give Philip Webb or Judy Swales the benefit of your constructive opinions.

**Philip E Webb  
16 December 2013**

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

DATE	TIME	SIDESMEN	LECTOR
5 <sup>th</sup>	9.45am	Mr M Wilkinson & Mrs R Dyas	Miss SJ Dunhill
	6.30pm	Mrs A Cobb	Mr P Bean
12 <sup>th</sup>	8.00am	Mrs B Essayan	
	9:45am	Mrs W Liddle & Mrs J Robinson	Miss S Vardon
	6.30pm	Mrs A Robinson <b>Joint Choral Evensong at St Philip’s and St James</b>	Mr P Reynolds
19 <sup>th</sup>	8.00am	Mr H A Wright	
	9.45am	Mr G Hilton & Mr S Welsh	Mrs J Lee
	6.30pm	Mrs J Bean	Mrs A Dodd
26 <sup>th</sup>	8.00am	Mr P Bean	
	9.45am	Mr A Claridge & Mrs J Adamson	Mr & Mrs G Davis
	6.30pm	Mr A Cockitt	Mr P Reynolds
2 <sup>nd</sup> Feb	9.45am	Mr J Ratchford & Mrs J Martin	Mrs C Stephenson
	6:30pm	Mrs D Barber	Mr P Bean

## FROM THE REGISTERS

### *Baptisms*

Sun. 1<sup>st</sup> Dec            Matilda Comer Sunday

### *Weddings*

Sat. 7<sup>th</sup> Dec            Georgina Cross and John Robinson  
Mon. 23<sup>rd</sup> Dec.        Charlotte Allmond-Smith and Samuel Grubb

**N.B.**    Last year (2013) we had 44 Christenings and 21 Weddings across the parish

## FLOWER ROTA

Jan.5<sup>th</sup>            Christmas  
Jan.12<sup>th</sup>          Fiona Ablett  
Jan.19<sup>th</sup>          Maureen Woolley  
Jan.26<sup>th</sup>          Fiona Robinson  
Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup>          Fiona Robinson

## MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTIONS

The deadline for the next magazine is **Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2014**  
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Large format copies of the magazine are available.