

FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptisms

Sun 19th March Sebastian Alexander Slack
Sun 26th March Tina Leonard & Stephen Davis (adults)

Weddings

Funerals

Fri 24th Feb John Haigh (interment of ashes in Parish Grounds)
Mon 27th Feb George Andrew Beech
Fri 3rd Mar Joyce Cowley

FLOWER ROTA

Apr 2nd Lent
Apr 9th Lent
Apr 16th Flower Team
Apr 23rd Flower Team
Apr 30th Flower Team

MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTIONS

The deadline for the next magazine is **Thursday 20th April 2017**
Please send all copy to:

Editorial: Jenny Youatt Email: info@stmarysaldlerley.com
1, Orchard Crescent, Nether Alderley, SK10 4TZ

Production: Jean Whittingham: (01625 583247)

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& Distribution: Peter Bean: 01625 582073

Large format copies of the magazine are available.

Rector Writes

April 2017

The Rector writes about Easter

The events of Easter are at the heart of Christian faith.

Jesus identified fully with the tragic nature of human existence and he went all the way with it to death. Not all of human life is tragic and there is much to celebrate, but our mortality makes us treasure the good times because we know that this life does not go on for ever.

The miserable human failings that surrounded Jesus as he became subject to human evil are all too modern: close friends looked to their own best interests and denied ever having known Jesus.

The Resurrection is Jesus alive and a survivor of death: 'the grave could not hold him'. Everything that Jesus said and did after the Resurrection shows the same compassion for human suffering that was shown previously in Jesus' teaching and miracles.

The church began because those who met the risen Jesus could do no other than recall all the events of Jesus' life and conclude that this was the Christ: God as one of us. After the Resurrection we are now one with Jesus: 'Now is eternal life if risen with Christ we stand!' You can enter into this truth for yourself by worshipping and coming to Christian faith for yourself.

See you in church on Easter Day!

Rev'd Jon Hale

DIARY FOR APRIL 2017

Sun.2nd	Fifth Sunday in Lent	8.00am	Holy Communion at Birtles
		9.45am	Holy Communion at Alderley
		11.15am	Family Service at Birtles
		6.30pm	Evensong at Alderley
Thur 6th		10.00am	Holy Communion at Alderley
Sun 9th	Palm Sunday	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)
Thurs 13th		10.00am	Holy Communion
Fri 14th	Good Friday	10.30am	Procession of Witness Methodist Church
		2.00pm	Meditation at Birtles Church
Sun. 16th	Easter Day	8.00am	Holy Communion at Alderley
		9.45am	Holy Communion at Alderley
		11.15am	Mattins at Birtles
		6.30pm	Evening Prayer at Alderley (said)
Thurs 20th		10.00am	Holy Communion at Alderley
Sun 23rd	First Sunday after Easter	8.00am	Holy Communion at Alderley
		9.45am	Holy Communion at Alderley
		11.15am	Family Service at Birtles
		6.30am	Evensong at Alderley
Thurs 27th		10.00am	Holy Communion at Alderley
April 30th	Second Sunday after Easter	8.00am	Holy Communion at Birtles
		9.45am	Holy Communion at Alderley
		11.15am	Family Service at Birtles
		6.30pm	Evensong at Alderley

ROTA FOR APRIL 2017
SIDESPEOPLE / LECTORS / WARDENS

D'T	TIME	SIDESPEOPLE	LECTOR	W'N
Apr 2 nd	8.00am	(at Birtles)		
	9.45am	Mrs W. Liddle & Mr A Claridge	Mrs W Liddle	MP
	6.30pm	Mrs A Robinson	Mr M Dyer	JY
Apr 9 th	8.00am			RA
	9.45am	Mrs J Martin & Mrs H Jabr	Volunteers	MP
	6.30pm	Mrs J Bean	Mr P Bean	PB
Apr 16 th	8.00am			PB
	9.45am	Mr G Woolley & Mrs M Woolley	Mrs E Jackson	MP
	6.30pm		Mr P Reynolds	PR
Apr 23 rd	8.00am			HW
	9.45am	Mr G Hilton & Mr S Welsh	Mr K Wilkinson	MP
	6.30pm	Mr G Barrie	Mrs A Robinson	JY
Apr 30 th	8.00am			RA
	9.45am	Mrs G Beeley & Mr J Ratchford	Mrs J Lee	MP
	6.30pm	Mr M Dyer	Mr P Reynolds	PR

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.

Chocolate and the divine go back a long way...

One of the more earthly pleasures of celebrating Easter is the sheer amount of chocolate around. But chocolate was part of other religions long before Christianity. According to ancient Mayan legend, some 3,000 years ago, cacao, or the cocoa tree, which grows in the tropical rainforests of South America, was a bridge between heaven and earth and by 400 BC they had exported the beans to Costa Rica. Aztec priests were given cacao beans at children's coming-of-age ceremonies. When Aztec couples married, they exchanged cacao beans instead of rings.

Christopher Columbus arrived in the New World in the 15th century, to find that a slave could be bought for 100 beans. But Columbus never really 'got it' about cacao beans, and when he returned to Portugal, he threw them away as useless.

Meanwhile, back in Central America, the Aztec emperor drank chocolate from a cup of solid gold before retiring to his harem. Chocolate was thought to have aphrodisiac properties. It was also considered good for various ailments of the stomach.

Finally, the Spanish began to pay attention. Spanish monks brewed up a drink from the beans that was far more acceptable to European taste, sweetening it with sugar, and adding cinnamon and nutmeg. Spain and Europe began to fall in love with the cacao bean. Congregations even began drinking it during church services. When the Bishop of Chiapas threatened to excommunicate his flock for doing so, the entire congregation simply moved down the road to another church, where the friars also liked chocolate.

Chocolate became a favoured drink at fashionable occasions in Britain. In 1630, the day after the coronation of Charles II, Samuel Pepys wrote in his diary that as he had celebrated the event with too much wine, so he had taken some chocolate the following morning, 'to settle my stomach'.

Although chocolate was originally only for the wealthy, devout Quakers such as Joseph Fry, Joseph Terry, Isaac Rowntree and John Cadbury had a dream that chocolate could replace gin as a drink for the working classes. Their determination to make this possible was driven by their Christian zeal, and they in part succeeded. Then in the middle of the 19th century it was discovered that chocolate could be made into solid bars! With this discovery, Easter eggs were on the way. Both Fry's and Cadbury's launched them in the 1870s, and the rest is history.

These days, Fair Trade chocolate is the thing to look out for – it guarantees a fair price to the cocoa farmers who make it possible for us to go on enjoying this heavenly stuff.

(Parish Pump)

Email addresses

The email address of the Office at The Rectory is alderleyandbirtles@gmail.com. Ken Wilkinson – the Church Administrator – works in the office on Wednesday and Friday mornings.

You can also contact the Rector on this email address: vicar@jkcahale.co.uk

Morning Prayer

Morning Prayer will be held as follows:

Every Wednesday at St.Catherine's Church, Birtles at 8.45am

Every Thursday at St.Mary's Church, Nether Alderley at 8.45am

The Rector writes about 'Thy Kingdom Come' 25 May – 4 June

'Thy Kingdom Come' is a national initiative that's been taken on by all the churches: a time of prayer between Ascension Day (25th May) and Pentecost / Whit Sunday (4th June). You can read about it at http://www.chester.anglican.org/page_pdt.asp?Page=1042#.WJ82z_mLTIU

During 'Thy Kingdom Come' 'The Big Church Day Out' will be at Capesthorne Hall on 2nd and 3rd June with overnight camping. Find out more and book your tickets at <https://bigchurchdayout.com/north>

On Pentecost / Whit Sunday (4th June) at Chester Cathedral at 5.30pm there will be a special big service. More details nearer the time.

And let us all pray 'Thy Kingdom Come'

COLLECTION TOTAL

Week Ending	Envelopes	Misc Cash	Standing Orders	Total
Feb 5th	199.00	87.50		286.50
Feb 12th	194.00	38.80		232.80
Feb 19th	227.10	40.31		267.41
Feb 26th	260.00	16.00		276.00
TOTAL	880.10	182.61	1216.00	2278.71

Donald Henderson Tel 01625 584008 or email orchardmain@ntlworld.com

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Plans are well ahead for the Easter lunch on Wednesday April 12th 12.00pm for approx.12.30pm. Alderley Cottage Do consider joining in.

Let me 01625 583320 or Hellie 01625 585852 know.

The Coffee after 9.45 service is I understand going very well. More people are venturing in to see what we are up to? Thankyou to all who help in any way. Special thanks from me to everybody who is helping as I am bossing from the background! We collect on average around £12.00 a week after expenses, which goes in to our Charity pot.

Where we can, we continue to support the activities of church life. The social life of the church is essential, good that we can join together as a community.

As always if anybody is available to help with this please let me know.

We are actively doing what we can to help The Oasis Project. Please consider bringing simple tinned food and dried food items regularly, and put them in the basket in church. Our help is continued to be needed.

Janet Adamson (01625 583320)

WALKING

A group of friends from St Mary's are going for a walk on the 13th May 2017. The details are given below and anyone interested is welcome to join the group. If you do come along, you do so at your own risk as walking can be a hazardous activity. Children and / or dogs are also welcome but you have to take full responsibility for them. It is advisable that you have appropriate footwear and clothing with you to cope with any weather and ground conditions that might be met.

Entwistle, Nr Bolton

Starting at 10.00 am prompt from the Entwistle Reservoir Batridge Barn car park.

Grid ref: SD722173 **Post code:** BL7 0NF (Please note that this post code takes you to the entry to the main reservoir car park entrance. You need to travel about a further 300 yards and the entry is on your right.)

Length: 8 miles but with options to short cut it for those who feel challenged by this distance.

Grade: Easy/Moderate over varied terrain

Further information: Packed lunch with drinks needed. Contact Will Ablett (01625 585180or 07977 978620) with any questions. There are a number of pubs/cafes around this walk if anyone is in dire need of re-fuelling.

THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

Annual Box Opening

Amount Donated £900.16 (£837.55 last year)

Once again, a heartfelt thank you to our loyal and generous boxholders.

The Society's Future Links project in York works with the most marginalised groups of disabled young people aged 14 – 25, helping them to raise their educational and employment aspirations and increase their integration into the community.

Disabled young people are more likely than any other group not to be in education, employment or training.

Volunteers work one-to-one with learning-disabled and autistic young people who are facing difficult challenges in their lives such as mental health issues, bullying and social isolation. They help young people to set learning goals and meet them, giving weekly support as they work to achieve their goals.

Two students from the University of York received swards for their support of group activities. One of them set up a science club during the summer holidays, with messy experiments, trips to a local nature reserve, lots of laughter and new friendships formed.

In the past year over 7700 churches supported the work of the Children's Society. Please telephone 01625 584218 if you would like to become a St Mary's boxholder or if you know anyone who might be interested.

Bert Wright

Volunteers Required !!

On the afternoon of May 20th a spring clean of the Church and Church yard (moss on graves) will take place. Are you able to offer help for a couple of hours ?

From the beginning of May we are looking for volunteers to go on a rota to clean the Church (vac, dust, polish etc) for an hour every four or five weeks (2 people each session) on a Wednesday or Friday morning.

Up to the summer of last year we have had contract cleaners. If we can get a team of volunteers we shall be saving the Church a considerable amount of money.

Equipment and materials will be provided.

Please contact me if you are able to volunteer and keep our Church looking pristine.

Michael Penlington

CHRISTIAN AID FUNDRAISING

TELL ANY GARDENERS YOU KNOW

MAY 6th 10-12 am

at the

METHODIST CHURCH HALL, CHAPEL ROAD ALDERLEY EDGE

PLANTS FOR YOUR BORDERS GROWN BY OUR TEAM OF HAPPY GARDENERS.

Feedback on the quality of the plants has been very good year to year.

PLEASE COME AND BRING YOUR FRIENDS.

COFFEE MORNING AND VARIOUS STALLS ALSO being provided, by the Methodist team.

CONTACT; LYNN SMITH 01625 585245 / FIONA ABLETT 01625 585180

NETHER ALDERLEY 200 CLUB **February draw winners**

1st prize Fiona Ablett
2nd prize Helen Jabr
3rd prize Ines Jamieson

Congratulations to all the winners

Your cheque or standing order gives you a chance of being the winner.

Forms can be found at the back of Church and in the Parish Hall Kitchen.

A total of £3275 has now been handed over to St Mary's treasurer, towards the day to day running costs of the Church.

ALDERLEY EDGE BIBLE STUDIES 2016 / 2017

Why do bad things happen to good people? A Problem of Suffering in the Book of Job

led by Philip Alexander

All welcome: all you need is an enquiring mind (and a Bible!)
We meet on the first Monday of the month EXCEPT those starred **

Mon 8th May
St Philips
Parish Rooms

The Voice of Youth
The Speeches of Elihu

Monday 5th June
St Philips
Parish Rooms

The Voice of God:
The Speeches of Yahweh

Monday 3rd July
St Philips
Parish Rooms

The Book of Job
And the Problems of Suffering

MEETING TIME:
CONTACT:

7.30pm – 9.30pm
Loveday Alexander (0161 439 7946)

Good Friday (14th April)

On Good Friday – the Day of Our Lord's Crucifixion- join with all the churches in Alderley at Alderley Edge Methodist Church at 10.30am for worship, followed by a Walk of Witness through the village following a cross to St.Philip & St.James Church, Alderley Edge. All are welcome.

At St.Catherine's Church, Birtles all are welcome to the Good Friday service at 2pm for an hour.

Easter Day (16th April)

Easter Day services will be at the usual Sunday service times at St.Mary's Church and St.Catherine's Church.

Easter Flowers

If you would like to make a donation towards the cost of the Lillies 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. Michael Penlington

(continued from page 7)

Andy started to attend daily and made good friends. He has stopped drinking, his debt is under control and he is now able to concentrate on his job search. Andy told us that he now feels he has a reason to get up in the morning and make something of his life. Andy has recently received a job interview.

We value your prayers as we continue in our capital appeal, on going revenue funding and most importantly supporting the most vulnerable and disadvantaged in our East Manchester communities.

God bless you all for your amazing and continued support!

Victoria Armstrong

Chief Executive of the Oasis Centre

OASIS

As we work hard to bring in the final 20% of the capital project we are seeing the most remarkable breakthrough in our clients who have come to Oasis for support. Our activities have recently been brought under 4 carefully structured linked programmes of support and we are seeing great results.

Below is a snap shot of what has been happening in Oasis in just the last month (Feb '17):

664 total footfall through our doors

221 separate crisis issues were addressed through our RE-BUILD programme

91 clients accessed basic education through our RE-SKILL programme

63 clients accessed our IT workshop and work club through our RE-START programme

14 clients gained certificates

1 client enrolled on to a college course

3 clients found work

Below is one persons story showing the 'layers' of support needed to help the most vulnerable in our community find stability and hope for their future:

Client: Andy

Andy was referred to the RE-START programme by a local vicar. Andy was in danger of being sanctioned by the jobcentre as he didn't know how to look for work. Andy struggled to read and write and was living in isolation. He needed a CV writing but didn't know where to start. The Oasis team helped Andy with his CV and spent several weeks giving 1 to 1 IT support. Through getting to know Andy the team discovered he was the main carer for his father, who had recently died. Andy, in his 40's, still lived in his father's house and because his father hadn't written a will Andy was facing homelessness. The Crisis Support Team advised and worked with Andy on his housing issues whilst the RE-START team helped him gain confidence and skills in IT and job search. Within a month Andy revealed, in one of his IT sessions, that he was in a lot of debt and had also inherited debts from the funeral cost of his father. The CST referred Andy to Christians Against Poverty, who are helping him sort out his debt issues. Andy also received emergency food packs from Oasis which, at first, helped Andy to regularly attend his IT sessions and work club. It then became clear that Andy had been struggling with depression and drinking. The CST introduced Andy to the Community Alcohol Team. The RE-SKILL and RE-START team spent half of Andy's lessons just listening to him and encouraging Andy to engage with the other Oasis programme's of support.

(continued on page 6)