

Already as I write in mid-March the shops are full of Easter eggs and the grandchildren are eyeing them with eager anticipation. Saying that we are still in the middle of Lent and that it's too soon to be thinking about the Easter feast doesn't really cut much ice. Our society seems to have lost the ability to *wait*.

And how we make every special day into a marketing opportunity! The Christmas spree being over, the shops then have Valentine's Day and Mothering Sunday to tide them over until Easter appears on the horizon.

So we start to get ready for yet another celebration. Because that's another thing: our society expects us to be positive, happy, upbeat all the time. Even modern worship suffers sometimes from the need to be unremittingly cheerful.

But life is *not* always cheerful; sometimes it is unjust, painful, devastating. Then it becomes glaringly apparent that the culture we live in gives few resources for coping with despair and desolation. This is why it is so important that the Christian tradition makes us go with Christ into the wilderness, and then walk with him the Way of the Cross, before we come to the joy of Easter.

The message of Easter makes no sense at all without the Passion. Unless we have gone with Our Lord to the darkest places of suffering and death, the celebration of Easter is an empty shell, a meaningless void.

*Almighty God,  
whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain,  
and entered not into glory before he was crucified:  
mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross,  
may find it none other than the way of life and peace;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.*

## DIARY FOR APRIL 2015

### March

#### **Sun.29th Palm Sunday**

8.00am *Holy Communion at Alderley*  
9.45am Palm Sunday Service at Alderley  
11.15am *Palm Sunday Service at Birtles*  
6.30pm Evensong at Alderley

Thur.3rd 10.00am Holy Communion at Alderley

#### **Sun.5th Easter Day**

8.00am Holy Communion at Birtles  
9.45am Holy Communion at Alderley  
10.30am *Holy Communion at Birtles*  
6.30pm No Service

Thur.9th 10.00am Holy Communion at Alderley

Sat. 11th 2.00pm Holy Matrimony at Alderley

#### **Sun. 12th First Sunday after Easter**

8.00am Holy Communion at Alderley  
9.45am Family Service at Alderley  
11.15am *Holy Communion at Birtles*  
6.30pm Holy Communion at Alderley

Wed. 15th 2.00pm Mothers Union

Thur.16th 10.00am Holy Communion at Alderley

Sat. 18th 2.00pm Holy Matrimony at Alderley

#### **Sun. 19th Second Sunday after Easter**

8.00am Holy Communion at Alderley  
9.45am Holy Communion at Alderley  
11.15am *Mattins at Birtles*  
6.30pm Evensong at Alderley

Thur.23rd 10.00am Holy Communion at Alderley

Sat. 25th 1.30pm Holy Matrimony at Alderley

#### **Sun.26th Third Sunday after Easter**

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

Thur.30th 10.00am Holy Communion at Alderley

**May**

**Sun.3rd Fourth Sunday after Easter**

8.00am Holy Communion at Birtles  
9.45am Holy Communion at Alderley  
10.30am *Family Service at Birtles*  
6.30pm Evensong at Alderley

Thur.8th 10.00am Holy Communion 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 1st	276.00	50.50		326.50
Feb 8th	206.10	55.00		261.10
Feb 15th	331.00	48.00		379.00
Feb 22nd	317.27	56.10		373.37
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1130.37</b>	<b>209.60</b>	<b>830.00</b>	<b>2169.97</b>

## NETHER ALDERLEY 200 CLUB February draw winners

1<sup>st</sup> prize Mrs J. Davis  
2<sup>nd</sup> prize Dr. J. Maynard  
3<sup>rd</sup> prize Mrs M. Stonehewer

Congratulations to all the winners

## SOCIAL COMMITTEE

We held a Soup and Cheese Lunch on March 11<sup>th</sup>. A big thank you to Hellie Jabr who supported me and opened her part of Alderley Cottage. Hazel Highton was soon to celebrate her 91<sup>st</sup> Birthday so we had a Birthday Cake. Sadly Daisy Barber was also to celebrate her 91<sup>st</sup> Birthday but she was not able to be with us. A good time had by all.

The Coffee after the 9.45am service is going very well. More people are venturing in to see what we are up to!! Thank you to all who help with the washing up! The money collected in the charity pot is being divided between The Oasis Project and The Hospice, as before. It is good and necessary for the Church to support projects. Where we can, we continue to support the activities of the church life. The Social life of the church is fun, and it is good that we can join together as a community.

I understand there was a delicious Supper following the Ash Wednesday Service organised by the Jubilee Committee. Once more it was really enjoyed by those who were able to go.

We are actively doing more to help The Oasis Project. Please read the piece written by Hellie. 5 of us had a wonderful evening on March 7<sup>th</sup>. Please consider bringing simple tinned food regularly and putting it in the basket in church. Victoria does many food parcels. Our help is needed.

**Janet Adamson (01625 583320)**

## ST MARY'S WALKING GROUP

**Saturday 9th May – 10.00am start prompt**

**A ramble around Winter Hill**



**Starting Point:** Park in Wallsuches, a lane opposite the Jolly Crofters (Sat Nav BL6 6RE) at the junction of Chorley Old Road and Georges Lane, Horwich, Nr Bolton.

**Map:** Explorer 287 West Pennine Moors

**Grid Ref:** 659 114

**Length:** 7 ½ miles – easy/moderate (gradual climb up to Winter Hill).

Lovely views from the top to the coast on a fine day.

**Further info:** Packed lunch needed but there is a lovely coffee shop at the start/end of the walk for those who might be interested. Contact Will Ablett (01625 585180) with any questions.

## CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 10<sup>th</sup> – 16<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 9th. 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. Coffee will be available.

Many Thanks, Fiona Ablett

### All Fools' Day

In years gone by, the rules surrounding April Fool were this: between midnight and noon on 1 April, everyone is 'fair game' to be made a fool of. It is the morning of the practical joke. But the aim is not just to discomfort the victim: he must be tricked into taking action himself, sent on a 'fool's errand'.

And so children would be sent to the dairy for a pint of dove's milk, or to the bookseller for The Life of Eve's Mother. Practical jokes on a bigger scale were played: in 1860 a vast number of people received an official looking invitation to the Tower of London that read: 'Admit the Bearer and Friends to view the Annual Ceremony of Washing the White Lions.' Precisely the same trick had been played in 1698.

Then, on the stroke of noon, tradition decrees, April Fools is finished. If anyone attempts devilry thereafter, even while the clock is still striking, it recoils on his own head. A child would then race through the sing-song formula : 'April-Fool-Day's-past-and-gone-you're-the-fool-and-I-am-none!'



**MOTHERS' UNION**



## **“Arighi Bianchi”**

**Speaker: Nick Bianchi**

Wednesday 15th April at 2.00pm

All Welcome

### **POSITION OF RECTOR'S SECRETARY**

This position currently held by Judy Swales is to become vacant when she retires in June 2015.

#### **EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST IN THE POSITION**

should be referred to the WARDENS in the first instance.

Please consider if you or someone you know might be a suitable candidate

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

We shall be decorating the church for Easter on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April from 10.00am. Your help and gifts of foliage will be greatly appreciated. Please contact Michael Penlington (01625 530084) if you have foliage or wish to help.

## Ode to the Organist

*(Written by Miss Winifred Dawson, loyal and loved member of St.Mary's Choir)*

*6<sup>th</sup> February 1927 – 10 March 2015*

Oh, who would be the Organist  
And Master of the Choir?  
None other than a Solomon  
Would to such heights aspire

A life made up of semibreves  
And minims, crotchets, quavers  
A life of hymns and chants and psalms  
Of multifarious flavours

Who views with equanimity  
Toccattas, fugues and such  
With sharps and flats embroidered  
To wait the master touch

Who chooses anthems for the choir  
To soar to Heaven's gate?  
Sopranos soar up nicely  
But – yon alto line is late.

And when it comes to tunes for hymns  
Who'll bridge the great divide  
When half want 'Aberystwyth'  
And the rest cry 'Hollingside'

Ah, what an anxious job it is  
With tribulations dire –  
(Oh don't upset the organist  
Oh don't upset the choir)

Sopranos say they'll go on strike  
As Christmastide draws near  
No 'See amid the winter's snow' –  
What – Union trouble here?

Yet Sunday's come and Sunday's go  
And still he brings his crew  
All safely into harbour  
And we all come smiling through.

## WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 6<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2015

An interdenominational service prepared by the Christian Women of the Bahamas was hosted by St Pius Church in Alderley Edge.

An opening welcome was given by a Bahaman visitor whose husband is currently working locally. The visitor had just heard in the morning that there was to be a service and had wanted to join in.

Each of the local churches in Alderley contributed readers. St Mary's fielded Maureen Woolley, Beryl Essayan and Anne Cockburn.

The theme was 'Jesus said to them: "Do you know what I have done to you?" And related to the washing of the disciples' feet.

"So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet."

Prayers and hymns reflected the theme. The first verse of one hymn started: -

"Let love be real, in giving and receiving, without the need to manage and to own: a haven free from posing and pretending, where every weakness may be safely known."

The hymn contained a very moving request to "Let Love be real, with no manipulation, no secret wish to harness or control: let us just accept each other's incompleteness," and "As God loves us, so let us love each other; with no demands, just open hands and space to grow"

The Crooked Islands, The Berry Islands, Ragged Islands, Harbour Island, Inagua, Exuma, Eleuthera, Andros, Bimini, Albaco, Acklins, Grand Bahama, Long Island and Cat Island were all mentioned in the prayers. I'm sure all their names tell something of their geography and history.

Prayers were said for various needy populations, Poverty in "Over- the- Hill" , the poorest part of Nassau.. The Crisis Centre helping victims of domestic violence abandonment and rape, and children who have been abused.

The Detention Centre helping refugees, migrant workers and illegal immigrants. All Saints Camp assisting those with HIV and Aids and the Cancer Care Centre. Also PACE which offers support to all mothers and single parents especially teenage mothers.



Our Bahaman visitor heads up this particular organisation.

As always the focus on another part of the world reminds us that many difficulties in life are universal whatever the culture history or geography. That much binds the women of the World.

And finally the tea! A Bahama Mama Carrot cake which were enjoyed after the service! An excellent recipe, moist and rich, including ingredients of nutmeg and cardamom, crushed pineapple coconut and cranberries. Delicious!

**Fiona Ablett**

### **WEBSITES**

St Mary, Alderley has now two websites!

We recently launched [www.alderleychurch.co.uk](http://www.alderleychurch.co.uk) which features the day to day running of the church.

Now in addition, we have another brand new site dedicated solely to St.Mary's heritage.

[www.stmarysaldlerley.com](http://www.stmarysaldlerley.com) includes a full history of the church and its furnishings, details of visits and tours and various 'shop' items. There is also a section covering 'WW1 in Nether Alderley'. Much research was undertaken on this topic during 2014 and further to that during 2015. This site gives us the opportunity to upload that information.

We feel certain you will find this website both informative and fascinating, so dip in and enjoy!!

## **An Evening of Celebration at the Oasis Centre and Dreams of a New Home are Launched**

On Saturday 7th March, I attended a wonderful evening hosted by the trustees and friends of the Oasis Centre, along with Maureen Woolley, Janice Sweetman, Margaret Worthington and Janet Adamson. We were there along with 160 other invited guests, including potential sponsors of the Centre, Local dignitaries and volunteers.

We were treated to a most delicious meal held at The Message Trust in Wythenshawe, where the food was prepared and served by a most friendly and efficient group of young people who had been trained in catering and hospitality to give them a fresh start in life. Victoria Armstrong, whom many of you will have heard of and who is the Founder and Director of the Centre, gave us a brief history of events from the conception of Oasis 13 years ago to where they are today. Her vision was to make Oasis a refuge from which to bring about lasting and positive change in the lives of some of the hardest to reach and most vulnerable adults in Gorton, East Manchester, and we were there to celebrate the success of this venture and to hear a little about the countless success stories.

We heard about a lady who had come to them in a desperate state. She had lost one son in a fatal accident, another who had been the fatal victim of a knife attack and her third son was in and out of prison. If that was not enough, she had lost her husband to cancer and was herself recently recovering from cancer and suffered with mobility issues. She held out no hope for the future.

Over a period of six years in which she was a regular visitor to Oasis and was helped and mentored by the team there, she began to see hope and a way forward. She now raises money for third world charities with the help of the management team at Oasis. She also spends many hours with vulnerable clients at the Centre who need someone to talk to and she listens . . . welcoming others with the same warm smile and can do attitude which saved her when she felt so isolated and hopeless. We met this amazing lady and two other people with inspiring stories, whose lives had been touched and transformed by Oasis in the last 13 years.

During the evening, a fund raising appeal was launched for the New Oasis Centre which will be a purpose built facility, open 24/7 for the people of Gorton. Manchester City Council has given them a piece of land for the sum of £1 on which they hope to build the new complex for approx. £1.2 million .They have been given until 2018 to raise this money and hope to raise £100,000 by the end of 2015! We had the feeling that many of our fellow diners were digging deep and pledging funds to make this achievable!

On behalf of fellow worshippers at St Mary's we confirmed that we would continue to support the charity in any way we could. Your regular donations of food and clothing/ household goods are invaluable to them and indeed St Mary's got a special mention of thanks from Victoria during her presentation, so please be reassured that everything you do for them however small is valued beyond words!

The Oasis Centre has an exciting chapter ahead and I hope that through our joint continued generosity we can see them thrive and excel in transforming people's lives for the better.

**Hellie Jabr**

**ROTA FOR APRIL 2015**  
**LADY SIDESMEN / SIDESMEN / LECTORS**

DATE	TIME	SIDESMEN	LECTOR
April 5 <sup>th</sup>	9.45am	Mr G Woolley & Mrs W Liddle	Mrs W Liddle
	6.30pm	No service	
12 <sup>th</sup>	8.00am	Mr R Akester	
	9:45am	Mr M Stonehewer & Mrs R Dyas	Miss S Vardon
	6.30pm	Mr P Reynolds	Mr P Reynolds
19 <sup>th</sup>	8.00am	Mr P Bean	
	9.45am	Mr S Welsh & Mr M Wilkinson	Mrs S-J Wilkinson
	6.30pm	Mr R Akester	Mr R Akester
26 <sup>th</sup>	8.00am	Mr H Wright	
	9.45am	Mr A Claridge & Mrs J Martin	Mrs J Lee
	6.30pm	Mr G Barrie	Mrs F Robinson
May 3 <sup>rd</sup>			
	9.45am	Mrs W Liddle & Mrs G Beeley	Mrs W Liddle
	6.30pm	Mrs J Bean	Mr P Bean

**FROM THE REGISTERS**

***Christenings***

Sun 22nd March  
Sun 29th March

Georgia Harrison  
Edward Wallace

***Funerals***

Thu 26th Feb  
Wed 18th March  
Fri 27th March

Philip Ernest Webb  
Winifred Mary Dawson  
Peter Gass

**FLOWER ROTA**

Apr 5th	Easter
Apr 12th	Easter
Apr 19th	Wedding
Apr 26th	Wedding

**MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTIONS**

The deadline for the next magazine is **Thursday April 16th 2015**  
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