

FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptisms

Sun 30th July Charlotte Dynes

Weddings

Sat 1st July Jodie Nield and Edward Smethurst.

Sat 29th July Rachel Morse and Robert Payne.

FLOWER ROTA

Aug 6th Joyce Davis

Aug 13th Joyce Davis

Aug 20th

Aug 27th Avril Lamond

MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTIONS

The deadline for the next magazine is **Thursday August 17th**

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Rector Writes

August 2017

About the ordination of Fiona Robinson on 2nd July

The church is the Christian presence in the world: it is 'the Body of Christ'. Each of us who has been Baptised (Christened) is a member of the Body of Christ, and each of us is called to consider in prayer what will be our response to Christ's call. The church needs ministers – people who will take responsibility for leadership and service. Several years ago Fiona Robinson of St.Mary's Church offered herself for ordination to be a minister of the church, and she was accepted for training.

The Bishop of Chester

Early on Sunday 2nd July twenty of us met at the car park of Nether Alderley Mill to take a coach to Chester Cathedral to join with over a thousand other people to be with Fiona as she was ordained Deacon alongside 19 others also being ordained. The service was taken by Bishop Peter – Bishop of Chester.

For Fiona this is the culmination of many years of discernment and training, and she still has several more years of training ahead of her. Fiona is now serving as non-stipendiary Curate in the Chelford benefice - that is the churches and parishes of St.John the Evangelist, Chelford, All Saints, Marthall and St.Peter, Lower Withington - alongside their Vicar the Revd Gerri Tetzlaff. Please pray for Fiona and support her.

The usual pattern is that a Deacon is ordained Priest after 12 months. If all goes well, Fiona's second ordination date will be next Summer; I will give notice of the date in good time.

Jubilee Committee

On the previous Sunday - 25th June – a special brunch was held after the 9.45am service at St.Mary's Church to say farewell to Fiona and to celebrate her ministry. A good crowd sat down in the Parish Hall to enjoy the meal that was prepared and served by Mark and Sarah-Jane Wilkinson and the Jubilee Committee.

Please pray for all who are currently considering whether they are being called to ordained ministry. Please talk with me if you are considering a possible vocation to Christian ministry. And please let me know if you would like to be Baptised, which is the beginning of the Christian life.

Jon Hale

DIARY FOR AUGUST 2017

Thurs 3rd 10.00am Holy Communion

Sun.6th Transfiguration of Our lord

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

Thurs 10th 10.00am Holy Communion at Alderley

Sun 13th Ninth Sunday after Trinity

8.00am Holy Communion at Alderley
 9.45am Family Service at Alderley
 11.15am Holy Communion at Birtles
 12.40pm Holy Baptism at Alderley
 6.30pm Holy Communion at Alderley (said)

Thurs 17th 10.00am Holy Communion

Sun.20th Tenth Sunday after Trinity

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

Thurs 24th 10.00am Holy Communion

Sun 27th Eleventh Sunday after Trinity

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

Thurs 31st 10.00am Holy Communion

Sat 29th 1.00pm Holy Matrimony

ROTA FOR AUGUST 2017
SIDESPEOPLE / LECTORS / WARDENS

D'T	TIME	SIDESPEOPLE	LECTOR	W'
Aug 6th	8.00am	(at Birtles)		
	9.45am	Mrs W Liddle & Mrs G Beeley	Mrs W Liddle	PR
	6.30pm		Mr P Reynolds	PR
Aug 13th	8.00am			PB
	9.45am	Mr & Mrs G Woolley	George Vardon	MP
	6.30pm	Mrs J Bean	Mr P Bean	PB
Aug 20th	8.00am			HW
	9.45am	Mr G Hilton & Mrs E Fairhurst	Mrs M Stonehewer	JY
	6.30pm		Mr P Reynolds	PR
Aug 27th	8.00am			HW
	9.45am	Mr A Claridge & H Jabr	Mrs Ann Davis	MP
	6.30pm	Mr G Barrie	Mr M Dyer	JY
	8.00am			
	9.45am			
	6.30pm			

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.

Mary Sumner – founder of the Mothers’ Union

The Mothers’ Union is now more than 140 years old. It has accomplished a staggering amount in that time, and nowadays numbers more than four million members, doing good work in 83 countries. That is a far cry from the modest circle of prayer for mothers who cared about family life, which is how it all began with a rector’s wife, Mary Sumner.

Mary was born in late 1828 in Swinton, near Manchester. When she was four, her family moved to Herefordshire. Mary’s father, Thomas Heywood, was a banker and historian. Her mother has been described as a woman of “faith, charm and sympathy” – qualities which Mary certainly inherited. Mrs Heywood also held informal ‘mothers’ meetings’ at her home, to encourage local women. Those meetings may well have inspired Mary’s later work.

Mary was educated at home, spoke three foreign languages, and sang well. While in her late teens, on a visit to Rome she met George Sumner, a son of the Bishop of Winchester. It was a well-connected family: George’s uncle became Archbishop of Canterbury, and his second cousin was William Wilberforce. Mary and George married in July 1848, soon after his ordination. They moved to Old Alresford in 1851 and had three children: Margaret, Louise and George. Mary dedicated herself to raising her children and supporting her husband’s ministry by providing music and Bible classes.

When in 1876 Mary’s eldest daughter Margaret, gave birth, Mary was reminded how difficult she had found the burden of motherhood. Soon she decided to hold a meeting to which she invited the local women not only of her own class, but also all the village mothers. Her aim was to find out if women could be brought together to offer each other prayer and mutual support in their roles as wives and mothers. That meeting at Old Alresford Rectory was the inaugural meeting of the Mothers’ Union.

For 11 years, the Mothers’ Union was limited to Old Alresford. Then in 1885 the Bishop of Newcastle invited Mary to address the women churchgoers of the Portsmouth Church Congress, some 20 miles away. Mary gave a passionate speech about the poor state of national morality, and the vital need for women to use their vocation as mothers to change the nation for the better. A number of the women present went back to their parishes to found mothers’ meetings on Sumner’s pattern. Soon, the Mothers’ Union spread to the dioceses of Ely, Exeter, Hereford, Lichfield and Newcastle. By 1892, there were already 60,000 members in 28 dioceses, and by 1900 there were 169,000 members. By the time Mary died in 1921, she had seen MU cross the seas and become an international organisation of prayer and good purpose.

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 is held on Wednesdays at St.Catherine’s Church, Birtles at 8.45am. All welcome.

COLLECTION TOTAL

Week Ending	Gift Aid Envelopes	Non-Gift Aid & Misc Cash	Standing Orders	Total
4 th June	140.00	30.00		170.00
11 th June	208.00	126.22		334.22
18 th June	197.00	133.65		330.65
25 th June	224.35	39.00		263.35
TOTAL	769.35	328.87	796.00	1894.22

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

A momentous trip to Chester

On Sunday 2nd July, Rector and 17 of us travelled by coach to Chester Cathedral to join in the ordination service, where Fiona and 18 others were ordained as Deacons. It was a beautiful sunny morning and we arrived in plenty of time. Our seats were near the front in the South Aisle where we could clearly see Fiona and the others to be ordained. It was a most wonderful service with over 1000 people attending. It was a first time for myself attending a service of ordination, which I personally found most uplifting.

The choir sounded heavenly and for us to join in the hymn singing with such a large congregation was wonderful. The majority of those attending took Holy Communion. We shall miss Fiona at St.Mary’s so very much but we wish her every happiness as curate at St. John’s where I am sure she will make many new friends. I was so pleased that I was able to partake in this service and to be there supporting Fiona and her family. May God bless her in her ministry at Chelford. A very memorable day for us all.

Margaret Worthington

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

We hope you are still enjoying the Summer months.

As previously mentioned it is planned to have the Summer Lunch church outing on Tuesday August 22nd. At Woodford Park Garden Centre . Meeting at 12.30 in the restaurant.

Do consider joining us. It proves to be a happy occasion and a chance to talk to others who go to Church. Let me know. 01625 583320 .Janet.

We have decided not to offer tea and coffee after morning service during August. This will give the willing few a break. We are still in desperate need of willing helpers to take charge.

Donations collected on a Sunday morning still go to Oasis and The Sunflower Centre at the Hospice.

Janet Adamson (01625 583320)

Walking

A group of friends from St Mary's are going for a walk on the 2nd September 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.

Ashford in the Water and Monsal Head

Starting at 10.00 am prompt from the car park on the A6 from Buxton approximately 2 miles before Ashford and it is on the right.

Grid ref: SK172703

Length: 6 miles.

Grade: Easy/Moderate over varied terrain

Further information: Packed lunch with drinks needed. Contact Will Ablett (01625 585180 or 07977 978620) with any questions.

Planned coffee stop in Ashford and lunch stop at Monsal Head if anyone would prefer to re-fuel at a café/pub.

The crucial section here is the slavery statement for each company has to be signed by a director and resubmitted annually. Therefore for the first time a person is seen as responsible for the statement. This act has been a game changer as more CEOs are twice as engaged in combating modern slavery

What can we do?

Have you seen someone coming to work in the same clothes for weeks and weeks?

Someone who is downcast and reluctant to engage in any form of conversation?

One or groups of these people being dropped off and collected daily?

You can contact www.modernslaveryhelpline.org
www.churchinvestorsgroup.org.uk

As William Wilberforce said

“God Almighty has set before me two Great Objects: the suppression of the Slave Trade and the Reformation of Manners.”

Terry Fones

Faith and confronting Modern Slavery

Glennise and I attended a salt of the earth lecture by Quintin Lake at the Christian Centre at Crewe

40 minutes' drive outside of Abu Dhabi, Quintin and his wife Angela came across a labour camp. It was a walled city with no way in or out except via the strictly regulated company buses. Forced labour in the scorching desert heat. 'They were there for their work only, not for any part of who they were. The workers were to do the job for as long and as hard as they could, that was it'. Quintin and Angela went home from that trip changed people and, three years later, Fifty Eight began. Fifty Eight works with companies, academic institutions, and the public sector to improve working conditions in global supply chains and seeks to address the challenges of modern slavery.

There are more slaves in the world now than there were when slavery was legal

People who are poor, and also poorly educated and unskilled, tend to be most at risk of becoming trapped in slave labour
Risks are particularly high in kinds of work requiring low levels of education, for example unskilled work in agriculture, fishing, domestic work, manufacturing, and the informal sector generally
44% of people trapped in slave labour are migrants

The Modern problem of worker exploitation has become more widespread because of outsourcing

Supply chains are no longer linear lines but complex webs that span the globe. Nike factory management estimate that up to 200 people are involved in the production of a single pair of cross trainer shoes. (Grossman, 2010) It is this complexity that can hide exploitation and abuse

After Quintin had discussed the above problems we were asked to read Isaiah chapter 58 He then posed the following questions: **What is god saying to you from this passage? What could it mean for the body of Christ in our world?.** We were then invited to discuss the implications of the passage which lead to a lively debate.

Following this we studied the "Modern slavery act" which states *"From 31 March 2016, **companies who earn £36m or more need to produce an annual slavery and trafficking statement** outlining the steps they have taken to ensure there is no modern slavery in either their supply chain or their own operations. It must be signed by a director and published on the company's web-site.*

The law applies to at least **12,000 companies based in the UK, and a further 5,000 international firms with UK operations** who meet the revenue threshold."

At a critical time in the nation's history

After the traumas and tragedies of recent terrorist attacks in Manchester and London and the Grenfell House fire, and in the current uncertainty over the UK leaving the European Union, and in a world in turmoil, the church offers a still, small voice of calm. That was the message from the church's General Synod when it met on 7th July, and that was the message of the Bible readings set for the following Sunday.

On 9th July at the Family Service at St.Mary's Church the first Bible passage was from St.Paul's Letter to the Romans, Chapter 8, verses 23 to 27. This gives us Christian reassurance that when we can't find the words to pray – when we are overwhelmed by shock and sorrow – even our groaning and our inability to pray is offered to God as prayer by the Holy Spirit. The second Bible passage (Luke 6: 36-42) reminded us of the teaching that when we want to tell others their faults, we should look first at our own shortcomings. The qualities of Christian living are: 'Do not judge, and you will not be judged; forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and the measure you give will be the measure you receive'. Christians are called to be bearers of hope, and it is by practising these virtues that hope is cherished and sustained.

A still, small voice of calm: <https://www.churchofengland.org/media-centre/news/2017/07/synod-calls-for-values-based-politics-upholding-the-common-good.aspx>

Jon Hale

NETHER ALDERLEY 200 CLUB

June draw winners

1 st prize	Mr Michael Penlington
2 nd prize	Mr Geoff Woolley
3 rd prize	Mrs Rachel Mogg

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.

Bishop Libby at St.Mary's Church on June 27th

About 30 members of Knutsford Deanery Synod and others were present in St.Mary's Church on 27th June when Bishop Libby (Bishop of Stockport) presided at Holy Communion. We then moved into the Parish Hall for a meeting of the Synod. Refreshments were kindly provided by Michael Penlington, Maureen Woolley and Peter Reynolds.

We are called to be rooted, growing, flourishing and fruitful in Christ

Bishop Libby spoke about the calling that each of us has in Christ. Each of us – and each of our parish churches – is to be rooted, growing, flourishing and fruitful in Christ. When it came to questions, there were none, as all present were content to have 'sat at the Bishop's feet' and to have received her teaching.

New houses

In a private conversation that I had had with Bishop Libby before the Communion service, she enquired after my health and the health of St.Mary's and St.Catherine's Churches. I said that the Nether Alderley Parish Hall project is taking up quite a lot of my time and that it has the potential to be fruitful in the future when we can offer an up-to-date community hall near the church. I mentioned the houses soon to be built at Alderley Park. Bishop Libby reminded me that engaging with the occupants of these new houses should be a high priority for St.Mary's and St.Catherine's Churches.

Knutsford Deanery

The parishes that comprise Knutsford Deanery are: Chelford with Marthall & Lower Withington; Alderley Edge; High Legh; Knutsford St.Cross; Knutsford St.John with Toft; Lindow; Lower Peover with Over Peover; Mobberley; Over Tabley; Rostherne with Bollington; Wilmslow; Nether Alderley with Birtles. Representatives of each parish church in the Deanery form the Deanery Synod which meets a few times each year.

OASIS UPDATE.....FROM VICTORIA

Our capital project is moving forward. We now have the final £100,000 to raise and are also working through the long process of the legals and at the same time the Oasis centre is thriving!

Below is a snap shot of what has been happening in Oasis in the past 4 months:

2,104 total footfall through our doors

103 new people have used our centre for support

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

114 clients accessed basic education through our RE-SKILL programme

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

10 clients found work (some for the first time in their lives)

A significant impact in the past 12 months has been a drop in the number of our clients suffering food poverty. In the past 12 months we have given out 108 'two week' emergency food packs. An average of 12 packs per month. This compared to an average of 28 food packs per month from the previous year. A 133% decrease. We believe the decrease of need for emergency food packs is due to two key factors. 1) 'Basic Finance Skills Partnership Programme' which we launched in September 2016 partnering with local housing associations, banks and debt support groups to deliver fun and engaging debt, budgeting and food poverty awareness events and courses. 2) 1-2-1 Financial Support which we started 12 months ago. Many of our clients have suffered limited education and have lacked the support of a family member or friend to help them learn and navigate everyday finance. We have also seen a decrease in the number of clients being sanctioned over easily avoidable situations e.g. clients not being able to read letters from the job centre giving instructions and clients not attending training course and interviews arranged by the job centre due to mental health issues, low self-esteem and lack of confidence. We therefore decided to increase our staffing capacity offering more people suffering financial difficulties 1-2-1 financial support with great success. We received funding for these two programmes of support which will come to an end August 2017. Please stand with us in prayer as we trust God to provide the financial resources to provide a further 12 months of these fantastic programmes of support - they are having such a positive impact on our most vulnerable clients.