

*FROM THE REGISTERS*

*Baptisms*

Nov 6th            Lola Georgina Griffiths  
                      Jacqueline Barbara Hamilton

*Weddings*

*Funerals*

Nov 16th            Peggy Bailey  
Nov 25th            Georgina Hargreaves (Memorial Service & Interment)

**FLOWER ROTA**

Dec 4th            Advent - Flower Team  
Dec 11th           Advent - Flower Team  
Dec 18th           Advent - Flower Team  
Dec 25th           Christmas - Flower Team

**MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTIONS**

The deadline for the next magazine is **Monday 12th December 2016 (NB)**  
Please send all copy to:

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& Distribution:    Peter Bean: 01625 582073

Large format copies of the magazine are available.

**Rector Writes**

**December 2016**

Thank you for your welcome to Nether Alderley and Birtles. Kerry and I moved into the Rectory at Nether Alderley in mid October. After four weeks, family and close friends of ours gathered at the Rectory and nearby, so when I was presented by Bishop Peter as your new Rector I was also surrounded by people who had known me from before I was ordained twenty eight years ago

When a man or a woman is ordained it is often referred to as 'going into the church': the church is wrongly identified only with the clergy. At the age of sixty, my years as a lay member of the church still exceed the number of years that I have been in holy orders, and I always try to see things from a lay perspective as much as from a clergy viewpoint. The church is the gathered body of all who have been Baptised – also known as Christened - as Christians. We all 'went into the church' at our Baptism.

The Christian belief is that all of us who are Baptised Christians are priests of Christ: each one of us is given the gift of revealing in our words and actions to those around us the Saviour who is the Light of the World, and each one of us is given unique gifts with which to do this. All of us who have been Baptised – Christened – have a duty to seek to know God's will for us and to let Christ change our life so that we become disciples – ministers – of Christ. Regular worship in the company of others is the first step along this path.

The orders of ordained ministry are deacon, priest and bishop. All bishops and all priests were first ordained as deacon and they always remain a deacon when made priest or bishop. The primary duty of a deacon is to serve, and not to be served. Ordained priests and bishops are given authority within the church to lead and to take responsibility, but these duties are only carried out because of the authority given to them by the wider church. At my Institution service I promised obedience to the Bishop and faithfulness to the historic formularies of the Church of England.

So, to borrow a politician's phrase, we are all in this together! I look forward to working with you.

Revd Jon Hale

**DIARY FOR DECEMBER 2016**

Thur. 1st 10.00am Holy Communion at Alderley  
 Sat. 3rd 10.00am Christmas Fair

**Sun.4th Second Sunday in Advent**

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

Thur 8th 10.00am Holy Communion at Alderley

**Sun 11th Third Sunday in Advent**

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

Thurs 15th 10.00am Holy Communion

**Sun. 18th Fourth Sunday in Advent**

8.00am Holy Communion at Alderley  
 9.45am 9 Lessons and Carols at Alderley  
 11.15am Nativity Play at Birtles  
 6.30pm 9 Lessons and Carols at Alderley

Thurs 22nd 11.00am Primary School Carol Service

**Sat. 24th Christmas Eve**

3.00pm Crib Service at Alderley  
 6.30pm Christmas Communion at Birtles  
 9.00pm Christmas Communion at Alderley

**Sun 25th Christmas Day**

8.00am Holy Communion at Alderley  
 9.45am Holy Communion at Alderley  
 11.15am Family Carols at Birtles

Thurs 29th 10.00am Holy Communion at Alderley

**PLEASE NOTE**

There will be no 10.00am Holy Communion on Thursday 22nd December due to the Nether Alderley Primary School Carol Service.

**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.

**ROTA FOR DECEMBER 2016**  
**SIDESPEOPLE / LECTORS / WARDENS**

D'T	TIME	SIDESPEOPLE	LECTOR	W'N
4th	8.00am	(at Birtles)		
	9.45am	Mrs W. Liddle & Mr S. Welsh	Mrs W. Liddle	MP
	6.30pm	Mrs A. Robinson	Mr Peter Reynolds	PR
11 <sup>th</sup>	8.00am	-----	-----	RA
	9.45am	Mr M. Stonehewer & Mrs H. Jabr	Master G. Vardon	JY
	6.30pm	Mrs J. Bean	Mr P. Bean	PB
18 <sup>th</sup>	8.00am	-----	-----	HW
	9.45am	Mrs R. Dyas & Mrs E. Jackson	Selected readers	MP
	6.30pm	Mr M. Dyer & Mrs A. Robinson	Selected readers	PR
24 <sup>th</sup>	3.00pm	Mr & Mrs G. Woolley	Selected readers	JY
	9.00pm	Mr G. Barrie & Mrs A. Robinson	Mr M. Dyer	JY
25th	8.00am	-----	-----	PR
	9.45am	Mr M Wilkinson & Mrs E. Fairhurst	Mrs SJ Wilkinson	PR
JAN 1st	8.00am	(at Birtles)		
	9.45am	Mr G. Hilton & Mrs W. Liddle	Mrs W. Liddle	MP
	6.30pm	Mrs A. Robinson	Mr P Reynolds	PR

*The Rev Michael Burgess looks back on 90 years of BBC Radio 3's Choral Evenson, which is its the longest running outside broadcast.*

### **'In Quires and Places where they sing'**

'There was scarce a score of persons in the Cathedral besides the Dean and some of the clergy, and the choristers, young and old, that performed the beautiful evening prayer.'

There may have been few attending evensong in the 1850s but today such cathedral worship is an important part of the life of the Church of England, and as such, much valued, not just by those able to attend in person, but also by those who are able to listen in on the radio. That weekly broadcast on Radio 3 now attracts an audience of 250,000 people.

In September of this year the BCC celebrated 90 years of outside broadcasting with Choral Evensong from Westminster Abbey. On 7 October 1926, all those years ago, the BBC began broadcasting this service from the same Abbey. It is a remarkable achievement – the longest running outside broadcast in its history!

Those years have seen many variations: Evensong once a week on Thursdays in the 1920s, twice weekly in the 1930s, moving to the Home Service in the years of World War II, and then to Radio 3 in 1967. In April 1970 with the BBC's reorganisation, there were 3 months without Choral Evensong. That gap resulted in 2500 letters asking for its return. Later in that year broadcasts began again on Wednesdays at 4pm.

It has been 90 years of variety and change

In a famous hymn, George Herbert says that no door can keep out the worship of our God and King. Thanks to broadcasting no door can keep out the weekly offering of music and scripture as we tune our radios and become an extended congregation listening to Christian music from across the centuries. Thank you to the BBC for making this possible and for letting the glory of this music transport our lives and move our hearts to praise the Lord.

## **Start the day with Bible reading and prayer on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.**

Start the day at 8.45am on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays with Morning Prayer using the Book of Common Prayer. In alternate weeks I will hold Morning Prayer in the two churches of the benefice: St.Mary, Nether Alderley and St.Catherine, Birtles. The dates and places are shown in the table below.

There will be no Morning Prayer in the two weeks 25<sup>th</sup> December to 7<sup>th</sup> January. Morning Prayer will restart on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> January at St.Catherine's Church. This arrangement will be reviewed in late January. Morning Prayer usually lasts for about 25 minutes.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Where to come for Morning Prayer at 8.45am</b>
Tuesday 29 <sup>th</sup> & Wednesday 30 <sup>th</sup> November & Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> December	St.Catherine's Church
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> , Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> & Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> December	St.Mary's Church
Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> , Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> & Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	St.Catherine's Church
Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> , Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> & Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December	St.Mary's Church
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> , Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> & Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> January	St.Catherine's Church
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> , Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> & Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> January	St.Mary's Church
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> , Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> & Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> January	St.Catherine's Church



**MOTHERS' UNION**



## **"A Christmas Quiz"**

Wednesday 14th December at 2.00pm

**ALL ARE WELCOME SO PLEASE DO JOIN US!**

## SOCIAL COMMITTEE

### The Christmas Coffee morning,.....Saturday December 3rd

**We are looking forward to as many as possible supporting this.** The proceeds help enormously with the Church finances. **The Barnby Choir will be singing Christmas Music in the candlelit church at approx 10.45am and at approx.11.45am following the 11.45am singing, there will be Wine and Mince pies.** We look forward to seeing you and your friends. Hopefully you can all have a chat with Friends over Coffee and Christmas cake.

At Christmas we shall be doing wine and mince pies following, the Carol Services. **If anybody can offer help it would be great.**

In the New Year we plan to hold our usual **Bridge Drive** on **Monday February 13th**. It will be at 1.30pm. in the hall. Tables will be £26.00. Please support this if you are able. We do need to sell as many tables as possible. The proceeds will go to the Church funds.

**The Coffee following morning service** is being well supported now.. We are happy to welcome anyone who can spare the time. **Do pop in.** Any monies raised from this goes to Charity. **Offers of help would be good. Please contact me.**

Happy Christmas to you all on behalf of the Social Committee. Thank you for your support in 2016.

**Janet Adamson (01625 583320)**

## WALKING

A group of friends from St Mary's are going for a walk on the 7th January 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.

### Circuit of Plumley

Starting at 10.00 am prompt from the Golden Pheasant Inn, Plumley Moor Road, Plumley.

**Post code:** WA16 9RX

**Length:** 7.75 miles

**Grade:** Easy, mostly flat through lanes and fields of Cheshire. Can easily be cut short to 4 miles if desired

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

## On the Feast of Stephen

Everyone knows that it was on the feast of Stephen that 'good king Wenceslas looked on'. After all, it's in a Christmas carol - but why? There's nothing about Christmas in it: a splendid young page who rustled up some flesh, wine and logs, an old man out in the snow ('deep and crisp and even') and a kindly monarch. But Christmas?

The clue is in 'the feast of Stephen', which falls on 26th December, or 'Boxing Day', as we know it. That, too, has nothing to do with Christmas, beyond the fact that in the past people put a contribution in tradesmen's boxes as a kind of Christmas present for their services during the year.

The Stephen whose feast day falls on the day after Christmas was the first Christian martyr. He was a member of the church in Jerusalem in its very early days, and found himself involved with six others in administering the allocation of food to those in need. The apostles, who were the leaders of the church, felt that it wasn't appropriate for them to abandon preaching and 'serve tables', so they selected these seven to do the job for them. Stephen, however, quickly revealed hidden gifts as an eloquent spokesman for the Christian cause.

The Temple authorities, who had already had trouble with the apostles, were soon alerted to this new and hitherto unknown evangelist. They decided to make an example of him, thus firing a warning shot, as it were, across the bows of the apostles themselves. So they arrested Stephen and accused him of speaking against the two central elements of their religion - the 'holy place' (the Temple) and 'the customs Moses handed down to us' (the Law).

Given the right to defend himself, Stephen instead launched into an eloquent and at times biting account of Jewish history, culminating in the accusation that they had committed the worst possible sin by killing the Messiah. Inflamed by his words, his hearers abandoned any pretence of legal impartiality, rushing towards him and dragging him out of the city to a place where they began to stone him to death. Stephen, the rank and file Christian, died under a hail of rocks for claiming that Mary's Son was the promised Messiah.

This is the reason why the first martyr is honoured on the day after we celebrate the birth of the Saviour. It's a bit like the myrrh in the gifts of the Wise Men - a reminder, as we celebrate, that the bitter shadow of a cross is never far away from this story.

**NETHER ALDERLEY 200 CLUB**  
**October draw winners**

1<sup>st</sup> prize Ines Jamieson  
 2<sup>nd</sup> prize Fiona Robinson  
 3<sup>rd</sup> prize David 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 £2000 has now been handed over to St Mary's treasurer, towards the day to day running costs of the Church.

**Christmas: Thank Dickens for Christmas as you know it!**

Ever wonder where many of our Christmas traditions come from? A surprising amount of our modern Christmas celebrations can be traced back to the well-loved story of 'A Christmas Carol', by Charles Dickens.

When you read 'A Christmas Carol', you discover almost a template of the 'ideal Christmas' which we still hold dear today. Dickens seems to have selected the best of the Christmas celebrations of his day (he ignored some of the odd excesses) and packaged them in such a way as to give us traditions that we could accommodate and treasure – more than a century later.

So, for instance, in A Christmas Carol, Christmas is a family day, with a family-centred feast. In a home decorated with holly and candles the characters enjoy a roast turkey, followed by Christmas pudding. They give their loved ones presents. Scrooge even gives donations to charity (!).

And all the while outside, there is snow and frost, while church bells ring, and carol singers sing, and hope for mulled wine. In 'A Christmas Carol' there is even a Father Christmas – in the shape of Christmas Present. Only the Christmas tree itself came later, when Prince Albert imported 'a pretty German toy' that won the heart of the English court, and hence the rest of Victorian society.



**CHRISTMAS FAIR**

Saturday December 3rd 10.00am – 12.30pm

Barnby Choir singing at  
 10.20am and 11.45am in Church

Wine and Mince Pies after 11.45 singing

Please come and join in

**BRIDGE DRIVE**

This has been organised for Monday February 13th in the Parish Hall starting 1.30pm. Tables will cost £26.

Please tell your friends, we rely on you to spread the word.

Let me know if you would like a Table. Jamet Adamson

**COLLECTION TOTAL**

Next year, boxes of dated gift aid envelopes will be replaced with the undated variety but I would like to encourage everyone to consider giving by standing order. You don't have to search for cash on Sunday morning when attending church and if you feel awkward about not putting "something" on the offertory plate, an empty green envelope will suffice. I can recycle it if left unsealed! Please contact me if you would like to join the increasing numbers who have "signed up" to this way of giving.

Donald Henderson Tel 01625 584008 or email [orchardmain@ntlworld.com](mailto:orchardmain@ntlworld.com)

Week ending	Gift Aid Envelopes	Non-Gift Aid & Misc Cash	Standing Orders	Total
2 <sup>nd</sup> Oct	365.00	54.50		420.50
9 <sup>th</sup> Oct	169.00	26.95		195.95
16 <sup>th</sup> Oct	214.00	94.00		308.00
23 <sup>rd</sup> Oct	197.60	48.36		246.26
30 <sup>th</sup> Oct	277.90	24.40		302.30
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1223.50</b>	<b>248.21</b>	<b>990.00</b>	<b>2461.71</b>

## CAROL SINGING



We have arranged our annual Carol Singing for the nights of Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> December and as usual we will be visiting three or four pre-arranged venues on each of the nights.

Our two charities this year will be 'East Cheshire Hospice' and the 'N.S.P.C.C' and all the proceeds will be split equally. Last year we raised a grand total of £1400 over the two evenings!

Our happy band of 'singers' (all age groups) consists of any members of the Choir, Congregation and any 'Friends' of St.Mary.

Anyone wishing to join us should meet in the Church car park at **6.45pm on either of the two nights**. We are usually finished by approximately 10.00pm.

**Further details: Jenny Youatt (01625 585226)**

## 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 12<sup>th</sup>  
December  
St. Philip's Parish  
Rooms  
The Voice of Experience 1  
Job and his Three friends  
The First Cycle of Speeches

Mon 9<sup>th</sup>  
January St Philips  
Parish Rooms  
The Voice of Experience 2  
Job and his Three friends  
The Second Cycle of Speeches

Mon 6<sup>th</sup>  
February St Philip's  
Parish Rooms  
The Voice of Experience 3  
Job and his Three friends  
The Third Cycle of Speeches

**Further dates:**  
Monday March 6<sup>th</sup>, Monday May 8<sup>th</sup>, Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June, Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> July

MEETING TIME: 7.30pm – 9.30pm  
CONTACT: Loveday Alexander (0161 439 7946)

## IVY COTTAGE TREE FARM

Racecourse Road , Wilmslow  
Tel. 01625 531609

Enjoy the fragrance of a real Christmas Tree!  
Christmas Shop for trees, decorations etc. is open  
from 20th November



They supply (with a generous discount) the  
Christmas trees for St.Mary's and donate the Christmas tree  
greenery for the decoration of the Church for Advent and Christmas.  
Please support them, it's a magical experience

## CANDLE FUND

The candles around the Church during Advent and Christmas  
have become a feature at St.Mary's.

If you wish to make a donation towards the cost of the candles,  
envelopes are provided at the entrance to Church for your kind  
donations.

**Michael Penlington**