

It seems extraordinary that Advent is upon us once again. Each year seems to go faster and faster. It is one of those "Special" times in the Church calendar when families get together, share time with each other and catch up on all the latest news.

Christmas is also a time when we need to take time to remember and pray for those who are no longer with us and for those who may find Advent a difficult time of year. As part of our Christian upbringing, we should take time to remember everyone past and present not only in our own families but in our wider family and members of our congregation for whom Christmas may be less joyful this year.

In St Mary's, there will be many occasions over the coming month when we will have opportunities to get together with friends and family. Beyond our local communities, for those we cannot manage to see, we may correspond with them via Facebook, Skype, or one of the many forms of electronic communication now available. Christmas cards too are still wonderful to send and receive but it seems they are increasingly being consigned to 'old technology'. With all these forms of media now available to us, the great risk is that we don't talk to each other so often. In our families, everyone has a mobile phone but curiously people frequently don't use them to talk anymore, they play games, send texts, take pictures but rarely seem to speak to anyone! During this Advent at St Mary's please do come and join in the many events planned: the **Christmas Fair on 5th December** and listen to the wonderful **Barnby Choir**; the **9 Lessons & Carols on Sunday 20th December**. Come to the **Crib Service on Christmas Eve** or the **First Communion of Christmas at 9:00pm** or the **Christmas Day** service at 9.45am.

To help us celebrate Advent this year we will have many visiting ministers to support us while our quest continues to find a new Rector continues. On this note, the Warden's from St Catherine's and St Mary's met with the Bishop on 16th November and we were very encouraged by his support for us to go ahead a look for a full time replacement for James, someone dedicated again to the service and development of our two parishes. To support the 'recruitment' process we are now working on preparing our Parish Profiles - this is a little bit like preparing our CV. In the Profile, each parish is setting out where it has come from, where we are today and what we would like to be in the future. As part of this process, we will be inviting everyone to participate via a form in Church in the coming weeks; do please give us your thoughts and share your comments with us - we would love to speak with as many of you as we can over the coming weeks!

We wish you all a wonderful Advent, a Happy Christmas and Peaceful New Year. Your Wardens, Peter, Jenny & Michael

DIARY FOR DECEMBER 2015

Sun.6th Second Sunday in Advent

8.00am *Holy Communion at Birtles*
9.45am Holy Communion at Alderley Revd. Ivan Whinton
11.15am *Christingle Service at Birtles*
6.30pm Evensong at Alderley Sandi Fisher

Sun.13th Third Sunday in Advent

9.45am Family Service at Alderley Revd. Loveday Alexander
11.15am *Holy Communion at Birtles*
6.30pm Deanery Evensong at Alderley Revd. Gary Bowness

Sun. 20th Fourth Sunday in Advent

9.45am 9 Lessons and Carols at Alderley Revd. Loveday Alexander
11.15am *Nativity Play at Birtles*
6.30pm 9 Lessons and Carols at Alderley Revd. Loveday Alexander

Thu. 24th Christmas Eve

3.00pm Crib Service at Alderley Revd. Loveday Alexander
6.30pm *Holy Communion at Birtles*
9.00pm Holy Communion at Alderley Revd. Barry Roberts

Fri 25th Christmas Day

9.45am Holy Communion at Alderley Revd. Loveday Alexander
11.15am *Family Carols at Birtles*

Sun. 27th Sunday after Christmas

8.00am Holy Communion at Alderley Revd. David Harrison
9.45am Holy Communion at Alderley Revd. Ivan Whinton
11.15am *Holy Communion at Birtles*
6.30pm Evensong at Alderley Revd. Gary Bowness

Thu. 31st 10.00am Holy Communion at Alderley Revd. Gary Bowness

JANUARY

Sun.6th Second Sunday iafter Christmas

8.00am *Holy Communion at Birtles*
9.45am Holy Communion at Alderley Revd. Susan Hawkins
11.15am *Family Service at Birtles*
6.30pm Evensong at Alderley Revd. Gary Bowness

PLEASE NOTE

8.00am Holy Communion at Birtles is on the **first** Sunday in the month.

8.00am Holy Communion at Alderley is only on the **last** Sunday in the month

10.00am Holy Communion is only on the **last** Thursday in the month.

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

Week ending	Gift Aid Envelopes	Non-Gift Aid & Misc Cash	Standing Orders	Total
4 TH Oct	416.05	76.00		492.05
11 th Oct	278.50	38.10		316.60
18 th Oct	202.50	106.39		308.89
25 th Oct	394.42	91.00		485.42
TOTAL	1291.47	311.49	870.00	2472.96

Please contact me if you wish to know your total giving for the tax year 2014/15

Donald Henderson Tel: 01625 584008

NETHER ALDERLEY 200 CLUB
October draw winners

1st prize Mrs S. Wilkinson

2nd prize Mr J. Wilson

3rd prize Mrs F. Robinson

Congratulations to all the winners

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Over £1300 has been raised towards the upkeep of the church
in the first year of the 200 Club

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

How quickly December comes around, the end of another year.

We are looking forward to as many as possible supporting the Christmas Coffee Morning. (see details opp. page)

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 8th** (see opp page). 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, mainly the Sun Flower Centre at the Hospice and Oasis. **Offers of help would be good. Please contact me.**

Happy Christmas to you all. Thank-you for your support in 2015.

Janet Adamson (01625 583320)

ST MARY'S WALKING GROUP

Please note that the December walk has been rearranged to avoid clashing with the Christmas Fair

New date - Saturday December 12th

All other details as of November magazine.

Any queries phone: Terry 01615820738

January Walk

Saturday 2nd January—10.00am start

Circuit from the Davenport Arms, Marton

Starting Point: Pub Car Park

Length: 4 miles, Easy—fairly flat

Further info: A flask of coffee is only needed. For those interested, a pub lunch at the Davenport Arms at the end of the walk is recommended. Walking boots or stout shoes are recommended.



Contact Will Ablett (01625 585180) with any questions



Christmas Fair

Saturday December 5th, 10.00am to 12.30pm

Barnby Choir singing at
10.30am and 11.45am in Church.

Wine and mince pies after 11.45am singing.

Please come and join in

BRIDGE DRIVE

This has been organised for Monday February 8th 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.

Janet Adamson (01625 583320)



MOTHERS' UNION



"A Christmas Quiz"

Wednesday 9th December at 2.00pm

ALL ARE WELCOME SO PLEASE DO JOIN US!

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN ALDERLEY

Getting Ready...Arrange.....Organise.....Plan.....Set Up.....PREPARE!

Three Discussions

Monday 12th October—2pm—Preparing for Preparation

Monday 9th November—2pm— Preparation

Monday 10th December—2pm—We're Here

Bible Study and Reflection

@ Costa Coffee. ALL WELCOME

Coffee Morning on Wednesday October 8th in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support.

Final Total

£860

THANK YOU!

OASIS

Special request from Oasis for good condition toys for them to put in their shop for parents to maybe purchase for their children over Christmas, at affordable prices.

Leave in church or contact Maureen Woolley 01625 582 807.

CAROL SINGING



We have arranged our annual Carol Singing for the nights of Tuesday 15th and Monday 22^{1st} 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 £1172 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 **7.15pm on Tuesday 15th (prompt)** and **6.45pm (prompt) on Monday 21st December**. We are usually finished by approximately 10.00pm.

Further details: Jenny Youatt 01625 585226

Eloi – a patron saint for the euro?

It's nearly 13 years since Europe switched over to the Euro. (January 2002) So this is a good time to remember Eloi, bishop of Noyon, who was born in Gaul, and started out as a goldsmith.

He entered the service of Bobon, the royal treasurer. He went on to become master of the mint for King Clotaire 1 of France. His reputation was based not only on excellent design, but also on economical use of materials. Not a bad example for the makers of the Euro!

Eloi's craftsmanship and friendship with the king made him very wealthy. He gave much of his money to the poor, built a number of churches, ransomed slaves, and founded a convent in Paris and a monastery in Solignac.

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 21st 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

Judy Swales

Our parish secretary retired last month after 6 years of service, and I'm sure we would all like to thank her for her hard work over the years and the efficient and friendly way she has handled the multitude of tasks involved in running the parish. Enjoy a long and well earned happy retirement Judy.

Thank you, Dr Luke!

'Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, bless the bed that I lie on' - my grandma taught me that one. At least it meant I never forgot the names of the writers of the four Gospels. This month Luke, the writer of the third of them, has his feast day – 18th October.

He was, we learn from the letters of St Paul, a 'physician' - an educated man and probably the only one of the writers of the New Testament who was not a Jew. In modern terms he was Turkish. Paul took him as one of his missionary team on a long journey around the Middle East, and they clearly became close friends. Under house arrest later in his life Paul could write, 'only Luke is with me'.

However, it is his Gospel which has established him as a major figure in the history of the Christian Church. Mark's Gospel may have more drama, Matthew's more prophetic background and John's a more profound sense of the mystery of the divine, but Luke offers us a Jesus who is utterly and believably real. This man turned no one away, reserved his harshest words for hypocrites and religious grandees, cared for the marginalised, the poor, the persecuted, the handicapped and the sinful.

His Gospel is full of people we can recognise - indeed, in whom we can often recognise ourselves. He was also a masterly story-teller. Try, for instance, the story of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32). Read it (this time) not as a sacred text but as a brilliant piece of story-telling: subtle repetitions ('your son, this brother of yours'), believable characters, drama and profound emotion. There is the older brother, so cynical about his sibling's alleged reformation, the 'prodigal' himself, so hesitant about throwing himself on his father's mercy after the folly of his earlier behaviour, and there is the father, of course, abandoning the dignity of his role in the family and actually running to welcome his wretched son's return.

There are more women in Luke's Gospel than in any of the others, but also more poor people, more lepers, more 'sinners' and tax-collectors, more 'outsiders' who are shown to be 'inside' the love of Christ. This, for many of us, is the great Gospel of inclusion and compassion. Here is a Jesus for the whole world and for every one of us. Thank you, Dr Luke!

*by David Winter
(Parish Pump)*

The bad news.....After ten years and seven months in the job, the Rev Dr Gary Bowness has reluctantly decided that it is time for Uncle Eustace to 'bow out'. All good things must come to an end sometime, and thus Uncle Eustace retires this month. We will miss him! We thank Gary for all the pleasure the letters of Uncle Eustace has provided for us down the year.

The good news.....Your editor has plenty more Uncle Eustace letters that still have not been published in this magazine!!

Farewell from Uncle Eustace

The Rectory

St. James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

And so, at the beginning of the New Year, you finally go to your own first parish and I am to move to a home for retired clergy. Let me give you some final words of advice.

Curates, you will have noticed, are forgiven everything. I hope you have appreciated this period of grace, because come 1st January, all that will change. You will then become responsible for everything that goes wrong in your church. You must be able to mend leaking taps, arrange flowers, mow the churchyard and run jumble sales. You will be expected to know the moment someone falls ill – preferably the day before. In addition, they will expect you to preach profound sermons - in seven minutes flat, and to lead a life of prayerful solitude while being the life and soul of the parish. From the day your predecessor left, he will have turned into a saint. You will be their new disappointment. Be assured that whatever you do, you will always disappoint someone.

Be prepared for phone calls at 3am telling you that someone has left a light on in church, and shouldn't you go turn it off. You will be asked about car parking arrangements for the October Harvest Service by mid-January, while hymns for the 9 Lessons and Carols will be required by early summer. I suggest you buy in extra pullovers, overcoats and scarves for life in your vicarage. A good number of mousetraps may well come in useful too.

Welcome to your new life of an incumbent.

I, on the other hand, greatly relish the thought of no longer having the care of parishioners. Instead, I shall become one myself – and am already planning my revenge. In fact, this afternoon, inspired by a large glass of sherry, I have begun a list of things I can complain about. The church is too cold, I don't know any of the hymns, the vicar can't preach, he never visits, and things are not as good as they used to be. True, I haven't actually chosen my new church yet, but no matter, I will complain when I get there.

Of course, I will not be in church on Sunday mornings if it is raining, or on Sunday evenings if something good is on the television. Most of all, I look forward to sitting as far back in church as is possible, and starting a campaign to stop 'passing the peace'. My new life as a parishioner will be richly rewarding. 50 years after ordination, I can hardly wait.

Your loving uncle, Eustace

ROTA FOR DECEMBER 2015
SIDESPEOPLE / LECTORS / WARDENS

D'T	TIME	SIDESPEOPLE	LECTOR	W'N
6th	8.00am	(at Birtles)		
	9.45am	Mrs W. Liddle & Mr G. Hilton	Mrs W. Liddle	MP
	6.30pm	Mrs A. Robinson	Mr M. Dyer	JY
13 th	9.45am	Mrs G. Beeley & Mr A Claridge	George Vardon	MP
	6.30pm	Mr P Reynolds + 1	Mr P. Reynolds	PR
20 th	9.45am	Mrs R. Dyas, Mr M Stonehewer, Mr J. Ratchford	Selected Readers	MP
	6.30pm	Mr G. Barrie & Mr M. Dyer	Selected Readers	PR
24 th	3.00pm	Mr G. Woolley, Mrs M. Woolley + Children	Selected Readers	JY
	9.00pm	Mrs A. Robinson & Mr M. Dyer	Mr P. Reynolds	PR
25th	9.45am	M. Wilkinson & Mrs E. Fairhurst	Mrs J. Lee	JY
27 th	8.00am	Mrs B. Essayan		PR
	9.45pm	J.Stephenson, Mrs C Stephenson	Mrs SK Wilkinson	JY
	6.30pm	Mr G. Barrie	Mr P. Reynolds	PR
31 st	10.00am	MP
JAN 3rd	8.00am	(at Birtles)		
	9.45am	Mrs W. Liddle & Mrs J.Martin	Mrs W. Liddle	MP
	6.30pm	Mrs A. Robinson	Mr M. Dyer	JY

FROM THE REGISTERS

Christenings

Holy Matrimony

Dec. 19th Rachel Spencey & Andrew Trickey

Funerals

Nov 26th Hugh Nicholas Hargreaves

Dec 15th Mary Seddon

FLOWER ROTA

Dec 6th Advent Flower Team

Dec 13th Advent Flower Team

Dec 20th Advent Flower Team

Dec 27th Advent Flower Team

MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTIONS

The deadline for the next magazine is **Thursday 10th December 2015**
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Large format copies of the magazine are available.