

FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptisms

Jan 7th Grace Amelia Minter
Jan 8th Florence Rose Hague
Jan 15th Flynn Michael Evans

Weddings

Funerals

FLOWER ROTA

Feb 5th Joyce Davis
Feb 12th Joyce Davis
Feb 19th Sally Hilldrup & Michael Penlington
Feb 26th Sally Hilldrup & Michael Penlington

MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTIONS

The deadline for the next magazine is **Thursday 16th February 2017**
Please send all copy to:

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Large format copies of the magazine are available.

When I talk with people about Brexit and Donald Trump I find either vehement reaction or bewilderment. As the Rector / Vicar, my task is to work with all people regardless of political view and to promote unity of purpose for the common good. The Christian message is one of hope, and the example of Jesus Christ means that Christian hope is not a passive wishful thinking but a participatory commitment to the future. Optimism looks on the bright side, whatever happens, but hope looks reality in the eye and is not diminished when optimism is shown to be a fantasy.

Last year we saw how easily established order can be overturned: that which was derided has been rejected. But to rebuild and to achieve stability takes much longer than it does to destroy. Those who found common cause in 'breaking things down' are struggling to work together to build the future, and they lack a coherent vision. Those who live by hope commit themselves – often at personal cost – to making a positive difference, even if their efforts are rejected. Following Jesus, Christians are drawn by hope, not driven by fear.

In Alderley, if you are getting on in years and living alone and lonely, every Tuesday and Thursday you can be in the company of others as you enjoy lunch together. Week in week out, year in year out, the Luncheon Club at Alderley Edge Methodist Church on Chapel Lane has provided good quality hot, cooked lunches and it continues to do so. I know that it can be very hard if you are alone and lonely to pluck up the courage to go out and meet people. Pick up the phone and call Anne on 01625 582514. Anne runs the Luncheon Club and she will be ready to welcome you. This is not a 'soup kitchen': it's committed people offering hope.

Revd Jon Hale

DIARY FOR FEBRUARY 2017

Sun.5th Fifth Sunday after Epiphany
 8.00am Holy Communion at Birtles
 9.45am Holy Communion at Alderley
 11.15am Family Service at Birtles
 6.30pm Evensong at Alderley
 Thur 9th 10.00am Holy Communion at Alderley

Sun 12th Septuagesima
 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 16th 10.00am Holy Communion

Sun. 19th Sexagesima
 8.00am Holy Communion at Alderley
 9.45am Holy Communion at Alderley
 11.15am Mattins at Birtles
 6.30pm Evensong at Alderley
 Thurs 23rd 10.00am Holy Communion at Alderley

Sun 26th Quinquagesima
 8.00am Holy Communion at Alderley
 9.45am Mattins at Alderley
 11.15am Holy Communion at Birtles
6.30am Evensong at Alderley

Mar 1st Ash Wednesday
 10.00am Holy Communion at St.Mary
 7.30pm Evening Worship - St James & St Paul, Marton

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 FEBRUARY 2017
SIDESPEOPLE / LECTORS / WARDENS

| D'T | TIME | SIDESPEOPLE | LECTOR | W'N |
|----------------------|--------|------------------------------|----------------|-----|
| Feb 5 th | 8.00am | (at Birtles) | | |
| | 9.45am | Mrs R Dyas & Mrs W Liddle | Wynne Liddle | MP |
| | 6.30pm | Mrs A Robinson | Mrs J Youatt | JY |
| Feb 12 th | 8.00am | | | RA |
| | 9.45am | Mr G Hilton & Mr J Ratchford | George Vardon | |
| | 6.30pm | Mrs J Bean | Mr P Bean | PB |
| Feb 19 th | 8.00am | | | PB |
| | 9.45am | Mr A Claridge & Mrs J Martin | Mrs E Jackson | MP |
| | 6.30pm | Mrs A Robinson | Mr P Reynolds | PR |
| Feb 26 th | 8.00am | | | HW |
| | 9.45am | Mr & Mrs G Woolley | Mrs A Davis | MP |
| | 6.30pm | Mr G Barrie | Mr M Dyer | JY |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| Mar 5 th | 8.00am | (at Birtles) | | |
| | 9.45pm | Mrs W Liddle & Mr S Welsh | Mrs W Liddle | MP |
| | 6.30pm | Mr M Dyer | Mrs A Robinson | PR |

The finding of the Dead Sea Scrolls – 70 years ago

Just 70 years ago this month, on 7th Feb 1947, the first of the Dead Sea Scrolls were found in a cave at Khirbat Qumran (now in the West Bank, Palestine) – in an echo of a biblical story, by a shepherd looking for a lost sheep.

The Dead Sea Scrolls have been called the greatest archaeological find of the 20th century. After an initial lack of interest – some of the scrolls were advertised in a small ad in an American newspaper – many more were discovered in nearby caves.

For the first 40 years the study of the thousands of text fragments was monopolised by fewer than a dozen international scholars, which prevented quick publication of the texts. But in the early 1990s, the Israel Antiquities Authority (IAA) nominated Hebrew University Professor Emanuel Tov as chief editor, and the publication was divided among about 100 international scholars. By 2001 most had been published.

Numerous biblical manuscripts were discovered that were around 1000 years older than those already existing – and surprisingly, they are almost identical, indicating the great care taken by copyists down the ages.

One more manuscript that has come to light in recent years refers to the predicted birth of a wonderful child and provides a fascinating background to the New Testament messianic hope. It has been reconstructed from twelve small fragments, giving less than two columns of writing.

Most of the scrolls are in Hebrew, but others are in Aramaic, the language spoken by many Jews – including Jesus – between the sixth century BC and the siege of Jerusalem in 70 AD. One of the most intriguing manuscripts from Qumran is the Copper Scroll, a sort of ancient treasure map that lists 64 hidden treasures around Israel. None of these has been uncovered.

There will be no Holy Communion service at St.Mary's Church on Thursday 2nd February. Otherwise, Holy Communion will be held at St.Mary's Church at 10am every Thursday in February.

Morning Prayer

Starting the week of Sunday 5th February – and throughout February - 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

Lent begins on Wednesday 1st March – Ash Wednesday

At St.Mary's Church, Nether Alderley on Ash Wednesday ,Holy Communion will be held at 10am.

St.Catherine's Church, Birtles will again be joining with the "Village Churches in Lent" held in the Knutsford and Congleton Deaneries for evening worship every Wednesday evening in Lent, starting on Ash Wednesday at St.James & St.Paul, Marton at 7.30 pm for Evening Worship and at Birtles for Evensong on the 15th of March. You are welcome to attend as well.

COLLECTION TOTAL

| Week ending | Gift Aid Envelopes | Non-Gift Aid & Misc Cash | Standing Orders | Total |
|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Dec 4 th | 262.46 | 110.05 | | 372.51 |
| Dec 11 th | 159.50 | 89.18 | | 248.68 |
| Dec 18 th | 567.10 | 171.74 | | 738.84 |
| Dec 22/24 | 559.75 | 659.24 | | 1218.99 |
| Dec 25 th | 327.20 | 106.30 | | 433.50 |
| TOTAL | 1876.01 | 1136.51 | 675.00 | 3687.52 |

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

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

We are holding a Bridge Drive on Monday February 13th 1.30pm - 4.30pm in the Parish Hall. Tables will be £26. I am sure everybody knows about this. At the time of going to press there are one or two tables to be taken.

The final figure for the Christmas Fair was £1055. This was due to hard work put in by many people. There were of course expenses to come from this.

We passed £700 to the PCC account to help in a small way with the running deficit.

We have around £95.06 at this time, in our donation pot. On the whole this comes from the donations for tea and coffee following morning service. At this time £80 will go to Oasis. The rest will be kept in hand at this time.

It would be good to have more offers of help.

Janet Adamson (01625 583320)

WALKING

A group of friends from St Mary's are going for a walk on the 4th March 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.

Railway Trails

Starting. The start of this walk is the car park at Parsley Hay which is just off the A515 Buxton to Ashbourne road, about 8 miles out of Buxton. Look for the right turn, which I think is signed to Hartington. There is a charge for parking. Prompt start at 10.00am.

Grid Ref: 147636 on OL24 White Peak map) Post Code SK17 0DG

Length: 7 miles almost all on the flat

Grade: Easy, almost all on old rail tracks so mostly firm & dry surface.

Further information: Lunch & drinks needed.

Contact Don Henderson on 07919 055941 for more information. It's a 50 mile round trip from Alderley so car share recommended. Please let me know if you would like a lift.



Women's World Day of Prayer

Friday 3rd March 2016

2.00pm

Alderley Edge Methodist Church

Women's World Day of Prayer is a global, ecumenical movement of informed prayer and prayerful action, organised and led by Christian women who call the faithful together on the first Friday in March each year to observe a common day of prayer and who, in many countries, have a continuing relationship in prayer and service.

The service is written by a different country each year and that country then becomes the focus of the world's prayers on the day itself, which begins as dawn breaks over the islands of Tonga in the Pacific and continues across each continent until the last services of this special day are held back in the Pacific, on the islands of Samoa, circling the world in prayer for 36 hours.

The origins of Women's World Day of Prayer date back to the 19th century when Christian women in the USA and Canada initiated a variety of cooperative activities in support of women's involvement in mission, at home and abroad.

The service for 2017 has been written by the Christian women from the Philippines on the theme of justice.

Saturday 19th February Family fun run, walk or cycle, in aid of St Peter's church, Little Budworth at Oulton Park Racetrack, Little Budworth, CW6 9BW

"Church in the Pits" 11am. Track open 12 noon. Last start 3.30pm

Minimum sponsorship of £10 for adults, £5 for under 12s

Track distance 2.7 miles

How far can you go?

A great day for all the family!

For more info go to: <http://stpeterslittlebudworth.co.uk/> or ask Revd Jon Hale who will be cycling around the track from 2.15pm.

Jane Austen – well worth her weight in coins and bank-notes!

The much-loved novelist Jane Austen is about to make history. 200 years after her death, she will appear simultaneously on a British coin and a British bank note. That means that only the Queen, who as head of state must be depicted on British currency, will be more prevalent.

The Royal Mint has chosen Jane Austen as the new image for its commemorative £2 coin. About five million will be released into mass circulation sometime this Spring. At about the same time, the Bank of England will release its new, plastic, unrippable £10 note, with Jane Austen replacing Charles Darwin.

Historians cannot recall the last time a figure other than the reigning monarch appeared on both coins and notes at the same time. The release of both coins and notes will be in step with the 200th anniversary of Jane Austen's death, in the summer of 1817, at the age of just 41.

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. Janet Adamson

NETHER ALDERLEY 200 CLUB
December draw winners

| | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1 st prize | Juliana Maynard |
| 2 nd prize | Will Ablett |
| 3 rd prize | Elizabeth Fairhurst |

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.

STOP PRESS – CAROL SINGING

A big thank-you to all our hosts and to all our singers. We raised £1330 over 2 nights carol singing and a session at Woodlands Court. The money has been split evenly between the 'NSPCC' and 'East Cheshire Hospice'

**In 22 years we have raised over
£21,000 for various charities**

OASIS UPDATE

With the continued and generous support of St Mary's Church we had a fantastic year at The Oasis Centre with record breaking numbers of people being helped out of crisis and into a place of purpose and stability!

During this financial year: we had a footfall of **6,099** client attendance at The Oasis Centre on our Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday sessions; we had an average of **90** clients attending on a regular weekly basis; and **273** people visiting The Oasis Centre for the first time seeking support.

Our **RE-BUILD** programme moving client's lives from chaos to stability supported clients with **2,329** separate crisis issues. The main issues facing our clients were: the welfare reform changes, benefits, emergency provision, medical, mental health, addiction-related, financial, debt, housing, asylum and signposting to other support services. A total of **254** two week emergency food parcels were given to individuals and families in desperate need.

Our **RE-ENGAGE** programme moving clients from isolation to inclusion saw an average of **15** clients per session engaging in any one of our activities including a craft workshop, gardening club and a choir.

A total of **111** clients benefited from our **RE-SKILL** Basic Adult Life Skills Training Programme moving clients from hopelessness to being skilled and aspirational. A total of **51** clients benefited from our Personalised Moving Forward Scheme.

A total of **164** clients benefited from our **RE-START** Programme moving clients from a place of worklessness to being employed through IT support and Work Club. **Seven** clients enrolled on to our In-House Volunteer scheme, **14** qualifications were attained and **20** clients found employment (some for the first time in their lives).

Building update: we had a fantastic capital fundraising Gala Dinner at Gorton Monastery in November where we celebrated Oasis client achievements and introduced new supporters to our capital project. We raised a staggering £120,000 in pledges that night. With the potential £500,000 we will make from our housing scheme and the £60,000 raised in our previous capital fundraiser we have now secured an incredible £680,000 towards the £1 million needed to build our new purpose built day centre.

We would value St Mary's prayers as we work hard to raise the final **£320,000** needed to make our dream of a new day centre, helping the most vulnerable and disadvantaged every day, become a reality in 2017!

God bless you all for your incredible support!

Victoria x

Are you between the ages of 18 and 30 years old?

STEP FORWARD and consider ministry in the Church of England.

Serving God is one of the best things you can do with your life and there are many ways you can carry out this calling.

If you are a Christian aged between 18 and 30, might God be encouraging you to consider ordained ministry in the Church of England?

A day conference for people aged 18 to 30 is on Saturday 4th February 2017 11am to 4pm at Bishopthorpe Palace (the home of the Archbishop of York), York YO23 2GE.

Go to www.stepforwardanglican.org.uk Book your place online now.

BIG CHURCH DAY OUT is Friday 2nd and Saturday 3rd June 2017 at Capesthorpe Hall.

Go to <https://bigchurchdayout.com/north> to find out more!

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

Mon March 6th
Parish Rooms The Hymn to Wisdom
Job's concluding defence

Mon 8th May
St Philips
Parish Rooms The Voice of Youth

Further dates

Monday 5th June, Monday 3rd July

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