

FROM THE REGISTERS

Christenings

Holy Matrimony

Funerals

FLOWER ROTA

Jan 3rd	Christmas Flowers
Jan 10th	Fiona Ablett and Maureen Woolley
Jan 17th	Fiona Ablett and Maureen Woolley
Jan 24th	Jean Lee & Sally Hildrup
Jan 31st	Jean Lee & Sally Hildrup

MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTIONS

The deadline for the next magazine is **Thursday 21st January 2016**
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Large format copies of the magazine are available.

Wardens Write

January 2016

In the Western churches, the Epiphany ('manifestation') became an occasion to celebrate one element in the story of Christ's birth, the visit of the far-travelled magi, understood as the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles. I looked up 'Manifestation' and it is the act or process of becoming manifest i.e. 'to show plainly' and at St Mary's we are now working on what could be considered as our 'Manifesto' better known as our Parish Profile (last month I referred to it as a kind of CV). This will be used to show to prospective new incumbents for St Mary's & St Catherine's what kind of Parishes we are today and what direction we see for our Parishes in the future.

As we are a united Benefice with St. Catherine's, both Parishes initially prepare their own profile and then we jointly agree on what future we seek together and what we would wish for in a new incumbent to help lead us there. The responsibility for finding a new Rector alternates between the two Parishes - last time it was St Catherine's turn and this time it is for the Patrons of St Mary's to find a new incumbent.

Over the last few weeks, a team from the PCC have been doing great work developing our Profile. They have asked for and received many comments - thankyou to everyone who contributed; all your suggestions and ideas have been taken and we will seek to reflect your views as far as possible in the final version of the document which we hope to have ready by end of January.

The next step in the process starts when the Profile is finished and the PCC hand it over to our Patrons. The Patrons of St Mary's are a team of four who have a long and deep association with our Church over many years in different roles as Warden's, Sidespeople, PCC members and congregants. Their main duty is to use the Profile to help them find and select a new incumbent when a vacancy occurs. The patrons are joined by others including the Bishop (of Chester) and two people chosen by the PCC (Parish representatives) - together they decide how to go about the task of finding a new incumbent.

In the last Warden's writes we mentioned that we would like to continue to encourage as many people as possible to continue to involved in the various aspects of Parish life. There are many ways of doing this; it could be by joining the PCC, supporting or helping with social events, or becoming more involved in our services by joining the choir, reading or helping with Sidespersons duties. If you feel you would like to become more involved in any way, please approach one of the Warden's or PCC members and let us know and thank you again for your help and support this far.

Exciting times lie ahead for St Mary's and we look forward to continuing to manifest ourselves in an open and welcoming way to our wider local communities and to our prospective new incumbents.

(see also page 6)

DIARY FOR JANUARY 2016

Sun.3rd	Second Sunday after 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
Sun.10th	First Sunday after Epiphany		
	9.45am	Family Service at Alderley	Revd. Loveday Alexander
	11.15am	Holy Communion at Birtles	
	6.30pm	Holy Communion at Alderley	Revd. David Harrison
Sun. 17th	Second Sunday after Epiphany		
	9.45am	Holy Communion at Alderley	Revd. Taffy Davies
	11.15am	Mattins at Birtles	
	6.30pm	Evensong at Alderley	Sandi Fisher
Wed.20th	11,30am	Mother's Union AGM	
Sun. 24th	Septuagesima		
	9.45am	Mattins at Alderley	John Durnall
	11.15am	Holy Communion at Birtles	
	6.30pm	Evensong at Alderley	Revd. Gary Bowness
Thur. 28th	10.00am	Holy Communion at Alderley	Revd. Gary Bowness
Sun. 31st	Sexagesima		
	8.00am	Holy Communion at Alderley	Revd. David Harrison
	9.45am	Holy Communion at Alderley	Revd. Taffy Davies
	11.15	Holy Communion at Birtles	
	6.30am	Evensong at Alderley	Revd. Gary Bowness
Feb			
Sun. 6th	Quinquagesima		
	8.00am	Holy Communion at Birtles	
	9.45am	Holy Communion at Alderley	Revd. Loveday Alexander
	11.15am	Holy Communion at Birtles	
	6.30pm	Evensong at Alderley	Revd. Gary Bowness

ROTA FOR JANUARY 2016
SIDESPEOPLE / LECTORS / WARDENS

D'T	TIME	SIDESPEOPLE	LECTOR	W'N
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
10th	9.45am	Mr J. Ratchford & Mrs H. Jabr	Miss C. Mowforth	MP
	6.30pm	Mrs A. Robinson	Mr P. Reynolds	PR
17th	9.45am	Mr J. Stephenson & Mrs R. Dyas	Mrs C. Stephenson	MP
	6.30pm	Mrs J. Bean	Mr P. Bean	PB
24th	-----	-----	-----	-----
	9.45am	Mr G. Hilton & Mr A. Claridge	Mrs E. Jackson	MP
	6.30pm	Mr G. Barrie	Mrs J.Youatt	JY
31st	8.00am	Mrs B. Essayan		HW
	9.45am	Mr S. Welsh & Mr G. Woolley	Mrs Jean Lee	MP
	6.30pm		Mr P. Reynolds	PR
THU 28 th	10.00am			RA
Feb 7 ⁿ	8.00am	(at Birtles)		
	9.45pm	Mrs W. Liddle & Mrs G. Beeley	Mrs W. Liddle	MP
	6.30pm	Mrs A. Robinson	Mr M. Dyer	JY

Wherever possible the Warden's have covered each of our services with either Clergy or Readers. Unfortunately however the number of Sunday 8.00am and Thursday 10.00am services have had to be reduced due to the lack of staffing. (See page 3)

On the art of ringing in the New Year

The Rectory
St. James the Least of All

My dear Nephew Darren,

I am afraid you must concede that church bells are not to everyone's taste. The idea of switching on your recorded bells - no matter how digitally enhanced - at midnight in order to welcome in the New Year may have seemed inspired at the time, but considering that most of your inner city parish is Moslem, that you are surrounded on one side by a hospital and another by a care home for the elderly, it is not too surprising that the joyful sound was not well received.

If you really felt threatened by being confronted at the church door by irate nurses at one minute past midnight as you wished them all a Happy New Year, just think of your degree of discomfort were we still to have matrons. Never mind, curates are supposed to make mistakes; the only pity is that you seem to be so well endowed with them.

But to be fair, we too had a small misjudgement on New Year's Eve. Our bell-ringers - who practise the art of campanology, not on operating electronic equipment - have always been something of a trial. They ring with great enthusiasm for half an hour before services each week, but then as we are singing the first hymn, can be seen emerging from the church tower, putting on hats and coats while volubly discussing who made the error in the middle of that morning's grandsire triples.

By the time we reach the prayers, they have reached the porch and can be heard discussing the inadequacies of Miss Timmin's hat. When we come to the Bible reading and they can be heard criticising the rector's sermons, I send the verger out to tell them to go home.

But New Year's Eve is the high point of their year, as they ring out the old and ring in the new. They meet in the bell tower at 11pm to have a glass of champagne and then have a period of ringing before further refreshment becomes necessary. By midnight, their enthusiasm somewhat exceeds their accuracy and the village hears the New Year being joyfully welcomed by a set of eight bells being rung in an entirely random order.

This year, I drifted off to sleep with their sound in my ear, to be woken three hours later to hear one bell being mournfully tolled. Since it persisted, I felt obliged to go and find out why - to discover Colonel Bradshaw alone in the bell tower. When the party ended and the ringers trooped out, the Colonel returned to retrieve his hat. The others, ignorant of his absence, then locked the church and went home to their beds. That lone bell was his way of announcing his predicament.

At least I was able to reassure him that his six hour vigil in the church partially made up for his absence from Mattins for the previous twelve months.
Your loving uncle, Eustace

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.

SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE ON NOVEMBER 8TH WILL BE AT 10.30AM

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
1 st Nov	316.00	40.06		356.06
8 th Nov	322.00	34.00		356.00
15 th Nov	306.00	34.50		340.50
22 nd Nov	186.00	33.75		219.75
29 th Nov	378.00	99.60		477.60
TOTAL	1508.00	241.91	510.00	2259.91

“2016 Dated Envelopes.

Please collect your box from the magazine rack at the back of church.

Also please let me know if you would like a box, either dated or undated.

Thank you

Donald Henderson”

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

A Happy New Year to everybody.

On a blustery December morning, the Christmas Coffee Morning was again well supported. We had many visitors who were not necessarily regular church goers.

The Barnby Choir bring a strong back up support. Interestingly about 1/3 of the choir come to support us. help. They love coming to sing in what they call our treasured Church.so beautifully decorated.

Thank you to everybody else for whatever you did to his year, we raised around £800 which included monies taken on the Jubilee Committee stall. One of the things the Jubilee Committee do is to finance our lovely Christmas trees.

The monies raised will be put aside before they are allotted.

Janet Adamson (01625 583320)

ST MARY'S WALKING GROUP

Saturday 5th February—10.00am start prompt.

A walk close to Jodrell Bank, around gravel pits, Lower Withington Village, Smiths Green, and Jones Wood. Find out why it is called Lapwing Lane By special request no hills will be harmed on this walk. Mud guaranteed, unless it does not rain for the next 40 days and 40 nights.

Starting Point: Lapwing Lane, Lower Withington (2nd turn on right after Chelford Church, travelling towards Holmes Chapel) SK11 9AD

OS GB 820 727

Further info: Usual equipment; waterproofs, boots, gaiters, lunch and drinks.

Contact: Further details Jamie Smith 01625 585245 mob. 07791 604099



Apron Memories



I don't think our kids know what an apron is!

The principal use of Grandma's apron was to protect the dress underneath, because she only had a few, it was easier to wash aprons than dresses and they used less material, but along with that, it served as a potholder for removing hot pans from the oven.

It was wonderful for drying children's tears, and on occasion was even used for cleaning out dirty ears.

From the chicken coop, the apron was used for carrying eggs, fussy chicks, and sometimes half-hatched eggs to be finished in the warming oven.

When company came, those aprons were ideal hiding places for shy kids.

And when the weather was cold grandma wrapped it around her arms.

Those big old aprons wiped many a perspiring brow, bent over the hot wood stove.

Chips and kindling wood were brought into the kitchen in that apron.

From the garden, it carried all sorts of vegetables. After the peas had been shelled, it carried out the hulls.

In the fall, the apron was used to bring in apples that had fallen from the trees.

When unexpected company drove up the road, it was surprising how much furniture that old apron could dust in a matter of seconds.

When dinner was ready, Grandma walked out onto the porch, waved her apron, and the men folk knew it was time to come in from the fields to dinner.

It will be a long time before someone invents something that will replace that 'old-time apron' that served so many purposes.

Compared to today.....

Grandma used to set her hot baked apple pies on the window sill to cool. Her granddaughters set theirs on the window sill to thaw.

They would go crazy now trying to figure out how many germs were on that apron!!!

The lady who gave us Hercule Poirot and Miss Marple

Dame Agatha Christie, the crime novelist who is probably as widely known as any modern writer in English, died 40 years ago, on 12 January 1976. Not least among her achievements is her play *The Mousetrap*, still in the West End after more than 26,000 performances. In its 64th year, it is the longest running show of any kind in the world.

But most people encounter Dame Agatha as author of one of her many detective novels, often featuring either Hercule Poirot or Miss Marple. She also wrote a series of six romance novels under the pseudonym Mary Westmacott, and 19 plays. Thirty of her detective novels were turned into films, and she wrote over 80 books in all.

Her detective novels have been described as both moral and theological, in that guilt and justice are at their core. It has also been pointed out that hers was a profoundly Christian world.

She was baptised into the Church of England and kept a copy of *The Imitation of Christ* at her bedside – as did her amateur sleuth, Jane Marple. Her outlook was conservative.

Born Agatha Miller in Devon in 1890, she lost her father at the age of 11 and went to finishing school in Paris. She married Archibald Christie, an aviator, in 1914, but by 1926 he wanted a divorce and Agatha disappeared, abandoning her car on a cliff. She was found 11 days later at a Harrogate hotel, registered under the name of her husband's mistress.

The couple divorced in 1928 and Agatha took to travelling. She met her second husband, archaeologist Max Mallowan, a big fan of hers and considerably younger, at a dig site in Ur. She married him in 1930 and they remained happily married. His work inspired many of her subsequent plots.

THANK YOU

Many, many thanks to everyone who so kindly donated to the Candle Fund, stripped their gardens of evergreen or assisted me in the preparation of the Church for Advent and Christmas.

It is only your generosity, kindness and valuable help that enables us to make our already beautiful Church "special" during Advent and Christmas. Thank you so much.

Michael Penlington

NETHER ALDERLEY 200 CLUB November draw winners

1 st prize	Peter Robinson
2 nd prize	Fiona Robinson
3 rd prize	Linda Snape

Congratulations to all the winners

NEXT MONTH'S FIRST PRIZE WILL BE IN EXCESS OF £40.

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.

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 need to advertise this!!

Everybody's support is necessary. Some people who have habitually had a table are no longer able to do so, so we need some new blood!!

Let me know if you would like a Table or know anyone who would be interested.

Janet Adamson (01625 583320)

“Thank You From the Wardens”

As we know at Epiphany, The Christ child received gifts of gold, incense and myrrh and today the giving of gifts at Christmas is still a very important part of the Christmas festival.

Gifts can be given for different reasons but they are often given as a way of saying thank you and it is with that meaning in mind that we would like to reflect on the very busy last three months in our Parish of St Mary's and say thank you to all the people who have helped to keep the Parish running in as near normal a way as is possible during an interregnum.

One always needs to be careful saying “thank you” for fear of leaving someone out but special thanks must go to those who have helped with keeping the pattern of services going, the Choir and organ, the Social events and the wonderful flowers.

Behind the scenes also our Church needs to be maintained in good order, kept warm and safe and welcoming to the many who return over Christmas and those who visit for the first time – we wish to offer everyone a warm welcome at St Mary's, so our thanks go to all the people involved in these activities too.

Surfing the Web - 25 years after it first began

I suppose all of us, even if reluctantly, are familiar with the strange code ‘www’ - the prelude to a domain name for the internet. Tap it in, and at once you are somewhere else - a shop, a charity, a government organisation, a vet or a dancing school.

The letters stand, of course, for ‘world wide web’, and was the brain-child of a British computer expert, Tim Berners-Lee. It may seem to have been around forever, but in fact it's a mere whippersnapper. The next time you fume at the endless advice on the phone to ‘go to our web-site’, think of Mr Berners-Lee and you'll know who to blame!

In fact, the world wide web is now an inescapable part of life for most people all over the world, and even those who aren't on the internet are aware how dependent so much of modern life is on its working. Via the keys on an ordinary computer, or even the buttons on a Smart-phone, people can have access to an unlimited source of information, advice and resources. Increasingly people choose to shop online (or to cheat a bit, see it in the shop, and then go online to buy it at a discount!). It is a source of facts and information, from train times to the names of medieval monarchs. In one sense we are drowning in a sea of information, all there at our fingertips (literally) but daunting in its volume. “No”, we sometimes feel like screaming, “I don't want to ‘go to our web-site’, I just want to talk to a human being.”

(Courtesy of Parish Pump

Farewell to Dad's Army – 70 years on

‘Dad's Army’ has been one of the BBC's most popular sit-coms, its characters' catch-phrases universally known: ‘Don't panic!’, ‘You stupid boy!’, ‘We're doomed!’



It means that generations of TV viewers feel they know all about the Home Guard. This month marks the date of its final disbandment, on December 31st 1945, seventy years ago.

The Home Guard – originally the ‘Local Defence Volunteers’ – came into being in the summer of 1940, when the Nazi forces were encamped across the Channel, waiting for orders to invade Britain. People were understandably nervous. Civilians clamoured to be given weapons so that they could defend their towns and villages.

In response, the Government began recruiting local volunteers – men who already possessed weapons (farmers with shot-guns, typically) and others who could make and use ‘Molotov cocktails’ – petrol bombs. The new prime minister, Winston Churchill, wanted something more recognisably military, and at his insistence these volunteers were mobilised in a ‘citizen army’ which he called the Home Guard. The Government expected about 150,000 volunteers – within a month there were 750,000.

Over the war years these men (and later a few women) who were either too young or too old for military service or deemed unfit for it, guarded air fields and strategic buildings, manned coastal look-outs, and watched for enemy parachutists, freeing regular soldiers for combat duties. Even so, 1206 members of the Home Guard were killed ‘in action’, mostly by bombs or rockets. Dubbed ‘Dad's Army’ at the time, their contribution to final victory was certainly no joke.