

*FROM THE REGISTERS*

*Baptisms*

Sunday 11th June Henry Richard Wallace

*Weddings*

Friday 16th Kaya Chantelle Hall & Philip Anthony Jones

*Funerals*

FLOWER ROTA

July 2nd	Wedding
July 9th	Michael Penlington
July 16th	Janet Adamson & Hellie Jabr
Jul 23rd	Janet Adamson & Hellie Jabr
July 30th	Wedding

MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTIONS

The deadline for the next magazine is **Thursday 20th July**  
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Large format copies of the magazine are available.

## Rector Writes

July 2017

### The sermon preached by the Rector on Trinity Sunday (11<sup>th</sup> June)

Last week we voted in a General Election. On the morning of voting, the American news website Bloomberg published an article entitled 'With leaders like this, Britain should panic'. The article concluded that 'the UK election has been a contest of inadequates'. The result of the election was a hung Parliament. We should pray for our leaders – for those set in authority over us. Even two thousand years ago at the eastern end of the autocratic Roman Empire, Saint Paul, in his first letter to Timothy wrote: 'Pray for kings and those in authority'. Prayer, not panic is the Christian way.

The party system concentrates our mind as we mark our ballot paper. But the outcome this time has not been a clear party mandate. MPs of different parties will have to work together. I am for the middle way. I grew up in true blue Home Counties and, having left school, I spend 16 of the next 18 years living on Tyneside. Working as a Planning Officer for Durham County Council, I served Old Labour for 7 years. In my first post back in the Home Counties as a clergyman I served in the parish in which Sir Geoffrey Howe had written his resignation speech. I have experience of both sides. I would vote for a coalition Government if I could, because I see good in all political parties. I abhor the exchange of abuse in party politics. I want people to work together, not against each other. As a nation, through our shared experience, we acknowledge that we hold more in common than the tribalism of party politics. We pray for our Member of Parliament because she relies on her political party for patronage, and yet she must also represent those who did not vote for her. On the day after the election I wrote to Esther McVey to introduce myself. I told her that I pray for her as our new MP, that I will support her in her onerous role, and that I look forward to working with her for the good of the people of Nether Alderley and Birtles.

Today is Trinity Sunday. On the Sunday after the great festival of Pentecost – the giving of the Holy Spirit – we celebrate that Christians know God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit - the Holy Trinity. The Trinity shows, within God, a perfect self-giving relationship of love between the three persons. Thus, God is dynamic and God is love. It is humanly possible to think about God, but only in a limited way - because God is beyond our imagining. So on Trinity Sunday we marvel and wonder at the complexity of God. We allow ourselves to be taken to the edge of human understanding. We are at the edge of understanding when we come before God: when we worship God. We allow God to take us beyond understanding into his perfect love. Prayer is the name we give to this relationship of trust. Prayer is the language of 'beyond human understanding'. Prayer is the language of entering into the mystery of the Holy Trinity.

So, on Trinity Sunday, as our nation adjusts to a new understanding of where our fellow citizens place their political allegiance, pray – for our nation, for our leaders, and for our new Member of Parliament. And pray also in faith and trust, that you may enter the mystery of God's love.

**DIARY FOR JULY 2017**

Sat 1st	1.00pm	Holy Matrimony
<b>Sun.2nd</b>	<b>Third Sunday after Trinity</b>	
	8.00am	Holy Communion at Birtles
	9.45am	Holy Communion at Alderley
	11.15am	Family Service at Birtles
	6.30pm	Evensong at Alderley
Thur 6th	10.00am	Holy Communion at Alderley
<b>Sun 9th</b>	<b>Fourth Sunday after Trinity</b>	
	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 13th	10.00am	Holy Communion
<b>Sun.16th</b>	<b>Fifth Sunday after Trinity</b>	
	8.00am	<b>NO SERVICE</b>
	9.45am	Holy Communion at Alderley
	11.15am	Mattins at Birtles
	6.30pm	Evensong at Alderley
Thurs 20th	10.00am	Holy Communion
<b>Sun 23rd</b>	<b>Sixth Sunday after Trinity</b>	
	8.00am	Holy Communion at Alderley
	9.45am	Mattins at Alderley
	11.15am	Holy Communion at Birtles
	6.30am	Evensong at Alderley
Thurs 27th	10.00am	Holy Communion
Sat 29th	1.00pm	Holy Matrimony
<b>Sun 30th</b>	<b>Seventh Sunday after Trinity</b>	
	8.00am	Holy Communion at Alderley
	9.45am	Family Service at Alderley
	11.15am	Holy Communion at Birtles
	6.30pa	Evensong at Alderley

**ROTA FOR JULY 2017**  
**SIDESPEOPLE / LECTORS / WARDENS**

D'T	TIME	SIDESPEOPLE	LECTOR	W'N
July 2nd	8.00am	(at Birtles)		
	9.45am	Mrs W Liddle & Mr A Claridge	Mrs W Liddle	MP
	6.30pm	Mrs A Robinson	Mr P Reynolds	PR
July 9th	8.00am			HW
	9.45am	Mr M Stonehewer & Mrs H Jabr	George Vardon	MP
	6.30pm		Terry Fones	TF
July 16th	8.00am	<b>No Service</b>		
	9.45am	Mr G. Hilton & Mrs R Dyas	Mrs A Davis	MP
	6.30pm	Mrs L Kershaw	Mr P Kershaw	JY
July 23rd	8.00am			PB
	9.45am	Mrs E Jackson & Mr J Ratchford	Mr K Wilkinson	JY
	6.30pm	Mr G Barrie	Mr P Bean	PB
July 30th	8.00am			HW
	9.45am	Mr S Welsh & Mrs J Martin	Mrs J Lee	JY
	6.30pm	Mr P Reynolds	Mrs A Robinson	PR

**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.

## The ancient Fenland custom of the "Split Goosefeather" and its role in the life - and death - of a King

The people who lived in the Fenlands in East Anglia in the 17th century were always very careful to keep up the old traditions and superstitions.



They had a strong belief in witches at the time, and by the end of the English Civil War, hundreds of witches (mostly women) had been hanged following trials that were a travesty of justice.

Many other superstitions and customs were still popular at this time, and one in particular, that of the 'split goose-feather' was very common. In the Fen country, it was the custom that whoever carried a split goose-feather was entitled to the help and protection of Fenmen in times of trouble. Oliver Cromwell, who came from nearby Huntingdon, was well aware of the split goose-feather tradition - as was King Charles II!

During the English Civil War when King Charles was on the run from Cromwell's troops and was being chased from Snow Hill in Norfolk across the Littleport Fens, he and his fellow Cavaliers escaped by showing 'split goose-feathers' to the local Roundhead soldiers.

Cromwell on hearing of this, took no action against his troops, saying "It was better that the King escape than the old custom be broken".

However, King Charles was captured by the Roundheads in 1648 and sentenced to death.

There is a story that on the night before his execution, King Charles sent a messenger to Cromwell.

Cromwell was at his supper when the messenger arrived. The message that he delivered to Cromwell was: "Sir, His Majesty, scorning to ask for mercy, demands to be given the rights and privileges always granted to everyone who presents this" and a split goose-feather was thrown onto the table.

All that night Cromwell sat and stared at the goose-feather, fighting with his conscience. The execution of the King was carried out the next day as arranged, but it is said that Cromwell brooded for the rest of his life over his refusal to honour this ancient Fenland tradition

## Email addresses

The email address of the Office at The Rectory is [alderleyandbirtles@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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
7 <sup>th</sup> May	307.00	31.30		338.30
14 <sup>th</sup> May	155.71	193.37		349.08
21 <sup>st</sup> May	316.80	62.51		379.31
28 <sup>th</sup> May	214.01	86.10		300.11
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>993.52</b>	<b>373.28</b>	<b>2521.00</b>	<b>3887.80</b>

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

## Christian Aid

The total raised by the collection of envelopes in church for Christian Aid amounted to £206.

Many Thanks on behalf of those who will benefit.

Gift Aid will add about £50 to this total.

## SOCIAL COMMITTEE

The Social Committee had a meeting on the 9th June.

We discussed the Sunday coffee. We just have to do the best we can with limited able people.  
So grateful to those who help. We have £130.00 in the pot at the moment. Will be sending £100.00 to the Hospice.

We have now set a date for our Summer lunch outing. After much discussion we have decided on Nottcutts Woodford. It has to be somewhere with easy access and something to look at.  
It will be on Tuesday August 22nd at 12.30. Please consider joining in. These get togethers are enjoyable. Please let me know.

Hope everybody is enjoying the summer. Not washed away!!

Janet Adamson (01625 583320)

## WALKING

A group of friends from St Mary's are going for a walk on the Saturday August 5th 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.

**Place** Heatherdene car park Ladybower reservoir on A6013 (£2.50 all day)

**Grid ref** SK20198595

**Nearest Post code** S33 0BY

Car park is on the right Just before the Glossop/Sheffield junction bridge over reservoir

**Distance** 6 ½ miles Moderate / easy

**Start** 10.00am

Packed lunch needed

Contact Terry Fones Home 01625820738.....Mob 07815478544

## The story behind the hymn: Eternal Father Strong to Save

Eternal Father, strong to save,  
Whose arm hath bound the restless wave,  
Who bidd'st the mighty ocean deep  
Its own appointed limits keep;  
Oh, hear us when we cry to Thee,  
For those in peril on the sea!

The author of these words, William Whiting, was an Anglican clergyman in Winchester, which is hardly a seaside town. Yet Whiting had not only grown up by the sea, but had nearly died in it. As a young man he had been on a ship that got caught in a violent storm, and afterwards he felt certain it was only God who had saved the ship from sinking that night.

Some years later, as headmaster of the Winchester College Choristers' School, Whiting was approached by a student in distress. The student was due to sail to the USA, and was simply terrified at the thought of 3000 miles of ocean. To try and reassure the student, Whiting decided to share his experience. And so he wrote this poem, basing the description of the power and fury of the sea on Psalm 107.

It is not known if it helped the nervous student or not, but within a year the poem had become a hymn, and sailed into the influential first edition of Hymns Ancient and Modern of 1861.

Another Anglican clergyman, John B Dykes, wrote the music for it. He was already a successful composer, with 300 hymns to his name. Dykes named this tune 'Melita', after an old name for Malta, where St Paul was once shipwrecked. Whiting released two more versions of the lyrics, in 1869 and in 1874.

During the rest of the 19th century the hymn became a favourite with the Royal Navy and the United States Navy. Other Services adapted it, including the Royal Marines, the Royal Air Force, the British Army, and the United States Coast Guard. Above all, it became known as the Royal Navy Hymn.

Well into the 20th century, it was the favourite hymn of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, who had served as Secretary of the Navy during the Second World War. In 1963 Eternal Father was played by the Navy Band, as President John F. Kennedy's body was carried up the steps of the U.S. Capitol to lie in state. (Kennedy had been a PT boat commander in World War II.)

More recently, Eternal Father made a 'guest appearance' in the Hollywood blockbuster Titanic, and is also often chosen by ship's chaplains for use in civilian services at sea.

## Jane Austin – 200 years since her death

Jane Austen, a brilliant, quintessentially English novelist much loved for her irony, social realism and criticism of the upper classes, died 200 years ago this month, on 18th July 1817. She was almost unknown in her lifetime, having published books like *Pride and Prejudice*, *Sense and Sensibility* and *Mansfield Park* anonymously.

She was also a Christian (and the daughter of a rector) but did not wear her heart on her sleeve. A reticent Anglican, she wrote early on that she “did not like the Evangelicals” but later felt that those who were Evangelicals “from reason and feeling must be happiest and safest”. Her novel *Mansfield Park* tackles a theme dear to the heart of many late eighteenth century Evangelicals – the abolition of the slave trade.

Throughout her writing her main characters are transformed by love, an idea of course central to Christianity. Her faith may not call attention to itself in her novels, but it is everywhere in her work.

One critic wrote: “The stories are subversive and work like Jesus' parables. The humour and the ironic insight into human sin get under your skin.”

An image of Jane Austen will appear on the new polymer £10 note, to be released in September.

## Handel's Water Music – 300 years ago

It was 300 years ago, on 17th July 1717, that Handel's Water Music was performed for the first time, on a barge on the River Thames in London. The music, which lasted about an hour, had been commissioned by King George I as part of the entertainment for a royal cruise. The monarch was so enthusiastic about it that he asked to hear it four times.

George Frideric Handel was a German-born English composer known particularly for his memorable oratorio, *Messiah*, which he composed some 25 years later. He was devoutly Lutheran and was described by a friend as “manifesting a deep sense of religion”. Although he came under criticism for using the theatre for biblically-based works, he maintained that he knew the Bible as well as any bishop.

Water Music, a suite of short pieces for a small orchestra, was known particularly for its highly spirited movements in dance form. Most of the pieces were intended for outdoor performance. Selections from the suite were published during Handel's lifetime, but the entire collection did not come into print until 1788, nearly three decades after his death.

The order in which the composer wanted the various movements to be played remains uncertain.

## **NETHER ALDERLEY 200 CLUB**

### **May draw winners**

1 <sup>st</sup> prize	Rachel Mogg
2 <sup>nd</sup> prize	Harold Cataquet
3 <sup>rd</sup> prize	Ronelda Dyas

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.

## **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 \*\*

Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> July	The Book of Job
St Philips	And the Problems of Suffering
Parish Rooms	
MEETING TIME:	7.30pm – 9.30pm
CONTACT:	Loveday Alexander (0161 439 7946)

## Manchester 10K 2017—Raised £1800—Thanks You to all

Having received such incredible support last year for the 2016 Manchester 10K, I didn't really think twice when Dad asked me whether I wanted to run it again. Last year, I was all about time, running several times a week and being careful about what I ate. Fast forward a year and, while I was still doing a bit of cardio here and there, I'd become slightly addicted to weightlifting, eating a heck of a lot more with running firmly on the back foot. Fully expecting the extra muscle I'd put on to slow me down, this 10K was never going to be about time for me, I just wanted to enjoy it. As it turned out, it would be about a whole lot more than that.

It would be remiss of me not to mention the horrendous attack that shook Manchester just 6 days before the 10K. The organisers were amazing and, after a reassuring message saying that they were working with police to see whether the event could go ahead, on Wednesday we got the green light; it was on. There was no doubt in my mind that I wanted to run, and the people of Manchester didn't disappoint. Thousands of runners (over 35,000), descended on Portland street on Sunday morning, rallying together in solidarity. Yes, there was a very visible police presence and some very large guns on display, but I've actually never felt safer in the city. It's difficult to describe the mood on the start line; getting ready to run the largest 10K in Europe will inevitably cause a mixture of nervous excitement, but understandably there was an underlying, more sombre tone this year. It felt almost as if we were running as one, for the city rather than as individuals, in determination and defiance. Big events like this always get me a bit emotional and, with the help of the outstanding support over the course, it was the first time I can honestly say that I enjoyed the full 10K. I had zero expectations of my own personal performance, but I my legs felt great and amazingly I shaved a minute and a half off my time from last year!

Thank you so much to everyone who has donated - your contributions have raised a staggering amount for the Oasis charity. Attacks like the one on Monday remind us that sometimes, life doesn't differentiate us on class, creed or status. Sometimes, you're just in the wrong place at the wrong time. It makes us reflect on what's really important in life, and I'm even more mindful now of the incredibly fortunate life I have, and so grateful for the friends and family that love and support me. Oasis help people who, often through no fault of their own, are in the wrong place at the wrong time and are in need. If events like Monday's attack make us more open, more accepting, more aware, more understanding, more compassionate, more human, then maybe we can make some good come out of it after all.

**Sarah Reynolds 29<sup>th</sup> May 2017**

## Alderley Church Flower Fund

### *Afternoon Tea Party*

*on the Church Paddock - Sunday 23rd July 2017*

(If wet in Parish Hall)

Afternoon Tea served at your table - 3.30pm – 5.00pm.

(tea, sandwiches, homemade cakes, strawberries and cream)

**A plant for the 'bring and buy' plant stall** would be much appreciated

Tickets : £10 per person which includes tea and entry into the prize draw.

Children free.

**1st Prize.** Voucher for 2 persons (double or twin) for 2 nights B & B at the 5\* Award winning 'Cleifiog' in Beaumaris - an historic townhouse on the seafront.

**2nd Prize.** Voucher for £25 Ivy Cottage Christmas Tree Farm and shop, Racecourse Road, Wilmslow.

**3rd Prize.** Voucher for £20 Steve Leyland Flowers, Grove Street, Wilmslow

**4th Prize.** Mystery Prize

Tickets available from

Michael Penlington (01625 530084) or Jenny Youatt (01625 585226)

(cheques made payable to 'Alderley Church Flower Fund')

**On Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> July at 10am in Chester Cathedral Fiona Robinson of St.Mary's Church will be ordained Deacon.** This is the fulfilment of a long process for Fiona of discernment and training, and Fiona's ongoing training will continue for several more years yet. Fiona will serve in the parish of St.John the Evangelist, Chelford with St.Peter, Lower Withington and All Saints', Marthall. Please pray for Fiona. There are three orders of ordained ministry: Deacon, Priest and Bishop. Usually, a Deacon will be ordained again, as Priest, a year after their first ordination. Only some Priests are ordained as Bishop!

If you would like to discuss what you consider may be a calling authorised ministry in the church please contact the Rector.