

FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptisms

Sunday 14th May Austin Anthony James Sumner

Sunday 28th May Teddy James Hall

Weddings

Funerals

Tuesday 2nd May Grahame Mansell Jones (Memorial Service)

Monday 15th May Sheila Eayres (Interment of Ashes)

FLOWER ROTA

June 4th Marie Stonehewer

June 11th Marie Stonehewer

June 18th Wedding

June 25th Avril Lamond

MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTIONS

The deadline for the next magazine is **Thursday 15th June**

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Large format copies of the magazine are available.

Rector Writes

June 2017

The General Election on 8th June cannot be ignored. Religion and politics don't mix, it is said. But others emphasise the value of a faith-foundation - or an upbringing in the Vicarage - for political conviction.

All who engage in political campaigning and who stand for election deserve our support. The demands of being in the public eye can be unrelenting. Simply being a volunteer to assist one's chosen political party can be very demanding at the time of a General Election. In our 'first past the post' system many, who will have made preparations to serve, will lose, or will feel themselves rejected. All who commit to take part in the process of electioneering should be supported. All of us should vote.

In their pastoral letter of May 6th about the General Election, the Archbishops of York and Canterbury urge people to set aside apathy and cynicism and draw new inspiration from the ancient Christian virtues of love, trust and hope. Following divisions of recent years, it calls for reconciliation drawing on shared British values based on cohesion, courage and stability. Faith, they argue, has a unique role to play in preventing extremism and religiously motivated violence.

"Contemporary politics needs to re-evaluate the importance of religious belief," they insist. "The assumptions of secularism are not a reliable guide to the way the world works, nor will they enable us to understand the place of faith in other people's lives". They add: "Political responses to the problems of religiously-motivated violence and extremism, at home and overseas, must also recognise that solutions will not be found simply in further secularisation of the public realm."

To read the letter go to www.churchofengland.org and in 'Releases' on the left hand side of the page click on '06 May 2017 General Election 2017: Archbishops highlight the place of faith in British life'.

Don't forget to vote on 8th June!

Jon Hale

DIARY FOR JUNE 2017

Thur 1st 10.00am Holy Communion at Alderley

Sun.4th Whit Sunday

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

Thur 8th 10.00am Holy Communion at Alderley

Sun 11th Trinity Sunday

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 15th 10.00am Holy Communion

Sat. 16th 1.30pm Holy Matrimony

Sun.18th First Sunday after Trinity

8.00am **NO SERVICE**
 9.45am Holy Communion at Alderley
 11.15am Mattins at Birtles
 6.30pm Evensong at Alderley

Thurs 22nd 10.00am Holy Communion

Sun 25th Second Sunday after Trinity

8.00am Holy Communion at Alderley
 9.45am Holy Communion at Alderley
 11.15am Holy Communion at Birtles
 6.30am Evensong at Alderley

Thurs 29th 10.00am Holy Communion

ROTA FOR JUNE 2017
SIDESPEOPLE / LECTORS / WARDENS

D'T	TIME	SIDESPEOPLE	LECTOR	W'N
June 4 th	8.00am	(at Birtles)		
	9.45am	Mrs W Liddle & Mr J Ratchford	Mrs W. Liddle	JY
	6.30pm	Mrs L Kershaw	Mr P Kershaw	PR
June 11 th	8.00am			HW
	9.45am	Mr G Hilton & Mrs G Beeley	Miss C Mowforth	JY
	6.30pm	Mrs J Bean	Mr P Bean	PB
June 18 th	8.00am	No Service		
	9.45am	Mrs R Dyas & Mr S Welsh	Mrs E Jackson	FR
	6.30pm		Mr Terry Fones	TF
June 25 th	8.00am			HW
	9.45am	Mr G Woolley & Mrs M Woolley	Mrs A Davis	MP
	6.30pm	Mr G Barrie	Mrs A Robinson	JY
	8.00am			
	9.45am			
	6.30pm			

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.

On a very English sort of family... Throckmarsh Hall revisited.....

Readers of the **St. James the Least letters** have asked to know a little about the family history of the characters involved; it is a little unusual...

Many decades ago, Admiral Horatio and his wife the Honourable Mrs Chalfont-Morgan lived at Throckmarsh Hall, Gloucestershire. There they had two children, Eustace and Penelope.

Eustace followed a traditional path: public school, then Oxford. He was something of a disappointment to his father as careers in the armed forces, law or finance were clearly not appropriate to his temperament. Having sung in the school chapel choir and later been an occasional church attender, ordination into the Church of England seemed the only choice.

Eustace served his curacy in one of the more fashionable churches in central London, before becoming chaplain to the bishop of one of our ancient dioceses in southern England. His machiavellian talents made the life of the bishop so much easier that by way of reward, Eustace was comfortably settled into one of the pleasanter parishes in the Cotswolds, where he remained for the next 40 years. His eventual sudden death, the result of an apoplectic seizure, would happen when he read in "The Times" one morning over breakfast that one of his former curates had been appointed a bishop. But that is fortunately still some years off.

Penelope's life was rather different. She was recalled from finishing school in Switzerland to become companion to her mother, on the death of her father while at sea. One day, while running errands in the local market town, she met Jack Crump, a second-hand car salesman from Liverpool. She eloped and they married. Within months, it was discovered that he was already married - to two other ladies. Unfortunately by this time, Penelope was pregnant and later gave birth to her only child, Darren.

One day many years later, Darren was cycling to his work at the local undertakers when he suddenly knew he was being called to ordination. After studying by correspondence course, he was ordained and served his curacy in an inner-city parish in the North West of England.

His only living relation was his uncle Eustace, who felt a duty to keep an eye on his innocent nephew. The two were less chalk and cheese, more Chateau d'Yquem and draught bitter. Uncle Eustace, with resigned determination, sent his young nephew a series of monthly letters, advising him on all aspects of parish ministry.

Darren later denied that it was these letters that eventually drove him to minister to natives in the remote forests of Brazil, far from any postman...

Email addresses

The email address of the Office at The Rectory is 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

Morning Prayer

Morning Prayer is held on Wednesdays at St.Catherine's Church, Birtles at 8.45am. All welcome.

'Thy Kingdom Come' 25 May – 4 June

'Thy Kingdom Come' is a national initiative that's been taken on by all the churches: a time of prayer between Ascension Day (25th May) and Pentecost / Whit Sunday (4th June). You can read about it at http://www.chester.anglican.org/page_pdt.asp?Page=1042#.WJ82z_mLTIU

During 'Thy Kingdom Come' 'The Big Church Day Out' will be at Capesthorpe Hall on 2nd and 3rd June with overnight camping. Find out more and book your tickets at <https://bigchurchdayout.com/north>

On Pentecost / Whit Sunday (4th June) at Chester Cathedral at 5.30pm there will be a special big service. More details nearer the time.

And let us all pray 'Thy Kingdom Come'

COLLECTION TOTAL

Week Ending	Gift Aid Envelopes	Misc Cash	Standing Orders	Total
Apr 2 nd	245.00	204.53		449.53
Apr 9 th	382.00	77.00		459.00
Apr 16 th	620.20	178.20		798.40
Apr 23 rd	363.35	55.15		418.50
Apr 30 th	268.40	155.51		423.91
TOTAL	1878.95	670.39	1086.00	3635.34

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

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Just a short report this month!

We continue to serve coffee after the 9.45 service each week which is going well.

It continues to be a good chance to have a natter! Perhaps to get to know people? Offers of help still needed.

Our next committee meeting is in fact this month. We will be looking at plans for the future.

We expect to have a summer outing during August.

Janet Adamson (01625 583320)

WALKING

A group of friends from St Mary's are going for a walk on the 1st July 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.

Hen Cloud and the Roaches

Starting at 10.00 am Meerbrook, Leek. Park on road opposite St Michaels Church just before the Lazy Trout Inn. Postcode ST13 8SN, GR SJ 989 607

Grade: Moderate over varied terrain, total ascent 300m

Further information: Packed lunch with drinks needed. Contact Jamie Smith 01625 585245 or 0779 1 604099 with any questions.

Celebrating our 999 service

The 999 emergency service was introduced 80 years ago this month – on 30th June 1937, in the London area only.

It was the first service of its kind in the world, and a notice in the Evening News suggested that the public should use it only if "the man in the flat next to yours is murdering his wife, or you have seen a heavily masked cat burglar peering round the stack pipe of the local bank building".

For less urgent matters, such as a lorry coming to rest in their garden, people were advised to "just call up the local police".

The first call resulted in the arrest of a would-be burglar, but not all were so serious. Of 1336 calls made in the first week, 91 were prank calls.

One of the more unexpected results of the 999 service was its effect on telephone switch-rooms, where a "raucous buzzer" sounded when someone dialled 999. It was reported that "a few of the girls found the situation too much and had to be carried out".

Despite that, 999 was a big success, but it wasn't until after World War Two that it reached most other parts of the UK. It became available to the entire country only when all the telephone exchanges were automated in 1976.

The idea for an emergency number came after operators couldn't be reached to alert the fire brigade to a fire that killed five women in London's Wimpole Street in 1935. The number 999 was chosen because it was easy to dial, even in the dark, on old-style phones. The US waited until 1968 to introduce its own emergency number, 911.

More than half of genuine 999 calls ask for police assistance. The next most requested is the ambulance service, followed by the fire brigade and, finally, the coastguard.

Some churches have used the idea of an emergency service for people in need of various kinds of help – though in those cases the number 999 is replaced by a series of Scriptural references.

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')

Christian Aid

On a sunny, but rather cool Saturday morning, we held our Hardy Plant Sale at the Methodist Church.

As usual, this took place alongside their own sale of annual bedding plants and the regular Saturday coffee morning. There was a very lively atmosphere and a number of people remarked on how pleasing it was to see folk from other churches at the event. With contributions from St Mary's, Birtles, Warford and non-denominational, and buyers from the local area and beyond [many popped in from the Music Festival], it was a very eclectic get-together.

Many thanks to all contributors and buyers; we raised over £400 for Christian Aid. The whole amount will be Gift Aided.

Lynn and Fiona.

NETHER ALDERLEY 200 CLUB

April draw winners

1st prize Barry Smith
2nd prize Jenny Youatt
3rd prize Mary Harwood

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 5th June
St Philips
Parish Rooms

The Voice of God:
The Speeches of Yahweh

Monday 3rd July
St Philips
Parish Rooms

The Book of Job
And the Problems of Suffering

MEETING TIME:
CONTACT:

7.30pm – 9.30pm
Loveday Alexander (0161 439 7946)

Volunteers Required !!

We are still looking for volunteers to go on a rota to clean the Church (vac, dust, polish etc) for an hour every four or five weeks (2 people each session) on a Wednesday or Friday morning.

Up to the summer of last year we have had contract cleaners. If we can get a team of volunteers we shall be saving the Church a considerable amount of money. Equipment and materials will be provided.

Please contact me if you are able to volunteer and keep our Church looking pristine.

Michael Penlington

Running Manchester 10k for OASIS

Sarah & I will be running the Manchester 10k again this year (Sun 28th May) in aid of the OASIS Centre; they are a Charity in Gorton East Manchester who help the poorest in our society. The congregation of St Mary's have been very generous in their support of the OASIS Centre for many years. Over the last two years between the generosity of the people of St Mary's and the matching scheme of £ for £ that my company, Hilti (Gt. Britain) Ltd. offer for employee fundraising, the 10k run alone has raised ~£2500 for the Oasis Centre. As they are now working towards achieving a permanent base for their Centre they need money and support now perhaps more than ever. With your support again this year, I would like to be able to give a further significant contribution to help them in their hugely worthwhile work

There are some pre-printed envelopes and a box at the back of Church or if you prefer, a Just Giving page has also been set up, the address is <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Peter-Reynolds13>

Kind Regards & thank you all
Peter Reynolds (Church Warden)

The Annual Meeting of St.Mary's Church was held on 20th April. This is a summary of the report to the meeting by the Rector.

It is now five months since I was Instituted to the Benefice by Bishop Peter. I have worked hard to understand the two parish churches and their settings.

There is planning permission at Alderley Park to build 275 houses, so by 2020 there will be around 1000 people living there. At present, the population of our church parish of Nether Alderley (which includes Great Warford) is 1500 people, so our parish population will grow by two thirds to 2500. Many of these new parishioners will be children. So the whole scene is changing.

As a parish church we must be true to our tradition of being a relatively traditional parish church, whilst at the same time being a place where young mums and dads and children can feel that they belong and grow in faith. This time next year I would like to set up Messy Church in the Parish Hall, once a month at first, on Sunday afternoons. You can find Messy Church online: it's well established. I set up and ran Messy Church in my previous church several years ago. www.messychurch.org.uk

Alderley Park are on board with us in the project to turn the Parish Hall around to make it an up-to-date community hall. We have a unique opportunity now to get the Parish Hall future-proofed. It should not cost us money to run it: the Parish Hall should make a profit. Again, I did this before at my previous parish, so I'm in on the Parish Hall Restoration Committee for as long as it takes.

And I keep my contacts at Alderley Park to see how else we can work together.

I am conscious that there are more people on the Electoral Roll of St.Mary's Church who live outside Nether Alderley than within it. Again, I have served in this kind of church before and I understand how things are. My main aim is to maintain the parish church as healthy and thriving church, and a place where all are welcome.

At Birtles, I have the same responsibilities as at St.Mary's Church. Some regular worshippers at St.Catherine's Church live in Prestbury and Macclesfield. So my parish, taking in the church Electoral Rolls of both churches, extends from south Manchester, Poynton, Wilmslow; through Great Warford; all the Alderleys – Edge, Nether and Over; Birtles; and as far as Chelford, Prestbury and Macclesfield, and beyond. There is only one of me – with no other priest or Reader licensed to the benefice - so I do have to spread myself a bit thinly sometimes.

Kerry and I are both 'walking wounded' from the rigours of 28 years of full-time parish ministry. We may not be quite the model of a Rector and his wife that you may expect, but we have learned how to survive and thrive. We complement each other. In August we will celebrate our 40th wedding anniversary. Thank you for your welcome.

Revd Jon Hale