

FROM THE REGISTERS

Christenings

Holy Matrimony

Funerals

FLOWER ROTA

Mar 6th	Lent
Mar 13th	Lent
Mar 20th	Lent
Mar 27th	Flower Team

MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTIONS

The deadline for the next magazine is **Thursday 17th March 2016**
Please send all copy to:

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Large format copies of the magazine are available.

Wardens Write

March 2016

Last month I asked “what would you give up for Lent”; I wonder how many of you are still going. I was pondering on this thought when I was out for a run recently. I know that many people like to listen to music when they go for a run but I prefer the peace and solitude that comes with running – some of you may remember the story and 1962 film: ‘The Loneliness of the Long Distance Runner’.

Like so many things in life, when you set out on a task you have the very best intentions, you are positive and enthusiastic but slowly and surely a realisations sets in about the scale of what you have taken on. As you get further into the task, you may have unexpected obstacles to overcome and things become more difficult, the end of the task may seem a long way off and harder to achieve than expected – temptation to stop or change direction may set in. I can only begin to imagine what thoughts must have gone through the mind of Jesus during his 40 days and 40 nights of self-imposed exile into the desert 2000 years ago – it certainly gave him plenty of time to reflect and prepare himself for the ultimate task that still lay ahead.

Some years ago on a family holiday, we went for a night walk in the desert in Arizona. One thing in particular sticks in my memory, the brilliance of the night sky. The heavens seem so much closer when you are out for a walk on a really dark night they seem to almost envelop you. Even going for a good walk out in the countryside (day or night) can have a similar effect – I recall a minister who is also a great walker once saying to me that he felt a great closeness to God when he went out for a walk in the countryside and hills, I know what he means.

So this Lenten time, try to stay the task, don't give up - use the 40 days (and nights) to give yourself space and time to clear your mind and give yourself time to think. Whether it is out for a walk or a run, in a Lenten or Bible study group or even a few minutes in a quiet tranquil place, take the opportunity to do what Bishop Nick Baines (Bishop of Leeds) advised in his ‘Thought for the day’ on BBC Radio 4 (~7:45 am) on 15th Feb. when he said “for Christians this period of Lent is intended partly to clear away the stuff that stops us repenting.”

We look forward to continuing to welcome one and all to St Mary's during this Lenten time.

Your Wardens, Peter Michael & Jenny

DIARY FOR MARCH 2016

Sun.6th	Mothing Sunday		
	8.00am	Holy Communion at Birtles	
	9.45am	Special Service at Alderley	Revd. David Harrison
	11.15am	Special Service at Birtles	
	6.30pm	Evensong at Alderley	Revd. Gary Bowness
Sun 13th	Fifth Sunday in Lent		
	9.45am	Holy Communion at Alderley	Revd. Taffy Davies
	11.15am	Holy Communion at Birtles	
	6.30pm	H/C (said) at Alderley	Revd. Gary Bowness
Sun. 20th	Palm Sunday		
	9.45am	Holy Communion at Alderley	Revd. Loveday Alexander
	11.15am	Palm Sunday Service at Birtles	
	6.30pm	Evensong at Alderley	Revd. Gary Bowness
Thu 24th	Maundy Service		
	10.00am	Holy Communion at Alderley	Revd. David Harrison
Fri 25th	Good Friday		
	2.00pm	Last Hour Meditation at Birtles	Revd. Gary Bowness
Sun. 27th	Easter Day		
	8.00am	Holy Communion at Alderley	Revd. Gary Bowness
	9.45am	Holy Communion at Alderley	Revd. Loveday Alexander
	11.15am	Holy Communion at Birtles	
Thu 31st			
	10.00am	Holy Communion at Alderley	Revd. Gary Bowness
April			
Sun. 3rd	First Sunday after Easter		
	8.00am	Holy Communion at Birtles	
	9.45am	Holy Communion at Alderley	Revd. Gary Bowness
	11.15am	Holy Communion at Birtles	
	6.30pm	Evensong at Alderley	Revd. Gary Bowness

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)

ROTA FOR MARCH 2016

SIDESPEOPLE / LECTORS / WARDENS

D'T	TIME	SIDESPEOPLE	LECTOR	W'N
6 th	8.00am	(at Birtles)		
	9.45am	Mrs W. Liddle & Mr G. Hilton	Mrs W. Liddle	JY
	6.30pm	Mrs A. Robinson	Mr P. Reynolds	PR
13 th	9.45am	Mr A. Claridge & Mr J. Ratchford	Mrs J. Lee	MP
	6.30pm	Mrs J. Bean	Mr P. Bean	PB
20 th	9.45am	Mrs R, Dyas & Mr S. Welsh	GROUP	MP
	6.30pm	Mr G. Barrie	Mr P Reynolds	PR
27 th	8.00am	Mrs B. Essayan		HW
	9.45am	Mr G. Woolley & Mrs E. Fairhurst	Mrs SJ Wilkinson	JY
	6.30pm	No service		
THU 24 th				
	10.00am			PB
THU 31 st	10.00am			RA
APR 3 rd	8.00am	(at Birtles)		
	9.45pm	Mrs W. Liddle & Mrs J. Martin	Mrs W. Liddle	MP
	6.30pm	Mrs A Robinson	Mrs J. Youatt	JY

The Church Door

Have you ever thought how an actual church building might provide a series of visual aids? The Revd. Michael Burgess begins a procession through the Church, starting at the Church Door

George Herbert is a much-loved Anglican poet, who died just 40 years old in 1633. His volume of poems 'The Temple' was published later that year. In it the poet leads the reader through the church door into the building to meditate on all that is seen inside.

The church of St. John, Adel near Leeds, has a very fine south doorway with ornate carving. The oak door is a Victorian copy of the original door; the Sanctuary Ring is a replica of the Norman ring/knocker. It shows a monster about to swallow a man, but open the door and there is safety and protection away from the harms of the world. It is the theme in St John's Gospel of Jesus as the door to the sheepfold. Enter through Jesus, we are told, to find the safety of the flock, and also to find nourishment and renewal. We can stand at the door of this beautiful church or at the door of our own churches. It opens and welcomes us to enjoy the friendship and refreshment within.

The door could stay closed, protecting us from the storms of life without that threaten us like the dark creature in the Norman sanctuary ring of Adel church. But we know that in the church building we have no abiding city. Our worship ends and the door will open once again to lead us out into that world. Within we have found nourishment in the sacrament of the altar, in the word of scripture, and in the fellowship of the flock. We go out to share those gifts with the world that others may come to know Jesus as the door that leads to life eternal.

(Revd. Michael Burgess—Parish Pump)

PLEASE NOTE

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

AS FROM APRIL, OUR 8.00am HOLY COMMUNION WILL BE ON THE 3RD SUNDAY OF 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
Jan 3 rd	219.00	47.20		266.20
Jan 10 th	200.00	93.00		293.00
Jan 17 th	172.50	74.00		246.50
Jan 24 th	199.00	28.00		227.00
Jan 31 st	346.00	64.00		410.00
TOTAL	1136.50	306.20	970.00	2412.70

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

We held a **Bridge Drive on Monday February 8th** as planned, on a very cold and wet afternoon! It was much enjoyed. We made a profit after expenses of £ 404. This money is in hand at the moment. A very big thank you to everybody who helped in whatever capacity.

We now plan to have a **Soup and Cheese Lunch** basically for the Tea Party people but also anyone else who is interested on Tuesday March 8th at Alderley Cottage, using Helen's kitchen, 12.00 pm for 12.30pm. Please let me, Hellie or Janice know if you would like to join in. We really look forward to welcoming as many as possible.

Janet Adamson (01625 583320)

ST MARY'S WALKING GROUP

Saturday 2nd April—10.00am start prompt.

Gawsworth Church Loop

Starting Point: Church Lane, Gawsworth (the straight section between the church and the Harrington Arms). The walk is due South from Gawsworth to North Rode, East to the Macclesfield Canal, North along the canal to Oakwood and East back to Gawsworth



Starting Point Grid Ref. SJ 888 696

Map: OS Explorer 268 Wilmslow, Macclesfield and Congleton

Length: 7.5/8 miles. Easy

Further info: Bring a packed lunch and drinks.

Contact: Chris Sweetman (01565 889 057 or 07802 809 767)

Easter Flowers

If you would like to make a donation towards the cost of the Lillies and Easter Flowers in Church in memory of loved ones please place your donation in an envelope with your name and the names of those to be remembered clearly written on the outside. Envelopes to be handed to Michael Penlington or placed in the appropriate box just inside the entrance to the Church. Cheques to be made payable to; 'Alderley Church Flower Fund'

A list of loved ones to be remembered will be put in Church and published in the Parish Magazine.

Michael Penlington

'Oh dear, isn't Easter early this year

Yes it is; Do you want to know why?

Easter - the Feast of the Resurrection of Christ – is the greatest and oldest feast of the Christian Church. It is held after a long period of preparation – 40 days – throughout the season of Lent, from Ash Wednesday and culminating in Holy Week. The week preceding Easter is a period of devotion to the Passion of Christ

But, why so early this year? The date of Easter is determined by the Paschal Full Moon – the first Full Moon after the Vernal / Spring Equinox, when the Sun appears overhead at the Equator on, or about, 21st March. This year's Paschal New Moon falls on Wednesday 23rd March. Hence, Easter Sunday falls on 27th March this year. Next year it will be on 16th April 2017. The extreme limits are 21st March and 25th April.

This range of 30 days is a source of inconvenience to numerous activities, viz. organisation of holidays. In connection with this, at the end of a Convocation of the world's Archbishops and Bishops, the Most Rev. Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury, announced a decision to join discussions with the Roman Catholic and Orthodox Churches to set an Annual Sunday for Easter, viz. the Second or Third Sundays in April. His anticipation was that this could take place within 5 -10 years! Such discussions have been going on since the 2nd Century!!

Watch this space!!

John G. Durnall



BIBLE STUDY FOR LENT

'Food Matters'

10am -11am

at St Philip & St James Church

February 24 th	Fasting
March 2 nd	Feasting
March 9 th	Sharing
March 16 th	A Meal to Remember

followed by refreshments

NETHER ALDERLEY 200 CLUB January draw winners

1 st prize	Linda Snape
2 nd prize	Roslyn Dutch
3 rd prize	Fiona Ablett

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.

Last year, £ 1300 has been handed over to St Mary's treasurer towards the day to day running costs of the Church.

PARISH PROFILE

The completed Profile is available for your viewing , at the back of church. It can also be seen on www.alderleychurch.co.uk.

We hope you will find it interesting.

CONGREGANTS REQUEST

8.00am Holy Communion

As from April our 8.00am Holy Communion will take place on the 3rd Sunday in the month and NOT the last Sunday in the month.

The reason for this is to spread the services more evenly.

MOTHERS' UNION

You are warmly invited to attend our next Mothers' Union gathering on Wednesday April 20th at 2.00pm. Our speaker will tell us all about 'East Cheshire Hospice' Please do join us!



RACE NIGHT

Saturday 23rd April 2016 at 6pm

Nether Alderley Parish Hall

Sausage & Chip supper followed by races

Horses available for £3 each

Tickets £6 available from :



Mark & Sarah-Jane Wilkinson / Gail Hodgett / Sally Hilldrup
/ Maureen Woolley



Interested in exploring the Christian faith?

Interested in confirmation?

Not really sure but want to find out more?

Join us for Faith Xplorers brunch!

Faith Xplorers 2016

St Philip & St James Parish Rooms,
Church Lane, Alderley Edge SK9 7UZ
Saturdays 19th March, 16th April, 23rd April
10.00 am - 2.00 pm

Three discovery sessions for young people aged 11 and upwards,
exploring the Christian faith together and preparing for confirmation.

- 19th March: BELIEVING: What do Christians believe?
- 16th April: BELONGING: How do Christians grow?
- 23rd April: BEHAVING: Living the Christian life
- 1st May: Confirmation service at 10 am with the Bishop of Chester

CONTACTS:

- Revd Canon Loveday Alexander 0161-439-7946 or email at loveday.alexander@btinternet.com
- Mrs Clare Wearne 01625-426047

If there are any adults who are interested, Loveday would be happy to talk to them and arrange some instruction as required.

Walking Report - February 6th

Nine adults, three teens, one child and... a dog defied the horrendous weather forecast and gathered for a walk in the Chelford area. Most deemed it prudent to start off in waterproofs, but Don was test-driving his recent purchase of Rohan weatherproof trousers and Janice her bargain Ikea umbrella. Although we missed the torrential rain which fell locally the items certainly got a good try out! Result, both walkers remained dry, with the umbrella only turning inside out just the once.

The seven mile walk skirted the sand and gravel quarries, past the conveyer belts [a source of much interest to the younger members] to Lower Withington and back in a round trip. It was an interesting walk with mud laid on as an added enjoyment.

Women's World Day of Prayer

Friday 4th March 2016

2.00pm

at St. Mary's Church, Nether Alderley

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 2016 has been written by the Christian women from Cuba. The title of the service is 'Receive Children. Receive Me'