

FROM THE REGISTERS

Christenings

19th April Eliza Jane Birtles

Holy Matrimony

18th April Clive Patel and Rebecca Rowe

25th April Simon O'Donovan and Sarah Jane Dunkerley

FLOWER ROTA

May 3rd Wedding

May 10th Wedding

May 17th

May 24th Wedding

May 31st

MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTIONS

The deadline for the next magazine is **Thursday 21st May 2015**

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Large format copies of the magazine are available.

May 15: St Matthias – the replacement apostle

If you're saying to yourself, 'Who?' you'll be in good company. May 14th is the feast day of St Matthias the Apostle, and in describing him thus we have said just about all there is to know about him. He gets just one mention in the Bible, in the first chapter of Acts, immediately prior to the day of Pentecost, where it tells us that he was elected to take the place in the ranks of the twelve apostles recently vacated by the betrayer Judas Iscariot.

Eusebius, in the fourth century, says in his history of the apostolic era that Matthias was one of the seventy disciples sent out by Jesus (Luke 10:1), and that seems reasonable. When it was necessary to fill the vacancy among the apostles it would be natural to turn to someone who had followed Jesus from earlier years, as well as being a witness of the resurrection. Two names were suggested and prayed over. Then the apostles cast lots, following the Old Testament practice of the high priest's Urim and Thummim, one assumes. When they did, 'the lot fell on Matthias'.

Casting lots to fill vacancies on committees or councils, or even, I suppose, to appoint bishops, would seem to us a bizarre and risky practice, and it may be, as the great Victorian preacher Campbell Morgan suggested, that the eleven acted in haste and pre-empted God's choice of Saul (later known as Paul), who at that time was busy persecuting the Church, arresting Christians and having them thrown into prison. He hadn't yet travelled the Damascus Road.

Be that as it may, Matthias was elected, and for us he can stand for all those excellent, consistent, reliable and faithful servants of Christ who never make a headline, not even in the parish magazine. He was chosen because he could be a 'witness', and so are we.

Doubtless he fulfilled that responsibility admirably, without, as we say, 'setting the Thames on fire'. Let's salute him on his day - the 'Unknown Apostle'.

by David Winter

(Parish Pump)

DIARY FOR MAY 2015

May

Sun.3rd Fourth Sunday after Easter

8.00am Holy Communion at Birtles
 9.45am Holy Communion at Alderley
 11.15am Family Service at Birtles
 12.30pm Holy Matrimony at Alderley
 6.30pm Evensong at Alderley

Thur.7th 10.00am Holy Communion at Alderley

Sat. 9th 12.00pm Holy Matrimony at Alderley

Sun.10th Fifth Sunday after Easter

8.00am Holy Communion at Alderley
 9.45am Family Service at Alderley
 10.30am Holy Communion at Birtles
 6.30pm No Service

Thur.14th 10.00am Holy Communion at Alderley

Sun. 17th Sunday after Ascension Day

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

Wed. 20th 2.00pm Mothers Union

Thur.21st 10.00am Holy Communion at Alderley

Fri 22nd 2.00pm Holy Matrimony at Alderley

Sun. 24th Whit Sunday

8.00am Holy Communion at Alderley
 9.45am Mattins at Alderley with Sunday School
 11.15am Holy Communion at Birtles
 6.30pm Evensong at Alderley

Thur.28th 10.00am Holy Communion at Alderley

Sun.31st Trinity Sunday

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

ROTA FOR MAY 2015

LADY SIDESMEN / SIDESMEN / LECTORS

DATE	TIME	SIDESMEN	LECTOR
May 3rd	9.45am	Mrs G Beeley & Mrs W Liddle	Mrs W Liddle
	6.30pm	Mrs J Bean	Mr P Bean
10 th	8.00am	Mr R Akester	
	9.45am	Mrs R Dyas & Mrs J Martin	Sophie/ George Vardon
	6.30pm	No Service	No Service
17 th	8.00am	Mr P Bean	
	9.45am	Mr G Hilton & Mr G Woolley	Mrs E Jackson
	6.30pm	Mrs A Cobb	Mrs F Robinson
24 th	8.00am	Mr H Wright	
	9.45am	Mr J Ratchford & Mr M Stonehewer	Mrs J Lee
	6.30pm	Mr G Barrie	Mr P Reynolds
31 st	8.00am	Mr R Akester	
	9.45am	Mr S Welsh & Mr M Wilkinson	Mrs S-J Wilkinson
	6.30pm	Mrs J Bean	Mr P Bean
June 7 th	9.45am	Mrs W Liddle & Mrs G Beeley	Mrs W Liddle
	6.30pm	Mrs A Robinson	Mrs F Robinson

Pigeons at War



At the outbreak of World War 2 thousands of Britain's pigeon fanciers gave their pigeons to the war effort to act as message carriers. During the period of the war nearly a quarter of a million birds were used by the army, the RAF and the Civil Defence Services including the police, the fire service, Home Guard and even Bletchley Park. Pigeon racing was stopped and birds of prey along the coasts of Britain were culled so that British pigeons could arrive home unhindered by these predators. There were tight controls on the keeping of pigeons and even rationing for pigeon corn.

Homing pigeons were used not only in Western Europe by British forces but also by American, Canadian, and German forces in other parts of the world during the war – Italy, Greece, North Africa, India and the Middle and Far East. One pigeon, GI Joe, saved the lives of thousands of British troops who were preparing to take an Italian town after the US Air Force had bombarded the Germans. However, the British forces found no resistance from the Germans and so entered the town unchallenged. Unfortunately the USAF were already en route to bomb the town and with radio contact broken GI Joe flew over a mile a minute (60 mph) back to the base. He arrived back just in time for the air raid to be called off before the USAF would have bombed our troops.

All RAF bombers and reconnaissance aircraft carried pigeons and, if the aircraft had to ditch, the plane's co-ordinates were sent back with the pigeon to its RAF base and a search and rescue operation was effected. Thousands of servicemen's lives were saved by these heroic birds that flew often in extreme circumstances.

Pigeons carried their messages either in special message containers on their legs or small pouches looped over their backs.

Quite often pigeons were dropped by parachute in containers to Resistance workers in France, Belgium and Holland. This was often quite precarious as it was a bumpy landing and very dangerous for the Resistance workers if they were caught with a British pigeon.

Pigeon lofts were built at RAF and army bases but the mobile lofts had to be constructed so that they could move easily over land. The Dickin Medal was awarded for any animal displaying conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty during World War II and its aftermath. Of the 53 Dickin Medals presented, 32 went to pigeons.

June

Sun.7th

First Sunday after Trinity

8.00am

Holy Communion at Birtles

9.45am

Holy Communion at Alderley

10.30am

Family Service at Birtles

6.30pm

Evensong at Alderley

Thur.11th

10.00am

Holy Communion at Alderley

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
Mar 1st	194.50	41.50		236.00
Mar 8th	351.50	19.00		370.50
Mar 15th	391.00	51.30		442.30
Mar 22nd	162.00	35.00		197.00
Mar 29th	405.09	84.65		489.74
TOTAL	1504.09	231.45	990.00	2725.54

NETHER ALDERLEY 200 CLUB

March draw winners

1st prize Mr & Mrs Cataquet

2nd prize Mr M. Wilkinson

3rd prize Mrs M. Harwood

Congratulations to all the winners

£372 has been given to the St Mary's Church Treasurer towards the upkeep of the church

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

This time of the year is on the whole quieter. We had a committee meeting on Monday April 13th.

We are planning a **Tea Party June 3rd 3.00pm at Alderley Cottage**. Everybody who would like to join in please let me know. Don't wait to be asked!!

We are planning a **Lunch Outing on August.5th**. A suggested venue is being investigated.

Coffee after the 9.45 service is going well. Our 'Charity Pot' is being distributed. At this time we have £120. It will go to 'Oasis' and to 'The Sun Flower Centre' at the Hospice. Daisy Barber is being supported by this Centre as necessary, which is giving her great comfort.

Janet Adamson (01625 583320)

ST MARY'S WALKING GROUP

Saturday 6th June – 10.00am start prompt



Starting Point: Meet Gradbach carpark

Grid Ref: SJ 998 662

Length: Medium, Luds church, Hanging Stone, Dane Bridge and Dane Valley Way, some hills

Further info: Packed lunch needed.
Jamie 01625 585245 (up to end of May. (Leader yet to be elected)

The English Lesson

We'll begin with box, and the plural is boxes,
But the plural of ox should be oxen, not oxes.
Then one fowl is goose, but two are called geese,
Yet the plural of moose should never be meese.
You may find a lone mouse or a whole lot of mice,
But the plural of house is houses, not hice.
If the plural of man is always called men,
Why shouldn't the plural of pan be pen?
The cow in the plural may be cows or kine,
But the plural of vow is vows, not vine.
And I speak of a foot, and you show me your feet,
But I give a boot... would a pair be beet?
If one is a tooth, and a whole set is teeth,
Why shouldn't the plural of booth be beeth?
If the singular is this, and the plural is these,
Why shouldn't the plural of kiss be kесе?
Then one may be that, and three be those,
Yet the plural of hat would never be hose.
We speak of a brother, and also of brethren,
But though we say mother, we never say methren.
The masculine pronouns are he, his and him,
But imagine the feminine she, shis, and shim.
So our English, I think you will agree,
Is the trickiest language you ever did see.

Visiting the Somme and Ypres – April 2015

Jenny Youatt

My son and I recently joined a 'Battlefield Tour' run by Leger Holidays. We stayed at the Hotel Alize for three nights – in the Belgian town of Mouscron.

We started our tour in the Ypres Salient at Sanctuary Wood and walked along trenches where our soldiers had fought. Craters from various shells remain as do a few bullet-ridden trees, covered in poppies and crosses of Remembrance. We then looked round the battlefield on Hill 60.

The day included a visit to the Tyne Cot cemetery which held row upon row of beautifully tended graves, some with no name. We visited a small museum where personal mementos and letters were displayed, along with the names of the dead, their ages and their photographs. We were mesmerised and found it hard to tear ourselves away. Tyne Cot is the world's largest CWGC cemetery with 12,000 burials, A further 35,000 names are engraved on the memorial whose bodies were never found,

We also visited the Langemark German Cemetery which really was sombre and dark and the Brooding Soldier monument built in honour of Canadian soldiers who had encountered the first German gas attack.

Our day ended in Ypres where, every evening at 8pm, the Last Post is sounded by buglers at the Menin Gate. 55,000 names of soldiers who have no known resting place are recorded here. Standing there and listening to the Last Post being played, while the crowd were totally silent and as we looked at all those thousands of names engraved on the walls, was a moving and unforgettable experience.

On day two we visited the Somme and walked in the footsteps of a lost generation. Along the route can be seen unexploded shells, which are being found by local farmers when their fields are ploughed. Our journey took us to Newfoundland Park and then to the Lachnegar Crater – the largest crater on the Western Front. A visit was made to the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing. 72,000 names are inscribed there, 90 percent of those listed, died in the 1916 Battle of the Somme.

During our tour, we visited many Commonwealth cemeteries created for the fallen of WW1, all of them are filled with English flowers and, thanks to the War Graves Commission, are kept immaculately as lasting monuments to the fallen.

Even though our itinerary stuck to a tight schedule we managed to find a few names from the Nether Alderley War Memorial. These discoveries helped to equate those men to their lives, occupations and families, before they went on the one-way trip to France & Belgium. All in all a trip we will never forget!

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 10th – 16th MAY



WILL ALL COLLECTORS FROM PREVIOUS YEARS PLEASE ADVISE FIONA IF THEY FEEL NO LONGER ABLE TO COVER THEIR ROUND. It is appreciated that many of the collectors have given many years' service and are ready to stop.

I would very much appreciate others offering to take on this very worthwhile task, so that St Mary's can continue to make a meaningful contribution to the welfare of those who benefit from the work of Christian Aid.

I would also be keen to hear from anyone who would consider taking on / assisting with the role of St Mary's organiser who could breathe new energy into the role.

Herbaceous Plant Sale for Christian Aid -again to be hosted by the Methodist Church Alderley Edge -where the sale will be held on the morning of May 9th. Growers and helpers please contact Lynn Smith 01625 585245 or Fiona Ablett 01625 585180

It would be lovely to see members of St Mary's at our stall on the day. Coffee will be available. Many Thanks, Fiona Ablett



MOTHERS' UNION

"History of Bollington"

Speaker: Tim Boddington

Wednesday 20th May at 2.00pm

All Welcome



OASIS

Wow ! An Amazing Response To Our Easter Egg Appeal .

I was completely overwhelmed by your generosity which enabled Maureen and Geoff Wooley to take over 40 eggs up to Oasis in time for Easter .

It is not just the eggs but your thoughts and kindness that mean so much to these families .

A massive thank you from me and all those Oasis families . Anne .

The Easter Flowers in Church were kindly donated in memory of:

*Peter Adamson
Valerie Barlow
Archie Barrie
Evelyn Barrie
Mary Bliss
C. Geoffrey Boddington
E. Norah Boddington
Gwendolen R. Boothman
Harold F. R. Boothman
Richard Austin Carr
Kathleen Cliffe
Charles Maitland Currie
Peter Andrew Currie
Aerin Davidson
John Davis
Winifred Dawson
Erica Dearden
Brian Gass
Florence Gass
James Gass
Peter Gass
Charles Godfrey Gould
Dorothy Gould
Cecil Grundy
Vera Grundy
Pat Hamilton
Ray Hamilton
Glynis Hamnett
Derek Hately
Muriel Hayden
Reginald Hayden
David George Holland
Frank Holland
Roy N. Howard
Louis Kaufman
May Leary
Frank F. Lee
Isabella G. Lee
John M. Lee
Margaret Lee
Gary Moss*

*Julie Moss
Ken Moss
Henry Peter Nairn
Trudy Nairn
Eleanor Penlington
Stanley Penlington
Frank Powell
Stuart James Powell
Robert Pritchard
Norman Ashton Ratchford
Richard John Ratchford
Winifred Mary Staynes Ratchford
Christopher John Rennie
Ernest Rennie
Patricia Rennie
Rosina Rennie
Dudley Reynolds
Elsie Mary Robinson
Frank William Robinson
Granville Schofield
Joyce Schofield
Frank Cavendish Shepherd
Elsie Shiers
Jill Shiers
Robert Shiers
Robin Skelton
Anna Snape
Anthony Paul Steele
Elsie Stoker
Marjorie Stoker
Ralph Stoker
Annie Sutcliffe
Horace Swales
John Musgrave Swales
Pathanea Swales
Iris Sweetman
David Watkins
Kathleen Watkins
William Watkins
Andrea Welsh
George Yarwood*

THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

Annual Box Opening

Amount donated: £825.50 (£740.27 last year)

Another splendid result, for which thanks again are due to our generous boxholders.

Donations are used to help disadvantaged young people.

In the West Midlands almost 175,000 children live in poverty, making the region one of the most deprived in the UK.

In April 2014 The Children's Society introduced a new Children and Family Zone (CFZ) in North Solihull to offer families continuous support for their children and lasting from birth until starting work or higher education at the age of 18. The team of dedicated professionals and volunteers works with Local Authorities, schools, health groups, community, faith and voluntary bodies to ensure children and their families receive the help and support needed. It is the first such initiative in the UK and based on a successful model set up in Harlem, New York.

In Solihull's three children's centres already offering Stay and Play sessions, parenting programmes, child development checks, family learning and healthy eating advice, the CFZ approach aims to persuade families to think of things which they can do for themselves and then put them into practice.

With many families living in tower blocks with no access to a garden, the centres provide space away from some of the restrictions in their lives and consequent improvement in children's development.

Another result has been an increase in the number of people willing to volunteer and a high level of parental involvement through the belief that "I can do it, so you can do it too".

Please telephone 01625 584218 if you would like to support the work of The Children's Society by becoming a boxholder.

**Bert Wright
12 April 2015**