

St. Mary, Alderley Cheshire



Parish Magazine
November 2014

Rector Writes:

Many Church of England Churches take part in an initiative called "Back to Church Sunday". It has probably been going on for about ten years. The idea is to encourage people to go back to Church on a specific Sunday in the year – in terms of the initiative this Sunday is in September. I have found it all a bit gimmicky, feeling that every Sunday is a back to Church Sunday. Putting on a special Service unlike any other in the year will give a false impression of what Church is like to any returning worshipper. I also think that there is a place for not sugar coating some of the real problems. Discipline and commitment have to find a place in the conversation alongside love, joy, welcome and generosity. The poem below gives a humorous yet serious exploration of the consequences of not coming to Church but all the time wanting to. You could say it is an exploration of the willing spirit doing battle against the weak flesh, a Biblical motif no less! However there is a question raised to the authenticity of the willing spirit.

I almost went to church last night, But couldn't find the time. So much to do about the house To leave would be a crime. So I brushed and sewed and polished, Then went wearily to bed, But I made a resolution to go next week instead.

I almost went to church last night, But then an old friend came, And to have to close the door on him Would have been a shame. So we talked and chatted and gossiped Until the goodbyes were said, But I made a resolution to go next week instead.

I almost went to church last night, But the air was chill and cold. To venture out on such a night Would be foolish - I'd been told. So I sat by the well-stoked fire, And took up a book and read, But I made a resolution to go next week instead.

I almost went to church last night, But a certain preacher was there, And for me that type of preaching I really didn't care. So, rather than go to church, And come home with heavy head, I made a resolution to go next week instead.

I almost went to church last night, But my favourite programme was on, and by the time it ended the time for church had gone. So I stayed before the telly Until the set was dead. I'll make a resolution to go next week instead.

I actually went to church last night, But I really went too late! The church was locked and silent - "FOR SALE" was on the gate. Oh, the remorse that then I felt, For that little cause was dead, And it was I who killed it by going next week instead.

James

DIARY FOR NOVEMBER 2014

- Sun 2nd **Twentieth Sunday after Trinity**
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*
- Sun 9th **Twenty First Sunday after Trinity**
8.00am *Holy Communion at Alderley*
10.30am Remembrance Service at Alderley NB 10.30am
10.30am *Remembrance Service at Birtles*
6.30pm *Holy Communion at Alderley*
6.30pm *Combined Service at St. Cross, Knutsford*
- Thur 13th 10.00am *Holy Communion at Alderley*
- Sun 16th **Twenty Second Sunday after Trinity**
8.00am *Holy Communion at Alderley*
9.45am *Holy Communion at Alderley*
11.15am *Mattins at Birtles*
6.30pm *Evensong at Alderley*
- Thur 20th 10.00am *Holy Communion at Alderley*
- Sun 23rd **Sunday before Advent – Stir Up Sunday**
8.00am *Holy Communion at Alderley*
9.45am *Mattins with Sunday School at Alderley*
11.15am *Holy Communion at Birtles*
6.30pm *Evensong at Alderley*
- Thur 27th 10.00am *Holy Communion at Alderley*
- Sun 30th **Advent Sunday**
8.00am **No Service**
9.45am *Holy Communion at Alderley*
11.15am *Holy Communion at Birtles*
6.30pm *‘Service of Light’ at Alderley (Churches Together)*
- Thurs 4th 10.00am *Holy Communion at Alderley*
- Sun 7th **First Sunday after Advent**
8.00am **No Service**
9.45am *Mattins at Alderley*
11.15am *Family Service at Birtles (Christingle)*
6.30pm *Evensong 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
Aug 3rd	356.45	45.90		402.35
Aug 10 th	274.25	34.00		308.25
Aug 17 th	489.90	41.00		530.90
Aug 24 th	367.31	67.50		434.81
Aug 31st	360.00	49.85		409.85
TOTAL	1847.91	238.25	840.00	2926.16

Week ending	Gift Aid Envelopes	Non-Gift Aid & Misc Cash	Standing Orders	Total
Sept 7 th	273.90	45.50		319.40
Sept 14 th	288.00	32.70		320.70
Sept 21 st	261.60	55.60		317.20
Sept 28 th	289.00	73.10		362.10
TOTAL	1112.50	206.90	490.00	1809.40

ST MARY'S NEED NEARLY £6000 PER MONTH FOR RUNNING COSTS

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

We took our part in the WW1 open weekend. As previous years we ran and manned 'The Café' over the two days. A big thank you to all who helped, in whatever capacity.

A tea party was held on Tuesday 14th October at Alderley Cottage making full use of Hellie's Kitchen. It was a really friendly occasion.

We are now getting organised for the **Christmas Coffee morning** which seems no time since last Christmas!! The date will be **Saturday December 6th, 10.00am until 12.30pm.**

We are delighted a section of **The Barnby Choir** will be singing once again a selection of carols in Church for us at approx 10.30am and 11.45am. We will be serving wine and mince pies following the 11.45am.singing.

We ask you all please to consider offering acceptable Gifts for our Gift Stall.

These could be left in church behind the font or do let me know if you want them collected. Supplies also for the Produce Stall would be good. I would also be very grateful for the offer of Raffle prizes.

Above all **we need your support** on the day. We depend on profits to support the Church through the year. Last year we put a lump sum into the PCC account to help in a small way with the running deficit.

Janet Adamson Tel: 01625 583320

ST MARY'S WALKING GROUP

Saturday 6th December – 10.00am start prompt

Walk:

Starting Point: Shirley's car park Prestbury

Grid ref: SK10 4XP

Map:

Length: 6 miles, easy

Further info: Just need snacks. Afterwards at 33 Macclesfield Road

Contact: Terry 01625 820738



CHURCH OPENING

Our opening season has now come to an end although we still welcome any groups by appointment. Also behind the scenes is a constant stream of Family History enquires that come in over email. In the main I am able to help them and provide them with the information they require. We also run an 'online shop' which brings in a few hundred pounds each year.

From Easter Sunday through to Sunday 5th October we have raised around £1000. A particular thanks must go to the volunteer stewards who man the church Sunday by Sunday. If you feel you could spare a few hours a month to help us with this task, do please let me know!

Both the 'Open Weekend' and the 'Open Sunday' afternoons have once again been highly successful. We have welcomed a grand total of approximately 600 visitors. Included in this total are five groups from various clubs and societies. I would like to give a particular thanks to Anne Cockburn who assisted me with these groups by serving tea / coffee.

The recent 'Open Weekend' was blessed with glorious weather, with 220 visitors arriving from far and wide. As usual we had numerous folk researching their Family History and many people enjoyed the World War 1 displays from various local villages. Another special thank-you must go to Bert Wright who gave up three days to assist me! Also, thanks to the Social Committee for organising the refreshments.

Jenny Youatt



The Harvest Brunch

The Jubilee Committee would like to thank all attendees at the recent Harvest Brunch. The breakfasts seemed to be going down well by everyone! We would like to thank all the helpers over the weekend, from Ken & Steph Wilkinson for doing the "shopping", Anne Robinson for her jam making, the Flower team for making the garlands and all the Jubilee team for arranging the hall and preparing the food!

The Brunch raised vital funds that the Jubilee Committee and they will be purchasing the Trees at Christmas that will decorate the Church so beautifully.

Many Thanks,

Fiona Robinson, Mark & Sarah-Jane Wilkinson, Cordelia Robinson & Tracy Kelly, Sally Hilldrup, Maureen Woolley, Jules Maynard, Gail Hodgett & Alison Boddington

Jubilee Committee

A Letter from Hannah

Hello Everyone.

I want to thank everyone for their on-going support over the past 2 hard years for both myself and my parents. It has meant a great deal to our family knowing that we have been in your thoughts and prayers, so I give my most heartfelt thanks.

I'm pleased to let you all know that my doctors at the Christie have given me the all clear to finally start my Masters degree in Geological Engineering at Imperial College London. I'm in my first week now, quickly finding my feet, and finally restarting and enjoying my life.

I'm looking forward to seeing you all again over Christmas time for lots of carols.

Lots of Love, Hannah Sweetman

Cranmer Competition

This competition is run by the Prayer Book Society on a nationwide basis. In it young people aged 11-14 or 15-18 read (or recite by heart in the finals) a portion of Thomas Cranmer's Book of Common Prayer. Our own Sophie Vardon made it to the National Finals in St. Matthew's, Westminster in March this year. Candidates came from all parts of the U.K., even the Isle of Man.

This year's Diocesan heats are to be held on the 8th November at St. James', Gawsorth at 10.00am. To date we have one candidate in the 15-18 group. However, the organizers, always willing to encourage younger candidates to practice public reading, have invited seven members of St. Mary's Sunday School to read.

The children always benefit from our support and all are welcome on Saturday, 8th November at St. James. Please direct any other young volunteers to me should they wish to join our team.

Anne Dodd (583613)



MOTHERS' UNION

Our next speaker is –

Don & Ann

"A Dickens of a Christmas"

Wednesday 19th November at 2.00pm

ALL ARE WELCOME SO PLEASE DO JOIN US!



Nether Alderley is now a member of the 'Cheshire Villages Great War Society' and their WW1 exhibition will be displayed at the following event.



Cheshire Villages Great War Society EXHIBITION

at

Lower Withington Village Hall

Salters Lane, Lower Withington SK11 9LL

on

Saturday 8th November
from 10-00am to 5-00pm

Free Admission

Light Refreshments will be served



Thank You

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everybody who came along and supported the Coffee Morning on Wednesday October 8th in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support. We had a wonderful morning.

Also a big thank you to people who couldn't attend but kindly gave a donation or provided a raffle prize. We raised £785 which was a record amount. None of this would be possible without peoples support.

Many thanks once again.

Margaret Worthington

Garth Hewitt in **CONCERT**

“SOMETHING FOR THE SOUL”

Saturday November 22nd at 7 pm

Troubadour, the Singing Vicar, protest singer/songwriter, amazing, not to be missed. Tickets minimum £5 with additional donations for the Amos Trust. <http://www.garthhewitt.org/category/garth-hewitt/events/>

Details also on (www.lifebuilding.org.uk)

At: Ringway Life Building at St. Mary's Church,
Sunbank Lane, Ringway, Cheshire, WA15 OPS
(opposite the Romper pub near Manchester Airport viewing park)

Contact aetab@btinternet.com for tickets

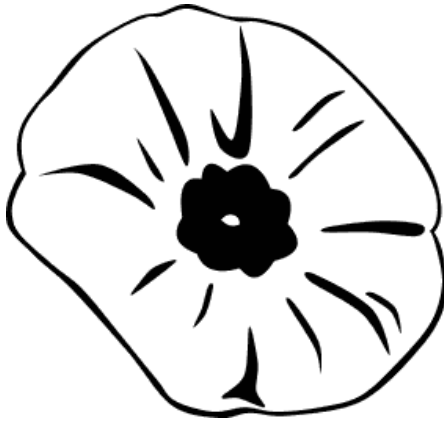
The concert will stand alone from any 'service' element of the church.

As with all their concerts I would expect the standard to be high and the cakes in the interval very good.

It is an interesting interior to the church also. It lies to the right of the lane approaching the Romper Inn and is red brick.

Fiona Ablett

The Royal British Legion



The Royal British Legion was formed on 15 May 1921 bringing together four National Organisations of ex-Service men that had established themselves after the Great War of 1914-1918.

The main purpose of the Legion was straightforward: to care for those who had suffered as a result of service in the Armed Forces in the Great War, whether through their own service or through that of a husband, father or son. The suffering took many forms: the effect of a war wound on a man's ability to earn a living and support his family; or a war widow's struggle to give her children an education.

But even those who had come through the war relatively unscathed struggled with employment. As a result of the war, Britain's economy plummeted and in 1921 there were 2 million unemployed. Over six million men had served in the war - 725,000 never returned. Of those who came back, 1.75 million had suffered some kind of disability and half of these were permanently disabled. To this figure then had to be added those who depended on those who had gone to war - the wives and children, widows and orphans as well as the parents who had lost sons in the war, on whom they were often financially dependent.

The situation so moved Lance Bombadier Tom Lister, a Lancastrian, that he decided that if the Government was either unable or unwilling to do anything to improve the lives of ex-Service men, he would do something about it himself. This eventually led to the formation of The Royal British Legion.

When the Legion's leaders looked around them in 1921, not only did they see a gigantic task in front of them looking after those who had suffered in the recent war, they also sought to prevent further sacrifice by reminding the nation of the human cost of war and to work actively for peace.

By the time of the Legion's formation in 1921, the tradition of an annual Two Minute Silence in memory of the dead had been established. The first ever Poppy Appeal was held that year with the first Poppy Day on 11 November 1921.

They were granted "Royal" status in 1971, and extended their membership to serving members of Her Majesty's Forces, as well as ex-Service personnel, in 1981. Now, anyone can become a member of The Royal British Legion.

Christmas Fair

Saturday December 6th, 10.00am to 12.30pm

Barnby Choir singing at
10.30am and 11.45am in Church.

Wine and mince pies after 11.45am singing.

Please come and join in

Alderley Edge Beacon

When Alderley Edge was heathland the Edge provided uninterrupted views of the surrounding countryside. Looking north from the highest point on the Edge one could see across the Cheshire plain to the Derbyshire Hills and Blackstone Edge in Yorkshire. Towards the south the mountains of Wales could be clearly seen and also important landmarks such as Mow Cop, Beeston Castle and the Peckforton Hills. A beacon was built on the highest point of the Edge to take advantage of these magnificent views for strategic reasons. It is not known when the Beacon was built but it dates back to at least the late 16th century because it is noted on Saxton's map of the area which is dated 1577 ^[4].

Thomas Ridgeway described the Beacon as originally being "a hollow square room, with a door, and that an iron pot was kept in it for the purpose of holding pitch and tar". In 1779 a pointed roof was added by Lord Stanley and in its most recent form the Beacon was constructed out of brick and stone ^[6]. The Beacon was almost certainly used in 1588 together with those at Frodsham and Helsby to warn that the Spanish Armada had been sighted ^[5]. The Duke of Gloucester visited the building in 1804 to ascertain whether it was still usable. Orders were given to gather heaps of gorse for use as kindling in case of invasion. However, the orders were withdrawn when it became apparent that the kindling could be wantonly set on fire and cause a false alarm ^[7].

Unfortunately the Beacon was neglected and collapsed in a gale on Christmas Eve, 1931 ^[5]. A small monument now marks the site which sits on an artificial mound. The rocks that litter the ground around the monument are the stones of the original building. It is said that the mound is that of an Iron Age burial site although there is no evidence to support this. There are however authentic burial mounds nearby but the location of these are kept from the public.

ROTA FOR NOVEMBER 2014
LADY SIDESMEN / SIDESMEN / LECTORS

DATE	TIME	SIDESMEN	LECTOR
2nd	09.45	Mrs R Dyas and Mrs G Beeley	Mr P Reynolds
	18.30	Mrs A Cobb	Mr P Bean
9th	08.00	Mr H A Wright	
	10.30	Mr M Stonehewer & Mrs J Adamson	Mrs S-J Wilkinson
	18.30	Mrs F Robinson	Mrs F Robinson
		Joint Choral Evensong at St Cross, Knutsford	
16th	08.00	Mr P Bean	
	09.45	Mr J Ratchford & Mrs J Martin	Mrs C Stephenson
	18.30	Mrs A Robinson	Mrs A Dodd
23rd	08.00	Mr R Akester	
	09.45	Mr G Woolley & Mr G Hilton	Mrs E Jackson
	18.30	Mr G Barrie	Mr P Reynolds
30th	08.00	No Service	
	09.45	Mr M Wilkinson & Mrs R Dyas	Mrs J Lee
	18.30	Mr R Akester	Mr J Durnall
7th Dec	08.00	No Service	
	09.45	Mr J Stephenson & Mr S Welsh	Mrs W Liddle
	18.30	Mr P Bean	Mr P Bean

FROM THE REGISTERS

Christenings

Sun. 5th October Isla Sharpe

Funerals

Tue. 21st October Peter Jennings

FLOWER ROTA

Nov 2nd Fiona Ablett & Maureen Woolley
Nov 9th Marie Stonehewer
Nov 16th Michael Penlington
Nov 23rd Michael Penlington
Nov. 30th Candles and Greenery

MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTIONS

The deadline for the next magazine is **Thursday November 20th 2014**
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