

October is month that often brings a sense that change is on the way. We are moving rapidly through Autumn, the weather is changing, the first frosts are imminent and the feeling is that winter is not too far away. There are still things to enjoy and look forward to; Harvest when we remember and give thanks for all the wonderful foods that the farmers have worked hard all year to plant, nurture and ultimately to reap. Following Autumn, is of course Winter which for some, brings a sense of foreboding, how cold, how wet, how miserable will it be this year? But Winter too has its highlights, crisp mornings, winter fires in the hearth, mulled wine and of course Christmas, the birth of Jesus and ultimately Christianity as we know it today. A time for family to get together and celebrate and also to reflect on those who are no longer with us.

And so for St Mary's, the big change is of course that James has said his farewell and we have wished him well in his next adventure with the David Young Community Academy in Leeds. We now have our own future to look forward to and it should not be with a sense of foreboding but of opportunity that we enter this period known in the Church as an 'Interregnum'. It is an old term but it means the period of time that a Parish does not have a Rector in role. It gives us an opportunity to reflect on what has gone before, what we have today and what we would like to have in the future.

The Wardens along with the PCC's of both Parishes will consider these questions and prepare a 'Profile' which will reflect the great aspects of our Parishes, how we would like to see them develop and what kind of Incumbent (Minister) we feel could help us move forward together into the future. The Bishop (of Chester) along with the Rural Dean and many others will be on hand to help, advise, guide and steer us on our way and this process is already beginning now.

There will of course be challenges but your Wardens, with the help of the PCC and many others are committed to maintaining the regular service patterns at St Mary's while at the same time planning for the future. We will need your help, support and certainly your prayers to guide us through this period and we will update you regularly when there is progress to report. In the meantime, we wish you a wonderful Harvest time and all the joys that brings and please feel free to approach any of the Wardens or the PCC and share your thoughts with us.

Your Wardens, Michael, Jenny & Peter

DIARY FOR OCTOBER 2015

Sun.4th Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity

8.00am *Holy Communion at Birtles*
9.45am Harvest Festival at Alderley Revd. Loveday Alexander
Harvest Brunch at Alderley
11.15am *Harvest Festival at Birtles*
6.30pm Harvest Evensong at Alderley Revd. Gary Bowness

Fri. 9th 7.30pm Nigel Ogden Organ Concert

Sun.11th Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity

9.45am Family Service at Alderley Revd. Loveday Alexander
11.15am *Holy Communion at Birtles*
6.30pm Holy Communion at Alderley Revd. David Harrison

Sun. 18th Twentieth Sunday after Trinity

9.45am Holy Communion at Alderley Revd. David Harrison
11.15am *Mattins at Birtles*
6.30pm Evensong at Alderley Revd. Taffy Davies

Wed. 21st 2.00pm Mother's Union

Sun. 25th Twenty First Sunday in Trinity

8.00am Holy Communion at Alderley Revd. Ken Burghall
9.45am Mattins at Alderley John Durnall
11.15am *Holy Communion at Birtles*
6.30pm Evensong at Alderley Doug or Diane Wisener

Thur. 29th 10.00am Holy Communion at Alderley Revd. Gary Bowness

November

Sun. 1st Twenty Second Sunday after Trinity

8.00am *Holy Communion at Birtles*
9.45am Holy Communion at Alderley Revd. Loveday Alexander
11.15am *Family Service at Birtles*
6.30pm Evensong at Alderley Brian Haslam

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)

PLEASE NOTE

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

8.00am Holy Communion at Alderley is on the **last** Sunday in the month

10.00am Holy Communion is 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 |
|----------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------|----------------|
| 2 nd Aug | 114.00 | 42.00 | | 156.00 |
| 9 th Aug | 215.80 | 53.50 | | 269.30 |
| 16 th Aug | 308.50 | 78.32 | | 383.82 |
| 23 rd Aug | 279.61 | 64.50 | | 344.11 |
| 30 th Aug | 335.00 | 72.36 | | 407.36 |
| TOTAL | 1249.91 | 310.68 | 860.00 | 2420.59 |

NETHER ALDERLEY 200 CLUB

July draw winners

1st prize Dr J. Maynard
2nd prize Mrs J. Davis
3rd prize Mrs H. Jabr

Congratulations to all the winners

NEXT MONTH'S FIRST PRIZE WILL BE IN EXCESS OF £40.

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.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

At the time of writing, The Church Open Weekend, September 19/ 20 is nearly upon us. I am trying to collect enough people to help with the café. Thank you to everybody who does help over the 2 days.

We have recently had a committee meeting. Since our last meeting we had collected £142 in our charity pot on Sunday mornings. £30 has already gone to Oasis. £70 will now go to The Sunflower Centre at the Hospice and the remainder to Oasis. Thank you to everybody who supports us in this enterprise. It is good the Church supports these 2 Charities.

You may have noticed some Sundays the Coffee after the morning service has not happened. This is because we need volunteers. Please let me know if you can help on the rota.

We are planning for the Autumn now. Our postponed Lunch outing will be on Wednesday October 14th at 12.30 at the Wilmslow Garden Centre. It was decided people like to have a mooch round!

Please put the **Christmas Coffee morning** in your diaries. Saturday December 5th, 10.00am til 12.30pm.

Your support will be needed. We are hoping to raise money towards the new fencing surrounding the field car park.

Janet Adamson (01625 583320)

ST MARY'S WALKING GROUP

Saturday 7th November—10.00am start prompt.

**Daresbury Church, crossing Hatton ,
Appleton and Moore CPs¹.**



Starting Point: Daresbury Church car park

Map: OS Explorer 276, Bolton, Wigan & Warrington

Grid ref: SJ 580 827 (or WA4 4AE)

Length: 7.5 miles easy

Further info: Snacks, lunch and drinks required.

At the end of the walk there is the opportunity to visit the Lewis Carroll Centre in the Church grounds.

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

Harvest Festival Sunday 4th October

Church Decoration

Decoration of the Church will take place on Friday and Saturday. If you wish to help please contact me so I can arrange a schedule.

Gifts of fruit, vegetables, tinned and package food will be gratefully received in Church and will be donated to The Oasis Centre after the Harvest Services.

Michael Penlington 01625 530084

St Marys Church, Alderley Jubilee Committee

alderleychurch.co.uk

facebook.com/stmarysaldlerley

Nigel Ogden's Organ Concert

"The Organist Entertains"

Friday 9th October 2015 at 7.30pm

An evening of popular and light classical music played by Nigel Ogden,
Presenter of BBC Radio 2's 'The Organist Entertains'

Refreshments will be served in the interval.

Tickets: £8.00

Tickets available from either Mark Wilkinson, Sarah-Jane Wilkinson, Maureen Woolley, Sally Hilldrup, Gail Hodgett, Alison Boddington, Cordelia Robinson, Tracy Kelly or Juliana Maynard.

Mr M Wilkinson, 74 Haslington Road, Ashway Park, Manchester, M22 5HU

Tel No: 0161 437 6425

Churches Together in Alderley

Quiz Night with Fish and Chip Supper

Saturday October 10th at 7.00pm
Tickets £10 (bring your own drinks)
Tickets Terry Fones 01625820738

Proceeds Christian aid



MOTHERS' UNION



'For Better for Worse'
by Revd. Michael Burgess

Wednesday 21st October
2.00pm

The Haircut

A teenage boy had just passed his driving test and enquired of his father as to when they could discuss his use of the car.

His father said that he would make a deal with his son 'You bring your grades up from a C to a B average, study your Bible a little and get your hair cut. Then we will talk about the car.'

The boy thought about that for a moment, decided he'd settle for the offer and they agreed on it.

After about six weeks his father said 'Son, you've brought your grades up and I have observed that you have been studying your Bible but I'm disappointed that you haven't had your hair cut.'

The boy said, "You know Dad, [I've been thinking about that, and] I've noticed in my studies of the Bible that Samson had long hair. John the Baptist had long hair, Moses had long hair, and there's even strong evidence that Jesus had long hair". But the Father answered quickly – "Did you also notice that they all walked everywhere they went"!!

Clare of Assisi - a life of prayer and simplicity

In the year 1212 Clare, the 18 year old daughter of a local Count, heard a young preacher called Francis. A few years earlier he had caused a sensation in the centre of the town where they both lived, Assisi in Italy, by stripping himself of his wealthy clothes and declaring that from now on he would live the life of a peasant. This, he said, was in obedience to the call of Christ, for whom the poor were 'blessed' and the rich were in peril of judgment. He gathered a group of seven men prepared to embrace what he called 'joyful poverty' for Christ's sake, but that day he was to enlist a female disciple. 'You are a chosen soul from God', he told Clare, when she expressed her eagerness to embrace the same strict rule as his male followers.

In due course, after a period in a Benedictine convent, Clare and her sister Agnes moved into the church of St Damiano, which Francis and his friends had restored, and gathered there a group of like-minded women. Eventually Francis made Clare the abbess of a religious Order, at first called the 'Order of Poor Ladies', eventually, and universally, to be known as the 'Poor Clares'. Unable to operate an itinerant ministry like the men, Clare's sisters concentrated on a life of prayer and simplicity. In fact, their dedication to poverty was such that it affected the health of many of them.

Francis and Clare remained friends and colleagues over the next 14 years in this remarkable movement of renewal and mission. During the preceding century (as we can learn from Chaucer, among others) the religious Orders had in many cases substituted indulgence for discipline. Francis and Clare found this scandalous, and despite opposition from high places, set out to demonstrate that an effective Christian message required an appropriate Christian life-style. For them, poverty was not a burden but a joy - a release from the delusions of power and ambition. Their witness made an enormous impact on the poor people of Umbria and beyond, who saw an authenticity in their lives which spoke as eloquently as their words.

Clare helped to nurse Francis through his final illness, which lasted several years. She lived for 27 years after his death, like him suffering from the effects of long years of strict austerity. She died in 1253 and was canonised two years later. She is buried in the basilica of St Clare in Assisi, a few hundred yards from the basilica of St Francis. In life they proclaimed the same message of sacrificial love and service, and in their deaths they were not divided. Her special day is 11th August.

by David Winter (Parish Pump)

Starlings and Swallows in St.Mary's Church Tower

by Rev.Edward Stanley,
Rector of Alderley , 1805 – 1837



“Within half a stone’s throw of my window, stands an ivy-mantled parish church with its massy grey tower, from the turreted pinnacle of which rises a tall flag-staff, crowned by its weathercock ; under the eaves and within the hollows and chinks of the masonry of this tower are the Starling’s nursery establishments.

On the battlements and projecting grotesque tracery of its gothic ornaments they retire to enjoy themselves, looking down on the rural world below ; while, at other times, a still more elevated party will crowd together on the letters of the weathercock , or accustomed to its motion, sociably twitter away their chattering song, as the vane creaks slowly round with every change of the wind.

Not only has our tower enabled us year after year to watch the Starlings, it has also been a source of equal interest respecting Swallows ; their nests were snugly concealed in sheltered nooks, the belfry itself being a favourite resort, notwithstanding the frequent peals which might have shaken the nerves of less determined birds ; and a few days before their final departure, it was pleasant to watch them marshalling their newly-fledged broods along the projecting dripstones and mouldings on the eastern side of the old grey tower, enjoying the morning sun.



As the numbers collected seemed far to exceed those which were reared there, it appears as if the united broods of the neighbourhood had, by common consent, fixed upon it as a favoured central rendezvous. All was exhilaration – a perpetual twittering was kept up; a few of the old ones would, after flying in circles around the battlements, pass screaming by the reposing ranks of the young ones, and then, as if by word of command, the whole body would sweep from their resting places, and in loud chorus take a wider circuit, as if to try their powers, and then in an instant crowd again together, and rest as before.

If the weather is tolerably favourable, everything goes on smoothly and regularly; but should a sever and sudden change occur, a violent storm of snow, or continuance of chilling winds, all operations are suspended; not only the eaves and nests but even the tower itself, battlements, weathercock, and all, are deserted, till a return of fine weather, when the Starlings too return and the work again proceeds.”

The Harvest Festival

Harvest Festival used to be celebrated at the beginning of the Harvest season on 1 August and was called Lammas, meaning 'loaf Mass'. Farmers made loaves of bread from the new wheat crop and gave them to their local church. They were then used as the Communion bread during a special mass thanking God for the harvest. The custom ended when Henry VIII broke away from the Catholic Church, and nowadays we have harvest festivals at the end of the season.

At the start of the harvest, communities would appoint a strong and respected man of the village as their 'Lord of the Harvest'. He would be responsible for negotiating the harvest wages and organising the fieldworkers.

The end of the harvest was celebrated with a big meal called a Harvest Supper, eaten on Michaelmas Day. The 'Lord of the Harvest' sat at the head of the table. A goose stuffed with apples was eaten along with a variety of vegetables. Goose Fairs were and still are held in English towns at this time of year.

The tradition of celebrating Harvest Festival in churches as we know it today began in 1843, when the Reverend Robert Hawker invited parishioners to a special thanksgiving service for the harvest at his church at Morwenstow in Cornwall. Victorian hymns such as "We plough the fields and scatter", "Come ye thankful people, come" and "All things bright and beautiful" helped popularise his idea of harvest festival and spread the annual custom of decorating churches with home-grown produce for the Harvest Festival service.

On why the parish goes to war over pumpkin-growing

The Rectory
St. James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren.

Anyone who thinks that the English are a peaceful race has obviously never organised the annual pumpkin growing competition. Very regrettably, one of the Pilgrim Fathers sent a handful of pumpkin seeds to a relation in this parish in the 17th century and ever since, the church has been obliged to hold an annual competition to see who can grow the largest. I suspect some of the original recipients of those seeds still compete. There is a certain irony that the church, which is supposed to promote peace and harmony, sponsors the most war-like activity in the annual calendar.

Mobilisation starts at the beginning of the year when seeds are planted. From that moment on, every other potential entrant is regarded as the Enemy. Once seedlings are planted out, then heavy armaments are placed at boundaries to deter possible invasion. By late Spring, paranoia has taken over and rumours begin to circulate of espionage and sinister undetectable herbicides. Anyone in the village with a beard is looked on with deep suspicion.

In the weeks before the competition, homes, partners and children are abandoned, as contestants talk to their pumpkins by day and snuggle up with them at night. Should bad weather arrive at this point, then I am blamed for not having prayed sufficiently fervently for sunshine and light rain. If only I had such influence.

On the day before the show, tables are put out and woe betide anyone who places their cake stand where Mrs Cholmondeley has put her tea urn for the past 25 years; she now believes she has squatters rights to that place and any challenge to her claim would probably result in litigation.

I find this competitive spirit a little bemusing, as for the last 25 years, the Earl of Stowe has always won first prize. That his mother, the Dowager Countess, is the judge, is, I am sure, pure coincidence. That she has arrived for the past three years with a white stick and accompanied by a golden Labrador does, however, raise doubts.

To award the Earl any prize at all does seem a little unfair, when the only time he ever gets mud on his boots is when he falls off his horse while hunting. I suspect he would be hard pressed to find where the kitchen garden is on his estate. But to give any credit to his gardening staff would be seen as bad form, so we all keep quiet.

It has been tentatively suggested that another judge should be appointed, but no one has so far had the courage to step forward. They may have the privilege of nominating the winner, but would also have to face a twelve month period of hatred from all those who were not successful. Christmas card lists will be amended. Families may have sat next to them in church for generations, but would suddenly find it more congenial to worship in another part of the church. Letters would be strangely mis-delivered and the butcher's boy would suddenly deliver lamb when pork had been ordered. Who could dare to take on such a poisoned chalice?

Your loving Uncle, Eustace

ROTA FOR OCTOBER 2015

| D'T | TIME | SIDESPEOPLE | LECTOR | W'N |
|-------------------------|---------|--------------------------------|-------------------|-----|
| 4 th | 8.00am | (at Birtles) | | |
| | 9.45am | Mrs W. Liddle & Mrs J. Martin | Mrs W. Liddle | MP |
| | 6.30pm | Mrs A. Robinson | Mr P. Reynolds | JY |
| 11 th | 9.45am | Mr M. Wilkinson & Mr S. Welsh | Miss C. Mowforth | MP |
| | 6.30pm | | Peter Reynolds | PR |
| 18 th | 9.45am | Mr G. Woolley & Mrs E. Jackson | Elizabeth Jackson | JY |
| | 6.30pm | Mrs J. Bean | Peter Bean | PB |
| 25 th | 8.00am | Beryl Essayan | | HW |
| | 9.45am | Mr G. Hilton & Mr A. Claridge | Mrs S J Wilkinson | MP |
| | 6.30pm | Mr G. Barrie | Rodney Akester | RA |
| | 8.00am | | | |
| | 9.45am | | | |
| | 6.30pm | | | |
| THU 29 th | 10.00am | | | PB |
| Nov 1st | 8.00am | (at Birtles) | | |
| | 9.45pm | Mrs R. Dyas & Mrs W. Liddle | Wynne Liddle | MP |
| | 6.30pm | Mrs A. Robinson | Michael Dyer | JY |

FROM THE REGISTERS

Christenings

Sun 6th Sept Charles Ronald Richard Chadwick
Sun 27th Sept Evie-Mai Firth

Holy Matrimony

Sat 12th Sept Rebecca Wooley and Tomas Rajsigl
Sat 26th Sept Gemma Kershaw and Gareth Harris

Funerals

Wed 5th Aug Daisy Barber
Sat. 5th Aug Judith Cocker

FLOWER ROTA

Oct 4th Harvest
Oct 11th Harvest
Oct 18th Harvest
Oct 25th Elizabeth Fairhurst and Rita Brown

MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTIONS

The deadline for the next magazine is **Thursday 15th October 2015**
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Production: Jean Whittingham: (01625 583247)

Subscriptions
& Distribution: Peter Bean: 01625 582073

Large format copies of the magazine are available.