

FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptisms

Weddings

Funerals

FLOWER ROTA (ADVENT—FLOWER TEAM)

Dec 3rd

Dec 10th

Dec 17th

Dec 24th

Dec 31st

MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTIONS

The deadline for the next magazine is **Thursday December 14th**

Please send all copy to:

Editorial: Jenny Youatt Email: info@stmarysaldерley.com
1, Orchard Crescent, Nether Alderley, SK10 4TZ

Production: Jean Whittingham: (01625 583247)

Subscriptions
& Distribution: Peter Bean: 01625 582073

Large format copies of the magazine are available.

Rector Writes

December 2017

Recently I bought a favourite book of mine from when I was a boy: the AA Book of the Road. I can relive the childhood pleasure of losing myself in the book's many black and white drawings: specially commissioned vignettes, each presenting a distinctive feature of England and Wales in the late 1950s. These show major landmarks, humble local features and peculiarities, follies and noteworthy historic locations. The gazetteer lists every city, town and village. It presents a nation of early closing days, market days and the nearest golf course. Before any motorway or satnav, it is a book of the open two or three lane road, and it's a source of that coveted knowledge – the best way to drive from A to B. The world has changed in so many ways.

I am disappointed to find that Nether Alderley (listed as 'See Alderley Edge') is not illustrated and that Great Warford is missing completely. Even so, I take pleasure in living in the kind of place that is illustrated in the Book of the Road (1957), and in living in a part of England that still has old, broad main roads sweeping through the landscape.

The challenge for the church in every parish is to maintain its ancient roots, whilst also being renewed in every generation. An ancient church gives the weight of history that we all need, but we need more than history for Christian faith to thrive. A parish church needs to serve all generations and be a place where each generation plays its successive part. This was on the agenda for the Church Council of St.Mary's Church when it met in November.

The Parish Hall Restoration project is an opportunity to stimulate interest in St.Mary's Church. If a team of five is interested and committed, I would like to start Messy Church in the Parish Hall after Easter. What opportunities are there for different kinds of worship? How can your parish church serve you better through new activities and opportunities? What can we do to serve young families? Answers by email, please, to vicar@jkcahale.co.uk or come to church and catch me after the service.

Revd Jon Hale

DIARY DECEMBER 2017

Sun.3rd	Advent Sunday	8.00am	Holy Communion at Birtles
		9.45am	Holy Communion at Alderley
		11.15am	Family Service at Birtles
		6.30pm	Service of Light at St Philip & St James
Thurs 7th		10.00am	Holy Communion at Alderley
Sun 10th	Second Sunday in Advent	9.45am	Family Service at Alderley with Baptism
		11.15am	Holy Communion at Birtles
		6.30pm	Choral Deanary Evensong at Alderley
Thurs 14th		10.00am	Holy Communion
Sun. 17th	Third Sunday in Advent	8.00am	Holy Communion at Alderley
		9.45am	Nine Lessons and Carols at Alderley
		11.15am	Nativity Play at Birtles
		6.30pm	Nine Lessons and Carols at Alderley
Thurs 21st		11.00am	Nether Alderley School Carol Service
Sun 24th	Fourth Sunday in Advent	3.00pm	Crib Service
		10.00pm	Holy Communion at Birtles
		11.00pm	Holy Communion at Alderley
Thurs 28th		10.00am	Holy Communion at Alderley
Sun 31st	Sunday after Christmas	9.45am	Holy Communion at Alderley
		11.15am	Holy Communion at Birtles
		6.30pm	Evensong at Alderley

ROTA FOR DECEMBER 2017
SIDESPEOPLE / LECTORS / WARDENS

D'T	TIME	SIDESPEOPLE	LECTOR	W'N
Dec 3rd	8.00am	(at Birtles)		
	9.45am	Mrs W Liddle & Mr s Welsh	Mrs W Liddle	MP
	6.30pm	(no service)		
Dec 10th	9.45am	Mrs G Beeley & Mrs J Martin	Mrs A. Davis	MP
	6.30pm	Mr M Dyer	Mr P Reynolds	PR / JY
Dec 17th	8.00am			HW
	9.45am	Mrs E Fairhurst & Mr M Stonehewer	Selected readers	MP
	6.30pm	Mrs A Robinson	Selected readers	PR
24 th Dec	3.00pm	Mr & Mrs G Woolley	Selected readers	TF
	11.00m		Mr P Reynolds	PR
Dec 25th	9.45am	Mr G Hilton & Mr A Claridge	Mrs J Lee	MP / JY
		(no service)		
Dec 31st	9.45am	Mr J Ratchford & Mr M Wilkinson	Mrs SJ Wilkinson	MP
	6.30pm		Terry Fones	TF

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 keeping warm in church

The Rectory
St. James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

It was delightful to have a family from your church visiting ours last week, but perhaps if it happens again, you may suggest a certain dress code to them. That the man arrived without wearing a tie was probably forgivable, but I do think you should have warned them about the temperature. Your church building may be warmer than a nursing home, but the only time that hot air is blown over the heads of our congregation, is when the archdeacon preaches.

Thus, by early December, our congregation knows to come to church equipped with overcoats, scarves, gloves and thermal socks. And the Verger's regular disappearance into the side chapel during Services isn't on urgent ecclesiastical business, but to warm himself up with copious swigs from his hip flask.

So, your poor visitors suffered from the cold. In fact, by the time of the sermon, were they to have been laid horizontally, they would have been indistinguishable from the marble effigies of the Earls of Stowe lying in state in the north aisle. As they limped out at the end of the Service, totally numb, my offer of a sherry at the Rectory was more medicinal than social.

December is almost always the month when I gracefully concede defeat regarding the church boiler. True, the congregation has been dropping hints to me since Harvest about the autumnal nip in the air, or of the flowers keeping well in church because it is cool there, or even the slightly more pointed remark that it will soon be time for the heating to be turned on. But all are studiously ignored. I live in an arctic 17th century Rectory, and am hardened to it.

But when members of the congregation start arriving bearing travelling rugs and flasks of hot tea, I begin to realise that the time approaches to fire the boilers up. Then on the Sunday when Colonel Richards lights up his primus stove next to him on the pew, I know it is appropriate to announce that next Sunday the church will be heated – although 'heated' is rather more an aspiration than a reality.

Should any of our congregation be tempted to pay a visit to your own church, I will tell them to dress for a Mediterranean August – although the men will certainly wear a tie. One does have standards to maintain.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

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.

COLLECTION TOTALS

Week ending	Gift Aid Envelopes	Non-Gift Aid & Misc Cash	Standing Orders	Total
1 st Oct	323.30	168.99		492.29*
8 th Oct	203.00	43.45		246.45
15 th Oct	211.00	96.67		307.67**
22 nd Oct	200.20	0.00		200.20
29 ^h Oct	277.00	37.00		314.00
TOTAL	1214.50	346.11	1046.00	2606.61

* Includes £133.89 from wedding on 30th September

** Includes £45.82 from wedding on 14th October

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

NETHER ALDERLEY 200 CLUB November draw winners

1st prize Don Henderson
2nd prize Peter Robinson
3rd prize Geoff Woolley

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 £4000 has now been handed over to St Mary's treasurer, towards the day to day running costs of the Church.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

We helped where we could with the Carers Service tea on October 22nd. This was a successful occasion.

We are now in the midst of preparations for the Christmas Fair—Saturday December 2nd, 10.00 til 1.00 PM. Looking forward forward to welcoming everyone to it.

Our next event will be in 2018how time flies!!

A Bridge Drive on Monday February 12th in the hall, 1.30 until 4.00 pm. Tables will be £26.00p. Please support this. Could everybody encourage your friends to make up tables and join in.

Following the Carol Service on the morning of December 17th there will be a special Christmas coffee in the Hall.

We plan also to have a Spring Lunch outing all to be discussed and be arranged nearer the time.

Janet Adamson 01625 583320.

Walking

A group of friends from St Mary's are going for a walk on the **7th January 2018**. 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.

A circuit from Sutton

Starting at 10.00 am prompt from the car park at the Church House Pub in Sutton (SK11 0DS).

Length: 4 miles.

Grade: Easy

Further information: Just drinks needed. As the walk is relatively short it is intended to have lunch at the Pub after the walk for those happy to do that. If you are interested in coming could you please let me know so that I can warn the Landlord about numbers. Contact Will Ablett (01625 585180 or 07977 978620) with any questions.

The History of Christmas Carols

The history and origin of Christmas carols can be traced back to thousands of years. The concept of carols is thought to have spread from Europe, where they were sung for the first time. However, these songs were not actually Christmas carols. In fact, they were considered as Pagan songs, which were sung at the Winter Solstice, celebrated by Pagans on 22nd December. These songs were sung in a lively and joyous manner for all the four seasons and gradually came to be known as carols, meaning songs of praise and joy.



Initially, many churches turned down the idea of singing Christmas carols, since it was considered to be a pagan custom that could not be included in the sacred church services. However, folk songs or carols depicting the Nativity Scene were written in the countryside. These simple songs soon gained popularity. In 1223, Saint Francis of Assisi, the Roman Catholic saint of animals and environment, introduced carols to the church services. These carols were loosely based on the Bible and were not hymns, but carols meant for entertainment and not loaded with biblical references.

The early carols were sung at homes rather than at places of worship. These early carols were not written, they were passed on from person to person. Carols gained wide popularity during the 14th century, when they started gaining the form of religious songs, whose theme revolved around the Christ Child or the Virgin Mary. Most of these carols were written by blending together English and Latin words.

By the beginning of 15th century, carols had become art music. During this period, special arrangements were made to sing carols. They were considered an important contribution to the growth of English medieval music. However, an obstacle soon came in the way of the popularity of carols, in the form of Puritans who came to power in England in 1647. During their reign, everything that related to Christmas and Christianity was strictly prohibited. As time passed, the popularity of carols faltered and they almost disappeared. It was during 19th century, Christmas re-gained its popularity.

Many composers played a part in re-popularizing carols. People now wanted to listen to more and more carols, which had come closer to Christmas and started to be known as Christmas carols. This is how the modernised version of Christmas carols was introduced. They were no more restricted to private places, like home. Choir singers began singing Christmas carols, based on biblical versus, at the churches also and they ceased to be mere forms for entertainment. It was around this time only that singing Christmas carols in the streets gained popularity and street carolers evolved.

Churches Together in Alderley AGM

'Churches Together in Alderley' co-ordinates the churches of Alderley Edge plus St.Mary's, Alderley working together to show that the churches are united in Jesus Christ. If you care about the churches working together please be at the Annual General Meeting of Churches Together in Alderley on Monday 29th January at St.Pius Church, Stamford Road, Alderley Edge at 7.30pm.

Carol Singing at Waitrose!

Come and join others from the churches of Alderley Edge for carol singing outside Waitrose on Saturday 16th December at 10.30am.

Advent Sunday is the start of the Christian year: it's the start of things.

At the start of his ministry, Our Lord announced that the Kingdom of God was at hand and that all should repent and believe the good news of salvation. In Advent, Christians remember that, against the background of Christmas being celebrated early, ultimate things rest with God in Christ.

So the first day of Advent is a solemn Sunday when Christians ground themselves in their mortality and in their trust in God who is Lord of Time and Space.

On Advent Sunday at St.Mary's Church there will not be a 6.30pm service, and instead we will meet with all the churches in the greater Alderley area at St.Philip and St.James Church at Alderley Edge at 6.30pm for a special Advent service.

CARING FOR THE CARERS

Twenty two people came to the Caring for the Carers service at St.Mary's Church on Sunday 22nd October. I think most present had been carers in the past. This makes you more acutely aware of what carers known to you now are going through. The service was an opportunity to acknowledge the self-sacrificial task of carers and to pray for them. It was also a time to affirm carers and the work of caring that those present have done in the past. Tea afterwards in the Parish Hall continued the opportunity to support and cherish care-givers.

This was a benefice service - for both St.Catherine's Church and St.Mary's Church - and both churches came together at the service, and in providing tea afterwards. Another Caring for the Carers service will be held next year.

Special Choral Evensong at St.Mary's Church on Sun 10th Dec at 6.30pm.

The 6.30pm service at St.Mary's Church on the second Sunday in the month is usually a said service. But on 10th December at 6.30pm St.Mary's Church welcomes the augmented choir of St.Philip & St.James Church, Alderley Edge to lead the singing at Evensong. All are welcome at this and all services at St.Mary's Church.



CHRISTMAS FAIR

Saturday December 2nd 10.00am – 12.30pm

Barnby Choir singing at
10.30am and 11.45am in Church

Wine and Mince Pies after 11.45 singing

Please come and join in



MOTHERS' UNION



'The Eclipse 2017'

by Chris Sweetmen

followed by 'A Christmas Quiz'

by Jamie and Lynn Smith

Wednesday 13th December

1.30pm

All Welcome

CAROL SINGING



We have arranged our annual Carol Singing for the nights of Monday 18th and Wednesday 20th December and as usual we will be visiting three pre-arranged venues on each of the nights.

Our two charities this year will be 'East Cheshire Hospice' and the 'N.S.P.C.C' and all the proceeds will be split equally. Last year we raised a grand total of £1300 over the two evenings!

Our happy band of 'singers' (all age groups) consists of any members of the Choir, Congregation and any 'Friends' of St.Mary.

Anyone wishing to join us should meet in the Church car park at **6.45pm on either of the two nights**. We are usually finished by approximately 10.00pm.

Further details: Jenny Youatt (01625 585226)

IVY COTTAGE TREE FARM

Racecourse Road , Wilmslow
Tel. 01625 531609

Enjoy the fragrance of a real Christmas Tree!
Christmas Shop for trees, decorations etc. is open from 20th November



They supply (with a generous discount) the Christmas trees for St.Mary's and donate the Christmas tree greenery for the decoration of the Church for Advent and Christmas. Please support them, it's a magical experience

CANDLE FUND

The candles around the Church during Advent and Christmas have become a feature at St.Mary's.

If you wish to make a donation towards the cost of the candles, envelopes are provided at the entrance to Church for your kind donations.

Michael Penlington

BRIDGE DRIVE

This has been organised for Monday February 12th in the Parish Hall starting 1.30pm. Tables will cost £26.

Please tell your friends, we rely on you to spread the word.

Praying for the Parish of Alderley: Great Warford and Nether Alderley

The parish of St.Mary's, Alderley comprises the two civil parishes of Great Warford and Nether Alderley. Each month in this magazine you will be asked to pray each week for one of the roads in Alderley parish or for a place, person or people who are special to Great Warford and Nether Alderley. By this time next year every road in Alderley Parish will have been prayed for.

Week beginning	Please pray for
Sunday 3 rd December	All care givers in the parish
Sunday 10 th December	Pedley House Lane
Sunday 17 th December	All children in the parish
Sunday 24 th December	Faulkners Lane
Sunday 31 st December	All parents in the parish

Rev'd Jon Hale, Rector