

FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptisms

Weddings

Funerals

FLOWER ROTA

Feb 4th	Avril Lamond
Feb 11th	Avril Lamond
Feb 18th	Lent
Feb 25th	Lent

MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTIONS

The deadline for the next magazine is **Thursday 15th February**
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Large format copies of the magazine are available.

Rector Writes

February 2018

The Rector writes about Lent

The rhythm of the year gives us Lent at the bleakest end of the winter when Spring seems a long time coming. And the traditional discipline of Lent – of giving up a luxury – makes the season even bleaker. Many people do give up a simple luxury in Lent, such as chocolate – and the pleasure of Easter eggs on Easter Day is all the more intense! This year Lent starts on Wednesday 14th February; Holy Communion at St.Mary's Church is at 10am. Easter Day – the end of Lent – is Sunday 1st April.

The goal in Lent is to make us see how dependent we are on things that our forebears would only have dreamed about: rich foods, regular alcoholic drinks, instant news communication, motorised transport constantly available. Leading a simpler life is what is on offer in Lent, to remind us of another way of life. But, of course, some things that began as luxuries have become necessities. To consciously abstain when in the company of others can be a cause of difficulty.

The Christian invitation in Lent is to a greater awareness of these things: that our lifestyle can hide from us our distance from being truly alive. Simplicity, honesty, wholesomeness and restraint may be unattractive but Christ calls us to be able to put his call first. 'Seek ye first the Kingdom of God', is Christ's demand. 'Love God and love your neighbour' are the two greatest commandments.

Clearing out the clutter is Lent's task, and making room for greater spiritual awareness. For a Christian that means making time to pray – to be quiet, to reflect, give thanks and put yourself consciously into the presence of Christ – your maker and redeemer.

Revd Jon Hale

DIARY FEBRUARY 2018

Thurs 1st 10.00am Holy Communion at Alderley

Sun.4th Sexagesima

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

Thurs 8th 10.00am Holy Communion at Alderley

Sun 11th Quinquagesima

9.45am Family Service at Alderley
 11.15am Holy Communion at Birtles
 6.30pm Holy Communion at Alderley (said)

Thurs 15th 10.00am Holy Communion

Sun. 18th First Sunday in Lent

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

Thurs 22nd 10.00am Holy Communion at Alderley

Sun 25th Second Sunday in Lent

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

ROTA FOR FEBRUARY 2018
SIDESPEOPLE / LECTORS / WARDENS

D'T	TIME	SIDESPEOPLE	LECTOR	W'N
Feb 4th	8.00am	(at Birtles)		
	9.45am	Mr G Hilton & Mr A Claridge	Mrs K Hale	MP
	6.30pm		Mr T Fones	TF
Feb 11th	9.45am	Mr J Ratchford & Mr S Welsh	Master G Vardon	MP
	6.30pm	Mrs A Robinson	Mr P Reynolds	PR
Feb 18th	8.00am			HW
	9.45am	Mr & Mrs G Woolley	Mrs A Davis	MP
	6.30pm	Mr M Dyer	Mr M Dyer	JY
Feb 25th	9.45am	Mr M Stonehewer & Mrs J Martin	Mrs M Stonehewer	MP
	6.30pm	Mr G Barrie	Mrs A Robinson	PR

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.

The Big Church Day Out this year is on 1st and 2nd June (that's Friday and Saturday) at Capesthorpe Hall.

To find out more go to: <https://bigchurchdayout.com/>

Easter Egg Appeal

Please help us to collect enough to give each family attending Oasis an egg on Easter Sunday.

Eggs can be left in the basket at the back of the church up to March 18 to be delivered that week

For some families last year it was the first Easter egg they had ever received .

Thank you in anticipation of your support

Anne Robinson

Red Noses? No Laughing Matter

Thirty years ago this month, on 5th February 1988, Britain experienced its first Red Nose Day. 'Comic Relief', an American idea, had crossed the Atlantic in a uniquely British form. So suddenly red noses were everywhere. Lenny Henry and comedy script-writer Richard Curtis were its first pioneers, movingly expounding its simple basic principle: poverty, exploitation and famine are not funny, but well-known funny people could help those who were their victims. The first Comic Relief drew an audience of 13 million and raised five million pounds. Over succeeding years, the audience has never again been quite so large, but the amounts raised for the relief of poverty world-wide have hugely increased.

Getting a big TV audience is simply the first requirement of a telethon – a marathon televised charity project. Once Comic Relief achieved that audience, some of the most effective comedians in the UK did their stuff, sometimes live and sometimes recorded. Over Comic Relief's 30 years just about every well-known comedy performer in Britain', has contributed to the event. For several years a regular feature was an hilarious parody by Ian Hislop. The same comic stars also introduce films and interviews to remind viewers that this really is comedy with a purpose.

Once again, this month the red noses will appear – at school, at work, in shops and on the streets: a visible, bizarre reminder that all the world is not happy, but our laughter is that of sympathy, not ridicule. Next year the total raised by Comic Relief should pass a hundred million pounds, and that's no laughing matter.

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

COLLECTION TOTALS

Week ending	Gift Aid Envelopes	Non-Gift Aid & Misc Cash	Standing Orders	Total
Dec 3 rd	197.30	38.50		235.80
Dec 10 th	136.10	85.71		221.81
Dec 17 th	587.55	149.22		736.77
Dec 24/25	752.35	661.53		1413.88*
Dec 31 st	128.00	11.50		139.50
TOTAL	1801.30	946.46	671.00	3418.76

*Includes £170.53 School Carol Service

£504.93 Crib Service

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

NETHER ALDERLEY 200 CLUB

January draw winners

1st prize Jean Stone
2nd prize Robert Padfield
3rd prize Joyce Davis

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.

Thank you to all participants!!

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

At this time we are working on the Bridge Drive—Monday February 12th, 1.30pm \ in the hall. If there is anyone still interested please let me know. It usually is a friendly afternoon, and includes what I understand is a 5 star tea?!!

I understand the coffee after morning Service is normally well supported now, thank you for this. Still on the look out for help!! We rely on the faithful few with thanks.

On March 13th we are planning a Spring Lunch outing. As our last outing to Woodford Garden Centre was so successful we are planning to repeat this venue. Do join us.

Janet Adamson 01625 583320.

Walking

A group of friends from St Mary's are going for a walk on the **3rd March** 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.

Place	Park on the road by Odin mine NT sign at Castleton
Grid reference	SK 1343 8348
Directions	Down Winnats pass and Turn left at Buxton old road (landslide road) follow to the mine From Castleton take A6187 and drive past Winnats pass to the mine
Time	10.00 am
Distance	6.4 miles
Terrain	hilly to start

Bring a packed lunch

Contact Terry Fones

01625820738

07815478544

A Deanery is a group of parishes.... There are 18 Deaneries in Chester Diocese. The benefice of Alderley & Birtles lies within Knutsford Deanery. The other parishes in Knutsford Deanery are: Chelford; Alderley Edge; High Legh; Knutsford St.Cross; Knutsford St.John the Baptist; Lindow; Lower Peover; Marthall; Mobberley; Over Peover; Over Tabley; Rostherne with Bollington; Toft; and Wilmslow.

JOHN DURNALL

"Pat Durnall and her family would like to say thank you for all the letters, cards, flowers and donations received in their recent bereavement of John"

A

Message from members of St. Mary's Mothers' Union

At the AGM of the Mother's Union held on 17th January in the Parish Hall, the general feeling of members was that we would like members of St. Mary's congregation to be aware of all the good work that is done within the MU organisation, one of the largest world-wide Christian caring societies reaching out far and wide.

Being new to the area and a member of the MU for many years, I have been made most welcome within the church and was enrolled into St. Mary's MU last July. This has given me comfort to settle into the area as everyone has been most kind and I feel I'm in a family of caring Christians.

Many of you we know lead busy lives, but perhaps you can take a moment or two to think you could come along and find out what MU is all about and share in one of our meetings.

Our meetings are normally held on the third Wednesday in the month at 2pm in the Parish Hall but check the Sunday before on the Service sheet for any changes.

Our programme has something for everyone with a variety of speakers and of course not forgetting the Tea and chat. We look forward to seeing you. We are a welcoming branch so please give us a try. You will not be disappointed.

Visit www.mothersunion.org/ to learn more about MU

Ann Austin

Diocesan Prayer Intentions for February 2018

The Benefice of Alderley & Birtles lies within the Diocese of Chester and the Deanery of Knutsford. Throughout the year, on a daily basis, you are invited to hold in prayer all aspects of Diocesan life in Christ. This is the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer.

February 2018

- 1st Wincle parish
- 2nd Macclesfield St.Peter (part of the Macclesfield Team Parish)
- 3rd Macclesfield All Saints (part of the Macclesfield Team Parish)
- 4th Pray for all who live with dementia.
- 5th Macclesfield St.Barnabas (part of the Macclesfield Team Parish)
- 6th Macclesfield Bollinbrook Church of England School
- 7th Wallasey Deanery
- 8th Leasowe parish
- 9th Liscard the Resurrection parish
- 10th Liscard St.Thomas parish
- 11th On this, the Sunday before Lent, pray to keep Lent well.
- 12th New Brighton St.James with Emmanuel
- 13th Poulton parish
- 14th Seacombe parish
- 15th Wallasey St.Hilary parish
- 16th Wallasey St.Nicholas parish
- 17th Moreton parish
- 18th On this, the First Sunday in Lent, pray for honesty.
- 19th Mottram Deanery
- 20th Dukinfield St.John parish
- 21st Dukinfield St.Mark parish
- 22nd Gee Cross parish
- 23rd Hattersley parish
- 24th Hollingworth parish
- 25th On this, the Second Sunday in Lent, pray for fairness in trade:
www.fairtrade.org.uk
- 26th Hyde St.George parish
- 27th Hyde St.Thomas with Godley cum Newton Green parish
- 28th Millbrook parish

What do you think of when you hear Church bells ringing?

Weddings? Special National Events, such as Remembrance Sunday? Or do you think of the picture of the village green with the sound of leather on willow and the local village church in the background?

You may have heard in the media that to remember the 1400 Church Bellringers who gave their lives in the Great War, the Central Council of Church Bellringers has set us the challenge to train 1400 new ringers so that on Sunday November 11th 2018 many more church towers will be ready to ring to mark 100 years since the Armistice.

At St Mary's, Alderley we have a long history of bellringing for Sunday Services, weddings and other 'special occasions' and we are keen to recruit new members to join us.

If you would like to learn a new skill, meet new friends and have fun we would love you to join us for our open weekend or practice night every Tuesday to have a go at ringing the bells.

OPEN BELL RINGING WEEKEND AT ST.MARY'S CHURCH IS SATURDAY & SUNDAY 17th & 18th MARCH.

Thank you to Mark Wilkinson and Will Ablett for arranging Text Giving and Online Giving for St.Mary's Church.

Text Giving: Text SUND05 £5 to 70070 to donate £5 (the £5 can be any amount up to £10).

Online Giving: go to www.alderleychurch.co.uk and click on 'Donate to St.Mary's Church, Alderley'. There is no limit to the amount that you can donate by using online giving.

More people use a card for all payments now and do not carry cash or a cheque book. That's why more and more parish churches have Text Giving and Online Giving. These methods also enable giving by people who want to support St.Mary's Church but who do not come to the church or who live at a distance away.

If you have queries about this please talk with Mark Wilkinson or Will Ablett.

Would you like to be Confirmed or do you know someone who would like to be Confirmed?

A Confirmation service will be held on Sunday 6th May, 10.00am, at St.Philip & St.James Church, Alderley Edge, to which we are invited.

If you would like to be Confirmed please let the Rector know by the beginning of Lent (14th February).



Women's World Day of Prayer

Friday 2nd March 2016

7.00pm

St Philips & St James

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 Benefice of Alderley with Birtles

During my first full year in post here, my main focus has been to support and encourage the excellent teamwork at both St.Mary's Church and St.Catherine's Church. My aim as Rector of the Benefice of Alderley and Birtles is for both churches to each develop their unique Christian character, learning from each other, working together and growing together. At St.Catherine's Church I am known as Vicar, but – Rector or Vicar – it all amounts to Christian ministry and leadership.

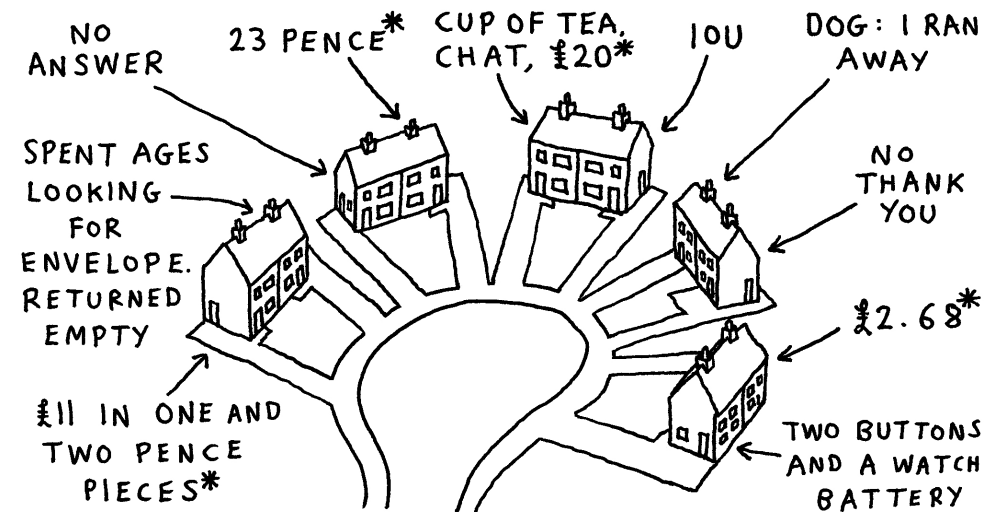
Behind the scenes a lot goes on to maintain both churches as fully functioning parish churches which serve an area wider than their geographical ecclesiastical parish. I am particularly aware that with new houses being built at Alderley Park, the population of both Alderley and Birtles will grow.

Kerry and I are delighted to be living at the Rectory. I am not a natural gardener but it is a great pleasure to maintain the Rectory garden and to play my part in keeping St.Mary's Church and environs a special place that is cherished by many from near and far.

Revd Jon Hale

FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO HAVE EVER TAKEN PART IN THE HOUSE TO HOUSE COLLECTION FOR CHRISTIAN AID

COLLECTING CHRISTIAN AID ENVELOPES



* ADDED TO EVERYONE ELSE'S: 12.5 MILLION POUNDS FOR CHRISTIAN AID