

FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptisms

Weddings

Funerals

10th January - Memorial Service for Mr. Malcolm Gordon Wilson, preceded by a cremation at Macclesfield Crematorium.

12th January - Funeral service for Mrs Rosemary Jones followed by a burial @ Alderley Cemetary.

22nd January - Interment of cremated remains of Mr Geoffrey Duncan Boddington

7th Feb Nancy Morton

15th Feb Barbara Wilson followed by crem.

22nd Feb Robert Hammond—memorial service

FLOWER ROTA

Mar 4th Lent

Mar 11th Lent

Mar 18th Lent

Mar 25th Lent

MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTIONS

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

Rector Writes

March 2018

From the sermon preached by the Rector at St.Catherine's Church, Birtles on the Sunday before Lent

In Lent (this year 14th February to 1st April) we mark both Jesus' 40 days in the wilderness, when – through temptation - he learned the limits of mortal existence, and our Lord's journey to Jerusalem for the last time.

Suffering

The example of our Lord is that human suffering is given meaning by his own suffering. Say that to someone in pain or distress and they won't always thank you for it. But suffering is the shared human experience that unites us all in our mortality, and suffering is an experience that our Lord entered into, and which was the path that led by the cross to human redemption.

Bible readings

At St.Catherine's Church and at our sister church of St.Mary at Alderley, we have our Bible readings set for us according to the Book of Common Prayer. I would like to switch to the list of readings that is used widely in the Church of England now, known as the Common Worship readings. These give us more variety and we would not hear the same readings on the same Sundays every year. It would mean that the Sunday readings would not always be as printed in the Book of Common Prayer but we would have more variety, and with variety comes more scope for learning from the Bible.

In the Common Worship readings, the reading from the Gospels set for today is the Transfiguration of our Lord. In the order of events in the Gospel, the Transfiguration happens just as Jesus is about to set his face towards Jerusalem 'where the Son of Man will suffer and will die'. So, to set the order of events for us, the Common Worship readings give us the Transfiguration just as Lent is about to begin. In the Transfiguration, Jesus was revealed in his heavenly glory to three of his disciples. On the mountain top, the glory of God was seen in Christ.

The Gospel reading set for us by the Book of Common Prayer comes after the Transfiguration, while Jesus is on the road to Jerusalem. All the way on that road, Jesus is met by those who were considered the least among people: the 'unclean', the blind, the sick, the maimed – and he healed them and accepted them. The Christian Gospel shows that the depths of human suffering may be intrinsic to this revelation of the glory of God in this life. It is this mystery that we acknowledge in our worship of Jesus Christ as Lord.

Serving those who suffer or who are outcast

Lent is meant to be a solemn time. We are called to live closer to our Lord – to live within boundaries as created beings of God and not as if we were immortal. And our Lord shows us that serving those who suffer or who are outcast may open our eyes to the glory of God and the truth of salvation in Christ.

DIARY MARCH 2018

Thurs 1st 10.00am Holy Communion at Alderley

Sun.4th Third Sunday inLent

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

Thurs 8th 10.00am Holy Communion at Alderley

Sun 11th Fourth Sunday in Lent

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

Thurs 15th 10.00am Holy Communion

Sun. 18th Fifth 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 Palm Sunday

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

Easter services

Easter Day is the main festival of the Christian year: the celebration of our Lord's Resurrection from the dead.

At St.Mary's Church on Easter Day the services will be:

9.45am Holy Communion
 6.30pm Evensong

If you only come to church once a year, Easter Day is the day to do so!

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.

ROTA FOR MARCH 2018

SIDESPEOPLE / LECTORS / WARDENS

D'T	TIME	SIDESPEOPLE	LECTOR	W'N
Mar 4th	8.00am	(at Birtles)		
	9.45am	Mrs H Jabr & Mrs E Fairhurst	Mr K Wilkinson	MP
	6.30pm	Mrs L Kershaw	Mr P Kershaw	TF
Mar 11th	9.45am	Mr G Hilton & Mr J Ratchford	Mrs SJ Wilkinson	MP
	6.30pm		Mr P Reynolds	PR
Mar 18th	8.00am			HW
	9.45am	Mrs R Dyas & Mr Stonehewer	Mrs M Stonehewer	MP
	6.30pm	Mr M Dyer	Mr M Dyer	JY
Mar 25th	9.45am	Mr & Mrs G Woolley	Mrs A Davis	MP
	6.30pm	Mr G Barrie	Mrs A Robinson	PR

Easter Flowers

If you would like to make a donation towards the cost of the Lillies and Easter Flowers in Church in memory of loved ones please place your donation in an envelope with your name and the names of those to be remembered clearly written on the outside. Envelopes to be handed to Michael Penlington or placed in the appropriate box just inside the entrance to the Church. Cheques to be made payable to; 'Alderley Church Flower Fund'

A list of loved ones to be remembered will be put in Church and published in the Parish Magazine. Michael Penlington

WOW!

The 200 Club has raised over

£5000

To date the Nether Alderley 200 Club has raised over **£5000** to help towards maintaining and supporting St Mary's Church. In addition, over **£3000** in prize money has been paid out to lucky winners in the monthly draws!

If you are not already taking part why not join us and become a member of this exciting fund-raising initiative which makes a serious contribution directly to the on-going everyday overheads of our Church, whilst allowing **YOU** the chance to benefit from becoming one of the many luck winners we have had.

Monthly membership is just **£5** per entry. 40% of the total subscription income received is distributed as prize money and the balance, after expenses, goes directly to the upkeep of our Church.

COME AND JOIN US

Entry forms are available from:

Rachel Mogg (rmoggtuls@hotmail.com)

Stephen Maynard (samaynard@dial.pipex.com)

<http://alderleychurch.co.uk/200club/> Or at the back of the church

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	Envelopes	Misc Cash	Standing Orders	Total
7 th Jan	145.00	26.00		171.00
14 th Jan	356.70	77.05		433.75
21 st Jan	121.00	16.00		137.00
28 th Jan	273.00	72.00		345.00
TOTAL	895.70	191.05	1146.00	2232.75

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

NETHER ALDERLEY 200 CLUB **February draw winners**

1st prize Fiona Robinson
2nd prize Peter Robinson
3rd prize Anne Story

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 £5000 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

We held our Annual Bridge Drive on Monday February 12th. 36 people took part, 9 tables .

This is a happy Social afternoon. We made a profit of over £300.00.. A big thankyou to the many helpers who baked, made sandwiches, washed up and waited on.

Our planned Spring lunch is on March 13th at Woodford Garden Centre (Nottcutts) Meeting there at 12 30. Do come if you can maybe bring a friend. Contact Janet Adamson. If you need a lift let me know.

Coffee after morning service is continuing. I feel really sad I can't be there. really indebted to the faithful who do the work. We are still dividing the donations between Oasis and The Macclesfield Hospice

Janet Adamson 01625 583320.

Walking

A group of friends from St Mary's are going for a walk on **Saturday 7th April** 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 walk around Macclesfield Forrest (and maybe to Teggs Nose)

Starting at 10.00 am prompt from the road side car parking next to Ridgeway Reservoir

Post Code: Nearest **SK11 ONE**; OS Grid Ref: **SJ 954 714**

Length: 6.5 to 10 miles (we will decide on the day if we include Teggs Nose)

Grade: Moderate to steep sections of the slopes around the Forrest and Teggs Nose, 400 to 580 metres of ascent.

Further information: Packed lunch, snacks with drinks needed.

Contact Chris Sweetman (01565 889 057) with any questions.

A Mission Action Plan for St.Mary's Church

When the Parochial Church Council met in January it adopted this Mission Action Plan for the year ahead. Please consider in prayer what new initiative you could take to pursue the Mission Action Plan, and have a word about it with the Churchwardens or the Rector.

Adopted by the Parochial Church Council on 25th January 2018

Action area	Task
Numbers of people at worship	Increase the number of regular worshippers by, amongst other ways: Personal invitation to worship Engaging with all who support St.Mary's Church online to encourage them to become regular worshippers providing different kinds of worship to serve different needs.
Families and children	Set up and run events and opportunities for children and families including Messy Church and a weekly drop-in for pre-school children and their parents / carers
Social events	Increase the diversity of church social events so that St.Mary's Church may engage with a broader range of people
New residents	Monitor the construction and occupation of new dwellings at Alderley Park, engage with new residents and in due course invite them to events at St.Mary's Church which may include an 'Introduction to Christianity'
Parish Hall Restoration	Support the Parish Hall Restoration Committee and the Joint Management Committee of Nether Alderley Parish Hall to achieve repair, refurbishment and improvement of the Parish Hall and improved management so that the Hall may be better-used by St.Mary's Church and may serve the church and par-

Diocesan Prayer Intentions for March 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.

March 2018

- 1st The parish church of Mottram in Longendale
- 2nd The parish church of Newton in Mottram with Flowery Field
- 3rd The parish church of Stalybridge Holy Trinity
- 4th Pray for contemporary artists working with the themes of faith.
- 5th The parish church of Stalybridge St.Paul
- 6th The parish church of Tintwistle
- 7th Pray for the Deanery of Wirral North
- 8th Pray for the Right Reverend Keith Sinclair – Bishop of Birkenhead.
- 9th The parish church of Barnston
- 10th The parish church of Bebington
- 11th Pray for all observing Mothering Sunday today
- 12th The parish church of Frankby with Greasby
- 13th The parish church of Great Meols
- 14th The parish church of Heswall
- 15th The parish church of Higher Bebington
- 16th The parish church of Hoylake
- 17th The parish church of New Ferry
- 18th Remember with gratitude the Celtic Saints: today is the feast day of St.Cuthbert
- 19th The parish church of Upton (Overchurch)
- 20th The parish church of Thurstaston
- 21st The parish church of Newton West Kirby
- 22nd The parish church of West Kirby St.Andrew
- 23rd The parish church of West Kirby St.Bridget
- 24th The parish church of Poulton Lancelyn
- 25th On Palm Sunday pray for space and time to meet God on our own journeys.
- 26th Pray for the Deanery of Nantwich
- 27th The parish church of Acton
- 28th The parish church of Audlem
- 29th The parish church of Baddiley
- 30th The parish church of Burleydam
- 31st The parish church of Church Minshull

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).

Who is being called to serve as Churchwarden?

St.Mary's Church needs to elect up to three Churchwardens at the Annual Meeting on 19th April. All three of our Churchwardens will be standing down: two of them because they will have reached the end of their six year term and the third because of health issues. Most parish churches have two Churchwardens but, for historical reasons, St.Mary's Church has three.

Please consider in prayer whether you are now being called to serve as Churchwarden. Talk with Jenny, Michael and Peter about what is involved in being Churchwarden.

This is a good summary of the Churchwarden's roles and responsibilities. It's on the Diocese of London website, but it applies the same in every Diocese of the Church of England: <https://www.london.anglican.org/kb/churchwardens/>

These duties may be summarised thus:

The churchwardens, when admitted, are officers of the Bishop of the Diocese.

They shall discharge such duties as are by law and custom assigned to them; they shall be foremost in representing the laity and in co-operating with the incumbent;

they shall use their best endeavours by example and precept to encourage the parishioners in the practice of true religion and to promote unity and peace among them.

They shall also maintain order and decency in the church and churchyard, especially during the time of divine service

Revd Jon Hale

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/>

JUMBLE SALE

There will be a Jumble Sale in the Reading Room, Over Alderley on 3rd March. Unsold items are sent to the Oasis charity.

Jumble Sale
Saturday 3rd March
The Reading Room
Over Alderley SK10 4SN
12 noon

Jumble may be brought to the Reading Room on Friday 2nd March at 6.00 p.m. or call 582334 for collection

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

Messy Church and a pre-school children & parent / carer weekly drop-in

Messy Church is a new way of being church that attracts young families – and the grandparents too. It's messy so that mums and dads are at ease: nobody will criticise them for the behaviour of their children. And families are more messy these days – blended, extended, nuclear and informal. It's Messy too because it's based around craft activities and food: 45 minutes of fun with a faith theme and then 10 minutes of storytime (worship) and then tea for all. Before we set up Messy Church in the Parish Hall we need to form a team, have training (including safeguarding training), have the necessary DBS check, agree how Messy Church will be paid for, and agree when to start! Please let me know by Easter Day if you're interested in joining the team.

Running a weekly drop-in for pre-school children and their parents / carers is what parish churches do, and I would like to see if we can do this at the Parish Hall. We would need a committed team and we would have to have safeguarding training and the necessary DBS check done. We would have to figure out how we would use the Parish Hall, bearing in mind its limitations and how the drop-in would be paid for. And we would have to think through where we would store all the necessary play equipment. Again, if you are interested in being on the team, please let me know by Easter Day.