

FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptisms

Sun 29th April Jorge Charles Hinchcliffe

Weddings

Funerals

FLOWER ROTA

May 6th Marie Stonehewer
May 13th Avril Lamond
May 20th Avril Lamond
May 27th

MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTIONS

The deadline for the next magazine is **Thursday May 17th**
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Rector Writes

May 2018

The sermon preached by the Rector at St.Mary's Church on Easter Day

The sacred continues to fascinate. By definition, the sacred is that which is beyond us, and which is of God. Some people are repelled by the sacred: it seems to make unbearable demands and it is laughed at or reviled. Others engage with the sacred in order to deny its existence. And still others skirt around it, but cannot deny its attraction.

I talk with many people about faith, belief, the church – and I have all sorts of conversations. In the present age, what we do here to honour the sacred leaves many people saying: 'The world has moved on; you belong in the past'. If we lived or worked in a city, the sacred would be much more visible to us: a variety of churches and places of worship of other religions; street life and street art that speaks of God. Here, in the rural calm, the sacred is more hidden. Nevertheless: this is church; this is the place; this is God's presence.

The Christian conviction is that nothing less than a God who puts himself into our hands and suffers the consequences of human fear, folly, cruelty and hatred – who lies dead and buried – who returns in compassion and trust – nothing less than this can counter the depths of human evil. 'Salvation in Christ' is the word. It is serious business, because the sacred does make demands on all who will hear, that we take seriously our mortal standing before God.

More than salvation, the death and Resurrection of Jesus are the making of a 'new covenant' between God and humanity. This celebration of Holy Communion today is the commemoration of this 'new covenant'. In the body of Jesus Christ – in his living, bleeding, dying, death and Resurrection – in these things the 'new covenant' of God with all humanity was made. In Christ, each of us will know God: no mediator is now needed; no sacrifice is now needed. On Easter Day we celebrate the rebirth of humanity in Christ.

Easter falls in Springtime, and deep in our human psyche, the Christian celebration of the Resurrection chimes with anticipation of new life in creation. But not everyone shares in the joys of Spring. For some, Spring makes no difference to their lonely and desolate place. Easter is not celebration of Springtime.

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ is not rebirth. It is not the Easter bunny; it is not the sap rising and the days lengthening. Resurrection is not reincarnation; it is not rousing from sleep and neither is it a zombie walking. Resurrection is that which was dead remade, bearing its wounds, leaving the past behind, speaking, acting and showing forgiveness, compassion and grace. Resurrection is the body remade – still the same, but remade in Christ.

This is the Christian hope. It is our personal hope for our mortality.

And it is the church's hope. Resurrection is the church's heartbeat and it always has been: remade, bearing its wounds, leaving the past behind, speaking, acting and showing forgiveness, compassion and grace.

DIARY MAY 2018

Thurs 3rd 10.00am Holy Communion at Alderley

Sun.6th 6th Sunday of Easter

8.00am Holy Communion at Birtles
 9.45am Holy Communion at Alderley
 11.15am Family Service at Birtles
 3.00pm God Parent's Service

Mon 7th 9.00am Morning Prayer at Alderley

Tue 8th " "

Wed 9th " "

Thu 10th 10.00am Ascension Day—Holy Communion

Fri 11th 9.00am Morning Prayer

Sun 13th 7th Sunday of Easter

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

Thurs 17th 10.00am No Service

Sun 20th Pentecost

8.00am No Service
 9.45am Holy Communion at Alderley
 11.15am Mattins at Birtles
 6.30pm Evensong at Alderley

Thurs 24th 10.00am No Service

Sun 27th Trinity Sunday

9.45am Mattins at Alderley
 11.15am Holy Communion at Birtles
 6.30pm Evensong at St Philip & St James

Thurs 31st 10.00am Holy Communion at Alderley

ROTA FOR MAY 2018

D'T	TIME	SIDESPEOPLE	LECTOR	W'N
6 th May	8.00am	(at Birtles)		
	9.45am	Mr A Claridge & Mrs R Dyas	Mrs K Hale	MP
	6.30pm	No service
13 th May	9.45am	Mrs J Martin & Mrs G Beeley	Master G Vardon	MP
	6.30pm	Mrs A Robinson	Mrs A Robinson	AJH
20 th May	8.00am	No service
	9.45am	Mr G Hilton & Mr G Woolley	Mrs A Davis	TF
	6.30pm	Mr M Dyer	Mr M Dyer	PB
27 th May	9.45am	Mr J Ratchford & Mr M Stonehewer	Mrs M Stonehewer	KW
	6.30pm	No service

The Knutsford Deanery combined choir

On the second Sunday in the month the 6.30pm service at St.Mary's Church is a said service. This is so that members of St.Mary's choir may sing in the Knutsford Deanery combined choir which sings Evensong every month on the second Sunday. If you are interested in joining the Deanery combined choir please contact Peter Spooner who is the Organist & Director of Music of St.Philip & St.James Church, Alderley Edge.

The Evensong services at which the combined choir will sing over the next few months are:

13th May St. Cross', Knutsford

10th June St. James', Congleton

8th July St. Oswald's, Lower Peover

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.

East Cheshire Hospice Starlight Walk in memory of Janice Elaine Sweetman

On Friday 20th April, members of the Sweetman Family completed the Starlight Walk at Capesthorpe Hall to honour our missing loved ones who were familiar faces at the East Cheshire Hospice. Janice was a frequent visitor over the past few years to the Sunflower Centre at the ECH who provided her with support and a lovely bright, warm place to go where she could work through her worries about her illness. Since Janice's passing last July, the Sunflower Centre has continued to provide support to our family and we would like to now give something back.

Our entire family would be very gratefully for any donations you would wish to make to the East Cheshire Hospice in memory of Janice, and we would like to again extend our thanks to everyone for their support through this difficult time.

You can send donations directly to the ECH at: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/hannah-sweetman>

All our thanks, Hannah Sweetman

Change to worship at 9.45am on Sundays to make it more welcoming of younger families

When the Parochial Church Council met on 22nd March, it agreed that from 1st August this will be the Sunday service pattern at 9.45am:

- 1st Sunday: Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) – as now
- 2nd Sunday: Family Service (Common Worship) – as now
- 3rd Sunday: Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) – as now
- 4th Sunday: Family Service (Common Worship)
- 5th Sunday: to vary.

At the same meeting, the Church Council also agreed that we will aim to introduce Common Worship Holy Communion early in 2019 and that this might be either monthly or on the 5th Sunday, and that this will be decided by the PCC later in 2018. A Communion service in the Common Worship style is more accessible to strangers to worship and it uses language that is easily understood.

The Church Council also agreed that, starting in May, we will follow the Sunday readings listed in the Common Worship lectionary. This means that we will not hear the readings for Holy Communion that are set out in the Book of Common Prayer. The Common Worship lectionary follows a three-year cycle, so we will hear a greater variety of Bible readings compared with the Book of Common Prayer which has an annual cycle.

I know that the Book of Common Prayer is greatly valued: I value it greatly. I am also looking to the future and the need to bring in younger adults and their children.

Changing from the Book of Common Prayer Communion service to the Common Worship service will be a significant change and I will do all I can to make the change in a sensitive way. Please don't hesitate to talk with me about this.

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	Misc Cash	Standing Orders	Total
Mar 4 th	199.00	36.15		235.15
Mar 11 th	232.80	52.50		285.30
Mar 18 th	146.60	30.00		176.60
Mar 25 th	336.00	64.00		400.00
TOTAL	914.40	182.65	1046.00	2143.05

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

NETHER ALDERLEY 200 CLUB

April draw winners

- 1st prize Margaret Worthington
- 2nd prize Fiona Ablett
- 3rd prize Judy Swales

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 have had coffee after most Sunday Morning Services. This is due to the dedication of a few. I have continually asked for more helpers. Please consider doing a little. There will be other occasions in the coming months when help will be required. Rector is offering a God Parents Service on May 6th at 3pm. followed by tea.

We have donated £40.00 to Stand Up for Cancer fund from our collection. I have monies in hand at this time awaiting distribution.

Soon we will be planning an outing in August.

It has been decided to organise a theatre outing in November to see Joseph's Amazing Technicolour Dream Coat in Wilmslow. This is a change from the suggestion of last month. There is a list in the kitchen on Sundays please put your name if interested.

Janet Adamson 01625 583320.

Walking

A group of friends from St Mary's are going for a walk on Saturday June 2nd 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.

Cat & Fiddle, Goyt's Moss and Axe Edge Moor

Starting at 10.00 am opposite the Cat & Fiddle Inn on the A537 Macclesfield to Buxton Road

Length: 8.5 miles – about 5 hours at an easy pace.

Grade: mostly moderate

Food & liquid refreshment essential.

Further Info from Don Henderson (07919 055941)

ST MARY'S PLANT SALE

MAY 12th 10-12am

METHODIST CHURCH HALL , CHAPEL ROAD, ALDERLEY

**PLEASE COME AND BRING YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY WHO
HAVE GARDEN BORDERS**

**ALL OUR PLANTS ARE GROWN AND
PROVIDED FREE OF CHARGE**

by St Mary's Gardeners

ALL OUR PROCEEDS GO TO CHRISTIAN AID

**Alderley Edge Methodist Church are hosting our Herbaceous
Plant Sale alongside their Bedding Plant Sale and Coffee Morn-
ing**

ALL GROWERS

**PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU HAVE PLANTS OR
YOU CAN HELP ON THE DAY**

Please Contact Fiona Ablett 01625 585180

Or

Lynn Smith 01625 585245

Diocesan Prayer Intentions for May 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.

May 2018

- 1st The parish of Great Sutton
- 2nd The parish of Hooton
- 3rd The parish of Neston
- 4th The parish of Shotwick
- 5th The parish of Thornton Hough
- Sunday 6th We pray 'Thy Kingdom Come'
- 7th The parish of Willaston
- 8th The University of Chester Church of England Academy
- 9th Stockport Deanery
- 10th (Ascension Day) The parish of Brinnington with Portwood
- 11th The parish of Offerton
- 12th The parish of Edgeley and Cheadle Heath
- Sunday 13th Christian Aid Week
- 14th The parish of Stockport St.Mary
- 15th The parish of Stockport St.Peter
- 16th The parish of Stockport St.Saviour
- 17th The parish of Stockport St.Thomas
- 18th The parish of Stockport St.George
- 19th The parish of Norbury Hazel Grove
- Sunday 20th Give thanks in prayer for the Holy Spirit.
- 21st Pray for Bishop's Mission Order: God loves Offerton
- 22nd Chester Cathedral
- 23rd Birkenhead Deanery
- 24th The parish of Bidston
- 25th The parish of Birkenhead Priory
- 26th The parish of Birkenhead St.James & St.Bede
- Sunday 27th Pray for those to be ordained Priests on 2nd June
- 28th The parish of Birkenhead Christ Church
- 29th The parish of Oxton
- 30th The parish of Prenton
- 31st The parish of Rock Ferry

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.

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/>

Godparents' Sunday is 6th May

Come to a special family-friendly service for Godparents at St.Mary's Church, Alderley at 3pm followed by tea. It will be a time to come together in St.Mary's Church to remember the Baptism of people whom we love – and to remember our own Baptism. We will pray for family and friends – and Godparents. If you have photos of your Godchildren's Baptism (Christening) please bring them with you. At the service you will be given the opportunity to make a 'thank you' card to give to your Godparents. Contact Revd Jon Hale on 01625 585440 to find out more. <https://churchofenglandchristenings.org/after-a-christening/godparents-sunday/>

Foxhill House is a centre for prayer, study and mission

Foxhill House is the Chester Diocese Retreat House. Whether your stay is residential or just for the day, Foxhill offers you peace and space for relaxation, reflection and renewal. Foxhill House is ideally situated, being in a rural location, yet with Chester, Liverpool, and Manchester all less than 40 minutes away. Whether you come to Foxhill House by yourself, or with a group large or small, you will be offered a personal service to meet your needs.

Go to <http://www.foxhillchester.co.uk/> and read about the many upcoming events.

The Easter Flowers in Church were kindly donated in memory of

*Peter Adamson
Valerie Barlow
Archie Barrie
Evelyn Barrie
John Beeby
Ellinor Beeby
Mary Bliss
Dennis Bliss
C. Geoffrey Boddington
E. Norah Boddington
Gwendolen R. Boothman
Harold F. R. Boothman
Allan Brown
Charles Maitland Currie
Peter Andrew Currie
John Davis
Mary (Babs) Davis
Joseph (John) Davis
Glyn Davis
Dick Dyer
Marjorie Dyer
June Gass
Peter Gass
Charles Godfrey Gould
Dorothy Gould
Major Kevett Haines
Winifred Haines
Patricia Hamilton
Raymond Hamilton
Muriel Hayden
Reginald Hayden
David George Holland
Frank Holland
Roy Neville Howard
Alex Humphrey
Louis Kaufman
Harry Kirby
Muriel Kirby
May Leary
Frank F. Lee
Isabella G. Lee
John M. Lee
Margaret Lee*

*Tom Manning
Mabel Manning
Wilf Monkman
Doris Monkman
Gary Moss
Julie Moss
Ken Moss
Henry Peter Nairn
Trudy Nairn
Charles Henry Neale
Eleanor Penlington
Stanley Penlington
John Pyatt
Christopher John Rennie
Ernest Rennie
Patricia Rennie
Rosina Rennie
Dudley Reynold's
Frank Cavendish Shepherd
Elsie Shiers
Jill Shiers
Robert Shiers
Robin John Skelton
Anna Snape
Annie Sutcliffe
Horace Musgrave Swales
John Musgrave Swales
Pathanea Swales
David Watkins
Kathleen Watkins
William Watkins
Andrea Welsh
Tanya Welsh
Wilfred Whittingham
Bessie Whittingham
Patricia Whittingham
Ken Wilkinson
Alice Wilkinson
George Yarwood*

The Rector writes about 'Thy Kingdom Come'

Thy Kingdom Come is the annual wave of prayer at the time of Pentecost / Whit Sunday: <https://www.thykingdomcome.global/>

On Monday 7th May the Bishop of Stockport (The Right Reverend Libby Lane) and the Archdeacon of Macclesfield (The Venerable Ian Bishop) will make a Prayer Walk through as many parishes in the Deanery as possible.

At present the plan is that they will leave Wilmslow at 10am, walking to Alderley Edge and then along Congleton Road to St.Mary's Church, arriving at about 11.45am. We will offer them a refreshment break here. Then they will walk south to Chelford Road by the footpath through Heawood Hall and by Stubby Lane, and then west along Chelford Road. They aim to be at the Egerton Arms for lunch at 1.30pm. Please join me, walking from St.Mary's Church to Chelford, and then back via Carter Lane and Nursery Lane. And please pray for Bishop Libby and Archdeacon Ian as they prepare for this walk, and in all their varied and demanding ministries.

'Thy Kingdom Come' at St.Mary's Church

Please join me every day Monday 7th to Friday 11th May in St.Mary's Church for Morning Prayer at 9am.

On Ascension Day (10th May) Holy Communion will be celebrated in St.Mary's Church at 10am.

THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

Annual Box Opening
Amount Donated £1007.07 (£900.16 last year)

Thank you to St Mary's boxholders - £10195 donated in 18 years. We are one of nearly 7500 churches supporting the work of The Children's Society. The transformation of Abi's life is one example of this work. She was 11 years old when her mother, after a major operation, was unable to move. Abi had to cook, clean and look after her mother.

Struggling with these caring duties and constantly worried about her mother's health, Abi began to fall behind at school. She was bullied and became depressed, anxious and developed post traumatic stress disorder.

After three years of caring for her mother, Abi was referred to a local young carer's service which introduced her to The Children's Society. The help given involved meeting other carers. Abi was amazed to learn that she was not alone in her situation. She gained confidence and volunteered to help plan the Society's annual festival which brings together young carers from across the country. As a Young Carer's Champion, Abi joined a network of young carers who are passionate about improving the lives of other children like themselves. Abi has moved forward from feeling that she had no future to be a confident, happy young woman. She is preparing to go to university and wants to be a photographer.