

FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptisms

Weddings

Funerals

(No Baptisms, Weddings or Funerals this month)

FLOWER ROTA

Oct 7th	Harvest
Oct 14th	_____
Oct 21st	_____
Oct 28th	_____

MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTIONS

The deadline for the next magazine is **Thursday 18th October**
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Large format copies of the magazine are available.

Rector Writes

October 2018

The sermon by the Rector that he preached on Sunday 26th August at both churches in the benefice

A book was published in 2012 to good reviews, so I bought a copy. The book is: 'Unapologetic: Why, despite everything, Christianity can still make surprising emotional sense'. The author is Francis Spufford. When I left my previous parish, I left the book there. This week, the book came back to me in the post, so I sat down to read it again, and I will tell you about the book. The book is: sympathetic; earthy; in places coarse in its language; 'straight from the heart'; 'written for the sceptical thirty-something' of today - and it reads very well.

It is coarse in its language because Francis Spufford writes about the reality of sin. He describes our personal realisation of the mess that we get ourselves into, and how bad it makes us feel about ourselves - and the knowledge that sin has spread its web so that it is pervasive - and the self-knowledge that - as St. Paul puts it in Romans 7: 'The good I would do, I do not do, and the evil I would not do - that I do'. All this leads Francis Spufford to write directly and coarsely about how this awareness of sinfulness makes us feel about the world - about ourselves - because the way sin can make us feel is coarse, and base.

The book is not an intellectual argument for the existence of God. In the face of onslaughts against faith and religion which are commonplace nowadays, it is unapologetic, and it is not intellectual in its approach, but emotional. The humanity of the author shines through.

Francis Spufford compares Christianity with the other two monotheistic religions of Abraham: Islam and Judaism. Alone amongst these three, Christianity does not have a set of rules for daily living. We don't have moral orders for do's and don't's about particular days of the week or particular times of the year or particular situations we might find ourselves in. Actually, Christianity makes impossible demands that nobody can keep, and it demands that our actions are supported by motives that are pure - at all times and in all places. This is the teaching of Christ. This means that nobody can live up to the perfection of Christ: all must face up to their own failings, and each of us stands before Christ the same. The church is a community of people who acknowledge this - and so, in our shared self-awareness, we also face each other and acknowledge each other as equal before Christ. It is Christ alone who is not caught in the web of sinfulness, and so Christ is our hope.

The emotional sense is that when one becomes crushingly aware of one's own part in the web of sinfulness, even the slightest lifting of the burden is sought. Francis Spufford is realistic that we cannot escape our past, and that prayer is not a magic cure. But he does come down to the way that prayer works, and the healing that it provides. The ability to step outside of one's own pitiful situation by addressing God in prayer, if repeated over time, becomes a source of hope that there is life beyond one's obsession with one's own guilt. It's easily said, but Francis Spufford writes persuasively from his own experience. And if it is God to whom one is praying, then natural curiosity about the nature of God opens up the possibilities of learning from one's past mistakes and allowing oneself to imagine a different future. This is not the full Gospel, but it's enough.

Despite everything, Christianity can still make surprising emotional sense. I have two copies - one for each church. I will leave a copy here for you to borrow - but if you borrow it, please put it back in church for someone else when you have read it. The book is not for those of a nervous disposition.

DIARY OCTOBER 2018

Thu 4th 10.00am Holy Communion at Alderley

Sun.7th Trinity 19
 8.00AM Holy Communion at Birtles
 9.45am Holy Communion at Alderley
 11.15am Family Service at Birtles (Harvest)
 6.30pm Evensong at Alderley

Thu 11th 10.00am Holy Communion at Alderley

Sun 14th Trinity 20
 9.45am Family Service at Alderley
 11.15am Holy Communion at Birtles
 6.30pm Holy Communion at Alderley (said)

Thurs 18th 10.00am Holy Communion at Alderley

Sun 21st Trinity 21
 8.00am Holy Communion at Alderley
 9.45am Holy Communion at Alderley
 11.15am Mattins at Birtles
3.00pm Carers Service at Alderley

Thurs 25th 10.00am Holy Communion at Alderley

Sun 28th Last Sunday after Trinity
 9.45am Family Service at Alderley
 11.15am Holy Communion at Birtles
 6.30pm Evensong at Alderley

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.

Changed email address for the Rector

The Rector has changed his email address so that it is the same one that is used by Ken Wilkinson – the Benefice Administrator.

To email the Reverend Jon Hale please use: alderleyandbirtles@gmail.com
 Emails sent to the previous email addresses used by the Rector will be forwarded to alderleyandbirtles

ROTA FOR OCTOBER 2018
SIDESPEOPLE / LECTORS / WARDENS

D'T	TIME	SIDESPEOPLE	LECTOR	W'N
7 th Otc	8.00am	(at Birtles)		
	9.45am	Mr A Claridge & Mrs W Liddle	Mrs W Liddle	MP
	6.30pm	Mrs L Kershaw	Mr P Kershaw	AJH
14 th Oct	9.45am	Mr G Hilton & Mrs J Martin	Mr T Fones	TF
	6.30pm	Mrs A Robinson	Mrs A Robinson	AJH
21 st Oct	8.00am			HW
	9.45am	Mr J Ratchford & Mrs G Beeley	Mrs K Hale	MP
	3.00pm	Mr M Dyer	Mr M Dyer	KW
28 th Oct	9.45am	Mrs R Dyas & Mr G Woolley	Mr M Penlington	MP/ DH
	6.30pm	Mr G Barrie	Mr Terry Fones	TF

COLLECTION TOTAL

Week	Gift Aid	Non-Gift Aid &	Standing	Total
5 th Aug	229.50	32.00		261.50
12 th Aug	217.50	81.00		298.50
19 th Aug	253.00	74.00		327.00
26 th Aug	229.00	39.05		268.05
TOTAL	929.00	226.05	836.00	1991.05

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

On why people should ALWAYS sit in the same pew

From The Rectory
St. James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren,

I have to say that the couple who complained that you never noticed they had been missing from church for a month had a point. There is a simple way of noticing when someone is absent: everyone sits in the same pew. Every Sunday. Always.

Little Miss Margison sits in the pew after the third pillar on the right here at St. James the Least. As she walks up the aisle, you can sense her counting the pillars until she reaches the right one, which then allows her to sit in front of it. I have speculated that if I ever had that pillar removed, then the following Sunday, she would have a complete mental collapse.

One Sunday a visiting family arrived early and sat down; three people in an empty church seating 200. Colonel Wainwright and his wife were the first of our regulars to arrive and froze in horror. The Colonel said in a deafening whisper to his wife: "There's someone sitting in our pew."

At least they had the grace – no matter how reluctant – for one week, to sit somewhere else. Unlike the Prentice family of husband, wife and three children, who arrived to discover that a visiting family of husband, wife and four children were sitting in their pew; six people in a pew that held eight. Or, it normally holds eight. That Sunday, it held thirteen.

We at least have one iconoclast in Miss Pemberton, who makes a point of sitting in a different place every week. This thoroughly unsettles the rest of the congregation, who fear she may sit in their seats during her nomadic wanderings. I sometimes wonder if she has a chart at home with all the pew spaces marked on it and she strikes one off each week as she returns home after Mattins.

Occasionally the unexpected can happen. Mrs Cholmondeley arrived one week in good time, settled herself in her accustomed place, but half-way through the Service suddenly ran out of the building. Ten minutes later, she was back and in her usual place once again. It was only when the church filled with the smell of burned bacon that we understood.

That is why replacing pews with chairs in your church was a mistake. Pews can never be moved. You know where everybody is – or should be!

Your loving Uncle, Eustace

NETHER ALDERLEY 200 CLUB September draw winners

1st prize Shirley Bailey
2nd prize Margaret Worthington
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.

Over £6000 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!!

Alderley Church News

July saw the launch of a new St. Mary's Church regular publication: Alderley Church News, aimed specifically at the new homes in Alderley Park. The first new home was occupied in May, and the new community will be growing fast throughout the summer and autumn. Every few weeks, **Alderley Church News** will be delivered to all the occupied homes in Alderley Park. If you would like to join the distribution team please let the Rector know.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

We have recently had a Committee meeting and looked at several things.

The August Lunch outing was successful. 27 people joined in.

Rector is offering a Carers Service on Sunday October 21st at 3.00 pm. It is customary to offer tea and cake following the service. We desperately need help? Please consider giving a little time to do so.

The Theatre outing on Saturday 10th November is being organised by Marie Stonehewer. Her new Tel No. is 01625 522268. More detail in next month's magazine.

Please note the date of the Christmas Fair is December 1st. We need your support.

Very soon we propose to send £100.00 to the hospice. This is the collection from the charity pot on Sunday coffee. In the foreseeable future coffee will continue on Sunday mornings as long as somebody is able to run it. Our long standing helpers are getting fewer. Age and unavailability are an increasing problem.

Janet Adamson 01625 583320.

Walking

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

This is a circular walk in Bickerton and Harthill County Parishes of Cheshire.

We start by meeting at 10:00 in the car park of The Bickerton Poacher pub.

Post Code SY14 8BE; OS Grid Ref is: SJ 522 544

The length is 6.5 to 7 miles

Grade: Moderate walk with 750 feet of ascent. Route: Bickerton Poacher, Bulkeley Hill Farm, Raw Head, Gallantry Bank, Bickerton Hill, Maiden castle, Bickerton, Bickerton Hall.

Further information: A packed lunch and snacks with plenty drinks for a 3.5 to 4-hour outing is essential.

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

Prayer Calendar for the Parish of St.Mary, Alderley

Week beginning	Please pray for
7 th October	Merrymans Lane
14 th October	All members of Nether Alderley Parish Council and the Clerk to the Council
21 st October	Soss Moss Lane
28 th October	All members of Great Warford Parish Council and the Clerk to the Council

The church parish of St.Mary, Alderley includes the civil parishes of Nether Alderley and Great Warford. I have drawn up a prayer list of 52 entries (one for each week of the year) which has all roads in the parish that have residential properties, and all institutions, public amenities, pastoral priorities, and democratic bodies in and serving the parish.

Diocesan Prayer Intentions for October 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.

October 2018

- 1st The parish of Astbury
- 2nd The parish of Barthomley
- 3rd The parish Brereton
- 4th The parish of Holmes Chapel
- 5th The parish of Congleton St.James
- 6th The parish of Congleton Team
- Sunday 7th Please pray for Licensed Lay Ministers.
- 8th The parish of Eaton with Hulme Walfield
- 9th The parish of Elworth
- 10th The parish of Goostrey
- 11th The parish of Church Lawton
- 12th The parish of Odd Rode
- 13th The parish of Sandbach
- Sunday 14th Please pray for Foxhill House and Woodlands.
- 15th The parish of Sandbach Heath
- 16th The parish of Smallwood
- 17th The parish of Wheelock / Hassall Green
- 18th The parish of Swettenham
- 19th The parish of Siddington with Capesthorpe
- 20th The parish of Marton
- Sunday 21st Please pray for the church's mission as salt, light and yeast in the world.
- 22nd Marton & District Church of England School
- 23rd Malpas Deanery
- 24th The parish of Aldford
- 25th The parish of Bickerton
- 26th The parish of Bickley
- 27th The parish of Bruera
- Sunday 28th Please pray for churches dedicated to St Simon and St Jude.
- 29th The parish of Bunbury
- 30th The parish of Burwardsley
- 31st The parish of Coddington

The Rector writes

A syndrome that I have seen many times in thirty years in parish ministry is the situation of an elderly couple, one of whom has a seriously restricting condition, with the other being their main carer. Although the carer is relatively healthy, the carer's self-esteem and self-care is neglected because all caring is directed at the cared-for person.

The carer 'soldiers on' and both end up in hospital, separated. As an observer, there is a limit to what I can say, because the devotion of a couple who have been married for many years and who have been through great adversity together may see no alternative to their current arrangement.

Alongside the isolation of a carer in this situation, there may also be unresolved matters concerning household finance, benefits that the couple are entitled to but which they are not claiming, worsening physical condition of the home and other trauma.

Those who care for the carers will say: 'Take a break for a while every day and go for a walk; take a respite break with the cared-for person having residential care for a week; come to a charity that cares for carers and allow yourself to be cared for.'

Last year in October a 'Caring for the Carers Service' was held at St.Mary's Church on a Sunday afternoon, and we will do the same again. This year it will be on Sunday 21st October at 3pm followed by tea in the Parish Hall.

Last year, most people who came to the service had been carers, and they took the safe setting of the service and the tea afterwards to reflect on the experience of having been a carer. If you are a carer, and can find someone to look after the person you care for for a couple of hours, come to the service on 21st October. Or, if you have been a carer in the past, come to the service to reflect on that experience.

Where to go for help:

Carers Trust: Action, Help, Advice. <https://carers.org/article/charities-support-carers>

Carers UK: <https://www.carersuk.org/>

Mind. How to cope when caring for someone else: <https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/helping-someone-else/carers-friends-family-coping-support/#.W1czgtJKhkg>

WANTED !

Two more volunteers to join the Church cleaning team!

It involves cleaning in pairs once every four weeks on
a Wednesday or Friday morning.

Please contact Michael Penlington (01625 530084) if you are
able to help or want any more information.

The Church Sidesmens' Lunch October 2018

Hello one and all!

Unfortunately, the response we have had has been mainly those unable to attend, and in addition, we are sad to say that we seem to be acquiring more medical appointments than ever before! Simply put, it means postponing this Autumn's 'Sidesmen's' lunch.

Needless to say, when we can, we will look at another date in the future in the meantime thank you for all of you who responded to us.

Our best wishes

Michael & Marie Stonehewer

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY is 11th November

The traditional Remembrance Sunday service will be held at St.Mary's Church at 10.30am.

Pigeons at War

At the outbreak of World War 2 thousands of Britain's pigeon fanciers gave their pigeons to the war effort to act as message carriers. During the period of the war nearly a quarter of a million birds were used by the army, the RAF and the Civil Defence Services including the police, the fire service, Home Guard and even Bletchley Park. Pigeon racing was stopped and birds of prey along the coasts of Britain were culled so that British pigeons could arrive home unhindered by these predators. There were tight controls on the keeping of pigeons and even rationing for pigeon corn.

Homing pigeons were used not only in Western Europe by British forces but also by American, Canadian, and German forces in other parts of the world during the war – Italy, Greece, North Africa, India and the Middle and Far East. One pigeon, GI Joe, saved the lives of thousands of British troops who were preparing to take an Italian town after the US Air Force had bombarded the Germans. However, the British forces found no resistance from the Germans and so entered the town unchallenged. Unfortunately the USAF were already en route to bomb the town and with radio contact broken GI Joe flew over a mile a minute (60 mph) back to the base. He arrived back just in time for the air raid to be called off before the USAF would have bombed our troops.

All RAF bombers and reconnaissance aircraft carried pigeons and, if the aircraft had to ditch, the plane's co-ordinates were sent back with the pigeon to its RAF base and a search and rescue operation was effected. Thousands of servicemen's lives were saved by these heroic birds that flew often in extreme circumstances.

Pigeons carried their messages either in special message containers on their legs or small pouches looped over their backs.

Quite often pigeons were dropped by parachute in containers to Resistance workers in France, Belgium and Holland. This was often quite precarious as it was a bumpy landing and very dangerous for the Resistance workers if they were caught with a British pigeon.

Pigeon lofts were built at RAF and army bases but the mobile lofts had to be constructed so that they could move easily over land. The Dickin Medal was awarded for any animal displaying conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty during World War II and its aftermath. Of the 53 Dickin Medals presented, 32 went to pigeons.