

FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptisms

10th March Lily Rose GIBB.

Weddings

Funerals

8th March The burial of cremated remains in the churchyard of Alan COCKITT.

FLOWER ROTA

April 7th Lent
 April 14th Lent
 April 21st Easter
 April 28th Easter

MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTIONS

The deadline for the next magazine is **Monday 15th April 2019**
 Please send all copy to:

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Large format copies of the magazine are available.

The Rector writes about Holy Week and Easter

Into our self-determining and free-flowing contemporary way of life, the church provides ritual markers in the passage of time. In this way, meaning and structure are given to life. Easter Day is the main festival of the Christian year: the celebration of our Lord's Resurrection from the dead. Before that great day comes, the church provides a ritual pathway so that we may enter deeply into Christian meaning.

In Holy Week, I am working with the Revd Robin Pye and the Revd Canon Loveday Alexander to assist in the full provision of traditional Holy Week services at St.Philip & St.James Church, Alderley Edge which will also be for St.Mary's Church and St.Catherine's Church.

Starting Monday in Holy week, these services at St.Philip & St.James Church are:

Monday 15th April: 7.30pm Holy Communion

Tuesday 16th April: 7.30pm Holy Communion

Wednesday 17th April: 7.30pm Holy Communion

Maundy Thursday: 7.30pm Holy Communion, washing of feet and the stripping of the altar.

Good Friday

Walk of witness in the village, starting at 10.30am at Alderley Edge Methodist Church.

2pm at St.Philip & St.James Church: The Stations of the Cross.

Holy Saturday / Easter Eve: 6.30pm Easter Vigil.

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

8am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

9.45am Holy Communion (Common Worship)

6.30pm Evensong (Book of Common Prayer)

I look forward to seeing you in church.

Jon Hale

DIARY APRIL 2019

Wed 3rd 7.30pm Evensong at Lower Withington
 Thur 4th 10,00am Holy Communion at Alderley BCP

Sun.7th Fifth Sunday of Lent
 8.00am Holy Communion at Birtles BCP
 9.45am Holy Communion at Alderley BCP
 11.15am Family Service at Birtles
 6.30pm Evensong at Alderley BCP
 Wed 10th 7.30pm Holy Communion at Hulme Walfield
 (Bishop of Chester)
 Thur 11th 10,00am Holy Communion at Alderley BCP

Sun 14th Palm Sunday
 9.45am Family Service at Alderley CW
 11.15am Holy Communion at Birtles
 6.30pm Evensong at Alderley (said) BCP
 Mon 15th 7.30pm Holy Communion (St Philips & St James)
 Tues 16th 7.30pm Holy Communion (St Philips & St James)
 Wed 17th 7.30pm Holy Communion (St Philips & St James)
 Wed 17th 7.30pm Evensong at Eaton
 Thurs 18th 10.00am Holy Communion at Alderley BCP
 Fri 19th 10.30am Walk of Witness in Alderley Edge
 Sat 20th 6.30pm Easter Vigil at St Philips & St James

Sun. 21st Easter Day
 8.00am Holy Communion at Alderley BCP
 9.45am Holy Communion at Alderley CW
 11.15am Holy Communion at Birtles
 6.30pm Evensong at Alderley BCP

Sun 28th Easter 2
 9.45am Family Service at Alderley CW
 11.15am Mattins at Birtles
 6.30pm Evensong at Alderley BCP

ROTA FOR APRIL 2019

SIDESPEOPLE / LECTORS / WARDENS

D'T	TIME	SIDESPEOPLE	LECTOR	W'N
7 TH Apr	8.00am	(at Birtles)		
	9.45am	Mrs W Liddle & Mrs J Martin	Mrs W Liddle	MP
	6.30pm		Mr K Wilkinson	KW
14 th Apr	9.45am	Mr & Mrs G Woolley	Mrs A Davis	DH
	6.30pm		Mr T Fones	TF
21 st April	8.00am			HW
	9.45am	Mrs R Dyas & Mr M Wilkinson	Mrs SJ Wilkinson	MP
	6.30pm	Mr G Barrie	AJH	AJH
28 th Apr	9.45am	Mr M Stonehewer & Mrs G Beeley	Mrs M Stonehewer	KW
	6.30pm	Mr M Dyer	Mr M Dyer	TF

COFFEE is available in the Parish Hall after the 9.45am Service.

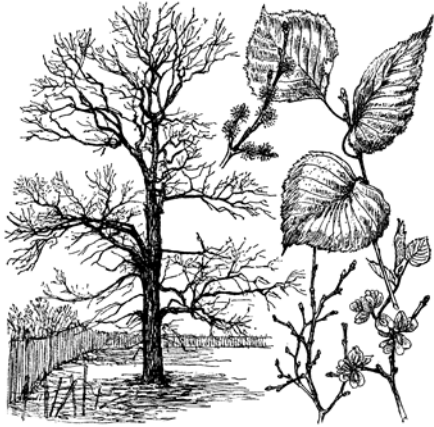
At the end of the Morning Service coffee and biscuits are provided by a stalwart group of volunteers in the Parish Hall.

Donations will be given to charity.

EASTER EGGS

If you would like to donate an Easter Egg for **OASIS**, please leave it in the basket at the back of church.

John Wesley's Elm



The tree we most associate with churches are yews, many of them ancient, and some of these will have provided shelter for ancient worship and rituals long before a church was built nearby.

It is said that St Cuthbert preached to a congregation numbering 1000 under a huge yew on his arrival at the Island of Bernera.

Preaching under great trees was something John Wesley was very used to and several ancient prints along with two stained glass windows in his world famous chapel in the City of London show him with congregations gathered beneath a variety of trees. But he was particularly fond of elms and one in

particular at Stony Stratford, near Milton Keynes in Buckinghamshire, where he preached on at least five occasions, is where he is said to say that he hoped one day to be buried under an elm.

Wesley died in London in 1791 and was buried in a tomb at the back of his Chapel, but it only is now, over two hundred years later, that he has an elm not quite at his tomb, but close to the front door of his house just yards away.

It is a very special elm because it is a cutting from the elm which he preached under in the Market Place at Stony Stratford, which reached the grand age of 400 years before sadly suffering Dutch elm disease in the 1970s. However, the ancient hollow trunk continued to throw up vigorous shoots – before being hit by two fires and finally succumbing to the disease again. The tree was cut down in 2007, but elm enthusiast, Mark Seddon, took a cutting just before the chainsaws arrived and grew it into a four foot sapling. He brought the English elm sapling to plant in Wesley's garden recently.

Mark Seddon is delighted that the young tree has been given such a prestigious home. It had been destined for Central Park in Manhattan, New York, but John Wesley's House is absolutely the right place for it. "The tree is a living link with Wesley", says Mark "and in its new position in Central London, should be relatively safe from the dreaded Dutch elm disease. I hope that future generations will stand under it and venerate the great man who once preached under its illustrious parent".

John Wesley's brother Charles who is thought to have written some 6000 hymns is buried just yards from a rare elm in Marylebone which tree enthusiasts have voted one of London's ten greatest trees. Now both Wesley brothers have their special elms.

COLLECTION TOTAL

Week Ending	Envelopes	Misc Cash	Standing Orders	Total
Feb 3rd	161.00	39.50		200.50
Feb 10th	321.30	10.00		331.30
Feb 17th	179.00	53.00		232.00
Feb 24th	221.82	37.06		258.88
TOTAL	883.12	139.56	1196.00	2218.68

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

NETHER ALDERLEY 200 CLUB **Latest draw winners**

1st prize Mark Wilkinson
2nd prize Linda Snape
3rd prize Peter Robinson

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 £7000 has now been handed over to St Mary's treasurer, towards the day to day running costs of the Church.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

We have had the Spring Lunch at Woodford Garden Centre to-day. As always a jolly affair. It is a great opportunity to talk and get to know people. Sadly we had one or two last minute gaps.

Next thing is the special coffee on Mothering Sunday. March 31st. We always offer special cake and biscuits on that day. We do hope everybody will join in if possible. The Jubilee Committee have offered help which we have gratefully accepted. Big problem with moving furniture due to age!!

Please if anyone feels able to bring tinned items to church to put in the Oasis basket

Janet Adamson 01625 583320.

Walking

A group of friends from St Mary's are going for a walk on the **7th April 2019**. 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: Leather's Simthy, Clark Lane, Langley, **SK11 0NE**; 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. Stop at Teggs Nose café if we include it.

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

Prayer Calendar for the Parish of St.Mary, Alderley. April 2019.

Week beginning	Please pray for
7 th April	Soss Moss (Cheshire & Wirral Partnership NHS Foundation Trust)
14 th April	All who live in Whitebarn Road
21 st April	Cheshire Police
28 th April	All who live in Artists Lane

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

ELECTORAL ROLL OF ST.MARY'S CHURCH IS BEING REMADE

Every six years, the church Electoral Roll must be re-made. To remain on the Electoral Roll of St.Mary's Church please complete an Electoral Roll application form and return it to the Electoral Roll Officer – Mrs Hellie Jabr, Alderley Cottage, 12 Congleton Road, Alderley Edge, Cheshire, SK9 7AA – or to the Rectory or to St.Mary's Church when open for services.

If you are not already on the St.Mary's Church Electoral Roll, please take a form, complete it and return it.

Your completed application form must be received at one of the above three places - Mrs Hellie Jabr's home address – or to the Rectory or to St.Mary's Church when open for services - by Thursday 28th March.

The new Electoral Roll will then be put on the church porch noticeboard until Wednesday 10th April for the identification of any errors. On 11th April the finalised Roll will be put on the board: it will be only those who are on the new Roll who may stand to be elected at the St.Mary's Church Annual Meeting on Thursday 25th April. Only those who are on the new Roll may vote at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, if there are any votes. In the first part of the meeting (The Meeting of Parishioners) all who are resident in St.Mary's Parish may vote plus those who are on the St.Mary's Church Electoral Roll.

For more information please contact Hellie Jabr at helen@jabr.demon.co.uk or on 01625 585852 or contact Rector at The Rectory on 01625 585440

Diocesan Prayer Intentions for April

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.

April 2019

- 1st Pray for the parish of Wrenbury
 2nd Pray for the parish of Wybunbury
 3rd Pray the parish of Wettenhall
 4th Pray for the parish of Warmingham
 5th Pray for Wirral South Deanery
 6th Pray for the parish of Backford
 Sunday 7th Pray for Our Common Future.
 8th Pray for the parish of Bromborough
 9th Pray for the parish of Burton
 10th Pray for the parish of Capenhurst
 11th Pray for the parish of Eastham
 12th Pray for the parish of Ellesmere Port
 13th Pray for the parish of Great Saughall
 Sunday 14th Pray for all who celebrate Palm Sunday that we may all accompany our Lord in Holy Week.
 15th Pray for the parish of Great Sutton
 16th Pray for the parish of Hooton
 17th Pray for the parish of Neston
 18th Pray for the parish of Shotwick
 19th Pray for the parish of Thornton Hough
 20th Pray for the parish of Willaston
 Sunday 21st Easter joy!
 22nd Pray for the University of Chester Church of England Academy, Ellesmere Port
 23rd Pray for Stockport Deanery
 24th Pray for the parish of Brinnington with Portwood
 25th Pray for the parish of Offerton
 26th Pray for the parish of Edgeley and Cheadle Heath
 27th Pray for the parish of Stockport St.Mary
 Sunday 28th Leonardo da Vinci died on 2nd May 1519. Give thanks for the power of art to engage and inspire.
 29th Pray for the parish of Stockport St.Peter
 30th Pray for the parish of Stockport St.Saviour

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

PLANT SALE

SATURDAY MAY 11th 10 -12am

ALDERLEY METHODIST
CHURCH HALL

Herbaceous plants and more,
all ready for planting out in your garden or greenhouse.

Last year we had many hardy varieties of perennial plants and hope our happy gardeners will be busy growing more this year.

All are sold to raise funds for Christian Aid - our prices are very moderate.
Last year we raised £450.

If you can offer any plants grown In your garden please phone
Fiona or Lynn to advise varieties available.
Tel 585180 or 585245

Garden annuals, Book and Preserve stalls, Tea, Coffee,
Cake also provided by the Methodist church team.

April 2019 MU News

Many of you may not be aware of our MU Prayer Chain which anyone can use. I was recently impressed to hear of the wonderful support this had given to a member and her family, receiving comfort from members in an hour of need. If you know or have someone that you would like to be linked to the MU Prayer Chain just ring our contact on 01565 873070 and speak to Sandra. MU members do care and complete confidentially will be observed.

"How I came to offer myself for Ordination" was the title of our Rector's talk given in March. Most people like to hear of a person's life story and we were no exception to hear his journey into the Ministry and the MU.

As there are other services for MU in March including Womens' World Day of Prayer on 1st March (St. Pius this year at 2pm) Lady Day (25th March) and Easter Day, we don't hold a meeting in April.

On 15th May at 2pm our speaker will be Olivia Smedley who has titled her talk "Cheshire's forgotten Suffragette". If you are interested you are very welcome to join us.

Our 20 minute set time to observe the MU Wave of Prayer will be given to us nearer the time between 18th – 20th May. This is a worldwide chain of prayer which is observed through day and night throughout the world and is thus the largest chain of prayer in the world.

We have a Mail Order Catalogue at the back of the church in which there is a great variety of cards and gifts etc for all occasions.

God of Grace enable us to carry out your mission through the work of the MU in whatever way we can

Ann Austin

FOOD BANKS

St.Mary's Church has a long-established link with the Oasis Centre at Gorton. Please leave in the basket at the back of church donations of non-perishable food, clothes and baby requirements which will be taken to Oasis. Our partner church of St.Catherine, Birtles now also collects items for Oasis: these are brought to St.Mary's Church regularly by the Rector. <http://oasisgorton.org/>

The churches in Alderley Edge run food banks for the Alderley area. St.Mary's and St.Catherine's Church supports this work by prayer. If you would like to give practical help to the local food banks please contact the Rector and he can put you in touch with those who run these food banks.

The Rector writes about the Annual Meeting of St.Mary's Church on 25th April

At the start of March, both main political parties gave the impression of being in meltdown. On 1st March, the Labour Party's Deputy Leader and its General Secretary were deeply at odds over the recording of anti-Semitic incidents within the party. On 18th February, eight Labour MPs had left the party to join a new Independent Group of MPs. Also on 1st March, Nick Timothy - the former Chief of Staff to Theresa May – was quoted by the BBC as saying that "It would have been better to be clearer that not everybody in the (Conservative) party was going to get what they wanted." Also on 18th February, three Conservative MPs had left the party to join the new Independent Group. On 1st March the BBC quoted Nick Timothy as saying that 'the government's mishandling of Brexit risked "opening up space for a populist right wing party"'.

At one time I briefly considered local politics, and I was studying parish councils in my university degree course. But I didn't much like either of the main parties, and I lived in a city - where there are no parish councils. I committed myself to the Church of England instead. The ecclesiastical parish is the geographical area that is served by a parish church. The established nature of the Church of England means that a parish church must be run in such a way that it is publically accountable within the parish.

Every parish minister with responsibility for a parish church must act with vision, and also with an eye to what is actually possible. Politics is the art of the possible. It is we who elected the present Parliament, and it is for Parliament to decide what is actually possible. Pray for our Member of Parliament, and pray for our nation at this difficult time. Pray for our Parish Councillors – in Great Warford and in Nether Alderley – and for the clerk to each Parish Council.

And come to the Annual Meeting of St.Mary's Church on 25th April at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall. Everyone who lives within the ecclesiastical parish (ie. the civil parishes of Great Warford and Nether Alderley) – as well as all who are on the Electoral Roll of St.Mary's Church - is entitled to vote to elect churchwardens. I look forward to seeing you at the Annual Meeting.