

# St.Mary, Alderley Cheshire



**Parish Magazine**  
**February 2014**

**50p**

## **Rector Writes:**

**February 2014**

Over a hundred people to date have watched the Youtube presentation of St Mary's Church looking splendid over Advent and Christmas. Sandra Reynolds put the photo/video montage together with great skill and those that have seen it have made a point of saying just how good it is. We have a lot to be thankful for in the people whose time and talents go into making St Mary's look so beautiful and feel so welcoming.

How we promote the Church in the age we live has been a question that has been asked in every generation. The challenge in finding an answer and actually getting on with the work of promoting the Church has found many different expressions down the ages. I have a book on Franciscan Art patronage in the late middle ages. The Franciscans wanted to reach ordinary people with the message of love and inclusion found in Christ's ministry in the gospels. They employed artists to paint murals in their Churches to communicate the Christian story. It was their solution to promoting the Church in the age they lived. The Dominicans – another religious order equally active at the same time and equally committed to reach ordinary people with the message of hope, love and salvation contained in the gospels concentrated more on the spoken word. They developed their ministry of preaching not only inside the Church but outside. Taking the word of God into markets and street corners, basically putting themselves in the places ordinary people lived and worked.

We need to seek ways of reaching people with the message of love entrusted to the Church. In seeing a Church that is beautifully decorated, well cared for and so obviously celebratory at a time like Christmas is a powerful way of inviting people to visit us for themselves. People who came to St Mary's at any time throughout Advent and Christmas said how uplifting the experience had been. The Youtube presentation is a window for others to see our Church and want to come for themselves – it is an embodiment of that old retail expression 'you've got to dress the shop window if you want them to come into shop because by staying to look they may well stay to buy'.

We have been blessed by God in the Church we have and we must endeavour to do all we can to share that blessing with others. We must engage with the age we're in which is itself a long standing tradition in the Church. Facebook through the efforts of Mark Wilkinson is also being used to reach people with St Mary's news and Service times each week. May God prosper these endeavours.

**James**

## DIARY FOR FEBRUARY 2014

### Sun.2<sup>nd</sup> Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

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

Thur.6<sup>th</sup> 10.00am Holy Communion at Alderley

### Sun.9<sup>th</sup> Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

8.00am Holy Communion at Alderley  
 9.45am Family Service at Alderley  
 11.15am Holy Communion at Birtles  
 6.30pm Holy Communion at Alderley (said)

Thur.13<sup>th</sup> 10.00am Holy Communion at Alderley

### Sun. 16<sup>th</sup> Septuagesima

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

Wed. 19<sup>th</sup> 2.00pm Mothers' Union  
 Thur.20<sup>th</sup> 10.00am Holy Communion at Alderley  
 Fri.21<sup>st</sup> 2.30pm Holy Matrimony at Alderley

### Sun.23<sup>rd</sup> Sexagesima

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

Thur.27<sup>th</sup> 10.00am Holy Communion at Alderley

### March Sun. 2<sup>nd</sup> Quinquagesima

8.00am Holy Communion at Birtles  
 9.45am Holy Communion at Alderley  
 11.15am Family Service 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.

## COLLECTION TOTALS

Week ending	Gift Aid Envelopes	Non-Gift Aid & Misc Cash	Standing Orders	Total
Dec 1 <sup>st</sup>	551.81	175.03		726.84
Dec 8 <sup>th</sup>	261.00	129.80		390.80
Dec 15 <sup>th</sup>	434.10	26.50		460.60
Dec 22 <sup>nd</sup>	884.05	228.61		1112.66
Dec 29 <sup>th</sup>	96.50	9.50		106.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2915.47</b>	<b>992.03</b>	<b>565.00</b>	<b>4472.50</b>

**ST MARY'S NEED NEARLY £6000 PER MONTH FOR RUNNING COSTS**

### CAROL SINGING - 2013

A very big thank-you to all our hosts and to all our singers. We raised **£1085** during the 3 nights carol singing. The money has been split evenly between the NSPCC and Christian Aid.

### Erratum in January Issue

Sophie Vardon's prize for winning the Cheshire heat of the Cranmer Competition was £50 and an equal amount, £50, was presented to the Treasurer at Mattins. (not £5 as printed)

### A plea from the Editor

Wherever possible, the Editor would appreciate any submissions for the magazine, to be sent by email. A great time saver!! Many thanks!!

## SOCIAL COMMITTEE

We are holding a **Bridge Drive on Monday February 10<sup>th</sup>**, 1.30pm - 4.30pm in the Parish Hall. Tables will cost £26. At the time of going to press there are one or two tables to be available.

**The final figure for the Christmas Fair** after expenses is around £1.000 This is wonderful. The money has been paid into the PCC account, to help in a small way with the running deficit.

**There is at this time £90 in our charity pot.** On the whole this comes from the donations for tea and coffee following morning service.

We intend to have a tea party on February 18<sup>th</sup>. Arrangements are to be confirmed at our next Committee Meeting.

**Janet Adamson Tel: 01625 583320**

## ST MARY'S WALKING GROUP

**Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> March – 10.00am start**



**Walk:** Beeston Castle Loop

The walk is from Beeston Castle car park and follows a loop starting south using the Sandstone Trail, Eddisbury Way (north) and the Shropshire Union canal.

**Starting Point:** Beeston Castle car park (£3.00), lets car share!

**Grid Ref:** Starting point OS SJ 540 590

**Length:** 7 miles. Easy - 3.5 to 4 hours

**Further info:** Drinks and packed lunch required

**Contact:** Chris Sweetman (01565 889 057 or 07802 809 767)



## Women's World Day of Prayer

**Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2013**

**7.00pm**

**at**

**St. Philips & St. James, Alderley Edge**

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.

On Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March over 3 million people world-wide will be praying and worshipping together during an annual day of prayer, using a form of service prepared by the women of Egypt. The theme will be 'Stream in the Desert'.

Jean Hackett, president of the National Committee of the Women's World Day of Prayer movement in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, said:

*'This is always an exciting day as a great wave of prayer sweeps the world, beginning when the first service is held in the Queen Salote Girls School in Tonga and continuing around the world until the final service takes place, some 35 hours later, in neighbouring Western Samoa. By then the day will have been celebrated in over 170 countries and more than 6,000 services will have been held in the British Isles alone.'*

## The Fairhurst Bequest

Two beautiful items were commissioned and donated to St Mary's by the Fairhurst family in thanksgiving to God for the life and work of Harry Fairhurst. Harry loved wood and as an architect worked with this material in many of the projects he undertook. The two items make use of eight different types of wood: Oak, Birch-Satin, Satinwood, Walnut, Rose Wood, Lime, Sycamore and Macassar Ebony. They employ the skills of master craftsman in marquetry and carving.

The first item is a Missal Stand to be used on the high altar. A Missal is a book containing the text and sometimes the music needed to celebrate Holy Communion. It includes texts that are used in the same form throughout the year, and others that change from day to day (such as different saints' feast days), or from season to season (such as Advent or Lent) during the Church year. Every priest needs a Missal in order to celebrate Holy Communion. The Missal Stand has inlaid on it the Christogram IHS. In Western Christianity this is the most common Christogram -"IHS" denoting the first three letters of the [Greek](#) name of Jesus, [iota-eta-sigma](#), or IHΣ. The Greek letter iota is represented in the Latin alphabet by I, and the eta by H, while the Greek letter sigma is in its final form, represented by S - "IHS" is sometimes interpreted as meaning Iesus Hominum Salvator Jesus, Saviour of men. This Christogram is found on an 18th century flagon at St Mary's. Oak leaves and acorns found in the chancel chandelier are represented on the sides and back of the Missal Stand. In this way a nod to some of the historical motifs found in the Church is given in the creation of something new.

The second item is a processional cross stand representing the four elements: water, wind, earth and fire. Four elements Harry would have both worked with and against in his architectural practice. The stand will better display and hold the processional cross which has been exhibited at Goldsmiths Hall, the V&A and Fortnum & Mason as part as Contemporary British Silver Week.



### MOTHERS' UNION

Our next speaker is –

Raymond Rush

**"Fairs, Feasts and Festivals"**

Wednesday 19th February at 2.00pm

**ALL ARE WELCOME SO PLEASE DO JOIN US!**



## All in the month of FEBRUARY

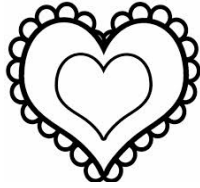
It was....

175 years ago:- on 26th Feb 1839 that the first Grand National steeplechase took place, at Aintree Racecourse near Liverpool.

90 years ago:- on 5th Feb 1924 that BBC Radio broadcast the 'six-pips' Greenwich Time Signal for the first time.

75 years ago:- on 25th Feb 1939 that the first Anderson air-raid shelters were delivered to households in Islington, north London, in anticipation of German bombing.

30 years ago:- on 14th Feb 1984 that British figure skaters Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean won the gold medal at the Winter Olympics in Sarajevo, scoring the first perfect 6.0 in Olympic ice-dancing history.



## **Eyes down for our 'Valentine' Bingo night!**

**Book early to avoid disappointment**

**Come and join us for a few cards of Bingo  
and a 'Robinson's sausage' and chip supper  
Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2014 at 6:30pm  
Nether Alderley Parish Hall**

**Tickets £6.00**

### **Available from any member of the Jubilee Committee**

(Geoff & Maureen Woolley, Mark Wilkinson, Sarah-Jane Dunhill, Stephen & Jules Maynard, Cordelia Robinson, Tracy Crolla, Sally Hildrup, Gail Hodgett, Alison Boddington or Fiona Robinson)

### **OASIS**

On behalf of Oasis I would like to thank everyone for their donations of food, toiletries, clothing and bedding during the months leading up to Christmas. Your generosity and kindness was very much appreciated with everything being distributed within the week.

We now enter a New Year and the support from St.Mary's is still a life-line to many of the clients at Oasis. Please continue to help if you can and be reassured that your contributions make a real difference to these very vulnerable people.

With my very best wishes to you all for 2014.

Anne Robinson.

## **The Great War: GALLANT LITTLE BELGIUM**

The posters were everywhere. Lord Kitchener, eyes blazing and finger pointing imperiously, proclaimed 'Your country needs YOU!' And up and down the land during those first anxious months of the Great War young men, often urged on by families and girlfriends, responded by lining up at recruitment offices in order to enlist in the Army. Those who didn't, for whatever reason, were in danger of receiving a white feather in an anonymous envelope, the badge of cowardice.

Most, like my own father, needed no such urging. For him, as he would explain to the end of his life, the war was a moral duty in defence of 'gallant little Belgium', which had been invaded by the German army on its way, it hoped, to northern France. Britain was bound by its treaty obligations - the famous Entente Cordiale - to share in the defence of France, so (as my father and millions of others saw it) there was a solemn duty to keep our promises.

That is not, of course, necessarily the way history sees things, but I am sure that most of those young men who queued up to volunteer did it for one of two reasons, or, more probably, both of them: patriotism and public pressure. Crowds cheered the young recruits as they marched off to training camps.

It would, everyone confidently asserted, 'all be over by Christmas'. Defeat was unthinkable. These young men - many of them barely fit, through poor diet or unhealthy backgrounds - would face up to the Kaiser's hordes and crush them. At that point, the country was not an unwilling participant in war, but totally committed to it.

In the event, the euphoria didn't last long - indeed, barely as far as Christmas. The German army, well-drilled and equipped, simply barged its way across Belgium. There were bloody battles at Ypres and Mons, but it was the Germans who did the crushing and the Allies - British and French - who did the retreating.

However hard they fought, at each point where the generals drew a line and said 'no further', the German army simply paused for breath and then swept on. Casualties on both sides were high, and slowly the truth began to filter into the public consciousness at home.

This war would not be short; it would not be easily won; and it would be desperately costly.

*(courtesy of Parish Pump)*

## The Legends Behind Why February Has Only 28 Days (Except for Leap Years)

Have you ever stop and wondered why February only has 28 days, except for every four years (leap years) and then it has 29 days? Why didn't it just have 30 days?

There are two legends for the answer to these questions.

Legend one has it that the Romans were the first ones to make up a calendar. Their calendar is very similar to the one we use today, except the first ones supposedly didn't even include the month of February. In fact, the first ones actually only included ten months which added up to 304 days.

This legend goes on to say, that King Numa Pompilius was the one who added the months of January and February. But even then the year only added up to 355 days and 12 lunar cycles. This made the solar year still short by 10 to 11 days. To help rectify the situation King Pompilius then added the month that was known as Mercedinus.

This new calendar was closer than the first one. But it still didn't work perfectly with the lunar cycle. Julius Caesar decided to ignore the calendar. He got rid of the month of Mercedinus. He also gave February 28 days except for every four years in which it would have twenty nine days. Thus, this calendar exactly made up of 365 and 1/4 days. This is why the calendar we used today is often referred to as the Julian Calendar. It is basically the same calendar, with a few minor adjustments.

Legend two, states that the reason why February has only 28 days is because of jealousy. Some believe that Augustus Caesar was jealous because his birthday fell in the month of August (which only had 30 days back then) while Julius Caesar was born in July and his birth month had 31 days. So Augusta took one day from the month of February and added it on to August. That left February with only 28 days, except for leap year.

Do you know what was the main purpose our ancestors had for inventing the calendar? They used it as a means to help with their farming. They needed to mark which days were the best for planning certain crops.

Maybe it doesn't really matter what the reasoning as to why February became the shortest month of the year is. Because as long as we don't know for sure, we can enjoy all the legends behind this short, but maybe most talked about month of the year!!

(Jenny Youatt)

## ROTA FOR FEBRUARY 2014 LADY SIDESMEN / SIDESMEN / LECTORS

DATE	TIME	SIDESMEN	LECTOR
2 <sup>nd</sup>	9.45am	Mr J Ratchford & Mrs J Martin	Mrs C Stephenson
	6.30pm	Mrs D Barber	Mr P Bean
9 <sup>th</sup>	8.00am	Mrs B Essayan	
	9:45am	Mr J Stephenson & Mr G Woolley	Miss S Vardon
	6.30pm	Mr G Barrie Said Holy Communion at St Mary's Alderley and Joint Choral Evensong at St Cross, Knutsford	Mrs F Robinson
16 <sup>th</sup>	8.00am	Mr R Akester	
	9.45am	Mrs C Stephenson & Mrs G Beeley	Mrs W Liddle
	6.30pm	Mr A Cockitt	Mr P Reynolds
23 <sup>rd</sup>	8.00am	Mr P Bean	
	9.45am	Mr M Stonehewer & Mr M Wilkinson	Mrs J Lee
	6.30pm	Mrs A Robinson	Mrs F Robinson
2 <sup>nd</sup> Mar	9.45am	Mr G Hilton & Mrs J Robinson	Mrs E Jackson
	6:30pm	Mrs J Bean	Mr P Bean

## *FROM THE REGISTERS*

### *Funerals*

Tue. 14 <sup>th</sup> January	John David Hewitson
Mon 20 <sup>th</sup> January	Mario Peter Michael Walgram

### FLOWER ROTA

Feb. 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Fiona Robinson
Feb. 9 <sup>th</sup>	Jean Robinson
Feb. 16 <sup>th</sup>	Jean Robinson
Feb. 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Fiona Robinson & Sally Hilldrup

### MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTIONS

The deadline for the next magazine is **Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2014**  
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Large format copies of the magazine are available.