

FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptisms

9th Dec 2018 William Atkinson (A joint service for two cousins)
 Archie Leach
 30th Dec 2018 Eva Alice Wilding.
 27th Jan 2019 Beatrice Alexandra Celia Hutchinson

Weddings

Funerals

:25th Jan William Moyes Leslie,

FLOWER ROTA

Feb 3rd Joyce Davies
 Feb 10th Joyce Davies
 Feb 17th
 Feb 24th Janet Adamson & Hellie Jabr

MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTIONS

The deadline for the next magazine is **Thursday 14th February 2019**
 Please send all copy to:

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 & Distribution: Peter Bean: 01625 582073

Large format copies of the magazine are available.

The Rector writes about Candlemas

Christmas is over but in worship it leaves an echo. All through January the church keeps the season of the Epiphany – the worship of the baby Jesus by seers from the East. Then at the start of February – this year kept on Sunday 3rd February – the ancient festival of the Presentation of our Lord in the Temple, known as Candlemas.

The story of the Presentation, told in Chapter 2 of St.Luke’s Gospel, is that as Joseph and Mary brought Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem, Jesus was recognised by Simeon as ‘the light of the world’. Anna was Simeon’s companion, and these two people – getting on years – were early witnesses of the glory of God in Christ.

The Gospel story may seem, on the face of it, as a simple train of events that belong in the past. The Christian experience is always that, lived week by week and year by year, the events of the Gospel become part of our own story. And would we recognise Jesus if he came to us again?

Candlemas plays its part in the passage of the seasons because it comes a few weeks after Christmas and a few weeks before the start of Lent: it is a pivot. Again, on the face of it that may seem a small thing, but the Christian year – dating from earliest Christian times – is woven into our culture and experience. Lent is the period of demanding weeks leading up to Good Friday, when winter seems to linger longer than it should. Certainly, Christmas is well in the past by the time Ash Wednesday comes.

Come to church on Sunday 3rd February. As the last stage in the story of the infancy of Jesus, and with God’s glory revealed to a surprised, elderly couple, this really is the last of Christmas.

Jon Hale

DIARY FEBRUARY 2019

Sun.3rd	Candlemas	
	8.00am	Holy Communion at Birtles
	9.45am	Holy Communion at Alderley
	11.15am	Family Service at Birtles
	6.30pm	Evensong at Alderley
Thur 7th	10,00am	Holy Communion at Alderley
Sun 10th	Fourth Sunday before Lent	
	9.45am	Family Service at Alderley
	11.15am	Holy Communion at Birtles
	6.30pm	Evensong at Alderley (said)
Thurs 14th	10.00am	Holy Communion
Sun. 17th	Third Sunday before Lent	
	8.00am	Holy Communion at Alderley
	9.45am	Holy Communion at Alderley
	11.15am	Mattins at Birtles
	6.30pm	Evensong
Thurs 21st	10.00am	Holy Communion
Sun. 24th	2nd Sunday before Lent	
	9.45am	Family Service at Alderley
	11.15am	Holy Communion at Birtles
	6.30pm	Evensong at Alderley
Thurs 28th	10.00am	Holy Communion

ROTA FOR FEBRUARY 2019
SIDESPEOPLE / LECTORS / WARDENS

D'T	TIME	SIDESPEOPLE	LECTOR	W'N
3rd Feb	8.00am	(at Birtles)		
	9.45am	Mrs W. Liddle & Mr G Hilton		MP
	6.30pm	Mrs L Kershaw	Mr P Kershaw	KW
10th Feb	9.45am	Mrs J Martin & Mrs G Beeley	George Vardon	KW
	6.30pm	Mrs A Robinson	Mrs A Robinson	AJH
17th Feb	8.00am			HW
	9.45am	Mr A Claridge & Mrs R Dyas	Mrs J Lee	MP
	6.30pm	Mr G Barrie	Mr T Fones	TF
24th Feb	9.45am	Mr & Mrs G Woolley	Mrs A Davis	MP
	6.30pm	Mr M Dyer	Mr M Dyer	AJH

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.

John and Charles Wesley - evangelists and hymn-writers

John and Charles Wesley were the founders of Methodism. Two of nineteen children born to Samuel and Susannah Wesley of Epworth Rectory in Lincolnshire in 1703 and 1707, their father was the local rector, while their mother was a spiritual inspiration to her many children.

Both John and Charles went to Christ Church, Oxford (1720 and 1726). John was ordained, and Charles and some friends formed a "Holy Club" while still at college. It consisted of men who dedicated themselves to Bible study, prayer, fasting and good works. Such regular disciplines soon earned Charles the nickname 'Methodist'. The name stuck.

Both Charles and John felt called to the mission field, and so in 1735 they sailed to Georgia. Their time among Indians in America was not a success – they struggled for any real spiritual authority in their ministries. Feeling failures, they returned to England in some depression. John summed it up: "I went to America to convert the Indians; but, oh, who shall convert me?"

Then the Wesleys made friends with some Moravians. They stressed that salvation cannot be earned, but must be received by grace through faith in Christ. Charles was the first to experience this 'true' conversion, when on Pentecost Sunday, 21st May 1738, he wrote that the Spirit of God "chased away the darkness of my unbelief." Only three days later, on 24th May, 1738, it was John's turn. As he wrote in his journal: "In the evening I went very unwillingly to a society in Aldersgate Street, where one was reading Luther's preface to the Epistle to the Romans. About a quarter before nine, while he was describing the change which God works in the heart through faith in Christ, I felt my heart strangely warmed."

John and Charles Wesley then devoted the rest of their lives to sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ – and turned England upside-down. When the established Church threw John out, he took to the fields, preaching to coal miners and commoners. His itinerant evangelism took him 250,000 miles on horseback and to preach over 40,000 sermons. His small "societies" attracted some 120,000 followers by the time of his death.

Charles became the most prolific and skilled hymn-writer in English history, writing hymns that are sung widely today, such as "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling." In all, he wrote nearly 7000 hymns.

The legacy of the two brothers lives on. As well as Methodism, their teaching has widely impacted the holiness movement, the Pentecostal movement, and the charismatic movement.

COLLECTION TOTAL

Week ending	Gift Aid Envelope	Non-Gift Aid & Misc Cash	Standing Orders	Total
Dec 2 nd	295.85	72.30		368.15
Dec 9 th	174.70	67.86		242.56
Dec 16 th	533.20	94.35		627.55
Dec 21 st - 25 th	790.00	827.25		1617.25*
Dec 30 th	180.00	20.00		200.00
TOTAL	1973.75	1081.76	696.00	3751.51

*includes £358.34 from Nether Alderley School Carol Service)

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

NETHER ALDERLEY 200 CLUB **December draw winners**

1st prize Ines Jamieson
2nd prize Michael Penlington
3rd prize Will Ablett

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. You can read Alderley Church News online at <http://alderleychurch.co.uk/alderley-church-news/>

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Happy New Year!!

We are working on the Bridge Drive to be held on Monday February 11th in the Hall —1.30 - 4.30pm We have at this time sold quite a few tables. Tables £26. We are so grateful to those who have helped with this. We have also been offered some raffle prizes. Really important people offer help. Is there anyone who could help with the tea delivery approx. 2.45 - 3.45pm.

We have a Committee meeting on Tuesday January 29th. to do arrangements.

The Spring lunch will be on Tuesday March 19th. We have yet to action precise time and place. If you have not been before think about joining us.

If you have any queries please contact me.

Janet Adamson 01625 583320.

Walking

A group of friends from St Mary's are going for a walk on the **16th March 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.

Date	March 16 th (please note date)
Time	10.00am
Parking	Miners Arms , Wood Ln N, wood lanes Adlington, Macclesfield SK10 4PF
OS REF:	SJ93718178
Distance	6.8 miles Easy/Moderate "Macclesfield canal ,Lyme park, Bowstones"
Ascent	Ascent 1020 feet
Contact	Terry Fones 07815478544 Packed lunch required

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

Week beginning Please pray for

3 rd February	The National Trust and all who care for Alderley Edge and Nether Alderley Mill
10 th February	All who live on Welsh Row
17 th February	All who live in Congleton Close
24 th February	Cheshire East 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

Bishop Libby is to be the next Bishop of Derby

The Rt Revd Libby Lane will be the next Bishop of Derby, Downing Street has announced.

Bishop Libby is currently the Bishop of Stockport, a post she has occupied since 2015.

Bishop Libby says: "I am thrilled to have been appointed as the next Bishop of Derby. I am excited about starting my ministry there and for getting to know all the people, places and parishes that will be a part of it. I have had a wonderful time in the Diocese of Chester and I will miss it greatly. I won't be leaving right away and hope to have time to properly say farewell before I take up my new post."

Bishop Peter Forster, the Bishop of Chester said: "Libby has had a splendid ministry in the Diocese of Chester, and most notably over the past four years as Bishop of Stockport. We will miss her very much, but she will be an excellent Bishop of Derby as she takes her exceptional gifts to this wider ministry in the Church."

The Ven Ian Bishop, Archdeacon of Macclesfield said: "Bishop Libby is rooted in prayer that has grown out of a living and vibrant faith in Christ. All of her many qualities have formed a gifted leader in the Church of God and I know she will lead the Diocese of Derby with courage and energy. Whilst I am personally sad not to be working closely with her in the future, these are exciting times for Libby and the Diocese of Derby."

Diocesan Prayer Intentions for February

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.

February 2019

- 1st Pray for Wallasey St.Nicholas parish
- 2nd Pray for Moreton parish.
- Sunday 3rd** Pray for responsible use of social media.
- 4th Pray for Mottram Deanery
- 5th Pray for Dukinfield St.John parish
- 6th Pray for Dukinfield St.Mark parish
- 7th Pray for Gee Cross parish
- 8th Pray for Hattersley parish
- 9th Pray for Hollingworth parish
- Sunday 10th** Pray for African Instituted Churches.
- 11th Pray for Hyde St.George with St.Thomas parish
- 12th Pray for Millbrook parish
- 13th Pray for Mottram-in-Longendale parish
- 14th Pray for Newton in Mottram with Flowery Field parish
- 15th Pray for Stalybridge Holy Trinity parish
- 16th Pray for Stalybridge St.Paul parish
- Sunday 17th** Pray for Fairtrade Fortnight. www.fairtrade.org.uk
- 18th Pray for Tintwistle parish
- 19th Pray for Wirral North Deanery
- 20th Pray for Barnston parish
- 21st Pray for Bebington parish
- 22nd Pray for Frankby with Greasby parish
- 23rd Pray for Great Moels parish
- Sunday 24th** Pray for the World Day of Prayer. www.wwdp.org.uk
- 25th Pray for Heswall parish
- 26th Pray for Higher Bebington parish
- 27th Pray for Hoylake parish
- 28th Pray for New Ferry parish

BRIDGE DRIVE

This has been organised for Monday February 11th in the Parish Hall starting 1.30pm. Tables will cost £26.

Please tell your friends, we rely on you to spread the word.

Let me know if you would like a Table. Janet Adamson (5853320)

NETHER ALDERLEY 200 CLUB January draw winners

1 st prize	Julian Maynard
2 nd prize	Elizabeth Fairhurst
3 rd prize	Christopher Harrison

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!!

Theatre Visit

Theatre in March 2019 It appears that there is no matinee performance it runs from the 5th March to 7th March starting at 7-30pm

Could anyone who is interested contact Marie on 01625522268 Thank you

Beating the Bounds: from the sermon preached by the Rector at St.Mary's Church at Epiphany 2019

I set out from the Rectory at 9am on the morning of New Year's Day to walk in the parish. I walked up Bradford Lane, and then to the top of Finlow Hill, and on to the Edge via Adders Moss. As I drew near to the Edge, I could hear voices – the first voices I had heard that morning: young children's excited voices, with their parents following close behind. And a young couple passed me – the man carrying their tiny baby wrapped in his coat. They beamed at me, and I beamed back. No late night partying on 31st December for parents of young children! I crossed the road and walked down Artists Lane, with cyclists passing by. At the foot of Artists Lane, I turned right along the footpath which goes along the back of the big houses on Congleton Road.

This brought me to Whitebarn Road, which I crossed, and I continued on the footpath. This is where the parish boundary between St.Mary's parish and St.Philip & St.James parish, Alderley Edge becomes confusing. In the ecclesiastical parish where you live, you have certain rights, such as to be married in the parish church – provided other conditions are met. And you may also gain these rights by joining the church Electoral Roll. Most of the time, this doesn't matter – but just occasionally it does matter which side of the parish boundary you live. In the office at the Rectory, a large map hangs on the wall which shows the parish boundary. It's the Ordnance Survey map of 1908. This shows a finger of land which is St.Mary's parish running towards Alderley Edge village and crossing Congleton Road to take in just two houses on its west side. And, coming south, between this finger of land and Whitebarn Road, a finger of land goes the other way across Congleton Road, which is St.Philip and St.James parish. Confused?

I was confused - until New Years' Day, when I walked the ground with my map – and stood and orientated myself, when there was nobody around to ask what I was doing! I now understand where the parish boundary runs on this side of the village. It's the right to be married in church – which is governed by the law of the land – that is the most significant aspect that may depend on your parish of residence or whether you are on the church Electoral Roll. If you want to know if you live within the ecclesiastical parish of St.Mary's Church, look at the parish boundary map which I have put on the notice board in the church porch. If you would like to come onto the church electoral roll, please pick up an application form in church and return it to the Electoral Roll officer.

I ran down the steps from Congleton Road, passed the girls' school playing fields, and crossed the bridge over the railway. The sun came out and I found I was walking the dog-walkers' paths in blinding winter light. Over the railway bridge and into Welsh Row, and then across the fields to Sand Lane, I ended up coming over the fields to St.Mary's Church, and back to the Rectory.

CAROL SINGING

A big thank-you to all our hosts and to all our singers. We raised a record amount of £1350 over 2 nights carol singing and a session at Woodlands Court. The money has been split evenly between the 'NSPCC' and 'East Cheshire Hospice'.

**In 32 years we have raised just over
£26,000 for various charites**

THANK YOU

December

On my return from Church this morning, I really felt a letter conveying our sincere and heartfelt thanks on behalf of the congregation, must go to Michael Penlington and his dedicated team of helpers. The Church looked beautiful. Displays like this do not happen overnight, a great deal of time and effort have been made to achieve this. We are so fortunate at St Mary's as it isn't just Christmas this happens but Easter and Harvest also.

Once again a big thank you to all the flower team.

Margaret Worthington



Women's World Day of Prayer

1st March 2019

2.00pm

St Pius Church, Alderley Edge