

FROM THE REGISTERS

*Baptisms*

*Weddings*

*Funerals*

:

**FLOWER ROTA**

Mar 3rd	
Mar 10th	Lent
Mar 17th	Lent
Mar 24th	Lent
Mar 31st	Lent

**MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTIONS**

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

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Large format copies of the magazine are available.

## Rector Writes

March 2019

### Lent is a journey to Jerusalem

At the heart of Christian faith is the great drama narrated in the Gospels of Jesus' long journey to Jerusalem. Read Mark 10: 32-34. Easter Day does not stand alone: it is the end of a long journey. The church invites you to go with our Lord on that road throughout the season of Lent which begins on 6<sup>th</sup> March. St.Catherine's Church, Birtles – the partner church of St.Mary's in our joint benefice – has a long-established tradition of Wednesday evening worship in Lent, at a different church each week. You are invited to join St.Catherine's Church.

#### **The programme for Lent and Holy Week for St.Mary's Church and St.Catherine's Church is:**

**Ash Wednesday (6<sup>th</sup> March).** 10am Holy Communion at St.Mary's Church. 7.30pm Non-Eucharistic Service at St.James & St.Paul, Marton. **13<sup>th</sup> March.** 7.30pm Evensong at Christ Church, Eaton. **20<sup>th</sup> March.** 7.30pm Evensong at St.Catherine, Birtles. **27<sup>th</sup> March.** 7.30pm Evensong at All Saints', Siddington. **3<sup>rd</sup> April.** 7.30pm Evensong at St.Peter, Lower Withington. **10<sup>th</sup> April.** 7.30pm Holy Communion at St.Michael's, Hulme Walfield. The Bishop of Chester – the Right Reverend Dr Peter Forster - will preside and preach.

**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 15<sup>th</sup> April:** 7.30pm Holy Communion. **Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April:** 7.30pm Holy Communion. **Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> 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)

#### **Lent Groups**

In addition, Churches Together in Alderley may run Lent Groups throughout Lent. Details of these will be publicised nearer the time.

**DIARY MARCH 2019**

<b>Sun.3rd</b>	<b>Sunday before Lent</b>		
	8.00am	Holy Communion at Birtles	BCP
	9.45am	Holy Communion at Alderley	BCP
	11.15am	Family Service at Birtles	CW
	6.30pm	Evensong at Alderley	BCP
Wed 6th	10.00am	Ash Wednesday—Holy Communion	BCP
Wed 6th	7.30pm	Evensong at Marton	
Thur 7th	10.00am	Holy Communion at Alderley	BCP
<b>Sun 10th</b>	<b>First Sunday of Lent</b>		
	9.45am	Family Service at Alderley	CW
	11.15am	Holy Communion at Birtles	BCP
	6.30pm	Evensong at Alderley (said)	BCP
Wed 13th	7.30pm	Evensong at Eaton	
Thurs 14th	10.00am	Holy Communion at Alderley	BCP
<b>Sun. 17th</b>	<b>Second Sunday of Lent</b>		
	8.00am	Holy Communion at Alderley	BCP
	9.45am	Holy Communion at Alderley	CW
	11.15am	Mattins at Birtles	BCP
	6.30pm	Evensong at Alderley	BCP
Wed 20th	7.30pm	Evensong at Birtles	
Thurs 21st	10.00am	Holy Communion at Alderley	BCP
<b>Sun. 24th</b>	<b>Third Sunday of Lent</b>		
	9.45am	Family Service at Alderley	CW
	11.15am	Holy Communion at Birtles	BCP
	6.30pm	Evensong at Alderley	BCP
Mon 25th	10.00am	The Annunciation - HC at Alderley	BCP
Wed 27th	7.30pm	Evensong at Siddington	
Thurs 28th	10.00am	Holy Communion	BCP
<b>Sun. 31st</b>	<b>Fourth Sunday of Lent - Mothering Sunday</b>		
	9.45am	Family Service at Alderley	CW
	11.15am	Family Service at Birtles	CW
	6.30pm	Holy Communion at Alderley	BCP

**ROTA FOR MARCH 2019**

**SIDESPEOPLE / LECTORS / WARDENS**

D'T	TIME	SIDESPEOPLE	LECTOR	W'N
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Mar</b>	8.00am	(at Birtles)		
	9.45am	Mrs W Liddle & Mrs R Dyas	Mrs W Liddle	TF
	6.30pm	Mrs L Kershaw	Mr P Kershaw	AJH
<b>10<sup>th</sup> Mar</b>	9.45am	Mr G Woolley & Mrs M Woolley	Mrs A Davis	DW
	6.30pm	Mr K Wilkinson	Mr K Wilkinson	KW
<b>17<sup>th</sup> Mar</b>	8.00am			HW
	9.45am	Mrs J Beeley & Mrs J Martin	Mrs K Hale	MP
	6.30pm	Mr M Dyer	Mr M Dyer	TF
<b>24<sup>th</sup> Mar</b>	9.45am	Mr G Hilton & Mr J Ratchford	Mr M Penlington	MP
	6.30pm	Mr G Barrie	AJH	AJH
<b>31<sup>st</sup> Mar</b>	9.45am	Mrs E Jackson & Mrs H Jabr	Mrs J Lee	KW
	6.30pm	Mr G Barrie	Mr T Fones	TF

**An Alderley history timeline**

In Alderley, the past lies very close to the surface. I wanted to bring together the easily available sources on the local history to make sense of the many accounts that I had heard about the history of the place. I have produced a 35 page timeline of Alderley from the 11<sup>th</sup> Century to the present day, using easily available sources. My main focus has been on Nether Alderley and the Stanleys of Alderley. My main motivation is to see maintained in present and future generations the Christian faith which was professed in the 11<sup>th</sup> Century and which sustained those who made the Alderley that we enjoy today. Another reason for producing this timeline is to stimulate future commitment and work to conserve and enhance Alderley's heritage for future generations. I know that many people have a commitment to researching and recording local history. I offer this timeline to help bring together everyone who lives in Nether Alderley and who looks to Nether Alderley, so that, together, we may strengthen community life and build for the future.

If you would like a copy of the timeline, please contact me and I will email it to you or give it to you on paper if you wish.

**On 10<sup>th</sup> February the Rector preached a sermon about Brexit. This is a shortened version.**

In early February I drove to Essex. I took the A roads, through Macclesfield, Leek, Derby and Nottingham, through north Leicestershire to the A1 in Lincolnshire, and then southwards. Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire and Lincolnshire all voted decisively in favour of Brexit. I was listening to a Radio 4 programme about Brexit. This sermon is based on that programme, and on some further reading that I have done, and on reflection and prayer.

Between Westminster and Brussels, it's been a dialogue of the deaf. Britain has played up trade and its imperatives, which can benefit everyone, and which should drive a pragmatic solution. Brussels has played up the four 'Ps': Principle; Precedent; Politics; and Procedure. Like a couple arguing before the divorce lawyer, we may as well be talking different languages – which, of course, we are.

And, within Britain, there is another great divide. Hardline Brexiteers argue that theirs is the only true course, even though 48% of the nation like being in the EU and want to remain. Brexiteers want to 'take back control', but now UK businesses are taking control of their own fate by registering in the EU and cancelling planned investment in the UK. Can Brexiteers' expectations be met? What will be the consequences if they are not met? We are about to learn a lot more about ourselves as a nation.

At the Reformation of the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> Centuries, England separated itself from the Roman Catholic Church. It unilaterally re-defined its relationship with the rest of Europe. Most of England's monasteries were destroyed. We had the deadly violence of both the Reformation and the Counter-Reformation. We had the 'Glorious, Bloodless Revolution' of 1688, which was not bloodless. Revolution begets revolution.

The Reformation set up the Church of England in such a way that the Anglican way is the middle way. And the middle way is a difficult way, because it works to bring together extremes of right and left. Is Brexit a new Reformation? In November last year, the Reverend Canon Angela Tilby, of Oxford, wrote an article on this subject. This is taken from that article: 'Richard Hooker wrote in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century, trying to make a case for the laws of the Established Church. Not a wildly popular cause, you might think, but Hooker's '*Laws*' is an extraordinary work: a long, tight, and elegant argument for the importance of order and precedent, both in the Church and in public life. Hooker possessed the very English instinct that, to flourish, people need to agree to live under the rule of laws and conventions that, although imperfect in themselves, enable civil society to function. What Brexit has called into question is the English capacity for compromise; the readiness to live with what may be far from ideal for the sake of peace.

(continued on page 7)

## COLLECTION TOTAL

Week ending	Gift Aid Envelope	Non-Gift Aid & Misc Cash	Standing Orders	Total
TOTAL				

Donald Henderson Tel 01625 584008 or email [orchardmain@ntlworld.com](mailto:orchardmain@ntlworld.com)

## NETHER ALDERLEY 200 CLUB February draw winners

1<sup>st</sup> prize Donald Henderson  
2<sup>nd</sup> prize John Wareham  
3<sup>rd</sup> prize Roslyn Dutch

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.

**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

To-day is the day after the Bridge Drive. We had a successful afternoon. 12 Tables which is full house. Many new faces this year which was good. Not sure of the profit yet, expenses to be analysed. Profit goes to the PCC account to help in a very small way with the deficit. Many thanks to everybody who helped in whatever way.

Our next event is the Spring Lunch on Tuesday March 19th to be held at Nottcutts Garden Centre Woodford. If you have not been there recently the restaurant has been completely redone. lot to offer. We intend to meet around 12.15pm. Lunch around 12.30. Please let me know by Saturday March 17th if you would like to join us. It would be lovely to have some new faces.

Janet Adamson 01625 583320.

**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.

## 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.

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

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

### Week beginning Please pray for

3 <sup>rd</sup> March	All who live in Roan Way
10 <sup>th</sup> March	Councillor George Walton, local member on Cheshire East Council for Chelford Ward
17 <sup>th</sup> March	All who live in Beechfield Road
24 <sup>th</sup> March	Councillor Jamie Macrae, local member on Cheshire East Council for Mobberley Ward.
31 <sup>st</sup> March	All who live on Congleton Road

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 28<sup>th</sup> March.

The new Electoral Roll will then be put on the church porch noticeboard until Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> April for the identification of any errors. On 11<sup>th</sup> 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 25<sup>th</sup> 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 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.

### March 2019

1<sup>st</sup> Pray for the parish of Newton West Kirby

2<sup>nd</sup> Pray for the parish of Thurstaston

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> Pray that we may keep a Holy Lent

4<sup>th</sup> Pray for the parish of Upton (Overchurch)

5<sup>th</sup> Pray for the parish of West Kirby St.Andrew

6<sup>th</sup> Pray for the parish of West Kirby St.Bridget

7<sup>th</sup> Pray for the parish of Poulton Lancelyn

8<sup>th</sup> Pray for Bishop Keith: Consecrated Suffragan Bishop of Birkenhead on this day in 2007.

9<sup>th</sup> Pray for Nantwich Deanery

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> Pray for places of work

11<sup>th</sup> Pray for the parish of Acton

12<sup>th</sup> Pray for the parish of Audlem

13<sup>th</sup> Pray for the parish of Baddiley

14<sup>th</sup> Pray for the parish of Burleydam

15<sup>th</sup> Pray for the parish of Church Minshull

16<sup>th</sup> Pray for the parish of Coppenthal

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> Pray for effective fundraising by parish churches for capital projects.

18<sup>th</sup> Pray for the parish of Crewe All Saints and St.Paul

19<sup>th</sup> Pray for the parish of Crewe St.Andrew with St.John the Baptist

20<sup>th</sup> Pray for the parish of Crewe St.Barnabas

21<sup>st</sup> Pray for the parish of Crewe St.Peter

22<sup>nd</sup> Pray for the parish of Crewe Green

23<sup>rd</sup> Pray for the parish of Doddington

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> Pray for young generations

25<sup>th</sup> Pray for the parish of Haslington

26<sup>th</sup> Pray for the parish of Leighton-cum-Minshull Vernon

27<sup>th</sup> Pray for the parish of Nantwich

28<sup>th</sup> Pray for the parish of Weston

29<sup>th</sup> Pray for the parish of Wistaston

30<sup>th</sup> Pray for the parish of Worleston

Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> Pray for the Mothers' Union

## 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

(envelopes available fro mid-March)

## PLANT SALE

MAY 12th

Alderley Methodist Church Hall.

Please contact Fiona or Lynn to offer plants. 585180 or 585245

Thank you

## Women's World Day of Prayer

1st March 2019

2.00pm

St Pius Church, Alderley Edge

## 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.

## March 2019 MU News

2019 is a year for change in the life of the Mothers' Union as our World Wide President steps down from her 3 year journey in the position. She thanks God and the MU for all the amazing stories and humbling moments she has experienced.

Wendy Sykes takes up her new position as Chester Diocesan President. It is good to have her coming from our side of the Diocese. We wish all the people taking up new positions in the Triennial changes a fulfilling 3 years.

We at St.Mary's are proud to be a small part of this World Wide Organisation in all that we do within our group. We held a very successful AGM in January. 18 members attended and it was good to reflect on the past year and also to look forward. Rev. Jon Hale chaired the meeting. Reports were given by officers and all agreed to stay on in their positions. Three new members were enrolled in a short service after the meeting and welcomed into our branch and of course we could not end without an excellent lunch served by our willing band of helpers.

In February we once again had Chris Sweetman with us. Always a welcome speaker at MU and we very much enjoyed listening to his informative talk entitled "The Hubble Space Telescope"

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March was the Womens' World Day of Prayer at 2pm, held this year at St. Pius Church.

Lady Day service is at 10am on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March.

We have an Easter break in April and Easter falls on 21<sup>st</sup> April.

It was good to have the support of so many of you over the past year and we do hope you will join us again soon at one of our meetings.

Remembering our housebound members with love and prayers.

Ann Austin.

## The Rector writes about our time of change at St.Mary's Church

**The calling of a parish church is to be a sign and a source of hope in Jesus Christ.** Although the numbers of worshippers at St.Mary's Church in 2018 were broadly the same as in 2017, the numbers at all services at Christmas were lower than in 2017. Many parish churches are experiencing a decline in worshipping numbers.

**St.Mary's Church is very fortunate** in having 356 new homes being built in its parish over the next few years, at Alderley Park. This means 1000 new parishioners. We have a great opportunity for the renewal of St.Mary's Church.

**The Parish Hall** repair and refurbishment project is being pursued by Nether Alderley Parish Council. St.Mary's Church is exploring how the necessary extra car parking capacity can be achieved. Together, parish church and parish council will set up a new Hall Management Committee. This is an opportunity to renew our relationship with the parish council and to bring the Parish Hall up to date, to the benefit of all.

**We are experimenting** with a contemporary Holy Communion service in the first six months of this year, on the third Sunday in each month at 9.45am. The Parochial Church Council will decide in the summer. The aim is to provide a range of types of service, to make everyone feel at home.

**The Annual Meeting of St.Mary's Church will be held on Thursday 25th April at 7.30pm** Churchwardens will be elected: Michael Penlington will be standing down as Churchwarden. New members of the PCC will be elected. A new Churchwarden is asked to come forward.

(continued from page 10)

Our politicians are not helping by stirring the current mess for their own ends. The emergent C of E of the Elizabethan era was an establishment job: a fix designed to contain rather than express the deeper passions of the people. Hooker argued that compromise here was not a sell-out but a godly discipline. The laws that established the Church were an expression of the divine laws that permeate the world and answer the human longing for peace and justice. Law understood in this way does not restrict human freedom, but enables it. None of us can be free where there is political or religious anarchy.'

I try not to preach politics. An article in the Daily Telegraph in January referred to Church of England clergy who are an 'echo chamber for the Left'. As a part of the fabric of our nation, the Church of England has the difficult task of establishing common ground in the centre, and holding the common ground, even in this age of extremism and division. So it's liable to be criticised by both Left and Right. I understand this to be our calling, and I will preach from time to time on the church's role as reconciler, peace-maker, bridge builder, holder of the centre ground, witness to Jesus Christ.