

FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptisms

Weddings

Funerals

21st November Memorial Service at St. Mary's, followed by interment Mrs Sheila Olive Bateman (aka Jane).

FLOWER ROTA

Dec 1st	Flower Team throughout Advent
Dec 8th	“
Dec 15th	“
Dec 22nd	“
Dec 29th	

MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTIONS

The deadline for the next magazine is **Thursday December 12th**
Please send all copy to:

Editorial: Jenny Youatt Email: info@stmarysaldlerley.com
1, Orchard Crescent, Nether Alderley, SK10 4TZ

Production: Jean Whittingham: (01625 583247)

Subscriptions
& Distribution: Peter Bean: 01625 582073

Large format copies of the magazine are available.

Rector Writes

December 2019

The Rector writes about worship at St.Mary's Church

Our worship is both 'worth-ship' – honouring God and offering praise, and 'work-ship' – a duty and a joy which is demanding.

Christians are formed by the way in which they worship and pray together. Language in worship which has remained unchanged for a generation or more will serve those who grew up with that language, but it may not serve enquirers after faith today.

Public worship reflects the culture of the time, and in a changing world it does not devalue public worship to introduce more contemporary styles which are authorised for use in the Church of England.

With all these statements in mind, I will introduce the new pattern of services at St.Mary's Church. The Parochial Church Council first began on the path of this new pattern twelve months ago, and the new pattern was agreed at the Church Council's meeting in October this year.

The main Sunday morning service is at 9.45am. Starting in January, there will be a Holy Communion service on the third Sunday of the month which uses the contemporary 'Common Worship' (CW) service. When there are five Sundays, the fifth Sunday service will also be CW Holy Communion. There will continue to be two Family Services (FS) each month at 9.45am, on the second and fourth Sundays in the month. Book of Common Prayer (BCP) Holy Communion will continue to be on the first Sunday in the month at 9.45am, and at 8.00am on the third Sunday, and at 6.30pm on the second Sunday. BCP Evensong will continue at 6.30pm on the first, third, fourth and fifth Sundays in the month. This pattern will be altered in some months by festivals and special events.

So the usual pattern for 9.45am is: 1st Sunday BCP Holy Communion; 2nd Sunday FS; 3rd Sunday CW Holy Communion; 4th Sunday FS; 5th Sunday CW Holy Communion.

Messy Church is a great way for families with pre-school children and children in Key Stages 1 & 2 to meet. Messy Church provides a range of art & craft based activities, all with the same Bible story theme. There are also quieter activities like a prayer-writing table. These activities run for the first 50 to 60 minutes of Messy Church. Then 'story time' is held, when the theme Bible story is told and the art & craft works of the afternoon are part of telling the story. The prayers that have been written are said and an attractive song or two are sung. That lasts for about 20 minutes. While 'story time' is taking place at one end of the Hall, the tables are being set up for tea. After 'story time' we all enjoy tea and chat together. I am now seeking at least six people – from both St.Catherine's Church and St.Mary's Church – and from Nether Alderley Primary School – who will form a team to run Messy Church with me. I would like us to start Messy Church once a month on a Sunday afternoon, in place of Evensong later this year. Please let me know if you are interested in joining the Messy Church team.

DIARY DECEMBER 2019

Sun.1st	Advent 1	8.00am Holy Communion at Birtles
		9.45am Holy Communion at Alderley
		11.15am Holy Communion at Birtles
		6.30pm No Service at Alderley
Thur 5th		10,00am Holy Communion at Alderley
Sun 8th	Advent 2	9.45am Family Service at Alderley
		11.15am Holy Communion at Birtles
		6.30pm Deanery Choral Evensong at Alderley
Thurs 12th		10.00am Holy Communion
Sun. 15th	Advent 3	8.00am Holy Communion at Alderley
		9.45am 9 Lessons and Carols at Alderley
		11.15am Mattins at Birtles
		6.30pm 9 Lessons and Carols at Alderley
Thurs 19th		10.00am Holy Communion
Fri 20th		11.00am Primary School Carol Service
Sun. 22nd	Advent 4	9.45am Holy Communion at Alderley
		11.15am Nativity Play at Birtles
		6.30pm Evensong at Alderley
Tues 24th	Christmas Eve	3.00pm Crib Service at Alderley
		9.30pm Christmas Communion at Birtles
		11.00pm Christmas Communion at Alderley
Wed 25th	Christmas Day	9.45am Holy Communion at Alderley
		11.15am Family Carols at Birtles
Sun 29th	Christmas 1	9.45am Holy Communion at Alderley
		11.15am Holy Communion at Birtles
		6.30pm Evensong at Alderley

ROTA FOR DECEMBER 2019

SIDESPEOPLE / LECTORS / WARDENS

D'T	TIME	SIDESPEOPLE	LECTOR	W'N
Dec 1st	8.00am	(at Birtles)		
	9.45am	Mrs R Dyas & Mr M Stonehewer	Mrs M Stonehewer	MP
	6.30pm	(no service)	-	-
Dec 8th	9.45am	Mr & Mrs G Woolley	Mrs L Marsh	DW
	6.30pm	Mr M Dyer	Mr M Dyer	MP
Dec 15th	8.00am			HW
	9.45am	Mrs J Martin & Mr S Welsh	Assorted Readers	MP
	6.30pm	Mrs L Kershaw & Mrs M Newton	Assorted Readers	KW
Dec 22nd	9.45am	Mr G Hilton & Mr M Wilkinson	Mrs SJ Wilkinson	MP
	6.30pm	Mr G Barrie	AJH	AJH
Dec 24th	3.00pm	Mr And Mrs T Fones	(attending children)	TF
	11.00pm		KW	KW
Dec 25th	9.45am	Mr M Wilkinson & Mrs E Jackson	Mrs J Lee	MP
Dec 29th	9.45am	Mr J Ratchford & Mrs G Beeley	Mrs K Hale	MP
	6.30pm	Mr M Dyer	Mr M Dyer	AJH

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.

Oasis

Well I have now completed over half a term in Education so I thought I'd report back. The Harvest gifts and the left over foods from our Harvest Brunch were most appreciated - when I brought them in on the Monday morning the first thing Victoria said was, "Oh, how good God is! I woke this morning feeling I'd like a croissant and I look - He has sent one!" She is a super person who seems now to have recovered her health and is frequently in the Centre.

The new Centre is growing daily but the date for completion has been delayed by approximately a month - because of the rain! This means we hope to be using it by the end of January 2020 - not far away. At the moment we are all on one level: computers, crisis support, the shop, the kitchen, education. In the new centre (it is my understanding) the kitchen and shop will be downstairs and Education and Crisis support will be upstairs. So there is a slight fear that the two floors could cause a difference in atmosphere - I hope not.

We begin and end each session with "Devotions" - a kind of staff meeting with someone asked to lead the prayers, so far based on Psalms. Sometimes there are as many as 20 of us around the table - 9 paid employees and the rest volunteers. The main theme is always "Let us do God's work".

Last time I asked you to estimate the weekly food budget for breakfast and lunch for up to 80 people four days a week including hot and cold drinks. It is £100! It is truly humbling - I can go shopping and come out with seemingly very little sometimes for that amount.

Thank you all again for your donations and gifts - the shop is thriving and vibrant, based on this.

Lesley Marsh

Christian Basics

What are the basics of Christian believing and belonging, and what does faith have to do with it?

How can I set aside a couple of hours on three weekday evenings to ask the questions I always wanted to ask about Jesus but was afraid to ask?

Where can I go to make sense of God?

What was that church-going business in my childhood all about and what has it got to do with my life now?

The Rector will run a course in Christian Basics in the New Year. Phone him on 01625 585440 or email on alderleyandbirtles to find out more.

COLLECTION TOTAL

Week ending	Envelopes	Misc Cash	Standing Orders	Total
Oct 6th	168.00	39.76		207.76
Oct 13th	193.00	19.50		212.50
Oct 20th	229.40	25.00		254.40
Oct 27th	159.35	76.00		235.35
TOTAL	749.75	160.26	1577.00	2487.01

Donald Henderson Tel 01625 584008 or email donhenderson276@yahoo.com

NETHER ALDERLEY 200 CLUB

Latest draw winners

1st prize
2nd prize
3rd prize

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 £8000 has now been handed over to St Mary's treasurer, towards the day to day running costs of the Church.

Knutsford Deanery Choir will sing Evensong at St.Mary's Church on 8th December

Knutsford Deanery Choir sings Evensong on every second Sunday in the month at a different parish church in the Deanery or elsewhere. On 8th December the Deanery Choir will sing at St.Mary's Church at 6.30pm. If you are interested in singing with the Deanery Choir please have a word with the Choir Director – Peter Spooner.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Christmas Fair upmost now. Saturday December 7th ,10 till 1.00pm approx. Please support it if you possibly can. It is so important for us all to get together. The church finances are struggling. We need to get them going, the proceeds of the fair after expenses will in a very small way help. I hope you read all the details in the November magazine. We will be putting up the stalls on Friday 6th 2.00 til 4.00pm.If you have anything for the stalls please bring it then. Any home made things for the Produce Stall sell very well. The Barnby Choir will be singing in the candlelit church around 10.45 and about 12.00pm. They need an audience?

On Monday February 10th we will be holding our Annual Bridge Drive in the Hall starting at 1.30 pm. More details to come.

It just remains to wish everybody a happy Christmas on behalf of the Social Committee. We thank you for your support

Janet Adamson 01625 583320

WALKING GROUP

A group of friends from St Mary's are going for a walk on Saturday 14th December 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 December 14

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,Ascent 1020 feet

Contact Terry Fones 07815478544 or 01625820738Packed lunch required

Take time out on a mini-retreat at Foxhill House

Foxhill House, at Tarvin Road, Frodsham, is the Chester Diocese centre for prayer, study and mission. Once a month at Foxhill House, starting February, there will be a series of 'mini-retreat' days – each day based on one of the Psalms - 9.30am to 3.30pm. This is a chance to spend time listening to God. The cost is £23 per person, covering lunch and refreshments. If you would like to attend on Monday 11th February and/or Monday 11th March with the Rector (travel in shared cars) please let the Revd Jon Hale know and he will arrange a group booking.

Mothers' Union Worldwide President at Leeds Minster

Thursday 7th November dawned wet and overcast, and so the weather remained all day. But it did not dampen the spirits of the thirty members of Mothers' Union and friends from St.Philip & St.James Church, St.Mary's Church, Rainow and elsewhere in Macclesfield Deanery as they boarded a coach at Alderley Edge at 10am. They were on their way to Leeds Minster for a Celebration of Mothers' Union in the Church of England's Province of York. All the Diocesan Mothers' Union Presidents of the Province were there, along with Mrs Sheran Harper – the Worldwide Mothers' Union President.

The event was a Holy Communion service at which the Rt Revd Nick Baines – Bishop of Leeds – was President, and Mrs Harper was the Preacher. About 500 people were present – mostly members of Mothers' Union from across the Province.

Mrs Harper began her address by speaking of her current visit to the north of England. She had been to a women's prison in County Durham and a project for the homeless on Tyneside, where she had been impressed by the work of Mothers' Union. Mrs Harper then spoke about her own background – born in the UK and growing up in Guyana. As a Physiotherapist, Mrs Harper described how her professional work in Guyana had led to her involvement in community work and inter-faith work. She described a perilous journey that she had taken to reach an indigenous area in Guyana, and so to establish Mothers' Union branches there. This brought new hope to women there who had previously felt powerless as they saw their families suffer from the invidious effects of isolation and poverty.

Mrs Harper spoke inspiringly of the vital work of Mothers' Union across the world, and she encouraged us by telling us of the value of prayer, financial offerings, mutual support and commitment to local Mothers' Union projects. It was still raining when we left Leeds but all in the coach knew that they would not have missed the day for anything.

Revd Jon Hale

A Heart Defibrillator in St.Mary's Church

The Rector writes

A few months ago St.Mary's Church bought a heart defibrillator, using generous donations that were given for the purpose. The defibrillator is kept at the back of the north aisle. On 9th October two training sessions for using the defibrillator were held. These were organised by Peter Reynolds – the Health & Safety Co-Ordinator for St.Mary's Church. They were run by an officer of North West Ambulance Service.

As one who has little First Aid training, I found the defibrillator training reassuring. When the human heart goes into a seriously irregular and malfunctioning rhythm, it leads to what is called a 'heart attack', as the body starts to shut down. This is when the defibrillator should be used. As soon as you open the defibrillator, it gives you recorded, spoken instructions which are delivered at the speed that the defibrillator is being used. The patient needs to be laid on the floor on their back and all the clothing on the upper part of the body should be removed. A person who is trained in using the defibrillator should take responsibility for using it, and all others should assist as appropriate and keep at a distance. The defibrillator will assess automatically whether it needs to give an electric shock which will shock the heart out of its malfunctioning rhythm. Chest compressions at the rate of two per second should be done in the proper way after the defibrillator has given the patient an electric shock. The defibrillator will continue to monitor the condition of the patient and may give further instructions. By this time, hopefully, the Ambulance and supporting vehicles will have arrived outside St.Mary's Church in the spaces that have been left by the churchyard gate for them to park and later turn to leave.

MU News

I am pleased to report it has been a good year for St. Mary's MU. Attendance has increased giving us hope to move forward and we always look to welcome you as visitors to our meetings on the 3rd Wednesday in the month at 2pm. On December 11th(week early) 2pm is our Christmas fun afternoon including a quiz when we invite our prayer partners and other visiting MU members. Our trip to Leeds Minster in November was a day to remember in many ways. A coach full of members from the Knutsford and Macclesfield Deaneries, a celebration of the Eucharist led by the Right Rev.Nick Baines, Bishop of Leeds, Our World wide President who grew up in Guyana and spoke with such care and meaning of her work and how MU makes such a difference to each and everyone of us. To keep MU alive remember MU never says NO. We are always there. A great hope for the future.

Members please note our AGM is to be held on Wednesday 15th January 2020 at 11,30am followed by lunch. Please try to attend.

Let us remember our Indoor members with love at this special time of the year Bless the work of the MU as we seek to do thy will.

with love and peace.

Ann Austin

The Rector writes about Confirmation

We believe and trust in one God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Christians believe that Jesus is God's Son. Jesus reveals to us that God is our Father, and that God is available to us through the Holy Spirit. You won't ever be asked if you completely understand all this. But you are asked whether you believe and trust. This is called faith. It is a different sort of knowledge. It is the knowledge of being known and loved, and of loving in return.

To be Baptised is to be bound into Christian identity and belonging, but each of us must come to faith and profess for ourselves. That is what Confirmation is for.

A Confirmation service for our Deanery of Knutsford will be held on Wednesday 13th May 2020. If you would like to be Confirmed on 13th May, please let me know by the end of October and we will form a Confirmation preparation group.

There are several ways in which you can give to St.Mary's Church, or increase your giving.

Donate by Pay Pal: paypal.me/stmaryalderley

Direct bank transfer – please contact our Treasurer – Will Ablett for our bank details – treasurer@alderleychurch.co.uk

Regular giving envelopes – please contact our Envelope Administrator – Donald Henderson for more details – envelopes@alderleychurch.co.uk

Don't forget to gift aid any donations that you can – please complete and return the form available -



CHRISTMAS FAIR

Saturday December 7th 10.00am – 12.30pm

Barnby Choir singing at
10.30am and 11.45am in Church

Wine and Mince Pies after 11.45 singing

Please come and join in

IVY COTTAGE TREE FARM

Racecourse Road , Wilmslow
Tel. 01625 531609

Enjoy the fragrance of a real Christmas Trees! Christmas Shop for trees, decorations etc. Is open from 20th November, 7 days a week, 9.00am – 5.00pm

They supply (with a generous discount) the Christmas trees for St.Mary's and \ donate the Christmas tree greenery for the decoration of the Church for Advent and Christmas

Christmas Cards

I am using two of David's drawings of the church in snow, with 'Christmas Greetings' text, to produce Christmas Cards.

Anyone interested in buying please contact me at church, or 01625 583336, or on dnwatkins@comsyte.com
Packs of 10 mixed £5. All proceeds to St. Mary's Church.
Thank You. Noni Watkins

CAROL SINGING

We have arranged our annual Carol Singing for the nights of Monday 16th and Tuesday 17th December and as usual we will be visiting three pre-arranged venues on each of the nights.



Our two charities this year will be 'East Cheshire Hospice' and the 'N.S.P.C.C' and all the proceeds will be split equally. Last year we raised a grand total of £1300 over the two evenings!

Our happy band of 'singers' (all age groups) consists of any members of the Choir, Congregation and any 'Friends' of St.Mary.

Anyone wishing to join us should meet in the Church car park at **7.00pm** **PROMPT on either of the two nights.** We are usually finished by approxi 9.30pm ..

Further details: Jenny Youatt (01625 585226

From the Honorary Treasurer:

On behalf of the PCC, many thanks to all those who have responded to the Rector's recent appeals to increase giving, it is very much appreciated. There have been a number of new standing orders together with some one-off donations. This additional income will really help to reduce the current level of the annual operating deficit of St Mary's.

There is still, however, some way to go to eliminate the deficit altogether. Therefore if anyone has not yet got around to looking at what they give could they please do so. The PCC is exploring various other ways of dealing with the deficit but this does not alleviate the need for all congregants to give what they can afford. It is also helpful if everyone can annually review what they give in order for St Mary's to meet ever increasing costs.

Paying by standing order makes it much easier all round for those involved and so if anyone wants to commence contributing in that way could they please contact either me or Don Henderson.

Thanks again. Will Abillett

The Rector writes

In Advent and at Christmas there will be the usual full range of services and social events: something for everyone.

- On Saturday 7th December, the Christmas Fair will be held in the Parish Hall at Church starting at 10.00am. The Barnby Choir will be singing Christmas carols.
- On Sunday 8th December the Knutsford Deanery Choir will be with us for Evensong.
- On Sunday 15th December the Service of Nine Lessons and Carols will take place at both 9.45am and 6.30pm. There will be coffee, mulled wine and mince pies in the Parish Hall after the 9.45am Service.
- On Christmas Eve, the Blessing of the Christmas Crib Family Service is at 3.00pm followed by Holy Communion at 11.00pm.
- On Christmas Day, the Holy Communion service at St.Mary's Church is at 9.45am.

I look forward to meeting you on these occasions, and at other services and social events at St.Mary's Church.