

FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptisms

Weddings

Funerals

10th Jan: John Edward Summerfield

FLOWER ROTA

Feb 2nd Joyce Davis

Feb 9th Joyce Davis

Feb 16th Avril Lamond

Feb 23rd Avril Lamond

MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTIONS

The deadline for the next magazine is **Thursday 13th February 2020**

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Large format copies of the magazine are available.

Rector Writes

February 2020

The Rector writes about truth

Twelve years ago, being a Russophile, I liked to watch Russia Today. It was quirky – and Russian, and sometimes ran analysis of news items from a Russian standpoint to challenge accepted Western views of the news. Russian logic is different from Western logic! But when Russia invaded Georgia in August 2008, Russia Today was a propagandist for Vladimir Putin, and I stopped watching. Since then, Russia Today has fallen foul of Ofcom in the UK. Then President Trump became associated with ‘fake news’ and his vitriolic attacks on the press in the USA. And in the recent General Election in December, critics of the Prime Minister’s election strategy pointed to his ‘curious relationship with the truth’. In the election campaign Mr Johnson showed his disdain for the British Broadcasting Corporation.

In a world in which many receive the news online and have turned their backs on the TV and print media, we can easily select the truth that we prefer: all versions of the truth are presented as equal. But was it not always thus? In an election, each of us must exercise due caution in casting our vote, and ask ourself: ‘Is this politician lying to me?’ It is Her Majesty’s Opposition and a free press and news media who must hold the Government to the truth. Paradoxically, the freedom that the internet brings has made distortion of the truth all too easy.

In an interview by the Big Issue magazine with the Archbishop of Canterbury, just before the December election, Archbishop Justin said that he is concerned about the UK’s direction of travel, with a continuing increase in homelessness, increasing need for food banks and decreasing tolerance for minority groups. These are Christian values: serving the poorest and looking out for the most vulnerable. Amidst the swirl of conflicting voices – the clamour of competing claims, the church continues in its unfashionable and unchanging witness to the God who meets us just as we are, knows us better than we know ourself, and is the ultimate truth.

DIARY FEBRUARY 2020

Sun. 2nd	Candlemas
	8.00am No Service
	9.45am Holy Communion at Alderley
	11.15am Family Service at Birtles
	6.30pm Evensong at Alderley
Thur 6th	9.15am No Service
Thur 6th	10.00am No Service
Sun 9th	3rd Sunday before Lent
	9.45am Family Service at Alderley
	11.15am Holy Communion at Birtles
	6.30pm Holy Communion at Alderley (said)
Thur 13th	9.15am Morning Prayer
Thur 13th	10.00am Holy Communion
Sun. 16th	2nd Sunday before Lent
	8.00am Holy Communion at Alderley
	9.45am Holy Communion
	11.15am Mattins at Birtles
	6.30pm Evensong at Alderley
Thur 20th	9.15am Morning Prayer
Thur 20th	10.00am Holy Communion
Sun 23rd	Sunday next before Lent
	9.45am Family Service at Alderley
	11.15am Holy Communion at Birtles
	6.30pm Evensong at Alderley
Thur 27th	9.15am Morning Prayer
Thur 27th	10.00am Holy Communion

ROTA FOR FEBRUARY 2020

SIDESPEOPLE / LECTORS / WARDENS

D'T	TIME	SIDESPEOPLE	LECTOR	W'N
2nd Feb	8.00am	No Service		
	9.45am	Mr G. Hilton & Mr M Stonehewer	Mrs M Stonehewer	KW
	6.30pm	Mrs L Kershaw	Mr P Kershaw	AJH
9th Feb	9.45am	Mr & Mrs G Woolley	Mrs A Davis	MP
	6.30pm	Mrs M Newton	Mr A Newton	AJH
16th Feb	8.00am			HW
	9.45am	Mrs R Dyas & Mrs G Beeley	Mrs L Marsh	MP
	6.00pm	Mr G Barrie	Mr M Dyer	AJH
23rd Feb	9.45am	Mrs J Martin & Mr M Wilkinson	Mrs SJ Wilkinson	KW
	6.30pm	Mrs L Kershaw	Mr P Kershaw	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.
<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.

On the impossibility of keeping silence in church

The Rectory
St. James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

Your remark that you rather liked the silence we keep before starting Services gave me pause for thought. I suppose all things are relative. I know that the noise your congregation makes before worship resembles a packed stand on the football terraces any Saturday afternoon, but the days seem long-gone when I could expect our congregation to sit in real silence for ten minutes.

There's the sound of the treasurer counting the previous day's jumble sale takings, or the ladies at the back asking each other when the fish van will next come round, and of Major Hastings's deafening whisper as he comments some women's choice of hats. Add to this the weekly competition between the organist and the bell ringers to see who can make the most noise, the roar from the choir vestry as they all complain they don't like my choice of hymns and the sound of books, umbrellas and collection money being dropped. I sometimes suspect that an informal rota is arranged whereby people volunteer to drop heavy objects in rotation, thus maintaining a constant clatter, for which no single person can be held responsible.

There is also the weekly ritual when the vergers – always waiting until the church is full – goes round each microphone, giving them a bash and bellowing "Testing, testing" and relishing the echo as it bounces off the walls.

The only time the noise level drops significantly is if the congregation see Miss Simpson sidle up to me to have one of her confidential little chats about someone in the village. Everyone knows that her information will provide more than enough to keep gossip flourishing for the following week.

Equally, periods of silence during Services are rarely welcomed; some find them threatening, but the majority simply assume it means I have lost my place. I gave up after one occasion when, on announcing we would say the Lord's Prayer and then leaving a time of silence for recollection, a choirman leaned over to me and whispered helpfully: "It begins 'Our Father'"

Your loving Uncle Eustace

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 TOTAL

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

Week ending	Envelopes	Misc Cash	Standing Orders	Total
Dec 1st	153.20	21.00		174.20
Dec 8th	317.40	133.00		450.40
Dec 15th	224.13	121.50		345.63
Dec 22nd	276.87	66.94		343.81*
Christmas	928.99	291.60		1220.59
Dec 29th	103.59	22.20		125.79
TOTAL	2004.18	656.24	1675.00	4335.42

NETHER ALDERLEY 200 CLUB **Latest draw winners**

1st prize Lesley Marsh
2nd prize Ronelda Dyas
3rd prize Anne Storey

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 £9000 has now been handed over to St Mary's treasurer, towards the day to day running costs of the Church.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

How quickly the month passes, it is time yet again to do the magazine insert.

The Social Committee do the best we can to offer Coffee after morning Service. Sadly the no's of people willing to help are getting less and less. We have recently sent a donation to Oasis from our pot.

We are working hard on the Bridge Drive To be held on Monday February 10th. 1.30 to approx 4.30.in the Parish Hall. Tables £40, please let your Bridge friends know about this. If anybody feels able to offer a raffle prize it helps our profit margin.

We shall be planning a Spring Lunch outing in March.

Help will be needed to offer tea to our visitors at the World Day of Prayer.to be held on Friday March 6 th.St Mary's is the host this year. Please let me or Maureen Woolley know if you can help.

Janet Adamson 01625 583320

WALKING GROUP

A friendly group from St Mary's are going for a walk on Saturday 15th Feb 2020. 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.

Wybunbury (pronounced Wimbury or Wimbury) ;

approx. 6 ½ miles including 100m climbing , trails, stiles, footpaths , minor roads and a short stretch along the A51.

Towards the end it passes the edge of Wybunbury Moss, a National Nature Reserve

Post Code CW5 7NA ,

OS 118 SJ 699 498 Meet & park on "Main Road" close to the Church Tower (not the church they are seperated significantly). Further information: Drinks and packed lunch needed. Further information from:

Jamie Smith

Tel. 01625 585245 (call minder so you will have to prepared to give your name to automatic system) mob. 07791 60 40 99

Wednesday evenings in Lent

A well-established discipline for Lent is that parish churches in the Marton Team meet with the parish churches of Chelford and Birtles for a service in each other's' churches on Wednesday evenings in Lent. Ash Wednesday is 26th February. You are invited to join worship that evening at St.James & St.Paul's parish church, Congleton Road, Marton at SK11 9HE at 7.30pm

The Rector writes about the next Archbishop of York

Five days after the December General Election, the new Archbishop of York was announced: the Right Reverend Stephen Cottrell, currently the Bishop of Chelmsford. The Archbishop of York is responsible for the northern province of the Church of England which includes Chester Diocese. Archbishop John Sentamu will retire as Archbishop of York in 2020. On the day that his appointment was announced, Bishop Cottrell said: "I will receive the baton from Archbishop Sentamu. These aren't just big shoes to fill, but a big heart and a big vision. However, I am not daunted. Archbishop Sentamu and I have worked together in mission on many occasions and I hope to build on the work he has pioneered. Working alongside the Archbishop of Canterbury, I hope to help the church be more joyful and more effective in sharing the gospel and bringing hope and unity to our nation. Although I was born and grew up in Essex, I lived and served in Huddersfield for nine years. I know and love the north of England. Two of our children were born there. I now look forward to returning and being a voice for the North, sharing the liberating good news of the gospel and helping to address the discrepancies of wealth and opportunity that too often favour the South."

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

February 2020.

Week beginning	Please pray for
2 nd	All parents in the parish
9 th	All who live in Moss Lane
16 th	All who live in Paddock Hill Lane
23 rd	All who live on Knutsford Road



Women's World Day of Prayer

6th March 2019

2.00pm

St Mary, Alderley

THE NEXT BISHOP OF CHESTER

The Church of England is looking to appoint the next Bishop of Chester for the first time in nearly a quarter of a century.

The Crown Nominations Commission is due to meet on 3rd February and again on the 16th and 17th March, with an announcement expected in the spring. During this period of change and transition for the Diocese of Chester, all are invited to pray for the Diocese of Chester, the Crown Nominations Commission, and the person God is calling to be the next Bishop of Chester.

Come along to one of the prayer meetings organised in the weeks before the CNC is due to meet.

Wednesday 29 January, 2pm at Foxhill, led by Bishop Keith.
Please register your attendance by going to

<https://www.chester.anglican.org/yourbishlist> and clicking on the link.

Thursday 12 March, 2pm at St Michael and All Saints Church, Macclesfield, led by Archdeacon Ian Bishop

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 -

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 Ablett

BRIDGE DRIVE

This has been organised for Monday February 10th in the Parish Hall starting 1.30pm. Tables will cost £40.

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

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

MU NEWS

Our first meeting of the year began with the AGM followed by lunch. 14 members were present with 4 apologies.

In Rector's absence Noni opened the meeting with the MU Prayer mentioning our Patron Her Majesty the Queen and those who were either ill or in hospital.

Minutes of 2019 AGM were read and the Financial report was given by Jenny our Treasurer and adopted.

Update on Jean Lee's accident and operation on her hip along with Indoor members' news and we wished them well in their recovery and future.

An excellent lunch was served by the committee members. A good start to our year.

Our February Meeting will be held on Wednesday 19th at 2pm. All are welcome. A talk given by Ann Austin "A Visit to Highgrove"

Members were then reminded that this year The World Day of Prayer Service was to be held at St. Mary's on Friday 6th March at 2pm and support was needed.

Our next monthly meeting on 18th March at 2pm when our speaker is to be Sharon Mayer. Cheshire Agricultural Chaplaincy

On March 25th Lady Day (Thursday) we meet for Holy Communion at 10am

O Lord, open our eyes that we may see the needs of others and our ears that we may hear their cries that they may not be without help

Ann Austin

CAROL SINGING

A big thank-you to all our hosts and to all our singers. We raised a marvellous amount of £1130 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 33 years we have raised just over
£28,000 for various charities**

Not Just Sunday: #EverydayFaith

WHAT IS IT: The Lay Conference 2020

WHEN IS IT: The weekend of 15 to 17 May 2020

WHERE IS IT: The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire

Sunday morning is a time to draw closer to God and to reflect on the week gone by and the week to come. Many of us leave church with a spring in our step; the fellowship and joy we can experience can often fill us with the hope and encouragement we need to live and share our faith confidently with others. However, harnessing that confidence so that it sustains us and guides our words and actions and identity through the whole week, doesn't come easy to everyone all of the time.

At the Lay Conference, we will explore how we can encourage each other to live out our faith confidently every day of the week, *Not just Sunday*. We hope that everyone who attends will leave feeling encouraged and equipped. The aim is that all delegates will leave with: (i) a clearer sense of their Christian identity in everyday life, individually and collectively; (ii) an increased confidence to express their everyday faith; and (iii) an idea of how the gathered church can resource everyday faith.

To find out more, go to: <https://chester.anglican.org/lay-conference-2020>

Each Parish Church is asked to send a Nominated Person to the conference. Keep an eye on the Sunday news sheet and Facebook for more information.

Our representative on two bodies which help to bind St.Mary's Church into the wider church.

For many years, Terry Fones has represented St.Mary's Church on both Knutsford Deanery Synod and the Churches Together in Alderley Committee. Every parish church is required by Canon Law to have both lay and clergy representation on the Deanery Synod, and Terry has been our lay representative for many years. In our area, the ecumenical grouping joins the Methodist, Roman Catholic and Anglican Churches in Alderley Edge with St.Mary's Church. Terry has been our representative on the committee for this for a long time. Terry is now retiring from serving in these two roles. Thank you Terry for your commitment and faithfulness in these two ministries!

If you would like to succeed Terry in one or both roles please talk with Terry or the Rector