

St.Mary, Alderley



Parish Magazine May 2020

<http://www.alderleychurch.co.uk/>

<https://www.facebook.com/alderleychurch>

<http://www.stmarysaldерley.com/>

It was in the middle of Lent that the Coronavirus emergency began to get serious. Would we have flowers – or potted plants – to give out at the Mothering Sunday service on 22nd March? As the seriousness of the situation became ever more apparent, we wondered if anyone would come to the Mothering Sunday service. Then, on the Tuesday before Mothering Sunday, the Archbishops of York and Canterbury instructed all parish churches that, because of the Coronavirus pandemic, there should be no public worship potentially until the end of June. So there were no Mothering Sunday services.

Church buildings closed

On the Tuesday after Mothering Sunday (24th March) I put my first video on the St.Mary's Church Facebook page. In the video I referred to the Prime Minister's address to the nation which he had given the previous evening. I invited all who saw my video to join me in prayer at 9.15am every morning for as long as the current emergency lasts. Later on 24th March the Archbishops closed all churches for all purposes, so it has become impossible to hold Morning Prayer, Sunday services, Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals in church. The aim of the Archbishops is to show that the Church of England is playing its part in getting the message across that one may only leave one's home for one of the permitted purposes. And at the same time we are being reminded that we are the church – not the building – and that we may pray together even though we are apart.

My weekly letter

Also in my video on 24th March I said that I would write every week to everyone who is a regular worshipper at St.Mary's Church until the current measures ended. Now, in the second week of April, I am writing weekly to 153 people who are regular worshippers at St.Mary's Church or who are associated with it. If you are not on my mailing list, and you would like to be, please let me know. My 'piece of paper prayer list' has become a ring binder filling up quickly with letters and emails asking for prayer. I pray at my window. I spend most mornings answering emails, making phone calls and praying.

Community support

Early in the current emergency, a community support group was established in Nether Alderley by the Parish Council, and with a small part played by myself. Leaflets were put through every door so that everyone in Nether Alderley would know to contact Parish Councillors and the other named volunteers for help keeping them supplied with groceries and other necessities during the lock-down. In Great Warford – the other part of St.Mary's Parish – this service is being provided by the Cheshire East Council People Helping People network. In my weekly letters I have advised that if anyone living outside the parish needs help having groceries and other essentials delivered, contact should be made with myself and I will work with those who are providing the support network.

The Archbishop of Canterbury

On Mothering Sunday, the Archbishop of Canterbury – Justin Welby – said that in our transient and self-centred world, each of us has a task to make the place where we dwell into a more secure and kinder place for all our neighbours – so that roots may be put down, and so that we may know true belonging. Archbishop Justin said that the temptation is always to do the opposite: to pull up the draw-bridge and look after number one. But to make fear our primary response can only diminish life, and it can be destructive. The life-giving example that Archbishop Justin gave was of Jesus, suffering the humiliating torture-death on a cross, and yet still engaging in conversation with those on each side of him who were suffering the same fate. We need the ear of faith to hear Jesus reaching out to engage with us, even in the darkest times. And we need to follow Jesus' commands, which are to love God and to love our neighbour.

Daily video

Since my first video on Facebook on 24th March, I have posted a short video on Facebook every day. The numbers of people Following St.Mary's Church Facebook has grown since the start of the Coronavirus emergency and we now have 157 Followers. Also on Facebook every day are the Psalm and Scripture passages for Morning Prayer that day, and the Church of England Prayer of the Day. The latter is posted by Mark Wilkinson who, with me, runs St.Mary's Church Facebook. If you are not on Facebook and you are not sure about joining Facebook, please contact Mark or myself and we will advise you. For my daily videos I have spent time on the day before reflecting on what I might say. I have talked about living with risk, the Morning Prayer readings for Lent from Exodus and Hebrews, and I have said that trust and kindness to strangers are marks of civilised life. One morning I did not know what to say, so I read a Psalm. On another morning I said nothing and recorded the sights and sounds in the Rectory garden at sunrise, as all the birds sang, and a solitary goose from Radnor Mere honked its way over Church Cottages and the Rector's Field.

How long?

We are in exile. Like the Hebrews in Babylon, we are in a strange land, and we wonder how we may sing the Lord's song. But each of us, confined to our home, may worship God where we are. In our poverty of spirit – in our fear and anxiety – our offering of prayer is acceptable to God and is our true worship. Until the Coronavirus restrictions are lifted, I will continue with my weekly letter, and the daily postings on Facebook will continue. And I am sure in this dark time, that the telephone lines, the email, the Skype, Facetime and Zoom – and more – and even talking over the garden fence - are all busy as contact is maintained and hope in Christ is strengthened. Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy, Sustain us and support us, knowing that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

TONGUE IN CHEEK!

The Bishop's Desire.

In his retirement, Bishop Alan took every opportunity to exercise his paranoid love of golf; when pastoral duties allowed he played at least 4 times every week and he cherished the prospect of many years of visiting various other courses and pitting himself against those 18 holes.

Last Friday he was sitting exhausted in the locker room with his partner prior to taking their showers and he said "Oh, I did enjoy that - and you played so well. When my time comes, and if I eventually get to Heaven, I do hope there is a course there".

All at once the locker room was bathed in a golden light and an angel appeared. "Hello Alan," she said "you don't need to worry; you'll be pleased to hear that we have a course of our own and there are 5 others round here which are all excellent challenges. We often play matches against the others and, in fact" she paused "you have been selected for our team against St Marks on Saturday week".

Hard Times

So much time to sit and stare
We ask, "How did we get here"?
Pray God above to guide and hear
Our sad prayers to give us cheer.
So much space there is no race
What's in our passing days.
Turning once again to God
Our friend and our brother.

So my friends, my rocks
Our Loved ones caring
For us the Old Crocks
Thank you for sharing

So the voice on the wire
From which we never tire
Knowing we care and love
Each other more than ever.
Be of Good Cheer

Take care.

Ann Austin (MU)

NETHER ALDERLEY 200 CLUB **Latest draw winners**

1 st prize	Mrs Margaret Worthington
2 nd prize	Mr Robert Padfield
3 rd prize	Mr John Wareham

RECTOR of ALDERLEY

The Revd. Antony Jolyon Hale (Jon)

Church Lane, Nether Alderley, SK10 4TW

Email: alderleyandbirtles@gmail.com

Benefice Administrator: Mr Ken Wilkinson

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(office hours—Wednesdays and Fridays 10.00am - 1.00pm)

WEBSITES

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Jenny Youatt (*info@stmarysaldерley.com*)

facebook—St.Mary's Church, Nether Alderley

Hon Assistant Priest:

Revd.Canon Peter Hunt 1, Varden Town Cottages
Birtles Lane, Over Alderley (01625) 829593

Church Wardens:

Mr Michael Penlington 3, Pownall Cottage (01625) 530084
(Vice Chairman – PCC) Altrincham Road, Wilmslow
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email: info@stmarysaldерley.com

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Mrs Steph Wilkinson *email: pccsecretary@alderleychurch.co.uk*

Hon Treasurer:

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Mr Donald Henderson 31, Trafford Road, Alderley Edge (01625) 584008
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Electoral Roll Officer

Mrs Helen Jabr (01625 585852) email: helen@jabr.demon.co.uk

Archivist

Mrs Jenny Youatt (01625) 585226 email: info@stmarysaldерley.com

Organist:

St. Mary's is currently without a regular organist. The Church is grateful to the many organists who have been playing service by service since August 2017

The Church Choir:

The Choir sings at the 9.45am and the 6.30pm services each week. Practices take place fortnightly on Wednesdays at 7.45pm. New members are welcome.
.Please contact any member of the choir.

Church Flower Rota

Mrs Avril Lamond (01625) 583985
email: avrillamond@btinternet.com

Mr Michael Penlington (Festivals)

email: michael.penlington574@btinternet.com (01625) 530084

Captain of the Tower: (Practice 7.30pm Tuesdays)

Mr Peter Robinson 1, Drumblefield, Chelford (01625) 860679
email: peterfiona@hotmail.co.uk

Prayer Book Society Representative

Mrs Anne Dodd Long Spinney, Sand Lane, NA (01625) 583813

Mothers' Union (3rd Wednesday at 2.00 pm)

Mrs Anne Cockburn (committee member) (01625) 585242

Parish Hall Bookings

Keith Farrell, Wyche Barn, Nursery Lane, Nether Alderley, SK10 4TX 07939 671344

Parish Hall Costs:

£15 per hour - minimum 2 hours

Burial Board: (Clerk)

Barbara Thorpe 07717 244 537
email: clerk.napc@gmail.com



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