

FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptisms

Weddings

Funerals

Fri 21st Mrs Irene Mayer
Tue 25th Mrs Ann Robinson (Memorial Service)

FLOWER ROTA

Mar 1st (No flowers throughout March)
Mar 8th
Mar 15th
Mar 22nd
Mar 29th

MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTIONS

The deadline for the next magazine is **Thursday 19th Mar 2020**
Please send all copy to:

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Large format copies of the magazine are available.

Rector Writes

March 2020

From the sermon preached by the Rector in both churches of the Benefice on 9th February 2020

On Saturday 1st February I celebrated my birthday with a small party. And the next morning I got up late, and went to Christ Church, West Didsbury for the morning service. Archdeacon Ian was here at both churches in the benefice to take the morning service when it was the celebration of Our Lord's Presentation in the Temple – Candlemas. There are at least three themes to Candlemas, and maybe Archdeacon Ian spoke about all of them.

Firstly, it was Simeon and Anna – the faithful, devout elderly worshippers in the Temple who recognised the Lord God when he came to his temple. Each of us is called to watch and pray, and to speak of God when He is revealed to us.

Secondly, the Temple was at the heart of Jewish worship. St.Luke records Joseph and Mary taking their son to the Temple, firstly at the occasion that we now know as Candlemas, and secondly at the age of 12. But after the Resurrection, Christians understood that Jesus was now the Temple of God, and that as the Lord lives in each one of us, so it is we who are now the Temple of God. This is at the heart of the New Covenant – or New Testament as the Book of Common Prayer calls it – in Christ. No longer is a building the focus of God's presence with us: now it is you and me.

Thirdly, this has profound implications for the church. It is through the church that the Lord lives and witnesses: the church as the body of Christ risen and active and inspired by the Holy Spirit. Each parish church is ultimately not the building that stands in its parish, but the people who comprise that church. And every parish church is entrusted to discern its mission and ministry, its priorities and particular concerns. It's not somebody else's responsibility: it's ours. We are given this freedom and responsibility in Christ. Parish churches are always challenged, because our high calling can be hard to live up to. Some parish churches are on the up, and some parish churches have seen better times. Some parish churches take wrong turnings. All parish churches are vulnerable to inter-personal dynamics. All parish churches have within them pure gold, treasure of the soul, and beyond price, and that is why we are passionate. This is the astonishing Christian revelation: that we are, together, entrusted with this truth and this treasure, and that it is within the parish church that we, together, show this truth and treasure to this parish, for better or for worse. Under the authority of the Bishop – for whom the Archdeacon is his representative – every parish church is nurtured. and encouraged to thrive.

Things have been difficult since May, when prospects for parish re-organisation were put forward. It has been unsettling for all concerned, and by giving a date for my retirement – just over 24 months away now, it has concentrated minds. I have endeavoured to withdraw from the debate so that each of the two churches fully takes responsibility for their respective futures. Each Parochial Church Council

(continued on page 6)

DIARY MARCH 2020

Sun. 1st	First Sunday in Lent
	8.00am No Service
	9.45am Holy Communion at Alderley
	11.15am Family Service at Birtles
	6.30pm Evensong at Alderley
Thur 5th	9.15am Morning Prayer
Thur 5th	10.00am Holy Communion
Sun 8th	2nd Sunday of Lent
	9.45am Family Service at Alderley
	11.15am Holy Communion at Birtles
	6.30pm Holy Communion at Alderley (said)
Thur 12th	9.15am Morning Prayer
Thur 12th	10.00am Holy Communion
Sun. 15th	3rd Sunday of Lent
	8.00am Holy Communion at Alderley
	9.45am Holy Communion
	11.15am Mattins at Birtles
	6.30pm Evensong at Alderley
Thur 19th	9.15am Morning Prayer
Thur 19th	10.00am Holy Communion
Sun 22nd	4th Sunday of Lent (Mothering Sunday)
	9.45am Family Service at Alderley
	11.15am Family Service at Birtles
	6.30pm Holy Communion at Alderley (said)
Thur 26th	9.15am Morning Prayer
Thur 26th	10.00am Holy Communion
Sun 29th	5th Sunday of Lent
	9.45am Holy Communion at Alderley
	11.15am Holy Communion at Birtles
	6.30pm Evensong at Alderley

ROTA MARCH 2020

D'T	TIME	SIDESPEOPLE	LECTOR	W'N
Mar 1st	8.00am	No Service		
	9.45am	Mr M Stonehewer & Mr S Welsh	Mrs M Stonehewer	KW
	6.30pm	Mrs M Newton	Mr A Newton	AJH
Mar 8th	9.45am	Mr & Mrs G Woolley	George Vardon	DH
	6.30pm		AJH	AJH
15 th Mar	8.00am			HW
	9.45am	Mr M Wilkinson & H Jabr	Mrs SJ Wilkinson	KW
	6.00pm	Mr M Dyer	Mr M Dyer	AJH
22 nd Mar	9.45am	Mrs J Martin & Mrs G Beeley	Mrs L Marsh	MP
	6.30pm	Mr G Barrie	AJH	AJH
29 th Mar	9.45am	Mr J Ratchford & Mrs E Jackson	Mrs K Hale	MP
	6.30pm		AJH	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.

Let's get Messy Church started!

Revd Jon Hale writes

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 and a table with quiet games and books. These activities run for the 50 to 60 minutes of Messy Church. Then 'story time' is held, when the theme Bible story is told - and maybe other stories too, 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 will lead Messy Church, and I am looking to establish a team of about 6 people to run it.

Four people have now come forward to form the team with me – all of us at the grandparents end of the age spectrum. Are there two or three younger adults with school age children who would like to join the Messy Church team?

Please email me on alderleyandbirtles@gmail.com or phone on 01625 585440 to let me know you'd like to join the team. *Full Safeguarding procedures will be followed at Messy Church.*

<https://www.messychurch.org.uk/>

The Rector will remain with St.Mary's Church one Sunday each month after the 9.45am service

When I was first in post I engaged retired clergy to occasionally take the 11.15am service at St.Catherine's Church so that I could remain with St.Mary's Church after its 9.45am service. After a while this became difficult to arrange because the retired clergy who had served this benefice in the interregnum were less willing or able to assist in this way. Being new to the Diocese, I was not acquainted with stipendiary and self-supporting ministers in the Deanery, and I did not feel able to ask them for help on a regular basis. And the principle is that each benefice is to be reliant on the ministers who are licensed to that benefice: lay ministry and ordained ministry. In recent months I have been conversing with my clergy colleagues, and arrangements are now being made for a lay or ordained minister to be responsible for the 11.15am service at St.Catherine's Church once a month so that I may remain with St.Mary's Church after its 9.45am service.

If you are considering authorised lay ministry or ordained ministry, please let me know

At the end of the Morning Service coffee and biscuits are often provided by a stalwart group of volunteers in the Parish Hall.

Donations will be given to charity.

COLLECTION TOTAL

Week ending	Envelopes	Misc Cash	Standing Orders	Total
Jan 5th	144.50	34.00		178.50
Jan 12th	117.50	5.01		122.36
Jan 19th	168.00	19.00		187.00
Jan 26th	130.30	40.00		170.30
TOTAL	560.30	98.01	1856.00	2514.31

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

NETHER ALDERLEY 200 CLUB **Latest draw winners**

1st prize Peter Reynolds
2nd prize Malcolm Bell
3rd prize Stephanie Wilkinson

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

On Monday February 10th. We held the Annual Bridge Drive. With many people pulling together it was a tremendous success. We sold 13 tables and made a profit of £630.00 after expenses. This to go to the PCC account. A huge thankyou to everybody who helped.

We are now planning the Spring Lunch outing. This is on Tuesday March 24th 12.00 pm for 12.15 pm at Nottcutts Garden Centre. Woodford. We thought about a change of venue but decided everybody seemed to like the Garden Centre. Please let me know by Saturday the 22nd if you can join us. If you have not been before do consider it.

Sunday 22 March is Mothering Sunday. Hope to have special Coffee after morning Service. Usual plea for help which never bears any fruit? If anybody can lend a hand please let me know. As age and infirmities catch up continuation becomes more difficult.

We are continuing to do Coffee on a Sunday morning whenever possible.

Janet Adamson. 01624 583320. Janet.adamson@ntlworld.com

WALKING GROUP

A friendly group from St Mary's are going for a walk on Saturday 21st March 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.

Date 21 March

Time 10.00am

Start place **Cheddleton Station Churnet Valley Railway**

Basford Bridge Ln, Cheddleton, Leek ST13 7EG

Drive one mile along station road and park on the right along side railway station

Distance 6.4 miles

Terrain undulating, moderate walk past Sharpcliffe hall and through Coombes valley nature reserve

Please bring a packed lunch

For further information contact Terry Fones on 07815478544

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 over Easter and published in the Parish Magazine. Michael Penlington

(envelopes will be available from 1st March)

Discerning who should be the next Bishop of Chester

Come along to a prayer meeting to pray for the Crown Nominations Commission before it meets: Thursday 12 March, 2pm at St Michael and All Saints Church, Macclesfield, led by Archdeacon Ian Bishop

Worshipping together on 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.** Services will then be held at different churches on the subsequent Wednesday evenings in Lent at 7.30pm, and all are, of course, welcome:

4th March: Eaton church. CW12 2NH

11th March: St.Catherine's Church

18th March: Siddington church. SK11 9JP

25th March: Chelford church. SK11 9AF

1st Apr: Hulme Walfield church. CW12 2HH



World Day of Prayer

6th March 2019

2.00pm

St Mary, Alderley

**Please do support us —
we are hosting the event this year!!**

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 -

St Mary's becomes sustainable!

At the last meeting of the PCC it was agreed that St Mary's would become a sustainable church in view of the mounting evidence surrounding climate change. It was felt that, as a church, St Mary's should set an example and try to guide others into helping combat this huge problem.

What does this mean for St Mary's? It means offsetting our carbon footprint, looking at everything we do and the resources we use and see if there is a better way to reduce our consumption of energy and materials. Also making sure that anything that is used is recycled to the best of our ability.

We should like to leave a planet that is habitable not only for our grandchildren but also those who follow them. The science tells us that we are getting very close to the 'tipping-point' where the climate will not be able to recover and so it is a responsibility on all of us to address this problem and see what we can do to help.

In future issues of the Parish magazine I will focus in on specific areas to help give some ideas as to how things may be improved. In the meantime if you can look at everything you do and ask yourself is there a more environmentally friendly way it can be done that would be a very good start!

I will be very happy to talk to anyone about this my number is in the magazine.

Will Ablett

(continued from page 1)

Each Parochial Church Council has now agreed the future direction of travel that its parish church wants to take, so that when I retire their situations then may be measured against what they hope for as of now.

I will now provide encouragement and support to both parish churches as they pursue the path that each has agreed. St.Mary's wants to achieve significant increase in giving, with the aim that my replacement at St.Mary's is full-time only for St.Mary's. St.Catherine's accepts that it will be joined to at least one additional parish church in future.

Whatever the future holds, prayer is the foundation of the church. When we pray together we listen to God; we wait on God; we come before God just as we are; we talk with each other; we know ourself for the person we truly are.

The World Day of Prayer (used to be Women's World Day of Prayer) is at St.Mary's Church - Friday 6th March 2pm.

Prayer for the process of discerning who is being called to serve as the next diocesan bishop will be held at Macclesfield, St. Michael's Church, at 2pm on Thursday 12th March.

Pray about the future of our benefice.

Pray for each other's church in the benefice.

Pray for each other, as we make our way through this brief mortal span.

Pray for yourself, that you may know what is your Christian calling in future, in the midst of a changing church.

I am in St.Mary's Church at 9.15am every Thursday to read the Bible and to pray in Morning Prayer – please come and join me!

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us always.

Spreading the Word at Alderley Park

On 1st February a new community freesheet started for Nether Alderley: **Nether Alderley News**. This is produce jointly by St.Mary's Church and Nether Alderley Parish Council.

It will be published and delivered to all homes in Nether Alderley six times per year. Alderley Park is a new residential neighbourhood in both parishes of our benefice. 1000 people will soon move in to the houses and apartments that are being built. Already the areas of occupied homes have a feeling of optimism and hope for the future as new lives are made in a delightful new setting.

If St.Mary's Church can produce and deliver a community freesheet at Alderley Park in the alternate months with Nether Alderley News, we can keep in touch with households at Alderley Park and invite them to worship and other events.

Diocesan Prayer Intentions for March

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 2020

Sunday 1st Lent 1

2nd Pray for the parish of Crewe St.Andrew with St.John the Baptist

3rd Pray for the parish of Crewe St.Barnabas

4th Pray for the parish of Crewe St.Peter

5th Pray for the parish of Crewe Green

6th Pray for the parish of Doddington

7th Pray for the parish of Haslington

Sunday 8th Lent 2

9th Pray for the parish of Leighton-cum-Minshull Vernon

10th Pray for the parish of Nantwich

11th Pray for the parish of Weston

12th Pray for the parish of Wistaston

13th Pray for the parish of Worleston

14th Pray for the parish of Wrenbury

Sunday 15th Lent 3

16th Pray for the parish of Wybunbury

17th Pray for the parish of Wettenhall

18th Pray for the parish of Warmington

19th Pray for the parish of Wheelock

20th Pray for Wirral South Deanery

21st Pray for the parish of Backford

Sunday 22nd Lent 4 & Mothering Sunday

23rd Pray for the parish of Bromborough

24th Pray the parish of Burton

25th Pray for the parish of Capenhurst

26th Pray for the parish of Eastham

27th Pray for the parish of Ellesmere Port

28th Pray for the parish of Great Saughall

Sunday 29th Lent 5

30th Pray for the parish of Great Sutton

31st Pray for the parish of Hooton