

# St.Mary, Alderley



Parish Magazine  
December 2020

50p

## Christmas at St.Mary's in 2020

I have not read accounts of the celebration of Christmas during the flu pandemic after the Great War but if current circumstances are any guide the festival was restrained. On the Western Front in the Great War we know that spontaneous singing of Christmas carols erupted on both sides simultaneously, and this may well have also happened on the Eastern battlefields of that war, though these are not part of our inherited folk memory. But at the time of writing we may not even be able to sing this Christmas.

The Christian festival of Christmas is the celebration that Christ is born in each one of us: the personal faith that is the mark of Christianity is intimate knowledge of God in Jesus Christ. This message often gets lost at Christmas, but this and nothing less is the Christian hope.

St.Mary's Church will celebrate Christmas, but first it will keep Advent as best it can as a penitential season of waiting and watching and praying. The church will be bare of decorations on Advent Sunday and the Sunday after. Then on the third Sunday of Advent at the Family Service at 9.45am we will hear the Christmas hope, sung by a small choir formed for the occasion. On Christmas Eve the Family Service with the Blessing of the Christmas Nativity Scene will be at 3.00pm. On Christmas Day Holy Communion will be celebrated at 9.45am.

At all services, numbers that can be accommodated in the church will be restricted to the number that can be seated according to social distancing rules. Services will be shorter than usual to minimise the risks of virus transmission. Doors will be kept ajar to ensure an air flow through the church. It would have been draughty and full of risk when Mary gave birth among the farm animals. This risk is the Incarnation. There is something very deep, and deeper than words, about Christmas: that is why music is so important. But this year, the profound nature of Christmas will be in our very presence together in the house of worship – or standing outside at the door if all seats have been taken

I look forward to seeing you at St.Mary's Church at Christmas.

Revd Jon Hale

## **Services**

6th Dec (Advent 2)	9.45am Holy Communion (BCP)
13th Dec (Advent 3)	9.45am Family Service (CW)
20th Dec (Advent) 4	9.45am Holy Communion (CW)
24th Dec (Christmas Eve)	3.00pm Blessing of the Crib
25th Christmas Day	9.45am Holy Communion (CW)
27th Dec	No Service

BCP is Book of Common Prayer. CW is Common Worship.

## **FROM THE REGISTERS**

**Baptisms and Marriages:** none

**Funeral:**

## **Christmas Cards 2020**

As none of us know how we shall be able to celebrate Christmas this year, I have decided to produce a smaller number of cards drawn by David Watkins of the church in the snow with "Christmas Greetings" text. Last year some people asked me for some after I had sold out.

If anyone is interested in buying this year please contact me on 01625 583336. [dnwatkins1@gmail.com](mailto:dnwatkins1@gmail.com) or at the 9.45am service in church.

Packs of 10 (2 different pictures) £5. All proceeds go to St. Mary's Church.

Thank You

Noni Watkins

## NETHER ALDERLEY 200 CLUB

### Latest draw winners

1 <sup>st</sup> prize	Michael Penlington
2 <sup>nd</sup> prize	Noni Watkins
3 <sup>rd</sup> prize	Helli Jabr

### **Christmas grocery gifts for Oasis' food bank**

The changing circumstances we live in with Covid 19 means that, with the church closed for a month, you will no longer be able to bring food items to church for the Oasis food bank.

I do still intend to visit Oasis in mid December with our gifts so please could you drop any off on my porch until the church reopens? I live at 14 Congleton Road, the house on the right as you leave the village, opposite Beechfield Road. The house is called Downings, and when you open the gate and come in you will see why - there is quite a slope down to the front door and porch!

There is no "cut-off" date as anything received later can be taken in January 2021.

Thank you very much in advance for your generosity and kindness.  
Wishing you all a Happy Christmas,

Lesley Marsh

### **Church Social Meetings**

For a while now, Fiona Ablett and I have been considering doing Social Meetings for the Church via Zoom. The idea is now up and running. At the moment we are having a get to- gether on Tuesdays at 4.00 pm.

There are around 22 people taking part. Not everyone can be around every time. It has been so good to have a laugh and a chat. Also to actually see each other.

There are some others who do not do Zoom who we now keep in regular touch with

We now have a thought to lead the meeting. The last two have been introducing recipes. We have other themes to investigate.

If there is anyone who would like to give it a try please contact me. Fiona is an expert at helping with Zoom problems. Janet Adamson.01625 583320.

## Reflection 2020

D ecisions – Distancing

E xcitement far from reaching

C ancellations. Covid all around

E xtreme amount of questions

M asks in a multitude of styles

B eing aware of each other

E xchanging our thoughts

R emembering the good times

T reating our loved ones

W ondering what to do

E ntertainment passes by

N othing has an answer

T he telephone – 'It's good to talk'

Y es you can phone a friend

T ell them you love them

W riting our greetings

E xpectation of what's to happen

N ot knowing where to go

T ears of sadness and joy

Y earning for better times ahead

**NSPCC Christmas Cards available from  
Carolyn Henderson NOW!  
Telephone Carolyn on 01625 584008**

## RECTOR of ALDERLEY

The Revd. Antony Jolyon Hale (Jon)  
Church Lane, Nether Alderley, SK10 4TW  
Email: [alderleyandbirtles@gmail.com](mailto:alderleyandbirtles@gmail.com)

## WEBSITES

[www.alderleychurch.co.uk](http://www.alderleychurch.co.uk)  
Mark Wilkinson ([web@alderleychurch.co.uk](mailto:web@alderleychurch.co.uk)) 07879 657580

[www.stmarysaldерley.com](http://www.stmarysaldерley.com) (our heritage)  
Jenny Youatt ([info@stmarysaldерley.com](mailto:info@stmarysaldерley.com))

facebook—St.Mary's Church, Nether Alderley

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## SUNDAY SERVICES

1st Sun (Book of Common Prayer) Holy Communion  
3rd Sunday (Common Worship) Holy Communion  
2nd & 4th Sunday Family Service)  
5th Sunday Common Worship (Holy Communion)

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### 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  
email: [michael.penlington574@btinternet.com](mailto:michael.penlington574@btinternet.com)

Mr Ken Wilkinson 50, Bowerfold Lane, Heaton Norris (0161 432 3490)  
email: [ken@stockport061.co.uk](mailto:ken@stockport061.co.uk)

### Hon PCC Secretary:

### Hon Treasurer:

Mr Will Ablett 14, Chapel Rd, Alderley Edge (01625) 585180  
email: [will@abletts.co.uk](mailto:will@abletts.co.uk)

**Envelope & Gift Aid Scheme Administrator:**

Mr Donald Henderson      31, Trafford Road, Alderley Edge      (01625) 584008  
email: [orchardmain@ntlworld.com](mailto:orchardmain@ntlworld.com)

**Electoral Roll Officer****Archivist**

Mrs Jenny Youatt      (01625) 585228      email: [info@stmarysaldерley.com](mailto: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:**

all services are currently said because of Coronavirus regulations

**Church Flower Rota**

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

Mr Michael Penlington (Festivals)      (01625) 530084  
email: [michael.penlington574@btinternet.com](mailto:michael.penlington574@btinternet.com)

**Captain of the Tower:** (*Practice 7.30pm Tuesdays*)

Mr Peter Robinson      1, Drumblefield, Chelford      (01625) 880879  
email: [peterfiona@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:peterfiona@hotmail.co.uk)

**Prayer Book Society Representative**

Mrs Anne Dodd      Long Spinney, Sand Lane, NA      (01625) 583613

**Mothers' Union**      (*3rd Wednesday at 2.00 pm*)

Mrs Anne Cockburn      (*committee member*)      (01625) 585242

**Parish Hall Bookings**

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

**Parish Hall Costs:**

£15 per hour - minimum 2 hours

**Burial Board:** (*Clerk*)

Barbara Thorpe      07717 244 537  
email: [clerk.napc@gmail.com](mailto:clerk.napc@gmail.com)



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