

St.Mary, Alderley Cheshire



Parish Magazine

March 2021

50p

**A shortened version of the Rector's sermon preached
on 21st February (The First Sunday in Lent)
Genesis 9: 8-17 & Mark 1: 9-15**

What kind of story will you tell about the pandemic when it's all over? Scripture gives us a treasure trove of ancient stories. Many of these stories seem beyond belief, but that is irrelevant. It is because of the disclosure by God to people in the past – in stories told in Scripture - that we trust our own experiences of God, which can be 'Did that really happen?' experiences. In a pre-scientific age, a plague such as Coronavirus would be seen as a punishment from God – like the great flood of Noah's time. I do not believe that Coronavirus is a judgement on us by God, but in the pandemic, the story of Noah's Ark gave us the dominant symbol of hope: the rainbow.

When it comes to Jesus in the Desert for Forty Days in the opening Chapter of St. Mark's Gospel, the story of the New Covenant in Christ – which is the Gospel story - is just beginning. St. Mark starts his Gospel with the adult John the Baptist, and with the adult Jesus. The Holy Spirit descends on Jesus at his Baptism, and then drives Jesus into the wilderness, to be alone, for 40 days. Jesus' companions are Satan – the representative of evil, and wild creatures. What did Jesus make of that! What did Noah make of God telling him that he would destroy all of humanity because of its evil? Noah's Ark is told as a children' history, but it's a tale of terror. With Noah and his family, and the pairs of animals on the Ark, all life – at God's decree – began again. Whether or not this actually happened, does not matter, because stories in Scripture are told so that we may learn about God. It lies within God as our judge to destroy us because of the evil that we do.

In Mark 1, Jesus – his identity recently affirmed as the Son of God by the Heavenly Father at his Baptism, in the presence of the Holy Spirit, asks himself in the wilderness who he is and what he is to do. As God – judge – yes. Destroyer – maybe? Or maybe something else? By the end of the story of the New Covenant in Christ, we know that Jesus is our judge, but that he is also our Saviour as well. The reason why I do not believe that Coronavirus is a judgement on us by God is the New Covenant in Christ. Humanity is evil in its very nature. By the cross and Resurrection, evil was encompassed, eclipsed by God. This means that, as evil could not destroy Jesus, evil will not destroy us. And God will not destroy us because of our salvation in Christ. Repent of the evil you have done, and believe the Gospel!

Services in church will start again on Easter Day

Public worship will continue to be suspended throughout March. Worship for both churches of the benefice will be online by Zoom at 10.30am every Sunday. The Zoom code will be the same code as was used in February. To obtain the Zoom code please email the Revd Jon Hale at alderleyandbirtles@gmail.com

Public worship will restart on Easter Day (Sunday 4th April) with Holy Communion at St.Mary's Church at 9.45am and Holy Communion at St.Catherine's Church at 11.15am. Social distancing rules applicable at the time will apply. Sunday services will then continue on Sundays at these times.

Baptisms, Marriages and Funerals

Baptisms None since the February edition

Marriages None since the February edition

Funerals On 22nd January, a funeral service at St. Mary's Church followed by committal at Macclesfield Crematorium:
Cyril Ford 'Joe' HENSHAW

Oasis - Easter Appeal - Easter eggs and Groceries please!

Following the successful appeal for groceries for the food bank at Oasis, I am again asking if we can dig deep and continue to support some of our less fortunate neighbours in Gorton.

The Oasis Centre has been closed since March 2020, but a recent communication from Victoria and her team says that in the first 3 months of 2020 Oasis had already served over 2,500 hot breakfasts and lunches, addressed 976 crisis issues and engaged 280 people in education, work club and volunteering programmes. Since then staff have been furloughed and have worked on a part time basis, open for emergency crisis support by appointment, providing education and activity packs and, most important of all, providing food parcels from its food bank.

Any donations left on my doorstep (14 Congleton Road, Alderley Edge) will be taken to the new centre the week before Easter to add to their supplies. Easter eggs - as a "luxury" item - would be especially welcome to lift spirits.

Thank you very much in advance for your kindness.

Lesley Marsh

NETHER ALDERLEY 200 CLUB

Latest draw winners

1 st prize	Joyce Davies
2 nd prize	Malcolm Bell
3 rd prize	Noni Watkins

Rachel Roberts introduces herself

Hello, I am Rachel Roberts, a newly licensed Reader who has recently joined you on a secondment until June from St Philip and St James. Readers generally remain in their home church. I am therefore excited about this opportunity to broaden my horizon and grateful to Jon and to you for your welcome.

Not that I have come very far ... the benefice is a bit of a home from home for me because my children went to Nether Alderley school, my father who is a priest took a locum with you five years ago and of course, I know a number of you quite well.

The plan is that I'll initially be focussing on the development of online worship. The overall idea, however, is that I am an additional resource to support Jon in his ministry.

I have lived in Alderley Edge for over twenty years but during that time I have had postings overseas to Russia and to Cyprus. I am married to Neil. We have 18-year-old twins in their final year at Fallibroome School and currently busily applying for university. Neil and I both work for the British Council, the UK's largest charity that no-one seems to have ever heard of.

I am looking forward to a time in the not-too distant future when we can sit down together over a cup of tea and really get to know each other better.

Rachel Roberts

MU News March

Many months have passed, and we are still just trying to give assurance to each other in what ever way we can. Our hope now is for longer warmer days and a touch of spring to cheer us on our way, the Golden Daffodil ---- my favourite flower.

There is of course no MU news as such, so I have taken this prayer from a MU book called "Dear Lord". A collection of prayers and poems that you can purchase.

Heavenly Father we look back and remember the securities of the past, but the world around us, is changing all the time.

We live today sometimes in fear especially for future generations,

BUT

We live for tomorrow in hope amidst all the uncertainties.

This one truth is clear,

That you are always there

And you never change,

We pray to be reminded you are always there to listen,

And give assurance of your unfailing Love,

Help us to look only to you when we are troubled,

We are here for tomorrow living in Jesus' Name we Pray.

Diocese of Leeds. UK

Take Care

Ann Austin

RECTOR of ALDERLEY

The Revd. Antony Jolyon Hale (Jon)

Church Lane, Nether Alderley, SK10 4TW

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WEBSITES

www.alderleychurch.co.uk

Mark Wilkinson (*web@alderleychurch.co.uk*) 07879 657580

www.stmarysaldерley.com (our heritage)

Jenny Youatt (*info@stmarysaldерley.com*)

facebook—St.Mary's Church, Nether Alderley

SUNDAY SERVICES

PUBLIC WORSHIP CONTINUES TO BE SUSPENDED IN MARCH. SERVICES WILL RESUME ON EASTER DAY.

Hon Assistant Priest:

Revd.Canon Peter Hunt 1, Varden Town Cottages
Birtles Lane, Over Alderley

(01625) 829593

Church Warden & Lay Chairman –PCC

Mr Ken Wilkinson 50, Bowerfold Lane, Heaton Norris
email: ken@stockport061.co.uk

(0161 432 3490)

Hon PCC Secretary:

Hon Treasurer:

Mr Will Ablett 14, Chapel Rd, Alderley Edge
email: will@abletts.co.uk

(01625) 585180

Envelope & Gift Aid Scheme Administrator:

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

Electoral Roll Officer**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:

All services are currently said because of Coronavirus regulations

Church Flower Rota

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

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

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) 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



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