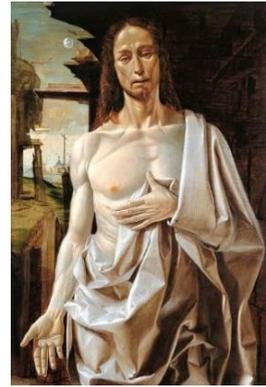


ALLELUIA! CHRIST IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN INDEED! ALLELUIA!
WELCOME TO WORSHIP ON THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF
EASTER 2021, 2nd May.

St.Mary's Church, Alderley and St.Catherine's Church, Birtles

These Covid-safe practices are observed at St.Mary's and St.Catherine's Churches:

- Signing in for Test & Trace.
- 2 metre social distancing at all times before, during and after the service.
- Mask-wearing unless you are exempt.
- No congregational singing, but today others will sing.
- Keeping doors / windows open to promote airflow as necessary.
- Leaving papers etc to quarantine for 72 hours.
- The avoidance of multiple handling of any objects.



Therefore, please make your offering on the plate at the back of church, and please leave all books and papers in your pew at the end of the service.

Today's Bible readings

Acts of the Apostles 8: 26 –end

²⁶ Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Get up and go towards the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.' (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷ So he got up and went.

Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸ and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah.

²⁹ Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go over to this chariot and join it.' ³⁰ So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?' ³¹ He replied, 'How can I, unless someone guides me?' And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him.

³² Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

'Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth.

³³ In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.'

³⁴ The eunuch asked Philip, 'About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?'

³⁵ Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus.

³⁶ As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, 'Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?' ³⁸ He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹ When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing.

⁴⁰ But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

John 15: 1-8

Jesus said:

¹I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit.

³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me.

⁵I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

- **Thank you, Matthew Randall and Laure Manuel, for working with Mark Wilkinson to livestream this morning's service at St.Mary's Church. Will Ablett is also part of the livestreaming team.** The Zoom code for the 9.45am service is the same Zoom code as has been used in recent weeks. Email the Revd Jon Hale for the Zoom link.
- **At St.Mary's Church there is now a dedicated page on the website which gives, for each Sunday in advance (hoping that it will be livestreamed): the order of service, the hymns and the news sheet.** Go to <http://www.alderleychurch.co.uk/orderofservice/>
- **Two couples are having their Banns of Marriage read at St.Mary's Church today:** Stuart Owen & Leanne Tattam to be married at St.Mary's Church on Thursday 29th July and Daniel Muff & Charlotte Sexton to be married at St.Mary's Church on Saturday 31st July. Please pray for them as they prepare to marry.
- **Zoom worship at 6.30pm on Sundays is drawing an increasing number of people from our benefice.** Last Sunday the Right Reverend Willie Pwaisiho OBE and his daughter Kate Pwaisiho led a service based on the Christian faith and worship of Melanesia. This Sunday's 6.30pm Zoom service will be led by Kate Pwaisiho and the Reverend Loveday Alexander. Kate is an aspiring ordinand. On Sunday 9th May the preacher at the 6.30pm Zoom service will be Ernie Rea. Sometimes the Zoom link is the same as previous weeks and sometimes it's a new one. Email the Revd Jon Hale this afternoon to be sent by email the Zoom link for the 6.30pm service today.
- **The Annual Meeting of St.Catherine's Church** will be held on Sunday 16th May as part of the service of short Mattins at 11.15am. **The Annual Meeting of St.Mary's Church** will be held on Thursday 20th May at 7.30pm on Zoom: the Zoom link will be publicised nearer the time.

St.Mary's Church, Alderley SK10 4TW in the Benefice of Alderley & Birtles. The Churchwarden is Mr Ken Wilkinson (tel: 0161 4323490). The Rector is the Reverend Jon Hale (tel: 01625 585440). The Honorary Treasurer is Mr Will Ablett (tel: 01625 585180). Online: www.alderleychurch.co.uk and www.stmarysaldерley.com and St.Mary's Church, Nether Alderley on Facebook. To give to St.Mary's Church go to www.alderleychurch.co.uk and click on 'Donate'. You can now donate via [paypal.me/stmaryaldерley](https://www.paypal.com).

St.Catherine's Church, Birtles SK10 4RU in the Benefice of Alderley & Birtles. The Churchwardens are Mr Michael Norbury (tel: 01625 583788) and Mr Chance Wilson (tel: 01625 861310). The Vicar is the Reverend Jon Hale (tel: 01625 585440). The Honorary Treasurer is Mrs Nicola Folkes (tel: 01625 860815 & nicolajaynefolkes@gmail.com) Online: <https://www.stcatherinebirtles.org.uk/welcome.htm> and St.Catherine's Church, Over Alderley on Facebook. To give to St.Catherine's Church go to the St.Catherine's Church website and click on 'Donate Here' to give via PayPal.

Mrs Rachel Roberts (Reader) is on secondment from St.Philip & St.James Church, Alderley Edge to the Benefice of Alderley & Birtles.