

St.Mary, Alderley Cheshire



Parish Magazine

April 2021

We pray that the end is in sight. Already, I am getting enquiries for Baptisms to be held in the summer, and I have eleven weddings in the diary for this year at St.Mary's Church from early May through to the end of December. But it has been a long, hard winter, and news reaching me of families suffering increased throughout the winter. Life, and life's trials, and death, have continued in the shadow of Coronavirus, and all of life's difficulties have been made twice as difficult by Coronavirus. And over the winter I had increasing news of families traumatically affected by the virus. One day, soon, we will meet again at worship in St.Mary's Church, and we will give thanks, but we will be carrying the weight of the last twelve months with us. Many will be cautious about returning to worship in church. Pandemic regulations will still apply for some months to come. We pray that there will not be another resurgence of infections. We wonder what the future will be like after the pandemic.

I do not believe that the pandemic is God's judgement upon us, and I do not believe that the pandemic is the end of the world. In the months after the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, many of those who followed him believed that Jesus would return in judgement to bring the world to an end. This belief surfaces from time to time in the New Testament. One man who did not go along with this belief was Luke, who firstly wrote one of the four Gospels which bears his name, and then he wrote The Acts of the Apostles. In Acts, Luke wrote the history of the church from its beginning. If he had believed that the end was about to come, he would not have written the church's history for the benefit of succeeding generations.

In the same way, there will be generations who follow us, and the current pandemic will take its place in history. The early church was both divinely inspired by the Holy Spirit, and yet also deeply traumatised by the events of the death of Jesus. Out of that turmoil the church emerged as a determined yet flawed body of believers. St.Mary's Church has been through a hard time, and we are short of key church officers. Worship in church will resume, and all other aspects of St.Mary's as a parish church must also resume. The future is uncertain, but that has never stopped the thriving of the church, rather, the church thrives on uncertainty because the one certain thing is our Lord, Jesus Christ.

I am looking for those of you who will come forward to share with me responsibility for St.Mary's Church as the parish church of Great Warford and Nether Alderley. I have thirty-two years' experience of parish ministry and I want to train a new team of church officers of St.Mary's Church.

Worship in St.Mary's Church in April

Public worship at St.Mary's Church will resume in April. Easter Day – 4th April – is the best day for us to return to worship of the risen Lord,

Services at St.Mary's Church in April will be held at 9.45am in the usual pattern:

Sunday 4th : Holy Communion

Sunday 11th: Family Service

Sunday 18th: Holy Communion

Sunday 25th: Family Service

Social distancing measures that are in force at the time will apply.

From the Registers of St.Mary's Church:

Baptisms: none since the March edition of this magazine

Weddings: none since the March edition of this magazine

Funerals. Julie Holland (59 years), whose funeral was held at St.Mary's Church on 9th March followed by burial in the Nether Alderley Burial Ground.

NETHER ALDERLEY 200 CLUB
Latest draw winners

1 st prize	Margaret Worthington
2 nd prize	Judy Swales
3 rd prize	Peter Reynolds

Mothers Union News April 2021

Here we are in a season for which we have many things to be thankful and looking forward with great expectation.

Lord as the days unfold, may we be surrounded by your love,
Uphold us in our daily tasks
Fill our minds with positive thoughts
@Quicken us through the unexpected;
Remind us that your Guidance is always at hand
Direct us to place our complete trust in You
As we walk each step, may we be in Your Presence,
Speaking kindly and lovingly,
giving thanks for your bounteous Blessings each day
I cannot believe it is over a year since we met together.
BUT
We have a lot for which to be thankful.

EASTER GREETINGS

Ann Austin

CELTIC SAINTS

In the dark and distant days when Britain was abandoned by the Romans (5th century) energetic Celtic missionaries came by sea (probably from Brittany) and were responsible for the speedy expansion of Christianity into Wales. It had been abandoned altogether further East in 'England'. The rich mixture of history and legend makes these early holy men and women a fascinating subject and there are many evocative sites to visit connected with them.

St. Asaph

Asaph was a favourite pupil of Saint Kentigern from Scotland who founded a church where St. Asaph cathedral is now and left it in the care of Asaph. Queen Nest was the most beautiful woman in Wales and, whilst bathing in the River Elwy lost a very ancient sacred ring. She fled to St. Asaph to ask him to come to dinner that night to help her break the news to her husband Maelgwyn the most powerful king in Wales. Asaph did this well calming the king's terrible anger by pointing out a personal possession was not worth destroying their love for. Asaph then served up the salmon and, surprise, Nest's portion contained the ring!

St. Winefride

In the early 7th century Winifride lived near her uncle's church (modern day Holywell (Treffynnon)) A Prince Caradoc from Hawarden tried to seduce her and she fled. Frustrated, he caught her and hacked off her head at the church door. St. Beuno came out, cursed Caradoc and the ground swallowed the latter up. Where Winifried's head had fallen a spring gushed forth. Beuno put her head back on and prayed and she came back to life with only a thin white line on her neck to show what had befallen her. Since then the sick have visited the spring in the hope they might be made whole

Sts. Seriol & Cybi

St. Seriol was a member of Gwynedd's royal family who lived the life of a monk in a cell at Penmon on Anglesey's eastern tip where he baptised converts in his well. Once a week he set out to visit his friend St. Cybi who lived under the roman walls at Holyhead on the West of the island. They would meet half way in the middle of the island. St Seriol walking Westwards in the morning and east in the afternoon always had his back to the sun and was known as Seriol the Fair whilst the suntanned Cybi is known as the Dark Saint!.

RECTOR of ALDERLEY

The Revd. Antony Jolyon Hale (Jon)

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WEBSITES

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

SUNDAY SERVICES

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

Hon Assistant Priest	Revd. Canon Peter Hunt	01625 829593	
Church Warden & Lay Chairman –PCC			
	Ken Wilkinson	0161 432 3490	ken@stockport061.co.uk
Hon PCC Secretary			
Hon Treasurer	Will Ablett	01625 585 180	will@abletts.co.uk
Envelope & Gift Aid Scheme Administrator	Donald Henderson	01625 584 008	orchardmain@ntlworld.com
Electoral Roll Officer			
Archivist	Jenny Youatt	01625 585 226	info@stmarysaldersley.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		
Church Choir	All services are currently said because of Coronavirus regulations		
Church Flower Rota	Avril Lamond	01625 583 985	avrillamond@btinternet.com
Festivals	Michael Penlington	01625 530 084	michael.penlington574@btinternet.com
Captain of the Tower (Practice 19.30 Tuesdays)	Peter Robinson	01625 860679	peterfiona@hotmail.co.uk
Prayer Book Society Representative	Anne Dodd	01625 583613	
Mothers' Union (3rd Wednesday at 14.00)	Anne Cockburn	01625 585242	
Parish Hall Bookings	Keith Farrell	07939 671344	
Parish Hall Costs	£15 per hour - minimum 2 hours		
Burial Board Clerk	Barbara Thorpe	07717 244 537	clerk.napc@gmail.com



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