



## WELCOME TO WORSHIP ON WHIT SUNDAY / PENTECOST 2021

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

Covid-safe practices must still be observed at St.Mary's and St.Catherine's Churches. 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 (2.1-13)

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. <sup>2</sup> And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup> Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. <sup>4</sup> All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

<sup>5</sup> Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. <sup>6</sup> And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. <sup>7</sup> Amazed and astonished, they asked, 'Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?' <sup>8</sup> And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? <sup>9</sup> Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, <sup>10</sup> Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, <sup>11</sup> Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power.' <sup>12</sup> All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one

another, 'What does this mean?' <sup>13</sup> But others sneered and said, 'They are filled with new wine.'

<sup>14</sup> But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them: 'Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. <sup>15</sup> Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning.

<sup>16</sup> No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel: <sup>17</sup> "In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. <sup>18</sup> Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. <sup>19</sup> And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. <sup>20</sup> The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day. <sup>21</sup> Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

## John 15: 26-27; 16: 4b-15

Jesus said: <sup>26</sup> 'When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, he will testify on my behalf. <sup>27</sup> You also are to testify because you have been with me from the beginning. 'I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. <sup>5</sup> But now I am going to him who sent me; yet none of you asks me, "Where are you going?"' <sup>6</sup> But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your hearts. <sup>7</sup> Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. <sup>8</sup> And when he comes, he will prove the world wrong about

sin and righteousness and judgement: <sup>9</sup> about sin, because they do not believe in me; <sup>10</sup> about righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will see me no longer; <sup>11</sup> about judgement, because the ruler of this world has been condemned.

<sup>12</sup> 'I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. <sup>13</sup> When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. <sup>14</sup> He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. <sup>15</sup> All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

- **Thank you to Fiona Ablett for co-ordinating Christian Aid Week envelopes at St.Mary's Church.**
- **Zoom worship at 6.30pm on Sundays is drawing an increasing number of people from our benefice.** Today the service will be led by Anna Cerval-Pena who is to be ordained Deacon on 4<sup>th</sup> July and the preacher will be Kate Pwaisiho – an aspiring ordinand. Email the Revd Jon Hale this afternoon to be sent by email the Zoom link for the 6.30pm service today.

**The nine Fruits of the Holy Spirit listed in Galatians 5:22 are: love; joy; peace; patience; kindness; goodness; faithfulness; gentleness; and self-control.**



**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](http://www.alderleychurch.co.uk) and [www.stmarysaldерley.com](http://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](http://www.alderleychurch.co.uk) and click on 'Donate'. You can now donate via [paypal.me/stmaryaldерley](https://www.paypal.me/stmaryaldерley). St.Mary's Church has a long standing and lively supportive relationship with Oasis Project, Gorton, Manchester. The link person at St.Mary's Church is Lesley Marsh. <https://oasisgorton.org/>



**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](mailto: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. St.Catherine's Church is rooted deeply in the Over Alderley / Birtles community: it produces Over Alderley & Birtles Monthly Messenger which is distributed free of charge to all addresses in Over Alderley & Birtles. The Editor is Jo Wilson and the Distribution Manager is Chance Wilson.

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

**The nine Fruits of the Holy Spirit listed in Galatians 5:22 are: love; joy; peace; patience; kindness; goodness; faithfulness; gentleness; and self-control.**

**Self-control.** The Greek word used in Galatians 5:23 is "*enkrateia*", meaning "strong, having mastery, able to control one's thoughts and actions".

**Gentleness.** The Greek word used in the New Testament is *prautes* and is best translated 'meekness,' not as an indication of weakness, but of power and strength under control. The person who possesses this quality pardons injuries, corrects faults, and rules his own spirit well.

**Faithfulness.** The root of the Greek word *pistis* ("faith") is *peithô*, that is to persuade or be persuaded, which supplies the core-meaning of faith as being "divine persuasion", received from God, and never generated by mankind.

**Kindness.** In Greek, old wine was called "*chrestos*" which meant that it was mellow or smooth. Christ used this word in Matthew 11:30, "For my yoke is easy, and my burden light." Kindness is acting for the good of people regardless of what they do, properly, "useable", i.e. well-fit for use (for what is really needed). Kindness is doing something and not expecting anything in return. It implies kindness no matter what.

**Goodness.** Popular English Bibles translate the single Greek word *chrestotes* into two English words: kindness and goodness. One scholar has noted that when the word *chrestotes* is applied to interpersonal relationships, it conveys the idea of being adaptable to others. Rather than harshly require everyone else to adapt to another's own needs and desires, when *chrestotes* is working in a believer, he or she seeks to become adaptable to the needs of those who are around them.

**Patience.** Generally, the Greek world applied this word to a man who could avenge himself but did not. This word is often used in the Greek Scriptures in reference to God and God's attitude to humans. Exodus 34:6 describes the Lord as "slow to anger and rich in kindness and fidelity."

**Peace.** The word "peace" comes from the Greek word *eirene*, the Greek equivalent for the Hebrew word *shalom*, which expresses the idea of wholeness, completeness, or tranquility in the soul that is unaffected by the outward circumstances or pressures. The word *eirene* strongly suggests the rule of order in place of chaos

**Joy.** The joy referred to here is deeper than mere happiness; it is rooted in God and comes from Him. Since it comes from God, it is more serene and stable than worldly happiness, which is merely emotional and lasts only for a time.

**Love.** *Agape* (love) denotes an undefeatable benevolence and unconquerable goodwill that always seeks the highest good for others, no matter their behaviour. It is a love that gives freely without asking anything in return, and does not consider the worth of its object. *Agape* is more a love by choice than *philos*, which is love by chance; and it refers to the will rather than the emotion. *Agape* describes the unconditional love God has for the world. Paul describes love in 1 Corinthians 13:4–8: "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away".

**Source: Wikipedia**