

WELCOME TO WORSHIP ON THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY SUNDAY

6th June 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

2 Corinthians 4: 13 – 5:1

¹³ It is written: "I believed; therefore I have spoken." Since we have that same spirit of faith, we also believe and therefore speak, ¹⁴ because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also raise us with Jesus and present us with you to himself. ¹⁵ All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God.

¹⁶ Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. ¹⁷ For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. ¹⁸ So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal. For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands.

Mark 3: 20-end

²⁰ Then Jesus entered a house, and again a crowd gathered, so that he and his disciples were not even able to eat. ²¹ When his family heard about this, they went to take charge of him, for they said, "He is out of his mind."

²² And the teachers of the law who came down from Jerusalem said, "He is possessed by Beelzebul! By the prince of demons he is driving out demons."

²³ So Jesus called them over to him and began to speak to them in parables: "How can Satan drive out Satan? ²⁴ If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. ²⁵ If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand. ²⁶ And if Satan opposes himself and is divided, he cannot stand; his end has come. ²⁷ In fact, no one can enter a strong man's house without first tying him up. Then he can plunder the strong man's house. ²⁸ Truly I tell you, people can be forgiven all their sins and every slander they utter, ²⁹ but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven; they are guilty of an eternal sin." ³⁰ He said this because they were saying, "He has an impure spirit."

³¹ Then Jesus' mother and brothers arrived. Standing outside, they sent someone in to call him. ³² A crowd was sitting around him, and they told him, "Your mother and brothers are outside looking for you." ³³ "Who are my mother and my brothers?" he asked.

³⁴ Then he looked at those seated in a circle around him and said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! ³⁵ Whoever does God's will is my brother and sister and mother."

New Bishops of Stockport and Birkenhead have been announced.



The Venerable Julie Conalty (photo far left), currently Archdeacon of Tonbridge, will be the next Bishop of Birkenhead, and the Revd Canon Sam Corley (photo near left), currently Rector of Leeds Minster, will be the next Bishop of Stockport, Downing



Street announced on 27th May. Our benefice of Alderley & Birtles lies in the Stockport Episcopal Area. The appointment of the two suffragan bishop posts completes the new episcopal team for the Diocese of Chester after Bishop Mark Tanner's appointment as the diocesan Bishop of Chester in May 2020. Bishop Mark's photo is above, on the right.

- **Today at St.Mary's Church the Banns of Marriage of these couples will be read:** Gareth OWENS & Natalie JACKSON, to be married at St.Mary's on Friday 6th August; and Matthew RANDALL & Laure MANUEL, to be married at St.Mary's on Saturday 7th August. Matthew & Laure are managing livestreaming this morning.
- **Zoom worship at 6.30pm today will be led by Kate Pwaisiho, who is an aspiring ordinand, and the preacher will be the Revd Robin Pye who is Vicar of St.Philip & St.James Church, Alderley Edge.** Email the Revd Jon Hale this afternoon to be sent by email the Zoom link for the 6.30pm service today.
- **The Clergy Covenant was introduced in the Church of England just before the pandemic:** it will now be introduced as a new way of improving the approach to the care and well-being of clergy across the church. Find it online by searching for Clergy Covenant. From the document for reflection and action by local congregations: 'We (ie. the Archbishops of Canterbury & York) are particularly keen to encourage you, as local churches and congregations, to give time and thought to how best to support your clergy. We believe that congregations and clergy working together to support one another in partnership is the way the Bible teaches us to serve, as fellow disciples. The facts show that, when clergy are healthy and well-supported, they are able to focus on others, while also looking after their own needs with the strength and realism which that support gives them. That way the whole church is blessed and enriched. It's not that those who are clergy are more important than any other part of the People of God, but they are going to be able to serve our congregations and communities best when they feel loved and supported'.

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/stmarysaldерley](https://www.paypal.com/merchot/?x=1&from=paypalme&to=stmarysaldерley). 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) 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.