

WELCOME TO WORSHIP ON THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY SUNDAY

20th June 2021



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

Covid-safe practices must still be observed, so 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 6: 1-13

As God's co-workers we urge you not to receive God's grace in vain. ² For he says, "In the time of my favour I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you." I tell you, now is the time of God's favour, now is the day of salvation.

³ We put no stumbling block in anyone's path, so that our ministry will not be discredited.

⁴ Rather, as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: in great endurance; in troubles, hardships and distresses; ⁵ in beatings, imprisonments and riots; in hard work, sleepless nights and hunger; ⁶ in purity, understanding, patience and kindness; in the Holy Spirit and in sincere love; ⁷ in truthful speech and in the power of God; with weapons of righteousness in the right hand and in the left; ⁸ through glory and dishonour, bad report and good report; genuine, yet regarded as impostors; ⁹ known, yet regarded as unknown; dying, and yet we live on; beaten, and yet not killed; ¹⁰ sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; poor, yet making many rich; having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

¹¹ We have spoken freely to you, Corinthians, and opened wide our hearts to you. ¹² We are not withholding our affection from you, but you are withholding yours from us. ¹³ As a fair exchange—I speak as to my children—open wide your hearts also.

Mark 4: 35-end

³⁵ On that day, when evening had come, Jesus said to them, 'Let us go across to the other side.' ³⁶ And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him.

³⁷ A great gale arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. ³⁸ But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, 'Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?' ³⁹ He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, 'Peace! Be still!' Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. ⁴⁰ He said to them, 'Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?'

⁴¹ And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, 'Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?'

- **Please remember before God and pray for Thelma NEWTON whose funeral will be held at St.Catherine’s Church on Thursday 24th June at 11.30am followed by burial in the churchyard.**
- **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; Matthew RANDALL & Laure MANUEL, to be married at St.Mary’s on Saturday 7th August; and Johnathan MINTER & Lydia WHITTINGHAM, to be married at St.Mary’s Church on 21st August. Matthew & Laure are members of the St.Mary’s Church livestreaming team.
- **Last week the H.M. Government restriction on the numbers of people who are allowed to attend a wedding was eased so that the number that may now attend a wedding in church is the Covid-safe capacity of the church building.** This means that alternate pews remain out of use, and 2 metre distancing should continue to be practised when occupying pews, but a household or family bubble may all sit together in a pew without social distancing.

As a guideline number, the Covid-safe capacity of our two buildings is around 25 at St.Catherine’s Church and around 60 at St.Mary’s Church. But the actual Covid-safe capacity depends on the number and size of households and family bubbles that are present. The ‘Covid-safe capacity’ rule applies for all services in church.

Mask wearing, hand sanitising, signing in and keeping doors / windows open must continue

- **Zoom worship at 6.30pm today will be led by Rachel Roberts. The preacher will be the Revd Jon Hale who will speak about the artist Mark Rothko, with illustrations of his work, to the theme: ‘Faith engages the child within, and Christ calls us to adult discipleship’.**

Mark Rothko was an artist who was the most active in the 1940s, 1950s and 1960s. Abstract art may be an acquired taste, but posters of Rothko’s works are very popular, and original Rothkos sell for millions of US dollars. Rothko painted for an adult world of suffering. Paradoxically, his day-job was as a primary school art teacher. It is the subtle contrast between adult ways and childhood ways in art that inspire the Zoom worship this evening.

Please email to alderleyandbirtles@gmail.com for the Zoom link.

1 Corinthians 3: 1-9

And so, brothers and sisters, I could not speak to you as spiritual people, but rather as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. ²I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for solid food.

Even now you are still not ready, ³for you are still of the flesh. For as long as there is jealousy and quarrelling among you, are you not of the flesh, and behaving according to human inclinations?

⁴For when one says, ‘I belong to Paul’, and another, ‘I belong to Apollos’, are you not merely human? ⁵What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you came to believe, as the Lord assigned to each. ⁶I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth.

⁷So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. ⁸The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, and each will receive wages according to the labour of each.

⁹For we are God’s servants, working together; you are God’s field, God’s building.

Seven Marks of a Healthy Church

Taken from the [Healthy Churches Handbook](#), by Robert Warren, this list identifies common characteristics of healthy churches.

1. Energized by faith, rather than just keeping things going or trying to survive

- worship and sacramental life: moves people to experience God's love
- motivation: energy comes from a desire to serve God and one another
- engaging with Scripture: in creative ways connect with life
- nurtures faith in Christ: helping people to grow in, and share their faith.

2. Outward-looking focus with a 'whole life', rather than a 'church life' concern

- deeply rooted in the local community, working in partnership with other denominations, faiths, secular groups and networks
- passionate and prophetic about justice and peace, locally and globally
- makes connections between faith and daily living
- responds to human need by loving service

3. Seeks to find out what God wants: discerning the Spirit's leading rather than trying to please everyone

- vocation: seeks to explore what God wants it to be and do
- vision: develops and communicates a shared sense of where it is going
- mission priorities: consciously sets both immediate and long-term goals
- able to call for, and make, sacrifices, personal and corporate, in bringing about the above and living out the faith.

4. Faces the cost of change and growth, rather than resisting change and avoiding failure

- while embracing the past, it dares to take on new ways of doing things
- takes risks: and admits when things are not working, and learns from experience
- crises: responds creatively to challenges that face the church and community
- positive experiences of change: however small, are affirmed and built on.

5. Operates as a community, rather than functioning as a club or religious organisation

- relationships: are nurtured, often in small groups, so people feel accepted and are helped to grow in faith and service
- leadership: lay and ordained work as a team to develop locally appropriate expressions of all seven marks of a healthy church
- lay ministry: the different gifts, experiences and faith journeys of all are valued and given expression in and beyond the life of the church.

over ...

