

# St.Mary, Alderley



## Parish Magazine

August 2021

## The sermon preached by the Rector on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> July

### Mark 6: 14-29

The future has been so uncertain. Nobody likes to be told what to do, but as a nation we have all had to reckon with a public health emergency. Our health is at a place where it has not been before: mental ill-health; exhaustion from the demands of the pandemic; Long Covid; anxiety about employment, income and future commitments; still, people are contracting Coronavirus; the pandemic has made existing health conditions and new ones doubly hard to bear. The church is struggling as well, for the church is not the building but the people.

Soon, we will be released from the bondage of the restrictions imposed for the pandemic: starting a week tomorrow we expect to be left to make our own decisions. But the Church of England Coronavirus website has always said: 'When the Government announces that a relaxation in the restrictions is coming up, don't assume anything in advance'. Tomorrow week, I will look at the Church of England Coronavirus website for its advice about public worship, weddings, funerals, baptisms, and then I will consult the Standing Committee as to how we respond at St.Mary's Church.

Nobody likes being told what to do. The pandemic has tested us all. We have not always got it right. But as a faith community, we are a forgiving and a forgiven people. We have learned together. We have been changed by the last sixteen months. Her Majesty's Government – the Church of England Coronavirus website – have had to provide a lead in the challenging business of inducing behaviour change. And as we have become subject to the authority of that lead – as our behaviour has been changed in ways that we would not have chosen - now we must learn to exercise responsibly the freewill that – from a week tomorrow – is ours again.

It's a big jump from the behaviours that have been forced on us by the pandemic and the way in which we will now shake them off, to Herod's instinctive rejection of John the Baptist's moral advice, but it's all on the same spectrum of freewill and moral choices. The circumstances of John's death early in the Gospel story confirm our awareness that Jesus is playing for equally high stakes. It's a matter of life and death. Moral choices matter. There are red lines. There will be a judgement

## **(continued)**

None of us navigates this life cleanly. None of us comes out of the pandemic innocent: we have kept the rules as best we can, and maybe we kept only the rules that we chose to keep. Maybe we got away with it. Because of the nature of a pandemic, we have all been in it together, and, while we celebrate the pulling together and unity of purpose, we may also remember episodes of division and enmity that the pressures of the pandemic have caused.

The Christian response is to confess our sins. In other words, it's a way of life for us that we have the self-awareness that none of us navigates this life cleanly. John the Baptist and our Lord give us the confidence, and in our Lord we trust for absolution. When we have been forgiven, the best thing to do is to let go of regrets and grudges from the past, and instead live each day in the light and life of Christ.

### **NETHER ALDERLEY 200 CLUB** **Latest draw winners**

1 <sup>st</sup> prize	Michael Penlington
2 <sup>nd</sup> prize	Stephanie Wilkinson
3 <sup>rd</sup> prize	David Mogg

### **Flower Rota:**

1st and 8th August	Sally Hilldrup
6th and 7th August.	Weddings
15th.	
22nd	Wedding
29th	

### **Times of services at St.Mary's Church on Sundays at 9.45am in August**

Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> August	Trinity 9	Holy Communion (BCP)
Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup> August	Trinity 10	Family Service (Common Worship)
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> August	The Blessed Virgin Mary	Holy Communion (Common P
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> August	Trinity 12	Family Service (Common Worship)
Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup> August	Trinity 13	Holy Communion (Common Worship)

### **At St.Catherine's Church, Birtles on Sundays at 11.15am in August**

Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> August	Trinity 9	Family Service (Common Worship)
Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup> August	Trinity 10	Holy Communion (Book of Common Pray)
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> August	The Blessed Virgin Mary	Mattins (Book of Common)
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> August	Trinity 12	St.James the Apostle
Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup> August	Trinity 13	Holy Communion (Book of Common P)

## **Drinks after Morning service!**

There is a plan afoot to start offering a drink following morning Service again.

It will be quite simple and final details are being worked on.

We need help to operate this. Sadly, if the help is not forthcoming it cannot happen.

Please think about it.

Contact Janet 01625 583320 or Fiona.01625 585180.

## **Keeping Active**

In this day and age, we are constantly being reminded to keep our minds and bodies active. Most of us would say that is easier said than done. We all have our aches and pains we try to grin and bear, which is not always easy to do. Caring and sharing what is going on around us keeps one's mind active. For me, the pen is mightier than the sword, as you know I like to write poetry and verse. Some people like to knit or sew much more than go for a run round the block, which would be impossible for some of us!

We are lucky to have wonderful countryside around us to appreciate so whether you are walking out, riding around or perhaps just sitting in the garden, God's creation is greater than one can imagine.

Open our eyes to your presence Lord.  
Open our hearts to your love.

Ann Austin

## RECTOR of ALDERLEY

**The Revd. Antony Jolyon Hale (Jon)**

Church Lane, Nether Alderley, SK10 4TW

*Email: alderleyandbirtles@gmail.com*

## WEBSITES

**www.alderleychurch.co.uk**

Mark Wilkinson (*web@alderleychurch.co.uk*) 07879 657580

**www.stmarysaldlerley.com** (our heritage)

Jenny Youatt (*info@stmarysaldlerley.com*)

**facebook**—St.Mary's Church, Nether Alderley

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## SUNDAY SERVICES

1st Sunday: Holy Communion (traditional)

2nd Sunday: Family Service

3rd Sunday: Holy Communion (contemporary)

4th Sunday : Family Service

5th Sunday: Holy Communion (contemporary)

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### **Hon Assistant Priest:**

Revd.Canon Peter Hunt (01625) 829593

### **Church Warden & Lay Chairman –PCC**

Mr Ken Wilkinson (0161 432 3490)  
*email: ken@stockport061.co.uk*

### **Hon PCC Secretary:**

Mr P Kershaw (01625) 532969  
*email:pdkconsulting@gmail.com*

### **Hon Treasurer:**

Mr Will Ablett (01625) 585180  
*email: will@abletts.co.uk*

### **Envelope & Gift Aid Scheme Administrator:**

Mr Donald Henderson (01625) 584008  
*email: orchardmain@ntlworld.com*

**Electoral Roll Officer**

Mrs L Kershaw (01625) 532969  
email: [pdkconsulting@gmail.com](mailto:pdkconsulting@gmail.com)

**Archivist**

Mrs Jenny Youatt (01625) 585226  
email: [info@stmarysaldlerley.com](mailto:info@stmarysaldlerley.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

**The Church Choir:**

all services are currently said because of Coronavirus regulations

**Church Flower Rota**

Mrs Avril Lamond (01625) 583985  
email: [avrillamond@btinternet.com](mailto:avrillamond@btinternet.com)

Mr Michael Penlington (Festivals) (01625) 530084  
email: [michael.penlington574@btinternet.com](mailto:michael.penlington574@btinternet.com)

**Captain of the Tower:** (*Practice 7.30pm Tuesdays*)

Mr Peter Robinson (01625) 860679  
email: [peterfiona@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:peterfiona@hotmail.co.uk)

**Prayer Book Society Representative**

Mrs Anne Dodd

**Mothers' Union** (*3rd Wednesday at 2.00 pm*)

Mrs Anne Cockburn (*committee member*) (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  
email: [clerk.napc@gmail.com](mailto:clerk.napc@gmail.com)



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