



WELCOME TO WORSHIP ON THE 12th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY



**St.Mary's Church, Alderley & St.Catherine's Church,
Birtles on 22nd August 2021**

Covid-safe measures continue to be observed at both our churches, so please wear a mask, sign in, sit in alternate pews, and leave all books and papers in your pew at the end of the service. You may now sing quietly, behind a mask.

These measures are to protect and reassure us all, and particularly those of the church who are the most vulnerable.

Mask-wearing is no longer mandatory but Her Majesty's Government recommends that masks are worn in an enclosed space. We wear a mask not to protect ourselves but to protect and reassure those around us.

The Covid-safe measures at both churches will be reviewed by both Parochial Church Councils in mid-September.

If you have been in contact with a person infected with Coronavirus please avoid contact with others for a period of time, even if you are not actually required to isolate.

Hymns at St.Mary's Church this morning (from Hymns Old and New), which we may sing quietly:

- 516. Through all the changing scenes of life
- 24. Alleluia, Alleluia.
- 289. Kum ba yah
- 500. There is a redeemer

Today's Bible readings

Ephesians 6: 10-20

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. ¹¹ Put on the whole armour of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹² For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

¹³ Therefore take up the whole armour of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. ¹⁴ Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the

Hymns at St.Catherine's Church this morning (from Common Praise), which we may sing quietly:

- 260. Morning has broken
- 174. Breathe on me breath of God.
- 369. All people that on earth do dwell
- 160. Thine be the glory

breastplate of righteousness. ¹⁵ As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷ Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. ¹⁸ Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. ¹⁹ Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

John 6: 56-69

Jesus said: 'Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them.'⁵⁷ Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me.⁵⁸ This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live for ever.'⁵⁹ He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

⁶⁰ When many of his disciples heard it, they said, 'This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?'⁶¹ But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, 'Does this offend you?'⁶² Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before?⁶³ It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh

is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life.⁶⁴ But among you there are some who do not believe.' For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him.⁶⁵ And he said, 'For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.'⁶⁶ Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him.⁶⁷ So Jesus asked the twelve, 'Do you also wish to go away?'⁶⁸ Simon Peter answered him, 'Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life.⁶⁹ We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.'

The Baptism of Hugo James Frederick JONES will be held at St.Catherine's Church at 12.45pm this morning.

Please pray for both Parochial Church Councils of our Benefice which will meet with Archdeacon Ian and the Parochial Church Council of St.Philip & St.James Church, Alderley Edge in the evening of 1st September. In preparation for this meeting please join others online for Zoom worship this evening. To obtain the Zoom link email alderleyandbirtles@gmail.com this afternoon.

There is a Wedding and a Baptism at St.Mary's Church in September / October for which vergers are needed please. Please let the Rector know if you can serve as verger at one or both of these:

- The Marriage of Marnie WALKER & Will EAST on Saturday 11th September at 1.00pm.
- The Baptism of Matilda LAW on Sunday 31st October at 12.45pm.

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 and email alderleyandbirtles@gmail.com). 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. **You can now give online to St.Mary's Church by using the Collectin giving machine on the table at the back of church.** Will Ablett – "St Mary's Treasurer – writes as follows: "Just tap the amount you wish to give on the screen and then touch the card reader at the top with your contactless card until 'Payment approved' appears on the reader. If you wish to give more than £30 and are happy for us to claim the gift aid on your donation, please say 'yes' to the gift aid question on the screen and then enter the details requested." **You can now also give to St.Mary's Church using this QR code:**



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 and email alderleyandbirtles@gmail.com). 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 distributes Over Alderley & Birtles Monthly Messenger free of charge.

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

Soldiers in the New Testament



Source: <https://revisad.com/2019/06/03/standing-in-the-armor-of-god-ephesians-6/>

Luke 3: 10-14

The teaching of John the Baptist

¹⁰ “What should we do then?” the crowd asked. ¹¹ John answered, “Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same.” ¹² Even tax collectors came to be baptized. “Teacher,” they asked, “what should we do?” ¹³ “Don’t collect any more than you are required to,” he told them. ¹⁴ Then some soldiers asked him, “And what should we do?” He replied, “Don’t extort money and don’t accuse people falsely—be content with your pay.”

Luke 7: 1-10

Jesus heals the Centurion’s servant

When Jesus had finished saying all this to the people who were listening, he entered Capernaum. ² There a centurion’s servant, whom his master valued highly, was sick and about to die. ³ The centurion heard of Jesus and sent some elders of the Jews to him, asking him to come and heal his servant. ⁴ When they came to Jesus, they pleaded earnestly with him, “This man deserves to have you do this, ⁵ because he loves our nation and has built our synagogue.” ⁶ So Jesus went with them. He was not far from the house when the centurion sent friends to say to him: “Lord, don’t trouble yourself, for I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. ⁷ That is why I did not even consider myself worthy to come to you. But say the word, and my servant will be healed. ⁸ For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, ‘Go,’ and he goes; and that one, ‘Come,’ and he comes. I say to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does it.” ⁹ When Jesus heard this, he was amazed at him, and turning to the crowd following him, he said, “I tell you, I have not found such great faith even in Israel.” ¹⁰ Then the men who had been sent returned to the house and found the servant well.

Matthew 27: 27-31

Jesus is mocked and assaulted

²⁷ Then the governor's soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole company of soldiers around him. ²⁸ They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, ²⁹ and then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on his head. They put a staff in his right hand. Then they knelt in front of him and mocked him. "Hail, king of the Jews!" they said. ³⁰ They spit on him, and took the staff and struck him on the head again and again. ³¹ After they had mocked him, they took off the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

Matthew 27: 50-54

The Centurion at the cross

⁵⁰ And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit. ⁵¹ At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook, the rocks split ⁵² and the tombs broke open. The bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life. ⁵³ They came out of the tombs after Jesus' resurrection and ^[e] went into the holy city and appeared to many people. ⁵⁴ When the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had happened, they were terrified, and exclaimed, "Surely he was the Son of God!"

The Acts of the Apostles 27: 1-2 & 27-44

Paul's voyage to Rome

When it was decided that we would sail for Italy, Paul and some other prisoners were handed over to a centurion named Julius, who belonged to the Imperial Regiment. ² We boarded a ship from Adramyttium about to sail for ports along the coast of the province of Asia, and we put out to sea. Aristarchus, a Macedonian from Thessalonica, was with us.

²⁷ On the fourteenth night we were still being driven across the Adriatic ^[d] Sea, when about midnight the sailors sensed they were approaching land. ²⁸ They took soundings and found that the water was a hundred and twenty feet ^[d] deep. A short time later they took soundings again and found it was ninety feet ^[e] deep. ²⁹ Fearing that we would be dashed against the rocks, they dropped four anchors from the stern and prayed for daylight. ³⁰ In an attempt to escape from the ship, the sailors let the lifeboat down into the sea, pretending they were going to lower some anchors from the bow. ³¹ Then Paul said to the centurion and the soldiers, "Unless these men stay with the ship, you cannot be saved." ³² So the soldiers cut the ropes that held the lifeboat and let it drift away. ³³ Just before dawn Paul urged them all to eat. "For the last fourteen days," he said, "you have been in constant suspense and have gone without food—you haven't eaten anything. ³⁴ Now I urge you to take some food. You need it to survive. Not one of you will lose a single hair from his head." ³⁵ After he said this, he took some bread and gave thanks to God in front of them all. Then he broke it and began to eat. ³⁶ They were all encouraged and ate some food themselves. ³⁷ Altogether there were 276 of us on board. ³⁸ When they had eaten as much as they wanted, they lightened the ship by throwing the grain into the sea. ³⁹ When daylight came, they did not recognize the land, but they saw a bay with a sandy beach, where they decided to run the ship aground if they could. ⁴⁰ Cutting loose the anchors, they left them in the sea and at the same time untied the ropes that held the rudders. Then they hoisted the foresail to the wind and made for the beach. ⁴¹ But the ship struck a sandbar and ran aground. The bow stuck fast and would not move, and the stern was broken to pieces by the pounding of the surf. ⁴² The soldiers planned to kill the prisoners to prevent any of them from swimming away and escaping. ⁴³ But the centurion wanted to spare Paul's life and kept them from carrying out their plan. He ordered those who could swim to jump overboard first and get to land. ⁴⁴ The rest were to get there on planks or on other pieces of the ship. In this way everyone reached land safely.