

St.Mary, Alderley



Parish Magazine

November 2021

Rector Writes

November 2021

From the sermon preached by the Rector at Harvest Festival on 26th September at St.Mary's Church

Today – Harvest Festival – we celebrate, and we give thanks to God for the processes of creation that we rely on to survive. It is mysterious that there should be an annual cycle of growth.

In Ancient Greece, the mystery was that the processes of plant growth and the sources of mineral wealth were under the ground, in the domain of the dead. The Greek myth of Persephone explained that a bargain had been struck and a sacrifice had been made, so that humankind may live. Persephone – a beautiful young woman – had been abducted by Hades – the god of the underworld. It was Persephone who made the ground fertile and abundant in goodness. And every year, Persephone made herself known to the world that she had been taken from, by the beauty of new life in the Springtime: a beauty which reminded us that we had paid a price – made a sacrifice – to become the beneficiaries of the bounty of the earth.

The story of the Old Testament is about Israel learning to leave behind the nature gods, and - in their place - to know and trust the one, true God. God is not embodied in the times of the day, or the seasons, or the elements, or the high places, or the rivers, or the sea, or the weather, or any animal, or any good thing that the earth produces, or anything that human hands have made. The God whom we worship is above and beyond Creation, and the God whom we worship is the source of Creation and its sustainer. It is God who has the power and control over nature, and the fruits of nature come to humanity by God's grace, and by our sheer hard work. So we are left with the passages from the Old Testament that affirm God as Creator, and us as the stewards of God's creation – and this is what we believe as Christian people.

But that ancient Greek myth does have elements within it that have an enduring appeal: the sacrifice that is involved in wresting sustenance and wealth from the ground; and the beauty that is an integral part of that. I have served now as a parish clergyman of rural parishes for a total of ten years, in two posts, but I am not a 'farming Vicar'. My most immediate experience of wresting sustenance and wealth from the ground is from my five years working alongside the coal mining industry in County Durham before I was ordained. My small team had responsibility for planning control of opencast coal mines. These were open pits revealing to the sunlight the galleries in which miners of previous generations had toiled underground in cramped conditions, and had given the best years of their lives – and had long ago left their shovels and picks and lunch boxes under the ground. These open pits were the last gasp of coal mining around old colliery villages that had themselves been struggling since the deep mines had shut. The opencast mines were visceral wounds on the surface of a coalfield in trauma at the ending of a way of life.

But, whichever primary industry we look at, each has its own terrible beauty, and each has its own culture of sacrifice. I mean whole lives lived and devoted and given to the soil, the beasts, the getting of riches from under the ground, so that the mine or the farm - each becomes a world entire to itself – a consuming passion, and the setting of the long history of toil. This is the debt that we owe to all who work in primary industries..

NETHER ALDERLEY 200 CLUB

Latest draw winners

1 st prize	Jon Hale
2 nd prize	Ronelda Dyas
3 rd prize	Rachel Mogg

Flower Rota

7th November	Joyce Davis
14th November	Michael Penlington
21st November	Michael Penlington
28th November	Advent

A **casual meeting up** of anyone who would like a coffee get-together at the de Trafford on Tuesday 9th November. Please let Fiona or Maureen know if Interested --we won't book, but would like to know if anyone is interested --

Covid-safe measures at St.Mary's Church were reviewed by the Parochial Church Council when it met on 23rd Sept.

Covid-safe measures now at St.Mary's Church are:

please wear a mask if you wish;

Holy Communion in one kind;

Maximum of two doors open to promote ventilation.

The PCC agreed that we will no longer have only alternate pews in use and that we will no longer disinfect the pews if they are to be used less than 72 hours after the previous use.

Sometimes when there is a very large congregation for a funeral, worshippers sit in the chancel but, for the time being, this will not be allowed.

Times of services at St.Mary's Church on Sundays in November

Sunday 7th November (3rd Sunday before Advent)

9.45am. Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

Sunday 14th November (3rd Sunday before Advent & Remembrance Sunday)

10.30am. Traditional Remembrance Sunday Service

Sunday 21st November (The Sunday Next before Advent known as Christ the King Sunday)

9.45am. Holy Communion (Common Worship)

Sunday 28th November (Advent Sunday)

9.45am Family Service (Common Worship)

Times of services at St.Catherine's Church, Birtles on Sundays in Nov

Sunday 7th November (3rd Sunday before Advent)

11.15am. Family Service (Common Worship)

Sunday 14th November (3rd Sunday before Advent & Remembrance S

10.45am. Traditional Remembrance Sunday Service

Sunday 21st November (The Sunday Next before Advent known as Christ the King Sunday)

11.15am. Mattins (Book of Common Prayer)

Sunday 28th November (Advent Sunday)

11.15am. Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

From the Registers of St.Mary's Church since 7th August

Baptisms

19th September: Louis Edwin PEARSON

Weddings

21st August: Lydia WHITTINGHAM & Johnathan MINTER

11th September: Marnie WALKER & Will EAST

17th September: Amanda ROGERS & Austin AMBROSE

Funerals

25th August: Burial of cremated remains of Julie Ann GREGORY in St.Mary's Churchyard.

21st September: Burial of cremated remains of Betty BROADBENT in St.Mary's



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donation on the door would be most welcome

RECTOR of ALDERLEY

The Revd. Antony Jolyon Hale (Jon)

Church Lane, Nether Alderley, SK10 4TW

Email: alderleyandbirtles@gmail.com

Mrs Rachel Roberts, Reader

Secondment to our Benefice, from St Philip and St James, Alderley Edge

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

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)

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

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

Archivist

Mrs Jenny Youatt (01625) 585226

email: 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

Mr Michael Penlington (Festivals)

(01625) 530084

email: michael.penlington574@btinternet.com

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

Mr Peter Robinson

(01625) 860679

email: peterfiona@hotmail.co.uk

Prayer Book Society Representative

Mrs Anne Dodd

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



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