



WELCOME TO WORSHIP ON 28th NOVEMBER 2021 ADVENT SUNDAY

The Benefice of St.Mary, Alderley & St.Catherine, Birtles

**Hymns at St.Mary's
Church this morning
(from Hymns Old &
New):**

- 405** One more step along the world I go
- 289** Kum ba yah
- 235** I, the Lord of sea and sky
- 283** Joy to the world

**Hymns at
St.Catherine's Church
this morning (from
Common Praise):**

- 24** Come, thou long-expected Jesus
- 25** Creator of the starry height
- 26** Hark ! a thrilling voice is sounding
- 29** Hills of the north, rejoice



The Collect for Advent in the Book of Common Prayer

Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness,
and put upon us the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which thy Son Jesus Christ came
to visit us in great humility;
that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious Majesty, to judge both the quick and the dead,
we may rise to the life immortal;
through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, now and ever.
Amen.

This morning's Bible readings, as set in the lectionary for Advent Sunday morning

1 Thessalonians 3: 9-13

⁹ How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? ¹⁰ Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith. ¹¹ Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. ¹² And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. ¹³ And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

Luke 21: 25 - 36

²⁵ 'There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶ People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷ Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in a cloud" with power and great glory. ²⁸ Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.'

²⁹ Then he told them a parable: 'Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰ as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³² Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³⁴ 'Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵ like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.'

We welcome to St.Catherine's Church this morning Mandy Parr of St.Philip & St.James Church, Alderley Edge who will speak about the World Day of Prayer. Mandy will speak on the same subject at St.Mary's Church on Sunday 19th December.

The Baptism of James William George FORTUNE will take place in St.Catherine's Church today at 12.45pm.

Churches Together in Alderley Choral Evensong at St.Mary's Church this evening at 6.30pm. The Churches Together in Alderley are St.Pius, Alderley Edge, Alderley Edge Methodist Church, St.Philip & St.James Church, Alderley Edge and St.Mary's Church Alderley. St.Catherine's Church, Birtles is also invited to this service. The Rector has invited others to attend the service, whom he will welcome at the start of the service. The choir will be formed of members of the choirs of St.Philip & St.James Church and St.Mary's Church.

This evening's Bible readings, as set in the lectionary for Advent Sunday evening

Joel 3: 9-end

Proclaim this among the nations: Prepare for war! Rouse the warriors!

Let all the fighting men draw near and attack.

¹⁰ Beat your ploughshares into swords and your pruning hooks into spears.

Let the weakling say, I am strong!"

¹¹ Come quickly, all you nations from every side, and assemble there.

Bring down your warriors, LORD!

¹² "Let the nations be roused; let them advance into the Valley of Jehoshaphat, for there I will sit to judge all the nations on every side.

¹³ Swing the sickle, for the harvest is ripe.

Come, trample the grapes, for the winepress is full and the vats overflow—so great is their wickedness!"

¹⁴ Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision.

¹⁵ The sun and moon will be darkened, and the stars no longer shine.

¹⁶ The LORD will roar from Zion and thunder from Jerusalem; the earth and the heavens will tremble.

But the LORD will be a refuge for his people, a stronghold for the people of Israel.

¹⁷ "Then you will know that I, the LORD your God, dwell in Zion, my holy hill.

Jerusalem will be holy; never again will foreigners invade her.

¹⁸ "In that day the mountains will drip new wine, and the hills will flow with milk; all the ravines of Judah will run with water.

A fountain will flow out of the LORD's house and will water the valley of acacias.

¹⁹ But Egypt will be desolate, Edom a desert waste, because of violence done to the people of Judah, in whose land they shed innocent blood.

²⁰ Judah will be inhabited forever and Jerusalem through all generations.

²¹ Shall I leave their innocent blood unavenged? No, I will not." The LORD dwells in Zion!

Revelation 14: 13 – 15: 4

³ Then I heard a voice from heaven say, "Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." "Yes," says the Spirit, "they will rest from their labour, for their deeds will follow them." ¹⁴ I looked, and there before me was a white cloud, and seated on the cloud was one like a son of man with a crown of gold on his head and a sharp sickle in his hand. ¹⁵ Then another angel came out of the temple and called in a loud voice to him who was sitting on the cloud, "Take your sickle and reap, because the time to reap has come, for the harvest of the earth is ripe." ¹⁶ So he who was seated on the cloud swung his sickle over the earth, and the earth was harvested.

¹⁷ Another angel came out of the temple in heaven, and he too had a sharp sickle. ¹⁸ Still another angel, who had charge of the fire, came from the altar and called in a loud voice to him who had the sharp sickle, "Take your sharp sickle and gather the clusters of grapes from the earth's vine, because its grapes are ripe." ¹⁹ The angel swung his sickle on the earth, gathered its grapes and threw them into the great winepress of God's wrath. ²⁰ They were trampled in the winepress outside the city, and blood flowed out of the press, rising as high as the horses' bridles for a distance of 1,600 stadia.

I saw in heaven another great and marvellous sign: seven angels with the seven last plagues—last, because with them God's wrath is completed. ² And I saw what looked like a sea of glass glowing with fire and, standing beside the sea, those who had been victorious over the beast and its image and over the number of its name. They held harps given them by God ³ and sang the song of God's servant Moses and of the Lamb: "Great and marvellous are your deeds, Lord God Almighty. Just and true are your ways, King of the nations. ⁴ Who will not fear you, Lord, and bring glory to your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship before you, for your righteous acts have been revealed."

The death occurred on 23rd October of Mrs Bets SPARROW. Bets' funeral has taken place. A memorial service for Bets will be held on Saturday 11th December at 2.00pm at St.Mary's Church, Alderley.

St.Catherine's Church will be open for you to see the Knitted Bible at the following dates and times: Sunday 28th November: 1.15pm – 2.30pm ; Thursday 2nd December: 4pm – 7pm; Friday 3rd December: 4pm – 7pm; Saturday 4th December: 10am – 12noon; 2pm – 4pm; Sunday 5th December: 11.15am Family Service to 1pm; 4pm – 7pm. Bishop Sam – the Bishop of Stockport – will close the Knitted Bible exhibition 5.30pm – 7.00pm. The Knitted Bible exhibition was opened on 26th November by the Right Reverend Mark Tanner – the Bishop of Chester.

A Knitted Bible Family Service will be held at St.Catherine's Church at 11.15am on Sunday 5th December.

A Christingle Service will be held at St.Mary's Church at 9.45am on Sunday 12th December.

A Family Christmas carol sing-along will be held at Nether Alderley Parish Hall at 7.00pm on Friday 17th December. More details later.

The Birtles Nativity this year will be outside at Birtles Old Hall on Sunday 19th December at 11.15am. There will not be a service in St.Catherine's Church on 19th December.

There will be a Nine Lessons & Carols Service at St.Mary's Church on Sunday 19th December at 6.30pm

The Diocesan Lay Conference takes place at Swanwick, Derbyshire the weekend of 25th to 27th March next year. There is a free place at the conference for one person for each parish church and additional places at the conference are charged for. Please talk with the Revd Jon Hale if you are interested in attending the conference.

If you can play the organ at St.Catherine's Church on Christmas Day for the 11.15am Carol Service please let the Vicar know. We are currently without an organist for this service.



Times of services at Christmas

Friday 24th December

3.00pm at St.Mary's Church: Family Service with the Blessing of the Nativity Scene

6.00pm at St.Catherine's Church: Family Carols

Christmas Day

9.45am at St.Mary's Church: Holy Communion (Common Worship)

11.15am at St.Catherine's Church: Carol Service

Sunday 26th December (St.Stephen)

9.45am at St.Mary's Church: Family Service with Christmas Carols (Common Worship)

11.15am at St.Catherine's Church: Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

St.Mary's Church, Alderley SK10 4TW in the Benefice of Alderley & Birtles. Covid-safe measures now at St.Mary's Church are: (i) please wear a mask if you wish; (ii) Holy Communion in one kind; (iii) Maximum of two doors open. 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. 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. Covid-safe measures now at St.Catherine's Church are: (i) please wear a mask if you wish; (ii) sign in; (ii) Holy Communion in one kind; (iv) doors & windows open. 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.