



**WELCOME TO WORSHIP ON 5th DECEMBER
THE 2nd SUNDAY IN ADVENT
The Benefice of St.Mary, Alderley & St.Catherine, Birtles**



In the light of the increased risk of virus transmission, please wear a face mask in church at all times (including when singing) and practise social distancing in church.

Hymns at St.Mary's Church this morning at Holy Communion (from Hymns Ancient & Modern New Standard):

- **27** On Jordan's bank
- **150** Ye servants of the Lord
- **31** Come, thou long expected Jesus
- **24** Hark, a thrilling voice is calling

Hymns at St.Catherine's Church this morning at the Knitted Bible Family Service:

- **21 in Hymns Old & New.** All things bright and beautiful

- **Abraham had many sons.** Rachel will teach this to the congregation
- **289 in Hymns Old & New** Kum ba yah
- **The Lord is my shepherd.** To be sung by a soloist from St.Philip & St.James Church, Alderley Edge
- **206 in Hymns Old & New** He's got the whole world in his hands
- **336 in Hymns Old & New** My eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord.

St.Mary's Church is loaning copies of Hymns Old & New to St.Catherine's Church for this service.

This morning's Bible readings at St.Mary's Church

Philippians 1: 3-11

³ I thank my God every time I remember you, ⁴ constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, ⁵ because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶ I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷ It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸ For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. ⁹ And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight ¹⁰ to help you to determine what is best, so that on the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, ¹¹ having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Luke 3: 1-6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, ² during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³ He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴ as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, 'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. ⁵ Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; ⁶ and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

The Baptism of Ted KERSHAW BURNS will take place in St.Mary's Church today at 12.45pm. Thank you to Ken Wilkinson who will serve as vergers for this Baptism.

The memorial service for Mrs Bets SPARROW that had been planned for 11th December at St.Mary's Church has now been cancelled due to ongoing uncertainties and difficulties in the Covid pandemic.

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

The funeral of Sybil Ruth DAVIS of Alderley Edge will be held on Monday 13th December at 10am followed by burial at Alderley Edge Cemetery. Please let the Rector know if you can serve as vergers.

A Family Christmas carol sing-along: Nether Alderley Parish Hall at 7.00pm on Friday 17th December.

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. 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.

The annual Chester Diocese vocations day for explorers is Saturday 29th January at Foxhill House - the Diocesan house of prayer, study and mission near Frodsham. If you have ever thought that you could see yourself in a position of authorised ministry in the Church of England, this is the date to put in your diary now. Register here to attend: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/.../called-to-serve-tickets...> Here are ten ways in which you could have an authorised ministry in the Church of England: Youth, children and families' ministry; Chaplaincy ministry (lay/ordained); Reader ministry; Pastoral worker ministry; Workplace ministry; Being a church school governor; The religious life; Pioneering ministry (lay/ordained); Being a Church Army evangelist; Ordained ministry (assistant/incumbent/etc).

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.stmarysaldersley.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; (iii) 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.