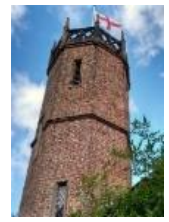




**WELCOME TO WORSHIP ON 12<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER  
THE 3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY IN ADVENT  
The Benefice of St.Mary, Alderley & St.Catherine, Birtles**



In the light of the increased risk of virus transmission and changed regulations by H. M. Government, please wear a face mask in church at all times (including when singing) and practise social distancing in church. Masks are available for you at the back of the church. Doors / windows will be open for ventilation.

Our Organist today is Mr Reg Holmes.

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

Sing Christingle  
206 He's got the whole in this world in his hands  
21 All things bring and beautiful  
87 Colours of Day  
51 Away in a manger

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

29 Hills of the North, rejoice  
26 Hark, a thrilling voice is calling  
24 Come, thou long expected Jesus  
34 On Jordan's bank

**This morning's Bible readings at St.Catherine's Church**

**Philippians 4: 4-7**

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. <sup>5</sup> Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup> Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

**Luke 3: 7-18**

John the Baptist said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?' <sup>8</sup> Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>9</sup> Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.' <sup>10</sup> And the crowds asked him, 'What then should we do?' <sup>11</sup> In reply he said to them, 'Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.' <sup>12</sup> Even tax-collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, 'Teacher, what should we do?' <sup>13</sup> He said to them, 'Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.' <sup>14</sup> Soldiers also asked him, 'And we, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.' <sup>15</sup> As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup> John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup> His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.' <sup>18</sup> So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

**The Baptism of Rosie Elisabeth Anne ROBINSON** will take place in St.Mary's Church today at 12.45pm. Thank you, Rachel Roberts, for serving as Verger for this Baptism.

**The funeral of Sybil Ruth DAVIS** of Alderley Edge will be held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> December at 10am followed by burial at Alderley Edge Cemetery. Thank you, Ken Wilkinson, for serving as Verger for this funeral.

**A Family Christmas carol sing-along:** Nether Alderley Parish Hall at 7.00pm on 17<sup>th</sup> December. If you wish to attend please book with Yvonne Bentley on [Yvonne.bentley.napc@gmail.com](mailto:Yvonne.bentley.napc@gmail.com)

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

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

**The Diocesan Lay Conference takes place at Swanwick, Derbyshire the weekend of 25<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> March next year.** Chance Wilson will attend for St.Catherine's Church. Who will attend for St.Mary's?



**The OASIS Centre at Gorton.** Please bring Christmas gifts of food and of wool to St.Mary's Church next Sunday so that Lesley can take these to Oasis the next day, Monday 20<sup>th</sup>. The OASIS Centre is now in its new building.

**The Revd Jon Hale writes. We now have a pianist or organist for every service in December.** We now have two new regular organists who will join us in addition to Reg Holmes and Neil Taylor who have been playing for us for quite a while. Ian Dalgleish will play for us for the first time on 19<sup>th</sup> December at St.Mary's Church only because the Birtles Nativity will not need an organist. Nora Griffin will play at St.Catherine's Church on 2<sup>nd</sup> January for the first time. Nora does not feel confident enough to play at both churches. We therefore need an organist or a pianist to play at the 9.45am service at St.Mary's Church on 2<sup>nd</sup> January and on 27<sup>th</sup> February. If a pianist or organist for these two services can be found, we will have a pianist or organist for every Sunday in January & February.

**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](mailto:alderleyandbirtles@gmail.com)). The Honorary Treasurer is Mr Will Ablett (tel: 01625 585180). Online: [www.alderleychurch.co.uk](http://www.alderleychurch.co.uk) and [www.stmarysaldersley.com](http://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](mailto:alderleyandbirtles@gmail.com)). The Honorary Treasurer is Mrs Nicola Folkes (tel: 01625 860815 & [nicolajaynefolkes@gmail.com](mailto: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.