



# WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT CHRISTMAS 2021

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 at all times. Masks are available for you at the back of the church.

At St.Mary's Church alternate pews are out of use in the side aisles and at the back of church: please only sit here if you need to sit with space around you.

## Times of services at Christmas at St.Mary's Church and at St.Catherine's Church

### Friday 24<sup>th</sup> December

**3.00pm at St.Mary's Church:** Family Service with the Blessing of the Nativity Scene. Our organist is Reg Holmes

**6.00pm at St.Catherine's Church:** Family Carols. Our organist is Reg Holmes

### Christmas Day

**9.45am at St.Mary's Church:** Holy Communion (Common Worship). Our pianist is Tobias Provan.

**11.15am at St.Catherine's Church:** Carol Service. Our organist is Tom Alexander.

### Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> December (First Sunday after Christmas / St.Stephen's Day)

**9.45am at St.Mary's Church:** Family Service with Christmas Carols (Common Worship). Our organist is Ian Dalgleish.

**11.15am at St.Catherine's Church:** Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer). Our organist is Ian Dalgleish.

**12.45pm at St.Mary's Church:** The Baptism of Oliver William GALE.

## Christmas morning Bible readings at Holy Communion at St.Mary's Church

### Hebrews 1: 1-12

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, <sup>2</sup>but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. <sup>3</sup>He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, <sup>4</sup>having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. <sup>5</sup>For to which of the angels did God ever say, 'You are my Son; today I have begotten you'? Or again, 'I will be his Father, and he will be my Son'? <sup>6</sup>And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, 'Let all God's angels worship him.' <sup>7</sup>Of the angels he says, 'He makes his angels winds, and his servants flames of fire.' <sup>8</sup>But of the Son he says, 'Your throne, O God, is for ever and ever, and the righteous sceptre is the sceptre of your kingdom. <sup>9</sup>You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.' <sup>10</sup>And, 'In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands; <sup>11</sup>they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like clothing; <sup>12</sup>like a cloak you will roll them up, and like clothing they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will never end.'

### John 1: 1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup>in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. <sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a

witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup> He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup> The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup> He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup> But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. <sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

## **The First Sunday of Christmas (26<sup>th</sup> December) Bible readings at Holy Communion at Catherine's Church**

### **Colossians 3: 12-17**

<sup>12</sup> As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. <sup>13</sup> Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. <sup>14</sup> Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. <sup>15</sup> And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. <sup>16</sup> Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. <sup>17</sup> And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

### **Luke 2: 41-end**

<sup>41</sup> Now every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. <sup>42</sup> And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. <sup>43</sup> When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. <sup>44</sup> Assuming that he was in the group of travellers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. <sup>45</sup> When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. <sup>46</sup> After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. <sup>47</sup> And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. <sup>48</sup> When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, 'Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety.' <sup>49</sup> He said to them, 'Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?' <sup>50</sup> But they did not understand what he said to them. <sup>51</sup> Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. <sup>52</sup> And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favour.

**St.Mary's Church, Alderley SK10 4TW.** 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.stmarysaldерley.com](http://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. You can now also give to St.Mary's Church using this QR code:



**St.Catherine's Church, Birtles SK10 4RU.** Churchwardens are Mr Michael Norbury (tel: 01625 583788) and Mr Chance Wilson (tel: 01625 861310). The Vicar is the Reverend Jon Hale (phone and email as for St.Mary's). 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 website and click on 'Donate Here' to give via PayPal.

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