

WELCOME TO WORSHIP ON 9th JANUARY 2022: THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST

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

Please wear a face mask in church at all times (including when singing) and practise social distancing in church at all times. 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.

Today we welcome Neil Taylor who will play the organ at both churches

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

- 49. Awake, awake: fling off the night
- 337. Morning has broken
- 328. Make me a channel of your peace
- 3. A man there lived in Galilee

Hymns at St.Catherine's Church at Holy Communion (from Common Praise):

- 41. A great and mighty wonder
- 89. O worship the Lord in the beauty
- 490. Jesus shall reign where'er the Sun
- 91. We three kings

This morning's Bible readings

Acts 8: 14-17 Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. ¹⁵ The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit ¹⁶ (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). ¹⁷ Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Luke 3: 15-17 & 21-22 ¹⁵ As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶ 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. ¹⁷ 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.' ²¹ Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, ²² and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

The funeral of Freda FISHWICK (99 years) will be held at St.Mary's Church at 10.30am on Friday 28th January followed by committal at Macclesfield Crematorium.

The funeral of Anne Cobb (88 years) will be held at St.Mary's Church at 2.15pm on Friday 28th January followed by committal at Macclesfield Crematorium.

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). 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.

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) Online: <https://www.stcatherinebirtles.org.uk/welcome.htm> and St.Catherine's Church, Over Alderley on Facebook.

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

The Origin of Jesus Christ in the Gospels

Matthew 1: 24-25

When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' ²²All this took place to fulfil what

had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ²³'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel', which means, 'God is with us.' ²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Mark 1: 9-11

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.

Luke 2: 4-7

⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the

city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

John 1: 1-5

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one

thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. ⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him.

The Baptism of Jesus Christ in the Gospels

Matthew 3: 13-17

¹³Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴John would have prevented him, saying, 'I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?' ¹⁵But Jesus answered him, 'Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfil all righteousness.' Then he consented. ¹⁶And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and

he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.'

Mark 1: 9-11

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven,

'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

Luke 3: 21-22

²¹Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, ²²and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

John 1: 32-34

³²And John testified, 'I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. ³³I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, "He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit." ³⁴And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God.'

The annual Churches Together service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity will be held in St Philip & St James Church, Alderley Edge at 6.30 pm on SUNDAY JANUARY 23RD. This year's service has been prepared by the Churches of the Middle East, with the theme: We saw his star in the East The service will be live-streamed and it is hoped that it can be made available on Zoom as well.