



**ST.MARY'S CHURCH and ST.CATHERINE'S CHURCH**  
**30<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2022**  
**The 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Epiphany**



**The Benefice of St.Mary, Alderley and St.Catherine, Birtles**

Today at St.Mary's Church we welcome the Reverend Linda Lonsdale who will celebrate Holy Communion.

Today at St.Catherine's Church we welcome the Reverend Robin Pye who will celebrate Holy Communion.

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

**Hymns at St.Mary's Church (from Hymns Ancient & Modern New Standard):**

- 47 Brightest and best
- 48 Earth has many a noble city
- 49 O worship the Lord in the beauty
- 51. As with gladness

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

- 6 New every morning
- 84. Brightest and best
- 89. O worship the Lord in the beauty
- 353 Jerusalem

**This morning's Bible readings**

**1 Corinthians 13** If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. <sup>2</sup> And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. <sup>3</sup> If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

<sup>4</sup> Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant <sup>5</sup> or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; <sup>6</sup> it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. <sup>7</sup> It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

<sup>8</sup> Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. <sup>9</sup> For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; <sup>10</sup> but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. <sup>11</sup> When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. <sup>12</sup> For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. <sup>13</sup> And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

**Luke 2: 22-40** <sup>21</sup> After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

<sup>22</sup> When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord <sup>23</sup> (as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'), <sup>24</sup> and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.' <sup>25</sup> Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him.

*over .....*

<sup>26</sup> It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. <sup>27</sup> Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, <sup>28</sup> Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying: <sup>29</sup> 'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; <sup>30</sup> for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, <sup>32</sup> a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.' <sup>33</sup> And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. <sup>34</sup> Then Simeon<sup>[J]</sup> blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed <sup>35</sup> so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.' <sup>36</sup> There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage, <sup>37</sup> then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. <sup>38</sup> At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. <sup>39</sup> When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. <sup>40</sup> The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

**The World Day of Prayer (used to be the Women's World Day of Prayer)** is Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March. In our area there will be a World Day of Prayer event on 4<sup>th</sup> March at St.Philip & St.James Church, Alderley Edge.

**'Holy Habits' is a series of weekly Lent Groups being organised by St.Philip & St.James Church, Alderley Edge for the Churches Together in Alderley including St.Mary's and St.Catherine's Churches.** These will meet face to face weekly on dates and times to be arranged. If you would like to join a Holy Habits group, please let the Revd Jon Hale know. These groups might be on Zoom as well. Ash Wednesday is 2<sup>nd</sup> March. <https://www.holyhabits.org.uk/>

**The Revd Jon Hale writes. I will be on leave Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> January to Friday 4<sup>th</sup> February inclusive.** If you need to arrange a funeral please contact the Revd Robin Pye (Vicar of St.Philip & St.James, Alderley Edge) on 01625 583249.

**St.Mary's Church, Alderley SK10 4TW in the Benefice of Alderley & Birtles.** 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](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.** 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." **And you can use this QR code to give to St.Mary's:**



**St.Catherine's Church, Birtles SK10 4RU in the Benefice of Alderley & Birtles.** 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](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 throughout the parish free of charge.

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