

St.Mary, Alderley



Parish Magazine

December 2023

From Nathan

You may not be a great fan of All Hallows Eve, or of all the modern shenanigans which seem to now be part and parcel of the night. It's all about trick or treating, dressing up in old bedsheets and decorating our houses with cobwebs, pumpkins and fake blood.

Before this American phenomenon took over, we had our own ways of remembering, respecting and celebrating the dead.

Before 1800, this festival was mainly about getting together with family and friends, inviting our neighbours round to share food, song and stories. Hallowtide was both Christian and pagan, the word meaning 'holy' or to make holy. It was thought that around this time, the veil between this world and the next was unusually thin. For most, it was a time of remembering loved ones, giving thanks for good health and harvest, for home and hearth.

Today, we tend to go large on the spooky bit (you only need to go into any supermarket to see that) and ignore the part where we celebrate the saints, including those who are dear to us, who we see no longer.

As a society, we tend to shy away from talking about death and those who have passed away before us. We'd rather be in celebration mode. But, sometimes, we have to sit and be still. We need to acknowledge the fact that someone special has died. Unlike the poem by Henry Scott-Holland suggests, death is not 'nothing at all' and the person we mourn has not 'slipped into the other room'. As much as we want to be comforted, we also need to be truthful.

Death is the end. For now.

If you have a faith, we know that we will see our loved ones again because death is not the ultimate full stop, but a time between now and when we meet again. Nothing God has made is wasted or unloved, as hard as that might be to fully appreciate or understand. Everything and everyone is part of a process, a moving towards an appreciation of this world of ours, our place in it and of the One who made us.

At this time of year, we are in transition.

We move from the rusty oranges of Autumn towards winter.

We move from remembering to looking forward.

Church Registers

NETHER ALDERLEY 200 CLUB **Latest draw winners**

1st prize

2nd prize

3rd prize

FLOWER ROTA

December - Advent. - Throughout.

Michael Penlington and Flower Team.

(continued)

What parts of your life do you need to pause to consider?

What areas need special attention?

As we remember those who have gone before us, we give thanks for their examples, sacrifices and hard work and for the love they have shown us and for the world they have left us. We remember those who have died in war, and those still dying in war, especially women and children. We also remember that, as the world seems to be full of fear and sadness that we are a people of hope.

Dawn will come.

The sun will rise.

A new day will dawn for all of us, here or in the hereafter.

Church news

Looking ahead to December. Nathan's plans are taking shape and there is much to look forward to.

The Christmas Eve services will be at 2pm and 10pm plus a service on Christmas morning and New Year's Eve, busy busy!

I would like us all to share our thanks for all the wonderful cleaning, Altar dressing, Choir, Bellringers, weekly and Festival flowers. All these things make worship at St Mary's a pleasure.

Behind the scenes a huge amount of work has been undertaken this past year by members of various Committees, particular mention should be made of the team working on a contract to ensure continued use of the Parish Hall after the Restoration work to be undertaken by the Parish Council is completed.

Wishing the best to you all. Fiona Ablett

Christmas 2023 Appeal for Oasis

Thank you all for your generous gifts of Harvest food for the people of Oasis. Now I am asking again - this time for Christmas! Please look to see if you have any items or unwanted gifts that could be sold in the shop (everything there is either £1 or 50p) so that people can buy gifts for their loved ones at a fair price. Victoria, our founder, has spoken of her fears that this is the time of year when loan sharks get their grip on those who cannot afford it as there is so much pressure to buy. If you can help here, please do!

Also, food items such as tins and packets of tea and coffee and pasta are needed to provide Christmas cheer for those with the least.

These can be left in the basket to the left of the door at St Mary's church, or dropped off in my porch, 14 Congleton Road, Alderley Edge, SK9 7AA. I volunteer in the education department at Oasis every Monday so there is a weekly delivery! Sometimes I arrive with a real car load and it is always so gratefully received.

Thank you Lesley Marsh

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

Decoration of the Church with Candles, lights and the Christmas Tree during advent and flowers at Christmas are funded by donations to the Flower Fund. If you wish to donate towards this special time in the Christian Calendar there is a donation box in Church or you can give your donation to any member of the Flower Team or send it to me.

Cheques to be made payable to 'Alderley Church Flower Fund'
You can gift aid your donation by completing one of the special 'Candle Fund' donation envelopes which are available in Church by the donation box or from me.

Your support will make our church special during Advent and Christmas.

Michael Penlington

IVY COTTAGE TREE FARM

Racecourse Road, Wilmslow

Enjoy the fragrance of a real Christmas Tree !
Christmas Shop for trees, decorations etc. is

open from 20th November, 7 days a week 9.00am - 5.00pm

They supply (with a generous donation) the Christmas Tree in Church

and donate the Christmas Tree greenery for the decoration of the Church for Advent and Christmas

RECTOR of ALDERLEY
REV CANON NATHAN JARVIS

St. Mary Alderley

Church Lane

Nether Alderley

SK10 4TW

WEBSITES

www.alderleychurch.co.uk

Mark Wilkinson (*web@alderleychurch.co.uk*)

www.stmarysaldерley.com (our heritage)

Jenny Youatt (*info@stmarysaldерley.com*)

facebook—St.Mary's Church, Nether Alderley

SUNDAY SERVICES

1st Sunday:- Eucharist

2nd Sunday:- Eucharist

3rd Sunday:- Eucharist

4th Sunday : Eucharist

5th Sunday: - Eucharist

Church Warden & Lay Chairman –PCC

Mr Ken Wilkinson

email: ken@alderleychurch.co.uk

Hon PCC Secretary:

Mr P Kershaw

email: pccsecretary@alderleychurch.co.uk

Hon Treasurer:

Mr Will Ablett

email: treasurer@alderleychurch.co.uk

Envelope & Gift Aid Scheme Administrator:

Mr Donald Henderson *email: envelopes@alderleychurch.co.uk*

Electoral Roll Officer

Mrs L Kershaw

email: electoralroll@alderleychurch.co.uk

Archivist

Mrs Jenny Youatt

email: info@stmarys alderley.com

Organist:

St. Mary's is currently without a regular organist. The Church is grateful to the many organists who have been playing service by service since August 2017

The Church Choir:**Church Flower Rota**

Mrs Avril Lamond

email: avrillamond@btinternet.com

Mr Michael Penlington (Festivals)

email: michael.penlington574@btinternet.com

Captain of the Tower: *(Practice 7.30pm Tuesdays)*

Mr Peter Robinson

email: peterfiona@hotmail.co.uk

Prayer Book Society Representative

Mrs Anne Dodd

Parish Hall Bookings

David Fairbotham

07951 888896

bookings.naparishhall@gmail.com

Parish Hall Costs:

£20 per hour - minimum 2 hours

Burial Board: *(Clerk)*

07717 244 537

email: clerk.napc@gmail.com

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