

St.Mary, Alderley Cheshire



Parish Magazine

October 2009

30p

Rector Writes:

October 2009

The first "Friends of St Mary's" Speaker evenings went very well with Andrew Platt MBE. It was an interesting talk that certainly gave us all something to think about. However what a sad reflection on our society that the average age of male prisoners is twenty three! On a happier note there are now over one hundred people signed up as Friends which is a wonderful achievement. Philip Webb has started something which has great potential and should be a real asset to the future life and work of St Mary's Church.

Another area in which we are really blessed is the number of people signed up for Catechism and Confirmation. Although numbers are yet to be finalised Bishop Willy will have at least fifteen to twenty candidates and maybe as many as twenty five. The Service is taking place at Birtles and we may have to use the pulpit steps for extra seating. Each candidate will receive a Prayer Book as a gift from the Church. It should prove a wonderful occasion. We are very fortunate that we have people wanting to be Confirmed. The ages are from 9-70 years. This is a very positive reflection of all ages coming together in faith and is one of the few cross generational opportunities for conversation and sharing. Maybe I should apply for a social cohesion grant from the Government. In all seriousness this is something that we can easily overlook - that in our society there is little that brings people together, especially people of different backgrounds and ages. Football may the nearest thing we have. The Church both in Alderley and Birtles is the centre of the community. This is not some triumphalist statement but a genuine observation of fact. My prayer is that our community life can prosper and that the Church will continue to be a meeting place of different ages, personalities and backgrounds. The Catechism and Confirmation numbers are certainly promising.

The cycle of life goes on and we are very conscious of several young people beginning their first terms at University. It is wonderful that St Mary's has been blessed by the contribution of these young people. We not only wish them well but look forward to seeing them at Christmas. There has been a good amount of food collected for the Oasis Project this Harvest and we will be collecting money again for this Project at the St Boniface Service. Many thanks to all contributors.

James

DIARY FOR OCTOBER 2009

Thu. 1st 12.00noon Soup & Study in the Rectory
 Fri 2nd 1.30pm Holy Matrimony at Alderley
 Sat 3rd 10.00am St.Mary's Walking Group
 10.00am Decorating Church for Harvest

Sun 4th 17th after Trinity
 8.00am Holy Communion at Birtles
 10.15am Family Service at Birtles
10.30am Combined Harvest Service at Alderley
 6.30pm Evensong at Alderley
 Mon. 5th 10.30am Delivering Harvest Gifts
 Tues 6th 4.00pm Prayer Group at Birtles

Sun 11th 18th after Trinity
 8.00am Holy Communion at Alderley
 9.30am Family Service at Alderley
 10.15am Harvest Service at Birtles
 11.15am Holy Communion at Alderley
 6.30pm Evensong at Alderley
 Thu.15th 12.00noon Soup & Study in the Rectory

Sun. 18th 19th after Trinity
 8.00am Holy Communion at Alderley
 9.30am Family Service at Alderley
 10.15am Mattins at Birtles
 11.15am Mattins at Alderley
 6.30pm Holy Communion at Alderley
 Wed.21st 2.00pm Alderley Mothers' Union

Sun. 25th 20th after Trinity
 8.00am Holy Communion at Alderley
 9.30am Family Service at Alderley
 10.15am Holy Communion at Birtles
 11.15am Mattins at Alderley
 6.30pm Evensong at Alderley
 Thu.29th 12.00noon Soup & Study in the Rectory

Nov. 21st after Trinity
 8.00am Holy Communion at Birtles
 9.30am Family Service at Alderley
 10.15am Family Service at Birtles
 11.15am Holy Communion at Alderley
 6.30pm Evensong at Alderley

COFFEE is available in the Parish Hall after the 9.30am Family Service.
 Donations to charity.

COLLECTION TOTALS

Date	Gift Aid Envelopes	Non-Gift Aid Envelopes	Misc. Cash	Standing Orders	Total
Aug 2 nd	398.20	26.50	42.95		467.65
Aug 9 th	489.68	10.50	43.66		543.84
Aug 16 th	357.50	20.50	22.80		400.80
Aug 23 rd	526.00	6.50	102.10		634.60
Aug 30 th	473.67	6.50	127.47		607.64
TOTAL	2245.05	72.50	338.98	581.00	3237.53

It costs £6000 per month to keep your church going, so you can see that there is a substantial shortfall. Can you see your way to increasing your weekly giving?

HARVEST FESTIVAL



The decoration of the Church will take place on Saturday, 3rd October from 10.00am onwards. Gifts of fruit, vegetables, flowers and tinned goods will be very welcome. Most of all, we need helpers to come and assist with the decoration.

We would also be grateful for drivers to help with the Harvest gift distribution. This will take place on Monday 5th October at 10.30am. If you are able to come please ring: **Rector (01625 585440)**

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Although long ago, The **Summer Lunch** held on Wednesday August 19th at Fryers Nursery, is worth a mention. It really was very successful and we had some new faces join us. The outing was enjoyed by all.

The arrangements for the **Harvest Lunch** following the Harvest Festival on October 4th at 12 .00 noon, are well in hand. Tickets will be £9.00 for adults, £2.00p for children.

At the time of writing this the tickets are going well.

If you are interested in coming, please contact either **Janet** or **Janice**



The next **Tea Party** is on Wednesday October 7th at 3.15 pm at Alderley Cottage. Anyone who wants to join in, do let me know.

The date for the **Christmas Coffee** morning is **Saturday December 5th**. Please do put it in your diary! The Social Committee would be grateful if anyone is able to help on the day in anyway.

Janet Adamson

ST MARY'S WALKING GROUP

Walk – 7th November **start 10.00 am** prompt.

Starting point: Car Park in Rowarth, High Peak

Grid Reference: SK011892

Post Code: SK22

Length: 7 ½ miles – easy / moderate

Further information: Packed lunch needed.

Contact: **Terry Fones**



MOTHERS' UNION

Our next speaker is –

Allan Hadfield

“Stanley Holloway Monologues”

Wednesday 21st October at 2.00pm

ALL ARE WELCOME SO PLEASE DO JOIN US!



Remember playing conkers?

With the onset of September, it is time for one of the great traditional games of childhood again: conkers. British children have been playing with horse chestnuts since at least 1848 (when the first game was recorded on the Isle of Wight).

If you want to revisit your childhood, and introduce your children (or grandchildren) to a game of conkers, there is a helpful website full of good tips, from how to choose

a good conker, how to thread it, and to how to keep score.

Please visit: www.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/customs/conkers

The site includes such gems as what to say as you choose your conker and prepare for battle. You say: “Oddly oddly onker, my first conker....” – but then, you knew that already, didn't you?

Churches Together in Alderley

After the success of last year's 'QuizAid' for Christian Aid week we are holding another event this year.

'QuizAid' Evening

at Alderley Edge Scout Hut

Saturday October 17th

Time: 7.00pm

Fish and chip supper provided
(bring your own wine)

Tickets from the quizmasterTerry Fones

MORCARE

Another 5 or 6 years have passed and in the Harvest Parish Newsletter you will receive the updated Morcare leaflet. I hope the leaflet is self - explanatory and that you will respond by offering help. Since the last update obviously circumstances bring about changes and new people attending St. Mary's might want to participate in helping with this service. It is not too demanding but to have plenty of people available to help other people out when emergencies arise within the household makes it easier for everyone.

Please read the leaflet carefully and return it to me. If you have any queries or questions as to how the service is run, please don't hesitate to ring me.

Noni Watkins

'Classical to Jazz'

A CONCERT BY ANDREW BURR and FRIENDS

Saturday October 24th at 7.30 in St. Mary's Parish Church

with

Lydia Whittingham:	Cello
Emily Williams:	Mezzo Soprano
Marilyn Burr:	Piano
Jonathan Burr:	Double Bass
Chris Burr:	Tenor / Irish Whistle
Andrew Burr:	Organ and Piano

A merry, mysterious mosaic of mellifluous music for organ, cello, voice, piano duet, and double bass.

Come and be entertained for the evening!

Tickets: £5.00 (to include a finger buffet and a glass of wine)

available from **Jean Whittingham** or **Janice Sweetman**

(Proceeds to be divided equally between St.Mary's Church and East Cheshire Hospice)

CHURCHES AROUND THE DEANERY

(At the July 2007 meeting of the Deanery Synod it was agreed that, in an effort for the people of the Deanery to get to know the Deanery better, each of the 20 churches, in rotation, would produce a written article about themselves which will appear in all parish magazines or news sheets.

It is envisaged that at the end of this exercise all the articles can be collated into a small booklet which can be sold at cost in the various churches of the deanery).

St Peter's Church, Lower Withington

Our inconspicuous small green church, is opposite the modern Village Hall. This much-loved church was erected 117 years ago. It was bought out of a catalogue and arrived prefabricated at Chelford railway station as a flat pack. This pack was transported to the present site on a wagon with horses by Mr Thomas Capper who was a gardener at Jodrell Hall under Sir Edward and Lady Stockton, who are thought to have given us the site for the church. A curate, who lived in the village at Woodhouse, was supplied by Prestbury Parish under whom we remained until 1916. The church was consecrated in January 1892 by John Frances the Lord Bishop of Chester.

This church like most prefabricated buildings in the latter half of the 19th Century had its walls and roof made of corrugated iron mounted onto a wooden bolted frame and with a wooden board lining. The customer had to prepare the foundations. The original frame and roof are still in good order, so it has been listed by English Heritage, because ours is now one of the few of these once common buildings to have survived. In 1916 we were transferred into a joint parish with Chelford, which had originally also been a part of Prestbury Parish: and was then renamed "St John the Evangelist Chelford with Old Withington".

A beautifully carved life-size wooden Calvary memorial, erected to remember the fifteen men of Withington who lost their lives in the 1914-1918 War, stands facing the traffic at the East apex of the site.

In the 1920's the vestry was extended and then in 1955-65 while The Rev. Cyril Lea was vicar, the church underwent numerous internal alterations which brought the church up into the 20th century. The coke boiler was replaced by electric heaters; a very large pedal bellows organ was replaced with an electric model; the rush seated chairs were replaced by pews and choir stalls from a bombed church in Birkenhead; the labour-intensive oil lamps were replaced with electric lights, leaving one original lamp to remind us how very attractive they must have been; dry rot and wood worm were found in the floor joists, so the floor was replaced by a new wood block floor.

In June 1992 St Peter's celebrated its centenary and in the same year the Parish of Adlington, yet another daughter parish of Prestbury, also celebrated their centenary, as their identical flat pack church was delivered three weeks before ours in 1892. Perhaps Prestbury PCC negotiated a quantity discount?

Friends of St Mary's Meeting with Andrew Platt

17th September 2009

The first meeting of Friends of St Marys could not have got off to a better start; there was a good audience to hear Andy Platt speaking about his work in HM Prison, Manchester. His talk was shocking, entertaining, informative and sometimes inspiring; the audience asked questions interminably and Andy was only able to get away at 9.30 pm, 2 hours after he arrived. He covered all aspects of Prison Life from the riots of a few years ago to the dangers of his work every day. He fully demonstrated his passion and commitment to the improvement of the lot of his unfortunate 'clients' and although he says he accepted the MBE on behalf of all his colleagues, he fully deserved this award for his work ethic and his efforts with young people. After his initial 30 minute talk the questions flowed thick and fast and he hardly had time for a cup of tea.

This was a perfect way to get the 'Friends' launched and all present seemed to enjoy the company as well as the challenging address. It augurs well for future meetings.

With future meetings in mind, we need to announce that there has been a change in the format of the meeting on Thursday November 26th at 7.30 pm. The Speaker will now be Yvonne Edge of the Pankhurst Centre and she will bring remarkable film footage of the Pankhursts as part of her presentation. The Pankhurst Family is legendary as part of Manchester and the country's history; their determination at the time was controversial but they changed the way we live. It is a compelling story and I hope that there will again be a good attendance for Yvonne.

Please note this in your diary and confirm whether you can attend to Judy Swales.

Please come and enjoy the company

Philip Webb



'We plough the fields, and scatter'

*"We plough the fields, and scatter the good seed on the land,
but it is fed and watered by God's almighty hand:
he sends the snow in winter, the warmth to swell the grain,
the breezes, and the sunshine, and soft, refreshing rain".*

This well-known harvest hymn might appear to come from the English countryside, but it has rather different origins. It is the "Peasant's Song" from a sketch by Matthias Claudius 1782, depicting a harvest thanksgiving in a North German farmhouse. It was based upon a song which he heard sung at the home of one of the farmers. Claudius was for some time an atheist, but later renewed his Christian faith. At the time of writing this hymn he was editor of the local paper in Germany, where he was also a Commissioner of Agriculture.



The hymn was originally seventeen verses long, each followed by a refrain, and was translated into English by Miss Jane Montgomery Campbell. The translation, though not very literal, does preserve the spirit of the original. It first appeared in the 1868 version of *Hymns Ancient and Modern*. The slight alterations were probably introduced to make the hymn suitable for services where harvest produce was on view or offered by the worshippers.



The tune Dresden, by J A P Schülz, first appeared in 1800 where it was set to Claudius's hymn (by now shortened to six verses). Schültz (1747-1800) was director of music first to Prince Henry of Prussia (1780-87) and then subsequently at the Court of Copenhagen (1787-95). Schültz's health was permanently damaged trying to save the music library when the Danish Royal Palace was burned down in 1795. The tune first appeared in England associated with the current words in 1854 and was arranged and harmonised by Rev J B Dykes.

Another Uncle Eustace letter.....

On what to do about swine flu in church

The Rectory
St. James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

The concern you show for the welfare of your parishioners during the current ‘flu epidemic does you credit – although I am unsure of the continued effectiveness of your ‘ministry of welcome’, when those beaming smiles of your ‘welcomers’ will be hidden behind surgical masks. And surely, disinfecting the hymn books after each service is a little too enthusiastic? Won’t the pages simply dissolve in the end?

Also, must you condemn those with even slight sniffles to sit encased in large plastic bags behind glass screens? That is unlikely to make newcomers feel that they are being warmly greeted. And I have never before heard of passing the peace with gardening gloves on. Won’t people think it odd?

Finally, I must observe that obliging your entire congregation to paddle through a disinfectant pool as they leave the church is unusual practice. It will make people feel they are in the public baths – although I concede that the architecture of the two buildings has much in common.

We take a rather more robust attitude to viral attack here at St. James the Least. The use of the chalice was only reluctantly suspended during the Black Death and – apart from the one Sunday when Mrs Clapton lost her teeth in it, has been used at every service since. Colonel Addleshaw is safe from the virus, since it could never survive the alcohol levels in his blood stream and a glare from Lady Millcheam would freeze any unwelcome visitor at a hundred yards.

Dear, romantic Miss Mompesson suggested we hold future services in the open air, but the thought of Mr Charnley losing his wig yet again in anything greater than a light breeze and the choir looking like galleons in full sail, made the idea unworkable – especially as it would oblige Lord Melchett to sit with everyone else and not in the family pew, where he can read the Sunday papers unobserved by the rest of the congregation.

There have, however, been some unintended benefits to the health scare. It has enabled me to cancel the coming visit of the bishop, explaining that we are far too concerned for his health. Also, as a way of containing the spread of the contagion, I have stopped visiting parishioners and do not allow anyone to call at the rectory. All evening meetings are suspended, I refuse to visit the village school and risk contaminating the children and I have made it clear that not stopping to talk to villagers in the street saves them from being ravaged by the disease.

Should the ‘flu epidemic continue for some time, it would be a sadness I could learn to bear.

Your loving uncle,
Eustace

ROTA FOR OCTOBER 2009
LADY SIDESMEN / SIDESMEN / LECTOR

DATE	TIME	SIDESMEN	LECTOR
4 th	10.30am	Messrs A.Claridge & G.Hilton	
	6.30pm	Mrs D.Barber	Mrs J.Lee
11 th	8.00am	Mrs B.Essayan	
	9.30am	Mrs J.Davenport	
	11.15am	Messrs J.Ratchford & R.Shiers	Mr.R. Shiers
	6.30pm	Mr G.Barrie	Mrs S.Hine
18 th	8.00am	Mr H.A.Wright	
	9.30am	Mr & Mrs G.Woolley	
	11.15am	Mesdames Adamson & Dyas	Mrs V.Muir
	6.30pm	Mr A.Cockitt	Mrs A.Cockburn
25 th	8.00am	Mr R.Walker	
	9.30am	Mrs G.Beeley	
	11.15am	Mrs W.Liddle & Mr W.Ablett	Mrs W.Liddle
	6.30pm	Mrs Z.Theofilopoulos	Mrs Theo’poulos
Nov. 1st	9.30am	Mr M.Stonehewer	
	11.15am	Messrs R.Akester & J.Morum	Mr R.Akester
	6.30pm	Mr D.Dearden	Mr & Mrs Davis

FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptisms

Sun 27th Sept Frederick Jack Hallam

Holy Matrimony

Sat 5th Sept Rebecca Foden and Samuel Snowden
Sat 12th Sept Hannah Yates and Tom Noble
Sat 26th Sept Nicola Broomhead and Jonathan Leyland

Funerals

Tue 22nd Sept Roger Bilsborough

FLOWER ROTA

Oct 4th Harvest
Oct 11th Harvest
Oct 18th Judith Davidson
Oct 25th Judith Davidson

READERS' ROTA FOR THE FAMILY SERVICE

Oct 4th Alice White
Oct 11th Joe / Katie Morum
Oct 18th Charlotte James
Oct 25th Sophie Vardon

MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTIONS

The deadline for the next magazine is **Thursday 15th October 2009**

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