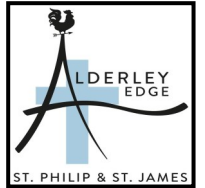


Calendar for MAY 2026

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Service</u>
<u>Sunday 3rd May</u>	8am	Holy Communion
	10am	Choral Eucharist
	11.45am	PipnJay
	6.30pm	Taize Service
<u>Sunday 10th May</u>	8am	Holy Communion
	10am	Choral Eucharist
	6.30pm	No evening service
<u>Thursday 14th May</u>	6.30pm	Ascension Day Family Communion
<u>Sunday 17th May</u>	8am	Holy Communion
	10am	Family Communion
	6.00pm	Evensong at St Mary's, Rostherne
<u>Sunday 24th May</u>	8am	Holy Communion
	10am	Choral Eucharist
	6.30pm	Prayer Service on Zoom
<u>Saturday 31st May</u>	8am	Holy Communion
	10am	Choral Eucharist
	6.30pm	Prayers for Healing & Wholeness
<u>Saturday Service</u>	12 noon	
<u>Every Wednesday</u>	11.30am	Holy Communion Service Communal lunch at 12.30pm Voices Together at 1.30pm

St Philip & St James Parish Church, Alderley Edge MAY 2026 NEWS SHEET



Dear Friends,

I always take my time taking the Easter banner down from its place. Easter Day has passed so there is a risk that somebody will go to Castle Rock at 6 o'clock in the morning and find there is nobody there. But it seems wrong to me to take down the message that Christ is Risen just because it's not Easter Day anymore. Because Christ is still risen. And it's still the season of Easter.

Easter tide is a time when the church is full of very positive vibes. Maybe that is why so many people come to church at Easter. We celebrate that Jesus is risen and the feelings of hope and empowerment this gives us because we believe that Jesus is truly the Son of God and we have a new life to live in him and he is truly with us.

The church says these things at Easter and people outside the church may well scratch their heads and ask what that means exactly and the explanation the church gives in response is often just as hazy as the Gospel accounts of those who witnessed the resurrection.

But if the way we describe or explain the resurrection may not always be convincing, there should be no doubt about the impact the resurrection has had and continues to have on those who believe in it. It is truly empowering in that it has the power to drive away despair and hopelessness even in the most challenging situations. It is, undeniably, an extremely good vibe.

Easter tide carries on all through May. So come and catch those good vibes. 8am or 10am on Sundays, 11.30 on Wednesdays and 10.30 on Thursdays at Café Church at the wonderful Lily & Rosie Café on Wood Gardens.

Yours, Robin

**What prevents you from being baptised?
What prevents you from being confirmed?**

The baptism service asks candidates for baptism three questions. They are:

- Do you repent of your sins?
- Do you turn to Christ?
- Do you reject evil?

Normally the priest is asking these questions of a child or an infant who is too young to answer for themselves. In which case, the answers are given by the parents and godparents who make a commitment to bring the child up to understand these questions. The time then comes when the child is old enough to answer these questions for themselves and the Church of England offers confirmation for young people and adults who wish to affirm that, these answers given on their behalf when they were small, are now answers they wish to give for themselves.

Increasingly, nowadays, we are baptising people when they are already old enough to answer these questions for themselves. Confirmation may, therefore, seem like a less important step, but people still like to be confirmed after a period of further study and reflection and, because you are confirmed by a bishop, you have a sense of being welcomed into the wider church family.

Traditionally, it is after confirmation that young people and adults are officially invited to share communion, that is to say the bread and the wine that becomes, for us, the body and blood of Jesus Christ. At this point you are sharing in communion with millions of Christians all over the world and throughout all ages and you are abiding in the risen Christ and you live a new life through him. But for many people, it all comes back to those three baptism questions.

Repenting of your sins, means making a commitment to reflect honestly on the way you live your life and put things right when you have done things wrong. Turning to Christ means different things in different moments of our lives. Sometimes we turn to Jesus as a teacher and role model to follow. We ask ourselves, 'what would Jesus do?' At other times we turn to Jesus as a source of salvation, remembering that he has already died for our sins and he offers us eternal life.

Rejecting evil means being in a state of alertness – being alert to the forces of evil in this world and consciously resisting them and refusing to collaborate with them. It means working for a better world – God's Kingdom here on earth. We have a confirmation service coming up on Sunday 14th June at 10am.

And we can offer baptism for children and adults at any time. So, what is preventing you from being baptised? What is preventing you from being confirmed?

To find out more, email the vicar: revrobinpye@gmail.com

Ascension Day Service

Ascension Day is one of the five big Christian festivals. It is the day where we remember that the risen Christ ascended into heaven. It falls on Thursday 14th May and this year we are celebrating the day with a family communion at 6.30pm. Everybody is welcome.

Christian Aid Week—10th May to 16th May 2026

Christian Aid week is a time when we try to focus on the needs of people who are very much worse off than we are. In the end, we are all neighbours and helping others feels good as well as being ultimately in our own interest. This short video available at [Christian Aid Week 2026 - Churches Film](#) shows how your donations contribute to the improvement in lives in Kenya through the stimulation of farming in an urban context. Please donate as generously as you are able by using the QR code. This will link your donation to Churches Together In Alderley which consists of St Philip & St James, Alderley Edge Methodist Church, St Pius, St Mary's Nether Alderley and St Catherine's Over Alderley. We are not delivering Christian Aid envelopes to households this year but some envelopes will be available in each church if you prefer to donate that way. They can be put through the door at The Vicarage, Church Lane, Alderley Edge. Thank you for caring.



Mothers' Union

Sincere thanks to everyone who supported our Lent Project. We have delivered our donations to the centre, based in Wythenshawe, helping vulnerable babies and their mums. These were greatly appreciated and we have invited their co-founder to speak at our branch in October. If you would like to hear more about their work, please come along, everyone is welcome. Earlier in the month several of our branch joined 70+ members from Chester Diocese Mothers' Union at a service in Manchester Cathedral to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the Mothers' Union. It was a visible expression of our faith, fellowship and commitment with the wider Mothers' Union family. During the service, an information plaque about Mary Sumner and her work was dedicated.

ST PHILIP & ST JAMES MINISTRATIONS APRIL

FUNERALS: 13th March Kathy Sands, 4th April Lewis Sewell,
Graham McLelland, 8th April Sean Ryan,
16th April Elizabeth Farnworth
WEDDINGS: 18th April Donya Beale & Kueni Igbagiri