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The Link

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SAINT NICHOLAS NEWS

FORTY YEARS ANNIVERSARY

Our Fortieth Birthday celebrations have passed off very happily. They began on Sunday December 1st when we had as our Guest Preacher Canon Garlick from Stockport. He spoke of his early days as Rector of St. Nicholas and gave us a great deal to think about in his impressions of the last thirty years. One thing remains - the essential work of the Church is the same in every generation - to preach the Good News of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. On Saint Nicholas Day, Prebendary Barnett celebrated the Holy Communion. What a joy it has been to have him with us for the weekend. How well he has got on with the children. On the Saturday a large and representative group gathered in the hall for the Birthday Party. Mrs. Warburton once again provided an enormous cake, suitably decked with a replica of St. Nicholas Church made by Mr. Mawdsley. Prebendary Barnett preached to a large congregation on the Sunday morning and in the evening the Bishop of Manchester was the preacher. It was good to have our own Bishop with us - he has been in Manchester now for twenty one years, for more than half of the life of this Parish. His sermon on the Bible was much appreciated. To hear a teaching sermon of this kind was a tonic. We seem to have spent so much time recently on Church matters. Personally I felt as if a breath of fresh air was blowing through the Church. Altogether a most happy weekend. A final word of thanks to Dennis Cartwright and the choir for their contributions. How greatly improved the singing is, their performances of Handel's 'Zadok the Priest' and Charles Wood's 'O thou the Central Orb' were quite splendid and the result of hard and careful rehearsing.

BURNAGE AND DIDSBURY LOCAL HISTORY

The two churches of Parrs Wood Road Congregational and Saint Nicholas stand in what used to be known as the Chapelry of Didsbury. The origin of the Didsbury Chapel is put at 1235 when a chapel was built for the burial of plague victims.

Another common denominator of the churches is that they are very close to Fog Lane. The earliest mention of Fog Lane is in the Didsbury Parish Registers for 1650.

Many of you no doubt know the rose garden outside the Bull Inn on the short length of Fog Lane. It marks the site of a row of old cottages which stood there up

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to a few years ago. This was the centre of the Burnage Township. The centre cottage had in its day been the grocer's shop, a stone tablet let into the wall over the door showed the date of building, 1750.

For over 300 years Didsbury Chapel stood proudly as the only chapel in a large area which took in Burnage, Didsbury, Withington, Fallowfield, Levenshulme, Reddish, Heaton Norris, Rusholme and Longsight. Then about 1553, Chorlton Chapel was built.

At this period of time Didsbury was an agricultural area growing food to feed the citizens of the Manchester Township, who even in this era were world famous for their textile goods.

The next chapel to be built was that at Birch in 1579-95. This was followed by the building of Heaton Norris Chapel in 1765. In 1841, Saint Paul's, Withington was built. One of the first Churchwardens was my 2nd. Great Grandfather, Thomas Chorlton of Catch Croft Farm, which stood at the rear of the Red Lion Inn up to 1862 when Palatine Road was built.

Then in 1846 two more churches were built, Trinity Church, Rusholme and Saint John's, Longsight. These two had much in common with other churches build in the old Didsbury Chapelry. In that often the land was given by Lord Egerton of Tatton Hall, who was the Lord of the Manor, usually a sum of money for the building was given as well.

Robert G. Chorlton.
The Manchester Genealogist.

BURNAGE AND DIDSBURY LOCAL HISTORY

Taking a look at the roads in our small parish, we have one of the oldest roads in Manchester running from Parrs Wood Lane to Slade Lane, it is Burnage Lane.

It originated as a rough track by which the Anglo-Saxons and their pack animals carried salt into the Manchester Township. And being known as a "Salt way".

Some time ago we saw H.R.H. Prince Philip riding along the lane, but two hundred years ago, another very famous man came by on horse back. He was the Rev. John Wesley making his rounds to visit his flock at Burnage.

Methodism in Burnage dates back to 1792, when the services were held in a cottage. A very young girl, Hamah Langford carried Methodism to Withington, this culminated in the Withington Wesleyan Methodist Church being built on Wilmslow Road in 1865.

Now that the cricket season has come round again, many members of our two churches will no doubt have the pleasure of watching Burnage Cricket Club at Mauldeth Road and Kingsway. The ground itself is on the site of Broadhill Farm, whilst the District Bank stands where the farmhouse stood. A nearby road, Broadhill Road was named after the farm.

Years ago, Mauldeth Road was famous for the blackberries which grew in profusion along the hedgerows, and was known locally as "Dirt Pie Lane".

Round about 1750, Wilmslow Road was given a new name, the Manchester to Wilmslow Turnpike Road. This took place after an act of Parliament had authorised the setting up of a Turnpike Trust, which was composed of a group of local worthies, (the Rev. Fielden of Didsbury

Chapel was one of them), who raised the money to build the road and toll gates. The bridge over the River Mersey at Parrs Wood was built about 1750 at a cost of £1,000.

Education in Didsbury and Burnage began in 1620 when the Mosley family who were the Lords of the Manor founded a school in Didsbury. Robert G. Chorlton.
The Manchester Genealogist.

St. Nicholas Rectory,
Fog Lane,
Manchester 19.

August 11th, 1969.

My dear Friends,

We shall remember two things which happened in July 1969- the failure of the Anglican Methodist Reunion Scheme and the successful landings on the moon. Doubtless other important things are worthy of remembrance but these two seem to be of greatest moment.

It would be idle of me to pretend that I was not profoundly saddened when the Convocations failed to give approval to the inauguration of Stage One especially after the Methodists had expressed a majority vote in favour. I feel that the scheme ought to have been implemented, and I find it difficult to believe that either extreme wing of the Church, who between them caused its downfall, are likely to produce any other scheme which will be better, less ambiguous or more acceptable to the majority of the two Churches. I heartily agree with our Bishop who has expressed the wish that the matter be brought up again in the very near future. In the meantime we must work together with the Methodists as closely as we can. There is no Methodist Church in the Parish but I give a warm welcome to any Methodists of good standing to attend our worship and to receive the Blessed Sacrament. Also I would hope that some of us will be able to reciprocate this invitation.

The landings of the Moon thrilled all of us and we were very pleased when these brave men were safely returned to earth. Not a few people have asked me whether I approve of the great expense involved in this venture. This is a very difficult question to answer, because we know that it seems illogical that so much money should be spent on feeding these men on the moon and indeed in financing the whole project when so many of our fellowmen are literally starving to death on the earth. One is tempted to say that it would be better first to solve the troubles of this world - to settle Biafra-Nigeria and the rest. But I suspect that we should take the other point of view even though it is expensive. We

must remember that it is only through God's help that those things are possible. Man's greatest achievements are brought about by the talents which are given by God. If we stifle the human Spirit in its quest for adventure and new endeavours in all spheres, we may well bring about the Second Dark Ages. I am sure some of you will not agree with me but do think about it. We must pray that all these things will be done to the Glory of God, that His will might be done. This is the only way for bringing Peace and Prosperity to a weary world.

With my Prayers and Good Wishes,

Your sincere friend and Rector,

Dennis Baggaley.

BURNAGE AND DIDSBURY LOCAL HISTORY
(continued from last month)

His brother Joshua and sister Esther, who married William Cash of Withington and had three daughters, Alice, Esther and Margaret, are mentioned in the will.

The $\frac{3}{4}$ loome now in the possession of James Hill of Rusholme (in those days this would be Rusholme Green, at the junction of Dickenson Road and Wilmslow Road), was given to Esther Cash.

The yard wide loome now in the possession of George Bardsley of Heaton Norris (the Bardsleys were at that time farming Under th' Bank Farm, below Didsbury Road), was given to Alice Cash.

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William Cash and James Warhurst of Burnage are seen to be the executors of the will. James Warhurst was the Township's carpenter, and as the handlooms were made of wood, it is reasonable to assume that they would be made by him or his father. Both were called James.

Going back to the Watts family, a later generation left the Church of England and after 1826, joined the Heaton Mersey Congregational Church. Sir James Watts, Kt., born 1804, and probably a grandson of the original Watts family, was buried there in 1878.

Another member of the family, Miss Jane Watts laid one of the foundation stones of the old Burnage Wesleyan Methodist Chapel which used to stand at the corner of Berwick Avenue on Burnage Lane.

As the Congregational graveyard is rather small, many of the worshippers are actually buried in the old family graves at St. John's Church, lower down Didsbury Road.

Robert G. Chorlton,
The Manchester Genealogist.

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SOME MANCHESTER LOCAL HISTORY

The Mosley family have left their mark on Manchester in the shape of Mosley Road, Fallowfield and Mosley Street, Manchester.

Most of the members of our Parishes will be well acquainted with Mosley Street. At St. Peter's Square there is the memorial garden standing on the site of the long vanished church of St. Peter, built in 1794 and demolished in 1907.

How many of our readers have heard of the Mosley Street Independent or Congregational Chapel? It stood on the corner of Charlotte Street, having been built in 1788 when nearby Princess Street was full of the homes of the early textile magnates. This was the time when the well-to-do went to church or chapel in a horse drawn carriage.

Our friends at Parra Wood Road belong to the Lancashire & Cheshire Congregational Union which was formed at a meeting held in the vestry of the old Chapel.

Among the many carriages drawing up in front of the old Chapel on a Sunday morning were those of: Mr. Newall, he built Newall's Buildings, which stood on the site of the Manchester Royal Exchange. (But that is another interesting story.) Mr. J.H. Heron, father of Manchester's first Town Clerk, Sir Joseph Heron. Mr. W. Romaine Callender, J.P., a prominent Manchester mill owner and merchant. Mr. James Lamb, the cabinet maker. Mr. John Cassell, founder of Cassells the publishing firm. The Rev. Joseph Whitworth, father of Sir Joseph Whitworth.

Lower down Mosley Street at the corner of Marble Street stood the old Unitarian Chapel. Today a bank occupies the site, whilst the first two windows of Lewis's stand on the chapel graveyard. The chapel was built in 1789 when the speed of the industrial revolution in Manchester was gathering momentum, and was demolished in 1836 being replaced by the Upper Brook Street Unitarian Chapel.

Robert G. Chorlton,
The Manchester Genealogist.

BURNAGE AND DIDSBURY LOCAL HISTORY

Probably most members of the parish are familiar with the old handloom weavers' cottages on Fog Lane next to Burnage Station.

During their lifetime, the cottages and their handloom weaver inhabitants have left their mark on the area.

Many of you who have walked along Cotton Lane from Fog Lane Park, following the wall of Withington Hall, may well have wondered how the lane received its name.

It came about from the folks living at Withington Green, the junction of Wilmslow Road and Cotton Lane, and Withington proper using the lane to get to the cottages on Fog Lane. Through Pytha Fold, past the farm and along the farm track to Fog Lane. Incidentally, the track still exists in the shape of the park pathway between the two duck ponds. From there they walked along to the weavers' cottages.

In those days of over 200 years ago, cotton or other textiles was woven or bought by the piece. The man who with his string of pack animals delivered the raw cotton to the weavers and bought their cotton pieces from them, was known as a Chapman. The name is one example of how an occupation became a surname.

Originally the fields opposite the Hall were called Cotton Town Fields, but in 1845 when the Withington Tithe Award Map was published the fields had been changed to the Doles in Cotton, and rented to the Withington farmers by Lord Egerton who owned most of the land in the district.

How many know of the connection of the huge Watts warehouse on Portland Street, Manchester, and the old cottages? The warehouse Watts and the old cottage Watts are the same family. When the warehouse was built in 1851, it was described as the most grandiose, most opulent warehouse in Manchester.

Another family living in the cottages about the same time was that of Edward Chorlton who died in 1778. His will, which is in the Lancashire Record Office at Preston, was read to find out more information about his links Burnage to Heaton Norris and Rusholme.

(To be continued.....)

St. Nicholas Rectory,
Fog Lane,
Manchester 19.

October 10th 1969.

My dear Friends,

You will have heard that the Bishop of Manchester is to retire at the end of April 1970. The Bishop is one of the Trustees of this benefice and will always be remembered here as the Bishop who consecrated the extension. Dr. Greer ordained me in Manchester Cathedral in 1956 and also kindly came to celebrate our marriage in Christ Church, Bacup. It is impossible to put in words the debt this diocese owes to him for the devoted service of the last twenty years. There will be an opportunity for us to express our appreciation later on, but at this time may we assure the Bishop of our good wishes for his retirement and hope that he will enjoy better health.

The Women's Fellowship this year celebrated its tenth anniversary. I have always felt this group should play an important part in the life of our Church. It is encouraging to know that it has a goodly number of members and is so well led. Mr. Edwards is coming to preach at a special service for the Fellowship on Sunday evening November 23rd. He and his wife inaugurated this group ten years ago and I am sure they will be pleased to see it so flourishing. I hope the Church will be full to welcome back an old friend and your former Rector.

The Annual Conferences of the Labour and Tory Parties are giving some clues as to the issues which will be raised at the next General Election. The newspapers for the past two weeks have been full of promises and threats. One side will insist that local government authorities institute schemes of comprehensive education. One side votes in favour of the re-introduction of the death penalty. Great arguments are raging about our entry into the Common Market. "If we get in we shall do this and repeal that". All this is highly emotive and misleading. Personally I am sorry these big issues are made the corner stones of election-eering policy. The well being of our country, its economy, its public and private life, the education of its children - these are very important issues, and it is a great shame that so many of them are determined with an eye to catching votes. What we must pray for is that Christian values, freedom of the individual to live his own life without too much state dictatorship, personal integrity, a fair day's work for a fair day's pay and the other way round, that these things will prevail. The Christian life is one of service, of overcoming one's self, and of living to the full using God's gifts as He wills, accepting weakness and strength as it comes, doing all to the glory of God, looking forward confidently to the future knowing that there will be a day "when the secrets of all hearts shall be disclosed" and a day when we shall be required to give an account of our stewardship. There is little wonder that many people are bewildered at the present time. I suppose we shall have to leave the next election to the politicians, but there is no reason why you and I cannot try to get a little closer to Our Lord Jesus Christ, who alone can steer us safely through this world and into the next.

With my Prayers and Good wishes,
Your sincere friend and Rector,
DENNIS RAGGATLEY.

ST. NICHOLAS' SUNDAY SCHOOL.

PRESENTS

SNOW WHITE AND THE SEVEN DWARFS



ON

THURSDAY, FRIDAY AND SATURDAY

THE 11TH, 12TH AND 13TH OF DECEMBER 1969.