



# *St. Nicholas News*



## *Church Diary May 2010*

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Event</b>
Sunday 2nd	8.30 a.m.	<b>5th Sunday of Easter</b> Holy Communion (BCP)
	10.30 a.m.	Parish Communion & Young People's Church
Tuesday 4th	7.30pm	Archdeacon's Visitation at St. Matthew's Stretford (Please note Taize evening prayer is cancelled )
Wednesday 5th	10.00 a.m.	<i>Eucharist</i>
Sunday 9th	8.30 a.m.	<b>6th Sunday of Easter</b> Holy Communion (BCP)
	10.30 a.m.	Parish Communion (No Makers Club)
Wednesday 12th	10.00 a.m.	Eucharist
	2.30 p.m.	Womens Fellowship Meeting
Thursday 13th		<b>Ascension Day</b>
Saturday 15th	10.30 a.m.	<b>Children's Society—Coffee Morning</b>
Sunday 16th	8.30 a.m.	<b>7th Sunday of Easter</b> Holy Communion (BCP)
	10.30 a.m.	Parish Communion & Young People's Church
Tuesday 18th	8.00 p.m.	Prayer group
Wednesday 19th	10.00 a.m.	Eucharist
Sunday 23rd	8.30 a.m.	<b>Pentecost / Whit Sunday</b> Holy Communion (BCP)
	10.30 a.m.	Parish Communion & Young People's Church <b>Women's Fellowship 50th Anniversary Service and church family lunch</b>
Wednesday 26th	10.00 a.m.	Eucharist
	2.30 p.m.	Women's Fellowship Meeting
Sunday 30th	8.30 a.m.	<b>Trinity Sunday</b> Holy Communion (BCP)
	10.30 a.m.	Parish Communion & Young People's Church

*Items for the Parish Magazine are most welcome  
Please hand Items for the next issue to Rachel by Sunday 9th May  
or email to [editor@st-nicholas-church.org.uk](mailto:editor@st-nicholas-church.org.uk)*

## Rachel Writes...

When I was little – about five or six – our house didn't have central heating. In winter, our sitting room was heated by a coal and wood fire. My favourite place in that room was right by the fire. During the evening I'd position myself as close to it as possible, bathing in its fierce warmth. It was the perfect place from which to watch both the telly and the dance and lick of the fire's flames.

I guess I've always been a little fascinated by fire. I suspect most human beings are. There is something primal about it, especially an outdoor open fire. It speaks into something deep within us – perhaps a reminder of those days when our species first made fire and warmed their Stone Age bodies. Given the importance of fire for us, I can think of no better metaphor for the feast of Pentecost which takes place this month.

Pentecost – that great festival which recalls the giving of the Holy Spirit to the first disciples – is all about fire. As you will recall, on the day of Pentecost, the disciples sit in Jerusalem, low and defeated, without Jesus to guide them. Suddenly the Holy Spirit comes upon them - a wind and then great flames of fire appearing above the disciples' heads. And from this extraordinary moment, the disciples are given new confidence and remarkable gifts. In this moment of fire the Church is born.

Even if we find this story alien in many ways – perhaps few of us have

experienced such explosive kick-starts to our faith and hope – surely we can all appreciate the significance of the fire metaphor. Fire warms and cheers us – and truly the disciples are cheered by this encounter with God. Fire can refine and transform – and this holy fire refines and transforms Peter and his friends. And of course, fire is wild, dangerous and risky. Anyone who has ever witnessed a wildfire will realize this. And this fire of the Spirit takes those first disciples out into a new and unpredictable world. It enables them to stop being frightened souls hiding away and helps them become people of the Good News.

*It is easy for us to become discouraged in the face of a world which seems indifferent to God's Good News*

It is easy for us to become discouraged in the face of a world which seems indifferent to God's Good News. Being filled with God's fire can seem even more remote. But Pentecost is not just some historical event. It is happening now. The Holy

Spirit is ours to receive. Perhaps not in the dramatic way those first disciples did, but in very real ways. For a fire to catch it only needs the right fuel and conditions. And prayer and worship are the oxygen of God's fire. May you be ready to be aflame with God's Flaming Love!

Rachel  
x





# Women's Fellowship

## 50th Anniversary

On Sunday , 23rd May, St.Nicholas Women's Fellowship will be celebrating their 50th Anniversary.

There will be a Service in church followed by a celebratory lunch to which all the church family are invited. We hope you will be able to join us on this happy occasion.

Further details will follow shortly but in the meantime we thought you might like to make a note of this date in your diaries !

*Anne Holmes*

### *Family Blessing*

Bless, O our God, the fire here laid,  
As thou didst bless the Virgin Maid;  
O God, the hearth and peats be  
blest,

As thou didst bless thy day of rest.

Bless us, O God Life-Being, well,  
Blessing, O Christ of loving, tell,  
Blessing, O Holy Spirit, spell  
With each and every one to dwell,  
With each and every one to dwell.

*From an ancient Celtic prayer*



Information from CTiB Executive

Review of recent events:

Women's World Day of Prayer, 5th March at St. Margaret's, fewer than usual attended. £114.15 was collected.

Lent Studies: Numbers averaged about 50 at each session with representatives from all congregations.

Good Friday Walk of Witness: concluded at Christ Church, Fog Lane with an open air service.

Future events : Week of Pentecost services United service at St.Bernard's, Burnage Lane, 4pm Sunday 23rd May

( 30 min services at each location)  
Monday 24th May  
Christ Church Burnage 10.30 am

Tuesday 25th May  
Kingsburn Hall 7.00 am

Wednesday 26th May  
St. Bernard's 2.00 pm

Thursday 27th May  
St. Nicholas 7.30 pm

Friday 28th May  
St Margaret's 12 noon

Prayer service for the general election  
Sunday 2nd May, 6.15pm.  
St.Margaret's Burnage Lane.

*Alison Mills.*



The Beacon is now open for 5 days and 3 evenings per week, with around 300+ visits each week – that’s approximately 300+ hot meals and sandwiches per month.

Over 250 blankets and 30 sleeping bags were handed out during the winter in a matter of weeks – amazing when the official number of rough sleepers in Manchester is only 8 people !

The now functioning upstairs clinic at the Beacon, is an essential part of Barnabus’ ministry to the homeless. A specialist subsistence nurse from Manchester Public Health was so impressed by the facilities she now holds a clinic offering additional vaccinations and testing.



During the last few months there has been a 25% decrease in income for Barnabus, with a 45% increase in the number of friends being seen at the Beacon.

To help raise much needed funds for Barnabus you could take part in the “Great British Duck Race” which takes place in London on September 5th. 250,000 ducks will be sent down the River Thames near Hampton Court Palace – a massive £10,000 prize for the person whose duck wins the race. You can adopt a duck for £2 plus a recommended £3 donation to charity ( in this case Barnabus)

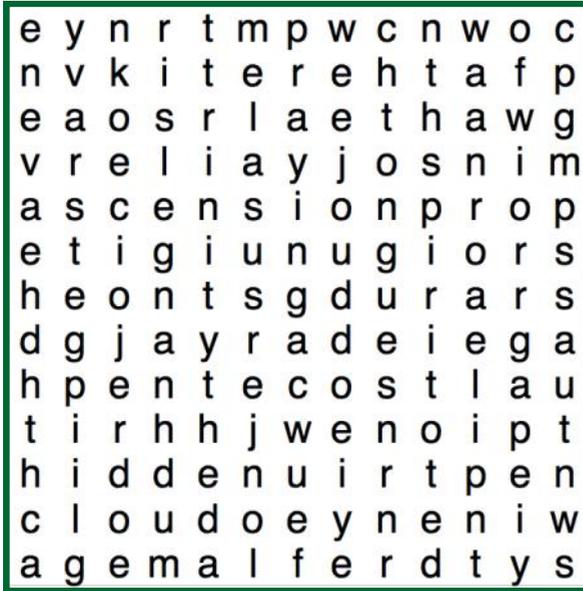
Curious ....go to <http://thegreatbritishduckrace.co.uk/o/barnabus>

For more details “quack, quack!”.

Thanks,

*Susan Morris.*

# Word Search



ascension  
angels  
cloud  
sky  
hidden

heaven  
jerusalem  
trinity  
glory  
pentecost

praying  
upper  
room  
tongues  
flame

wind  
rejoice  
wine  
praise  
triune

father  
son  
spirit  
godhead  
love

What a joyful month May is in the church calendar! On Ascension Day (13<sup>th</sup>) we remember with joy the completion of Jesus' work on earth and his return to his rightful place in heaven.

But he did not leave his followers all on their own: for on Pentecost ( 23rd) the Holy Spirit was sent from heaven to indwell the followers of Jesus. He did not come quietly! Instead, there was a roaring of wind, tongues of flames, and such rejoicing that all Jerusalem was stirred up. It was a dramatic birth for the Christian Church!

Finally, on Trinity Sunday (30<sup>th</sup>) we celebrate the very nature of our God: manifest in the love shown to us by God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.



Relax! I'm not the prison chaplain - I've just been given three months for wearing a crucifix in public!

## New Web Site!

Please visit our new look web site at [www.st-nicholas-church.org.uk](http://www.st-nicholas-church.org.uk)





## Seven amazing days

Christian Aid Week is seven amazing days of fundraising, action and prayer. It's a time when communities all over the country get together to raise funds to make real and lasting changes in the lives of some of the world's poorest people.

## The beginnings

The week started out as the churches' response to the horrors of the refugee crisis in Europe after the Second World War.

The different churches in the UK and Ireland got together and started fundraising – sending the money through partner organisations who were best placed to make a difference on the ground.

## Christian Aid Week

It has now become the country's biggest 'house-to-house' collection – with 300,000 volunteers going from door to door every year delivering envelopes and picking them back up from householders in the week.

## The Christian Aid Week envelope

The little envelope gets everywhere. Hand-delivered by volunteers and landing on over 10 million doormats, it raises about £9 million each year – and nearly £1 million in Gift Aid alone.

The envelope is an iconic symbol of the generosity of people in the UK and Ireland – giving money to those who need it most.

## And now...

The week continues to go from strength to strength. This year we hope to raise over £14 million - enough to effect massive change. 300,000 people will go door-to-door in their local communities – making sure that the Christian Aid Week envelope reaches as many people as possible.

Christian Aid supporters will also hold thousands of events - plant sales, book sales, sponsored walks, bridge crossings, talent competitions and much, much more.

With 22,000 churches all working together, it's no wonder the week is such a success.

And it's not just the churches who are involved – schools, workplaces and individuals are all getting involved – whether through fundraising or by giving directly

*Envelopes will be available in Church for you to take away .....and return*

*Grace & Jill*



## **The Children's Society is a leading national charity that makes childhood better for all children in the UK**

Our network of community-based projects provide targeted, immediate and lasting help for children who feel excluded, isolated or abandoned; children who live in a vicious circle of fear and harm, and who are faced with a lifetime of danger and disadvantage in their daily lives.

Our schools work, children's centres and mentoring schemes help many more children avoid crisis by developing the skills and confidence they need to challenge and overcome difficult situations.

Our research and campaigning creates real change by influencing the thinking of everyone - from the general public to politicians and decision makers - about how to make childhood better.

The charity was established in 1881 when Sunday school teacher Edward Rudolf found two of his pupils begging for food on London's streets. Like The Children's Society today, Rudolf was a pioneer and wanted to do things differently.

He didn't like the large, institutional children's homes of the day and so set up a model children's home, offering vulnerable children a smaller, more caring alternative.

In recent times, the nature of our work

has kept pace with the changing needs of children in an evolving society.

Our priorities for a good childhood are driven by what children tell us they need the most - to live in a world where they can experience loving, caring relationships in families and communities that respect and support them.

### **Make a difference to children's lives**

Help more children have a better childhood by making an online donation or by setting up a regular Direct Debit today. Your contribution will ensure we continue to reach the most vulnerable and disadvantaged children in our society

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## **Coffee Morning in aid of The Children's Society**

on:

**Saturday 15th May,  
10.30am - 12 noon.**

**Everyone  
Welcome!**



# The U in JesUs

Before **U** were thought of or time had begun,  
God even stuck **U** in the name of His Son.

And each time **U** pray, you'll see it's true  
You can't spell out Jes**U**s and not include **U**

You're a pretty big part of His wonderful name,  
For **U**, He was born; that's why He came.

And His great love for **U** is the reason He died.  
It even takes **U** to spell cr**U**cified.

Isn't it thrilling and splendidly grand  
He rose from the dead, with **U** in His plan?

The stones split away, the gold tr**U**mpet blew,  
and this word res**U**rrection is spelled with a **U**.

When Jes**U**s left earth at His upward ascension,  
He felt there was one thing He just had to mention.

"Now go into the world and tell them it's true  
That the love I have shown is not just for **U**."

So many great people are spelled with a **U**,  
Don't they have a right to know Jes**U**s too?

It all depends now on what **U** will do,  
He'd like them to know,

But it all starts with **U**.

# It All Starts With 'U'

## SuDoKu

5	4			7	6	1	8	
7							2	
		6	1	2	4	7	3	
		4	8			9		
2				3				1
		8			1	3		
	6	1	5	4	9	2		
	5							6
	2	9	7	6			1	3

### Measuring success

After the local Churches  
Together meetings had  
concluded, the four  
ministers were discussing the results with  
one another.



The Methodist minister said, "The meetings worked out great for us! We gained two new families." The Baptist pastor said, "We did better than that! We gained three new families." The URC minister said: "That's nothing – we gained five new families!"

And the Anglican vicar smiled in contentment. "Well, we did best of all. We got rid of our 10 biggest trouble makers!"

## Church Duty Rota (May 2010)

Date	Warden 8.30 a.m.	Warden 10.30 a.m.	Altar Duty	Lay Assistants	SidesPeople
2nd	Fred Murphy	Alison Mills	Lucy Crossley	Louise Hollingsworth Jill Lomas	Anne Tudor Anne Holmes Jane Cawley
9th	Fred Murphy	Jill Lomas	Oliver Mills	Katy Mills Alison Mills	Sybil Gawkrödger, Alma Cockshoot, Caroline Abiodeon
16th	Fred Murphy	Grace Manley	Clare Lancaster	Brenda Maclese Cliff Stockton	Margaret Vessey Michael Vessey Muriel Clark
23rd	Fred Murphy	Alison Mills	Emily Crossley	Anne Holmes Enid Harvey	Muriel Micol Christine Taylor
30th	Fred Murphy	Jill Lomas	Claire Cawley	Grace Manley Jane Cawley	Brenda Maclese Amy Haygarth Sue Morris

## Parish Registers—(March 2010)

Week Ending	Communicants	Cash	Envelopes	Total
7th	55	£14.50	£380.50	£395.00
14th	76	£49.20	£333.80	£383.00
21st	57	£16.30	£266.50	£282.80
28th	48	£29.00	£380.50	£409.50
			<b>Total for month</b>	<b>£1470.30</b>

### *Genesis and politicians*

### *Charitable giving :-*

January to March £46.45 collected for  
The Vine Project

The nominated charity for April to  
June is The Salvation Army—  
Manchester.



A surgeon, an architect and a politician were arguing as to whose profession was the oldest.

Said the surgeon: "Eve was made from Adam's rib, and that surely was a surgical operation."

"Maybe," said the architect, "but prior to that, order was created out of chaos, and that was an architectural job."



"But you forget," interrupted the politician, "somebody had created the chaos first!"

# Organisations

## The Maker's Club (Sunday School)

Mrs. Margaret Witty (0161 432 2933)

For all children aged 3 years upwards in the Vestry at 10.15 a.m.

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## Women's Fellowship

Chairman: Mrs Ann Holmes (0161 434 2245)

Second and Fourth Wednesdays at 2.30 p.m.

## Confirmation Classes

For young people and adults by arrangement with the Minister.

## Church Lads' & Church Girls' Brigade

Mrs. Margaret Witty (0161 432 2933)

Every Friday in St. Nicholas Church Halls

Martins (5-6 years) 6.30—7.30 p.m.

The "Y" Team (7-9 years) 6.30—7.30 p.m.

JTC (10-12 years) 7.30—8.45 p.m.

Seniors (13+ years) 7.30—8.45 p.m.



"It was the best we could do whilst the churchbells are being replaced – and O Sole Mio is quite a nice tune."

## Solutions



## Church Prize Draws

### St Nicholas Club Draw

Drawn Sunday 4th April 2010

1st Prize 68 Norman Atherton

2nd Prize 71 St Nicholas

Donated by M Wheatley

### PCC Monthly Raffle for Church Funds

Raised £30 towards Church funds.

Winner : Olive Huddart

5	4	2	3	7	6	1	8	9
7	1	3	9	8	5	6	2	4
9	8	6	1	2	4	7	3	5
1	3	4	8	5	2	9	6	7
2	9	5	6	3	7	8	4	1
6	7	8	4	9	1	3	5	2
3	6	1	5	4	9	2	7	8
8	5	7	2	1	3	4	9	6
4	2	9	7	6	8	5	1	3

# The Parish Church of St Nicholas

## Burnage

### Sunday Services

8.30 a.m  
10.30 a.m.

Eucharist (BCP)  
Family Service and Eucharist

For Saints and other weekday Services, please see the Diary page inside the magazine.  
Holy Baptism on 3rd Sunday of each month at 10.30 a.m.  
Holy Communion is taken to the housebound by arrangement with the Minister.

### Minister

Rev'd Rachel Mann  
0161 432 7009

### Organist

Mr. Stephen Delves  
0779 338 4025

### Churchwardens

Mrs. Jill Lomas (0161 432 5425)  
Mrs. Grace Manley (0161 442 2535)

### Assistant Wardens

Mr. Fred Murphy  
Mrs. Alison Mills

### Hon. Treasurer.

Mrs. Elaine Jess

### Minutes Secretary

Mrs. Anne Ackerman

### Deanery Synod

Mrs. Grace Manley  
Mrs. Enid Harvey

### Elected on PCC

Mrs. Lyn Rimmer,	Mr. Fred Murphy,
Mrs. Margaret Witty,	Mr. Tony Witty,
Mr. Michael Vessey,	Mrs. Margaret Vessey,
Mrs. Anne Holmes,	Mrs. Eunice Wilshaw,
Mrs. Jane Cawley,	Mrs. Sue Morris

### Magazine Distribution

Mrs. Brenda Maclese

### Missionary Secretary

Mrs. Christine Taylor

### St. Nicholas Church Website

[www.st-nicholas-church.org.uk](http://www.st-nicholas-church.org.uk)