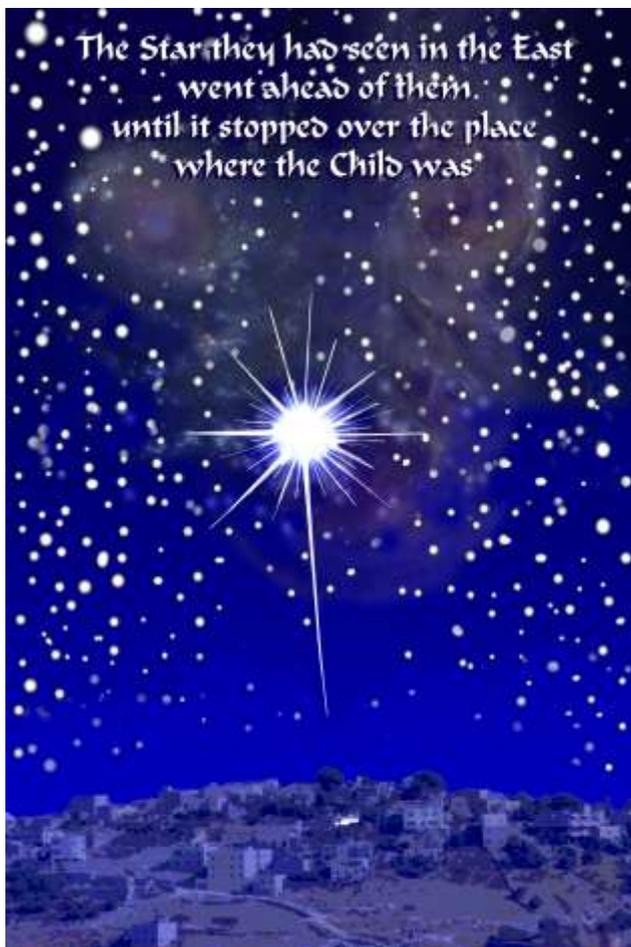




St. Nicholas News



Church Diary December 2010

Date	Time	Event
Sunday 5th		ADVENT 2 –BIRTHDAY SUNDAY
	8.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	10.30 a.m.	Parish Communion followed by parish lunch
Tuesday 7th	7.30pm	Taize Evening Prayer
Wednesday 8th	10.00am	Eucharist
Saturday 11th	10.00am	Vera & Sybil's COFFEE MORNING in aid of church funds.
Sunday 12th		CHRISTINGLE
	8.30 a.m.	Holy Communion (BCP)
	10.30 a.m.	All age worship
Tuesday 14th	8.00pm	Prayer group , rectory
Wednesday 15th	10.00am	Eucharist
Sunday 19th		ADVENT 4
	8.30 a.m.	Holy Communion (BCP)
	10.30am	Parish Communion
	3.00pm	CAROL SERVICE
Wednesday 22nd	10.00am	Eucharist
Friday 24th	11.30pm	MIDNIGHT MASS
SATURDAY 25th		CHRISTMAS DAY
	8.30 a.m.	Holy Communion (BCP)
	10.30am	Parish Communion with carols
Sunday 26th	No service	
Wednesday 29th	No service	

*Items for the Parish Magazine are most welcome
Please hand Items for the next issue to Rachel by Sunday 12th December
or email to editor@st-nicholas-church.org.uk*

Rachel Writes...

There's an advert on telly at the moment which I find particularly annoying. In it, we have that classic scene from 'A Christmas Carol' where Scrooge awakens after his dreams to discover that it is snowing and he still has a chance to redeem himself after years of meanness. In the original, Scrooge pokes his head out of the window and asks a young boy, 'What day is this?' The boy replies 'Christmas Day' and a delighted Scrooge tells him to go and buy the biggest goose in the shop. Scrooge then takes it to the poor old Cratchits. In the advert, Scrooge instructs a young man to get down to the Sony shop and buy all the most expensive things. Scrooge then takes them to his long-suffering relatives

This advert annoys me on almost every level. First up, you have Sir Derek Jacobi

'thesping' it up as Scrooge. It's just so annoyingly over-the-top. But that's a minor gripe really. You can't blame him for taking a big pay check for a day's work. What really winds me up is the implication that Scrooge – representing all of us – can bring happiness and joy into the world by buying up the contents of a shop.

More than that – that buying things can reconcile his relationships with others.

Christmas is a time of immense pressure on individuals and families. One thing is clear from experience: buying stuff does not make that pressure any easier and

is no simple path to happiness. At this time of austerity, conspicuous consumption might, in fact, be catastrophic. Being invited to solve the pressures and problems of personal and family life by buying things (especially on credit) verges on the morally ugly; the real solutions to human pain and breakdown lie within our capacity to love, forgive and be compassionate.

To put it in simple terms:

*We matter
enough for
God to come
to us as one
of us.*



What really matters to us as humans? It is not how much money we've got or how much power we wield. Money matters – but it doesn't matter that much when it comes down to it. What matters is being loved and respected. What matters is being cared for and caring for others. And this isn't just a sentimental thing. This is very real – because feeling that we matter is essential to human well being.

One of the central messages of the Christmas Story is that humans matter. We matter enough for God to come to us as *one of us*. And what does that God-child reveal to us? Well, he reveals that being high born, powerful and well off is not especially important. For he is born to a humble family in an outhouse used by animals. And in coming to us as a baby he shows us that not only are we trusted to be loving, but that love is at the heart of God. In his vulnerability, Jesus gives us the opportunity to show how caring we are.

Have a loving and very caring Christmas

Rachel
x

Sybil and Vera invite you join them for



Coffee and mince pies



At 8 Ivylea Road

(off Barcicroft Road)

£1 in aid of church funds

SATURDAY 11th December

10.00am to 12 noon



EVERYONE WELCOME

Pet's Corner



Hello my name is Dori, I live in Heald Green with my owners the Rimmer family. They adopted me from Windyways Animal Rescue, Macclesfield in July 2009 and I am so lucky to have come to such a lovely family. However, I do my best to keep them busy because I am full of mischief, I am about 2-1/2 years old.

I'm always stealing shoes or slippers and I lie on my Mum's bed with them. I sometimes have my cousin Charlie to stay and we have lots of fun (you might have seen him in the August edition).

As he is still a puppy he can drive me crazy at times, and I try to get a rest away from him, but we do have some great fun. We really give the family the runaround.

I have two more cousins, Leonbergers, called Simba and Blue who I know you will be meeting in a future edition of this magazine. I must go now as I have some plans for mischief making, just to keep the family on their toes!

Dori xx

Please join us to celebrate St.Nicholas Day

Birthday Sunday Lunch



Sunday 5th December 2010

12.noon



Tickets £5, to include buffet lunch, tea & coffee

Christmas Fair

The fundraising committee would like to thank the congregation for all their contributions to the Christmas Fair. We welcomed lots of familiar and new faces.

Thanks to all the stallholders, the 'pew moving' gang, 'Father Christmas' for paying us a visit, Margaret & Tony for collecting and returning the 'bouncy castle' and to all the kitchen staff. We raised the magnificent sum of £1,199.46p. A great team effort !

Called or Collared?

How much time do you give over to asking what God might be asking of you? Whatever stage we are at in life, God is inviting us to explore our calling as Christians. For some people – like me - that can mean a very specific kind of ministry. For most it will take subtler and, in some ways, more interesting turns.

I should like to invite everyone to take some time over Advent to reflect on their vocation in the Church. Is God calling you to something new? To join the group of people who read from the Bible on a Sunday, or become a Lay Assistant or someone who leads prayers? If you sense this or any other calling, please don't hesitate to speak to me. I should be delighted to hear.

Equally, perhaps you feel you'd like to go deeper with your faith or know something more about Christianity. The Diocese offers an excellent three term course, '*Foundations for Ministry*' aimed especially at lay people wanting to apply faith to life and develop their own gifts. It is open to anyone already active in church life and offers ways of personal and spiritual growth. Please speak to me if you are interested. The cost is normally £60. However, there are usually some free places for parishes who have not sent anyone on the course.



Twelve days of Christmas

On the first day of Christmas my True Love said to me,
'I've bought a big fat Turkey and a proper Christmas Tree'

On the Second day of Christmas much laughter could be heard
As we tucked into that Turkey, a most delicious bird.

On the Third Day of Christmas , came the people from next door
And the Turkey tasted just as good, as it did the day before.

On the Fourth day of Christmas , came relations young and old
We finished all the Christmas Pud, and had the Turkey cold.

On the Fifth day of Christmas, outside the snowflakes scurried
But we were nice and warm inside, and the Turkey we had curried.

On the Sixth day of Christmas, the Christmas Spirit died.
The Children fought and bickered, and we had Turkey Rissoles Fried.

On the Seventh day of Christmas, my true love he did wince
When he sat down at the table, and was offered Turkey Mince.

On the Eighth day of Christmas, the Dog had run for Shelter
He'd seen our Turkey Pancakes, and the Glass of Alka Seltzer.

On the Ninth day of Christmas, by lunchtime Dad was Blotto,
He knew that Bird was back again, this time it was Risotto.

On the Tenth day of Christmas, we were drinking Home-Made Brew
And if that wasn't bad enough, it washed down Turkey Stew.

On the Eleventh day of Christmas, the Christmas Tree was moulting
With Chilli, Soy and Oyster Sauce, that Turkey was revolting.

On the Twelfth Day of Christmas, we had Smiles on our Lips
Our Guests had gone, the Turkey too - and we had Fish and Chips!

With thanks to Enid Harvey.

Prayer of forgiveness



Oliver Mills sang one of his own compositions during the Remembrance Sunday service, many asked for the words of his song.....based on the story of a young officer in the First World

What have I done now?
God forgive me.
I think about that woman,
Who lives in England,
Soon she will receive,
A letter, saying:
That her son,
Has been killed in battle.

Saviour of Sorrow
Please release me,
I know I've sinned, I'm sorry.
I could have joined them,
Stood beside them in the fighting.
But I let them go,
And now they're gone,
Because of me,

But, Don't blame me,
I was only doing my duty,
My duty for my King and country,
And it's not my fault.
But, they were so young,
They still have families and,
Young girls waiting,
Crying their eyes out,
Unknown to the horror,

Yet, was it really my fault
That is happening,
Out here in the field.
I wasn't the one who started this war.
I just got called up and I'm only
following orders
As their leader.

And their mother's said keep them
safe,
Keep them alive,
To take them home.
And will flowers grow on their
graves?
In this field of blood?

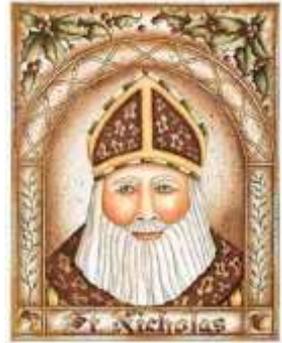
Dear god forgive me,
I know I've done wrong,
They belong in a classroom and
Not on these fields it was my
Job to teach them,
Not to send them,
Into the firing line.

I'm finished now,
There's nothing left in my life.
And I would give anything,
Yes I would give my everything,
To save them all.

Who is Saint Nicholas

The true story of Santa Claus begins with Nicholas, who was born during the third century in the village of Patara. At the time the area was Greek and is now on the southern coast of Turkey. His wealthy parents, who raised him to be a devout Christian, died in an epidemic while Nicholas was still young.

Obedying Jesus' words to "sell what you own and give the money to the poor," Nicholas used his whole inheritance to assist the needy, the sick, and the suffering. He dedicated his life to serving God and was made of while still a young man. Bishop Nicholas became known throughout the land for his generosity to the those in need, his love for children, and his concern for sailors and ships.



Under the Roman Emperor , who ruthlessly persecuted Christians, Bishop Nicholas suffered for his faith, was exiled and imprisoned. The prisons were so full of bishops, priests, and deacons, there was no room for the real criminals—murderers, thieves and robbers. After his release, Nicholas attended the in AD 325. He died December 6, AD 343 in Myra and was buried in his cathedral church, where a unique , called , formed in his grave. This liquid substance, said to have healing powers, fostered the growth of devotion to Nicholas. The anniversary of his death became a day of celebration, , December 6th (December 19 on the Julian Calendar).

Through the centuries many stories and legends have been told of St. Nicholas' life and deeds. These accounts help us understand his extraordinary character and why he is so beloved and revered as protector and helper of those in need.

With thanks to Ian Manley for research and the St.Nicholas Center Website <http://www.stnicholascenter.org/> for information.

Church Duty Rota (December 2010)

Date	Warden 8.30 a.m.	Warden 10.30 a.m.	Altar Duty	Lay Assistants	SidesPeople
5th	Fred Murphy	Jill Lomas	Clare Lancaster	Brenda Macleese Cliff Stockton	Sybil Gawkrödger Alma Cockshoot Caroline Abiodon
12th	Fred Murphy	Grace Manley	Emily Crossley	Grace Manley Jane Cawley	Margaret Vessey Michael Vessey Muriel Clark
19th	Fred Murphy	Alison Mills	Claire Cawley	Anne Holmes Enid Harvey	Muriel Nicol Christine Taylor Elaine Johnson
24th 11.30pm		Jill Lomas	Ollie Mills	Alison Mills Katy Mills	WARDENS

Parish Registers—(October 2010)

Week Ending	Communicants	Cash	Envelopes	Total
3rd	38	£6.00	£294.60	£300.60
10th	47	£52.00	£301.50	£353.50
17th	51	£24.80	£352.40	£377.20
24th	38	£4.00	£352.40	£356.40
31st	43	£4.00	£385.60	£389.60
			Total for month	£1777.30

Churches Together in Burnage

Wednesday 15th December : Carol singing around Burnage starting at Green End, please meet in Carrgreen Close at 7.30pm.—Soup to follow at St. Bernard's Church Hall

Forthcoming events:

Week of Christian Unity, 16th to 23rd January 2011,

Services take place daily at Burnage Churches:

Thursday 20th January service at St. Nicholas, 7.30pm to 8.00pm

Sunday 23rd January united service at Christ Church, Burnage Lane.

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.

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.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

- Christmas Taize, Tuesday 7th December, 7.30pm
Christingle Service, Sunday 12th December, 10.30am
Carol Service, Sunday 19th December, 3.00pm
Midnight Mass, Friday 24th December, 11.30pm
Christmas Day, 8.30am Holy Communion, BCP
10.30am Family Eucharist with carols.



Church Prize Draws

St Nicholas Club Draw

Drawn Sunday 7th November

1st Prize 2: Norman Atherton

2nd Prize 18: Michael Cherry

P.C.C. Raffle



"Do you think it's God's way of saying,
"Thou shalt not illegally copy the
carol service music?"

