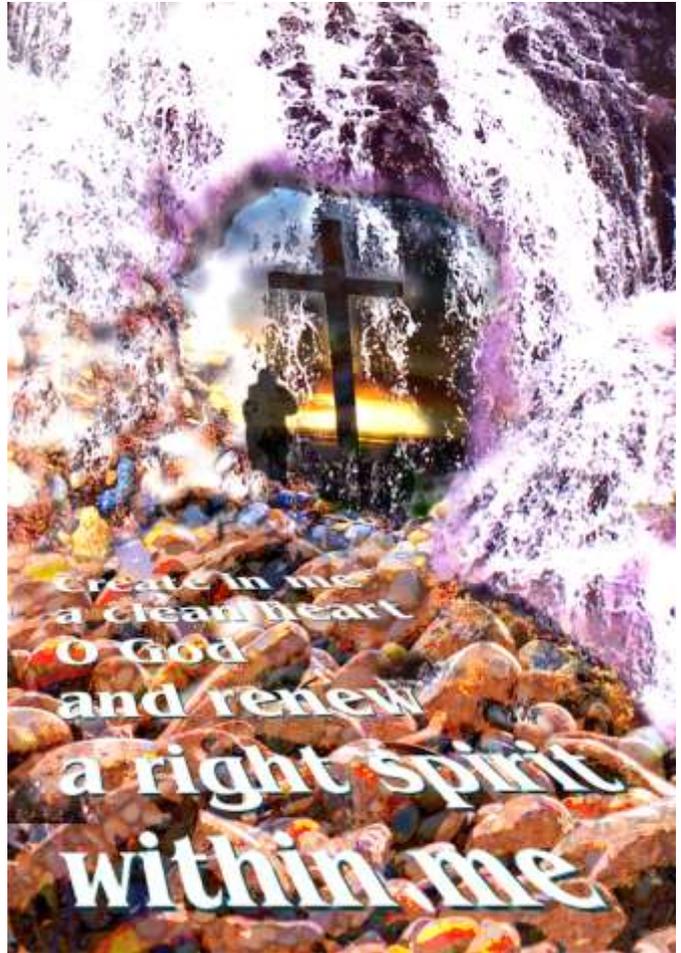




St. Nicholas News



Church Diary March 2011

Date	Time	Event
Tuesday 1st	7.30pm	Taize Evening Prayer
Wednesday 2nd	10.00am	Eucharist
Saturday 5th	10.30am	COFFEE MORNING, 10.30 to 12noon in aid of the WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP, everyone welcome....
Sunday 6th	8.30am 10.30 a.m.	Sunday next before lent Holy Communion (BCP) Parish Communion
Monday 7th	7.30pm	P.C.C. Meeting , glass room
Wednesday 9th	10.00am 2.30pm 7.30pm	Eucharist Women's Fellowship , Members Afternoon, lunch in the hall commences at 12.30pm ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE
Saturday 12th	10.30am	COFFEE MORNING, 10.30 TO 12noon raising funds to support ' FAIRTRADE BIG BREW', everyone welcome...
Sunday 13th	8.30 a.m. 10.30 a.m.	1st Sunday of lent Holy Communion (BCP) Parish Communion
Tuesday 15th	8.00pm	Prayer Group, Rectory
Wednesday 16th	10.00am 7.30pm	Eucharist Week 1 of CTiB Lent Course at St.Margaret's Burnage
Saturday 19th	7.30pm	QUIZ NIGHT in aid of Comic Relief.
Sunday 20th	8.30 a.m. 10.30am	4th Before Lent Holy Communion (BCP) Parish Communion
Wednesday 23rd	10.00am 2.30pm	Eucharist Women's Fellowship 'A Potted History of Manchester' Mr.R Frost
Sunday 27th	8.30 a.m. 10.30 a.m.	2nd Before Lent Holy Communion (BCP) Parish Communion
Wednesday 30th	7.30pm	Week 3 of CTiB Lent Course at St.Margaret's Burnage

Rachel Writes...

Recently we were privileged to have a major art exhibition at St Nicholas. Antonia Rolls' 'A Graceful Death' explored, via the medium of visual art, the nature of dying, death, hope and resurrection in a truly powerful way. For the very many people who came along I trust it was a vital and potent experience.

How important is visual art to you? Can it reveal something important about faith?

A friend recently reminded me that, throughout history, faith and art have had a close connection. Indeed, for most of Christian history, art has been *Christian* art – that is, art sponsored by the Church to tell the story of God. In a time when most people couldn't read, telling the Biblical story visually was the key way of getting the story across. Before the Christian era, much the same was true: many of the religions told their stories via the visual – either through statues of gods like Apollo or through art on cave walls.

The Living God is truly the god who wants us to live and art helps us to do that more fully than we sometimes can express.

Art - especially modern art – is often ridiculed as either being too hard to understand or being the kind of thing 'a child can do'. This is not the place to explore that in detail. But one thing is for sure: the visual really matters to us as humans. Very few people are indifferent about their

surroundings – either at home or outside.

We all have a sense of what is known as 'the aesthetic'. And I'm yet to meet anyone who hasn't found at least one painting or photo or drawing that hasn't spoken to them in a powerful way – either

making them laugh or weep or wonder. And at the heart of this is something profound about the nature of art and the visual – and particularly about its spiritual dimension.

Visual art – like all art – has the ability to tell our story, our deep, universal human story in ways in which almost nothing else can.

Most of the time we're caught up in the mundane, but important



activities of daily living: Art can stop us and make us look at ourselves in new ways. It takes us into new dimensions and extends our vision of what it means to be human. Why do you think that all totalitarian regimes want to control art? Because they are afraid of its power to show us something new and important about ourselves.

Sadly, sometimes religion has sought to control art in the same way - afraid of what it reveals and makes possible. But we have no need to fear. Art takes us deep into the spiritual. It reveals things which sometimes we are uncomfortable about. But in bringing them to light they offer hope of growth and self-acceptance. And that – surely – is what God is all about. The Living God is truly the god who wants us to live and art helps us to do that more fully than we sometimes can express.

Rachel
x

Thank you

Thank you everyone who supported the Coffee Morning on 12th January.



I was able to send £240.64p to the society.

The event would not have been successful without all the help which was given so willingly. Thank you very much.

BOX OPENING : Total collection £292.86p. Thank you to all the box holders and to Colin and Fred for counting all the money. It was all very much appreciated.

Brenda

St Faith's Church, Rotorua, New Zealand



Travelling through New Zealand this year I saw many beautiful country churches – usually very small and made of wood painted cream and pastel colours. Then I heard about St Faith's in Rotorua.

The town of Rotorua itself is set beside the lake that gives it its name. The whole area lies within the “caldera” of an extinct volcano. There is an occasional whiff of sulphur in the air from the many steaming mudpools and geysers in the nearby geo-thermal reserves. It is also a heartland of the Maori people.

The Maoris are a very spiritual people and have many tales of ancestors and myths and legends of giants who formed the mountains and lakes. Many are also Christians and St Faith's is a Maori church.

On the outside it looks like many churches in New Zealand. It is made of wood, painted cream with the main beams and supports picked out in a dull red. It has a spire and a rose window. All very familiar and common to many churches around the world.

But when you step inside....

The walls are covered in sections of flax woven in traditional Maori patterns in shades of cream, dull red and dark brown. The wooden pillars, pews, altar and pulpit are carved with whorls and spirals and Maori figures.

And then you move to the north aisle – sunlit of course as the sun comes from the north in the southern hemisphere – where there is a ceiling to floor window. Through the window you can see the turquoise blue lake and etched into the plain glass is a life size figure of Christ dressed in a Maori cloak ...

And He appears to be walking on the water.

Kia tau te rangimarie o te Atua ki a koe.

(Peace be with you.)





Women's Fellowship

Coffee Morning, and Bring & Buy Sale

Saturday 5th March

**From 10.30am to 12noon in
the church hall.**

Coffee & Biscuit—50p. Everyone welcome!



**Create a buzz
with Traidcraft**

Fairtrade Fortnight Feb 28 – Mar 13 2011

Coffee Morning

Saturday 12th March

Bring and buy sale, cakes, toast, tea and coffee,

FAIRTRADE STALL

Come and join us , Admission 50p

Remember making an apron in Home Economics?

I don't think children know what an apron is. The principal use of Grandma's apron was to protect the dress. Aprons used less material. But along with that it served as a potholder for holding hot dishes.

It was wonderful for drying children's tears, for carrying eggs.

When company came these aprons were ideal hiding places.....

When the weather was cold Grandma wrapped it around her. Those big old aprons wiped many a perspiring brow. Carried wooden chips and kindling wood in to the kitchen.

From the garden it carried all sorts of vegetables. After the peas had been shelled, it carried out hulls. In the autumn, the aprons were used to bring in fallen apples.

When unexpected drove up the road. It was surprising how much furniture that old apron could dust in a matter of seconds.

When dinner was ready, grandma walked out to the porch, waved her apron, and the men folk knew it was time to come in from the fields for dinner.

It will be a long time before someone invents a replacement for the 'old-time apron' that served so many purposes.

REMEMBER

Grandma used to set her hot baked apple pies on the window to cool. Her granddaughters set theirs on the windowsill to cool. They would go crazy now trying to figure out how many germs were on that apron !





A just world free from poverty

Comic Relief Quiz Night

Saturday 19th March 7.30pm

Refreshments available

Tickets £6 to include hot roast sandwiches (vegetarian option available)

Tickets available from Jill or Rachel on 432 7009

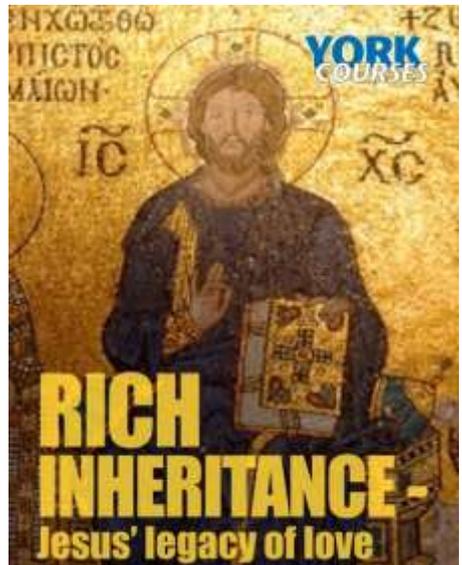
St. Nicholas

Afternoon Lent Course

Rachel will be delivering a lent course at the Rectory on Wednesday afternoons at 2pm. The first session will be on Thursday March 17th at 2pm, then the following Wednesdays of Lent.

The sessions will be based on the York Course entitled

*'Rich Inheritance
Jesus' legacy of Love*



Pen Portrait of Eunice Wilshaw.

Eunice is a member of our choir and regularly leads the singing at our Taizē service.

As a child Eunice was evacuated to Prestbury. She was a member of the Dramatic Society in Reddish and also a member of the Music Society and has performed many Gilbert and Sullivan Operas. Unfortunately both of these societies have now closed. Eunice is now with the Reddish Choral Society and has been for twenty three years. Eunice also sings with 6 other ladies who perform at elderly people's homes.



Eunice worked at The Christie Hospital for thirty years in the Radiology Department.

Eunice has a fifty year association with St.Nicks and was a member of the Dramatic Society [SNADS]. Eunice moved away from the area, but returned in 1976. In 1987 Eunice attended a funeral at St. Nicks whilst Roy Chow was the rector and discovered the choir. This is what Eunice was looking for and so her association with St.Nicks was rekindled.

Tell St Nick's News a little about your family. I have one son and daughter as well as four grandchildren.

What does your faith mean to you? Faith is very important to me and has helped me through many tough times. I also enjoyed being a Sunday School teacher in Levenshulme for nine years, before I was married. I do feel sad that the young people are moving away and don't come back to fill the seats left by the elders.

What would you say to the young people to inspire them? I would say that if you do move away, look forward to coming back. Although you cannot force people, you have to faith and hope that they will come back.

What keeps you going? Singing keeps me going. If I am feeling a bit rough it uplifts me. Also I have been learning to play the piano for the last two years and have passed my Grade One.

Your favourite hymn? My favourite hymn is 'Take my Life'

Church Duty Rota (March 2011)

Date	Warden 8.30 a.m.	Warden 10.30 a.m.	Altar Duty	Lay Assistants	SidesPeople
6th	Fred Murphy	Jill Lomas	Lucy Crossley	Grace Manley Jane Cawley	Brenda Maclese Amy Haygarth Sue Morris
13th	Fred Murphy	Grace Manley	Claire Lancaster	Louise Hollingsworth Jill Lomas	Anne Tudor Anne Holmes Jane Cawley
20th	Fred Murphy	Alison Mills	Emily Crossley	Anne Holmes Enid Harvey	Sybil Gawkrödger Alma Cockshoot Caroline Abiodon
27th	Fred Murphy	Jill Lomas	Claire Cawley	Katy Mills Alison Mills	Margaret Vessey Michael Vessey Muriel Clark

Parish Registers—(January 2011)

Week Ending	Communicants	Cash	Envelopes	Total
2nd	39	£19.00	£358.30	£377.30
9th	34	£11.00	£297.50	£308.50
16th	47	£83.70	£276.30	£360.00
23rd	45	£22.20	£241.50	£263.70
30th	38	£3.00	£301.00	£304.00
			Total for month	£1613.50

Thank you

Dear Friends,

Just to say I am making a good recovery from a minor op' I had a few weeks ago and I would like to thank you for the flowers, cards and your prayers which helped me through a difficult time,

Much love,

Margaret Vessey

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.

Christians Together in Burnage News

Lent course 'Exploring God's Calling, Home, Work, Church, Community' as recommended by the Bishop of Manchester. This will take place at St. Margaret's, Burnage Lane from 7.30 to 9.00pm on 16th, 23rd, 30th March and 6th, 13th April.

Good Friday CTiB Walk of Witness around the Burnage area—assemble at St. Bernard's Church at 12noon.

Church Prize Draws

St Nicholas Club Draw

Drawn Sunday 6th February

1st Prize 37: St Nicolas

2nd Prize 50: Emily Crossley

P.C.C. Raffle

January : Val Hagan

Raised £26.50 for
church funds



