



St. Nicholas News



Price 50p

May 2011

Church Diary May 2011

Date	Time	Event
Sunday 1st	8.30am 10.30 a.m.	2nd Sunday of Easter Holy Communion (BCP) Parish Communion
Tuesday 3rd	7.30pm	Taize Evening Prayer
Wednesday 4th	10.00am	Eucharist
Thursday 5th	7.30pm	Fundraising Committee, glass room
Sunday 8th	8.30am 10.30 a.m.	3rd Sunday of Easter Holy Communion (BCP) Parish Communion
Tuesday 10th	8.00pm	CTIB Executive , Christ Church, Burnage Lane
Wednesday 11th	10.00am 2.30pm	Eucharist Women's Fellowship
Sunday 15th	8.30 a.m. 10.30am	4th Sunday of Easter Holy Communion (BCP) Parish Communion
Monday 16th	7.30pm	Provisional date for PCC
Tuesday 17th	7.30pm	Prayer group
Wednesday 18th	10.00am	Eucharist
Sunday 22nd	8.30 a.m. 10.30am	5th Sunday of Easter Holy Communion (BCP) Parish Communion
Wednesday 25th	10.00am 2.30pm	Eucharist Women's Fellowship AGM
Sunday 29th	8.30 a.m. 10.30am	6th Sunday of Easter Holy Communion (BCP) Parish Communion

*Items for the Parish Magazine are most welcome
Please hand Items for the next issue to Rachel by Sunday 8th May
or email to editor@st-nicholas-church.org.uk*

Rachel Writes...

'Shall I compare thee to a summer's day? Thou art more lovely and more temperate. Rough winds may shake the darling buds of May and summer's lease hath all too short a date...'

Thus begins what is almost certainly Shakespeare's most famous sonnet. The poet compares his beloved with the season of summer and, in effect, says that the lover comes off better. Well, I'm sure we're all delighted with that conclusion. After all, I trust that for all of us who have known the affection of a loved one, we hope we would be viewed the same! Summer can be gorgeous, but can never match up to human loveliness.

But though 'rough winds' may indeed shake 'the darling buds of May', this month signifies the proper beginning of those long days of summer which we spend so much of the year looking forward to. And one of the things that the sonnet also reminds us of is that 'summer's lease' is short; and

because of its brevity, surely we are invited to enjoy it as gift? To receive its warmth and light, however brief, and delight in it. (Even if there are many sweltering nights when frankly we'd all prefer it if it would rain!)

Life itself - at least its very best dimensions - is rather like a summer: all too brief and lovely, ready to be disrupted by the thunderstorms of life at any minute. I am constantly struck by the rapidity with which time passes, leading me to ask, again and again, 'Where has the time gone?' If we are not careful we miss the opportunities that life is presenting to us.

During this season of Easter we are constantly reminded of how important it is to receive life as gift. Jesus' resurrection is, in part, a reminder to keep our whole being open to the new life being offered to us by God; the resurrection is about wonder and delight and new hope. And that is precisely what accepting our life as a gift is all about: it's about embracing its joy and wonder and possibilities.



I, more than many, know how tough that can be. The further we go into life, the less novelty it has. We are inclined to say that we've seen it all before. And if life is compromised by ill health and so on, it's very difficult to embrace life as gift. But that remains precisely what we are called to do.

This is never just about putting on a brave face or a false smile. It's about living on promises – the promise of the god who raises the dead to new life. And that life is worked out day-by-day, in prayer and commitment. And no matter where we are on life's journey, God is waiting to offer us the unexpected joy of his love.

Rachel x

Rector's Report AGM 2011

When I come to write one of these reports I'm always left wondering, 'Where has the time gone?' Well, in the past year, much remains the same and some things continue to change; there is little doubt that we have lived through a busy, interesting and challenging year here at St Nick's and there has been much to celebrate and be encouraged by. We have maintained many of our traditional commitments like the Summer Fair (much fun was had with the World Cup theme) as well as introducing and experimenting with new projects. Among these was participation in the Didsbury Arts Festival and a challenging, but impressive art exhibition, 'A Graceful Death'. My hope is that we will build on these experiences and develop other ways of opening up our magnificent building for wider arts and community use. For one thing is certain: once a person has been inside St Nick's they are often changed by the sheer power of the building and its sense of the Divine. Relationships with local churches continue to strengthen. I'd like to thank everyone for working and praying so hard over the past twelve months – church is grounded in God's Spirit and, by his grace, I sense we have grown together. I trust this will help us to be ever more outward looking as we seek to serve the community and help people discover God's love

I should especially like to thank our church wardens, Grace and Jill, and our deputy wardens, Fred and Alison, for their hard work. I should also like to 'single out' Grace for special thanks. She is retiring from the demanding role of warden after many years of loyal service. She has been a rock for me and others in testing times and a great source of wisdom; I'm delighted to say she will continue to be the lead person for our marvellous Taize service and I wish her rest and refreshment as she steps aside from the warden role.

We have sadly lost a number of friends in this congregation this year, not least Roy Cookson and Harold Shaddock. But not only will they always be with us in our hearts for as long as we remember them, but their examples of commitment and love will inspire us. Not just for the sake of St Nick's, but for the sake of bringing people in this parish to the love of God and of service to the Kingdom.

I'd be lying to you if I didn't think we face massive challenges in our mission in this parish. We are blessed with a committed congregation and we have seen new faces. However it is noticeable that some of our dearest friends have, as a result of ill health, found it increasingly difficult to be with us on a Sunday. Our thoughts and prayers are with them for renewed vigour, but we must also face the reality that this church must adapt as members get older. Furthermore, much as you may not thank me for raising it, St Nick's is not in strong position financially – either in terms of supporting its ministry or its commitments to the diocese. I urge you to reflect again – as I have – upon the extent of your financial giving to the church

Most of us continue to hope for stronger relationships with the wider community and for a hunger to be part of our congregation. By God's grace this will happen, but we all have a role to play in the future. We need to be confident in God and confident in our faith. Let's us dare to be confident enough to invite folk to come and join; let us demonstrate by the ways we live our lives the good news of Christ.

Let us face the coming year in confidence and hope. Rachel x

Gifts in memoriam

Over the years, St Nick's has received sums of money as gifts in memoriam. These monies cannot be used for day-to-day bills, for paying the parish share or for building works, but solely for items to commemorate individuals.

The PCC was asked to consider whether, among other ideas, these funds could be used to buy chairs to replace the pews. Of course, many people are attached to the pews so any decision to replace them would not be taken lightly and without due consideration of people's views, and in consultation with the diocese.



There is a lot to consider, we also have to look to ways of generating new interest and funds in the way our church building is used.

Events such as musical concerts, arts festivals have proved to be a new way of bringing people into our church. Chairs would offer flexibility in the use of the church building whilst at the same time enabling us to use our church in the usual way. It would be useful to be able to use the church building in a flexible way – with small

discussion groups around the church, for a more intimate group for Taizē services, – and also to allow easier access and exit where the rows meet the pillars.



Another consideration is the difficulty we have in moving the pews even for our own church fairs.

This can't be done without a team of people. The pews are incredibly heavy and moving them sometimes causes damage to the oak floors, never mind the backs of the shifters!

As the gifts in memoriam fund would be used we can commemorate all those whose name is on the fund by placing a small brass plaque on the back of a chair. Members of the congregation could if they wish also purchase a chair in memory of a family member and a brass plaque could be included..



For a short period, three sample chairs are on display in church. (Please do sit on them and try them out.) They can be stained oak to match the floor and the upholstery comes in a range of colours. There are two kinds of book boxes that can be attached to the backs. They can be stacked-

one style up to four chairs, and one style up to seven chairs. (The third style can be set out in a bench.)

Another idea for using the money was to buy Bibles for use in pews/chairs – there would be enough money to do this as well as the chairs.

Please do think about these possibilities. Look at the photos of other churches using the chairs. Ask questions. Speak to your churchwardens and to



members of the PCC so that we get a true picture of views.

Thank you.

Jill Lomas & Alison Mills

Please visit Rosehill Furniture Company website.

<http://www.rosehill.co.uk>

A Dog's Life

Hello, my name is Rudy.

I was born on 2nd April 2009.

I am a Vizla (a Hungarian gun dog).

I live with Robert and Anna and two cats.

They are called Domino and Tigger.

We get on most of the time.

I love going on long walks and running.

I like taking Rudy's mum on walks.

This helps her to keep fit sometimes.

She only takes me on short walks

But I have managed to get her to take me on a 50 minute walk.

You never know – I might get her to do a 60 minute walk.

That's all for now



Rudy

Word help me to remember

That nothing is going to happen today

that you and I

can't handle together

Windy!



Three elderly ministers, all hard of hearing, were playing golf one sunny spring morning.

The Methodist minister observed, "Windy, isn't it?" "No", the Baptist pastor said, "It's Thursday." The Anglican vicar agreed: "So am I! Let's go and get a pint."

We were there!

It was a sunny evening, on Wednesday in Holy Week –
“The Stations of the Cross”

As we stood at the first station – Jesus brought before Pilate, the noise from Kingsway seemed to grow louder, an ambulance screamed by, the cars seemed noisier - and suddenly, St. Nicholas' became
The Appian Way.

We were in Jerusalem!

We were in the crowd. We moved on; Jesus was sentenced to death.

He carried the heavy cross; we wanted to help him, so we sighed with relief when Simon of Cyrene was bidden to do so Jesus fell, and we wanted to help him up. We were the women of Jerusalem; we watched as Veronica wiped his face

As we moved on, and neared Golgotha, the noise
around us grew louder.

The lads and lasses in the Hall enjoying their martial arts class had
become the jeering crowd!

Jesus was crucified. His mother looked on and wept, and tears were
near to us too.

We moved on, it became quieter
The mob had left.
We watched Him die.

We saw Joseph of Aramathia lift him so tenderly down from his Cross,
and place him in his own prepared tomb
We stood in awe at the empty tomb, almost too frightened to breathe;
and then, at last in front of the altar, the last station – He is alive!

He is risen! He is risen indeed!
The pain and sadness disappeared, and the, oh so near tears were shed
in joy.

The journey was over, and we'd been there!

Church Duty Rota (May 2011)

Date	Warden 8.30 a.m.	Warden 10.30 a.m.	Altar Duty	Lay Assistants	SidesPeople
1st	Fred Murphy	Jill Lomas	Lucy Crossley	Brenda Maclese Cliff Stockton	Anne Tudor Anne Holmes
8th	Fred Murphy	Jane Cawley	Oliver Mills	Alison Mills Katy Mills	Brenda Maclese Amy Haygarth Sue Morris
15th	Fred Murphy	Jill Lomas	Claire Lancaster	Louise Hollingsworth Grace Manley	Margaret Vessey Michael Vessey Muriel Clark
22nd	Fred Murphy	Alison Mills	Emily Crossley	Anne Holmes Enid Harvey	Julie Crossley Cass Williamson Sue Morris
29th	Fred Murphy	Jane Cawley	Jenna Bartlett	Julie Crossley Jill Lomas	Sybil Gawkrödger Caroline Abiodon

Parish Registers—(March 2011)

Week Ending	Communicants	Cash	Envelopes	Total
6th	49	£24.85	£381.00	£405.85
13th	62	£11.15	£402.80	£413.95
20th	46	£8.00	£304.00	£312.00
27th	73	£51.10	£228.50	£279.60
			Total for month	£1,411.40

Eileen Chow

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Mrs Eileen Chow on Good Friday morning.

Many of you will remember Eileen during her time at St Nick's in the Choir, looking after her boys and supporting Roy. Rev. T.S.R. Chow was minister at St. Nicholas for 10 years between 1985 and 1995.

Her funeral will take place at Manchester Cathedral on Friday May 6th at 1.30 p.m.

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.

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.

Confirmation Classes

For young people and adults by arrangement with the Minister.

When Technology Goes Wrong!

The father of a family - who was a big-time techie - got his oldest daughter an **iPhone** for her birthday. He also got an **iPad** for his son. Later he bought an **iPod** for the youngest daughter. Then, when his wedding anniversary rolled around, he got his wife an **iRon**. That's when the fight began.

Church Prize Draw

St Nicholas Club Draw

Drawn Sunday 6th March

1st Prize 9: Sybil
Gawkrodger

2nd Prize 64: Katy Mills

P.C.C. Raffle

March

Raised £26 for church
funds



"We seem to get a much bigger turnout whenever the Bishop visits."

Parish Registers:

Holy Baptism ;

Sunday 27th March Ruben Marwood Metcalf-Wareing

Funerals:

Thursday March 17th William Boyd

Monday 11th April at Manchester Crematorium ; Elsie Collins

'May the blessed departed rest in peace, to rise in your glory.'

