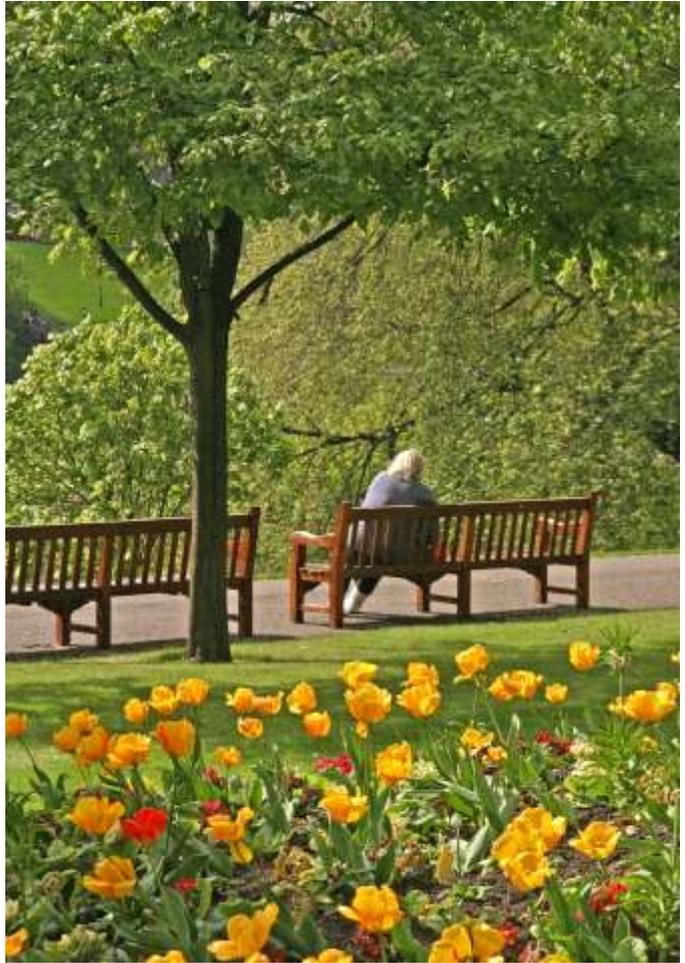




# *St. Nicholas News*



# *Church Diary June 2011*

| <b>Date</b>          | <b>Time</b>            | <b>Event</b>  |
|----------------------|------------------------|---|
| Thursday 2nd         | 7.30pm                 | <b>Ascension Day</b><br>Deanery Eucharist at St. Nick's. ALL WELCOME  |
| Sunday 5th           | 8.30am<br>10.30 a.m.   | <b>7th Sunday of Easter</b><br>Holy Communion (BCP)<br>Parish Communion   |
| Tuesday 7th          | 7.30pm                 | Taize Evening Prayer  |
| Wednesday 8th        | 10.00am                | Eucharist   |
| Thursday 9th         | 7.30pm                 | <b>Churches Together in Burnage</b><br><b>Taize service for Pentecost in Church ( 30mins service)</b>                       |
| Saturday 11th        | 10.30am                | <b>DIDSBURY FESTIVAL, Didsbury Park</b>   |
| Sunday 12th          | 8.30am<br>10.30 a.m.   | <b>Pentecost : All age worship</b><br>Holy Communion (BCP)<br>Parish Communion<br>( Summer Fair meeting after the service ) |
| Wednesday 15th       | 10.00am                | Eucharist   |
| Thursday 16th        | 6.00pm                 | PCC Pastoral Committee Meeting, Parrswood Pub   |
| Sunday 19th          | 8.30 a.m.<br>10.30am   | <b>Trinity Sunday</b><br>Holy Communion (BCP)<br>Parish Communion   |
| Tuesday 21st         | 8.00pm                 | Prayer group, Rectory   |
| Wednesday 22nd       | 10.00am                | Eucharist   |
| <b>Saturday 25th</b> | <b>11.00 to 2.00pm</b> | <b>'SUMMER BEACH PARTY THEMED FAIR'</b>   |
| Sunday 26th          | 8.30 a.m.<br>10.30am   | <b>Trinity 1</b><br>Holy Communion (BCP)<br>Parish Communion  |
| Wednesday 29th       | 10.00am                | Eucharist   |

*Items for the Parish Magazine are most welcome  
Please hand Items for the next issue to Rachel by Sunday 12th June  
or email to [editor@st-nicholas-church.org.uk](mailto:editor@st-nicholas-church.org.uk)*

## *Rachel Writes...*

There are few more exhilarating things in this life than having a sense that one is heading in the right direction. I'm sure that we've all experienced it at some point – that curious feeling that 'Now it's all going to work out' or 'I am where I am supposed to be'. Life – which can feel like a trial sometimes – would be extremely harsh without this sense of hopeful purposefulness.

Sadly, however, such feelings of 'rightness' are usually rarer than we'd hope and I know of no mature human being who has not experienced the sharp reality of feeling at odds with the world. Indeed, surely all of us have felt not only life's frustrations but that the world is going against us. At such times, life can feel very bleak indeed.

One of the dimensions of the feast of Pentecost – the great festival of the Holy Spirit – which may get lost in all the excitement is the degree to which the first apostles were

frightened and feeling the world was against them. They had lost their leader and faced an uncertain future. Jesus had promised them that he would send them his Spirit to sustain them, but there they were on the day of Pentecost still frightened, still alone. These were people who had placed all their trust in Jesus, had left their homes and work and had had their dreams shattered. Yet just a few weeks before, as they headed towards Jerusalem, they would have experienced that sense of 'Now it's all going to work out' and feeling they were in the right place in the world.

I trust we all know what happened to the disciples as they huddled together at Pentecost. Into that anxiety and fear came the sheer wonder and power of the Holy Spirit; a power so incredible it effectively formed the Church. Instead of a disparate and disheartened group of men and women, the Holy Spirit energized them into new commitment and life.



It can so often feel like we are waiting for life to flow in the right direction; it can so often feel like we are waiting for our frustrations and fears to be changed into reassurance. The truth is that moments like the disciples' experience on the day of Pentecost are incredibly rare. Indeed, its power was unique for without it the Church would not be what it has become. Nonetheless, the message of Pentecost for all of us is that even when life seems broken, compromised and lost, God's Spirit is waiting to revive and reform us. I know only too well how hard it is to hold onto God's promises in Christ – the promise that he will, in the Holy Spirit, be with us until the end of the age.

Rachel  
x

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## *Taize Evening Prayer at St. Nicholas'*

### What is Taize, and where does it come from?

Taize is a small hillside village in Burgundy, France. It is home to an ecumenical monastic community, founded by the late Brother Roger. He opened the first house there during World War II, and ever since, prayer and reconciliation have been at the heart of Taize. Nowadays, the place has grown, and the Taize community numbers more than 100 Brothers – Catholic and Protestant, from 25 countries

For a large part of the year, young people (modern day pilgrims) coming from all the continents, participate in the meetings/services held at Taize from one Sunday to the next.

In order for people from different backgrounds, speaking different languages to worship together, the Taize community developed a tradition of sung refrains, which are a vehicle for prayer.

Taize at our church: -

We meet together for this special service on the first Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm. It is not like a “usual” Sunday service, and there is a relaxed, calming atmosphere. On the Chancel steps is our Taize cross (which Bishop Nigel blessed, four years ago when Taize first started at St Nich’s) and many little candles burn brightly.



The service comprises of prayer, silence and song. (NB; you don’t have to be a good singer!!)

Singing is one of the most essential elements of worship. Here, short, simple songs, repeated again and again, give it a meditative character. Using just a few words, they express a basic reality of faith which can be quickly grasped by the mind. As the words are sung over, many times, this reality can penetrate our whole being. Meditative singing thus becomes a way of listening to God. It allows everyone to take part in a time of prayer together, and to remain together, sometimes in silence, waiting on God.

After our worship, we have a short time of fellowship + tea, coffee, biscuits.

It’s a really friendly affair, which we all enjoy. If you have never been, can I encourage you to come along and join us? We would love to see you!

## *Grace x*

*God of mercy, you illuminate our souls with unexpected light.  
And when we discover that, although in each of us there may be a  
portion of darkness, in each person there is above all, the mystery  
of your presence.*

Br. Roger of Taize



## *Message from Traidcraft*

For a Christian-based organisation like Traidcraft, the Easter story of resurrection, of hope replacing despair, is central to what we are and what we do.

We like to celebrate good news with all our supporters, regardless of faith, and at this significant time we wanted to share with you some practical examples of restoration and renewal in the lives of the people we work with.

Around the Iriaini tea factory in Kenya, for example, training in beekeeping is giving new hope and opportunity to families who otherwise faced destitution, and restoring life to land that was formerly unusable.

On South Africa's Orange River, at Eksteenskuil, secure orders and an additional premium are helping raisin farmers to recover and rebuild after floods swept through vineyards across the region early this year.

And in the Tamil Nadu region of India, we have helped thousands of women and young people resurrect the economic life of communities devastated by a tsunami.

In all of this, your support is playing a vital part. Thank you.

We wish you a joyous Easter.



## Welcome to Irene Smith

Hello, my name is Irene Smith and I had the pleasure of meeting a few of you at the Good Friday service, 2011.

It was also on this day that I experienced the first Christian act from this Church family. I was offered a lift to your church when I rang up to find the time of the service. Your Reverend herself, Rachel, loaded myself and my wheelchair into her car and brought me to your church; using up her special preparation time before taking the most emotive and soul-searching service of good Friday.

There was a voluntary lift and kindness also for my return home.

When I confirmed the decision to move to Manchester and Burnage from Scotland, my next thoughts were for the loving church I was leaving. Here I had participated in the Healing Ministry services and prayer sessions especially.

So I took my nervousness, sadness and indecision to my Lord and Friend Jesus Christ.

Our God of all wisdom and unconditional love comforted my fears and so strengthened my resolve to continue my discipleship with purpose, motivation and Christian love. So accepting this new section of my life as a 'gift from God' (as Rachel writes in the May magazine) I am guided to this Church of St Nicholas with joy in my heart.

Irene (Theologian - MTheol)



Irene studied theology  
at St.Andrew's University

## *A Special Place*

1.  
I am in a garden and ----  
I've found a corner there  
Where you can talk to God.  
Where you can laugh and weep  
with Jesus  
Letting your woes and sorrows flow  
out.
2.  
A corner where joy and love shine  
through  
From a mass of flowering faces.  
They turn their heads towards the  
sun  
And nod their love and praise to  
God.  
"God their creator" -- And creator  
of Man.
3.  
They communicated so simply to  
God,  
How much more can we do thro'  
prayer?  
But if a smile is all you can offer -  
God welcomes it, and your  
thoughts ---  
From the corner - in a garden
4.  
You can find your own Special Place  
Anywhere. God is everywhere,  
Just waiting for you. By tree  
Or river, under beautiful skies,  
Or capturing the fragrance from  
herbs and flowering plants.
5.  
You can feel or sense your own  
Meeting place, with Jesus.  
Anywhere, Anytime, Anyhow.  
Simply open your heart and mind  
and ---  
Share your thoughts, in stillness,  
with God.

you've found.

Irene Smith. May 2011



**St.Nicholas Church Fundraising Committee**

# Summer Beach Party Themed Fair

*On Saturday 25th June*

**From 11.00 to 2.00pm**

## **New appointments.....**

Following the Annual Parochial Church Council Meeting and the Archdeacon's Visitation at St.Matthew's Stretford on Wednesday May 11th , we are pleased to announce that the following new appointments have been made:

Church Warden: Alison Mills, Assistant Church Warden : Jane Cawley

Sidespersons : Cass Williamson and Julie Crossley.

PCC Member Christine Price

We are grateful to all the volunteers who willingly give of their time and energy to maintain the church and help with services.

## Church Duty Rota (June 2011)

| Date | Warden<br>8.30<br>a.m. | Warden<br>10.30 a.m. | Altar<br>Duty      | Lay<br>Assistants                  | SidesPeople                                       |
|------|------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| 5th  | Fred Murphy            | Alison Mills         | Jenny Cullen       | Brenda Maclese<br>Cliff Stockton   | Muriel Nicol<br>Amy Haygarth                      |
| 12th | Fred Murphy            | Jill Lomas           | Lucy Crossley      | Jane Cawley<br>Grace Manley        | Anne Tudor<br>Anne Holmes                         |
| 19th | Fred Murphy            | Jane Cawley          | Oliver Mills       | Alison Mills<br>Julie Crossley     | Sybil Gawkrödger<br>Caroline Abiodon              |
| 26th | Fred Murphy            | Alison Mills         | Clare<br>Lancaster | Louise Hollingsworth<br>Jill Lomas | Margaret Vessey<br>Michael Vessey<br>Muriel Clark |

## Parish Registers—(April 2011)

| Week Ending | Communicants | Cash   | Envelopes       | Total    |
|-------------|--------------|--------|-----------------|----------|
| 3rd         | 66           | £24.20 | £370.60         | £394.80  |
| 10th        | 106          | £3.00  | £308.10         | £311.10  |
| 17th        | 78           | £4.00  | £384.00         | £388.00  |
| 24th        | 136          | £96.40 | £281.10         | £377.50  |
|             |              |        | Total for month | £1471.40 |

### ***Smile Lines.....***

Up at the head table in the school cafeteria, one of the nuns had placed a big bowl of bright red, fresh, juicy apples. Beside the bowl, she placed a note which read, "*Take only one. Remember, God is watching.*"

At the other end of the table was a bowl full of freshly baked chocolate chip cookies, still warm from the oven. Beside the bowl lay a little note scrawled in a child's handwriting which read: "*Take all you want. God is watching the apples.*"



# 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.

## 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.

### *Church Prize Draw*

#### **St Nicholas Club Draw**

Drawn Sunday 3rd April

1st Prize 69: Flower League  
( M.Vessey)

2nd Prize 17: Brenda Little

### **P.C.C. Raffle**

April

Raised £41 for church funds

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## CTiB News ( Christians Together in Burnage)

Pentecost services will take place throughout the week :

Sunday 5th June 4.00pm St.Margaret's, Burnage Lane

Monday 6th June 10.30am Christchurch, Burnage Lane

Tuesday 7th June 7.00am South Manchester Family Church, Kingsburn Hall

Wednesday 8th June 2.00pm St .Bernard's , Burnage Lane

Thursday 9th June 7.30pm Taize Evening Prayer, St.Nicholas, Burnage

Friday 10th June 12.00noon St.Margaret's, Burnage Lane

Saturday 18th June, Caroline Thorpe, Curate at St,Margaret's will be ordained at 6.30pm.

Everyone is welcome to attend any of these events.

*Rachel, Jill, Alison & Jane.*

