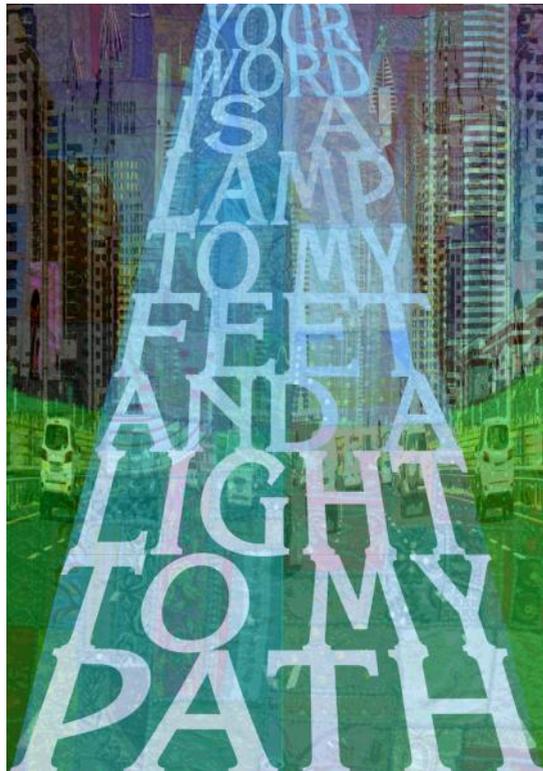




# St. Nicholas News



# Church Diary October 2011

Date	Time	Event
Sunday 2nd	8.30am 10.30 a.m. 12noon	<b>Harvest Festival (trinity 15)</b> Holy Communion (BCP) All age worship Harvest Lunch
Tuesday 4th	7.30pm	Taize evening prayer, all welcome
Wednesday 5th	10.00am	Eucharist
Thursday 6th	6.30pm 7.30pm	Fundraising Committee, glass room Community Choir in church
Sunday 9th	8.30 a.m. 10.30am	<b>Trinity 16</b> Holy Communion (BCP) Parish Communion
Monday 10th	7,30pm	Publicity Committee meeting, rectory
Wednesday 12th	10.00am 2.30pm	Eucharist Women's Fellowship Harvest Festival Ploughman's Lunch
Thursday 13th	7.30pm	Community choir ,in church
Sunday 16th	8.30 a.m. 10.30am 7.30pm	<b>Trinity 17</b> Holy Communion (BCP) Parish Communion <b>MACCLESFIELD SILK BRASS BAND CONCERT</b>
Wednesday 19th	10.00am	Eucharist
Thursday 20th	7.30pm	Community choir ,in church
Saturday 22nd	10.30 until noon	Women's Fellowship Coffee Morning
Sunday 23rd	8.30 a.m. 10.30am	<b>Last after Trinity</b> Holy Communion (BCP) Parish Communion
Monday 24th	2.00 to 8.00pm	<b>MAGPIE's Art Exhibition in church until Saturday. Open every day from 2.00 to 8.00pm</b>
Thursday 27th	7.30pm	Community choir ,in church
Sunday 30th	8.30 a.m. 10.30am 3.00pm	<b>4th before Advent/All Soul's Day</b> Holy Communion (BCP) Parish Communion Service of Glad Remembrance—all welcome.

*Advance Notices* :Tuesday 1st November Taize Evening Prayer

## Rachel writes...

One of the constant questions for any church in the 21<sup>st</sup> century is: how are we to serve our community? For it is clear - especially for churches set in modern cities - that many of the traditional social things done by a church no longer quite work. So, for example, I remember how back in the 1970s, us kids would love to go to the church 'jumble sale'. Jumble sales back then were very popular. You could have a real rummage and perhaps discover something amazing.

However, as social conditions have changed, and many people have become wealthier, the interest in them has waned. Very few churches hold regular jumble sales these days. These days, as society continues to change at an increasing pace, churches need to continuously think about how their buildings and resources can be creatively used to serve the community.

*We are a  
worshipping and  
hoping  
community  
centred on Jesus  
Christ.*

with a very modern and flexible building. This enables us to be able to meet the needs and requirements of the community in all sorts of ways. The hall is used almost every day of the week and is a very popular venue for parties and social gatherings. In the past two years we have also begun to think about how we can use

the whole building - church space and hall - in more creative ways. For while it is absolutely essential that our 'sacred space' continues to be a place of prayer and wonder, we also want to be able to encourage people to

feel able to connect with it as much as possible. And while it is wonderful to see people on a Sunday morning or at other acts of worship like Taize, the church needs to be open for more than three or four hours a week. We live at a time when many people want to be able to come into church - in order to have a look around and make a response (to light a candle and so on) - but often feel afraid to do so.

At St Nick's we are blessed

However, we are beginning to find creative ways to open up the church to the wider public. In the spring we held a large art exhibition which brought in the public in an entire different way. Many people began to see that our beautiful Art Deco space could actually be used quite successfully and sympathetically as an art space. We have recently been involved again with the Didsbury Arts Festival, holding an art exhibition, a theatre production and a music event. The art exhibition will be with us during the early part of October as well. During October we shall also be holding a Brass Band concert (October 16th) and from October 24th until October 29th, our church warden, Jill Lomas' art group will be holding an art exhibition. While I suspect some people will find some of these ventures challenging, my sense is that all of them are one way we can open this magnificent building up to wider use.

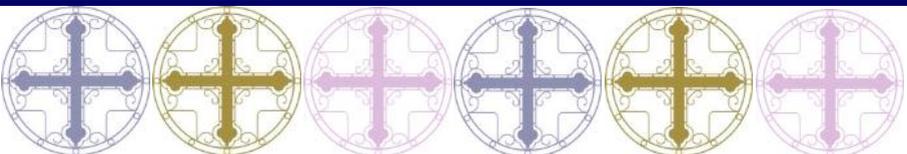
While it is important to try to foster a sense that people can come into our building more easily, we must not lose sight of what we are about. We are a worshipping and hoping community centred on Jesus Christ. This must always encourage us to gather in prayer and worship, being unafraid to use our church building for sacred purposes. But equally, we must not lose sight of our deep vocation to service. We cannot afford to ever just be a 'holy huddle'; one of the measures of our faith is the way we connect with the world: open, generous and loving.

*Rachel*  
x



## **Sad news .....**

It is with deep regret that we announce the sad passing of our dear friend and former Church Warden Enid Harvey on Friday 9th September 2011. A service of thanksgiving to celebrate the life of Enid took place on Monday 26th September at 2.00pm in St. Nicholas. A tribute to Enid will appear in our next issue.



Do you enjoy singing ?? Fancy joining a choir ??

Well we have an answer .....

# Burnage Community Choir

Meets on Thursday evening at 7.30pm in St.Nick's



50 YEARS  
amnesty.org.uk

Our chosen charity from  
September to December 2011

**Amnesty International** (commonly known as **Amnesty** and **AI**) is an international non-governmental organisation whose stated mission is "to conduct research and generate action to prevent and end grave abuses of human rights, and to demand justice for those whose rights have been violated."<sup>[3]</sup>

Following a publication of Peter Benenson's article "The Forgotten Prisoners" in *The Observer* 28 May 1961, Amnesty was founded in London the same year. Amnesty draws attention to human rights abuses and campaigns for compliance with international laws and standards. It works to mobilise public opinion to put pressure on governments that let abuse take place. The organisation was awarded the 1977 Nobel Peace Prize for its "campaign against torture", and the United Nations Prize in the Field of Human Rights in 1978.

In the field of international human rights organisations Amnesty has the longest history and broadest name recognition, and "is believed by many to set standards for the movement as a whole.

There are six key areas which Amnesty deals with:

1. Women's, children's, minorities' and indigenous rights
2. Ending torture
3. Abolition of the death penalty
4. Rights of refugees
5. Rights of prisoners of conscience
6. Protection of human dignity.hole

Contributions can be made in the charity box, in church. THANK YOU

## Parish Share 2012

Dear friends,

We have just received information from the diocese about our Parish Share requirement for 2012. For any of you who don't know, the Parish Share is the amount requested from us by the diocese to cover the costs of maintaining the Church of England at a national and diocesan level. Most of the money that is paid in by parishes goes to cover clergy stipends (the amount they are paid to live on), pensions and supporting the very poorest parishes in the most vulnerable areas of England. It is part of our common commitment to the church and the amount requested is assessed on a three-year rolling basis, taking into account congregation numbers and wealth. The Church Wardens and I should like to thank you for your commitment to giving – both of time and of money – over very many years.

For the coming year we have been asked to pay £25,618. This represents an increase of around £3000 on this year. However, this year's Share (£22,817) was actually reduced from £25,000 as an act of generosity on the part of the diocese. Last year I appealed the requested amount on the grounds that we had unusually high, unexpected payments to cover – that is, £40,000 of roof repairs. The diocese agreed to a reduction. However, this was done on the proviso that they expected us to pay the 2011 Share in full. Currently (as of Sept 10<sup>th</sup>) we have paid £10,000 of our share, leaving a shortfall of £12000 to find in the next three months. This is in addition to our ongoing running costs.

Next year with a Share of £25,618, paying our way in full will be even tougher.

I fully understand the economic tough times many are facing, but our commitment to paying the Share is one way in which we demonstrate our commitment to both God and to the Church. Sometimes people ask, 'Why should we pay? What has the national and diocesan church ever done for us?' One answer of course is

in providing full-time clergy over the past eighty or so years. Each full-time priest currently costs the church (including stipend, pension, National Insurance and so on) over £40,000 per year. For a church to be asked to contribute only just over half of that figure, it might be argued, is good value in the extreme.

The simple fact is that, as a church, we are not covering our outgoings – whether that be on a day-to-day basis or overall across the year. Each Sunday we receive about £300 by way of donations. These are gratefully received and the Church Wardens and I thank you for your generosity. However, our weekly costs (including Share payments) are at least double that. We are lucky to have a well-used hall and well-supported events like the Christmas Fair, but even so the shortfall is significant.

Clearly we all need to revisit our giving. The Church Wardens and I shall be discussing strategy soon and will try to come up with creative solutions. However, while it is important that we find ways to encourage non-congregation members to give to the church (through such things as external music events and the use of licensed bars at events), ultimately the responsibility is ours. In a prayerful manner each of needs to consider the many ways we give to God – including financially. I shall certainly be doing so.

*Rachel*  
x

## Art Exhibition by the Magpies

24th—29th October (in church)

Mon 6.00 to 8.00pm

Tuesday—Sat 2.00—8.00pm

Hot & cold drinks on sale

The Magpies (Manchester Art Group and Painters) meet to paint and sketch at different locations around Manchester. At this exhibition they are showing a selection of their works in different media.



**Sunday 16th October**  
**at 7.30pm**

**The award winning Macclesfield Band**

**Silk Brass**

Conductor: Hugh Megarrell

**Admission £6**

(licensed bar available)

**Tickets available on the door or  
by telephoning :**

**0161 445 9738 or 0161 434 2872**

*Book your tickets early to avoid disappointment!*

## **Signs & Symbols: The Altar**

Some people, especially in Anglican churches, 'reverence' the altar (bow, or touch one knee) rather than to any other object in church. Why do they do this?

Firstly, the Christian altar has its roots in the huge altar of sacrifice in the Jewish Temple. These days many altars are moveable and therefore are made of light material such as wood, but if you get the chance to look under the frontals and other materials overlaying the altar you'll find that most of them, and certainly older ones, will be made of stone.

The use of stone in the original Temple depicted permanence. The Israelites had been on the move for forty years in the wilderness carrying the Ark of the Covenant, which contained the tablets of the

law, and was regarded as a symbol of the presence of God. Finally they had a place to call their own and to lay down settled roots.

Stones and rocks are also used throughout the Bible as images of the presence of God, from the stone that gave water to the Israelites in the desert to Peter, the Rock. Although scientists today can tell us the exact age of different rocks, in biblical times they were thought to have been always there – just like the eternal God.

Rocks, or caves within them, are also often places of encounters with God: Jacob's rock for a pillow and Christ's rising from the rocky tomb.

Secondly, Christian altars are supremely the places of real connections with God because this is where the bread and wine are consecrated and come to be, or to represent (according to your theology), Jesus Christ himself. The place where God enters our everyday world is made special.

*This month:* Ask to have a look at the actual altar at your own church or a place you visit. Look for special marks carved into it – there are usually five of them. What can you find out about the history of it? Has it always been sited in that same place?

## **Parishioners celebrate ....**



*Congratulations and good wishes to :*

Olive and Tony Huddart as they celebrate their Diamond Wedding Anniversary.

Anne Tudor who celebrated her 80th birthday recently.

Joyce Tomlinson who celebrates her 90th birthday on 18th October 2011.

## Church Duty Rota (October 2011)

Date	Warden 8.30 a.m.	Warden 10.30 a.m.	Altar Duty	Lay Assistants	Sides People
2nd	Fred Murphy	Jill Lomas	Jenna Bartlett	Anne Tudor Anne Holmes	Muriel Nicol Amy Haygarth
9th	Fred Murphy	Jane Cawley	Jenny Cullen	Brenda Maclese Cliff Stockton	Anne Tudor Anne Holmes
16th	Fred Murphy	Alison Mills	Lucy Crossley	Grace Manley Julie Crossley	Brenda Maclese Grace Manley/Jane Cawley
23rd	Fred Murphy	Jill Lomas	Clare Lancaster	Grace Manley Jane Cawley	Sybil Gawkrödger Caroline Abiodon
30th	Fred Murphy	Jane Cawley	Emily Crossley	Louise Hollingsworth Jill Lomas	Margaret Vessey Michael Vessey Muriel Clark

### Parish Registers—(August 2011)

Week Ending	Communicants	Cash	Envelopes	Total
7th	63	54.00	356.00	410.00
14th	49	10.05	251.20	261.25
21st	43	18.05	337.50	355.55
28th	37	13.90	237.00	250.90
			Total for month	1277.70

### St Nicholas Club Draw

Application forms for the 2011/12 club draw are now available. A one year subscription is £12.50, a contribution towards the upkeep of the church as well as an opportunity to win a 1st prize of £25 or a 2nd prize of £15 in a monthly draw.

The first draw for the new season will take place on Harvest Sunday. Please buy your draw ticket—we need you ! (application forms on the porch table)

Many thanks and good luck, *Fred Murphy*

# 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 Draws St Nicholas Club Draw

Drawn Sunday 1st May

1st Prize : 16 - St.Nicholas  
2nd Prize : 34—Ailsa Cookson

## P.C.C. Raffle

August

Raised £40 for Church Funds

## Women's Fellowship Coffee Morning

Saturday 22nd October

Tea/coffee, cakes, toast, gifts and a chat !

From 10.30 to 12noon

Everyone welcome !



"Do you think you could come up with something a little more positive, Harry?"



...I've moved with the times - I've now got a solar-powered radio microphone...

# The Parish Church of St Nicholas

## Burnage

### Sunday Services

8.30 a.m	Eucharist (BCP)
10.30 a.m.	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.

<b>Minister</b>	Rev'd Rachel Mann 0161 432 7009
<b>Organist</b>	Mr Oliver Mills (07786 337087)
<b>Churchwardens</b>	Mrs. Jill Lomas (0161 432 5426) Mrs. Alison Mills (01625 540376)
<b>Assistant Wardens</b>	Mr. Fred Murphy Ms Jane Cawley
<b>Hon. Treasurer.</b>	Ms. Elaine Jess
<b>Minutes Secretary</b>	Mrs. Ann Ackerman
<b>Deanery Synod</b>	Mrs. Grace Manley Ms. Jane Cawley
<b>Elected on PCC</b>	Mrs. Lyn Rimmer,                   , Mr. Fred Murphy Mrs. Margaret Witty,            Mr. Tony Witty, Ms. Jane Cawley,                Mrs. Margaret Vessey, Mrs. Sue Morris                 Mrs. Eunice Wilshaw,
	Mr. Michael Vessey, (Co-opted non-voting) Mrs. Christine Price (Co-opted 2011) Mrs Ann Ackerman ( Hon. Sec)
<b>Magazine Distribution</b>	Mrs. Brenda Maclese
<b>Missionary Secretary</b>	Mrs. Christine Taylor
<b>St. Nicholas Church Website</b>	<a href="http://www.st-nicholas-church.org.uk">www.st-nicholas-church.org.uk</a>