



# *St. Nicholas News*



Price 50p

November 2011

# Church Diary November 2011

Date	Time	Event
Tuesday 1st	7.30pm	Taize evening prayer, all welcome
Wednesday 2nd	10.00am	Eucharist
Thursday 3rd	7.30pm	Community Choir in church
Sunday 6th	8.30 a.m. 10.30am	<b>3rd Sunday before Advent</b> Holy Communion (BCP) Parish Communion
Wednesday 9th	10.00am 2.30pm	Eucharist Women's Fellowship 'Passage to India' Mr Roy Williams
Thursday 10th	7.30pm	Community choir in church
Sunday 13th	8.30 a.m. 10.30am	<b>Remembrance Service</b> Holy Communion (BCP) All -age worship FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE Meeting after service
Monday 14th	7.30pm	P.C.C. Meeting, glassroom
Tuesday 15th	8.00pm	Prayer group, Rectory
Wednesday 16th	10.00am 8.00pm	Eucharist CTiB Executive Committee Meeting, Christ Church URC
Thursday 17th	7.30pm	Community choir in church
<b>Saturday 19th</b>	<b>10.00 to 2.00pm</b>	<b>CHRISTMAS FAIR</b>
Sunday 20th	8.30 a.m. 10.30am	<b>Christ the King</b> Holy Communion (BCP) Parish Communion
Wednesday 23rd	10.00am 2.30pm	Eucharist Women's Fellowship 'Belle Vue' with Mr Peter Heaton
Thursday 24h	7.30pm	Community choir in church
Sunday 27th	8.30 a.m. 10.30am	<b>Advent</b> Holy Communion (BCP) Parish Communion
Wednesday 30th	10.00am	Eucharist

## Rachel writes...

I never fail to find November a melancholic month. By November almost all the leaves have fallen, the nights are drawing in and there are mists and chills on the air. It is as if the year is dying and in so many ways it is. It is also the month when we remember. On All Souls Day we remember all the faithful departed and on Remembrance Sunday we remember all those who have died in war. November seems to have remembrance and death inscribed into its very nature.

Both my grandparents fought in the Great War – The War to End All Wars. They were simple rural men – the kind of young men who worked on the estate shown in TV's *Downton Abbey*. In 1914, they took their opportunity to escape the grimness of work on the land by enlisting and heading for the green fields of France and Flanders. And what they discovered scarred their souls for the rest of their lives.

*Clearly there has always been war and yet the people of God have always been called to live out God's way of peace, love and hope.*

I find it almost incredible to think that it is almost 100 years since the start of The War to End All Wars. And yet the century that has passed since that war has simply been the bloodiest in history. It has shaken many people's faith in progress, civilization and, indeed, in a Loving God. For there is simply no doubt that the recent history of the world has reminded us again and again of humanity's capacity for bestial behaviour; how can a loving God, some ask, allow such behaviour?

It is clear to me, from the evidence of the Bible and other ancient authorities, that not only is this question as old as time, but that the ancient world was as familiar with violence as our own. Clearly there has always been war and yet the people of God have always been called to live out God's way of peace, love and hope.

As Christians we have a particular vocation which resonates very powerfully at this time of

remembrance. In each Eucharist we ‘remember’ that, on the night before he died, Jesus broke bread and shared wine with his friends. He told them that this was his body and blood given for the forgiveness of the sin of the world. This activity is not just an act of remembering but what some theologians call a ‘re-remembering’ – that is, a bringing alive of Jesus’ sacrifice in the midst of worship. We are not just remembering, but participating in God’s forgiveness of the world’s sin – receiving that forgiveness but also being formed into a community of reconciliation.

This might strike some of you as rather high faluting, but it matters at an everyday level. The Christian community is not just a holy huddle, or a family worshipping God together. It is fundamentally a sign that the world – a world scarred by violence, selfishness and war – is still beloved of God. For the bottom line is this: God himself, in the person of Jesus, is the victim of the world’s violence. He is tortured and nailed to a cross to die. And yet God does not take that violence as the basis for revenge – Jesus is resurrected and returns offering peace and forgiveness. His broken body and spilt blood becomes the means of forgiveness.

In a world of division and violence, then, the world needs Eucharist more than ever. And in our acts of remembering Christ we proclaim that peace and reconciliation are both possible and the way we are called to live. May we and the broken world we live in become ever more shaped by the offering of Christ.

Rachel  
x

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**



## *Enid*

On the 9<sup>th</sup> of September our dear friend Enid Harvey died suddenly, and we lost a member of St. Nick's "Church Family." That's how Enid saw us all – her

family!

On the 26<sup>th</sup>, church was full for a wonderful celebration and thanksgiving for her life. It was marvellous, meeting old friends as we remembered Enid, and what she had meant to us all.

I had only known Enid for the last 16 years or so, but in that time we'd become really good friends; especially after I became assistant and subsequently Church Warden alongside her. We worked really well together, and in all that time, never had a disagreement. We slogged through two interregnums and one sabbatical during our time! Enid was great at finding a priest for each of our services. She had a wonderful way of asking.....they never said no! Their welcome was so warm and friendly, from St. Nick's congregation – **YOU**, many priests volunteered to make repeat visits. They remain firm friends to this day.

It was during our "priest less" days that the lead started to be stolen from our church roof, and Enid and I had to write many letters, statements and apply for our first Faculty from the Diocese, in order to get repairs done. It was a really hard time. We hadn't done this before, and we didn't know exactly what to do. It was then that we became "The Merlot Girls." We met at Enid's house, and quite a few glasses of merlot were demolished while we worked through mountains of paperwork. We did succeed in the end!

We spent loads of time together doing things such as visiting Salford R C Cathedral's Taize service for six months as we planned the start of Taize here at St.Nicks (5 yrs ago). We attended numerous meetings – Deanery Synod and Pastoral committees, cours-

There was more than thirty years difference in our ages, but we honestly never ever noticed it at all. She had a wicked sense of humour, was really broad-minded and accepting of others in all different circumstances. A loving Christian woman. She was my friend, I loved her and I miss her *Grace x*

***Other members of our congregation wanted to add their thoughts....***

*From: Elsie Jubb –*

The world is a sadder place without Enid

*From: Margaret Vessey –*



Each day we do the tasks  
We have to do  
But just from time to time  
His love shines through  
It makes life seem more special  
Puts a spring into your step  
The mundane is enhanced  
And you give life of your best.  
It only happens now and then  
But if I show love too  
Reflections of His glory  
Might live on in me and you.

### *Guy Fawkes – an early terrorist*

If modern security at the Houses of Parliament seems a bit weak to you, take heart, it's never been much better. Back in 1605 Guy Fawkes managed to stow a good few barrels of gunpowder under the House of Lords without anybody noticing. He wasn't a member of Al-Qaeda, he was part of a Roman Catholic plot to murder James 1 of England and his parliament at the state opening. Fortunately, Guy Fawkes was found - and stopped - in time.

## *I've been coming here on Sundays*

I've been coming here on Sundays for seventy year or so,  
'Twas here that I was Christened and 'tis here I'll want to go

Now I know you all get vexed about changes in belief,  
Well frills on top don't matter if you're comfy underneath.  
I never lets it bother if I'm High or Low or what,  
While I've got the Lord's commandments I shan't go wrong a lot.

Now I likes old-fashioned liturgy  
And they like to be free,  
And they can have what pleases them  
And I'll read what suits me.  
And half the hymns we sing these days  
I've never heard before,  
But I can stand and listen, and perhaps I'll learn some more.

All these guitars and instruments –  
Its no more than they had  
Afore they put the organ in,  
When my Grandad was a lad,  
And I don't suppose God'll worry  
He wouldn't make a fuss,  
As long as all the singing's meant for him and not for us.

We've had clergy coming straight from college,  
Full of summat new,  
From incense on the altar to posters in the pew,  
And lets 'em all get on with it. 'cos all these fashions pass,  
And you'll still do the flowers, me dears, and I'll still clean the  
brass.

I got this seat I always have, no draughts and nice and near,  
So I can hear the organ and see the vicar clear;  
And I tell Gods what's been happening,  
And what a week I've had,  
And I thanks Him for the good times,  
And He helps me through the bad,  
'Cos all that really matters, as far as I can see,  
Is that I, down here, remembers Him,  
And He remembers me.

(Slight adaptation of a poem by Barbara Robinson)

Thanks to Geoff Morris.

### *ADVENT Sunday*

As November closes, Advent begins. The exact birth-date of Jesus is not known, but during the 5<sup>th</sup> century the date of 25 December was chosen to become the Feast of the Nativity, or Christmas.

By the sixth century, the Christian Church was in the habit of spending several weeks leading up to Christmas in prayerful, expectant preparation. The fourth Sunday before Christmas Day became Advent Sunday. 'Advent', of course, means 'coming', or 'coming in', and traditionally special candles have been lit, and more recently, advent calendars used, as the Church prepares itself for the coming of the Holy Child, the long-awaited Messiah.

# Christmas Fair

**Saturday 19th November**

**From 10.00 am to 2.00pm**

Raffle                      Café                      Cakes

Books &  
DVDs



Traidcraft

Chocolate  
Tombola

Gift &  
Bottle  
Tombola

**Christmas Gifts & Toys**

*In the Church Hall*

*Admission: Adults 50p Children FREE!*

## Church Duty Rota (November 2011)

Date	Warden 8.30 a.m.	Warden 10.30 a.m.	Altar Duty	Lay Assistants	SidesPeople
2nd	Fred Murphy	Alison Mills	Jenna Bartlett	Anne Tudor Anne Holmes	Julie Crossley Cass Williamson
13th	Fred Murphy	Jill Lomas	Jenny Cullen	Grace Manley Margaret Vessey	Muriel Nicol Amy Haygarth
20th	Fred Murphy	Jane Cawley	Lucy Crossley	Louise Hollingsworth Jill Lomas	Brenda Maclese Grace Manley
27th	Fred Murphy	Alison Mills	Jenny Bartlett	Brenda Maclese Cliff Stockton	Anne Tudor Anne Holmes

## Parish Registers—(September 2011)

Week Ending	Communicants	Cash	Envelopes	Total
4th	44	38.80	352.80	391.60
11th	43	27.05	277.00	304.50
18th	46	31.70	311.80	343.50
25th	44	43.00	310.50	353.50
			Total for month	1,393.10

## *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 took place in October but you can still join. Please buy your draw ticket—we need you ! (application forms on the porch table)

# Organisations

The Maker's Club (Sunday School)  
Mrs. Margaret Witty (0161 432 2933)

For all children aged 3 years upwards in the hall from 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.

**P.C.C. Raffle**  
September

Raised £17 for Church Funds

**St Nicholas Club Draw**

Drawn Sunday 1st May

1st Prize : 47 Jane Cawley

2nd Prize : 51 Amy Haygarth



*Are you a friend of  
St. Nicholas ?*

**Have you seen boxes like this on  
the church window sill ?**



We have a 'friends' collection box scheme, place the box on the side in the kitchen and fill it with your loose change—you will be amazed how quickly it mounts up. You can return your box when it is full or every three months whichever you prefer. All the loose change you donate can be gift aided to church.

Please ask for a box and help us with our fundraising 'every little helps'.....Thank you

Boxes available from Michael Vessey., Rachel or Churchwardens.

# 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>