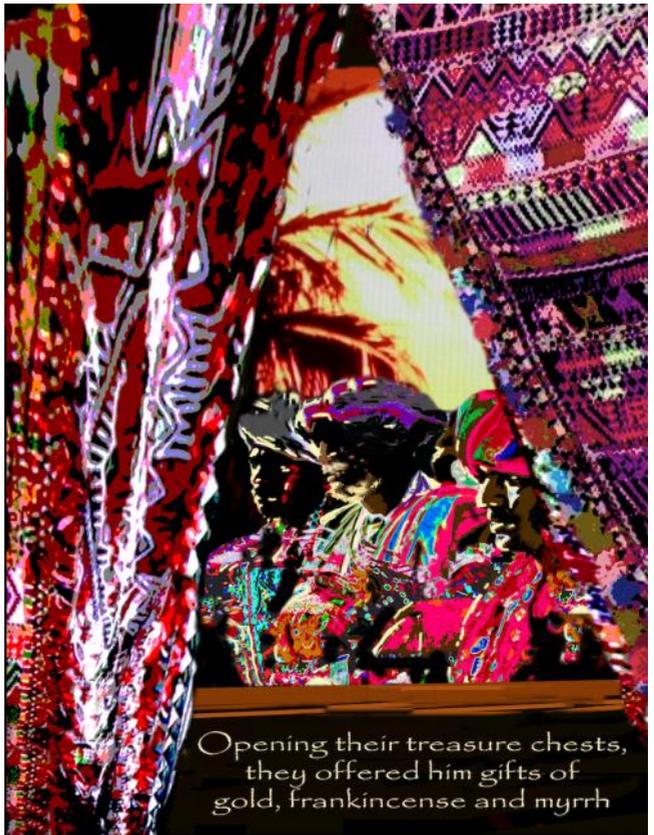




St. Nicholas News



Opening their treasure chests,
they offered him gifts of
gold, frankincense and myrrh



Price 50p

January 2012

Church Diary January 2012

Date	Time	Event
Sunday 1st	8.30 a.m. 10.30am	The Solemnity of Mary Holy Communion (BCP) Parish Communion
Tuesday 3rd	7.30pm	Taize Evening Prayer
Wednesday 4th	10.00am	Eucharist
Thursday 5th	7.30pm	Community choir
Sunday 8th	8.30 a.m. 10.30am	Epiphany Holy Communion (BCP) Christingle Service
Monday 9th	7.30pm	PCC Meeting, glass room
Wednesday 11th	10.00am	Eucharist
Thursday 12th	7.30pm	Community choir in church
Saturday 14th	<u>10.30 to 12noon</u>	<u>Coffee Morning, box opening and bring and buy sale in aid of the Church of England's Children's Society</u>
Sunday 15th	8.30 a.m. 10.30am	4th Sunday of Advent Holy Communion (BCP) Parish Communion
Monday 16th	7.30pm	Service for Christian Unity at St.Nicholas. (Please see CTIB article in the magazine for other events)
Tuesday 17th	8.00pm	Prayer group, rectory
Wednesday 18th	10.00am	Eucharist
Thursday 19th	7.30pm	Community choir in church
Sunday 22nd	8.30 a.m. 10.30am 4.00pm	4th Sunday of Advent Holy Communion (BCP) Parish Communion Joint service with Christians Together in Burnage to celebrate the end of Christian Unity week . Please try to come to this service.
Wednesday 25th	10.00am 2.30pm	Eucharist Women's Fellowship 'Bible Bring and Buy sale.'
Thursday 26th	7.30pm	Community choir in church
Sunday 29th	8.30pm 10.30pm	Holy Communion BCP

Rachel writes...

We all love new things don't we? If you're a parent, consider the first time you ever held your newborn child in your hands. Or – at a slightly less profound level – remember the excitement and pleasure you've felt when you've acquired (or been given) something you've really wanted like a new car or dress or your first home. There is a thrill associate with 'the new' that can capture our imaginations.

I wonder how you feel about this New Year. It is, of course, a time for resolutions and diets and plans for abstinence after the excesses of Christmas. Many people look back and consider what they've done in the previous twelve months. Equally, however, it can be a time of excitement and looking forward to the new possibilities the year may hold. Are you excited and looking forward?

Perhaps it is a struggle for many of us to feel appropriately excited about what this New Year may bring. I know many of us are struggling with chronic illness, depression, loss of loved ones and a real fear about our friends' and family's prospects. Economically the world is in a rough place and fears for jobs and security are currently very real. And yet, as Christians, we are called to be people of hope and expectation, receiving the Good News of the Kingdom in our hearts and lives.

It is worth remembering that the very word 'News' has the implication of

newness, of freshness and of excitement. When we turn on the telly to watch the news, we do so hoping for new information. Thus, when we talk of the Good News of Jesus we are speaking of something exciting, fresh and invigorating. Yet, in our world of struggle and strife, it is so very difficult to keep ourselves open to that possibility. We can either reach a point where the Good News is either so mundane that we fail to appreciate it or we are so

over-excited about it that we come across as disconnected from reality.

We are called to live the Good News and, thus, make the hope found in Jesus the shape of our lives. And we do this by placing Christ at

the centre. The Good News is that God comes to dwell with us – as one of us – in the midst of a very difficult world. Jesus' world was no less harsh and compromised than our own, but God did not turn away from it. In Christ he proclaims that, though it sometimes appears to the contrary, the world is worth all the love in the universe. The endlessly tricky thing for us, of course, is figuring out how to give our love.

Our calling, then, this New Year (as with every other) is to pray that God will help us be Good News for the world. It is our greatest challenge and our great vocation. However, God provides the gift of the Spirit to

We are called to live the Good News and, thus, make the hope found in Jesus the shape of our lives.

Rachel
x

Mary and Joseph



And they are coming
not footsore, cursing a lazy donkey
but hidden, stifled and breathless
in the jack-hammer hold of a container truck.

And their memories writhing
the memories of fists and shouting and running
and the eyes of soldiers the veins of their eyes
the crack of rifle butt on bone and the screaming
memories writhing like eels in a bucket.

And they are coming
clasping each other, soothing and rocking
and chattering prayers
hot as fingers forced into a fire.

And the child within kicking and bloating
scratching her insides and wanting out
and her wanting it out and wanting out
of the pitch and roll of the steel belly
her soft insides aching for the promised land to come.

Rachel Mann

Do you enjoy singing ?? Fancy joining a
choir ?? Well we have an answer



Burnage Community Choir

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

No auditions, everyone welcome

Coffee Morning



Box Opening and



Bring and Buy Sale

Saturday 14th January

10.30am to 12 noon

*In aid of the Church of England Children's
Society*

Boxholders please bring your boxes to the coffee morning

Coffee and biscuits £1. All Welcome

Children's Society News



Our thanks go to Rachel and Helen for the lovely Christingle Service held on Sunday 11th December. Thank you to Jill, Alison and Julie for making the 'Christingle' cakes for the service.

Thank you also to the Brigade for helping to decorate the cakes for the service.

I am pleased to report that I was able to send a total of £209.60 to the Children's Society. Thank you to everyone who 'Gift Aided' their donations. This is a very easy way if you are a taxpayer of enabling the society to claim tax back from the government at no cost to the person donating or the society.

When I have a letter from the Society, acknowledging our donation, I will display it on the church hall noticeboard.

Thank you for your continued support.

Brenda Maclese 2012

St Nicholas Church Lads and Church Girls Brigade Relaunch September 2011

Sharon Bartlett and I have been running the St Nicholas Company for more years than we would care to mention. During this time we have seen the numbers of members increase and decline many times. We were really happy that some of our Senior section had agreed to become leaders, namely Jenna Bartlett, Keeley Bartlett and Jenny Cullen and they were keen to start the training. We felt that we had begun to build a structure of Leaders which we had never had before. However by July 2011 besides the Leaders we had only one Brigade member. We realised that drastic action had to be taken for our survival.



This is where the team work began, commencing with a Working Party Meeting made up of our Rector Rachel Mann, members of the PCC, Audrey Simm Brigade Training Officer and ourselves. We agreed an Action Plan which involved raising our profile in the community by developing our own Facebook page, Website and having a continuous message on 'Didsbury Fetch' all masterminded by Jenna Bartlett. All combined with a leaflet drop. We appreciated the fact that the greed to pay for the design and printing of the leaflets and our thanks to Alison Mills for setting it all up. The delivering of most of the 5,000 leaflets fell to all members of the Working Party and members of our congregation. Rachel interviewed our young leaders for the South Manchester Reporter in an effort to keep up the publicity momentum. The date was set for the 16th September 2011 at 6-30pm.

The format for the evening was to give a taster of a typical Brigade night, involving our usual equipment, games and for added fun a Badgemaker machine and a Bouncy Castle. We borrowed Display boards from Tracey Smith-Lowe to put up photographs of outings, parties and weekends away to give an illustration that Brigade activities extend beyond a Friday night.

At 6.15pm on the 16th September with everything in place, we waited with some trepidation as to whether our publicity had worked. Would anyone turn up? At which point five excited children burst into the hall with their parents.. They were eager to test out all that had been promised in the leaflet. These were followed by more children and parents bringing the total of new children to fourteen with three of our previous members returning. It was hectic, but an evening which was enjoyed by all.



Currently the number of our members stands at sixteen as not everyone, who attended the Relaunch night returned the following week. However, the new members are bringing friends so that feels encouraging as obviously they are enjoying it and passing that message on. Ultimately Rachel is going to approach some local schools to publicise Brigade, taking our young leaders to talk about their experiences of actually being Brigade members.



This would not have been possible without the support and assistance of so many people, to whom we owe a great debt of gratitude. Visit the CLCGB website <http://www.clcgb.org.uk/> to find out more about the organisation.

Margaret Witty





Christians Together in Burnage

As members of the CTiB Executive Committee, Rachel and I meet with representatives from Christ Church Parrswood and Burnage Lane, St. Margaret's, South Manchester Family Church (Kingsburn Hall) and St. Bernard's RC to plan joint events for the year.

In December representatives from the churches sang carols at Tesco, Burnage on Saturday 12th December from 12.00 to 2.00, Jane, Helen, Caroline and Jill joined Rachel and I. Then on Wednesday 14th December Rachel, Jane, Helen and I walked around Burnage Garden village carol singing from 7.30 until 9.00 handing out Christmas cards and mince pies to the community. We all returned to Christ Church for delicious soup (parsnip and apple), bread, a cup of tea and a chat!

In January we will be participating in the Week for Christian Unity with services held each day as follows.:

Monday 16th January St Nicholas, 7.30pm

Tuesday 17th January SMFC at 7.00am

Wednesday 18th January St. Bernard's 2.00pm

Thursday 19th January Christ Church Parrswood

Friday 20th January St. Margaret's 12noon.

Sunday 22nd January St. Nicholas 4.00pm Joint CTiB service to celebrate Christian Unity week.

We hope you will try to attend services here or at other CTiB churches during the week,.

Thank you, Alison, Jill and Rachel

Juggling technology

A quarter of us check our mobile phones within three minutes of waking up. 69 per cent of us work on our laptops while talking on the phone... and watching TV – all at the same time.

In fact, the average person spends an average of three hours a day watching TV, five hours on computers, and about an hour on the phone. The research was for Esure insurance.

Journeying Through Advent to Epiphany Part 9

This latest part of my training in order to become a Reader in the diocese has brought me to St Nicholas for 10 weeks and has had to include a major festival, which is Christmas. I have been warmly welcomed and encouraged by the response of Rachel, the church wardens and the congregation here to what I have been doing in the Sunday and Midweek services. As well as in the evening sessions that I have attended and I have enjoyed the Taize services for the tranquillity that they afford for silence and reflection.

It has certainly been a change of scene for me, after a long sojourn at St Chad's, and thankfully nothing too drastic has happened, even after leading the Christingle service last month. I am also grateful that there were no accidents with the lit candles of the "oranges" given out during that service. Perhaps if you are reading this at home and did not attend the Christingle service you should ask what the "oranges" were, or look elsewhere in this magazine. Apart from the candles the "oranges" were all eaten up and no peel was left in the coffee area afterwards.

I am nearly half way through my training and if all goes well I will be licensed as a Reader in summer 2013. So what have I learnt since I have been here? One thing in particular is that having the hymns being projected onto a screen enables everyone to sing up, particularly if the congregation knows the words and the hymn tunes. It is easier to sing out in this way, rather than burying your head in a hymn book. It is also much easier to relate to the congregation when you are closer to them, as at St Chad's there is quite a gap from the Chancel to the congregation and like a lot of Church of England congregation's they tend to sit at the back; the front rows being sparsely populated. Another good thing about you all is the comments I have had from people have been positive ones, which is very welcoming – thank you.

Once again, thank you for your warm welcome and best wishes.

*Helen Reid
(Trainee Lay Reader)*

Church Duty Rota (December 2011)

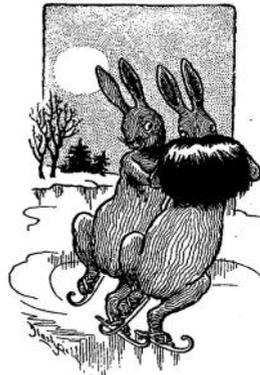
Date	Warden 8.30 a.m.	Warden 10.30 a.m.	Altar Duty	Lay Assistants	SidesPeople
1st	Fred Murphy	Alison Mills	Jenny Cullen	Louise Hollingsworth Jill Lomas	Anne Tudor Anne Holmes
8th	Fred Murphy	Jill Lomas	Lucy Crossley	Anne Holmes Anne Tudor	Brenda Macleese Grace Manley
15th	Fred Murphy	Jane Cawley	Claire Lancaster	Grace Manley Margaret Vessey	Muriel Nicol Amy Haygarth
22nd	Fred Murphy	Alison Mills	Emily Crossley	Brenda Macleese Cliff Stockton	Sybil Gawkrödger Caroline Abiodon
29th	Fred Murphy	Jill Lomas	tbc	Jane Cawley Grace Manley	Margaret Vessey Michael Vessey Muriel Clark

Parish Registers—(November 2011)

Week Ending	Communicants	Cash	Envelopes	Total
6th	66	20.00	340.00	360.00
13th	51	14.00	323.00	337.00
20th	46	21.65	314.50	336.15
27th	42	23.00	254.00	277.00
			Total for month	1310.15



"You'll be in deep trouble if the vicar finds out you're not deeply meditating, just playing with your new iPad!"



Flopsy and Mopsy had practiced hard but missed out by a whisker on a place in the British team for the Winter Olympics.

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 November

Mrs Schofield, 9 Norwood Av.
Raised £53.50 for Church Funds

St Nicholas Club Draw

Drawn Sunday 6th Nov
1st Prize : 56 Cliff Stockton
2nd Prize : 23 Colin Maclese

Help with St. Nicholas Church fundraising

If you buy goods on-line through Argos, Amazon, John Lewis and many other retailers you can earn money for our church funds by simply registering your email account on a website called www.easyfundraising.org.uk.

I have already set up **St.Nicholas Church, Burnage, Manchester** as a 'good cause' on the easyfundraising website.

Please visit this website and register your email address for St.Nicholas Church, Burnage, Manchester. Every time you buy something St.Nick's receives a 5% cashback. Our Treasurer has approved this website.

Please visit this website, register your email address and that's it the job is done, St.Nick's benefits every time you shop on line !!

Thank you, Alison

Raise money for your charity, school, sports club and more...

Register now

easyfundraising
.org.uk

Search for any retailer...

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.

Minister	Rev'd Rachel Mann 0161 432 7009
Organist	Mr Oliver Mills (07786 337087)
Churchwardens	Mrs. Jill Lomas (0161 432 5426) Mrs. Alison Mills (01625 540376)
Assistant Wardens	Mr. Fred Murphy Ms Jane Cawley
Hon. Treasurer.	Ms. Elaine Jess
Minutes Secretary	Mrs. Ann Ackerman
Deanery Synod	Mrs. Grace Manley Ms. Jane Cawley
Elected on PCC	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)
Magazine Distribution	Mrs. Brenda Maclese
Missionary Secretary	Mrs. Christine Taylor
St. Nicholas Church Website	www.st-nicholas-church.org.uk