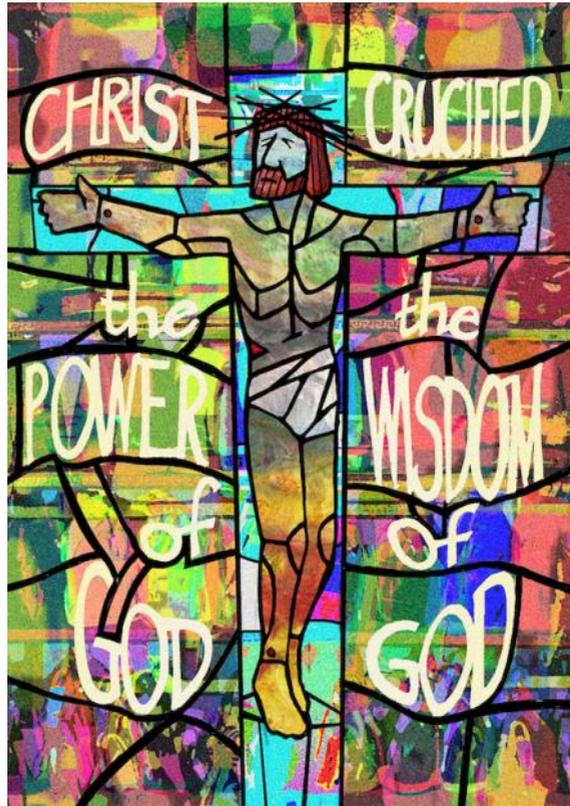




# *St. Nicholas News*



Price 50p

April 2012

## *Church Diary April 2012*

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Event</b>
Sunday 1st	8.30 a.m. 10.30am 12noon	<b>Palm Sunday</b> Holy Communion (BCP) Parish Communion <b>CHURCH AGM</b>
Monday 2nd	7.30pm	<b>STATIONS OF THE CROSS</b>
Tuesday 3rd	7.30pm	<b>Taize Evening Prayer</b>
Wednesday 4th	7.00 to 9.00pm	EASTER PRAYER LABYRINTH
Thursday 5th	6.00 –7.00  <b>7.30pm</b>	Community Choir Rehearsal  <b>Waiting with Christ: a service of Eucharist and Vigil</b>
Friday 6th	<b>10.30 to 12noon  2.00</b>	<b>Good Friday</b> <b>Young People's Church and Activity Morning</b>  <b>At the foot of the cross</b>
Sunday 8th	8.30 a.m. 10.30am	<b>EASTER DAY</b> Holy Communion (BCP) All age worship
Wednesday 11th	10.00am 2.30pm	Eucharist Women's Fellowship— Old Food & Drink Mr.Kevin Dromfield
Thursday 12th	7.30pm	Community choir in church
Sunday 15th	8.30 a.m. 10.30am	<b>EASTER 2</b> Holy Communion (BCP) Parish Communion
Wednesday 18th	10.00am	Eucharist
Thursday 19th	7.30pm	Community choir in church
Sunday 22nd	8.30am 10.30am	<b>EASTER 3</b> Holy Communion BCP Parish Communion
Wednesday 25th	10.00am <b>2.30pm</b>	Eucharist Women's Fellowship : The Children's Society Miss Dawn Fidler.
Thursday 26th		Community choir
Saturday 28th	7.30pm	Fund raising event (details to follow)
Sunday 29th	8.30am 10.30am	<b>EASTER 4</b> Holy Communion BCP Parish Communion

Please hand in articles for May magazine by Sunday 8th April. Thank you.

## *Rachel writes...*

What would you want to do if someone hurt – really hurt and damaged – someone you loved? Perhaps some of you have had to deal with this question in your life and I guess we've all had to deal with our loved ones getting hurt in some degree or other. Even if our own experience of such pain is limited we can all adduce many examples of situations where the innocent or the weak have been preyed upon by the vile and the monstrous. Some find it easier to turn their faces away from the horror of rape, murder, abuse and other beastly actions. Others insulate themselves from the harsh reality of human cruelty by not focussing on the real human cost. But what if it were one of your loved ones who was a victim?

I may be a vicar, but I'm pretty sure what my first reaction would be: I would want revenge. I would want what our American cousins call 'payback'. I am not proud of that reaction, but I know myself well enough to know that, at a human level, it's what I would want. I

think I would dress my desire up with words like 'justice', but I think that a big part of me would just want to get back at the perpetrator of the original crime. I hope my reaction doesn't shock you. I trust that – if you are honest with yourself – you might feel the same way. For, on the evidence of human experience over many millen-

*Follow me and  
live without  
revenge; live in  
peace'.*

nia, I sense it is an instinctive human reaction. It is understandable, but it does not represent the very best of our selves.

The story of Easter invites us to shift our whole world on its central axis. It invites us to move from our human perspective. We are asked to move not only to a divine perspective, but to a new way of life. What do I mean? Well, consider Jesus. Jesus is put on trial, tortured and ultimately put to death for no crime. Even that well-known hard man and representative of Roman Power, Pontius Pilate, washes his hands of the 'crime' of killing Jesus. Why? Because he can see no wrong in the man. An innocent man is tortured and killed in the most horrible manner. He is the vic-

tim of a monstrous crime and he pays a terrible price.

However, as we know, that is not the end of the story. On Easter Day, Jesus is raised from the dead. It is at this point that the story bites into our human desires for revenge. How does Jesus, the crucified innocent, respond to being raised from the dead? Does he return, like an avenging angel, searching for his tormentors and determined to destroy? No, he walks out of the tomb offering words of peace and hope. He returns to us offering a new way of living. He says to each and every one of us – even the ones who are directly responsible for his death – ‘Follow me and live without revenge; live in peace’.

God the Father – who has lost his only son in a brutal, unjustified killing – might be expected, like a human parent, to be full of anger at what was done. Instead, he raises his son to new life. In doing so, he offers us a new life no longer based on hatred and revenge. We might reasonably respond that we are merely human and lack the resources to live this new life. And true, we are constantly tested. But Jesus is no angel. He is one of us as well as being God’s son. If we, through the Holy Spirit, can embrace Jesus in our lives we too have the hope of living the life we are called to. And in a world so caught up in cycles of violence and revenge, that life is the very hope of the world.

May you have a peaceful and hopeful Easter!

Rachel  
x

*Flower league Coffee Morning  
held on 11th February*

I would like to say a big ‘Thank You to all those who attended our recent coffee morning. We depend on your support to enable us to have flowers in church throughout the year. As always it was a happy social occasion and raised the grand sum of £226.90.

Thank you also to those who could not attend but gave a donation.

*Norma Cookson*

# April 2012 Wordsearch

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Easter is the most joyful day of the year for Christians. We remember that Jesus gave his body and his blood on the Cross, to redeem us from our sins. We can pray 'Abba, Father,' because Jesus' death means we can now be accepted by God. Jesus 'bought' us with his blood – we are redeemed! We are the Easter people.

Triumphant

Crowds

Messiah

Praise

donkey

tomb

risen

Room

Passover

Bread

Wine

Body

Blood

Betrayal

False

Witnesses

cross

nails

Jerusalem

Pilate

Judas

Gethsemane

Trial

Crucifixion



## *"The Day I met the Queen"*



On Friday 23rd March, Her Majesty The Queen came with The Duke of Edinburgh to formally open the new Manchester University Hospitals. These comprise of Manchester Royal Infirmary, The Royal Eye Hospital, St. Mary's Hospital and the Manchester Royal Children's Hospital, now all on one huge site. All invited people started to gather from 09.30 into designated areas after passing through very strict security checkpoints. The Royal car arrived promptly at 10.45, carrying the Queen and Prince Philip. The Queen looked

lovely wearing a beautiful powder pink outfit - you may have seen her on TV news that night. They entered the site through St. Mary's where they stopped to speak to a few specially chosen people including doctors, nurses and managers. Their route took them round the corner and out through the Eye Hospital doors, where they were greeted by a small group of musicians who played a specially commissioned piece of music, composed for the Queen on this special occasion as part of her Diamond Jubilee celebrations.

Peter Mount, the Chairman of the Central Manchester Foundation NHS Trust gave an interesting speech introducing and welcoming Her Majesty, telling us a little of the history of Manchester Royal Infirmary, which started life on the same site in the 16th century as



# *EASTER – the most joyful day of the year*

Easter is the most joyful day of the year for Christians. Christ has died for our sins. We are forgiven. Christ has risen! We are redeemed! We can look forward to an eternity in his joy! Hallelujah!

The Good News of Jesus Christ is a message is so simple that you can explain it to someone in a few minutes. It is so profound that for the rest of their lives they will be still be ‘growing’ in their Christian walk with God.

Why does the date more around so much? Because the date of Passover moves around, and according to the biblical account, Easter is tied to the Passover. Passover celebrates the Israelites’ exodus from Egypt and it lasts for seven days, from the middle of the Hebrew month of Nisan, which equates to late March or early April.

Sir Isaac Newton was one of the first to use the Hebrew lunar calendar to come up with firm dates for Good Friday: Friday 7 April 30 AD or Friday 3 April, 33 AD, with Easter Day falling two days later. Modern scholars continue to think these the most likely.

Most people will tell you that Easter falls on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the Spring Equinox, which is broadly true. But the precise calculations are complicated and involve something called an ‘ecclesiastical full moon’, which is not the same as the moon in the sky. The earliest possible date for Easter in the West is 22 March, which last fell in 1818 and won’t fall again until 2285. The latest is 25 April, which last happened in 1943 and is next due in 2038.

Why the name, ‘Easter’? In almost every European language, the festival’s name comes from ‘Pesach’, the Hebrew word for Passover. The Germanic word ‘Easter’, however, seems to come from Eostre, a Saxon fertility goddess mentioned by the Venerable Bede. He thought that the Saxons worshipped her in ‘Eostur month’, but may have confused her with the classical dawn goddesses like Eos and Aurora, whose names mean ‘shining in the east’. So Easter might have meant simply ‘beginning month’ – a good time for starting up again after a long winter.

Finally, why Easter eggs? On one hand, they are an ancient symbol of birth in most European cultures. On the other hand, hens start laying regularly again each Spring. Since eggs were forbidden during Lent, it’s easy to see how decorating and eating them became a practical way to celebrate Easter.

## BBC announces centre-piece of its Easter output

BBC1 is to broadcast a live modern adaptation of the Passion story following a string of hit live events on BBC3. The 1 x 60-minute programme due to be broadcast on Good Friday, follows live event performances including *Frankenstein's Wedding* in Leeds, *the Passion* in Manchester and the nativity story from Liverpool, which have all been aired on BBC3.

The Preston Guild is working with the BBC to give a real sense of the City. Over 1,000 local people are expected to take part in a contemporary performance which will draw on the themes from the passion story.

Three pre-recorded dramas using themes from the passion story and based on Preston's culture and history will also feature in the programme. The stories will follow a mill owner who has to make a decision that affects the lives of his workers, a woman who looked after some of the 3.5m soldiers who passed through Preston train station in WW1, and a modern story about a careworker.

BBC head of religion and ethics, and executive producer, Aaqil Ahmed said the programme will "form the centre piece of the BBC's religious programming for 2012".



Although it was a memorable service, the new showbiz couple in the parish hadn't quite got the idea of a donkey for Palm Sunday.



"I agree, Vicar, the church's bats problem is getting worse – all that high-frequency squeaking is interfering with my iPod."

## *Church Duty Rota (April 2012)*

Date	Warden 8.30 a.m.	Warden 10.30	Altar Duty	Lay Assistants	SidesPeople
1st	Fred Murphy	Jill Lomas	Jane Cawley	Brenda Maclese Cliff Stockton	Julie Crossley Cass Williamson Sue Morris
8th Easter Sunday	Fred Murphy	Jane Cawley	Emily Crossley	Louise Hollingsworth Jill Lomas	Anne Tudor Anne Holmes
15th	Fred Murphy	Alison Mills	Jenny Cullen	Grace Manley Margaret Vessey	Sybil Gawkrödger Caroline Abiodon
22nd	Fred Murphy	Jill Lomas	Lucy Crossley	Anne Holmes Anne Tudor	Margaret Vessey Michael Vessey Muriel Clark

## *Parish Registers—(February 2012)*

Week Ending	Communi- cants	Cash	Envelopes	Total
5th	41	22.00	265.00	287.00
12th	48	14.40	300.00	314.40
19th	34	9.65	296.50	306.15
26th	51	10.00	293.60	303.60
			Total for month	£1,211.15

### P.C.C. Raffle February

Winner : Alison Mills

Raised £20.00 for Church Funds

### St Nicholas Club Draw Drawn Sunday 4th March

1st Prize : 14 Muriel Clark

2nd Prize : 62 Joan Shepherd

# 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.

## EASTER SERVICES

### **HOLY WEEK :**

7.30pm Monday 2nd April  
'Stations of the Cross'

7.30pm Tuesday 3rd April  
Taize Evening Prayer

7.00 to 9.00pm Wednesday 4th April  
'Easter Prayer Labyrinth'

### **Maundy Thursday 5th April**

7.30pm Waiting with Christ:  
'a service of Eucharist & Vigil'

### **GOOD FRIDAY 6th April**

10.30 to 12noon (in the hall)  
Young People's Church Activity morning  
2.00 to 3.00pm  
'At the foot of the cross'

### **EASTER SUNDAY**

8.30am Holy Communion BCP  
10.30am All age worship

**Please join us.....**

# 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>