



St. Nicholas News



Price 50p

March 2013

Church Diary March 2013

Date	Time	Event
Sunday 3rd	8.30 a.m. 10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion (BCP) Parish Communion & Young People's Church
Tuesday 5th	7.30 p.m.	Taize Evening Prayer
Wednesday 7th	10.00am. 2.00 to 6.00 7.30pm	Eucharist Art Exhibition in Church Lent group
Thursday 7th	2.00 to 6.00 2.00pm	Art Exhibition Lent group
Friday 8th	2.00 to 6.00	Art Exhibition
Sunday 10th	8.30 a.m. 10.30 a.m.	Mother's Day—All AGE WORSHIP Holy Communion (BCP) Parish Communion & Young People's Church
Wednesday 13th	10.00am 2.30pm 7.30 p.m.	Eucharist Women's Fellowship 'A Mother's War' Mrs L. Monro Lent group
Thursday 14th	2.00pm	Lent group
Saturday 16th	10.30 2.00pm	Women's Fellowship COFFEE MORNING. Art Exhibition weekend.
Sunday 17th	8.30 a.m. 10.30 a.m. 2.00pm	Holy Communion (BCP) Parish Communion & Young People's Church Art Exhibition weekend
Tuesday 19th	7.30pm	Lent group
Wednesday 20th	10.00	Eucharist
Thursday 20th	2.00pm	Lent group
Sunday 24th	8.30 a.m. 10.30 a.m. 12 noon	PALM SUNDAY Holy Communion (BCP) Parish Communion & Young People's Church CHURCH AGM
Wednesday 27th	2.30pm	Women's Fellowship 'Holy Week Bible Bring and Buy Sale'
Friday 29th	2.00pm	At the foot of the cross
Saturday 30th	6.00pm	EASTER VIGIL and Barbeque.
Sunday 31st	8.30 & 10,30	Easter Sunday Services., all age worship at 10.30am

Rachel Writes...

‘Don’t you think you should be cutting down?’

As I write this letter I am trying to seriously ponder this question. It was posed to me after a service one morning by a member of our congregation. She’d spotted that I was clearly exhausted after a bruising week and asked the question with real love and concern. My response, I’m afraid to say, was a little flippant, aimed at making a joke. ‘Asking me that,’ I replied, ‘is like asking a smoker to cut down. It might work for a bit, but an addict is an addict.’ The offhand remark conceals, of course, a real issue: that I might be addicted to work.

We have a real and very serious epidemic in our culture. Our society’s growing issue with obesity, unhappiness and tiredness isn’t just to do with living in a consumer context where everyone has too much cheap food and goods at their fingertips. Our society is addicted to work and I, like so many

people, am complicit in it. I read recently that one of the reasons many are piling on the pounds is to do with something called ‘mindless eating’. This is the phenomenon where working people sit at their desks and computers and eat their lunch while they eat, thus enabling them to carry on working through breaks. Instead of going out and switching off from work, people are concentrating on tasks and thoughtlessly filling their faces with food. Like ‘food zombies’, people graze without

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considering what they are doing. At the same time, many turn to food or buying stuff as a way of dealing with stress. Comforting ourselves with ‘stuff’ –

whether it is food, drink or possessions – has become a way of life.

This picture of addiction and excess is not very appealing during Lent, that time of reflection and self-examination. It is perhaps unsurprising that Jesus does not focus on things like over-eating or addiction in his teachings. He lived in a very different social context to ours.

Indeed, in contrast to John The Baptist, Jesus was accused of being a glutton and a party-lover. However, Jesus is absolutely clear about where our true attachments and focus should lie. He retreats again and again into the lonely places in order to reconnect with God the Father. His forty days in the wilderness brought him face to face with the kind of temptations that any of us can become addicted to – power, self-importance and making of ourselves a mini-god. At the heart of what Jesus shows us is that our true path involves following God’s call and making a response in trust and hope. This call may lead us away from our comfort ones, but God will provide.

What, then, is the food that truly nourishes us? Jesus tells us that he will provide the Bread of Life & Living Water. That is, in him lies the food which brings us to eternal life. In our food-rich, food-obsessed culture it can be very easy to forget that at the very heart of existence is The One who offers us true food – food that lasts. At the centre of our worship is the Eucharist – the thanksgiving service in which we share bread & wine. The full

meaning of this ‘meal’ escapes even the profoundest of theologians, but even the simplest of us can feel its significance: to feed us and to send us out refreshed and renewed for service. This Lent let us open ourselves to receive Christ again in bread and wine. Let us be made ready for our service in the world.

Rachel x

A.P.C.M

St.Nicholas Church Annual
Parochial Church Meeting
will take place on Palm
Sunday

24th March at 12noon.

Booklets will be distributed
to members of the Electoral
Roll one week before the
meeting.

Everyone is most welcome
to attend.

Fair Trade Tea and Taize

Sunday 3rd March at St.Chad's

Tea/coffee, cake and scones available from 5pm in St.Chad's Community Hall. Jill will be running her Fair Trade Stall, To be followed by a Taize service from 6.30pm, organised by Grace with Eunice as Cantor. Please take along cakes and scones made using Fair Trade Goods. Please try to attend this joint event in aid of Fair Trade. Everyone welcome !

Women's Fellowship Coffee Morning

Saturday 16th March
10.30 to
12noon



Gifts, cakes,
refreshments

EASTER 2013

Holy Week Services

Monday 25th March at 7.30pm

'Stations of the Cross'

Tuesday 26th and Wednesday 27th
March 7.30pm Evening Prayer

(30 minute services)

Maundy Thursday 28th March

Eucharist and short vigil from 7.30pm

Good Friday

At the Foot of The Cross 2.00pm

Saturday 30th March

6.00pm Easter Vigil and BBQ Party

(at the rectory)

EASTER SUNDAY

8.30am Holy Communion BCP

10.30 am All Age Communion



ST NICHOLAS CHURCH PRESENTS AN AMATEUR PRODUCTION
BY ARRANGEMENT WITH THE REALLY USEFUL GROUP LTD.

JESUS CHRIST SUPER STAR

Lyrics By
TIM RICE

Music By
ANDREW LLOYD-WEBBER

THURSDAY 11th AND FRIDAY 12th
APRIL 2013, 7.30pm

TICKETS £9 (Under 12s £5)
St. Nicholas Church, Kingsway, Burnage, M19 1PL
Doors Open 7.00pm

Tickets can be purchased from Alison Mills at church, by
calling 07932071977 or via email jcs@st-nicholas-church.org.uk.

Report on Parochial Church Council Meeting

The P.C.C. met on Monday 14th January 2013 at 7.30pm. There were fourteen people in attendance with two apologies. Rachel chaired the meeting. A brief report of what took place is given below.

St. Nicholas 80th birthday celebrations were a great success and well attended. Thanks were expressed to everyone who came along and helped to make this occasion such a success. Plans are in progress for a production of the musical Jesus Christ Superstar to be held in Church and there is much excitement about this event.

Discussion took place with regard to the financial situation of the Church, which is in a very poor state at the present time. Ways to try to raise extra funds were talked about and it was agreed that a letter be sent out to all people on the Electoral Roll, which would clearly explain the state of the Church's finances. This would also show the incomings and outgoings of the Church. We all have to pull together to get through this difficult and worrying period.

Whilst bookings for the hall appear to be going well, we are experiencing loss of members for the Brigade and Makers Club. Ways are being looked at to improve this situation.

Birthday cards are to be sent out to all children baptised at St. Nicholas, until they reach the age of five. At present we have ten children on the list and the card will contain leaflet giving information of Church activities etc. We hope this may bring more children along to the Church family.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.

Ann Ackerman

My Rwanda trip.....



I thought it was time to update everybody on my progress and preparation for my trip in June. I have now got my final dates and set off for Rwanda on 23rd June, returning on the 17th July.

My preparation.. is made up of continuous fundraising, immunisation program and purchasing all my equipment. It is surprising what I have to take and what I can't take!

During the time that I am there will have no use of a mobile phone, no internet and no television, so this will certainly be a change but worthwhile. As part of our preparation I am finding more out about the places that we are visiting, which will include 8 days in the Orphanage working with their staff and the local children.

My fundraising... has been varied and has included raising money myself, working with fellow group members and as a whole project. For our final push our plans include organising a school disco, cycling to Rwanda in Sainsbury Cheadle Hulme and fundraising in the junior school at Stockport Grammar. This has been a great learning exercise for me which I am sure will help with my fundraising here at church.

My Immunisation programme is almost complete and I have had a number of injections which include; yellow fever, cholera, typhoid, hepatitis B & C and rabies. The good news is that the majority of these injections last for 10 years so they would cover me if I ever wanted to return to Rwanda.

My equipment... is all purchased and ready for the trip. As I am in Rwanda for 21 days there will be a lot to carry but what I can take is varied and limited. Whilst in Rwanda all the gear will be carried in a 70 litre rucksack, within the rucksack will be a tent, sleeping mat, sleeping bag

Emily Crossley

LAUGHTER

We have all heard the saying: "laughter is as good as a tonic."

But some people are still reserved about laughing in God's house, where we worship. But God likes us to laugh and smile at our "holy laughter." I found this small poem by Revd. Joy Jeffers:

THANK GOD FOR LAUGHTER

Thank God for laughter, and thank God for mirth

He didn't forget them when he made the earth.

Look at creation; God's nature can joke;

See a goose waddling, or hear a frog croak.

Thank God for laughter, and thank God for wit;

Pure, clean and simple, it's always a hit.

Just see the bright side, and laugh off the drear,

For laughter is holy; and God likes to hear.

Thank God for laughter, and thank God for fun;

Thanks God for talent in making a pun;

God wants us happy, not deep in the blues;

So he gave us laughter and things to amuse.

This little poem may not be in the most modern of writing styles, but it iterates the phrase "laughter is still the best medicine."



A piece of information: we don't always feel like laughing;



but with God's help we can usually manage a smile. Did you know a smile costs nothing? But it takes 28 muscles to smile, and 42 muscles to produce a frown.

Irene Smith

Church Duty Rota (March 2013)

Date	Warden 8.30 a.m.	Warden 10.30 a.m.	Alter Server	Lay Assistants	SidesPeople
3rd	Fred Murphy	Jane Cawley	Emily Crossley	Grace Manley Margaret Vessey	Muriel Nicol Amy Haygarth
10th	Fred Murphy	Alison Mills	Jane Cawley	Jane Cawley Alison Mills	Brenda Maclese Grace Manley
17th	Fred Murphy	Jill Lomas	Claire Lancaster	Anne Holmes Anne Tudor	Julie Crossley Cass Williamson Sue Morris
24th	Fred Murphy	Jane Cawley	Brenda Maclese	Brenda Maclese Cliff Stockton	Anne Tudor Anne Holmes Elaine Johnson
31st	Fred Murphy	Alison Mills	Louise Hollingsworth	Louise Hollingsworth Jill Lomas	Sybil Gawkrödger Caroline Abiodon

Parish Registers—(January 2013)

Week Ending	Communicants	Cash	Envelopes
6th	40	16.00	399.00
13th	44	10.20	388.80
20th	40	30.00	294.20
27th	39	18.00	229.50
		Total	1311.50

Church Prize Draws

St Nicholas Club Draw

Drawn Sunday 6th Jan 2013

1st Prize No: 24 Elsie Jubb

2nd Prize No:38 Colin
Maclese

PCC Monthly Raffle for
Church Funds

January 2013

Won by Muriel Wheatley

£20 raised for Church Funds

Charity Collection.

Sept to December For Air Ambulance Service,

Raised £42.50

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.

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.

Prayer for families on Mothering Sunday

Father,

You are love. If we had to draw you, we might draw one big heart overflowing with love in every direction. And Lord, as your much-loved children we want to reflect your characteristics. Thank you for those who do. Thank you especially at this time for mothers – and others who love and teach how to love. Thank you for the special relationships of love you make possible within families. And when those relationships go wrong, help us to reach out with a forgiveness that comes from knowing we are forgiven; with a love that comes from knowing we are loved. And how much you do love us! So much that you gave us Jesus, your only Son, so that by trusting in him, we could be in a right relationship with you. What a parent! What a family we belong to! Thank you,

In Jesus name,

Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

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 take to the housebound by arrangement with the Minister.

Minister

Rev'd Rachel Mann

0161 432 7009

Organist

Vacancy

Churchwardens

Mrs. Jill Lomas (0161 432 5425)

Mrs. Alison Mills 01625 540376

Mobile : 07932 071977

Assistant Wardens

Mr. Fred Murphy

Ms Jane Cawley

Hon. Treasurer.

Mrs. Elaine Jess

Minutes Secretary

Mrs. Anne Ackerman

Deanery Synod

Mrs. Grace Manley

Ms. Jane Cawley

Elected on PC

Mr. Fred Murphy,

Ms. Jane Cawley,

Mrs. Anne Ackerman,

Mrs. Ealine Jess,

Mrs. Julie Crossley,

Mrs. Alison Cullen,

Mrs. Sue Morris,

Mrs. Christine Price,

Mrs. Lyn Rimmer,

Mrs. Margaret Vessey,

Mr. Michael Vessey,

Mrs. Margaret Witty,

Mr. Tony Witty.

Magazine Distribution

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St. Nicholas Church Website

www.st-nicholas-church.org.uk