



St. Nicholas News



Price 50p

April 2013

Church Diary April 2013

Date	Time	Event
Tuesday 2nd	7.30 p.m.	Taize Evening Prayer
Wednesday 3rd	10.00am.	Eucharist
Sunday 7th	8.30 a.m. 10.30 a.m.	2nd Sunday of Easter Holy Communion (BCP) Parish Communion & Young People's Church
Wednesday 10th	10.00am 2.30pm	Eucharist Women's Fellowship 'The Magic of Toys' Mr R. McGregor
Thursday 11th	7..30pm	Jesus Christ Superstar
Friday 12th	7.30pm	Jesus Christ Superstar
Sunday 14th	8.30 a.m. 10.30 a.m.	3rd Sunday of Easter Holy Communion (BCP) Parish Communion & Young People's Church
Wednesday 17th	10.00	No Eucharist service
Sunday 21st	8.30 a.m. 10.30 a.m.	4th Sunday of Easter Holy Communion (BCP) Parish Communion & Young People's Church
Wednesday 24th	10.00am 2.30pm	No Eucharist Service Women's Fellowship 'Air Ambulance Talk'
Sunday 28th	8.30 a.m. 10.30 a.m.	5th Sunday of Easter Holy Communion (BCP) Parish Communion & Young People's Church
Monday 29th	7.30pm	P.C.C. Meeting, glass room

Items for the Parish Magazine are most welcome
Please hand Items for the next issue to Rachel by Sunday 14th April

Rector's Annual Report

Tikkun olam...

It might strike you as odd to begin this report with a phrase many of you will never have come across before. But, as I trust you shall see, it is deeply appropriate to the work God is calling us to here at St Nick's. The phrase is a Jewish one, and it translates as the means by which we seek to repair what is broken in the world. The notion of *Tikkun* covers our commitment to making peace, building bridges and extending the way of love and reconciliation. It is, from a Jewish perspective, a way of expressing and extending God's love to all the world. As Christians, we centre this work of *Tikkun* in Christ's saving love and work, but it is always something we are called to commit ourselves as individuals and as a community to. We are all called to be people trying to repair and heal what seems broken and lost.

Clearly, we have huge challenges here at the present time. I have never been the kind of person who has over-identified church with the building, but only a fool would deny that our building is in need of some *Tikkun* or repair. We could sit here and argue all day about what the

causes are and, even if that makes us feel better, it achieves no real forward movement. We have reached a point where an attempt to access money from the Heritage Lottery Fund is the only realistic option. The architect Ian Lucas is currently developing a report and is confident that we shall be successful in drawing down a large tranche of cash. However, we shall also have to look at ways of raising money from other sources to partially match the HLF. This is a significant heritage site and the HLF will be keen to support it.

There are areas of real concern in the building but we shall address them.

Let us face the coming year in trust and hope

This, however, is a project that may take several years to deliver and cannot be left to the rector and church wardens alone. Indeed, the architect's advice to me is that, in due course, we seek to form a working party to take this project forward.

I am conscious that there is sometimes an anxiety at St Nick's about our sustainability as a worshipping community. I do understand this and am not complacent about how vulnerable our congregation is. Inevitably when one is part of an ageing church there are emerging pastoral concerns. Increasing numbers of

our congregation have found it difficult to come to church on a Sunday. I'm pleased to say that our Lay Assistants have been magnificent in offering time and energy to ensure that no one is left without God's holy feast. At the same time it is crucial that we do not forget our brothers and sisters just because they are out of sight. We are part of a great cloud of witnesses living and dead. I do want to see this church full of people on a Sunday, but our fellowship is not just about who we see then. Equally, being part of church is not just about feeling good or feeling safe. It can be easier to feel like we are part of something special when there are lots of bodies around but the challenge is to rejoice with God and see his glory even in times of stress. This is when we see what our faith is truly made of.

I have, however, continued to be thrilled by the growing confidence and commitment in our worshipping community. This has been signalled most especially by the willingness of individuals to step forward and participate in facilitating worship in new ways. I want to thank you all for your faith and commitment and encourage others to consider what God may be calling you towards. Under the guidance of Grace Manley, our Taize service continues to be a powerful witness to God's love and

hope. Other significant moments of prayer and worship have been the ever lively Christmas season and this year's Lent groups. It has also been a delight to have Peter Scott with us for a placement as part of his ordination training. As with Helen Reid last year, Peter has brought gusto and life to our company and has challenged us to think about how we can grow in ministry.

I am also pleased by emerging patterns of mission and service. As I write this we are preparing for a production of Jesus Christ Superstar, under the direction of Ollie Mills. I trust it shall be a great success. However, this isn't simply about putting on a wonderful show or raising lots of money, but involves bringing St Nick's into partnership with all sorts of unexpected people, organizations and may yet forge unexpected connections. If it is an act of *Tikkun* – and I think it is – it is part of St Nick's slow move to reengage with a wider world. Another aspect of this was the extraordinary night at the end of November when approx 300 people crammed into St Nick's for soup and songs after the Tree Lighting Event. This was a work of partnership, fun and real challenge. The Burnage Community Choir made real difference to that event

and continues to be an asset during this 80th anniversary year for the church. Our commitment to offering art exhibitions has provided new opportunities for people to come into our building and we look forward to being part of the Didsbury Heritage Trail for the first time this autumn. Equally our hall not only provides a much welcome income but is being used increasingly by the wider community. I thank Anne Holmes for her ongoing work as Hall Bookings Manager.

One further exciting dimension of our mission and service is our work with young people and children. I should like to thank Margaret Witty, Sharon Bartlett & our young leaders, Jenna, Jenny & Keeley for their commitment to Brigade. While it is the case that since many of our teenagers started regularly working on a Sunday, our Maker's Club has been struggling for numbers, we are planning a summer Holiday Club and I hope this will prove to be both fun and forge new links between the Church and wider community. I also congratulate the commitment of the likes of Emily, Peter, Sophie & Adam at a time when it is unfashionable for young people to come to church.

On a personal note I should like to acknowledge the fact that, due to

ongoing illness, I have been much less than I want to be as Rector. There is simply no doubt that God is telling me to do less and seek his guidance to discern how I use my limited personal resources. I'd like to thank you all for your ongoing support and patience. There is simply no doubt that without the key support of our church wardens, Jill and Alison, and our deputy wardens, Fred and Jane, that I would not have been able to carry on. I do not have the words to express my gratitude.

We have sadly lost a number of friends in this congregation this year, not least John Sankey, Graham Allan and Joyce Tomlinson. But not only will they always be with us in our hearts for as long as we remember them, but their examples of commitment and love will inspire us. Not just for the sake of St Nick's, but for the sake of bringing people in this parish to the love of God and of service to the Kingdom.

As we travel through our 80th anniversary year, I'd be lying to you if I didn't think we face massive challenges in our mission in this parish. We are blessed with a committed congregation and we have seen new faces. Most of us continue to hope for stronger relationships with the wider

community and for a hunger to be part of our congregation. By God's grace this will happen, but we all have a role to play in the future. We need to be confident in God and confident in our faith. We are part of God's hunger to bring about *Tikkun Olam*. Let's us dare to be confident enough to invite folk to come and join; let us demonstrate by the ways we live our lives the good news of Christ.

Let us face the coming year in trust and hope.

Rachel x



The Flower League Coffee Morning

On behalf of the Flower League I would like to say a big 'Thank You' to everyone who supported our recent coffee morning. The kitchen staff as always gave of their best, as did the waitresses and stallholders. Thanks also go to those who gave a donation or helped in any way. We raised the grand amount of £271.60. A big thank you must also go to all our customers who come along regularly to enjoy what is always a sociable occasion. Without your help and support our church would not be able to have flowers in church every week.

Norma Cookson

Tulip Flowers

T- Tell us how

U- United in Glory

L- Love and Wonder;

I - In colours divine,

P- Prayers they offer, to their Creator.

The tulip flowers gently, opening its petals and letting us see the beauty inside each flower. We see a strong radiance of colour or a steady glow of happy praise to offer to our Father. So cannot we open our hearts to Christ and ask Him to be with us always? As the tulip flowers in specialist conditions, or grows and flowers in nature's wild earth, may we grow and follow Christ thanking God for His gift of grace and love through His Son Jesus Christ – and the Holy Spirit.

We all tend to love flowers at Easter. How about a "Tulip Easter" this year.

If your tulips bend over, cut the stem shorter and put in a small and narrower vase. Or do you have any suggestions?

Irene Smith



St George - our patron saint who isn't English

by David Winter

It's perhaps typical of the English that they should have a patron saint who isn't English, about whom next to nothing is known for sure, and who may not have existed at all. That didn't stop him being patriotically invoked in many battles, notably at Agincourt and in the Crusades, and of course it is his cross that adorns the flags of English football fans to this day.

It's most likely that he was a soldier, a Christian who was martyred for his faith somewhere in Palestine, possibly at Lydda, in the early fourth century. At some point in the early centuries of the Church he became associated with wider military concerns, being regarded as the patron saint of the Byzantine armies. There is no doubt that he was held as an example of the 'godly soldier', one who served Christ as bravely and truly as he served his king and country.

The story of George and the dragon is of much later date and no one seems to know where it comes from. By the middle ages, when George was being honoured in stained glass, the dragon had become an invaluable and invariable visual element, so that for most people the two are inseparable. Pub signs have a lot to answer for here: 'The George and Dragon'.

However, it's probably more profitable to concentrate on his role as a man who witnessed to his faith in the difficult setting of military service, and in the end was martyred for his faithfulness to Christ.

The idea of the 'Christian soldier' was, of course, much loved by the Victorian hymn-writers - 'Onward, Christian soldiers!'. The soldier needs discipline. The heart of his commitment is to obedience. The battle cannot be avoided nor the enemy appeased. He marches and fights alongside others, and he is loyal to his comrades. In the end, if the battle is won, he receives the garlands of victory, the final reward of those who

overcome evil.

St George's Day presents a challenge and an opportunity. The challenge is to distance the message of his life from the militarism and triumphalism that can easily attach itself to anything connected to soldiers and fighting. The opportunity is to celebrate the ideal of the 'Christian soldier' - one who submits to discipline, sets out to obey God truly, does not avoid the inevitable battle with all that is unjust, wrong and hateful in our world, and marches alongside others fighting the same noble cause. Discipline, obedience, courage, fellowship and loyalty - they're not the most popular virtues today, but that doesn't mean that they don't deserve our gratitude and admiration.

Art Exhibition

The Magpies (Manchester Art Group) held their Spring Exhibition in St Nicholas Church. The church provided a wonderful back-drop to fifty three pieces of work. There was steady flow of visitors through the week. The final Saturday was very busy with thirty people enjoying the afternoon. Many stopped for a cup of tea and a slice of home-made cake, and to talk about the works and the church building. A number had said that they had always wanted to see inside the building – an artwork itself!

A new idea was to vote for the Best Picture in the exhibition. The final vote was a joint win for Sue Sherry's golden fabric and embroidery study of John Ryland's Library – and Jonathan Bolchover's mysterious "Line of Desire, Fletcher Moss".

Sue Sherry also kindly donated two silk banners which reflect the colours and shapes of the church ceiling.

The Magpies are very grateful for the opportunity to hold once again an exhibition in the church. If you would like to see more of the Magpies art there is an exhibition at The Parsonage in Didsbury for the whole of August. Do drop in and take a look.

Jill Lomas

Church Duty Rota (March 2013)

Date	Warden 8.30	Warden 10.30	Alter Server	Lay Assistants	SidesPeople
7th	Fred Murphy	Jill Lomas	Jane Cawley	Jane Cawley Alison Mills	Margaret Vessey Michael Vessey Muriel Clark
14th	Fred Murphy	Jane Cawley	Claire Lancaster	Anne Holmes Anne Tudor	Muriel Nicol Amy Haygarth
21st	Fred Murphy	Alison Mills	Emily Crossley	Margaret Vessey Lyn Rimmer	Brenda Maclese Grace Manley
28th	Fred Murphy	Jill Lomas	Cass Williamson	Grace Manley Julie Crossley	Julie Crossley Cass Williamson Sue Morris

Parish Registers (February 2013)

Week Ending	Communicants	Cash	Envelopes
3rd	54	20.00	413.00
10th	39	16.00	313.50
17th	77	37.00	367.00
24th	46	26.00	517.50
		Total	1,611.00

Church Prize Draws

St Nicholas Club Draw

Drawn Sunday 3rd Feb 2013

1st Prize No: 76 Jason Smith

2nd Prize No:56 Rachel Mann

PCC Monthly Raffle for
Church Funds

January 2013

Won by Jill Lomas

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.

All Fools' Day

In years gone by, the rules surrounding April Fool were this: between midnight and noon on 1 April, everyone is 'fair game' to be made a fool of. It is the morning of the practical joke. But the aim is not just to discomfort the victim: he must be tricked into taking action himself, sent on a 'fool's errand'.

And so children would be sent to the dairy for a pint of dove's milk, or to the bookseller for *The Life of Eve's Mother*. Practical jokes on a bigger scale were played: in 1860 a vast number of people received an official looking invitation to the Tower of London that read: 'Admit the Bearer and Friends to view the Annual Ceremony of Washing the White Lions.' Precisely the same trick had been played in 1698.

Then, on the stroke of noon, tradition decrees, April Fools is finished. If anyone attempts devilry thereafter, even while the clock is still striking, it recoils on his own head. A child would then race through the sing-song formula : 'April-Fool-Day's-past-and-gone-you're-the-fool-and-I-am-none!'

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 5426) Mrs. Alison Mills 01625 540376 Mobile : 07932 071977
Assistant Wardens	Mr. Fred Murphy Ms Jane Cawley
Hon. Treasurer.	Mrs. Elaine Jess
Minutes Secretary	Mrs. Ann Ackerman
Electoral Roll Officer	Mrs Lyn Rimmer
Deanery Synod	Mrs. Grace Manley Ms. Jane Cawley
Elected on PC	Mr. Fred Murphy, Ms. Jane Cawley, Mrs. Ann Ackerman, Mrs. Elaine 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	Mrs. Brenda Maclese
Missionary Secretary	Mrs. Christine Taylor
St. Nicholas Church Website	www.st-nicholas-church.org.uk