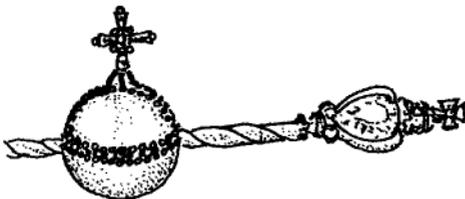




St. Nicholas News



June 2013

Price 50p

Church Diary June 2013

Date	Time	Event
Sunday 2nd	8.30 am 10.30 am.	Trinity 1 Holy Communion (BCP) Parish Communion & Young People's Church
Monday 3rd	6.30pm	Pastoral Meeting, Parrswood Pub
Tuesday 4th	7.30 pm.	Taize Evening Prayer
Wednesday 5th	10.00am	Eucharist
Thursday 6th	7.30pm	Burnage Community Choir
Saturday 8th	10.30am	Didsbury Festival—St.Nick's bookstall
Sunday 9th	8.30 am 10.30 am.	Trinity 2 All-Age Worship Holy Communion (BCP) Parish Communion & Young People's Church
Wednesday 12th	10.00am	Eucharist
Thursday 13th	7.30pm	Burnage Community Choir
Sunday 16th	8.30 am. 10.30 am.	Trinity 3 Holy Communion (BCP) Parish Communion & Young People's Church
Wednesday 19th	10.00am	Eucharist
Thursday 20th	7.30pm	
Saturday 22nd	10.00 to 2.00	SUMMER FAYRE
Sunday 23rd	8.30 am. 10.30 am.	Trinity 4 Holy Communion (BCP) Parish Communion & Young People's Church
Monday 24th	7.30pm	PCC Meeting
Wednesday 25th	10.00am	Eucharist
Thursday 26th	7.30pm	Burnage Community Choir
Sunday 30th	8.30 am.	Trinity 5 Holy Communion (BCP)

Rector's Letter

Whenever that esteemed gentleman Bevan Taylor knocks on my door to deliver something 'by hand' I know it's time to pay attention. For Bev is – as I think we all know – a man who always has something useful or kind to contribute. So when he passed me an excerpt from a parish magazine from 1953 I was intrigued.

The excerpt referred to Queen Elizabeth II's coronation on 2nd June 1953 and this year is, of course, the sixtieth anniversary. Bev – being a staunch but gracious Royalist and knowing my own political views – offering this news 'as information' to act on if I saw fit! Well, interestingly, it strikes me as appropriate to flag it up as a significant event. As you will all know, I'm not massively keen on monarchies, but there is no doubt that The Queen has been a remarkable world figure over sixty years, presiding over twelve prime ministers and seven Archbishops of Canterbury. She is – whatever we feel about her role – part of the fabric of British life and, therefore, part of all our lives. Her time on the throne has seen the U.K move from being a world superpower to being part of

Europe and one of the most vibrant and exciting multi-cultural communities on the planet. She has handled herself with dignity through all the changing scenes of life. In some respects she has been part of our lives for so long I'm not sure any of us can quite imagine her not being around any longer. At a time when others have abdicated from various thrones (whether literal, like the Dutch Queen, or metaphorical like Sir Alex at United) she has remained, and it is hard to quibble with that decision.

It is striking to think that Elizabeth has been monarch for the vast majority of the 'existence' of the St Nick's. In that time, this church community has experienced many ups and downs. Some of us will be inclined to dwell upon glory days in the past – just as some will be inclined to see the Queen's glory days as that time when England still (just about) ruled the waves – but at every time and in every moment there is both glory and darkness. This is one of the truths of the Gospel: that we are never far from joy and good news yet always close to brokenness and seeming defeat. Just as the situations our nation faces at the moment are a mix of difficulty and possibility

so it is for our church. Just as our Queen and our nation have embraced change – sometimes reluctantly I fear – so must we and all church congregations. If we are not changing and growing then we are no longer alive.

So do raise a glass to the Queen or remember her in your prayers at this time of anniversary, but also do not be tempted just to look back. Dare to look forward too. Give thanks for all you have received as part of St Nick's and this nation, but also ask how we at St Nick's are being called to serve. The mark of the Queen's reign has been service. The mark of our Christian fellowship should be service too. We are part of an ever changing and complex part of South Manchester. How can we serve this community together?

Rachel x

Welcome to Tanya

Hi everyone,
In case I haven't met you yet, let me introduce myself. I'm Tanya, and I'm on placement at St. Nick's until late June. I've been around for almost two weeks at the time of writing, and it is a pleasure to be on placement in your community. I'm training for ordination at Westcott

House in Cambridge, and I started training in September. I lived in Cambridge for two years before that working in a church there as a pastoral assistant, and the purpose of that position is basically for people to experience parish ministry and see if they feel called to be priests.

I was born in Plymouth and lived there until I was 18 and went to university in Cardiff. I studied theology and religious studies at Cardiff, before moving to Cambridge for the pastoral assistant position. So, living in Manchester for two months is by far the furthest north I've ever lived! My friends at university used to laugh at me for calling Cardiff 'north', but it is over a hundred miles up the line from Plymouth, to be fair.

I'm living in Salford whilst I'm on placement at St. Nick's, as Westcott owns a house there. Westcott send most ordinands on placement to churches around Greater Manchester at some point during their training, usually for eight to ten weeks. Since I'm living in Salford and don't drive I have become very familiar with the 50 bus! It is quite a good way to see Manchester and learn whereabouts things are. I look forward to the rest of my placement here with you and getting to know you all,

Tanya.

The violence in Syria

A recent Joint statement from The Archbishops of Canterbury and Westminster, Justin Welby and Vincent Nichols, concerning the ongoing violence in Syria:

Since the very first days of the Syrian conflict in March 2011, we have prayed as we watched in horror and sorrow the escalating violence that has rent this country apart. We have grieved with all Syrians - with the families of each and every human life lost and with all communities whose neighbourhoods and livelihoods have suffered from escalating and pervasive violence.

And ... our prayers also go with the ancient communities of our Christian brothers and sisters in Syria. The (recent) kidnapping of two Metropolitan bishops of Aleppo, Mar Gregorios Ibrahim of the Syriac Orthodox Church and Paul Yazigi of the Greek Orthodox Church of Antioch, and the killing of their driver while they were carrying out a humanitarian mission, is another telling sign of the terrible circumstances that continue to engulf all Syrians.

We unreservedly support these Christian communities, rooted in and

attached to the biblical lands, despite the many hardships. We respond to the call from the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch and all the East, and the Syriac Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch and all the East, urging churches worldwide to remain steadfast in the face of challenging realities and to bear witness to their faith in the power of love in this world.

We both continue to pray for a political solution to this tragic conflict that would stem the terrible violence and also empower all Syrians with their fundamental and inalienable freedoms. We also call for urgent humanitarian aid to reach all who are suffering. We pray that Syria can recapture its tradition of tolerance, rooted in faith and respect for faiths living side by side.

+ Justin Welby + Vincent Nichols



"I've heard the vicar has a problem with squatters moving in to the belfry."

Columba of Iona (c. 521 - 97) – 1450 years on

This month marks the 1450th anniversary of the arrival of Christianity in the UK. It was brought by St Columba from Ireland to Iona – a tiny island off Mull, in the Western Highlands.

Columba was born in Donegal of the royal Ui Neill clan, and trained as a monk. He founded the monasteries of Derry (546), Durrow (c.556) and probably Kells. But in 565 Columba left Ireland with twelve companions for Iona, an island off southwest Scotland. Iona had been given to him for a monastery by the ruler of the Irish Dalriada.

Why would a monk in his mid 40s go into such voluntary exile? Various explanations include: voluntary exile for Christ, an attempt to help overseas compatriots in their struggle for survival, or even as some sort of punishment for his part in a row over a psalter in Ireland. Whatever the reason, Columba went to Iona and spent the rest of his life in Scotland, returning to Ireland only for occasional visits.

Columba's biographer, Adomnan, portrays him as a tall, striking figure of powerful build and impressive presence, who combined the skills of scholar, poet and ruler with a fearless commitment to God's cause. Able, ardent, and sometimes harsh, Columba seems to have mellowed with age.

As well as building his monastery on Iona, Columba also converted Brude, king of the Picts. Columba had great skill as a scribe, and an example of this can be seen in the Cathach of Columba, a late 6th century psalter in the Irish Academy, which is the oldest surviving example of Irish majuscule writing. In his later years Columba spent much time transcribing books.

Columba's death was apparently foreseen by his community, and even, it seems, sensed by his favourite horse. He died in the church just before Matins, and it is a tribute to this man that his traditions were upheld by his followers for about a century, not least in the Synod of Whitby and in Irish monasteries on the continent of Europe.

Here is a prayer of St Columba:

Christ With Us

My dearest Lord,
Be Thou a bright flame before
me,
Be Thou a guiding star above me,
Be Thou a smooth path beneath
me,
Be Thou a kindly shepherd be-
hind me,
Today and evermore.

THE WAY I SEE IT: The Coronation: I was There!

It is, as you may have noticed, the sixtieth anniversary of the Queen's coronation this month. If you are under 55 it is probably simply a matter of history. That piece of history, however, will be relived this month in many grainy pictures on our television screens - even, perhaps, some in colour, from the cinema newsreels of the time. For those of us over that age, however, it is probably one of those memories - images, really - that you can never quite forget. In truth, it is part of our history.

Millions, like me, sat in a crowded room and gazed at a tiny television screen on which black and white images appeared of the distant scene in and around Westminster Abbey. Up till then, TV had been largely a rich person's toy, but no one was going to miss the event of a lifetime. Aided by the entrepreneurial genius of Radio Rentals and other newly formed competitors, we watched on rented sets, our own or a neighbour's. Television suddenly became available to almost everybody. Indeed, I can't think of anyone in our very ordinary circle of friends in a London suburb who didn't watch the coronation as it happened.

And that made a difference. Previous coronations had been great affairs of State, attended by the nobility, the great and the good - just a few hundred of them. True, the crowds could line the route to and from the abbey and cheer and wave flags, but once the real business began they were definitely outside. But now - miraculously, it seemed - we were inside: indeed, we had a better view of proceedings than most of those distinguished folk

who had got tickets for the abbey.

This, like no other, was the People's Coronation, and the young Queen and her fair-haired sailor husband were the People's Monarchy, in a way none of their predecessors could possibly have imagined. When the archbishop placed the crown on her head, we were just feet away (or so it seemed). When he anointed her with oil, we could see it glisten. We could join in the prayers and the hymns, hear the glorious music and fanfares, share with the congregation in the abbey an occasion that was, after all, a vital part of the life of our nation and the Commonwealth.

Time and again over those few days we sang 'Long live our gracious Queen', and she has done it. 'Long to reign over us, happy and glorious'. Exactly.

All in the month of JUNE

It was....

150 years ago: on 7th Jun 1863 that Franz Gruber, Austrian organist and composer, best known for composing the Christmas carol 'Silent Night', died.

100 years ago: on 15th Jun 1913 that Trevor Huddleston, British Anglican bishop and anti-apartheid activist; President of the Anti-Apartheid Movement, was born.

100 years ago: on 19th Jun 1913 that South Africa passed the Natives Land Act, establishing reserves for blacks and forbidding the transfer of land between races.

75 years ago: on 4th Jun 1938 that Austrian psychoanalyst Sigmund Freud moved to Britain to escape Nazi persecution.

Also 75 years ago: on 9th Jun 1938 that London's Trooping the Colour ceremony was televised for the first time.

65 years ago: on 24th Jun 1948 that the Soviet Union began a blockade of Berlin, cutting off all routes between West Germany and West Berlin. The Allies launched a massive airlift to take in supplies.

60 years ago: on 2nd Jun 1953 that the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II took place at Westminster Abbey, London.

Didsbury Festival Book Stall

We are aiming to raise lots of money and the profile of our church by holding a bookstall at Didsbury Festival on Saturday 8th May from 11.00am onwards.

Please try to help Sue Morris with the stall by offering an hour of your time on the Saturday. There will be lots to do in Didsbury Park so please help us..



Summer

Fayre

Saturday 22nd June

From 10.00 to 2.00pm

Cafe with strawberry cream teas,

garden stall, tombola,

gifts and games

Admission: Adults 50p

Children Free



Why you need strawberries this Wimbledon

Wimbledon's here again, and so are the strawberries! Watching the tennis may stress you out, but strawberries are totally good for you (just avoid the sugar and cream).

Strawberries are a highly concentrated source of vitamin C, vital for a healthy immune system and a powerful antioxidant which protects against heart and circulatory disease. They contain pectin, which helps with the elimination of cholesterol. They have anti-cancer properties and especially contain ellagic acid, which is thought to inhibit the growth of cancer cells.

Church Duty Rota (June 2013)

Date	Warden 8.30 a.m.	Warden 10.30 a.m.	Alter Server	Lay Assistants	Sides People
2nd	Fred Murphy	Jill Lomas	Cass Williamson	Anne Holmes Anne Tudor	Muriel, Nicol Amy Haygarth Val Hagan
9th	Fred Murphy	Jane Cawley	Caroline Abiodon	Lyn Rimmer Jill Lomas	Brenda Maclese Grace Manley Lucy Males
16th	Fred Murphy	Alison Mills	Jane Cawley	Jane Cawley Grace Manley	Julie Crossley Cass Williamson Sue Morris
23rd	Fred Murphy	Jill Lomas	Brenda Maclese	Margaret Vessey Alison Mills	Anne Tudor Anne Holme Elaine Johnson
30th	Fred Murphy	Jane Cawley	Louise Hollingsworth	Louise Hollingsworth Julie Crossley	Sybil Gawkrödger Caroline Abiodon

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

HallsMartins (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.

Parish Registers (April 2013)

Week Ending	Communicants	Cash	Envelopes
7th	59	104.80	383.60
14th	36	0.00	349.50
21st	38	7.70	267.00
28th	40	3.00	441.00
		Total	1441.10

Church Prize Draws

St Nicholas Club Draw

Drawn Sunday 7th April

1st Prize No: 6 June Owens

2nd Prize No:8 St.Nicholas

PCC Monthly Raffle for Church

Funds April 2013

Won by Anne Holmes

£25.00 raised for Church Funds

Sock it to me

Where do you hide your valuables? It seems the sock drawer wins with most of us – it comes top in our favourite hidey-hole for things we treasure. Next, comes the space under our bed, according to a survey by confused.com.



Exam

An ill-prepared student taking an exam in theology finally gave up by writing on his paper: "Only God knows the answers to these questions. I'm off for the summer to enjoy his Creation."

The professor marked the paper and added this note: "God gets 100, you get 0. Watch out for sunburn."

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 Witty, Mr. Michael Vessey, Mr. Tony Witty.
Magazine Distribution	Mrs. Brenda Maclese
Missionary Secretary	Mrs. Margaret Vessey
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