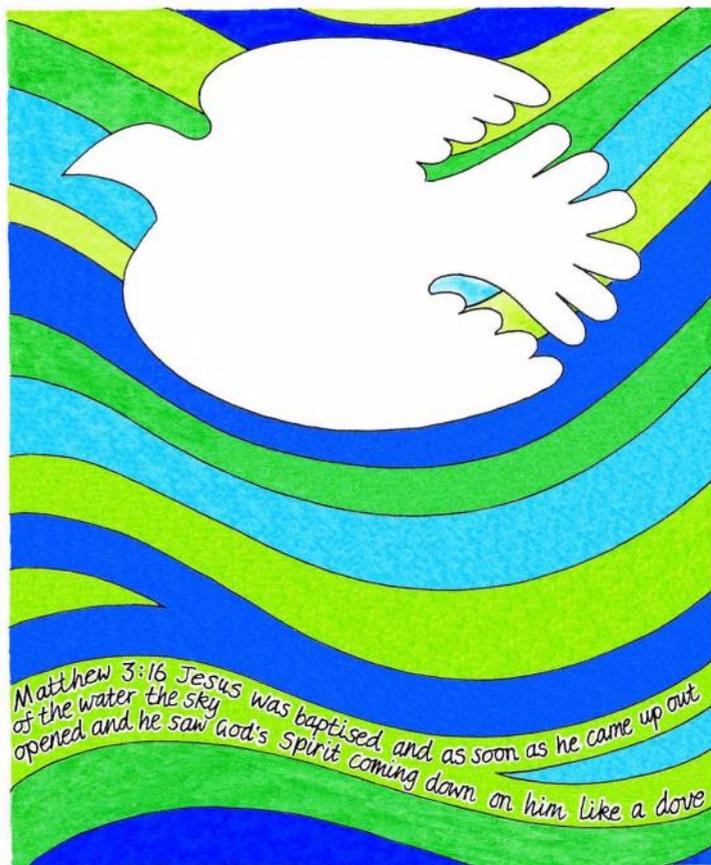




St. Nicholas News



Price 50p

March 2014

Church Diary March 2014

Date	Time	Event
Sunday 2nd	8.30 am 10.30 am.	Last before Lent Holy Communion (BCP) Parish Communion and Young People's Church
Saturday 1st	10.00	FAIR TRADE COFFEE MORNING
Monday 3rd	7.30pm	Worship Committee
Tuesday 4th	7.30pm	Taize Evening Prayer
Wednesday 5th	10.00am	ASH WEDNESDAY Eucharist (and anointing with Ashes)
Saturday 8th	10.00am	Mission Day at St.Chad's with Bishop David
Sunday 9th	8.30 am. 10.30 am.	Lent 1 Holy Communion (BCP) Parish Communion & Young People's Church
Monday 10th	7.30pm	PCC, vestry
Wednesday 12th	10.00am 2.30pm	Eucharist Women's Fellowship Jewish Museum Mr.Merton Paul
Saturday 15th	10.30am	Women's Fellowship Coffee Morning
Sunday 16th	8.30 am. 10.30 am.	Lent 2 Holy Communion (BCP) Parish Communion & Young People's Church
Wednesday 19th	10.00am	Eucharist
Saturday 22nd	10.30am	JUMBLE SALE
Sunday 23rd	08.30am 10.30am	Lent 3 Holy Communion (BCP) Parish Communion & Young People's Church
Wednesday 26th	10.00am 2.30pm	Eucharist Women's Fellowship 'Message in a bottle' - Life with Lions Mr.J.Jones.
Sunday 30th	08.30am 10.30am	Lent 4 MOTHERING SUNDAY Holy Communion (BCP) Parish Communion & Young People's Church

Rector's Letter

I recently saw a picture of a lower league football ground under so much water it looked more like a boating lake than a sporting arena. It's just one sign that we've had the wettest winter in two hundred and fifty years. Surely spring can't come too soon! And perhaps, just perhaps, now we're in March we might get some signs of new life and longer, warmer days.

Many think Lent – which begins on 5th March – takes its name from the Old English, 'Lencten', meaning 'Spring'. I'm never sure if these claims are true, but rarely have I been gladder for Lent's arrival. And I say that advisedly. Lent – because it is a time of fasting and repentance – can feel like a tough time. Yet, it has felt like such a long dismal winter I embrace it with gladness. And, indeed, so we all should.

Lent is not about being miserable or miserly. It is actually a joyous opportunity to embrace the call of God to new life. For while it takes its shape from Christ's forty days in the wilderness, a time of temptation and terrific challenge, it also directs us into the way of real life.

What I mean is this: God has made us for gladness and celebration. He has made us for love and hope. Yet this is not to be confused with self-indulgence or even simply being happy. The Way Christ directs us to in the

wilderness (& therefore across Lent) is a deeper way – a way of faithfulness to God that actually might take us very far from easy pleasure and comfort.

I know that kind of thinking can make any of us feel a bit miserable. The fact is that almost everyone in a society as wealthy as ours is comfortable and we – understandably – like our comforts. Over twenty years ago, in the Caribbean, I lived without electricity for three months (not a long time by many people's standards) and it made me very aware of how much we take for granted. And how many of us imagine that we have all we have as a result of our own efforts or talent? But as far as I can see so much in life is a matter of luck, opportunity and privilege. And, yes, grace.

Lent is an invitation to each and every one of us to refocus on what really matters. St Augustine suggests that we are restless until we find our life in God. I can be as restless as anyone and yet I know that it is when I come back to God, the holy and loving one, that I am home. The joy of Lent is that it offers congregations and individuals a very focused opportunity to re-centre. May we all do so with joy and gladness in our hearts!

Rachel x

Heritage Lottery Bid Update

On December 12th 2013, St Nick's was awarded what is known as a 'First Round Pass' in our bid for Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) money. This is very pleasing, but needs some explanation.

The amount awarded for Stage One – also known as the Development Phase - is £21, 400.00 out of a total expected cost of £23,900.00. This leaves a short fall which we - as a community - need to find. This short-fall is £1500.

The Development Phase entails investigations into the causes of water ingress and other damage to the church building. This work will take place over the coming months. Once we have a clearer picture of the problems with the building we will be in the position to remedy the problems.

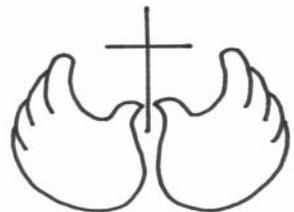
As part of our initial bid and Round One Pass we have also provisionally – and I can't overemphasize that word – been awarded a further £149,000.00 to repair the church once we know the detailed problems. However, this award is conditional on two things: 1) the right delivery of the Development Phase, and 2) us demonstrating that we have the means to raise money to supplement the £149,000.00 in order to complete our project.

In essence, despite the generosity of the HLF grant which, including the development grant, will total £170, 400.00 we will still need to raise the sum of £68,800.00 in order to reach the total expected costs of £238,800.00.

This is a lot of money. We hope to secure a large proportion of that via grants and trusts and the Buildings Sub-Group and I are now working to secure these. However, these are unlikely to be sufficient. Much of the responsibility for raising the funds for these necessary works will fall back on us.

I know this can seem daunting and exhausting but if we are serious about our building and about finding sustainable ways of using it into the future we cannot avoid facts. More information will be available in due course, most especially via the Annual General Meeting, but I trust that you shall all be thinking about how we might raise the money to support our work here.

Rachel



ASH WEDNESDAY mourning our sins

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday. But why 'Ash' Wednesday? The reason has to do with getting things right between you and God, and the tradition goes right back to the Old Testament.

In the Old Testament, the Israelites often sinned. When they finally came to their senses, and saw their evil ways as God saw them, they could do nothing but repent in sorrow. They mourned for the damage and evil they had done. As part of this repentance, they covered their heads with ashes. For the Israelites, putting ashes on your head, and even rending your clothes, was an outward sign of their heart-felt repentance and acknowledgement of sin. (See Genesis 18:27; 2 Samuel 13:19; Job 2:8, 30:19; Isaiah 58:5; Jeremiah 6:26; Jonah 3:6)

In the very early Christian Church, the yearly 'class' of penitents had ashes sprinkled over them at the beginning of Lent. They were turning to God for the first time, and mourning their sins. But soon many other Christians wanted to take part in the custom, and to do so at the very start of Lent. They heeded Joel's call to 'rend your hearts and not your garments' (Joel 2:12-19). Ash Wednesday became known as either the 'beginning of the fast' or 'the day of the ashes'.

The collect for today goes back to the Prayer Book, and stresses the penitential character of the day. It encourages us with the reminder of the readiness of God to forgive us and to renew us.

The Bible readings for today are often Joel 2:1-2, 12 – 18, Matthew 6: 1-6, 16 – 21 and Paul's moving catalogue of suffering, "as having nothing and yet possessing everything." (2 Corinthians 5:20b - 6:10)

The actual custom of 'ashing' was abolished at the Reformation, though the old name for

the day remained. Today, throughout the Church of England, receiving the mark of ashes on one's forehead is optional. Certainly the mark of ashes on the forehead reminds people of their mortality: "Remember that you are dust and to dust you will return..." (Genesis 3:19)

The late medieval custom was to burn the branches used on Palm Sunday in the previous year in order to create the ashes for today.

The Collect for Ash Wednesday is:

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing that you have made and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may receive from you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.



"No, not the steeple, the roof or the organ – it's for the vicar's post-Christmas-pre-Easter recuperation holiday-break."

Wordsearch for March 2014

Life is full of ups and downs: after blessings, hard times often follow. They are not meant to destroy us but to help us grow spiritually by deepening our faith and dependence on God. The Holy Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil – to give him the opportunity to stand fast against the enemy. The devil's temptations were based on half-truths, which Jesus rejected by standing firm on the whole truth of Scripture. The truth sets us free!



Holy
Spirit
Jordan
Wilderness
Tempted
Devil
Fasted
Hungry
If
Bread

Alone
Kingdom
World
Authority
Glory
Worship
Me
Serve
Jerusalem
Pinnacle

Temple
Stone
Foot
Angels
Bear
Strike
Test
temptation

Volunteers have a longer, happier life

Volunteering may be as helpful to you as it is to the people you help: a recent study has found that it may well improve your health and make you happier.

People who volunteer report having lower levels of depression and higher levels of well-being than average, while some research even suggests that it promotes a longer and healthier life.

A review of 40 papers on the subject by researchers at the University of Exeter has found that volunteers were a fifth less likely to die within the next four to seven years than average. They have lower depression and higher levels of well-being and life satisfaction.

Volunteers often say they want to 'give something back' to their community, but experts say they struggle to explain the benefits that volunteers apparently receive. An estimated 22.5 per cent of people in Europe devote part of their spare time to volunteering, compared with 27 per cent in America and 36 per cent in Australia.

As St Paul wrote to the Galatians, "So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith." (Gal. 6:10)

What pensioners really want

With Spring on the way, here is good news: pottering around the garden is a pensioner's favourite past time, according to a recent poll. Gardening is the hobby which gives 38 per cent of over 65s the most pleasure in life. This is followed by going for walks, reading a newspaper, talking to friends and listening to the radio, according to the charity Age UK. "Having a positive attitude and being able to enjoy the little pleasures of life is really important for our well-being," says Age UK. 'The cheerful of heart has a continual feast,' observes Proverbs (15:15).

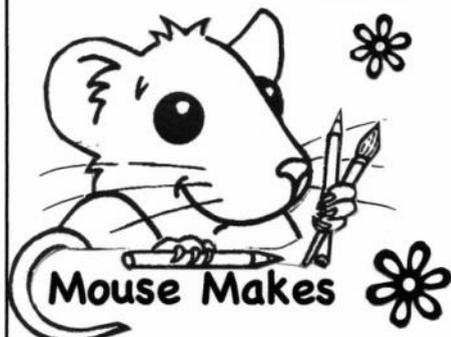


Adam and Eve's true nationality

A Brit, a Frenchman and a Russian were viewing a painting of Adam and Eve frolicking in the Garden of Eden. "Look at that garden they are maintaining so well," mused the Brit. "They must be British."

"Nonsense," the Frenchman disagreed. "They're naked, and so beautiful. Clearly, they are French."

"Ah, but no clothes, no shoes, no shelter," the Russian pointed out, "they have only an apple to eat, and they're being told this is paradise. They are Russian."



The 4th Sunday in Lent
is celebrated as
Mothering Sunday.
Originally families would
get together for a special
service at the 'mother'
church, often at the local
cathedral.

Today Mothering Sunday
is celebrated as a family
day, a time to say '**thank
you**' to our mothers and
to all who look after us.

There are many wonderful Mothers
in the Bible, look up the Bible verses
and find out who they are....

- Matt 1:16 M _ _ _
Num 26:59 _ O _ _ _ _
Luke 1:57-60 _ _ _ _ _ T _
1 Sam 1:20 _ _ _ _ _ H
Genesis 4:1 _ _ E
Gen 25:21-26 R _ _ _ _ _
Gen 21:1-2 S _ _ _ _



Thank you Mum
for all you do,

For all your
love and care,

For helping me
as I grow up,

For all your
loving prayers.

For teaching me
about Jesus,

Of how he loves
me too.

Thank you Mum
for loving me,

I LOVE YOU!

A bookmark gift for Mother's Day. Cut out the
bookmark above, glue onto card and colour in.



LENT

Lent, before Easter, is like Advent before Christmas, a time of preparation. Lent is when we remember that Jesus prepared himself for starting his ministry by going away by himself for 40 days of fasting and prayer. You can read about it in your Bible: Matthew, chapter 4, verses 1-11; Mark, chapter 1, verses 12-13 and Luke, chapter 4, verses 1-13.

Jesus went into the wilderness – a quiet lonely place away from people – where he could think things out. He knew that his work would be hard, that many people would not listen to him, or if they listened, they would not believe him. During these 40 days Jesus made his choice: to work in God's way however hard that might be.

This year Lent starts on 5th March and goes through half of April - have you thought about how YOU are going to prepare yourself to follow Jesus this Lent?



SPRING COLOURS

There are colours which are mentioned with these things in the Bible. Answers at the bottom of the page.

1. Pastures, herbs and olives are all?
2. A sea, tents and wine are?
3. Hangings in the Temple, pomegranates and doors of tents were all?
4. A horse, robes and teeth were all?
5. Kings' raiment (clothing), Jesus' robe and the dye that Lydia sold were all?
6. One of the gifts to the baby Jesus, candlesticks and spoons were?
7. A raven, clouds and chariot horses were?
8. Lips, a thread tied to a window and robes are?



What's blue, V-shaped and flies?

The Red Arrows in disguise.



What do you do with a green monster?

Wait till he's ripe.



Answers: 1.green 2.red 3.blue 4.white 5.purple 6.gold 7.black 8.scarlet

Church Duty Rota (March 2014)

Date	Warden 8.30 a.m.	Warden 10.30 a.m.	Alter Server	Lay Assistants	SidesPeople
2nd	Fred	Jill	Jane	Jane & Alison	Anne, Anne & Elaine
9th	Fred	Jane	Louise	Louise & Margaret	Sybil & Carolie
16th	Fred	Alison	Caroline	Anne & Anne	Margaret, Michael & Muriel
23rd	Fred	Jill	Brenda	Brenda & Cliff	Muriel N, Val, Amy
30th		Jane	Emily	Jill & Lyn	Brenda, Grace, Lucy M.

St. Nicholas Fundraising

Committee

JUMBLE SALE

Saturday 22nd March

Please collect

jumble, call

0161 975 5085

and leave a message if you have
need jumble collecting...

Coffee Mornings

Saturday 1st March from
10.00am

'Fair Trade Event'

Saturday 15th March
10.30am

Women's Fellowship

Saturday 12th April

In aid of Zoe's Place Baby
Hospice

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.

Confirmation Classes For young people and adults by arrangement with the Min-

St. Nicholas Club (Jan draw)

1st Prize: No.59. (St.Nicholas)
courtesy of Amy Haygarth

2nd Prize: No. 35 (St.Nicholas)
courtesy of Valerie Acton.

St. Nicholas Church AGM

Sunday 13th April at 12 noon.

Please try to attend to hear our reports and to plan ahead for the next twelve months .

Saturday 8th March

PARISH DAY

At St.Chad's Ladybarn.

A day with Bishop David
to focus on mission .

Everyone is welcome to attend.

Please let Jill know if you intend going so we can inform St.Chad's for catering purposes.

WordSearch Solution

S	T	E	J	Y	B	D	T	A	O	M	J	
T	E	H	O	L	Y	E	E	B	R	E	A	D
R	M	E	R	R	T	L	D	A	L	O	N	E
I	P	C	D	S	C	L	L	A	R	M	S	T
K	T	K	A	A	R	I	S	Y	O	E	P	S
E	A	F	N	O	V	U	T	D	T	I	I	Y
G	T	N	W	E	R	I	G	D	H	B	R	R
W	I	L	D	E	R	N	E	S	S	G	I	T
P	O	F	J	O	I	T	R	D	N	L	T	E
T	N	E	H	K	P	O	S	U	O	O	V	S
L	E	T	E	M	W	O	H	W	O	R	V	T
I	U	T	E	M	P	L	E	F	E	Y	E	T
A	L	T	A	N	G	E	L	S	T	O	N	E

In Memoriam

"Mike Cherry, formerly member of St Nicholas, has been in touch to say that Mrs. Dorothy Baggerley, widow of Canon Dennis Baggerley (Rector of St. Nicholas 1965-1971) has died aged 90. She died on the Isle of Man.

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.

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

St. Nicholas Church Website

www.st-nicholas-church.org.uk