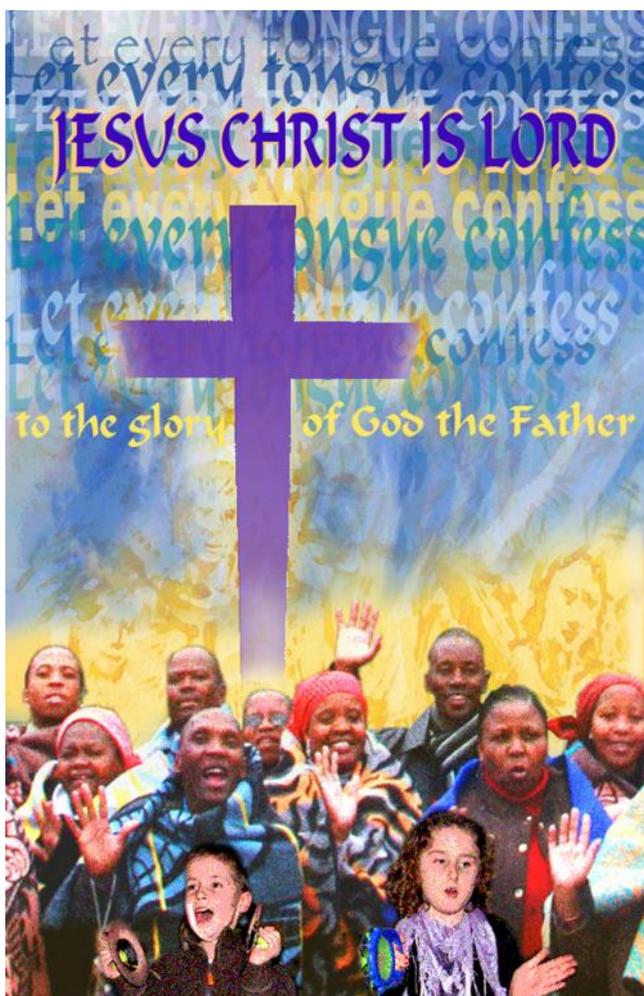




St. Nicholas News



Price 50p

July 2014

Church Diary July 2014

Date	Time	Event
Tuesday 1st	7.30pm	Taize Evening Prayer with CTIB for Pentecost
Wednesday 2nd	10.00am	Eucharist
Sunday 6th	8.30 am. 10.30 am.	Trinity 3—ALL AGE WORSHIP Holy Communion (BCP) Parish Communion & Young People’s Church
Wednesday 9th	10.00am	Eucharist
Sunday 13th	8.30 am. 10.30 am.	Trinity 4 Holy Communion (BCP) Parish Communion & Young People's Church
Wednesday 16th	10.00am	Eucharist
Sunday 20th	08.30am 10.30am	Trinity 5 Holy Communion (BCP) Parish Communion & Young People’s Church
Wednesday 23rd	10.00am	Eucharist
Sunday 27th	08.30am 10.30am	Trinity 5 Holy Communion (BCP) Parish Communion & Young People’s Church
Wednesday 30th	10.00am	Eucharist

Rector's Letter

Like many people I was profoundly moved by the recent ceremonies for the 70th anniversary of D-Day. I was also touched and amused by the story of the 89 year old who walked out of his nursing home, got on a ferry and turned up at the events unaccompanied. It was a testament to a generation that had to face tests and challenges younger generations have not. This 70th anniversary of the largest seaborne invasion in history is a reminder of how that generation is slipping away.

Anniversaries are important for all sorts of reasons. They help us keep time and they act as a focal point for the key moments in life and culture. Human beings are creatures of memory as much as of action and we develop traditions and become communities through the re-telling of stories. That's how the early Christians became a community – by telling and retelling the story of Jesus over and over. The Eucharist was not simply a meal but a 'remembering' of Christ.

Yet anniversaries can also distract us from powerful truths. If I was moved and struck by the recent commemorations in Normandy, there is also a risk that by focusing on D-Day we forget the horrors of the days which followed it. D-Day was an incredible achievement and a key part of the expulsion of the Nazis from Europe. However, if we focus on D-Day we can forget that the death rates in the weeks after it were truly terrifying. Indeed, it was the only time that British casualties in the Second War reached the catastrophic levels of the Great War.

As you read this you might ask, 'That's all very well, but why are you telling us this, Rachel?' Well, I say this as a reminder that we should not get overly focused on 'high points' or anniversaries or the headline events.

Each Sunday we gather in church to be fed by Christ and to be renewed in our fellowship. I hope and pray that these Sunday gatherings are highlights and genuinely encourage us. Equally, throughout the year we have high days and festivals like Christmas and Easter which

should renew and remake us as a community. But we cannot, as a pilgrim community, live only for the big days, the anniversaries and the high times. Discipleship is marked by faithfulness even when it can feel dull or hard work.

This willingness to just keep on 'keeping on' is fundamental to our life and work here in Burnage. So often we want excitement and action and amazing events to come along. But the real task of Christian discipleship is to be faithful in the midst of the ordinary. If we long for the God who brings explosive hope into our midst at Pentecost, we also have to be prepared for the God who works quietly and patiently in the midst of pain, disappointment and the mundane.

So if each of us may long for exciting signs of God's liveliness in our church and parish life, let us all also be willing to put our hands 'to the tiller'. To give ourselves to God's work is our joy and our completion.

Rachel x

Poppies planted in Churches and Church Schools for World War One

Tens of thousands of poppies are now growing across the UK, many in churchyards and church schoolyards. They were sown this Spring by schoolchildren, junior soldiers, civic leaders, clergy, faith groups and community organisations as a joint act of



Can you help, volunteers needed ?



St.Nick's needs your time and talent !

Church Magazine Editor—we need a new editor for this magazine from December 2014.

Church Treasurer—are you good with numbers and accounting procedures, then we need you to step into the role of Church Treasurer. Training and support will be provided. This is one of the most important roles in the Church.



Church Flowers—our Flower League team will be retiring later this year after many, many years of loyal service. Do you enjoy arranging flowers can you offer your skills ?

Please consider how you can help St.Nick's by volunteering for one of these roles. If you want to know more or wish to discuss any of the roles please have a chat with Rachel or the Churchwardens.

Mariposa Trust

I am writing from an organisation called Saying Goodbye, which is part of a charity called The Mariposa Trust. We are the organisers of the first national set of Commemorative Services for people who have lost babies at any stage of pregnancy, at birth or in infancy, all of which take place at Cathedrals and Minsters across the UK. We held 20 last year, and have many more this year, including one on the 12th July at 2:30pm at Manchester cathedral. The service is free to attend and no ticket is needed.

Saying Goodbye are partnered nationally with Bliss, Tommy's, World Vision and the Lullaby Trust (formerly FSID). These organisations join with us to provide support, counseling and information to people attending the services. In addition we have been endorsed by the Association of Early Pregnancy Units, and have an amazing set of International Ambassadors supporting the cause. Our Ambassadors include world medical experts Professor Lord Robert Winston and Professor Lesley Regan, as well as celebrities including Nigella Lawson, Jools Oliver, Ruby Hammer MBE, Denise Robertson MBE and Julie Etchingham.

The services are for anyone who has lost a baby, however long ago, and we have as many people attending who have lost children 40, 50, 60 and 70 years ago, as people who have lost recently. Thanks to the BBC, ITV, local press and the NHS support, the Saying Goodbye Services are well publicized, however it's not always possible to reach everyone. With one in four pregnancies ending in miscarriage (amounting to 250,000 per year), and with so many others lost at birth or in early years, loss is a huge issue, and one that is seldom talked about or acknowledged, and we hope that the services will allow people to feel that their loss is being remembered, and that their lost baby has been formally recognized.

Kindest regards,

Susan
Saying Goodbye Team
The Mariposa Trust

Harvest Appeal 2014

For Harvest appeal 2014 we have nominated two charities

Barnabus and Burnage Food Bank



BARNABUS
Bringing hope to the homeless and vulnerable

Barnabus is based in Manchester City centre and has a coffee shop in Withington.

They provide food, clothing and shelter for people who are homeless or going through difficult times. They

Tend to work with young people sleeping rough on the streets of Manchester.

Barnabus are very pleased to receive donations of socks, underwear, toiletries, disposable razors, tea, coffee, long life milk and tins of beans.



Please help local people in crisis by buying items from the list below and giving them to the foodbank's collection point.

- Milk (UHT or powdered)
- Sugar (500g)
- Fruit juice (long life carton)
- Soup
- Pasta sauces
- Tinned sponge pudding
- Tinned tomatoes
- Tinned vegetables
- Cereals
- Tinned rice pudding
- Tea bags/Instant coffee
- Instant mash potato
- Rice/Pasta
- Tinned meat/fish
- Tinned fruit
- Jam
- Biscuits or snack bars

HYMN: The story behind 'Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken'

Glorious things of thee are spoken,
Zion, city of our God;
He whose word cannot be broken
Formed thee for his own abode.
On the rock of ages founded,
What can shake thy sure repose?
With salvation's walls surrounded,
Thou may'st smile at all thy foes.
See, the streams of living waters,
Springing from eternal love,
Well supply thy sons and daughters,
And all fear of want remove.
Who can faint while such a river
Ever flows their thirst to assuage:
Grace, which like the Lord the giver,
Never fails from age to age?...

The year was 1800, and Vienna was under bombardment by Napoleon's troops. The great Austrian composer, Haydn, then old and frail, asked to be carried to his piano. There he made his own defiance of Napoleon, by solemnly play through his composition 'Emperor's Hymn'. Haydn had composed it for the Austrian Emperor, Franz II's birthday on 12 February 1797. Haydn never touched his piano again, and died a few days later, aged 77.

That is where the tune for this well-loved hymn came from. It quickly be-

came the tune of the Austrian national anthem. It was later even adopted by the Germans, as the tune for August Heinrich Hoffman von Fallersleben's (1798 – 1874) anthem Deutschlandslied, which began with the famous words: 'Deutschland uber alles' (Germany before everything). In the ensuing political upheavals, the tune survived in the German national anthem, but was abandoned by the Austrians in 1946.

In the meantime, the tune had also reached England, as early as 1805. It was then that the words of a hymn by John Newton were first paired up with it. This meant that when the Austrian Emperor Franz visited his grandmother Queen Victoria, at Windsor Castle, he most likely would have sung his own national anthem tune to English words written by a converted slave trader turned country vicar!

John Newton's inspiration for this hymn comes from Psalm 87: 'Glorious things are spoken of you, O city of God' (vs3) and also a text from Isaiah 33:20-21: 'Look on Zion... there the Lord in majesty will be for us a place of broad rivers and streams...'

John Newton's hymn celebrates the joy of knowing that the Church is the new Jerusalem (Zion) where God abides. He rejoices that God protects his people and promises to supply their needs. He leads them into the Promised Land, just as long ago he led the Israelites through the wilderness to their Promised Land. Back then, he led them with a fiery and cloudy pillar; now we have his very Spirit within us, to guide us each step of the way home

The Battle of the Somme – the WW1 battle that changed history

On 1st July, 98 years ago, two vast armies went to battle in the Somme area, in north-eastern France. A week of heavy shelling preceded the Allies' attack. It is recorded that 1,738,000 shells fell on the rich fields either side of the Somme river during those seven days - though goodness knows who counted them. With the deafening roar of the big guns in their ears, the allied soldiers emerged from their trenches to be met with the inevitable hail of bullets from the German machine guns. By the end of the first day's fighting over 60,000 British soldiers were casualties and no less than 19,240 had been killed. The most devastating battle of modern times - and possibly of human history - was under way.

The Battle of the Somme, as it was called, was the first to see tanks and aircraft employed on a large scale. It was fought along a 25 mile front. The battle involved vast numbers of men - British and soldiers from no less than eight countries of the Empire, French and German - and more than a million of them were eventually killed or injured. As the generals poured more and more troops into the battle in the vain hope of what they called a 'breakthrough', nothing much happened beyond the constant slaughter.

The battle went on through August, September and October and only end-

ed, on November 18th, when the utter futility of the whole exercise seemed to dawn on both sides.

As they counted the casualties - 420,000 British, 200,000 French, nearly half a million Germans - they could also calculate the net gain of all that bloodshed. The Allies had pushed the Germans back all of six miles. It was later worked out that for every mile taken 88,000 men lost their lives.

There were amazing acts of valour and heroism in the course of the battle. No fewer than 51 Victoria Crosses - the highest award for gallantry in battle - were won by British combatants. At home, the press tended to focus on such heroic deeds rather than on the carnage on the battle-field, but the truth eventually emerged. To misquote Winston Churchill, 'Never in all the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so many'. Every town, every village, every family would bear the scars of suffering for years to come.

Lessons were learned, of course - most obviously the futility of trench warfare. Battle and war would never be the same again. Face to face, inch by inch, cold steel to cold steel, knee deep in mud men fought and died. All across northern France the millions of graves still bear their silent testimony to the dedication and courage of young men who had their lives snatched from them in battle. Mars, the god of war, had had his greatest moment, though his appetite was not quite satisfied yet.

Church Duty Rota (July 2014)

Date	Warden 8.30 a.m.	Warden 10.30 a.m.	Altar Server	Lay Assistants	Sides People
6th	Fred	Alison	Jane	Jane & Margaret	Anne, Anne, Elaine
13th	Fred	Grace	Louise	Louise & Jill	Sybil & Caroline
20th	Fred	Julie	Brenda	Brenda & Cliff	Margaret, Michael , Muriel C
27th	Fred	Jill	Jane	Jane & Grace	Muriel N, Amy & Val

4th August – Time for Lights Out!

Every householder in Britain is being asked to turn out their lights at 11pm on 4th August, to mark the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of the First World War.

The nationwide event is based on the famous comment attributed to Sir Edward Grey, the Foreign Secretary, on the eve of the conflict in 1914. He said: “The lamps are going out all over Europe; we shall not see them lit again in our lifetime.” He made the remark the day before war was declared, as he gazed across St James’s Park from his window at the Foreign Office at the gas lamps being lit.

The switch-off is being called Lights Out, and is backed by the Government as “one of the most dramatic UK-wide events ever organised.” Throughout the UK, everyone is being invited to “turn off their lights and to replace them with one single light, to remember a day that changed the world forever.”

The ‘Lights Out’ will take place at the same time as a candlelit vigil of prayers, readings and music held in Westminster Abbey. There candles will be extinguished one by one until a single flame is snuffed out at 11pm.

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 Minister.

Rainbows

Wednesday evening, 5.30pm to 6.30pm in the hall. For girls aged 5 to 7 years.

Temporary Accommodation Required, Do you have a spare room ?

A message from James Banks :

"TEMPORARY LODGINGS SOUGHT. Recent Oxford graduate moving to Manchester seeks short-term lodgings (four to eight weeks from early September) while he finds his feet in a new city and embarks upon a new career in family social work in the south of the city. Polite, quiet, tidy and willing to pay well for a convenient short term arrangement. Contact James on 07881585704 or jimmy.c.banks@gmail.com"

Church Hall Bookings

Church Hall and Glass Room are both available for Hire, details are on our website www.St-Nicholas-church.org.uk.

For bookings please contact our new Hall Secretary

Mrs Caroline Abiodon 0161 431 6535

The Parish Church of St Nicholas Burnage

Sunday Services

8.30 a.m.
10.30 a.m.

Eucharist (BCP)
Family Service and Eucharist

Minister

Rev'd Rachel Mann
0161 432 7009

Organists

Churchwardens

Mrs. Alison Mills 01625 540376
Mobile : 07932 071977
Ms Jane Cawley 07745392374

Assistant Wardens

Mr. Fred Murphy
Ms Jill Lomas
Mrs Grace Manley
Mrs Julie Crossley
Mrs Louise Hollingsworth

Hon. Treasurer.

Mrs. Elaine Jess

Minutes Secretary

Mrs. Ann Ackerman

Electoral Roll Officer

Mrs Lyn Rimmer

Deanery Synod

Mrs. Grace Manley
Mrs Christine Price

Elected on PC

(in addition to the above officers)

Mrs. Alison Cullen
Mrs. Margaret Witty
Mr. Tony Witty.
Mr David Crossley (ex-officio)

Magazine Distribution

Mrs. Brenda Maclese

Missionary Secretary

Mrs. Margaret Vessey

St. Nicholas Church Website

www.st-nicholas-church.org.uk

St.Nicholas Church, Kingsway, Manchester M19 1PL

Church Hall Bookings : Caroline Abiodon 0161 431 6535