



ST. NICHOLAS NEWS

MAY 2015

PRICE 50P

RACHEL'S MAY LETTER

*'Where are you going, where are you going,
won't you take me with you?'*

These lines from Stephen Schwartz's 1970s' musical, *Godspell* have always haunted me. Sung by two female disciples just before Jesus is crucified, the lines form a plaintive counterpoint to the violence that's about to take place. The women are desperate to be where Jesus is and have not yet begun to understand what that might entail. If they're to follow him it might mean the death and resurrection of all they've known and treasured up to this point.

As I offer this report to St Nicholas' Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) the words of that song are echoing round my mind. I think it's part of my responsibility to ask where we – as St Nick's – are 'going' and equally to spend time discerning where Jesus is leading so that we can get involved and follow. But this is not just the Rector's responsibility. If we as a serving parish community are to be around in the future, we are all called to examine who God is calling us to be and to get involved in his works of creation. Increasingly, the work of St Nick's will be the work of the whole people.

Part of discerning God's call entails looking back at where we've come from and seeing the good news (and, sometimes, not so good news!) within it. As our churchwardens have indicated in their own report, it has been an incredibly busy year for St Nick's.

What with our production of The Tree of War, heritage open days, tree-lighting events as well as various fairs there has been an incredible footfall through our building this past year. Some people will ask, what has that got to do with being church? Let's be clear, however: unless we become both a destination for people and also a community building, we can't serve our local community. The hall continues to be well used and I have been delighted at witnessing a new Rainbows unit grow and flourish. The Burnage Community Choir goes from strength to strength, we have held another successful holiday club and we have never had better relationships with our local councillors. Equally, long-standing groups like Women's Fellowship continue to be witnesses to God's love. Though it continues to be a struggle for us to be seen, we are becoming more visible.

Our building is both a profound blessing and a challenge. We know this is a landmark building that is justly celebrated. But it remains a challenge for our congregation to manage and service. We are waiting to hear whether we shall receive a Heritage Lottery Fund grant for c £170,000 to help repair our leaking roof. It has been a difficult process to go through and if we receive support it will continue to be challenging. Not only will we be required to manage the project with great care, but we'll be required to raise match funding. I am pleased to say we've received some grant funding already and there have been donations, but we have a long way to go.

Buildings are not ends in themselves. That's why I want us to focus on where Jesus is leading us. I want us to hunger to be involved in what the Spirit is doing and saying. We're privileged to have Sally Robinson with us as an ordinand and, in the summer, Alan Simpson, will be joining us as curate. Sally is beginning to examine how we, as a church, can become an ever more welcoming and inviting congregation. I'm sure she is going to helpfully challenge us in all sorts of ways. Alan will bring his own wisdom and insight, and I trust will help us grow as we attempt to support and encourage him. I hope Sally, Alan and I will work together to develop our whole congregation's theological understanding, not only through preaching, but by developing new home groups for prayer and reflection.

It has, as always, been a year of goodbyes as well as new beginnings. Our community mourns the loss of Vera Gawkrödger, Barbara Stenton, and Ken Paterson. Each, in differing ways, made lasting contributions to our fellowship and community. May they rest in peace and rise in glory. In a different way we say 'farewell' to Elaine Jess who stands down as treasurer after many years. I'm delighted that Caroline Abiodun has stepped in and it's important that we carefully support her during this time of transition. Equally, it has been great to welcome Sam Travis and Rachel Varughese to our fellowship. Rachel's design skills have brought new energy into the magazine. I extend my thanks to Alison Mills for her work as editor of the magazine, but I'm sure she won't mind me saying that she's glad to step down from this important role. This is also true for Anne Tudor and Norma Cookson who have let go the reins of arranging flowers. Thank you to Val Hagan and Christine Price for stepping in and continuing this valuable way of visually representing our trust in God.

I see so many seeds growing in this congregation and it is thrilling. I feel like there is so much promise and possibility at St Nick's. We are a small fellowship, but in many ways a remarkable one. We are becoming a richer, more inclusive congregation and I think we're slowly learning to be open to the communities in which we are set. I extend my particular gratitude to the Wardens for their patience, steadfastness and willingness to commit to these key roles. As you will know, my own health continues to be troublesome and I'm seeking to be a good steward of the energies and gifts has apportioned me. Please pray for me, as I pray for you.

Rachel x

(This text comprises the Rector's Report given at the APCM, Palm Sunday, 29th March 2015.)

ALAN SIMPSON'S FIRST DAY

Alan Simpson, our new curate, will be with us for his first service on Sunday, 5 July 2015. A buffet lunch and celebrations will take place after the service.

BOOK LAUNCH

The northern launch of the new Inclusive Church resource on Gender (published by DLT) will be launched on Wednesday 13th May, 12pm - 2pm, at St Denys' Bookshop, Manchester Cathedral Visitor's Centre.

It is edited by Rosemary Lain-Priestley, who anticipates being present at the launch. Rachel Mann has contributed, as well as others including Ronni Lamont, Natalie Collins, and David Monteith.

The book is part of a series of books on topics including sexuality, ethnicity and disability. Books will be on sale at the event.

THE TREE OF WAR

September 14-19, 2015

For the latest news on 'The Tree of War' production, visit: www.treeofwar.co.uk.

SUMMER FAIR - SOMEWHERE OVER THE RAINBOW

This year's summer fair will be held on Saturday, 20 June 2015, from 11am - 2pm. The theme is "Somewhere Over the Rainbow"! Plan for lots of bright colours on stalls, decorations around the hall, and stall holders are asked to wear brightly coloured clothing.

On Sunday, 14 June, after the 10.30am service, there will be a short meeting for the Social and Fundraising Committee to make final arrangements for the fair.

CHURCH ROTA - MAY 2015

	Warden 8.30am	Warden 10.30am	Altar Server	Lay Assistants	Sidespeople
May 3rd	Fred	Jill	Louise	Louise Lyn	Brenda Colin Alison C.
May 10th	Alison M.	Jane	Caroline	Grace Margaret	Lyn Ann A.
May 17th	Fred	Alison M.	Peter	Jane Alison C.	Anne T. Anne H.
May 24th	Grace	Grace	Brenda	Brenda Cliff	Sybil Caroline
May 31st	Jill	Julie	Louise	Louise Alison M.	Margaret Michael Muriel



PARISH REGISTERS - FROM MARCH 2015

Date	Attendance	Cash	Envelopes
1st	37	£13.05	£295.50
8th	43	£1.00	£319.00
15th	50	£30.04	£263.00
22nd	45	£25.65	£229.10
29th	36	£10.00	£451.50
Total		£79.74	£1558.10

St.Nicholas Club
 1st Prize: Doris Crossley
 2nd Prize: Oliver Mills

MAY CALENDAR

Sunday, May 3rd	8.30am 10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP) Parish Communion & Young People's Church
Tuesday, May 5th	7.30pm	Taize
Wednesday, May 6th	10am	Eucharist
Sunday, May 10th	8.30am 10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP) Parish Communion & Young People's Church
Wednesday, May 13th	10am	Eucharist
Thursday, May 14th	7.30pm	Ascension Day Service at St. Chad's in Ladybarn
Sunday, May 17th	8.30am 10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP) Parish Communion & Young People's Church
Wednesday, May 20th	10am	Eucharist
Sunday, May 24th	8.30am 10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP) Parish Communion & Young People's Church
Wednesday, May 27th	10am	Eucharist
Sunday, May 31st	8.30am 10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP) Parish Communion & Young People's Church

SALLY'S SCRIBBLES

Christ is Risen! Alleluia! It is still Easter for a while yet, so it seems apt to get the 'alleluias' in where we can. It was an absolute pleasure to share the journey through Easter with you at St Nick's this year. I enjoyed the deep searching of the lent group, had great fun doing a treasure hunt with Rainbows and sharing the story of Holy Week in biscuits - while attempting answering many a tough question - and was of course delighted to worship with you on Easer Sunday. Not to mention all the services that happened in between!

It can often feel like we get to Easter Day and all breathe a sigh of relief. As if to say "thank goodness that's over!" Priests are expected to take time off after Easter to rest and recover from the tremendous effort that goes into facilitating so many services but also the emotional toll of reflecting so deeply on our very reason for being. Though some priests are better at this than others. The same is also true of everyone who contributes to the life of St Nick's. It is certainly not just priests who work hard during busy seasons of the church. Many thanks to all who continue to dedicate so much time and energy to our community.

It would, of course, be impossible to maintain that pace of life in the church throughout the year. It would inevitably lose its appeal and impact, but there is something to be said, I think, for embracing the season of Easter. Easter Sunday is not the end but simply a new beginning. One in which we journey onwards to new life with our risen Lord, who was, and is, and is to come. I pray that as we move

forward, hopefully at a much-reduced pace, we may be able to carry the joy and hope of Easter with us.

College has now restarted. All the essay deadlines from last term have been met and now I look forward (not entirely enthusiastically) to the ones which come with this term. College feels to be a good place to be. There are some truly wonderful people and a sense in which we are paving the way for the college to be in the future, in prayerful obedience to God. It is a place very much shaped by the community of people who study there and the differing viewpoints and skills they all bring. Long may that continue!

I'm just starting a placement with a chaplain for Greater Manchester West Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust. I am looking forward to learning lots of new things and getting to know what it means to be a priest in a very different setting. It will be a great experience, though it will mean I will be spending less time with you at St Nick's than I am used to. Otherwise, the essays will never get done!

May we journey onwards in the hope and joy of the Resurrection.

Sally

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

For girls aged 5 to 7 years.

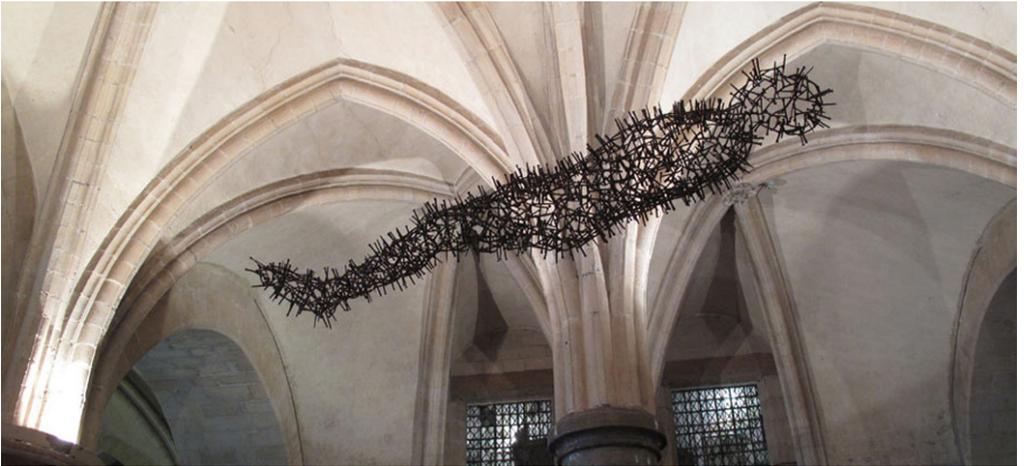
Wednesday evening, 6 pm to 7 pm, in the church hall.

'THE ART OF FAITH': TIME FOR CHURCHES TO DISCOVER THE POWER OF CONTEMPORARY ART?

Written by Ted Harrison, an artist and former BBC correspondent.

Contemporary art has a mixed reputation; just piles of bricks, dead sharks and unmade beds, say some. And yet galleries of modern art attract millions of visitors and one of the most popular artworks shown in Britain in recent years was the remarkable installation of poppies at The Tower of London last year.

Since medieval times, great churches & cathedrals have been centres of the arts. Despite the attempts of the 16th and 17th century Puritans to clear 'idolatrous images' from places of worship, many of the great traditional artworks of the pre-Reformation world have survived in the form of paintings, sculptures and stained glass windows. Many historic parish churches too have hidden artistic gems.



Antony Gormley's sculpture, Transport, in Canterbury Cathedral where it was suspended above the site of the first tomb of Archbishop Thomas Becket.

Increasingly, churches are discovering the power of contemporary art, both to enhance worship and draw in new people. Contemporary artists have a greater freedom than artists of old. They experiment with new media, such as installation, sound and even performance. The recently-installed altar piece at St Paul's Cathedral in London is not a painting, but a moving, disturbing, and eye-catching video. In Salisbury Cathedral the new font is an amazing reflecting and

flowing water sculpture. Many well-known names in contemporary art have been inspired to create religious works. Anthony Gormley, famed as the creator of The Angel of the North, used old nails from the cathedral roof to create a new work for Canterbury Cathedral. Tracey Emin designed a work in pink neon light for the west end of the Liverpool Cathedral.

There are also many smaller churches where the work of well-known modern artists can be found. To give just two examples from many: Old St Paul's in Edinburgh has a massive and mesmerising oil painting by Alison Watt showing tumbling folds of white cloth. And a more traditional, but equally striking modern work can be found at South Harting church in Sussex where sculptor Philip Jackson's Angel Gabriel can be seen.

For many years art students have been taught art theory in secular terms. Art has been viewed almost as a branch of philosophy or sociology. Yet more and more artists are turning to religious subjects for inspiration and discovering the spiritual aspects of their practice. They are turning to sacred subjects and sacred spaces for inspiration and welcoming opportunities to work with churches and with the congregations. In the second of the series we will be looking at how collaborations can come about. *(This is the first of four articles in this series, which will run: May, June, July and September).*

CHURCH HALL BOOKINGS

Church Hall and Glass Room are available for Hire.

Details are on our website:
www.St-Nicholas-church.org.uk

For bookings please contact:
Mrs Caroline Abiodon (0161 431 6535)

THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST NICHOLAS BURNAGE

SUNDAY SERVICES

8.30 a.m Eucharist (BCP)

10.30 a.m. Family Service and
Eucharist

MINISTER

Rev'd Rachel Mann
(0161 432 7009)

ORGANISTS

Vacancy

CHURCHWARDENS

Mrs. Alison Mills
(01625 540376)

(07932 071977)
Ms. Jane Cawley
(07745392374)

ASSISTANT WARDENS

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

HON. TREASURER.

Mrs. Caroline Abiodun

MINUTES SECRETARY

Mrs. Ann Ackerman

ELECTORAL ROLL OFFICER

Mrs. Lyn Rimmer

DEANERY SYNOD

Mrs. Grace Manley
Mrs. Christine Price

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(in addition to the above officers)

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

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