

# ST. NICHOLAS NEWS

FEBRUARY 2016

PRICE 50P



# RACHEL'S LETTER

*“I blamed you for my freezing and forgetting, and the nights were long and cold and scary, can we live through February?”*

One of my favourite musicians is an American folk artist called Dar Williams. If you don't know her work, she's well worth digging out. She writes quite beautifully about growing up, love, gender and politics and many other things. One of her most striking songs is called 'February', from which the quote above is taken.

Ostensibly it's about a relationship going through a very tricky 'season'. A couple seem to be falling apart and arguing after Christmas, and February becomes a metaphor for the 'freezing up' of the couple's feelings for each other.

As a February child, I'm always alert to metaphors and songs about it. It is the shortest month and yet, for some people, it can feel like it drags on forever. Often it's even colder and more unpleasant than January. Winter often reaches a peak in February.

Yet, while February is most definitely still winter, it is often during that month we get a first glimpse of crocuses and other spring flowers. We often discover that the very worst point in the year is also its turning into the promise of spring.

February once again signals the start of the discipline of Lent. Ash Wednesday falls on February 10th this year and, as we rehearse our repentance and mark ourselves in ash with the sign of the cross, we commit ourselves to a time of self-examination and rigour which is without parallel in the

rest of the Church's year. Yet, if this is a time of testing, it already gestures towards the extraordinary events of the Easter Event – Good Friday, Holy Saturday and Easter Day – that captures the heart of our faith. For in the midst of death and corruption we are caught up in God's glorious invitation to new life and resurrection.

February, then, is a remarkable month. It can both be a time of fierce cold and unpleasantness, but also holds within it the promise of the new season to come. When Lent falls within it (which is as often as not) the sharpness of the weather acts as a powerful reminder of the demands of prayer. At the same time as we catch glimpses of spring flowers we see, unfurling before our eyes, the promise that lies in Easter.

I hope, then, that this February is a time for reflection. That it's a time for keeping warm. And, if it's your thing, it's time for getting outside and taking some wintry walks. I also hope it's a time for preparation, not only for the opening out of the new year into spring, but, more significantly, for the promise of Easter. May you catch glimpses of glory in the ice and fog and in the challenge of prayer.

In the depths of winter it can seem as if we've forgotten what new life can feel like. Yet, new life is there, waiting for us. In that spirit, I'll leave you this month with a few more words from Dar William's song 'February':

*“And February was so long that it lasted into March,  
And found us walking a path alone together.  
You stopped and pointed and you said, “That’s a crocus.”  
And I said, “What’s a crocus?” And you said, “It’s a flower.”  
I tried to remember, but I said, “What’s a flower?”  
You said, “I still love you.””*

Rachel x

## **WORLD THINKING DAY**

22nd February marks the birthday of Lord Baden-Powell, founder of the Scout and Guide Movement, and his wife Olave, who served as World Chief Guide. The Girl Guide Movement has been marking this special day since 1926, and the 22nd February remains a day for all Girl Guides to think of each other and give thanks for their “sisters” all around the world.

A memorial stone was dedicated to Robert Baden-Powell in Westminster Abbey on 23rd April 1947. From then until 1955, Scouting Headquarters staff and some members held an annual wreath-laying and service in the Abbey.

From 1959 onwards, the service was held on the nearest Saturday to 22nd February, and from 1978, following the death of Lady Baden-Powell the previous year, this annual service became a joint celebration of Thinking Day and Founder’s Day. In 1981, a memorial was dedicated to Lord and Lady Baden-Powell in Westminster Abbey as Chief Scout of the World and World Chief Guide respectively.

Now the annual service, known as the National Scout and Guide Service of Celebration and Thanksgiving, focuses on thanking the adult volunteer leaders and supporters for their service and dedication.



During a church service my young niece had to go outside, as she did not feel well. She returned a few minutes later and admitted: ‘I have been a little sick. But it doesn’t matter, there’s a box at the door marked ‘for the sick’.

The background of the top section is a close-up, shallow depth-of-field photograph of an artist's palette and brushes. The palette is white with various colors of paint, and several brushes with dark bristles are scattered around it. The lighting is warm and soft, creating a bokeh effect in the background.

**ART EXHIBITION AT ST.  
NICHOLAS CHURCH BY  
CHORLTON ART GROUP**

Sat 12th March 10.30-4.00  
Sun 13th March 12.00-4.00

Art work by a group  
of local artists.

Refreshments, crafts  
and fair trade available.

## **ASH WEDNESDAY**

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.

## CHURCH ROTA - FEBRUARY 2016

	Warden 8.30am	Warden 10.30am	Altar Server	Lay Assistants	Sidespeople
Feb 7th	Julie Crossley	Alison Mills	Louise Holling- sworth	Louise H. Margaret V.	Muriel N. Val H.
Feb 14th	Louise Holling- sworth	Grace Manley	Caroline Abiodun	Alison M. Julie C.	Brenda M. Colin M. Alison C.
Feb 21st	Fred Murphy	Jane Cawley	Brenda Maclese	Brenda M Cliff S.	Lyn R. Ann A.
Feb 28th	Alison Mills	Jill Lomas	Peter Cullen	Jane C. Alison C.	Anne T. Anne H. Elaine J.

## PARISH REGISTERS - FROM DECEMBER 2015

Date	Attendance	Cash	Envelopes
Dec 6th	47	7.00	373.70
Dec 13th	35	16.00	285.50
Dec 20th	41	17.00	266.50
Dec 27th	113	163.80	416.00
Total	236	203.80	1,341.70

### **St Nicholas Club**

1st prize - 37 - Caroline Abiodun  
2nd prize - 54 - Emily Crossley

## FEBRUARY CALENDAR

Tuesday, Feb 2nd	7.30pm	Taize
Wednesday, Feb 3rd	10am	Eucharist
Sunday, Feb 7th	8.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	10.30am	Parish Communion & Young People's Church
Wednesday, Feb 10th	10am	Eucharist
	2.30pm	Women's Fellowship: Mercy Ships with Ms. Janet Hiles
Saturday, Feb 13th	10.30am-12pm	Women's Fellowship Coffee Morning
Sunday, Feb 14th	8.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	10.30am	Parish Communion & Young People's Church
Wednesday, Feb 17th	10am	Eucharist
Sunday, Feb 21st	8.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	10.30am	Parish Communion & Young People's Church
	6pm	Confirmation
Wednesday, Feb 24th	10am	Eucharist
	2.30pm	Women's Fellowship: Hearing Dogs for Deaf People with Ms. Rachel Hassey
Sunday, Feb 28th	8.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	10.30am	Parish Communion & Young People's Church



## The Robin and the Hedgehog by Irene Smith



I don't know if you remember our little Robin Redbreast that we saw last Christmas. Well! He's back. I was delighted to see him again. He poked his head into all the secret places where much of his food was found. He also found the new bird-table that arrived last summer. But that wouldn't be no use to all creatures, this chattering and singing, for shortly after it was curtailed by the inclement weather. Mr Robin found himself a snooky place but one you could peep through! Just as he was settled in he heard a noise and just had to peek out. The noise seemed to be coming from a tiny ball.

"Excuse me, Mr Robin, I am looking for a place to settle for a few nights. You see my last den has been vandalised and I am tired and very sore."

The robin looked down and said, "Why are you tired and sore?" he hopped down and looked at the funny old ball near to himself when suddenly a hedgehog appeared from the ball!

"I am tired and sore," he squeaked to Mr Robin, "because I was sort of vandalised too."

Mr Robin looked down and sympathised, then flew down and hopped until he was right by the old ball. Slowly the ball moved then a wee face and two front paws appeared. "Oh I am so sore, so sore," squeaked Hedgeie.

Mr Robin thought to himself. "Are you hungry or thirsty, Mr Hedgehog? Because I always feel better when I have something to eat or drink." The tiny hedgehog gave a sigh, "but I'm too sore to go far."

Mr Robin put his head on one side and thought hard, then he said, “Do you like bread in milk to eat?” Hedgie tried to shake his head and gave a little squeak. “We do not like bread and milk at all, at all.”

“Well what do you like then?” said Robin.

“Cat food from tins” was the squeaky reply. The robin hopped backwards in astonishment then thought again, very hard.

“Do you think you could roll over down to the back door?” He asked Hedgie.

The door wasn’t too far. “I think so,” squeaked the brown ball. The next thing to happen or see was an old brown ball rolling down the lawn with a Robin Redbreast accompanying it by hopping at the side. They stopped right by the back door of the house. What was the purpose of all this? Well only Mr Robin knew that a dish of cat food was put out each night with some water in a bowl for the house cat.

“Be quick,” he chirped to Hedgie, “it is nearly dark and time for the big cat to come out for his supper. Then he quickly flew off to the nearest tree.

Next morning as dawn approached there was the now familiar squeaking. “Wake up, Mr Robin! Wake up! I want to say thank you very, very much for your help yesterday. I am not sore anymore. By the way, I am not called Hedgie yet. Young hedgehogs are called a hoglet! Perhaps I could call to see you when I am a hedgehog – fully grown.”

*Note: HOGLET is a true name*

*Note: now our wee story is finished can you bring to mind any biblical stories you might think are similar to, and correspond to, our story?*

## **CHURCH ACTION ON POVERTY SUNDAY, 7TH FEBRUARY**

Food is a gift from God. But in the UK today, thousands of people are denied access to that gift by injustices that leave them destitute. Churches play a vital role in sharing food with those who need it – and speaking out to ensure that nobody goes without. And so this year Church Action on Poverty Sunday is asking churches across the UK to consider at least one of the following ways in which they might help.

**Give:**

hold a collection or soup lunch to raise funds for their work.

**Act:**

speak out for the poor and disadvantaged.

**Pray:**

use free resources to plan a worship service that gives thanks for the gift of food, and celebrates the work being done to tackle hunger and poverty in the UK.

More details at: <http://www.church-poverty.org.uk/>

*The following is a prayer found on the Church Action on Poverty website.*

**Creator God,  
you made this good earth and gave us enough  
that all could delight  
in bread and wine, milk and honey, story and song.  
As Jesus sat by lakeside and table  
and shared bread,  
and said that his body was broken for all,  
he showed us a glimpse of your Kingdom.  
Inspire us  
with a vision of a society beyond the scandal of poverty  
where bread is the birthright of all your children.  
Give us hearts that yearn for it,  
voices to call for it,  
strong hands to build it together.**

## **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.

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## **CHURCH HALL BOOKINGS**

Church Hall and Glass Room are available for Hire.

Details are on our website:

[www.St-Nicholas-church.org.uk](http://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**

Oliver Mills

## **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

## **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