



ST. NICHOLAS NEWS
JANUARY 2016
PRICE 50P

RACHEL'S LETTER

I always find writing the 'New Year' parish letter difficult. Inevitably, it involves a 'looking back' over where we've travelled from and an anticipation of where the New Year will go. It's a chance to think about fresh beginnings but is also shadowed by reflection on the previous year's (occasional) triumphs and unavoidable challenges. It can be a melancholic process in which one asks, 'Where did the year go?' It can also be a hopeful one, full of the longing for 'a better year this year'.

For St Nick's, 2015 was a busy, challenging, but very rewarding year. We said goodbye to dear friends and we welcomed some new people to our small fellowship. Finally, we began our long-awaited and planned repair works. Slowly, we are moving along, but it will be few months before the work will be complete. We've also had all sorts of fun and exciting events from choir concerts, fairs and a full-blown West-End style musical, The Tree of War.

There is, ultimately, one basis for all we do: God. Without the Spirit of God we might as well be social workers, or part of the National Trust, or even theatre impresarios! We must be a located community, unpretentious about our willingness to serve both need and offer new ways of being church. However, without prayer, all of that activity is mere clanging cymbal.

The God who calls us into life is both changeless and, yet, utterly located in our midst. This simple truth is one reason why we should not be afraid (as the hymn has it) 'in all the changing scenes of life.' I know that can be very hard to

believe, but it is at the heart of our faith. Our lives are short; in the mind of the infinite they are barely a heartbeat. And yet...they are utterly precious and valuable. Christ gives his life that we may live. God offers himself to us, for us. God makes a gift of himself to us and that freely offered gift may set us free.

The New Year will undoubtedly be full of both challenges and extraordinary opportunities. However, I trust we shall attempt to face whatever the year sends with confidence. God never says that life will be easy. He promises only to be with us till the end of the age. If that sounds too high faluting then can I encourage each of us to attempt to be alert to the movement of God's grace in the details.

Ours is a troubled and troubling world, but it is also extraordinarily beautifully and heartbreakingly wonderful. God waits with us in the dark and walks alongside us in the light. May you have a blessed and peaceful New Year.

Rachel xx

AS A NEW YEAR BEGINS

A prayer by Karl Barth (1886 - 1968). This most prominent Protestant theologian of his time spent much of his life resisting the Nazi movement, and so knew a thing or two about entering a New Year undaunted by troubles all around him.

O Lord, our Father!...at the turn of the year... our hearts are filled with sombre thoughts... our ears are deafened by the voices of the radio and the newspapers, with their numerous predictions for the coming year. Instead we want to hear your word, your voice, your assurance, your guidance. We know that you are in our midst, and are eager to give us all that we need, whether we ask or not.

...We ask for one thing only: that you collect our scattered thoughts, getting rid of the confused and defiant thoughts that may distract us, and thus enable us to concentrate on your limitless generosity to us.

You were abundantly generous to us last year, and will be no less generous to us next year, and in every year to come. Fill us with gratitude to you.

CHURCH HALL BOOKINGS

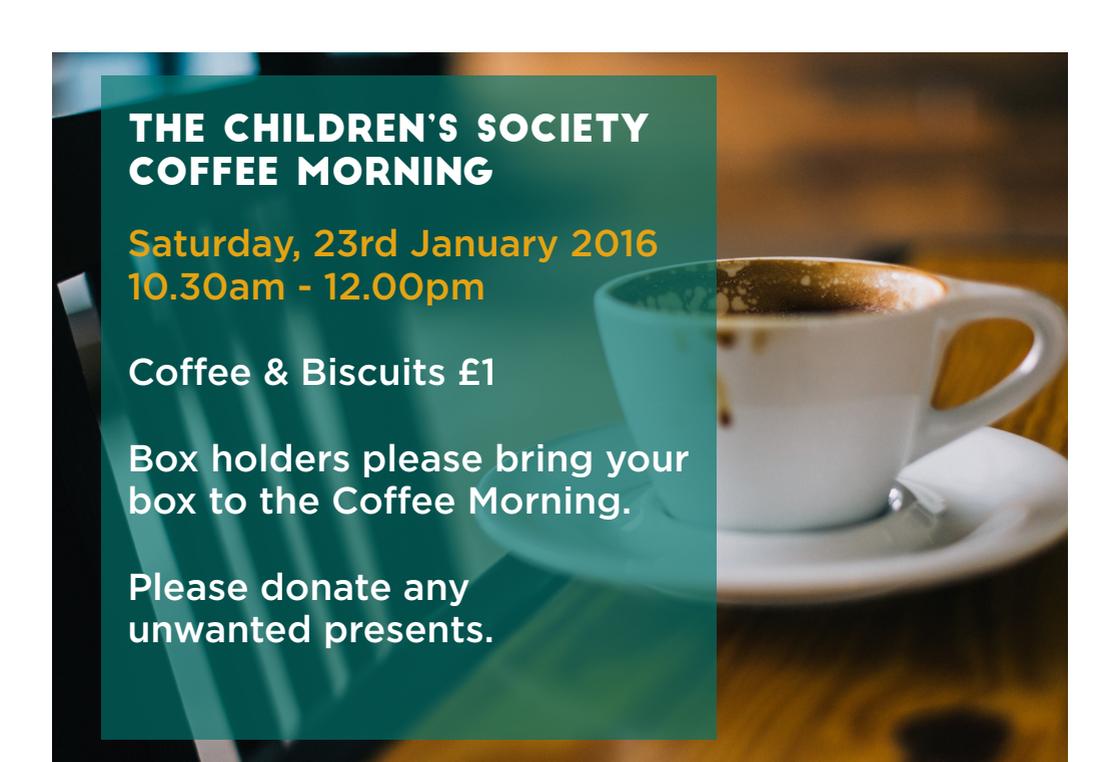
Church Hall and Glass Room are available for Hire.

Details are on our website:

www.St-Nicholas-church.org.uk

For bookings please contact:

Mrs Caroline Abiodon (0161 431 6535)



THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY COFFEE MORNING

**Saturday, 23rd January 2016
10.30am - 12.00pm**

Coffee & Biscuits £1

**Box holders please bring your
box to the Coffee Morning.**

**Please donate any
unwanted presents.**

THANK YOU

We offer up a big thank you to Mike Weildon - Butcher's, Queensway, Burnage - for their kind donation of a Turkey voucher and the Christmas tree for church.

CHRISTINGLE SERVICE

At the Christingle service held on the 6th December we raised £147.60 for the Children's Society. Thank you all for your support.

-Brenda Maclese and Jill Lomas

CHURCH ROTA - JANUARY 2016

	Warden 8.30am	Warden 10.30am	Altar Server	Lay Assistants	Sidespeople
Jan 3rd	Fred Murphy	Grace Manley	Caroline Abiodun	Anne T. Anne H.	Brenda M. Colin M. Alison C
Jan 10th	Alison Mills	Julie Crossley	Louise Holling- sworth	Louise H. Jill L.	Lyn R. Ann A.
Jan 17th	Jane Cawley	Jill Lomas	Peter Cullen	Margaret V. Alison C.	Anne T. Anne H.
Jan 24th	Grace Manley	Jane Cawley	Brenda Maclese	Brenda M Cliff S.	Sybil G. Caroline A.
Jan 31st	Jill Lomas	Louise Holling- sworth	Jane Cawley	Jane C. Lyn R.	Margaret V. Michael V. Muriel C.

PARISH REGISTERS - FROM NOVEMBER 2015

Date	Attendance	Cash	Envelopes
Nov 1st	25	4.50	263
Nov 8th	43	13.50	440
Nov 15th	37	20	237
Nov 22nd	44	43.50	220.50
Nov 29th	30	4.00	401
Total		85.50	1,561.50

JANUARY CALENDAR

Sunday, January 3rd	8.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	10.30am	Parish Communion & Young People's Church
Tuesday, January 5th	7.30pm	Taize
Wednesday, January 6th	10am	Eucharist
Sunday, January 10th	8.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	10.30am	Parish Communion & Young People's Church
Wednesday, January 13th	10am	Eucharist
Sunday, January 17th	8.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	10.30am	Parish Communion & Young People's Church
Wednesday, January 20th	10am	Eucharist
Sunday, January 24th	8.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	10.30am	Parish Communion & Young People's Church
Wednesday, January 27th	10am	Eucharist
Wednesday, January 27th	2.30pm	Women's Fellowship: Wildlife in your Garden with Mr. Russ Hedley
Sunday, January 31st	8.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	10.30am	Parish Communion & Young People's Church

IN THE MONTH OF JANUARY...

175 years ago:- on 28th Jan 1841 that Sir Henry Morton Stanley, Welsh-born journalist and explorer of central Africa, was born. Best known for his successful search for the missionary and explorer Dr David Livingstone, and for his discoveries and subsequent development in the Congo region.

125 years ago:- on 6th Jan 1891 that the world's first penalty kick was taken by Airdrieonians FC in Scotland. (The first penalty kick in the English football league was taken by Wolverhampton Wanderers later that same year, in Sept 1891.)

90 years ago:- on 8th Jan 1926 that Abdul-Aziz ibn Saud became King of Nejd and Hejaz. In 1932 he united four regions and established the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, with himself as the first king.

80 years ago:- on 20th Jan 1936 that King George V of the UK died. He was succeeded by Edward VIII.

75 years ago:- on 5th Jan 1941 that Amy Johnson, pioneering British aviator, drowned in the Thames Estuary near London after bailing out of her plane, which had run out of fuel and crashed in adverse weather.

75 years ago:- on 8th Jan 1941 that Robert Baden-Powell, 1st Baron Baden-Powell, British army officer, died. He was founder of the Scouts and Guides movements.

70 years ago:- on 10th Jan 1946 that the United Nations General Assembly convened for the first time, in Westminster Central Hall, London.

60 years ago:- on 10th Jan 1956 that Elvis Presley recorded the song Heartbreak Hotel. It was his first single for RCA and topped the Billboard charts for seven weeks, selling more than one million copies.

50 years ago:- on 17th Jan 1966 that the album Sounds of Silence by Simon and Garfunkel was released.

40 years ago:- on 12th Jan 1976 that Dame Agatha Christie, crime novelist, short story writer and playwright, died. She was best known for creating Hercule Poirot and Miss Marple, and for the world's longest running play, The Mousetrap.

30 years ago:- on 24th Jan 1986 that the Wapping Dispute began. 6000 newspaper workers in London began a year-long strike against News International. The strike failed, ending restrictive trade union practices in the British newspaper publishing industry..

30 years ago:- on 28th Jan 1986 that the Space Shuttle Challenger disaster took place. The Challenger exploded shortly after lift-off from Cape Canaveral, killing all 7 astronauts.

20 years ago:- on 20th Jan 1996 that the first Palestinian general election took place. Yasser Arafat was elected President of the Palestinian National Council in a landslide victory.

Also 20 years ago:- on 22nd Jan 1996 that a mass grave was discovered near Brcko which contained the bodies of nearly 3,000 victims of Serb ethnic cleansing. They had been killed in May-June 1992 during the Bosnian War.

Also 20 years ago:- on 27th Jan 1996 that International Holocaust Remembrance Day was observed for the first time. (27th Jan marks the date when Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi death camp, was liberated.)

15 years ago:- on 15th Jan 2001, that Wikipedia, the online collaborative encyclopaedia, was officially launched.

COMMUNITY BONDING BY IRENE SMITH



I received a letter from a good friend this week who was describing the difficulty of trying to assemble a power-point talk on “The Importance of the Christian Community.” Finding the most appropriate images was the problem. Whilst he was thinking he browsed through some websites and BINGO!

He noticed some websites seemed to convey symbolically a similar theme or story: a group of people holding hands and linked together. This got me thinking too. We could all read through a Bible and find situations that link people together in both the Old and New Testaments in a loving and Christian way.

But how many such scenarios could we bring to mind from our own personal lives. At New Year celebrations - if you are a part of a group large or small - it is traditional to join hands and sing “Auld Lang Syne”.

I leave you to remember your own special event involving community bonding, team spirit or mutual delight upon reaching a group achievement together.

My special memories, wherever I am for worship, is “The Peace.” We join hands together and for a few seconds we relate to one another as Christian brothers and sisters - the way Jesus asked us to.

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.

ONE LINERS TO MAKE YOU CHUCKLE..

What did the raspberry say to the blueberry?

“Breathe, breathe!!!”

A hangover is the wrath of grapes.

When two egotists meet, it's an I for an I.

A bicycle can't stand on its own because it is two tired.

Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana.

In democracy your vote counts. In feudalism your count votes.

A chicken crossing the road is poultry in motion.

“Most cars on our roads have only one occupant, usually the driver.” (Carol Malia, BBC Anchorwoman)

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