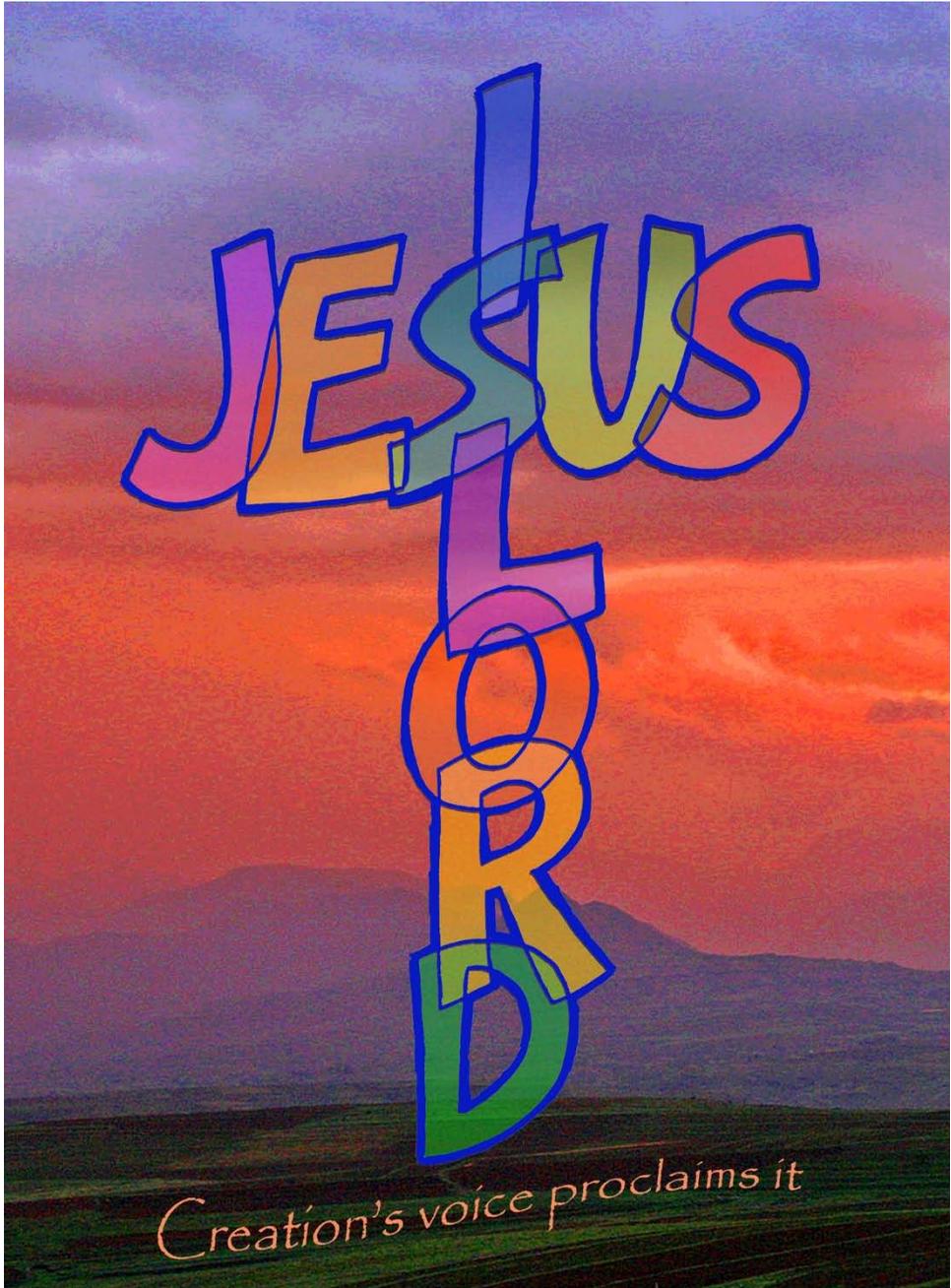


St Nicholas News

February 2017

Price 50p



JESUS
LORD

Creation's voice proclaims it

Church Diary February 2017

Date	Time	Event
Wednesday 1 st	10.00 am 7.30 pm	Eucharist Deanery Synod at St Nick's
Sunday 5 th	8.30 am 10.30 am	4th Sunday before Lent Holy Communion (BCP) All-age worship
Tuesday 3 rd	7.30	Taize Evening Prayer
Wednesday 8 th	10.00 am 2.30 pm	Eucharist Women's Fellowship – Sailing to South Africa with the Union Castle – Ms H Slater
Friday 10 th	Spend an hour collecting money for Christian Aid in the Tesco Store in Burnage. Sign up at https://tinyurl.com/Tesco-ChristianAid-collections	
Sunday 12 th	8.30 am 10.30 am	3rd Sunday before Lent Holy Communion (BCP) Parish Communion
Wednesday 15 th	10.00 am	Eucharist
Saturday 18 th	10.00 am 10.30 - 12	Joint training event with St.Chad's at St.Nick's on reading in church and writing intercessions, everyone welcome Women's Fellowship Coffee Morning – all welcome
Sunday 19 th	8.30 am 10.30 am	2nd Sunday before Lent Holy Communion (BCP) Parish Communion
Wednesday 22 nd	10.00 am 2.30 pm	Eucharist Women's Fellowship – Mr Selfridge – Mrs S Dowson
Sunday 26 th	8.30 am 10.30 am	Sunday before Lent Holy Communion (BCP) Family Service



Deadline for March Edition: 15th February!

Rachel writes...

As many of you will know, I'm fascinated by words. Perhaps that's hardly surprising given I'm a writer. 'February' is an interesting case in point. Its origins lie in Roman antiquity. It's derived from the Latin name for the second month of the Julian calendar, 'Februarius'. This name itself was derived from the Roman festival of 'Februalia', a term which basically means 'purification'. So, the meaning of 'February' is – effectively – 'time of purification'.

I have to admit, when put like that, 'February' sounds rather ominous. 'Time of Purification' sounds like a slogan Chairman Mao might have used in Communist China, c.1965. It would have presaged nothing good. For the Romans, 'purification' would have referred to rituals of cleansing and preparation, of purging excesses. In an agrarian society such practices would have been significant as it prepared for spring and the agricultural year. It was both 'spring cleaning' and ritual purification.

These ideas of purification - of purging excess and spring cleaning - all have resonances in our modern world. February is usually the month in which we begin Lent, that extended season of preparation and fasting. Shrove Tuesday is a modern way of gathering up 'excess' and having a splurge before a time of restraint. And in February – as we usually see the first signs of spring – people often begin to think of having proper 'spring clean'.

This year February is slightly different. As Easter is very late, it's March before we begin Lent. Yet, in some ways, perhaps this year's extended wait for Ash Wednesday only amplifies the (forgive the word!) 'purgative' nature of February. In my imagination, February always conjures a time when the weather is at its bleakest and – despite the appearance of flowers like snowdrops – there is snow on the ground. It feels to me like the deepest bite of winter. I think of it as 'cleaning up' the last remnants of the previous year.

In our modern technological world in which most people live in cities perhaps we've lost connection with the deep rhythms of life that most of our forebears knew. Pieter Bruegel, the great 16th century artist, understood how seasons, life and devotion all went hand in hand. He – and his team of painters – produced extraordinary images of early modern life in which 'holiness' and devotion were simply part of life. That incredible painting of the 'Massacre of the Innocents' is shown as taking place in deep snow in the Netherlands. He is always alert to how the divine – in both beautiful and terrifying manifestations – waits to greet us in the ordinary. If you have time, look that painting up (as well as the justly famous copy of his 'Landscape with the Fall of Icarus'.) The extraordinary always lurks in the ordinary.

Perhaps that's what we all need to recover: a sense of God's grace and wonder and terrific power in the midst of our humdrum lives. As we prepare, once again, to enter Lent, perhaps it is time to look around and see, or to still ourselves and listen. February can feel like a bleak month, where we are caught between the echoes of the old year and the desire to get on with spring and summer. But perhaps that's its power: God is sometimes to be found 'in-between': in our frustrations and longings as much as our joy and fulfilments. On chilly and dark mornings I hope that you, along with me, are prepared to wait on God and discern his love, emerging like the first spring flower.



Rachel x

Childrens's Society Coffee Morning: a message from Brenda Maclese

Thank you everyone who helped and came to The Children's Society Coffee Morning on 14th January.

We raised a total of £305.00!

Thank you Jill, Fred and Colin for opening the boxes. Without everyone's help and support I would not have been able to have held a Coffee Morning.

It was lovely to welcome Joanne Nicholson from the Children's Society to the coffee morning.

Joanne told us that St.Nicholas Church has raised £12,500 for the Children's Society over a number of years and she thanks everyone for the support we give to the Children's Society.

I have had a letter from Muriel Wheatley and she has asked me to send her love to all her friends at St. Nicholas Church

Brenda

**Many thanks to Michael
Wheeldon and family
for the fantastic
Christmas tree!**



There are reasons when we have to leave the path and go home- go into retirement into solitude, into seeming uselessness. And the hardest part: the sense of having missed our destiny. We have been shunted from the path, we have been made to lie down; and it seems to us as if God has no further place for us beneath the circle of the sun. What a comfort at such moments are these words of the ancient psalmist - "Thou compasses my path and my lying down!"

They tell us that the quiescent hour may be a divine hour, that the seemingly useless moment may be full of God. They tell us the greatest day of our life may be the day after we have quitted the path - the day of our prostration, our pain, our weariness.

They tell us that the places where we are forced to lie down may be God's green pastures, that the coming to quiet waters may be God's own leading. The hour which our soul is rejecting may be the hour when the Kingdom has come."

Psalm 139-3 Thou compasses my lying down.

Mark 9-2 Jesus leadeth them - apart by themselves - and He was transfigured before them.

(A passage found in Mrs Mavel Ryder's papers to her daughter - Sue Ryder, the founder of the Sue Ryder Foundation.) Provided by Irene Smith

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER



Am I
Being
Unfair
to You?

PRAYING FOR
THE PHILIPPINES

Friday 3rd March 2017
ALL ARE WELCOME

7.30 pm
at Didsbury Baptist
Church
All Welcome

www.wwdp.org.uk

Registered Charity Number 233044

Lent Books Reviewed

Dethroning Mammon: making money serve grace

The Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent Book 2017, Bloomsbury Continuum, £9.99

In his first full-length book Justin Welby looks at the subject of money and materialism. *Dethroning Mammon* reflects on the impact of our own attitudes, and of the pressures that surround us, on how we handle the power of money, called Mammon in this book. Who will direct our actions and attitudes? Is it Jesus Christ, who brings truth, hope and freedom? Or is it Mammon, so attractive, so clear, but leading us into paths that tangle, trip and deceive?

Archbishop Justin explores the tensions that arise in a society dominated by Mammon's modern aliases, economics and finance, and by the pressures of our culture to conform to Mammon's expectations. Following the Gospels towards Easter, this book asks the reader what it means to dethrone Mammon in the values and priorities of our civilisation and in our own existence. In *Dethroning Mammon*, Archbishop Justin encourages us to use Lent as a time of learning to trust in the abundance and grace of God.

Let Me Go There – the Spirit of Lent

By Paula Gooder, Canterbury Press, £8.99

Bestselling author Paula Gooder continues her popular series on the seasons of the Christian year with this daily companion for the six weeks of Lent, leading readers deeper into the spirit of the season and opening up the scriptures that are read in churches during this period.

She begins with an introduction to the season of Lent and its characteristic themes, exploring how to use it as a time for spiritual growth. In forty short sections suitable for daily reading, Paula then reflects on a theme associated with the season, including: Wilderness, Journey, Fasting, Taking up your cross, Discipleship, Prayer, and Temptation.

Reflections for Lent 2017

By Jeff Astley, Libby Lane, Helen-Ann Hartley, CUP, £4.99

'Reflections for Lent' is designed to enhance your spiritual journey through the forty days from Ash Wednesday to Holy Saturday (1 March - 15 April 2017).

Covering Monday to Saturday each week, it offers reflections on readings from the Common Worship Lectionary, written by some of today's leading spiritual and theological writers.

Each day includes: Full lectionary details for Morning Prayer, a reflection on one of the Bible readings, and a Collect for the day. This volume is ideal for individuals and groups seeking Lectionary-based reflections for use during Lent and Holy Week.



...well your sermon on the theme of 'Life under President Trump' seems to have gone down very well, vicar...

Parish Registers – December 2016

Date	Attendance	Cash	Envelopes	Total
6 th	46	26.60	246.50	273.10
11 th & 18 th *	279	14.00	467.10	481.10
24 th , 25 th , & 1 st Jan	100	126.65	732.00	858.65
Total		167.25	1445.60	1612.85

* Includes Christingle & Carol Service

St Nicholas Club Draw

1st Prize: 37 Women's Fellowship

2nd Prize: 59 Katy Mills

Church Duty Rota – February 2017

Date	Warden 8.30am	Warden 10.30am	Altar Server	Lay Assistants	Sides- people
5 th	Fred Murphy	Louise Hollings- worth	Brenda Maclese	Brenda M Cliff S	Margaret V Michael V
12 th	Fred Murphy	Julie Crossley	Peter Cullen	Margaret V Lyn R	Eunice W Julie B
19 th	Fred Murphy	Jane Cawley	Caroline Abiodun	Caroline A Grace M	Brenda M Colin M
26 th	Fred Murphy	Alison Mills	Louise Hollings- worth	Louise H Jill L	Lyn R Ann A

Organisations

The Maker's Club (Sunday School)

Mrs. Margaret Witty (0161 432 2933)

For all children aged 3 years upwards in the hall from 10.15 a.m

Women's Fellowship

Chairman: Mrs Ann Holmes (0161 434 2245)

Second and Fourth Wednesdays at 2.30 pm

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

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

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.

Holy Communion is taken to the housebound by arrangement with the Minister.

Minister	Rev'd Canon Rachel Mann 0161 432 7009		
Curate	Rev'd Alan Simpson	Ordinand	Ms Sally Robinson
Churchwardens	Mrs Alison Mills (07932071977)	Organists	Mr Oliver Mills (07786 337087)
	Ms Jane Cawley (0161 283 0513)		Ms Elizabeth Bray
Assistant Wardens	Mr Fred Murphy	Hon. Treasurer	Mrs Caroline Abiodun
	Mrs Grace Manley	Minutes Secretary	Mrs Ann Ackerman
	Ms Jill Lomas	Deanery Synod	Mrs Grace Manley
	Mrs Julie Crossley		Mrs Christine Price
	Mrs Louise Hollingsworth		
Elected on PCC	Mrs Lyn Rimmer, (electoral Roll Officer)	Magazine Distribution	Mrs Brenda Maclese
	Mrs Margaret Witty	Missionary Secretary	Mrs Margaret Vessey
	Mr Tony Witty		
	Mrs Alison Cullen		
	Ms Michaila Roberts		
	Mrs Julie Bodgers		

www.st-nicholas-church.org.uk
St Nicholas Church, Kingsway, Manchester, M19 1PL