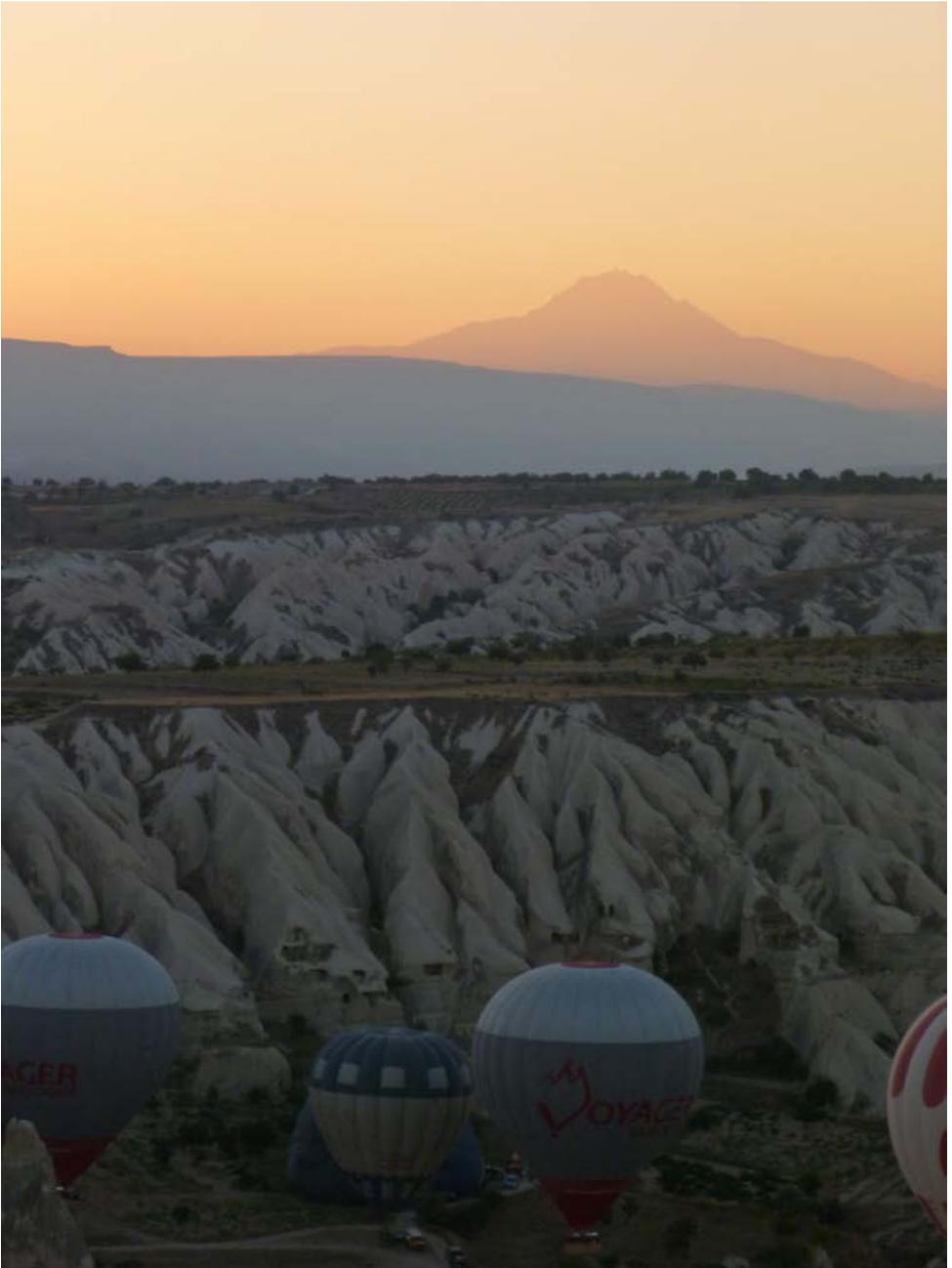


St Nicholas News

May 2017

Price 50p



Church Diary May 2017

Date	Time	Event
Tuesday 2 nd	7.30 pm	10 th Anniversary Taize Evening Prayer with Bishop Mark
Wednesday 3 rd	10.00 am	Eucharist
Sunday 7 th	8.30 am 10.30 am	Easter 4 Holy Communion (BCP) Parish Communion
Wednesday 10 th	10.00 am 2.30 pm	Eucharist Women's Fellowship: Fletcher Moss and his Travels – Mrs Diana Leitch
Saturday 13 th	10.30 – 12.00 noon	St Chad's church: 'Big Brekkie' for Christian Aid
Sunday 14 th	8.30 am 10.30 am	Easter 5 Holy Communion (BCP) Parish Communion
Monday 15 th	7.00 pm	PCC, in the choir vestry
Wedn'sday 17 th	10.00 am	Eucharist
Sunday 21 st	8.30 am 10.30 am	Easter 6 Holy Communion (BCP) Family Service
Monday 22 nd	7.30 pm	Cross-licensing meeting and short service for clergy and churchwardens
Wedn'sday 24 th	10.00 am 2.30 pm	Eucharist Women's Fellowship: Annual General Meeting
		Archdeacon's Visitation – Manchester Cathedral
Sunday 28 th	8.30 am 10.30 am	Easter 7 Holy Communion (BCP) Parish Communion



Deadline for June Edition: 15th May!

Rachel writes...

Since our last APCM in March 2016 we have become used to hearing new, unexpected and, for many of us, unwelcome phrases. Perhaps strangest of them all is the phrase, 'alternative fact'. It emerged, of course, out of the fantastically divisive US Presidential Election in which 'the truth' – already a slippery concept deserving our full attention – became something to be treated with contempt. We are now, apparently, in a post-truth age. The events of the past twelve months have indicated that perhaps we have entered a new era of brazenness.

The language of alternative facts, of truth and integrity are not simply political terms. They are important for religious ideas and discourse, even in this seemingly small plot of the Church of England we call the 'Parish of Burnage, St Nicholas.' In these tricky and tricky political and cultural times, we – as followers of Christ – are being challenged as never before to model the hope and truth that lies within us: Jesus Christ. We do not want to pretend that 'post-truth' and 'alternative facts' will do. Jesus Christ is the Way, the Truth and the Life.

Where do we do start? Well, first a theological point and then some practical ones. We start, theologically, with the truth: that we are all, at some level, liars and tricksters. We gather in church not to show our goodness, but to show our need for redemption. We are not good, but we want to be. We all stretch truth and are prejudiced and see it from our limited point of view. We all see through a glass-darkly and we long to see God face-to-face.

To acknowledge this theological truth can be incredibly liberating. It means we do not have to pretend we know all things. It reminds and challenges us to focus on God in all we do. When we place this in the context of our wider culture of flim-flam and self-promotion, this is a serious business indeed.

So, here's a reminder that, though we continue to be a small fellowship facing challenging times, we are serious in our mission of service to the living God. Firstly, we should be glad that – for all practical purposes – the major phase of building work we initiated several years ago has come to an end. We are currently waiting for our architect to sign off the project after the 'cooling-off' period. I want to especially thank Tony Witty for his support, good humour and willingness to wrangle over often very confusing figures with me. Our building is watertight for the first time in years, a fact that will be essential if we are to properly serve our communities in the years to come. Of course, a building like ours needs constant servicing, but we are at last ready to move forward again.

At the heart of our work is prayer, worship and thanksgiving, week by week. In the past year I have been delighted to see a blossoming of our curate Alan's ministry among us. He has shown us a new, more Catholic approach to embodying priesthood and I have been resourced by it. I also think that we at St Nick's have enabled him to be more informal, though I suspect it shall be a long-time before we witness him coming to church in ripped jeans!

We are also in the process of saying goodbye to Sally who has been our ordinand for three years. She and Abby have brought delight into our midst and I'm thrilled that Sally and her fiancé Lee will be married at St Nick's in the autumn. We pray for her and her new ministry which begins this summer. As a congregation I think we are waking up to the importance of everyone's call to vocation, and I've seen encouraging signs that members of St Nick's are now exploring vocation to ordained and lay ministries with great seriousness.

After an incredibly busy year of activities in 2015, including The Tree of War, 2016 was quieter, but with many rewards. Being a major building site meant we were careful about what we committed to, but our Summer and Christmas Fairs were fine

occasions, and the building is now being used more and more by community groups. Our Community Christingle – which adopted a different format this year and made stars of our Rainbow unit – was a roaring success and our Christmas services continue to speak far beyond the boundaries of the church walls. Burnage Community Choir, which emerged from this congregation, has become part of the warp and weft of our wider community and is an extraordinary musical ensemble.

St Nick's is also entering an exciting phase as we begin to formally link with St Chad's, Ladybarn. I've been delighted by how organic that process has been and it was wonderful to welcome St Chad's to join us for Community Carols, as well as us heading up to them for our celebration of new ministries for the Feast of St Chad's. I'm sure there will be bumps in the road as we travel together, but I genuinely believe that our travelling together will be gift.

We have welcomed new friends to our fellowship and I'm thrilled about how they continue to challenge us to grow and change. New people always bring fresh ideas and new eyes. Of course, just as we've welcomed new friends to our fellowship we have lost a few precious ones including Muriel Nicol, Barbara Gregory Tony Huddart and Derek Wheatcroft. We also remember Jim Mills who was and is precious to several members of our congregation.

God is good, abundant, but s/he also challenges us. Over the past twelve months, the church wardens, a small group of congregation members and I have begun to develop our Mission Action Plan. It has been a revealing process. It has indicated that the church is strong at pastoral and human relationships as well as being open to liturgical innovation. However, we face significant financial challenges as well as the challenge be more closely connected with our wider community.

Equally, the second half of last year revealed how one cannot plan for the unexpected. When our dear Caroline Abiodun fell ill last

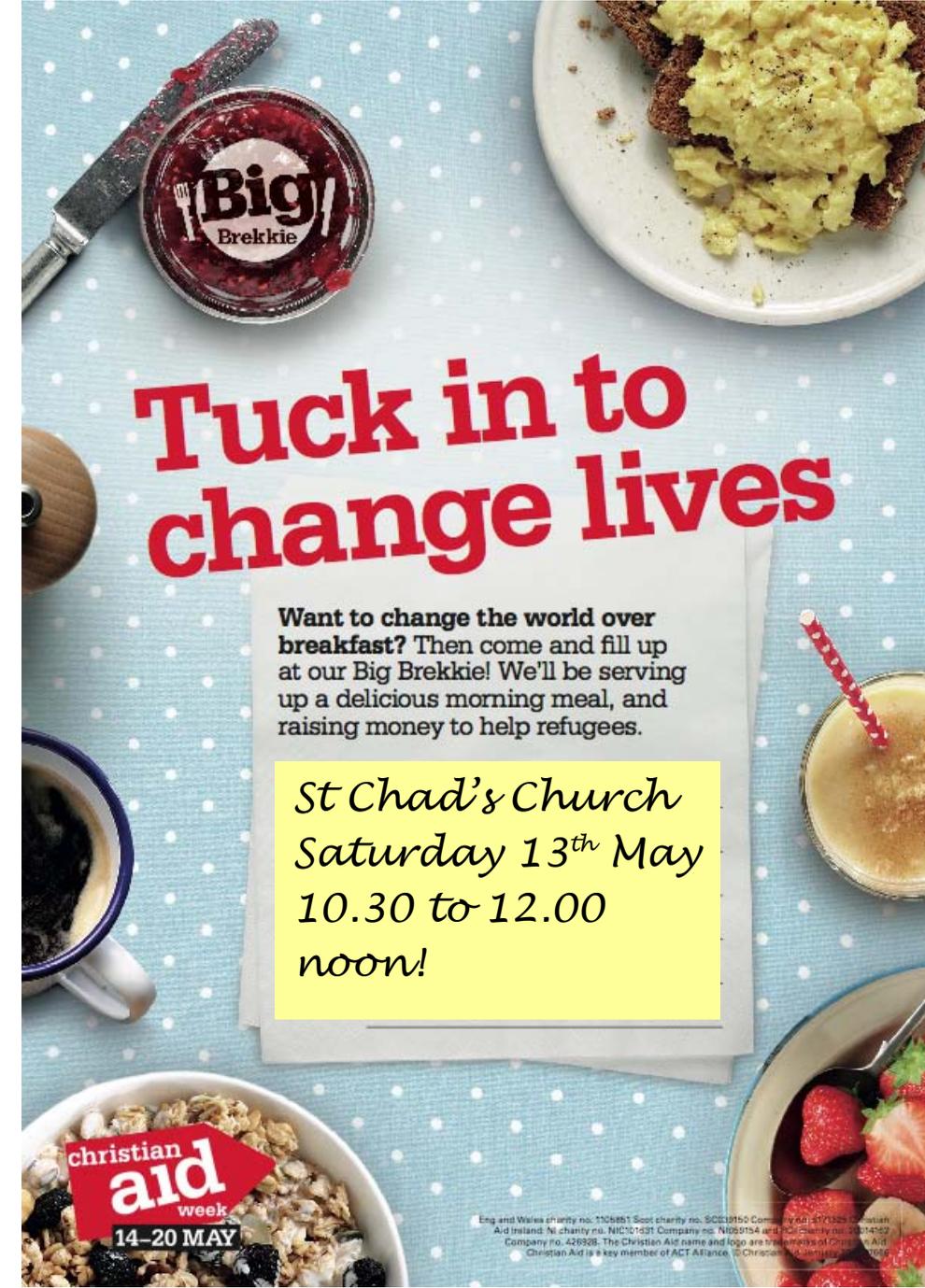
autumn her roles with the finance and the hall meant we had to engage in some swift footwork. The churchwardens, assistant wardens and others rose magnificently to the task. I can't say how grateful I am to them for their work and for Katy Mills stepping in as our interim treasurer. We continue to pray for Caroline as she gets better.

For me, personally, it has been a rich year and I thank you for your support for all I do. There have been numerous highlights including the simple joys of day-to-day ministry: being with people at the big moments of life, and laughing and crying with those who are trying to make sense of it all. It was great to re-institute the Rector's Quiz, to wear a silly Christmas jumper for the first time, as well as act as Lord Mayor's Chaplain for our own Carl Austin-Behan and bring a new book to birth. I may be an unconscionable show-off, but you, my church family, keep me grounded.

There are very real issues for us in this year as in every year. Our financial situation is challenging, but we face this year with hope. As a result of negotiations with the Diocese I believe we shall pay our Parish Share in full for the first time in many years. St Nick's must become more outward looking. The Diocese has implemented a new process of Mission Action Planning which will help us focus on particular aims and goals. I think it will become ever more important that we work closely with partners like Burnage Food Bank, the local Council and other churches.

There is much to be excited about in the coming years. I see new faces and new energy emerging in our worship life. I think closer working with St Chad's will help us identify how God is calling us. There is so much talent and ability in this congregation, and oodles of commitment. God is good. God is abundant. God invites us into joy and new life. We are called to discern where that is and get involved.

Rachel x



Tuck in to change lives

Want to change the world over breakfast? Then come and fill up at our Big Brekkie! We'll be serving up a delicious morning meal, and raising money to help refugees.

*St Chad's Church
Saturday 13th May
10.30 to 12.00
noon!*

**christian
aid**
week
14-20 MAY

Eng and Wales charity no. 1126881 Scot charity no. SC0319150 Company no. 3171326 Christian Aid Ireland: NI charity no. NIC01631 Company no. NI089154 and POI Charity no. 20314762 Company no. 426926. The Christian Aid name and logo are trademarks of Christian Aid. Christian Aid is a key member of ACT Alliance. © Christian Aid, 2016

26th May: Augustine of Canterbury - apostle to the English

Augustine, a 6th century Italian prior, holds a unique place in British history. He became the 'apostle to the English' – although it was with great reluctance.

In 596 Augustine was chosen by Pope Gregory to head a mission of monks whom he wanted to send to evangelise the Anglo-Saxons. Augustine was not a bold man, and by the time he and his band of priests reached Gaul, they wished to turn back. But Gregory would not hear of it – and bolstered their confidence by sending some more priests out to them, and by consecrating Augustine bishop. Finally, the party, now 40 in number, landed at Ebbsfleet, Kent in 597.

It would be fascinating to have a detailed description of that first meeting between Bishop Augustine and Ethelbert, powerful King of Kent. Whatever Augustine said, it must have been effective, for Ethelbert granted the 40 priests permission to stay in a house in Canterbury. He even allowed them to preach to his people, while he himself considered their message of Christianity. His wife, Bertha, was a Christian princess from Paris, but she does not seem to have played any role in the conversion of Kent.

By 601 Ethelbert and many of his people had been baptised Christians. The mission to the English was well underway. More clergy, some books, a few relics and several altar vessels arrived from Rome. At Gregory's wise urging, Augustine decided to consolidate the mission in one small area, rather than try and reach all of Kent. So Augustine stayed in Canterbury, where he built the cathedral and founded a school. He left only temporarily to establish a see in London.

Also at Gregory's wise urging, Augustine did not destroy the pagan temples of the people of Kent, but only the idols in them. In this

way, innocent rites were taken over and used for the celebration of the Christian feasts. Meanwhile, before his death in 604, Augustine helped Ethelbert to draft the earliest Anglo-Saxon written laws to survive – and so influenced British law for centuries to come.

*For your
diary!*

Summer Fair!

Saturday 10th June

From 11.00 to 2.00 pm

**BBQ, strawberry cream teas, craft
and gift stalls, tombola, children's
activities**

Admission: Adults 50p Children free

“The ascension of Elijah may be compared to the flight of a bird, which none can follow; the ascension of Christ is, as it were, a bridge between earth and heaven, laid down for all who are drawn to Him by His earthly existence.”

Alexander Gottlieb Baumgarten.

Parish Registers – March 2017

Date	Attendance	Cash	Envelopes	Total
5 th	20	/	/	/
12 th	50	10.50	621.65	632.15
19 th	49	15.50	296.50	312.00
26 th	64	23.30	313.00	336.30
Total		49.30	1231.15	1280.45

St Nicholas Club Draw

1st Prize: 53 St Nicholas Church Winifred Murphy

2nd Prize: 26 Marion Simister

Church Duty Rota – May 2017

Date	Warden 8.30am	Warden 10.30am	Altar Server	Lay Assistants	Sides- people
7 th	Fred Murphy	Julie Crossley	Brenda Maclese	Brenda M Cliff S	Anne T Anne H
14 th	Fred Murphy	Jane Cawley	Louise Hollings- worth	Louise H Margaret V	Sybil G Alison C
21 st	Fred Murphy	Alison Mills	Nikki Naylor	Grace M Jill L	Margaret V Michael V
28 th	Fred Murphy	Jill Lomas	Jane Cawley	Jane C Clare C	Brenda M Michaila R

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:

**Alison Mills (0793 207 1977)
alison@glensidemills.co.uk**

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		
	Ms Jill Lomas	Minutes Secretary	Mrs Ann Ackerman
	Mrs Julie Crossley	Deanery Synod	Mrs Grace Manley
	Mrs Louise Hollingsworth		Mrs Christine Price
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