

St Nicholas News

July 2017

Price 50p



Church Diary July 2017

Date	Time	Event
Sunday 2 nd	8.30 am 10.30 am	Trinity 3 All Age Worship Parish Communion
Tuesday 4 th	7.30 pm	Taize Evening Prayer
Wednesday 5 th	10.00 am	Eucharist
Sunday 9 th	8.30 am 10.30 am	Trinity 4 Holy Communion (BCP) Parish Communion
Monday 10 th	7.30 pm	PCC meeting in Choir Vestry
Wedn'sday 12 th	10.00 am	Eucharist
Sunday 16 th	8.30 am 10.30 am	Trinity 5 Holy Communion (BCP) Family Service
Tuesday 18 th	7.30	Pilgrim Group, based on film 'Chocolat'
Wedn'sday 19 th	10.00 am	Eucharist
Sunday 23 rd	8.30 am 10.30 am	Trinity 6 Holy Communion (BCP) Parish Communion
Wedn'sday 28 th	10.00 am	Eucharist
Sunday 30 th	8.30 am 10.30 am	Trinity 7 All Age Worship Parish Communion



Deadline for August Edition: 15th July!

Cover picture, Saint of the Month, and cartoon from
www.parishpump.co.uk

Rachel writes...

‘Summer time and the living is easy...’ So runs the famous song from Gershwin’s ‘Porgy and Bess’. In the opera, the aria is a lullaby sung to her child by Clara, a young mother. It evokes all the languid beauty of an evening in the Deep South of the United States. It’s both beautiful and sad, sung by a mother who – living in Catfish Row, a tenement in South Carolina – is poor and struggling. And yet she sings ...

July – even if the weather sometimes tells us otherwise – is very much ‘summer time’. It should be a time when we enjoy the longer days and perhaps take time out in a garden, have a barbecue, or go a holiday. July is one of those months that, at its best, is there for enjoyment.

For many, in this country and beyond, there is, of course, a great deal of uncertainty. For many, there won’t be much enjoyment this July. Locally, communities continue to process the tragedy that took place at Manchester Arena just a few weeks ago. Further afield, London has been a victim of terrorism once again. Equally, after an unexpected and unscheduled General Election many will be sick of politics and be quite glad that parliament will soon be ‘breaking up’ for the summer recess. I won’t bore you by going on about the complexity of Brexit and its ‘hard’, ‘soft’ or ‘open’ varieties.

What is clear is that all sorts of challenges are going to be faced by the UK in the coming few years. Equally, in the midst of our national challenges, people around the world face extraordinary issues generated by environmental change, war, and geopolitical imbalances. These changes and imbalances will affect rich and poor, though – as ever – it will be the poorest who will carry the harshest burden.

Perhaps Clara's refrain – 'summer time and the living is easy' – seems hardly appropriate in the wake of tragedies and the emerging problems in our world. And yet ... one of the striking things about Gershwin's song is that it is sung right in the midst of life's issues and agonies. The characters in Porgy and Bess are living through tough times. Their story unfolds in the midst of the 1930s Great Depression. And, still, Clara sings ...

As Christians, we are called to live in the midst of reality whilst holding on to God's promises. This is a tricky balancing act. I'm not sure human beings are made to face too much reality. Perhaps that's why we are capable of making comforting fantasies for ourselves. Yet, if we do not face up to the challenges of living in a complicated world I'm not sure we're being faithful to God. After all, it is this world that God redeems through Jesus Christ. But we face the complexities of the world with hope. Our hope is Christ. He is the Way, the Life and the Truth. And in following him we know that the path to new life and glory can be the way which is unafraid of pain and suffering.

The Psalms offer us a model for singing God's song in the midst of life's triumphs and failures. As I pray each day, I try to read at least one psalm. The Psalms constitute the Bible's great song book and when we pray them we add our voice to that of God and his pilgrim people. In many ways, Clara's song from Porgy and Bess is a modern-day psalm. It offers a lullaby in a cruel world. We too are called to sing God's song – by turns, lullaby, protest-anthem, hymn of praise. What will you sing for God this day?

Rachel x

Never let the future disturb you. You will meet it, if you have to, with the same weapons of reason which today arm you against the present.
Marcus Aurelius

Saint of the Month: St James the Great (25th July)

By David Winter

Jesus, fresh from His baptism and fired with His new calling, bursts into Galilee. Coming upon four fishermen working on the shore of the lake, He says to them, 'Follow me'. Without further ado or even a second thought, they abandon what they're doing (and in the case of two of them, James and John, leave their poor old father alone in the boat with the hired crew), and set off with Jesus, they know not where. That is how Mark's Gospel records the recruitment of four of the apostles of Jesus. Talk about a sudden change of life!

All our understanding of human behaviour tells us that this is not how people normally respond to such a peremptory invitation: no questions, no explanation. Take it or leave it. Just 'Follow me'.

That however is on a superficial reading of the text. In fact, because we have four Gospels rather than just three, we know from John that one pair of brothers, James and John, and the other two called on the same day, had been disciples of John the Baptist, who had pointed Jesus out to them as the 'Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world'.

Subsequently two of them had sought Him out and spent some time with Him in the Jordan area. This was not quite the instant 'conversion' described by Matthew and Mark, though undoubtedly it evoked an instant response.

For many of us on the journey of faith the experience of James and John - and the other two, Peter and Andrew - mirrors our own experience. First we know about Jesus, perhaps as children at Sunday school, or later as adults. Then we begin to ask questions

and look for answers. Finally there may come a time when we hear His voice, as it were, calling us to accompany Him on a life of love, service and commitment.

For James (whose feast day falls this month) this moment was to turn his whole life upside down. He became a leader of the church in Jerusalem after the resurrection and was the first apostle to be martyred, being put to the sword by Herod Agrippa in 44AD. His brother John, in contrast, lived on as a senior figure in the life of the emerging Church. For all four who were called by the lake that day, nothing would ever be quite the same again. But then all those who set out to follow Jesus wherever He leads them are usually in for a few surprises.

The Village Blacksmith **by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow**

Under a spreading chestnut tree
The village smithy stands;
The smith, a mighty man is he,
with large and sinewy hands;
And the muscles of his brawny arms
Are strong as iron bands.

His hair is crisp, and black, and long,
His face is like the tan;
His brow is wet with honest sweat,
He earns whate'er he can,
And looks the whole world in the face,
For he owes not any man.

Week in, week out, from mom till night,
You can hear his bellows blow;
You can hear him swing his heavy sledge,
With measured beat and slow,

Like a sexton ringing the village bell,
When the evening sun is low.

And children coming home from school
Look in at the open door;
They love to see the flaming forge,
And hear the bellows roar,
And catch the burning sparks that fly
Like chaff from a threshing-floor.

He goes on Sunday to the church,
And sits among his boys;
He hears the parson pray and preach,
He hears his daughter's voice,
Singing in the village choir,
And it makes his heart rejoice.

It sounds to him like her mother's voice,
Singing in Paradise!
He needs must think of her once more,
How in the grave she lies;
And with his hard, rough hand he wipes
A tear out of his eyes.

Toiling,--rejoicing,--sorrowing,
Onward through life he goes;
Each morning sees some task begin,
Each evening sees it close
Something attempted, something done,
Has earned a night's repose.

Thanks, thanks to thee, my worthy friend,
For the lesson thou hast taught!
Thus at the flaming forge of life
Our fortunes must be wrought;
Thus on its sounding anvil shaped
Each burning deed and thought.

(This poem is one of a number that were given to mourners at a funeral attended by Brenda Maclese. She's also been to a funeral at which packets of flower seeds were given out: What would you like people to be given at your funeral?)

Hiya Folks!!

By Irene Smith

It's me again "Robin Redbreast". Just to say hello. You'll see me again in and out of your gardens – but not my friends – Hedgie (Mr Hedgehog) and squirrel. But these two are not quite awake yet; instead of going into hibernation at the beginning, they were quarrelling! I only hope they will be quieter when they join us again. I do not like quarrelling. Neither did JESUS; GOD'S SON!!

At this time in our Christian year we find it's called "PENTECOST". Here on earth we remember the tongues of flames descending upon the Disciples, in a room where they met together. The gift from "God" brought by the "HOLY SPIRIT" was so very special. It "enabled" each disciple to go into the mass of crowds and evangelise to them and unto them in their own tongues (languages). All the crowds found this astonishing. But many were converted to Christianity as a result.



The poster features a vibrant illustration of various animals including an elephant, a monkey, a tiger, a panda, a bird, and a snake, set against a background of green foliage and butterflies. The text is centered on a light blue background with a decorative border of small animal icons.

SUMMER SAFARI
Free HOLIDAY CLUB
9am – 12.30pm - 31ST July to 4TH August
Come along to St Nick's for the week and enjoy crafts, games, songs, baking and, most of all, lots of laughter and fun.
For further information and registration form please visit the website on www.st-nicholas-church.org.uk
Alternatively contact Alison on 07932071977 or Jane on 07745392374
St.Nicholas Church, Kingsway, Burnage M19 1PL

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The
Tale of the
**TWO MEN
SAYING
THEIR
PRAYERS**

**JESUS OFTEN TOLD
STORIES WITH
HIDDEN MEANINGS**



**ONE WAS ABOUT TWO MEN WHO
WENT TO THE TEMPLE TO PRAY**



**ONE WAS A PHARISEE
(A MAN A BIT LIKE A PRIEST)**

**THE OTHER WAS A TAX
COLLECTOR. (NOT A POPULAR
MAN IN JESUS' DAY!).**

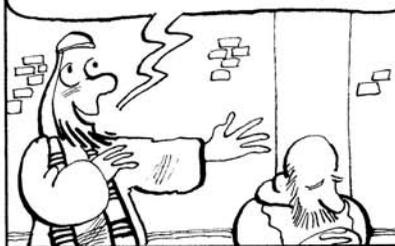


**THE PHARISEE BEGAN
TO PRAY**

**WHAT A GREAT CHAP I
AM! I NEVER DO
ANYTHING WRONG!!**



**I AM SO PLEASED WITH MYSELF,
ESPECIALLY AS I AM NOT A SCOUNDREL,
LIKE THIS TAX COLLECTOR!**



**BUT THE TAX
COLLECTOR COULDN'T
EVEN RAISE HIS HEAD**

**DEAR GOD... I AM VERY SORRY!
PLEASE FORGIVE ME FOR
ALL THE WRONG THINGS
I HAVE DONE.**



**IT WAS THE TAX COLLECTOR,
NOT THE PHARISEE, WHOSE
PRAYERS WERE HEARD!**



**JESUS EXPLAINED -
'DON'T BE PROUD WHEN YOU
PRAY - INSTEAD BE HUMBLE.'**

Parish Registers – May 2017

Date	Attendance	Cash	Envelopes	Total
7 th	52	28.45	338.50	366.95
14 th	48	25.50	309.50	335.00
21 st	51	41.80	266.50	308.30
28 th	55	19.05	305.00	324.05
Total		114.80	1219.50	1334.30

St Nicholas Club Draw

1st Prize: 21 Molly Popplewell

2nd Prize: 12 Grace Manley

Church Duty Rota – July 2017

Date	Warden 8.30am	Warden 10.30am	Altar Server	Lay Assistants	Sides- people
2 nd	Fred Murphy	Jill Lomas	Brenda Maclese	Brenda M Cliff S	Margaret V Michael V
9 th	Fred Murphy	Grace Manley	Louise Hollings- worth	Louise H Jane C	Anne T Anne H
16 th	Fred Murphy	Julie Crossley	Nikki Naylor	Anne T Anne H	Brenda M Michaila R
23 rd	Fred Murphy	Jane Cawley	Michaila Roberts	Lyn R Margaret V	Lyn R Ann A
30 th	Fred Murphy	Alison Mills	Peter Cullen	Peter C Alison C	Eunice W Julie B

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		
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		
	Mrs Louise Hollingsworth	Deanery Synod	Mrs Grace Manley
			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		
	Ms Nicola Naylor		
	Mr Giles Elliott		

www.st-nicholas-church.org.uk
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