

St Nicholas News

November 2017

Price 50p



“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord.
“Who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”



Church Diary November 2017

Date	Time	Event
Wednesday 1 st	10.00 am	Eucharist
Friday 3 rd		St Chad's outing to Blackpool Illuminations
Sunday 5 th	8.30 am 10.30 am	All Saints Day Holy Communion (BCP) Parish Communion
Tuesday 7 th	7.30 pm	Taize Evening Prayer
Wednesday 8 th	10.00 am	Eucharist
	2.30 pm	Women's Fellowship: The Eddie Stobart Story – Mrs S Dale
Saturday 11 th	10.30 - noon	Women's Fellowship: Coffee Morning
Sunday 12 th	8.30 am 10.30 am	3rd Sunday before Advent Holy Communion (BCP) All age service of remembrance
Monday 13 th	7.30 pm	PCC meeting in the choir vestry
Wednesday 15 th	10.00 am	Eucharist
Saturday 18 th	11.00-2.00	St,Nicholas Christmas Fair
Sunday 19 th	8.30 am 10.30 am	2nd Sunday before Advent Holy Communion (BCP) Parish Communion
Wednesday 22 nd	10.00 am	Eucharist
	2.30 pm	Women's Fellowship: 'In Search of the One Horned Rhino' – Mr Russ Hedley
Sunday 26 th	8.30 am 10.30 am	Christ the King Holy Communion (BCP) Parish Communion
Wednesday 29 th	10.00 am	Eucharist



Deadline for December Edition: 15th November!

Cover picture from www.parishpump.co.uk

Rachel writes...

At the start of September, two months into my sabbatical, I found myself in Alnwick, Northumberland. If you've never been to that part of England, I encourage you to go. It is almost heartbreakingly beautiful, a region of ruins and castles, of startling coastline and soaring moors. Alnwick itself is famous for its castle. It is the home of the Dukes of Northumberland, as well as the site of filming for the first two Harry Potter films.

Northumberland is, I think, what some Christians call a 'thin place'. That is, it is a place where God seems very close. Not only is Lindisfarne or Holy Island found there, but there are countless sites and signs of Christian history going back the best part of two millennia. This is a place that has been prayed in and prayed over. At the same time, the ruins of castles also reveal it is a place that has been fought over. The signs of power-struggles are everywhere. The evidence of violence and prayer lies on every horizon.

Just on the outskirts of Alnwick's town centre is one of those huge, striking memorials to the dead raised after the Great War. Three bronze servicemen stand on a plinth looking solemnly down on the traffic below. The memorial contains the names of dozens and dozens of men from Alnwick killed in the brutal campaigns between 1914 and 1918. It is a place of stillness in the midst of a busy thoroughfare.

I suppose we are used to seeing these memorials. Certainly, the commemorative events of the past few years have raised awareness again about the ghastly events of a hundred years ago. Perhaps we have become more attentive to the lessons told by the sad, sombre figures which stand on memorials across this nation and many others. I hope so. In this year when we particularly

remember the mud and terror of Passchendaele we certainly should.

My sabbatical visit to Northumberland, with its strange landscape of holy sites and ruined castles, reminded me that we shouldn't take our commitments to peace and human flourishing for granted. Beautiful though it is, its history reminds us that war runs deep in our DNA. Kings and would-be kings struggled over this landscape for centuries.

If my memory is accurate, atop the Alnwick memorial to the dead is a cross. It's a good two metres above the bronze soldiers' heads. It signals, perhaps, that faith, hope and love triumph over our violence. It indicates that the community which put up the memorial in the early 1920s had known tragedy and catastrophe, but wanted to show – in the Cross – that tragedy can be transformed into hope.

That's what I like to believe they were doing. They channelled Northumberland's ancient history of Christianity and its power-struggles and showed forth their commitment to a world where the Cross stands for more than 'the gun'.

During November, as our minds turn once again towards 'Remembrance Sunday' and all the mixed and complex emotions and thoughts that holds, we could do worse than meditate on the Cross. It's a symbol that's been used to legitimate wars that have raged for centuries and have destroyed countless lives. Medieval knights emblazoned it on their chests as they fought each other and people in near and distant lands.

However, it also holds within it the challenge to turn away from violence. For, via the Cross we are led to the remaking of the world in Resurrection. The resurrected Christ invites us into practices of reconciliation and new life. It is from that perspective that we should attempt to live in this troublous, violent world. The violent wish to make the Cross the final judgment on the world. God invites

us to another way: to live in the world from the perspective of Resurrection.

Rachel x

Welcoming back our Rector Rachel

On Sunday 1st October, we took the opportunity to have a bit of fun before the Parish Communion and surprise Rachel with a welcome back song to end her sabbatical.

Prior to the start of her sabbatical in July, Rachel joked about Father Alan being in charge during her absence and her fears that he might install a statue of Mary in the Lady Chapel or turn the building into a Basilica.

Rachel has also commented on many an occasion that the bars and gate of the Lady Chapel remind her of the scene in the 'Sound of Music' when the Mother Superior and the nuns are singing to Maria as she leaves the convent.

So, the Churchwardens and a few volunteers decided we would dress as nuns and come out from the Lady Chapel singing 'How do we welcome back our Rector Rachel' to the Sound of Music song, 'How do we solve a problem like Maria' and give Rachel a welcome to remember.

I think Rachel suspected something was amiss as Jane and I were dressed in black outfits and some familiar faces were missing.

We all sat in the Lady Chapel in silence. We made a pact with Father Alan that he would lead Rachel out to sit in the congregation for a few minutes before the service. We all sat in the Lady Chapel and waited for Ollie to play our tune. Then we walked across the front of the Lady Chapel and down the stairs led by Jane in her

white robe and carrying the cross. We all followed behind and ended our song on the chancel steps!

Rachel and Alan were in stitches, as were the congregation. We have the event recorded on video for posterity!

Father Alan then said a few words and informed Rachel that a Cloister had been established and we were all in training with the full support of our families.

Great fun and thanks to Ollie Mills for his help with adapting the song and lyrics and for sending us all the tune and to all those who took part!





I won't say 'Goodbye' but 'Welcome'

Do we appreciate new ways and changes, or do we just criticise these differing ways and ideas, because they are not our ways and views? We can be a possessive nation at times. But perhaps we could adjust and try to learn a little about some of these different issues; which would leave us with some understanding and knowledge.

A section of people who worked and achieved in this situation were Jesus of Nazareth and His disciples. Jesus taught His disciples all through His ministry.

During this time the disciples slowly learnt about God's family, a large and loving one. We all aspire to reaching there when we die.

During His time on Earth, Jesus talked of His “Father in Heaven” and would go to the mountains and pray. As time passed Jesus told His disciples that He would not always be with them on Earth, but that He would never leave them. Here we encounter the Heavenly Family. We follow Jesus’ words with some of our own.

‘I won’t say “Goodbye” but Welcome.’

‘Welcome to the family, God’s family.’

‘Welcome to the new-born’ with God’s love.

We ‘welcome’ our new-born, and baptise them, to be part of our Saviour’s love and the Church’s family’s – our Heavenly Family.

Irene Smith (M. Theol)

Help make vulnerable children’s voices heard this Christmas

St Nicholas Church is inviting the local community to help bring hope to some of the UK’s most vulnerable children this festive season by supporting their Christingle celebration in aid of The Children’s Society.

This unique Christmas service will be held at St Nicholas Church on 3rd December at 10.30 am and is open to everyone. All money raised will go towards providing life-changing support for vulnerable children and young people and to make sure their voices are heard.

Christingle is a tradition that has been taking place almost half a century and involves lighting a candle in a decorated orange which

symbolises different aspects of the Christian story. Christingle is an opportunity for people of all ages to join in, light a candle and enjoy the warmth and vibrancy of this special festive occasion.

In the UK there are almost 4 million children and young people dealing with hardship, abuse and neglect which are ruining childhoods and future prospects.

With around one million people attending each year, the Christingle fundraising events play a key role in supporting The Children's Society's vital work to help some of this country's most vulnerable children. This year, the charity is aiming to raise £1.2 million and all funds raised will be crucial to its work.

We are really looking forward to our Christingle celebration this year and hope that lots of local people come along to enjoy the wonderful warmth and glow of illuminated candles and help us raise money for this fantastic cause.”

Matthew Reed, Chief Executive of The Children's Society, said: “We're delighted that St Nicholas Church is organising a Christingle service to help disadvantaged children and we're truly grateful for their support.

“Vulnerable children and young people are at the very centre of what we do and we need to make sure their voices are heard so their lives can be improved. These Christingle events make it possible for us to carry on our vital work and transform the lives of even more children in need of our help.”

If you're not from St Nick's, and you want to find out about a local Christingle near you visit www.christingle.org

Parish Registers – September 2017

Date	Attendance	Cash	Envelopes	Total
3 rd	33	18.40	419.00	437.40
10 th	37	25.50	295.50	321.00
17 th	31	9.50	238.50	248.00
24 th	47	28.80	381.30	410.10
Total		82.20	1334.30	1416.50

St Nicholas Club Draw

1st Prize: 25 (Benjamin Witty)

2nd Prize: 29 Molly Popplewell

Church Duty Rota – November 2017

Date	Warden 8.30am	Warden 10.30am	Altar Server	Lay Assistants	Sides- people
5 th	Fred Murphy	Grace Manley	Louise Hollings- worth	Louise H Lyn R	Sybil G Alison C
12 th	Fred Murphy	Louise Hollings- worth	Jane Cawley	Jane C Grace M	Anne T Anne H
19 th	Fred Murphy	Julie Crossley	Nikki Naylor		Margaret V Michael V
26 th	Fred Murphy	Jane Cawley	Michaila Roberts	Margaret V Claire 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		
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		
	Ms Nicola Naylor		
	Mr Giles Elliott		

www.st-nicholas-church.org.uk
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