

St Nicholas News

June 2018

Price 50p



Church Diary June 2018

Date	Time	Event
Sunday 3 rd	8.30 am 10.30 am	Trinity 1 Holy Communion (BCP) All Age Worship
Monday 4 th	2.30 pm 7.30 pm	Lent Study Research Group: 'The greatest showman' (at the Rectory)
Tuesday 5 th	7.30 pm	Taize Evening Prayer
Wednesday 6 th	10.00 am	Eucharist
Saturday 9 th	11.00 am – 2.00 pm	Summer Fair
Sunday 10 th	8.30 am 10.30 am	Trinity 2 Holy Communion (BCP) Parish Communion
Wednesday 13 th	10.00 am	Eucharist
Sunday 24 th	8.30 am 10.30 am	Trinity 3 Holy Communion (BCP) Parish Communion
Wednesday 27 th	10.00 am	Eucharist
	2.30 pm	Women's Fellowship AGM
Sunday 24 th	8.30 am 10.30 am	Trinity Sunday Holy Communion (BCP) Parish Communion
Wednesday 27 th	10.00 am	Eucharist



Deadline for July Edition: 15th June!

Cover picture by Giles Elliott (St Anthony's monastery, Egypt): 'Dancing in the Rain' by Nigel Beeton from www.parishpump.co.uk, used with permission

Rachel writes...

Well, it's that time again when fans of English football prepare themselves for another disappointment, and all those who can't stand the sport do their level best to avoid the wall-to-wall coverage on TV, Radio and other media.

Yes, it's the Men's World Cup football championship and it's the kind of event that unites and divides the nation in equal measure. 'Divides' not least because Scottish and Welsh and Northern Irish people are unlikely to get behind the England football team. Indeed, I know Scottish people who will support any team other than England. Yet, sporting success can also be a way of energising the nation and fostering a sense of hope.

As someone who grew up in the seventies and eighties, I remember how disappointing British sport could be. My first sporting loves were cricket and football and, at the international level, English teams guaranteed frustration and unrelenting misery. Back in the '80s, the West Indies repeatedly took the English cricket team apart. The names of Caribbean fast bowlers like Michael Holding, Malcolm Marshall and Joel Garner became watchwords for English humiliation. It took nearly two decades for English cricket to recover.

However, it is football that has always generated the strangest responses from the nation. It's as if the triumph in 1966 supplied a recipe for unmanageable expectations ever since. This summer at the Men's World Cup, once again – despite everyone saying that the England football team are inexperienced or terrible or whatever – expectations will be raised.

It's the same at every tournament. I remember flying into Manchester from Australia at the start of the 2002 World Cup and was staggered by the amount of England flags all over the city. The

level of expectation in the nation was intense and it was as if everyone had taken leave of their senses only to be called back to reality when England got knocked out in the Quarter Finals.

As a priest, I've long since learned that prayer for the success of a national football or cricket team is a fool's errand and to be avoided. When I was doing a year of voluntary service over twenty years ago and work colleagues found out that I was a Christian, some asked me to pray for the success of their football teams. I felt I had to decline (though I was tempted to pray for United!).

However, prayer can offer a way of managing our expectations and being open to reality. Many people, including those with serious addictions, have found Reinhold Niebuhr's famous serenity prayer incredibly helpful. It involves asking God for the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and wisdom to know the difference. I do not want to make light of that prayer, but as the World Cup unfolds, it might be wise for English football fans to start praying those words.

Rachel x



**We raised £145 this year:
thanks to everyone who
contributed!**

**St. Nicholas Church,
Kingsway, Burnage**

Summer Fair

Saturday 9th June

11.00 to 2.00pm

**BBQ, strawberry cream
teas, craft and gift stalls**



**THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND**

Know your church building!

When Rachel was licensed as our Rector on 15th April this year the Bishop of Manchester sat in an 'old chair' at the front of the altar...



This chair, which normally sits behind the altar, was a gift, amongst other items, from the church of St John, Deansgate, Manchester, in 1928 – the year this parish was formed. The church of St John was consecrated in 1769, closed for worship in 1928, and finally demolished in 1931. This chair could well be the oldest item in St Nicholas' Church!

If you're shopping in Manchester in the Deansgate area, walk down St John Street, past the various lovely coloured doors of the Georgian terraced houses until you come to a small park, in the centre of which is a stone cross. This cross marks the location of the altar of the church of St John. Have a look at the back of the cross: the engraved wording makes very interesting reading!

Beu Taylor

Don't Run from a Body in a Wheelchair

How do you react when you encounter someone in a wheelchair? Do you label everybody the same?

People find themselves in a wheelchair for various reasons: It could be a permanent situation for the person with a chronic condition,

such as paralysis or a loss of limbs. It could be a temporary situation such as a broken leg, which fortunately will heal within a few months.

What's more, how would you react if you unexpectedly encounter someone known to you who was fit and healthy when you last saw him or her? Seeing them in a wheelchair might give you a shock and your first reaction may range from a sense of awkwardness to sheer panic with an urge to flee the scene and cover yourself with any excuse you can muster at the time.

This can be an unconscious reaction. You might be feeling sadness. You may fear that the same thing could happen to you. You could be experiencing regret on discovering this person is now disabled. Or it could be that you simply do not know what to say. You may be unsure how to face the situation when before, you would talk normally one to one. But why can't you do that now? Coming to terms with your fears may seem hard and it is easy to think 'There but for the grace of God go I'. But just consider for a moment: how do you think this person feels when you ignore them? In most cases this person is exactly the same man or woman that they were before, both in the way they think and how they feel. You might be the sort of person that finds it hard to talk out loud about those hidden fears. Trying to avoid thinking about them is another matter and you may come up with any excuse once again to avoid confronting the situation, such as 'I was busy', etc. You've been given a glimpse into the world of disability that you just don't want to know about. Once again this is probably an unconscious reaction. It is tempting just to retreat back to your comfort zone.

A question. How would you feel if you suddenly found yourself in a position where you had suddenly become disabled? Could you find the courage to face your fears and take a step into that world – the world of disability that you really don't want to know about? This can be a very difficult thing to do. In a case like this it is most useful to remember St Paul and the 'thorn in his side'. He still carried out

his work for our Lord accepting the help of others when it was necessary. Remember too that this can be a very difficult thing for a person who was once fit and well to do – to relinquish personal independence in so many ways. For the disabled person, just like everyone else, perhaps the hardest step is the first one. To realise you need the help of others. To just live and exist, and taking that first step towards ‘asking for that help’.

Whether you are the person described above who maybe avoids and fears the thought of disability or the person who is disabled, this problematic mountain (as it is often perceived), to climb towards a purposeful life with quality times, is made possible and easier by the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will walk with you and pray with you to the Father if you ask him. Remember the path that Christ himself walked, alone, for us. We don't need to travel alone or go through the consequences of our condition by ourselves. We can have the comfort and strength of Jesus beside us.

Speaking as a disabled person, I am far from finished. I won't throw in the towel that easily. Neither are you. We can make a positive move or adopt a positive attitude and many of us do. Everyday many of us take a step out of the world of disability, A lot of us put fit people to shame. Just look at the partakers in the Paralympic Games, every one of them a champion. But it doesn't end there. There are Ministers who preach from wheelchairs, and so many people who reorganise their lives, their work and carry on. A notable example is the B.B.C. television correspondent Frank Gardner, who while working in Saudi Arabia, was wounded and very badly injured. He now continues reporting for TV on such matters in the studio with great professionalism and talent.

We can play our part in helping every person to accept that the world or state of disability is just one part of our world today. There are many people who have hidden disabilities that we do not always notice in passing, for example, at a party or a conference.

We do not treat them in any special way, or with any kind of reaction when we meet them. Examples of this are the partially sighted, people whom are hard of hearing, or suffer from a painful inner ear condition. They too have climbed up problematic mountains by having the courage to take that first step and ask for help, therefore losing their total hold on personal independence. Now having been with them in an ordinary situation as we said earlier, then learning of their actual condition, would you cite them in the 'world of disability' or the 'world of fitness'? Here we have a problem of definition. Should we rename this cross section of people and group them in a world of normality? But what actually is 'normality'? In reality we are all just people with our own difficulties, problems, skills and talents. Perhaps we should try to accept help and love one another with equal respect as Jesus taught us in his ministry. Remember, we only have to ask him

We are a multi-cultured society. We are all of different religions, or live by a differing faith. But remember the light of love that glows in the Heavens – overall – and in all of our hearts. If only we could all see this light.

Irene Smith (M. Theol)

Dancing in the Rain

We wait and hope for better times
And pray for far less pain;
We're waiting for the storm to pass
Taking shelter from the rain.

But yet we wait for far too long
And waiting seems in vain.
The storms outside are stronger still
We see torrential rain.

So wait not for the storm to pass!
 Come – see what joys we gain!
 By laughing 'neath those heavy clouds
 And dancing in the rain!

By Nigel Beeton

Parish Registers – April 2018

Apologies: due to an administrative error the figures for April were not available at the time of publication (I've mislaid them). The April figures – and the April draw winners – will be included with May's figures in the July magazine

Church Duty Rota – June 2018

Date	Warden 8.30am	Warden 10.30am	Altar Server	Lay Assistants	Sides- people
3 ^d	Fred Murphy	Louise Hollings- worth	Brenda Maclese	Brenda M Cliff S	Anne T Anne H
10 th	Fred Murphy	Julie Crossley	Louise Hollings- worth	Louise H Margaret V	Sybil G Alison C
17 th	Fred Murphy	Jane Cawley	Nikki Naylor	Nikki N Jill L	Margaret V Michael V
24 th	Fred Murphy	Alison Mills	Steven Bottomley	Lyn R 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 (07745 392 374)		Ms Elizabeth Bray
Assistant Wardens	Mr Fred Murphy	Hon. Treasurer	Andrew Mills
	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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