

# St Nicholas News

July 2018

Price 50p



# Church Diary July 2018

Date	Time	Event
Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup>	8.30 am 10.30 am	Trinity 5 Holy Communion (BCP) All Age Worship
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	7.30 pm	Taize Evening Prayer
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 am 2.30 pm	Eucharist Women's Fellowship
Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup>	8.30 am 10.30 am	Trinity 6 Holy Communion (BCP) Parish Communion
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 am 7.30 pm	Eucharist Deanery Synod at St Chads
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup>	8.30 am 10.30 am 2.00 pm	Trinity 7 Holy Communion (BCP) Parish Communion Pet Service
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup>	7.30 pm	PCC Meeting, Church Vestry
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 am	Eucharist
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	8.30 am 10.30 am	Trinity 8 Holy Communion (BCP) Parish Communion
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 am	Eucharist
Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup>	8.30 am 10.30 am	Trinity 9 Holy Communion (BCP) Parish Communion



**Deadline for August Edition: 15<sup>th</sup> July!**

Book review and Ephesus Sleepers from [www.parishpump.co.uk](http://www.parishpump.co.uk), used with permission, photos on page 4 and cover by Giles Elliott

## Rachel writes...

This month I'm off to General Synod – the national governing body of the Church of England – for the first time. I thought, therefore, it might be interesting for you to know a little bit more about its workings and how it relates to each and every one of us.

It is often said that the Church of England is 'episcopally led and synodically governed'. This means that Bishops (and the clergy appointed by them to parishes) lead the direction of the Church. Once upon a time, bishops had enormous power in their dioceses, just as clergy had enormous power in their parishes. In recent times, however, more careful forms of government have been sought. Thus, the importance of synods (and PCCs!). The different kinds of synod – Deanery, Diocesan and General – are instruments of legislation and good order, working in concert with bishops, clergy and PCCs.

The term 'synod' derives from the Latin word for assembly or meeting, and there have been lots of synods over the centuries, including a famous one at Whitby in 664 CE. This settled the question of when Easter would be celebrated in England and brought the English Church in line with Rome. In the Church of England, the General Synod was established in 1970 as a replacement for the General Assembly.

'Beneath' the General Synod is 'Diocesan Synod' – a meeting of elected local representatives held in each of the 42 dioceses – and below that, 'Deanery Synod'. As some of you will know, the countless Deanery Synods that meet around England are easily mocked as places where very little happens and there's very little energy. However, it's worth remembering that it's possible for a local Deanery Synod to pass a resolution that goes all the way up to General Synod. This happened in Lancaster Deanery a couple of years ago. Their Deanery Synod proposed a motion to support transgender people in

church. This was then supported by Blackburn Diocesan Synod and last summer General Synod voted overwhelmingly to support trans people in church. The local can have an impact on the national!

So, in July I go to York for the summer meeting of Synod (it usually meets twice a year, the other time in London). It's going to be a curious and fascinating experience. The work of Synod is much like the House of Commons, though usually politer. It reflects the fact that the powers Synod has have been devolved from Parliament. It is, then, a version of national government, and has all of the elements you would expect: debates, motions, questions and sometimes huge disagreements. What happens there matters because it affects national life and the local life of the Church. It was only because Synod voted for it, that we have women priests and bishops in the C of E

This session will have present a few pressure points. The mess the C of E has got itself in over same-sex marriage and the status of LGBT people rumbles on. Given that the Business Committee (which sets Synod's agenda) has said that no motions about LGBT people can be tabled until after 2020's House of Bishops' Teaching Document on Sexuality, is going to cause some anger. Any Synod member can ask a question in Synod, and there are bound to be a fair few on this topic!

Leaving aside that smouldering issue, there is – as ever – a lot of more routine business that doesn't get picked up on in the national press (leaving aside the Church Times). This session will also include debates and voting on 'ecumenical matters' (to quote Father Ted!), on Nuclear Weapons, and Clergy Pensions among many others.

Each member has – as in parliament – one vote to cast. Given that the Synod is divided into three Houses – Bishops, Clergy and Laity – one sometimes sees very different perspectives on show. The House of Bishops, for example, tends to vote as one unit, reflecting the increasing sense that there is a 'party line' in that House. The clergy

are often seen as the more progressive House and the laity as the more conservative, though in recent times, the clergy and laity have worked together to give the bishops something of a bloody nose!

It's going to be a steep learning curve, but I feel genuinely honoured to have been voted in by the clergy of this diocese to represent them. If I represent them, I hope I speak for a wider sense of grace and generosity too. As laity, you have your own representatives and if you have a particular issue you wish to have raised, speak to them. Perhaps, even consider standing for General Synod yourself! Democracy works best when we participate and seek to be well-informed.

*Rachel x*

## If I get to heaven

If ever by God's mercy I should find myself in Heaven ~  
With all my failings overlooked and all my sins forgiven ~  
I hope there'll be a little plot where I can grow some flowers.  
What better way could I employ the everlasting hours?



I cannot see why such a hope should seem impossible ~  
For did not God prepare an Eden green and beautiful  
For the scene of the creation of the soul of man?  
Amidst the flowers and birds and trees was where the world began.

So, if in spite of everything I'm granted peace and pardon ~  
I'll turn a patch of paradise into an English garden.

Anon, recommended by Brenda Maclese

# Letter from Australia

G'day from Oz!

Here in Northern Queensland the steamy tropical rains have ended and we are in winter. Temperatures at night have dropped to single figures but rising to 25 degrees in the day, with cool breezes coming off the azure sea.



It's sports day at the local school, Mission Beach State School. A cooler time to be running and jumping out on the wide green field. All the "preppies", children in their first year at school, are wearing floppy fluorescent orange sun hats, while the older children wear different colours depending on which house they belong to.

In the locality noisy kookaburras and cockatoos can be heard occasionally. Even rarer are Cassowaries - tall prehistoric looking birds rather like emus but with thick black feathers on their bodies and blue heads. There are warning signs on the roads as they tend to stroll across without any warning, and can be dangerous. Thankfully we haven't seen any "salties" .... Estuarine crocodiles that live at the end of creeks.



Mission Beach is made up of 3 small communities strung out along the coast. Tourism is an important source of income as well as bananas and sugar cane. Tully is the sugar crushing town, and long narrow



gauge trains take the cut cane to the processing plant 40 minutes drive from Mission Beach. (Tully Tigers are the local rugby team.)

Distances are vast here. Cairns the nearest city is 2 hours drive away, and Brisbane the state capital is 21 hours drive away! That's all for now from Down Under!

*Love, Jill Lomas*

## **27th July: The Seven Sleepers of Ephesus – proving a nap is good for you!**

Do you tend to avoid conflict? When you feel stressed, do you crave sleep? Then the Seven Sleepers of Ephesus would be good patron saints for you. But – you may find it hard to copy their successful method of avoiding trouble!

Legend has it that The Seven Sleepers were third century Christians who lived in Ephesus during the persecutions of the Roman Emperor Decius. When things got very bad, the Seven Sleepers decided to 'go to ground'. Literally. They found a cave on the outskirts of the city and walled themselves in. The story goes that then God simply put them to sleep.

200 years later they woke up, and peeped out of the cave again. Things had changed: Ephesus had converted to Christianity. Unfortunately the Seven Sleepers did not get much time to enjoy the new freedoms, because within a short time they all died – of extreme old age.

The story was popularised in the 6th century by Gregory of Tours and Jacob of Sarugh, who venerated the Seven Sleepers as saints. But it was challenged by Baronius and many scholars since. It is sometimes called a Christianised pagan or Jewish legend akin to Rip Van Winkle.

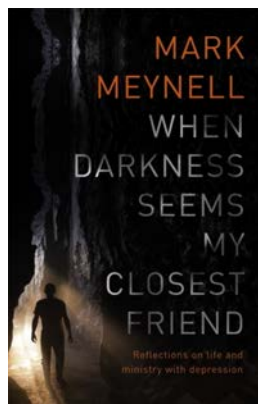
A possible moral for anyone today is that when you find yourself in a storm of conflict, you don't have to fight all the battles yourself. You can indeed seek refuge in God. He may not put you to sleep for 200 years, but He will be a safe hiding place for your soul.

## **Book Review:**

### **When Darkness Seems My Closest Friend - Reflections On Life And Ministry With Depression**

By Mark Meynell, IVP, £9.99

In this profound, unusual, and very personal book, Mark Meynell reflects on living with the painful thorn in the flesh of a vulnerability to depression and how that has affected his view of himself and the reactions of those around him as he seeks to pastor and teach while openly admitting his struggle.



He touches on many difficult subjects - the causes of depression, wrestling with suicidal thoughts, why God allows suffering, shame and guilt, what not to say to people who are depressed... and overall demonstrates the extraordinary relevance and power of the Bible in helping us to connect our often mysterious and confusing experiences to God's bigger story.



## 90 Years' Ago - 1928

Site for the temporary Church was blessed by the Bishop of Middleton (Dr. H. G. Parsons) and the first sod was cut by Alderman J. H. Birley, a generous benefactor of the parish. The first Rector, the Rev. H. A. Bamett, said of that occasion 'this was the first time that the people of the district had their thoughts and imaginations definitely towards the spot which was to become the spiritual and social centre of their life'. He was later to call these people 'the beloved community of St. Nicholas'.



The photograph above belongs to an album compiled by the Rev H. A. Bamett, BA, BD, the first rector and dates, I believe, from the winter of 1928-29. The photograph is taken from Fog Lane looking South showing, from left to right:

- (a) Houses in Poplar Road;
- (b) Temporary church erected in 1928 and later to become the 'Parish Hall' when the present church was consecrated in 1932 and, later, the 'Old Parish Hall', when the second parish hall was opened in 1954;
- (c) The Railway Embankment.

*Bewan Taylor, 24<sup>th</sup> April 2018*

# Parish Registers – May 2018

Date	Attendance	Cash	Envelopes	Total
6 <sup>th</sup>	56	23.50	204.50	228.00
13 <sup>th</sup>	42	11.95	415.90	427.85
20 <sup>th</sup>	43	27.00	295.50	322.50
27 <sup>th</sup>	43	11.50	384.50	396.00
Total		73.95	1300.40	1374.35

## St Nicholas Club Draw

1<sup>st</sup> Prize: 25 Ben Witty

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: 20 Valerie Acton

## Church Duty Rota – July

Date	Warden 8.30am	Warden 10.30am	Altar Server	Lay Assistants	Sides- people
1 <sup>st</sup>	Fred Murphy	Jill Lomas	Peter Cullen	Peter C Alison C	Eunice W Emily C
8 <sup>th</sup>	Fred Murphy	Grace Manley	Brenda Maclese	Brenda M Cliff S	Lyn R Ann A
15 <sup>th</sup>	Fred Murphy	Julie Crossley	Louise Hollings- worth	Louise H Jill L	Anne T Anne H
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Fred Murphy	Jane Cawley	Nikki Naylor	Nikki N Claire C	Sybil G Alison C
29 <sup>th</sup>	Fred Murphy	Alison Mills	Steven Bottomley	Grace M Lyn R	Michael V Margaret V

# 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](http://www.st-nicholas-church.org.uk)**

**For bookings please contact:**

**Alison Mills (0793 207 1977)  
[alison@glensidemills.co.uk](mailto: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.

<b>Minister</b>	Rev'd Canon Rachel Mann 0161 432 7009		
<b>Curate</b>	Rev'd Alan Simpson		
<b>Churchwardens</b>	Mrs Alison Mills (07932071977)	<b>Organists</b>	Mr Oliver Mills (07786 337087)
	Ms Jane Cawley (07745 392 374)		Ms Elizabeth Bray
<b>Assistant Wardens</b>	Mr Fred Murphy	<b>Hon. Treasurer</b>	Mr Andrew Mills (07802403991)
	Mrs Grace Manley	<b>Minutes Secretary</b>	Mrs Ann Ackerman
	Ms Jill Lomas	<b>Deanery Synod</b>	Mrs Grace Manley
	Mrs Julie Crossley		Mrs Christine Price
	Mrs Louise Hollingsworth		
<b>Elected on PCC</b>	Mrs Lyn Rimmer, (electoral Roll Officer)	<b>Magazine Distribution</b>	Mrs Brenda Maclese
	Mrs Margaret Witty	<b>Missionary Secretary</b>	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](http://www.st-nicholas-church.org.uk)  
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