

St Nicholas News

December 2018

Price 50p



Church Diary December 2018

Date	Time	Event
Sunday 2nd	8.30 am 10.30 am	Advent 1 Holy Communion (BCP) Parish Communion
Monday 3 rd	7.30 pm	PCC meeting, glass room, refreshments from 7.00 pm
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	Advent 2 Holy Communion (BCP) Christingle & 90 th Birthday Celebration with Bishop Mark, followed by Lunch: everyone welcome!
Wednesday 12 th	10.00 am	Eucharist
Sunday 16 th	8.30 am 10.30 am	Advent 3 Holy Communion (BCP) Parish Communion
Wednesday 19 th	10.00 am	Eucharist
Thursday 20 th	7.30 pm	Greater Manchester Voices invite you to their Christmas Songs and Carols by Candlelight, refreshments will be served, no entry fee, donations welcome
Sunday 23 rd	8.30 am 10.30 am	Advent 4 Holy Communion (BCP) Parish Communion
Monday 24 th	11.30 pm	Christmas Eve Midnight mass
Tuesday 25 th	8.30 am 10.30 am	Christmas Day Holy Communion (BCP) Family Service with Carols
Sunday 30 th	8.30 am 10.30 am	1st Sunday After Christmas Holy Communion (BCP) Parish Communion

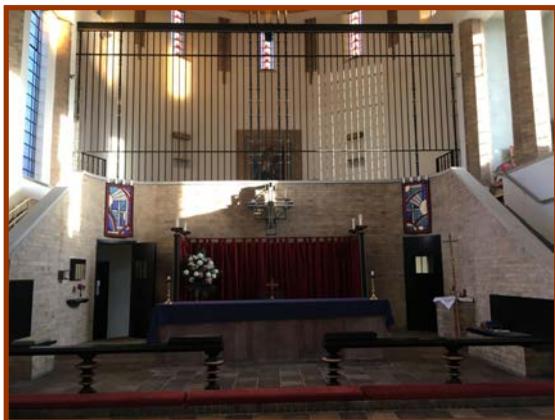


Deadline for January Edition: 15th December!

Prayer for Christmas Joy and article on St Nicholas from www.parishpump.co.uk, used with permission. Image of Chester Cathedral Creative commons licence, Other photos Giles Elliott

Happy 90th Birthday St Nicholas Church, Burnage!

On 8th December 1928, during a snowy afternoon, the Bishop of Middleton dedicated a temporary church and hall. On the following day, Sunday 9th December, the first service was held. The church we now know was completed in 1932. For more information buy a copy of our Visitors' Guide, available in church for 50p, or ask Bevan Taylor: if he doesn't know it's probably not worth knowing!



Rachel writes...

In recent years, St Nick's has seen a considerable increase in participation in our Christmas events (something which reflects national church trends). There is a hunger for connection as Christmas approaches. Thus, for several years, we've hosted the local Christmas Tree Lights Switch-On which brings hundreds of people into the church. It's become the traditional local signal for the start of the festive season. In addition, we've seen our Christingle and Community Carol services grow in size and popularity, and that's before one mentions the many successful concerts given by the Greater Manchester Voices.

This year looks like being especially busy. In addition to the Christmas Tree Lights Switch-On on 30th November, there will be the usual Community Carol Service on 16th December at 3pm, as well as a full programme of Christmas services on Christmas Eve night and Christmas Day. This year, Greater Manchester Voices are holding an open evening on 20th December rather than a full concert. Do join them, if you can!

Of course, on 09th December, at our usual 10.30am service, we shall hold a very special Christingle. It will mark our 90th Anniversary as a parish. The service will be presided over by Mark, the Bishop of Middleton, and it will bring together friends old and new to celebrate the 90th anniversary of the parish of St Nicholas Burnage; it will also give us an opportunity to look forward to how we can continue to grow and evolve as a community.

On 08th December, at 10.30am, I should also like to invite you to come and join me at the Rectory for a Christmas Coffee Morning. I remember fondly how Vera and Sybil Gawkrödger used to hold a Christmas get-together and I'd like to reinstitute it. I'm no mince-pie baker, so I may have to rely on other people's skills! However, I'm sure I can dig out some brandy to slip into your coffees! Of course, there will be other opportunities to share fun, fellowship and reflection during Advent and Christmas. Do check your notice sheets regarding these.

However, a little note of caution. For all the busyness that December brings, it is important that we don't lose sight of our true focus. Without it, all the tinsel and partying is mere clanging bells and sounding fury.

Don't get me wrong. I'm not trying to be a killjoy. Far from it. Advent and Christmas are extraordinary seasons. Let us dare, then, to use December as an opportunity to prepare and pray and ready ourselves for the feast. But the point of that preparation is Jesus Christ.

How easy it is for any of us to lose sight of the centrality of Christ to our festal joy. In my busyness I can get a little lost. Many clergy find December such a bewildering marathon that the only thing they look forward to on Christmas day afternoon is a good sleep! This is understandable. We are all limited human beings. Yet, there are richer and deeper joys in our Advent preparations and Christmas feasting than trying to get the 'big day' right.

Ultimately, there is one Christmas gift: Jesus Christ. In his nativity, our hope takes flesh; in Christ's vulnerability is the promise of peace and riches abounding. May you know his love, delight and wonder, this Advent and Christmastide.

Merry Christmas!

Rachel x

Prayer for Christmas Joy

Loving, generous Father,

This Christmas, please help us to keep you at the centre of our preparations and celebrations. May our thankfulness for the gift of your precious son, Jesus, motivate all that we think and say and do. May the joy of His coming shine from us and attract those who don't know what Christmas really means, so that they want to find out!

In Jesus' name and for His glory,
Amen.

by Daphne Kitching

Looking Back - 40 years and 90 years!

On Saturday 9th December 1978 The Church of St Nicholas, Burnage, Manchester, celebrated the 'golden jubilee' of the Formation of the parish on Saturday 8th December 1928.

Earlier in the year of 1978 the then Rector from 1971, Revd Brian W Barker, had written to all the previous six Rectors, inviting them to contribute to a booklet to celebrate this great occasion in the life of the church. Prebendary Herbert A Barnett wrote as follows:

**FROM PREBENDARY HERBERT ARTHUR BARNETT, B.A., B.D.
of Wells Cathedral**

A period of fifty years is a short time in the life of a parish, but it forms the greater part of the life of an individual. It is, therefore, with a thankful heart in gratitude to God that I am permitted to greet you in this Jubilee Year of "Saint Nicholas".

I well remember the dedication of the temporary Church and Hall on the snowy afternoon of December 8th, 1928. We were all new friends together looking forward with hope to the future. The life of what I soon called "The Beloved Community" flourished with such vigour that before four years had passed the Parish Hall proved inadequate for the needs of the people for worship and for fellowship. Thus in September, 1932, the Church of Saint Nicholas was consecrated by the then Bishop of Manchester, Dr. Warman.

I look back with gratitude to all who with God's blessing helped me to build up the life of the parish in those early years. Many of them now worship God in a fuller light, but some of us are still serving Him here on earth.

'One family we dwell in Him,
One Church above, beneath;
Though now divided by the stream
The narrow stream of death'

Many others have come to join in the life of the parish. I hope to meet you all next December. My thoughts and prayers are with you all. May the blessing of God be with the Rector, his family, and you.

HERBERT A. BARNETT

If I may 'look back' 40 years to 9th December 1978 my abiding memory is the fact that all the previous rectors were able to be present:

Herbert A Barnett: 1928-1938

Wilfred Garlick 1938-1944

George V H Elliott 1945-1951

John E R Williams 1951-1958

David A Edwards 1958-1965

Dennis Baggaley 1965-1971

Bewan Taylor, 26th October, 2018

Know your Cathedrals: Chester Cathedral

In the seventh century the Saxons founded a church in Chester. The oldest remnants of this building, begun in 1092 can be seen in an arch of the North Transept. The building was completed in 1220. The chapter house was finished in 1250.

There are four mosaics on the north side of the nave : look for the carved fourteenth century stalls in the quire.

In 1540 the monastery was dissolved by Henry VIII, who a year later decreed that the church should become Chester Cathedral.



Today the cathedral is the seat of The Bishop of Chester.

The south transept contains a number of military memorials, including the Victoria Cross to Jack Cornwell, the youngest serviceman to be awarded the Victoria Cross, for his service in the First World War.

This is just a little about Chester Cathedral. To find more about the Cathedral go on a visit!

Brenda Maclese

The Twinkling Stars

Our sky is silver with sparkling stars,
Waiting for the birth of
Our Christ Child, full of love.
We are peoples – unworthy,
Needing love and guidance
To live life as Jesus teaches us.

*Alley, alley, oh,
Stars are twinkling so
Alley, alley, oh
Stars are twinkling so.*

(To the tune of “The Big Ship Sails
through the Alley, alley, oh.”)

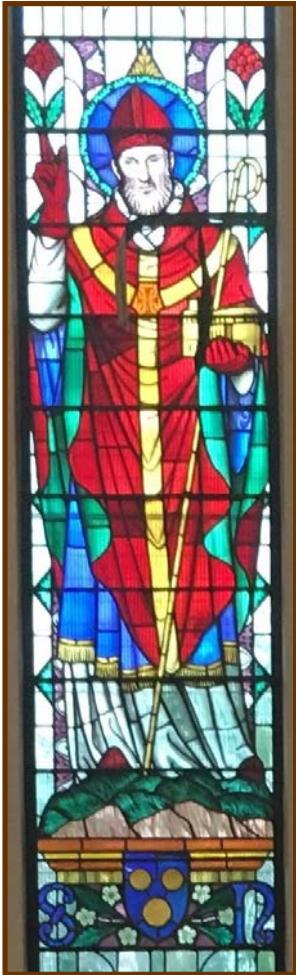


By Irene Smith

St Nicholas - another look at this much-loved saint

One account of how Father Christmas began tells of a man named Nicholas who was born in the third century in the Greek village of Patara, on what is

today the southern coast of Turkey. His family were both devout and wealthy, and when his parents died in an epidemic, Nicholas decided to use his inheritance to help people. He gave to the needy, the sick, the suffering. He dedicated his whole life to God's service, and was made Bishop of Myra while still a young man. As a bishop in later life, he joined other bishops and priests in prison under the emperor Diocletian's fierce persecution of Christians across the Roman Empire.



Finally released, Nicholas was all the more determined to shed abroad the news of God's love. He did so by giving. One story of his generosity explains why we hang Christmas stockings over our mantelpieces today. There was a poor family with three daughters who needed dowries if they were to marry, and not be sold into slavery. Nicholas heard of their plight, and tossed three bags of gold into their home through an open window – thus saving the girls from a life of misery.

The bags of gold landed in stockings or shoes left before the fire to dry. Hence the custom of children hanging out stockings – in the hope of attracting presents of their own from St Nicholas - on Christmas Eve. That is why three gold balls, sometimes represented as oranges, are one of the symbols of St Nicholas.

The example of St Nicholas has never been forgotten - in bygone years boys in Germany and Poland would dress up as bishops on 6th December, and beg alms for the poor. In the Netherlands and Belgium 'St Nicholas' would arrive on a steamship from Spain to ride a white horse on his gift-giving rounds. To this day, 6th December is still the main day for gift-giving and merry-making in much of Europe. Many feel that simple gift-giving in early Advent helps preserve a Christmas Day focus on the Christ Child.

Parish Registers - October 2018

Date	Attendance	Cash	Envelopes	Total
7 th	51	54.75	503.85	558.60
14 th	36	8.50	199.00	207.50
21 st	42	122.60	201.50	324.10
28 th	45	45.00	165.50	210.50
Total		230.85	1069.85	1300.70

St Nicholas Club Draw

1st Prize: 61 (Alison Mills)

2nd Prize: 40 (Rainbows)

Church Duty Rota - December

Date	Warden 8.30am	Warden 10.30am	Altar Server	Lay Assistants	Sides- people
2 nd	Fred Murphy	Alison Mills	Brenda Maclese	Brenda M Cliff S	Brenda M Beth C
9 th	Fred Murphy	Jill Lomas	Louise Hollings- worth	Louise H Julie C	Anne T Anne H
16 th	Fred Murphy	Grace Manley	Steven Bottomley	Lyn R Margaret V	Sybil G Alison C
23 rd	Fred Murphy	Louise Hollings- worth	Peter Cullen	Peter C Alison C	Margaret V Michael V
24 th (midnight mass)		Alison Mills	tbc	Alison M Katy M	Wardens
25 th	Fred Murphy	tbc	tbc	N/A	Wardens
30 th	Fred Murphy	Julie Crossley	Jane Cawley	Jane C Grace M	Brenda M Beth C

Organisations

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) Ms Jane Cawley (07745 392 374)	Organists	Mr Oliver Mills (07786 337087) Ms Elizabeth Bray
Assistant Wardens	Mr Fred Murphy Mrs Grace Manley Ms Jill Lomas Mrs Julie Crossley Mrs Louise Hollingsworth	Hon. Treasurer	Mr Andrew Mills (07802403991)
		Minutes Secretary	Mrs Ann Ackerman
		Deanery Synod	Mrs Grace Manley Mrs Christine Price
Elected on PCC	Mrs Lyn Rimmer, (electoral Roll Officer) Mrs Margaret Witty Mr Tony Witty Mrs Alison Cullen Ms Michaila Roberts Mrs Julie Bodgers Ms Nicola Naylor Mr Giles Elliott	Magazine Distribution	Mrs Brenda Maclese
		Missionary Secretary	Mrs Margaret Vessey

www.st-nicholas-church.org.uk
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