

St Nicholas News

September/October 2019

Price £1

The eternal God is your refuge



and underneath are the everlasting arms

Deuteronomy 33: 27 (NIV)

Church Diary

Date	Time	Event
September		
Sunday 1 st	8.30 am 10.30 am	Trinity 11 Holy Communion (BCP) Parish Communion Welcome service for our new curate, Andrew Bennison
Tuesday 3 rd	7.30 pm	Taize Evening Prayer
Wednesday 4 th	10.00 am 7.30 pm	Eucharist Meeting of St Nick's and St Chad's Church-wardens and Clergy in St Nick's rectory
Friday 6 th	1.30 pm	Meeting of the PCC Worship Group to plan Harvest service, in church
Sunday 8 th	10.30 am	Trinity 12 Parish Communion
Wednesday 11 th	10.00 am	Eucharist
Saturday 14 th	10.30 am - 4.00 pm	Heritage weekend open day including art show, and Saturday Café
Sunday 15 th	10.30 am	Trinity 13 Parish Communion
Wednesday 18 th	10.00 am	Eucharist
Friday 20 th	7.00 pm	FILM NIGHT come and watch 'The Sound of Music', fancy dress is optional, free entry, bar available, and neighbours, everyone welcome
Sunday 22 nd	10.30 am	Trinity 14 Parish Communion
Tuesday 24 th	7.30 pm	PCC Meeting, church hall
Wednesday 25 th	10.00 am	Eucharist
Sunday 29 th	10.30 am	Trinity 15 – Harvest Festival Parish Communion
October		
Tuesday 2 nd	7.30 pm	Taize Evening Prayer
Wednesday 3 rd	10.00 am	Eucharist
Sunday 6 th	8.30 am 10.30 am	Trinity 16 Holy Communion (BCP) Parish Communion

Wednesday 10 th	10.00 am	Eucharist
Sunday 13 th	10.30 am	Trinity 17 Parish Communion
Wednesday 16 th	10.00 am	Eucharist
Sunday 20 th	10.30 am	Trinity 18 Parish Communion
Wednesday 23 rd	10.00 am	Eucharist
Friday 25 th	7.30 pm	Rector's Famous Quiz Night
Sunday 27 th	10.30 am	Trinity 19 Parish Communion
Wednesday 30 th	10.00 am	Eucharist



Deadline for November/December: 15th October!

Cover image and Crossword from www.parishpump.co.uk, cartoon from www.cartoonchurch.com used with permission.

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Rachel writes...

I wonder, do you have a favourite season of the year? Mine is autumn. Despite the fact that autumn signals the decline of the year into winter's cold, grey mornings and half-light, there is something truly magical about what Keats called the 'season of mellow fruitfulness'. Perhaps it is the riot of fiery colours that can adorn autumnal trees that I find most appealing; perhaps I am beguiled by childhood memories of walking to school through piles of fallen leaves; perhaps I am excited by the sense that autumn promises the seasons of Advent and Christmas to come.

I suspect that my reasons for loving autumn sound very romantic and sentimental, especially from an urban point of view. I love Manchester, but it can feel very far away from the visions conjured up by my romantic ideas of autumn. In this era of climate crisis and change, it can increasingly feel like the seasons are losing their shape and meaning. When we can have a

February day that is as hot as an August one (as we did earlier this year), can we dare to hold on to rustic visions of crisp autumn days?

I'm not sure it's time to give up on romantic visions just yet, if by romantic visions we mean ideas and practices that can inspire, dazzle and challenge us. While I've very little time and energy for comforting visions of how everything in the past was 'better' or 'happier', I still think that Christians mustn't lose sight of the wonder held within the changing scenes of life.

When we, as people of faith, are attentive to the state of the world, it can feel depressing. For it's fair to say that our world is being put under immense pressure by the way our species behaves. One doesn't need to watch a David Attenborough programme to realise that our world is wounded by our addictions to fossil fuels and conspicuous consumption.

However, if our human capacity for what Christians traditionally call 'Sin' means that we readily hurt the planet and each other, creation remains awe-inspiring. Back in August I had the privilege of going on holiday to the west coast of Ireland. It was truly wild and stunning. The weather and light could change several times a day. It reminded me that our wounded world still holds within it immense hope and promise.

Which brings me back to autumn. Even in our great post-industrial city we can still encounter the beauties and wildness of nature. If you are able, find some time in coming weeks to go to a local park and watch the falling leaves or feel the wild wind blow. If you can't get out, see if you can watch the world go by from your window. There is always something going on.

In short, the Living God is active in this weary earth we walk upon and that should encourage us. However, it should also make us pause. All of our seasons hold within them beauties and pleasures. As we prepare to tumble towards Christmas, let's not rush on too quickly, but be alert to how God is alive in all things and all we do for love and goodness.

Rachel x

Know Your Church Building

When the sanctuary was re-ordered during the conservation work of 2000-2002 a litany desk was removed and for storage purposes was placed in the South Gallery (above the entrance passage into church).

When this desk was in use in the sanctuary from 1932-2000 the shelf was always hidden by service books: only in about 1984 did I come across the shelf uncovered! Only to learn that the desk was originally a gift from Mrs Jefferson, and to read the following wording on a small memorial plate.

In Loving Memory of
ADA A. FLUMERFELT.
MARCH 13th 1924
ALFRED C. FLUMERFELT.

NOV. 29th 1930

VICTORIA. BRITISH
COLUMBIA.

Mrs. Jefferson, before marriage, was Gertrude May Flumerfelt, the elder daughter of Alfred and Ada Flumerfelt, and who studied medicine in London and Manchester.

Geoffrey Jefferson and Gertrude married in England in 1914, after which they returned to practise medicine in Victoria.

Following the outbreak of the First World War they served together at a Red Cross Hospital in Russia. After the First World War they both practised in Manchester.

Geoffrey Jefferson had a very distinguished career and was Emeritus Professor of Neurosurgery at Manchester University when he died in 1961. He was made a C.B.E. in 1943 and was Knighted in 1950. His wife, Lady Gertrude Jefferson, died also in 1961.

Sir Geoffrey Jefferson was at one time a Patron of St. Nicholas and a Memorial Plate in memory of them both is located in the North West corner of St. James Church, Didsbury, Manchester.

Bevan Taylor. 6th August 2019

My Special Moment

- with a blackbird

The afternoon air was still and calm. So peaceful after a busy lecture in the building behind me, which is the headquarters of the Botanical Gardens, of St Andrew's University. Thus the long drive I was walking down was flanked by trees and shrubs, making an impressive hedge.



Suddenly breaking into the glorious silence was a beautiful blackbird's song. I stood for a moment to listen, when out popped a magnificent blackbird. It stood out from a shrub with his glossy black feathers - as only male ones have - and yellow fringed eyes and yellow beak. After a few

seconds he started to *walk* sedately across the drive. When he reached the centre he stopped.

The sun seemed to sparkle around him. I began to speak softly and slowly to him, like you often do to a baby - the emphasis of the whispering being in soft tones and pauses. Blackbird turned his head and one eye towards me. We stayed like this for what seemed a long time. But time isn't strictly set in heavenly moments or so we believe. I felt strongly attuned to this special moment of peace and a feeling of happiness. I truly feel that this moment was created by God and the Holy Spirit, as I have an immense belief and love for our creation. Every time I hear or see a blackbird I remember that moment of great peace and calm. But isn't it strange that the drive had no cars or pedestrians go by, at that moment in time, that busy time?

Irene Smith

Inept and Useless – Confessions of a new Curate...

Nothing, it seems can quite prepare you for being ordained! I'd anticipated some of what being a curate might involve – after all, I'd had three years of training to prepare me for it. But my first couple of months at St Nick's have still been full of unexpected surprises...

Chief among these surprises was the joy (and challenge!) of being taught how to *knit*. I'd gone along to July's 'Saturday Café' expecting a relaxed morning of tea and chit-chat. Nothing too strenuous... *How wrong I was!* No sooner had I settled down with a cup of tea than Louise was there next to me with a big bag of green wool, cheerfully offering to 'cast on' and then teach me the steps from there. There wasn't any time to protest. The knitting needles were in my hand and it was time to pay attention!

What followed was - as Rachel put it afterwards - 'absolute scenes'. An aptitude for knitting is not, it turns out, one of my natural gifts. I was a painfully slow learner. Louise showed superhuman levels of patience as she kindly explained the technique and corrected my errors. But it still required intense concentration and perseverance. I felt a bit like a child learning to ride a bike: wobbly, uncertain and in need of encouragement. It was, above all, a gloriously *humbling* experience - the very best way of puncturing any arrogance or hubris that I might have felt as the new curate. Yes, I've got a degree in theology and spent three years at theological college... but in that precious hour of fumbling with wool and knitting needles I felt spectacularly inept and useless!

Being reminded of our ineptitude and uselessness is, I think, quite a valuable experience – perhaps especially for clergy! We live in a world that tends to value us by our skills and abilities; a world in which we are expected to *perform*. The Church itself is not immune to this: targets, appraisals and performance management are part-and-parcel of ministry in today's Church. Indeed, we are all affected by this subtle pressure to perform. However much we are told that we are welcomed and accepted by God 'just as we are', it is easy to believe that somehow our efforts will make the difference – that it is really *me*, not God, who is saving the world.

Thank God, then, for my morning spent knitting at Saturday Café – and for all other experiences which remind us just how inept and useless we really are. For in such humbling moments there is a glorious invitation: an invitation to re-discover the overflowing grace and abundance of God, mediated through the kindly smiles and helping hand of a stranger. In such moments we are reminded what it means to live simply as children of God, rejoicing in his patient love and favour.

During my time at St Nick's there will be moments of arrogance and hubris, I am sure - moments when I am tempted to perform and impress. When those occur, please remind me of my knitting. Then, with God's help, I will remember just how inept and useless I really am – and praise him for that fact. Alleluia!

Andrew

Drawn to Faith Hilary of Poitiers (c310-367)

Brought up a pagan, he converted and was made a bishop.

So many people respond to faith and love and follow the path laid down for us by Jesus Christ – God's Son. The miracle of creation still abides and builds within us to repair natural disasters, wars and broken human spirit. Not forgetting personal tragedies and ...

... the help needed for Mr Jones' as he struggled to maintain his quite large garden and grew fruits and vegetables for his community. More treasured by many were his beautiful flowers, and herbs, he tended ... plus the weeds! People felt and saw the love he emanated through his garden, like Hilary of Poitiers he had his reward. Not a bishop as we have read but a prestigious garden award from the area Garden Association!

Mr Jones replied in his usual way. He quietly slipped a bouquet of his wonderful flowers to the ladies who decorated the tiny church for Sunday's

service. When the vicar led the service he usually thanked Mr Jones for the flowers, and upon this Mrs Jones was heard to mutter, " and the herbs!"

But Mr Jones stood up one time and quietly said, "It was the Holy Spirit that made them beautiful. He is often with me in the garden."

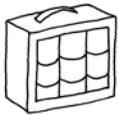
As the church service drew to a close, the vicar announced they would be singing an extra hymn that morning –

All things bright and beautiful,
All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful,
The Lord God made them all.

Each little flow'r that opens,
Each little bird that sings,
He made their glowing colours,
He made their tiny wings.

Irene Smith

RAFFLE PRIZES



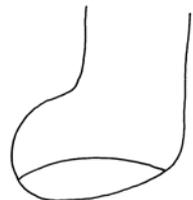
GIFT BOX OF
TOILETRIES FROM
LAST CHRISTMAS



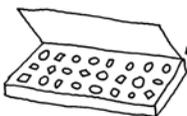
POTTED
PLANT
(ALWAYS A
BEGONIA)



HALF AN HOUR OF
A CONGREGATION
MEMBER'S TIME



HIGHLY IMPRACTICAL
CUDDLY TOY
(NO SPACE TO
SHOW IT ALL)



EXPIRY
DATE:
NEXT
WEEK

BOX OF
CHOCOLATES



SCENTED
CANDLE



BOTTLE OF
LIQUEUR
(HAS BEEN A
RAFFLE PRIZE
SEVEN TIMES
ALREADY)



VINTAGE
CALENDAR



UNWANTED
APPLIANCE

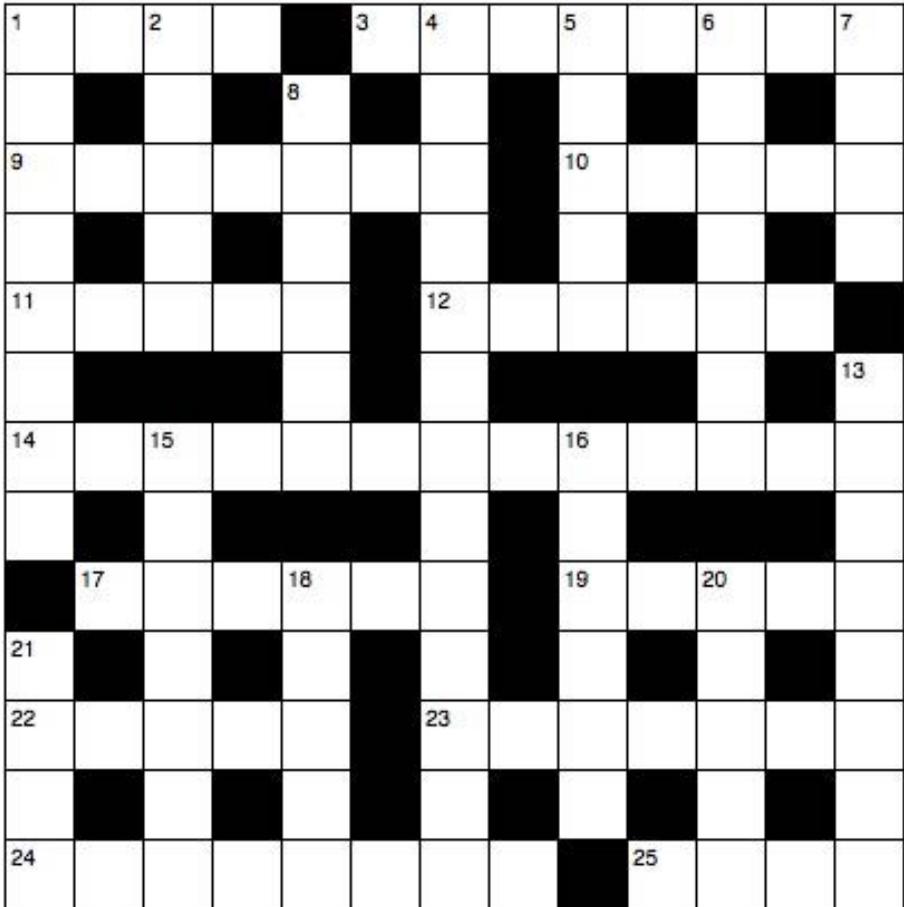


JIGSAW



VOUCHER FOR
RELIGIOUS
EXPERIENCE

Crossword



Across

- 1 'A little later someone else saw Peter and said, "You — are one of them"' (Luke 22:58) (4)
- 3 Giving (1 Peter 2:5) (8)
- 9 They came to Jerusalem seeking an infant king (Matthew 2:7) (3,4)
- 10 'An athlete... does not receive the victor's crown unless he competes according to the — ' (2 Timothy 2:5) (5)

- 11 Pacifist, temperance advocate, open-air preacher, leading 20th- century Methodist, Donald — (5)
- 12 'Come quickly to — — , O Lord my Saviour' (Psalm 38:22) (4,2)
- 14 'The God of Abraham, — — — , the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus' (Acts 3:13) (5,3,5)
- 17 Sear by intense heat (Revelation 16:8) (6)
- 19 'It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust — — ' (Psalm 118:8) (2,3)
- 22 Goods (Nehemiah 13:15) (5)
- 23 i.e. train (anag.) (7)
- 24 Surrounding area (Luke 24:50) (8)
- 25 'Righteousness will be his — and faithfulness the sash round his waist' (Isaiah 11:5) (4)

Down

- 1 Elegant and creative (Exodus 31:4) (8)
- 2 'Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all — , but we will all be changed' (1 Corinthians 15:51) (5)
- 4 'I... delight to see how orderly you are and how firm your — — — is' (Colossians 2:5) (5,2,6)
- 5 Enlist (2 Samuel 24:2) (5)
- 6 Of the Muslim faith (7)
- 7 Sharp intake of breath (Job 11:20) (4)
- 8 Woven cloth (Ezekiel 16:13) (6)
- 13 Plentiful (Romans 5:17) (8)
- 15 CIA char (anag.) (7)
- 16 Paul and Silas stopped him committing suicide after an earthquake in Philippi (Acts 16:27–28) (6)
- 18 One of the ingredients in the making of incense for the Lord (Exodus 30:34) (5)
- 20 Episcopal headwear (5)
- 21 Inhabitant of, say, Russia, Ukraine, Poland, Slovakia or Bulgaria (4)

In Camera': Rachel's Favourite Films

'The Great Escape' (Dir: John Sturges, 1963)

XXXI suspect this film barely needs an introduction. It has been a British Bank Holiday staple since the 1960s and remains one of the best War films ever made. Yet, precisely because it is so well-known, it is possible to lose sight of what makes it so compelling and watchable.

In one sense, *The Great Escape* shouldn't work. For, behind its stirring theme tune (a staple of England World Cup football chants for decades) and its quite exceptional cast, is a story of profound bleakness and weight. The basis for the film is the mass escape from Stalag Luft III in 1944. Out of the seventy-six men who escaped, the Gestapo and SS executed fifty. After the War, the British authorities treated this mass execution of Allied servicemen as grounds for the most rigorous and determined man-hunt and war crimes prosecutions. The way the Gestapo broke the Geneva Conventions shook the British military authorities to the core.

And yet ... out of this serious and bleak material, John Sturges creates a film that somehow both honours the fifty who were murdered and is a thrilling action film. Part of the success of the film lies in the script by James Clavell and W.R. Burnett as well as the stellar casting. Sturges was fresh from filming *The Magnificent Seven* and he brought many of that film's stars with him, from Charlie Bronson through to James Coburn. On their own they would have damaged the tone of the film. However, *The Great Escape* also has a superb cast of British actors to hold the Hollywood crew in check. Outstanding among them is Donald Pleasance as the myopic master-forger Blythe, as well as Dickie Attenborough, Gordon Jackson and Angus Lennie (who later played Shughie McFee in *Crossroads*) as the stir-crazy Archibald Ives.

Together, the British and US talent make for a balanced whole. While characters like Steve McQueen's motorbike-riding USAAF captain Virgil Hilts have captured the imagination of the film's fans, the emotional core of *The Great Escape* is found in the strain shown by the British characters. No matter how many times I see the film, I am arrested by the scene where

Gordon Jackson's character gives himself away to the SS Officer who wishes him 'Good luck' in English. I always hope that this time Jackson's character will not give himself away!

The success of the film lies in the way it sets up its closing scenes. The first half captures both the absurdities of P.O.W. Camp life as well as its boredom and tension. At the film's end, when McQueen's Hilts is returned to the camp, we feel his sadness, guilt and anger when he finds out how many the SS have killed. If *The Great Escape* is great entertainment, it also serves as a surprisingly successful tribute to human courage during one of the bleakest episodes of the War.

Rachel x

Parish Registers - June-July 2019

Date	Attendance	Cash	Envelopes	Total
2 nd June	37	79.00	196.50	275.50
9 th June	58	24.80	122.50	147.30
16 th June	38	130.00	121.23	251.23
23 rd June	33	128.50	223.30	351.80
30 th June	32	74.70	106.00	180.70
7 th July	70	114.00	244.00	358.00
14 th July	41	154.00	149.50	303.50
21 st July	52	184.75	236.90	421.65
28 th July	42	62.50	178.00	240.50
Total		952.25	1577.93	2530.18

St Nicholas Club Draw

June 1st Prize: 39 Molly Popplewell

June 2nd Prize: 45 Giles Elliott

July 1st Prize: 65 Valerie Acton

July 2nd Prize: 56 Lucy Crossley

Church Duty Rota

Date	Warden 8.30am	Warden 10.30am	Altar Server	Lay Assistants	Sides- people
September					
1 st	Fred Murphy	Julie Crossley	Louise Hollings- worth	Louise H Margaret V	Assistant Wardens
8 th	Fred Murphy	Jane Cawley	Steven Nightingale -Holt	Steven N-H Julie C	Brenda M Freda E
15 th	Fred Murphy	Alison Mills	Brenda Maclese	Brenda M Cliff S	Giles E Julie B
22 nd	Fred Murphy	Jill Lomas	Jane Cawley	Jane C Grace M	Margaret V Michael V
29 th	Fred Murphy	Grace Manley	Nikki Naylor	Nikki N Jill L	Lyn R Ann A
October					
6 th	Fred Murphy	Alison Mills	Steven Nightingale -Holt	Steven N-H Lyn R	Giles E Julie B
13 th	Fred Murphy	Jill Lomas	Nikki Naylor	Nikki N Margaret V	Brenda M Freda E
20 th	Fred Murphy	Julie Crossley	Brenda Maclese	Brenda M Cliff S	Margaret V Michael V
27 th	Fred Murphy	Louise Hollings- worth	Jane Cawley	Jane C Claire C	Lyn R Ann A

Solutions

ACROSS: 1, Also. 3, Offering. 9, The Magi. 10, Rules. 11, Soper. 12, Help me. 14, Isaac and Jacob. 17, Scorch. 19, In man. 22, Loads. 23, Inertia. 24, Vicinity. 25, Belt.

DOWN: 1, Artistic. 2, Sleep. 4, Faith in Christ. 5, Enrol. 6, Islamic. 7, Gasp. 8, Fabric. 13, Abundant. 15, Archaic. 16, Jailer. 18, Resin. 20, Mitre. 21, Slav.

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)	Organists	Mr Oliver Mills (07786 337087)
	Ms Jane Cawley (07745 392 374)		Ms Elizabeth Bray
Assistant Wardens	Mr Fred Murphy	Hon. Treasurer	Mr Andrew Mills (07802403991)
	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
St Nicholas Church, Kingsway, Manchester, M19 1PL