

St Nicholas News

November/December 2019

Price £1



Church Diary

Date	Time	Event
November		
Sunday 3 rd		4th Sunday before Advent
	8.30 am 10.30 am 7.30 pm	Holy Communion (BCP) All Souls' Service – everyone welcome Licensing of Rev Dr Rachel Mann as Area Dean for Withington Deanery, with Bishop Mark and Archdeacon Karen. Everyone is welcome to come to the service and enjoy the refreshments.
Tuesday 5 th	7.30 pm	Taize Evening Prayer
Wednesday 6 th	10.00 am	Eucharist
Sunday 10 th		3rd Sunday before Advent
	10.30 am	Parish Communion
Tuesday 12 th	7.30 pm	PCC in the church hall
Wednesday 13 th	10.00 am 2.30 pm	Eucharist Women's Fellowship – The Enchantment of the Galapagos – Mr Russ Hedley
Saturday 16 th	11.00 am - 2.00 pm	Christmas Fair (see separate page)
Sunday 17 th		2nd Sunday before Advent
	10.30 am	Parish Communion
Wednesday 20 th	10.00 am	Eucharist
Sunday 24 th		Christ the King
	10.30 am	Parish Communion
Tuesday 24 th	7.30 pm	PCC Meeting, church hall
Wednesday 25 th	10.00 am 2.30 pm	Eucharist Women's Fellowship – Islam: love for all hatred for none – Mrs Huma Almed
Friday 29 th	5.00pm – 7.00 pm	Tree Lighting Ceremony (PROVISIONAL)
December		
Sunday 1 st		Advent 1
	8.30 am 10.30 am	Holy Communion (BCP) Parish Communion
Tuesday 3 rd	7.30 pm	Taize Evening Prayer
Wednesday 4 th	10.00 am	Eucharist

Sunday 8 th	10.30 am	Advent 2 Christingle Service (St.Chad's congregation will join us) Workshop performance of 'Realms of Glory' by Rachel Mann & Ollie Mills
	7.30 pm	
Wednesday 11 th	10.00 am	Eucharist
Saturday 14 th	7.30 pm	'The Sunday Boys' in concert, bar/drinks available
Sunday 15 th	10.30 am	Advent 3 Parish Communion Carol Service with mince pies and wine to follow
	3.00 pm	
Wednesday 18 th	10.00 am	Eucharist
Sunday 22 nd	10.30 am	Advent 4 Parish Communion
	11.30 pm	
Tuesday 24 th	11.30 pm	Midnight Mass
Wednesday 25 th	8.30 am	BCP Holy Communion Carols and Communion
	10.00 am	
Sunday 29 th	10.30 am	Christmas 1 Parish Communion



Deadline for January/February: 15th December!

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Rachel writes...

Summer is gone with all its roses,
Its sun and perfumes and sweet flowers,
Its warm air and refreshing showers:
And even Autumn closes.

Yea, Autumn's chilly self is going,
And winter comes which is yet colder;
Each day the hoar-frost waxes bolder,
And the last buds cease blowing.

The poem above, known as Bitter for Sweet, was written by Christina Rossetti in the middle of the nineteenth century. It struck me as a perfect poem as our attention turns ever more towards the ending of another year. In eight lines, Rossetti takes us from summer roses through autumn's 'chilly self' and finally to winter's 'hoar-frost'. I can think of no other poem which covers the decline of the year with such precision.

In the modern calendar, as autumn shifts into winter, the National and Church year becomes absolutely packed with significant dates. There is Halloween, All Saints, All Souls, Bonfire Night and Remembrance Sunday to mention a few. On November 16th we have our Christmas Fair. As we enter December, we negotiate the season of Advent and, for us at St Nick's, we have Birthday Sunday and then all of our Christmas events. It is an intense time.

I know that the helter-skelter of events at the end of the year can be utterly exhausting and draining. We can be left feeling like we're on constant transmit. By the time Christmas finally arrives we can feel utterly exhausted and end up unable to appreciate one of the most joyous times of the year.

How on earth can we find a way to negotiate this intense time of year and not be left in a state of collapse?

Perhaps, one answer is to try and do less. I suspect that such an approach works for some. I certainly commend it. I have to say that in my own case, especially as the demands on ministry have increased, such a hope feels rather beyond my reach. I do try to take some time out in October and November, just for me, but it is never quite as restful as I should like it to be. The busy round of ministry and parish life requires considerable attention and quite rightly so.

What I do try to maintain throughout the frenetic days of November and December is a discipline of prayer. It isn't easy, but prayer can be the difference between being utterly burned out come Christmas Day and having just enough openness to God that I am prepared to receive the great gift of Jesus Christ. Prayer, then, is about sustenance. God offers this deep well from which we are invited to drink. He offers us this water of life freely, but

we have to find a way to get there. Prayer, in its many forms, is the way we find our way home to God's deep well of Living Water.

There are, of course, many forms or techniques of prayer. If you haven't found something that helps you, or if you want to go deeper, please come and speak to me or one of my clergy colleagues, Andrew or Alan. Margaret Vessey and Alison Mills, our Accredited Lay Ministers, can also be good link people. Our Taizē service, run by Grace, presents another space to meet God. Do also look out for our groups meeting in Advent. This year we shall be looking at the course about the extraordinary film, *The Way*. Check the parish notices or the website for more information.

Personally, I find hymns and poetry incredibly powerful. Some of you will know that I've written an Advent and Christmas book, *In the Bleak Midwinter*, which takes a different Christina Rossetti poem for each day and reflects on it. It offers a structured way to read poetry in the company of God. I hope some of you might take a closer look.

Ultimately, we need to find ways to pray which nourish us. In finding them, I hope that as Christmas dawns we can appreciate those closing lines of Rossetti's most famous poem:

What can I give Him,
 Poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd,
 I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man,
 I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give Him,
 Give my heart.

All that we have comes from God. To recognise that is to recognise the truth at the heart of the universe. When we bring our offerings before God we are invited to do so with thankful hearts. As we draw towards the great gift of God-With-Us, Jesus Christ, at Christmastime, I hope and pray that each of us can respond to that question, 'What can I give him?' with the simple refrain: 'My heart.'

Have a blessed autumn, Advent and Christmas.

Rachel x

CHRISTMAS 2019

Sunday 8th December 10.30am

Community Christingle Service

Sunday 15th December 3.00pm

Community Carol Service with Greater Manchester Voices

Thursday 19th December 7.30pm

Greater Manchester Voices Christmas Concert (free entry)

Tuesday 24th December 11.30pm

Midnight Eucharist

Wednesday 25th December

8.30am Holy Communion BCP

10.30am Carols and Communion

Please join us everyone is most welcome #inclusivechurch



Curate's Musings - Being Alone

St Nick's is a community with remarkable diversity! In my first few months as a curate it has been wonderful to discover the richness of this congregation and community. No two lives are the same – everyone has a different experience to share. Now some of these differences are obvious: visible characteristics such as age, race and (to some extent) gender may be easily spotted. Others are less obvious but may be discovered upon listening: class, educational background, sexuality, (dis)ability...

One element of our diversity that we so rarely pause to observe, however, is how often we are alone. When we gather together on a Sunday morning, it is easy to forget that our experiences of company and solitude will have varied considerably during the previous week. Some people will have had little or no human company during the preceding six days. This solitude may have

been voluntarily chosen – or thrust upon them by circumstances. Other people will have been in continual company – amongst family, friends, work colleagues – and had little or no time alone. During my first few weeks at theological college I remember one of my colleagues, a young woman with children, remarking that she was never alone. This utterly astonished me. As someone with extensive experience of solitude, it simply had not occurred to me that someone else's life could be so very different.

Whatever our own experience, I wonder how we might benefit from this element of our diversity and the opportunity it presents to learn from one another. After all, being alone is one of those fundamental human experiences that all of us, at some point, will have to face up to. For some, it will be experienced as liberating solitude. For others, it will be experienced as terrifying loneliness. The Christian tradition is full of rich theological and spiritual wisdom on being alone – especially being alone with God. But we perhaps neglect the wisdom that is gained from our own experiences. As the year moves inexorably towards Christmas, then, and all the challenges of company and solitude that the festive season presents, I wonder how we might support and learn from one another in this central mystery of human experience – the mystery of our 'aloneness'. Whether our aloneness is ever-present or elusive, how might we seek the wisdom which is found in one another? Perhaps, indeed, this is one way of preparing for Christmas – of preparing for the God whose arrival in Bethlehem shatters our solitude once and for all, and who dares us to confront the consequences...

Andrew

Women's Fellowship - 1959 to 2019

A personal recollection by Brenda Maclese



In October 1965 Pat Gardner invited me to a Women's Fellowship meeting at St Nicholas Church. Little did I know I would be still attending 54 years later.

In April 1959 Millicent Edwards, Rev. Edwards wife, started the Women's Fellowship.

Extracts from the constitution

(A) To unite women attached to the parish of St. Nicholas, Burnage in Christian Fellowship and Service

(B) To strengthen family life, by teaching, worship, and example.

(C) To set before members the ideal of active church membership.

Membership is open to all women attached to the parish of St. Nicholas, Burnage, who are interested in the aims of the Fellowship.

The Women's Fellowship Prayer

Almighty God, give us grace to be not only hearers, but doers of Thy Holy Word, not only to admire but to obey Thy doctrine, not only to profess but to practise Thy religion, not only to love but to live Thy Gospel. So grant that what we learn of Thy glory we may show forth in our lives, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

There has been many women over the years in the Fellowship. The only lady left is Olive Huddart. I know many at St Nicholas will remember Audrey Lamb (Alison & Julie's mum): Audrey was one of the first Members.

The chairpeople were

Millicent Edwards, for 6 years.

Nellie Worsnip, for 3 years

Margery Morris, for 14 years.

Margery was the first secretary.

Kathleen Watkins was vice chairperson with Margery.

Anne Holmes has been chairperson for 15 years since 2004.

Valerie Acton has been vice chairperson for 26 years since 1993 & a member for 40 years.

Sybil Gawkrödger has been treasurer for 21 years since 1998 and a member for 40 years

Anne Tudor has been secretary for 22 years since 1997, and also member for 40 years.

The fellowship over the years has not only raised money for St Nicholas church but also raised money for charity. The Children's Society is their main charity.

I would like to mention the hard work of Peggy Taylor (Bev's Peggy) and Norma Cookson . It would have been lovely to mention all past members. I want to take this opportunity to thank the Fellowship Committee for all the hard work they put into the meetings & fund raising over the years. Thank you Anne for finding such good speakers.

Brenda Maclese

In Camera': Rachel's Favourite Films

'Three Billboards Outside of Ebbing, Missouri' (Dir: Martin McDonagh, 2017) (Dir: John Sturges, 1963)

For those of you who haven't come across this quite extraordinary film, it is important to offer a health warning: it is shocking, often violent and challenging. Part of its power turns on its ability to move seamlessly from laugh-out-loud humour to quite distressing scenes within a few seconds. Duly forewarned, I commend this movie to you!

Set in the Midwest town of the title, 'Three Billboards' is a modern-day western centred on Mildred, a grieving mother played by the incomparable Frances McDormand. Her grief is the product of the unsolved murder of her teenaged daughter. It is amplified by her sense that the town police's failure to solve the murder is the result of ineptitude. In order to provoke the police chief, played by Woody Harrelson, into reopening the case she hires three billboards and plasters them with accusations. The townsfolk and police react with a mixture of fury, embarrassment and annoyance. The scene is set for a battle of wills between Mildred, Harrelson's terminally-ill police chief, and the townsfolk.

This set-up should be a recipe for an unrelentingly grim and probably unwatchable tale. However, McDonagh's deft direction ensures that the audience is drawn into the complex and troubling networks of suspicions

and traumas that run through Ebbing. At their centre, McDormand's Mildred presents a quite stunning study in grief's capacity to deprive people of a sense of the future. It is also one of the finest analyses I've seen of the boundless hunger for revenge. If it is a morality tale – as many westerns are – it troubles its viewers. Its closing scenes in which Mildred risks allowing her grief to turn into pure vengefulness are ambiguous and worrying. We are left unsure whether she will find the resources to resist.

Ultimately, what anchors 'Three Billboards' is its presentation of ordinary people caught up in an extraordinary situation. It has drawn criticism for its sympathetic portrayal of a racist police officer, played by Sam Rockwell. Judge for yourself if that criticism is justified. He is certainly a problematic character who interrogates our moral categories and may leave them wanting. Whatever else is true, by the end of the film we have been brought into relationship with very flawed people looking for meaning in a violent world. Most of all, 'Three Billboards' presents a shattering and moving study in grief.

Rachel x

Exchange visit to St.Nicholas Church, Newchurch



A small group of St.Nicholas Burnage folk spent a very enjoyable Saturday afternoon with our new friends at St.Nicholas Church, New Church. St.Nicholas Newchurch is situated a good 45 minutes away on the edge of the Rossendale Valley. We enjoyed some beautiful scenery on our journey.



St Nicholas Church,
Kingsway, Burnage,
M19 1PL

Christmas Fair

Saturday 16th November

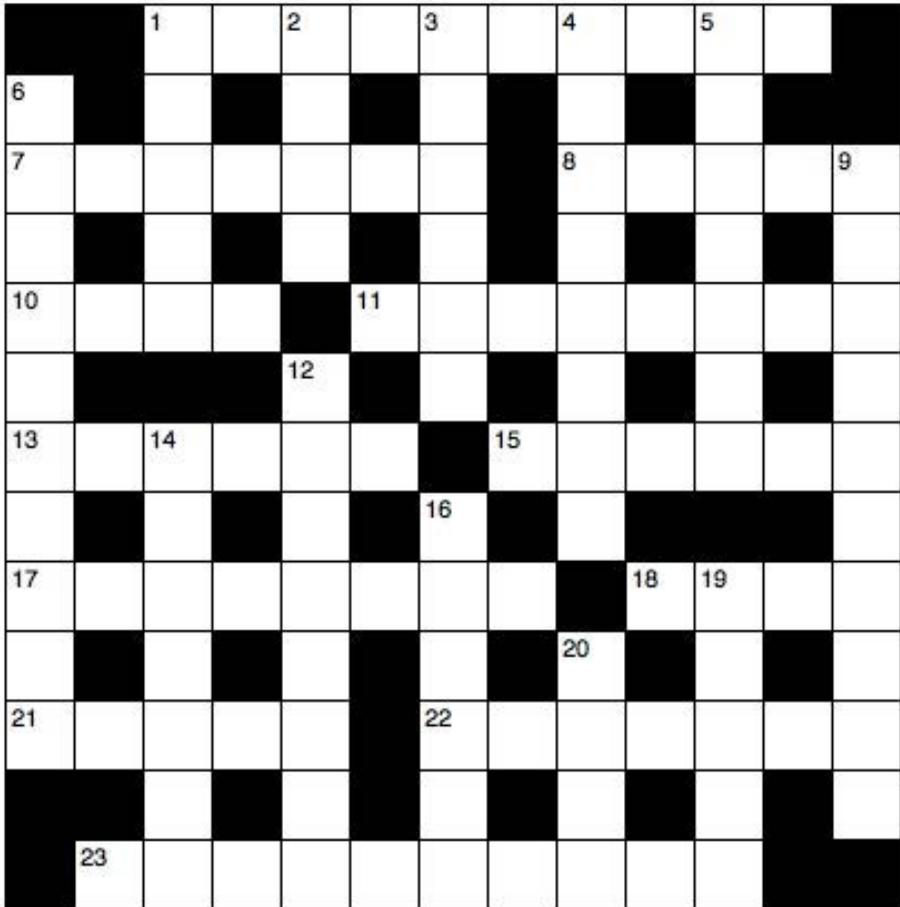
11.00 to 2.00pm

Café, gift stall, Fair Trade,
homemade cakes, games and
craft stalls

Everyone is welcome #inclusivechurch



Crossword



Across

- 1 He was replaced as king of Judah by his uncle Mattaniah (2 Kings 24:17) (10)
- 7 'Let us fix our eyes on Jesus... who for the joy set before him — the cross' (Hebrews 12:2) (7)
- 8 Relieved (5)
- 10 Impetuous (Acts 19:36) (4)
- 11 Surprised and alarmed (Luke 24:37) (8)
- 13 'It is — for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for the rich to enter the kingdom of God' (Mark 10:25) (6)
- 15 Directions for the conduct of a church service (6)
- 17 One of the acts of the sinful nature (Galatians 5:19) (8)

18 and 20 Down 'She began to wet his — with her tears. Then she wiped them with her — ' (Luke 7:38) (4,4)

21 'We will all be changed, in a flash, in the twinkling of an — , — the last trumpet' (1 Corinthians 15:51–52) (3,2)

22 'But he replied, "Lord, I am — — go with you to prison and to death"' (Luke 22:33) (5,2)

23 Third person of the Trinity (2 Corinthians 13:14) (4,6)

Down

1 He betrayed Jesus (Matthew 27:3) (5)

2 Paul's assurance to the Philippian jailer: 'Don't — yourself! We are all here!' (Acts 16:28) (4)

3 'Fear God and keep his commandments, for this — the whole — of man' (Ecclesiastes 12:13) (2,4)

4 The sort of giver God loves (2 Corinthians 9:7) (8)

5 Sun rail (anag.) (7)

6 Naboth, the ill-fated vineyard owner, was one (1 Kings 21:1) (10)

9 Paul said of young widows, 'When their sensual desires overcome their — to Christ, they want to marry' (1 Timothy 5:11) (10)

12 This was how Joseph of Arimathea practised his discipleship 'because he feared the Jews' (John 19:38) (8)

14 Mop ruse (anag.) (7)

16 Foment (Philippians 1:17) (4,2)

19 Where Joseph and Mary escaped to with the baby Jesus (Matthew 2:14) (5)

20 See 18 Across solutions page 15

Parish Registers - August-Sept 2019

Date	Attendance	Cash	Envelopes	Total
4 th August	34	67.40	159.50	226.90
11 th August	57	72.50	221.00	293.50
18 th August	43	135.90	164.50	300.40
25 th August	42	80.10	193.65	273.75
1 st Sept	50	126.65	202.00	328.65
8 th Sept	61	91.00	277.90	368.90
15 th Sept	49	97.92	174.97	272.89
22 nd Sept	48	130.57	142.40	272.97
29 th Sept	41	96.47	162.62	259.09
Total		898.51	1698.54	2597.05

St Nicholas Club Draw

August 1st Prize: Jackie Walker

August 2nd Prize: Rachel Barry

September 1st Prize: Alex Booker

September 2nd Prize: Julie Crossley

Church Duty Rota

Date	Warden 8.30am	Warden 10.30am	Altar Server	Lay Assistants	Sides- people
November					
3 rd	Fred Murphy	Grace Manley	Louise Hollings- worth	Louise H Jill L	Brenda M Freda E
10 th	Fred Murphy	Alison Mills	Steven Nightingale- Holt	Steven N-H Julie C	Giles E Julie B
17 th	Fred Murphy	Jill Lomas	Brenda Maclese	Brenda M Cliff S	Margaret V Michael V
24 th	Fred Murphy	Jane Cawley	Nikki Naylor	Nikki N Margaret V	Lyn R Ann A
December					
1 st	Fred Murphy	Louise Hollings- worth	Steven Nightingale- Holt	Steven N-H Grace M	Brenda M Freda E
8 th	Fred Murphy	Julie Crossley	Jane Cawley	Jane C Claire C	Giles E Julie B
15 th	Fred Murphy	Grace Manley	Louise Hollings- worth	Louise H Cliff S	Margaret V Michael V
22 nd	Fred Murphy	Jane Cawley	Nikki Naylor	Nikki N Steven N-H	Lyn R Ann A
24 th	Rector	Alison Mills	tbc	Alison M Katy V	
25 th	Fred Murphy	tbc	tbc	tbc	
26 th	Fred Murphy	Grace Manley	Brenda Maclese	Brenda M Cliff S	Assistant Wardens

Solutions

ACROSS: 1, Jehoiachin. 7, Endured. 8, Eased. 10, Rash. 11, Startled. 13, Easier. 15, Rubric. 17, Impurity. 18, Feet. 21, Eye at. 22, Ready to. 23, Holy Spirit.

DOWN: 1, Judas. 2, Harm. 3, Is duty. 4, Cheerful. 5, Insular. 6, Jezreelite. 9, Dedication. 12, Secretly. 14, Supremo. 16, Stir up. 19, Egypt. 20, Hair.

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		
Curates	Rev'd Andrew Bennison 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
St Nicholas Church, Kingsway, Manchester, M19 1PL