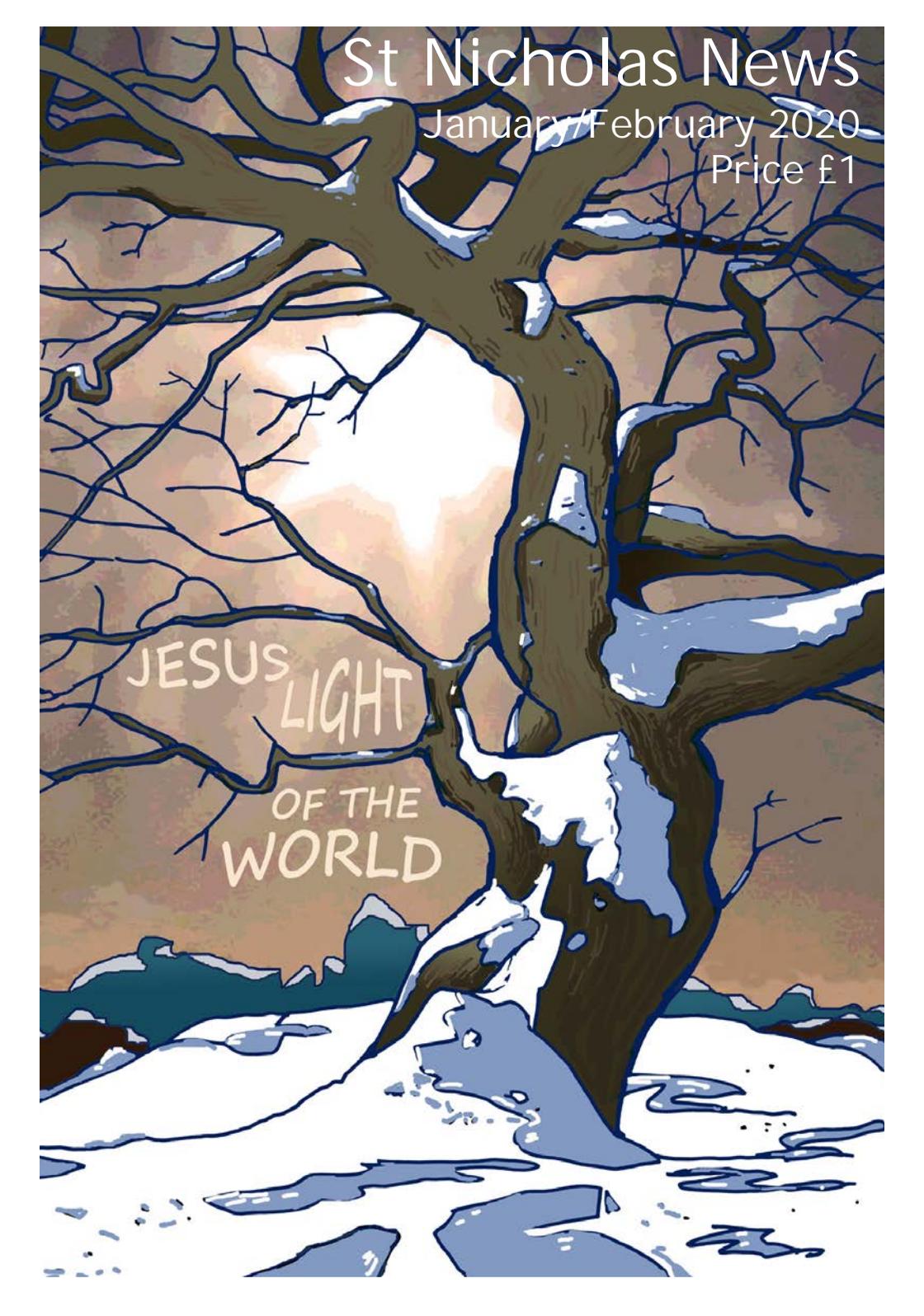


St Nicholas News

January/February 2020

Price £1



JESUS
LIGHT
OF THE
WORLD

Church Diary

Date	Time	Event
January		
Wednesday 1 st	10:00 am	Eucharist
Sunday 5 th	8.30 am 10.30 am	Epiphany Holy Communion (BCP) Parish Communion
Tuesday 7 th	7.30 pm	Taize Evening Prayer
Wednesday 8 th	10.00 am	Eucharist
Sunday 12 th	10.30 am	Epiphany 1 Parish Communion
Wednesday 15 th	10.00 am	Eucharist
Sunday 19 th	10.30 am	Epiphany 2 Parish Communion
Wednesday 22 nd	10.00 am 2.30 pm	Eucharist Women's Fellowship – Penny's Worth – Mrs Penny Dean
Sunday 26 th	10.30 am	Epiphany 3 Parish Communion
Wednesday 29 th	10.00 am	Eucharist
February		
Sunday 2 nd	8.30 am 10.30 am	Presentation of Christ Holy Communion (BCP) Parish Communion
Tuesday 4 th	7.30 pm	Taize Evening Prayer
Wednesday 5 th	10.00 am	Eucharist
Sunday 9 th	10.30 am	Proper 1 Parish Communion
Wednesday 12 th	10.00 am 2.30 pm	Eucharist Women's Fellowship – Tax, Care, and Toy Boys – Oliver
Sunday 16 th	10.30 am 3.00 pm	2nd Sunday before Lent Parish Communion Carol Service with mince pies and wine to follow
Wednesday 19 th	10.00 am	Eucharist
Sunday 23 rd	10.30 am	Sunday next before Lent Parish Communion

Wednesday 26 th	8.30 am 2.30 pm	BCP Holy Communion Women's Fellowship – Subject to be announced – Revd Rachel Mann
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Deadline for March/April: 15th February!

Cover image and Wordsearch from www.parishpump.co.uk; Cartoon used under licence from cartoonchurch.com

Thank you!

To Wheildon's Butchers, who have kindly provided our Christmas Tree, and also donated a turkey to raffle!

Rachel writes...

From this vantage point – that of January and February – the whole year stretches out ahead of us. As the new year begins, I always think that the forthcoming December seems an impossibly long way off and ask, ‘How will we ever get there?’. Of course, we always do, and another year comes to an end before we know it.

‘2020’ promises to be a bit of a ‘stand-out’ year for me. I am fifty this year. When I say that to myself – ‘I’m nearly fifty’ – I can hardly believe it. I am one of those people who, when they were a teenager, thought they would never make thirty, let alone fifty. When I reached twenty-five, I felt like a grown-up. From that perspective, fifty seemed an impossibly old age. Yet, here I am and twenty-five now seems quite young.

Am I any wiser now than I was when I was twenty-five? I’m not sure. I’m certainly more tired! I suppose if I have learned anything it is to be open to surprise. Life, in my experience, rarely goes in the way that one imagines. When I was twenty-five, I could not have imagined I would end up being a priest in the Church of England. I could barely imagine being a writer and most definitely not a regular broadcaster. So, here’s to all of us having the

courage to embrace surprise! Let us be alert to the God who is to be found in the midst of surprise, at whatever age we reach.

Unlike my fortieth, I don't plan to have a huge party for my fiftieth. I loved 'Mann40', but I'm looking for a different tenor to my celebrations this year. So, do watch this space! I hope and trust we can find some good ways to celebrate my own personal landmark together at St Nick's, but I also plan to have some quality family time and some 'me' time. For once, I hope to actually take my holiday allocation for the year!

2020 also seems significant because it feels to me – and feel free to laugh at this – as if we are somehow living 'in the future'. I mean, '2020' seems to me like a date drawn from science-fiction. When I was kid, I remember thinking – as a result of watching sci-fi on TV and at the cinema – that '1999' or '2019' were impossibly far in the future. I imagined that by the time we reached 2020 we'd have flying cars and people would be living on Mars! Clearly, we are a long way away from that reality. I also find it a bit disconcerting that – for example – 1990 (which seems like yesterday to me) is now thirty years ago. I appreciate that for some of you, who are a good deal older than me, it must feel strange to think that the outbreak of the Second World War is over eighty years ago.

I suppose I'm saying that time makes fools of us all. However, in Jesus Christ we have our true anchor. As we say, 'Jesus Christ: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow'. And though our personal relationships with him may change over time and certainly the Church changes over time, Christ is that solid hope in which we can trust.

I think the trustworthiness of Christ matters even more now than it ever did. While the world has faced some extraordinary challenges over the millennia, and this nation has faced some major challenges too, I sense that the coming decade will be a tough one. Ours is a world facing extraordinary pressures in the face of climate change, as well political and cultural challenges that might take us in some strange and frightening directions.

Yet, still we say, 'Christ: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow'. I hope this isn't some sort of cheap mantra, but actually is both a reminder of the deep structure of our world and a call to action. What I mean is, if we truly believe

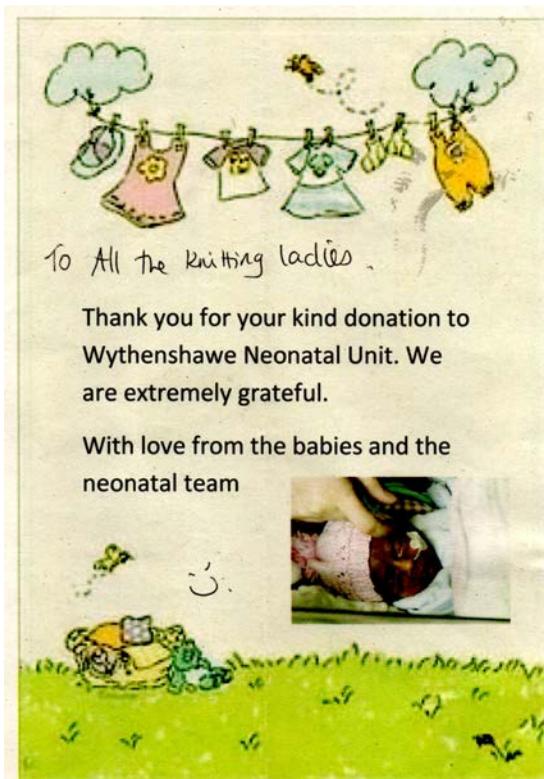
in Christ's abundant love then we will not simply be passive passengers in this world, but his active agents and disciples. Our faith will have effects on how we live.

For, when we claim that Christ is at the very heart of reality, we are called into fuller relationship with him: We are invited to demonstrate the love, hope and faith that is God's. We are invited to hunger for justice, peace and reconciliation and live in such a way that God's Kingdom is more clearly revealed.

I find this exciting and daunting, especially when I feel tired or overwhelmed. However, this way of living in Christ is never something we do alone. Firstly, the Spirit is there to encourage us and help us grow into Christ's likeness. Equally, we find that we live out this life in God in community and company. In being called to be the Body of Christ we do so as part of that Body. We simply need to figure which part and how we work alongside others.

Here's to a blessed and fulfilling New Year!

Rachel x



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2020

Praying with Zimbabwe



FRIDAY 6TH MARCH



7.30PM

EMMANUEL CHURCH

DIDSBURY

6 BARLOW MOOR ROAD
MANCHESTER - M20 6TR

All welcome

Refreshments served afterwards

More info call/text Laura 07726 487 377

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Curate's Musings - Foundations

One of the joys of the past few months, for me, has been attending the 'Foundations for Ministry' ('FFM') course held on Monday evenings at St Nick's. FFM is a course run by Manchester diocese, aimed at ordinary churchgoers seeking to explore their Christian faith and calling. Spread over three terms, the course provides an excellent introduction to many different areas of faith, spirituality and ministry – as well as the opportunity to form friendships and connections across Manchester. (If you're interested in taking part next year, do chat to me or Rachell!)

Recently I have been struck by the title of the course – 'Foundations' for Ministry. Not 'Beginning Ministry' or 'An Introduction to Ministry', but 'Foundations for Ministry'. The notion of a 'foundation' is an interesting one. The most literal meaning of the word of course is architectural: the foundation of a building underpins its structure. Without a firm foundation, even the most ornate and beautiful building would eventually collapse. Although hidden, the foundation provides the strength and support upon which everything else depends.

Reflecting on this, I am challenged to consider the 'foundations' of my own life and ministry. What are the things that underpin and sustain me day-to-day, even when the tasks required are intense and demanding? The most essential thing of course is prayer – taking time to rest with God and to draw deeply from the wells of salvation. But other things matter too. A wise spiritual director once told me that 'God chooses to love us through other people' - so the love of friends and family is essential, not optional! And beyond those relationships, God's grace is to be found in the whole of created existence. So nature, art, music, exercise, comedy, chilling on the sofa with Netflix... such things are to be equally treasured as the 'foundations' for human joy and flourishing.

As this new year begins, then, I wonder whether we might all spend some time reflecting on the 'foundations' of our ministry – the ministry to which all of us are called in baptism. What is it that draws us close to God? Where do we feel most fully ourselves? What gives us energy and purpose and confidence in living? The answers to such questions may reveal the foundations which underpin and sustain our lives. Treasure and nurture

these foundations. They are God-given – the means by which God has chosen to love you. They are the places from which all Christian ministry begins.

Andrew

All dressed up for a wedding



The church interior and the front entrance were all dressed up for a church family wedding on Friday 30th August 2019. Val Hagan our church florist along with her friend Jan, arranged flowers on the altar, above the altar, on the pew ends and, on an arch, creating a beautiful display of flowers inside the building and at the entrance to church.

The special occasion was the wedding of Katy Victoria Mills and James Philip Vickers. As many of you will know, Katy's family, (her mum Alison is Churchwarden) and dad Andy (is Hon. Treasurer) along with other family members are all involved at St. Nicholas Church. Two of Katy's bridesmaids Lucy and Emily Crossley are also members of St. Nicholas Church. James' family reside in Allerton, Liverpool.



Her brother Oliver is the church organist and he provided music for the bride's entrance, he sang and played some of the couple's favourite songs during the signing of the register and he wrote a special piece entitled 'A Fanfare for Mr & Mrs Vickers' which he played as recessional music.

The church was full with wedding guests and members of St. Nick's church family who kindly came along to support the couple.

Katy and James spent their honeymoon in California and returned home to Bramhall, Stockport.

Katy and James would like to pass on their heartfelt thanks to everyone at St Nicholas. “We feel so lucky to have such a wonderful extended church family and it was lovely to see so many of St Nick’s family in



church on the day. It was amazing to see St Nick’s all dressed up so beautifully by Aunty Val and we



feel so grateful we got to celebrate our special day in St Nicks. Rachel, Alan and Andrew delivered a beautiful service and along with many St Nicks faces made our wedding day everything we could have dreamed of. Thank you”

Alison Mills

In Camera’: Rachel’s Favourite Films

‘JFK’ (Dir: Oliver Stone, 1991)

Films based on real-life events are notoriously difficult to do well: Either they play too hard and fast with the facts or they end up being so wedded to ‘reality’ that they become tediously over-detailed. Oliver Stone’s 1991 political blockbuster JFK, which examines the events surrounding the assassination of John F. Kennedy in Dallas on November 22nd 1963, falls closer to the first camp of films than the second. It takes well-known and well-established claims about the assassination and spins them in a thrilling, but if questionable direction.

JFK suggests that the assassination of Kennedy was not only a conspiracy, but involved the most powerful forces in the USA, including Kennedy’s Vice-President Lyndon B. Johnson, the CIA, the FBI and Army and even the Mafia! Stone – a Vietnam veteran known for his bravura filmmaking and his

idolisation of Jack Kennedy – has since admitted that many of his claims are at best speculation and at worst ‘alternative history’.

Why watch this film then? Well, first and foremost, JFK is exceptionally skilled filmmaking. It is kinetic and simply crackles with energy. It blends Stone’s fictional footage with material filmed on the day of the assassination. Equally, the central turn from Kevin Costner as Jim Garrison – the real-life New Orleans District Attorney who sought to show that JFK’s death was a result of conspiracy – is sufficiently sensible, grounded and plausible to make the film’s dodgy premise feel respectable.

JFK also has a cast is to die for. It includes a positive ‘who’s-who’ of Hollywood, including Jack Lemmon, Walter Matthau and Sissy Spacek, as well as Kevin Bacon, Tommy Lee Jones, and Gary Oldman as Lee Harvey Oswald. The chemistry between the cast is fantastic and Donald Sutherland puts in a characteristically smart cameo as the shady ‘Colonel X’ who claims to hold the truth about the conspiracy.

I find this film compelling because it shows how propaganda is not the preserve of authoritarian regimes. JFK is powerful propaganda for an essentially liberal agenda which wants to believe that Kennedy was killed because, as Costner’s character puts it, ‘he wanted to change things in America.’ One feels the anger and fury of Stone about Kennedy’s death.

It is a testament to the power of Stone’s filmmaking that this film is cited as generating both renewed interest in the conspiracy myths behind JFK’s death, as well as leading to a change of US government policy: Files about the assassination which were due to be closed till the 2020s were opened in the mid-1990s.

In our present era – in which people manipulate the truth and images as never before – I think Stone’s film should be required watching. It reveals the extent to which what we believe is malleable and how readily we can be manipulated. JFK is an object lesson in how one can bend the truth. It stands as a warning in our era of ‘fake news’.

Rachel x

Something to think about

I listened to Rachel's talk on Sunday 27th October 2019, based on the Gospel reading...

Luke 14: 9-14 (read it again!)

Yet again, as so many times, through the Gospel we hear of Jesus standing alongside someone who was marginalised and pre-judged by those around, acting on their ingrained prejudices. Isn't that so like all of us? Without meaning to be mean or unfair, if we're honest with ourselves, we must admit that we do sometimes make assumptions about people, before we even have a chance to perhaps meet them and hear their story.

As I listened to Rachel, I was reminded of a little book I have had for a long time which I recommend to all of you!

"Grace" by Maurice Fullard Smith (ISBN 0-551-03184-0)

We all know of, and think we know what the Grace of God is.... "God's unmerited favour" for each of us! How amazing is that!? We don't deserve it, but He loves us anyway!!

All we can do in our lives is our best! Love God and love one another, trying to include those we find it really hard to love.

At Christmas time – "the season of loving and giving", we are reminded even more, to be kind and loving.

We are motoring into 2020, and God willing, "Brexit" will be sorted, and some of the nastiness it has stirred up amongst people all over the UK will settle down.

I leave you with a little anonymous poem which speaks volumes to me about judgement, and I think it might to you too!

*I dreamed death came the other night
And heaven's gate swung wide;
An angel with a halo bright
Ushered me inside.
And there to my astonishment
Stood folk I'd judged and labelled
As "quite unfit, of little worth"
And "spiritually disabled".*

*Indignant words rose to my lips,
 But never were set free,
 For every face showed stunned surprise,
 No one expected me!*
 (Anon)

Wishing you all, so much love and many blessings for a happy, healthy, blessed 2020!

Grace Manley xxx

CHILDRENS' SOCIETY

Could box holders please bring your boxes to church in January. There will be no coffee morning this year.
 Brenda Maclese

Parish Registers - Oct-Nov 2019

Date	Attendance	Cash	Envelopes	Total
6 th October	40	72.75	244.30	317.05
13 th October	45	132.50	247.00	379.50
20 th October	64	137.40	269.95	407.35
27 th October	44	83.00	181.50	264.50
3 rd Nov'ber	44	166.00	239.15	405.15
10 th Nov'ber	53	74.00	124.50	198.50
17 th Nov'ber	43	246.95	153.20	400.15
24 th Nov'br	45	83.90	199.50	283.40
Total		996.50	1659.10	2655.60

St Nicholas Club Draw

November 1st Prize: 7 Narina Cookson
 November 2nd Prize: 36 Emily Crossley
 December 1st Prize: 53 Lois Stone
 December 2nd Prize: 23 Chris Brown

Wordsearch



‘Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him.’ So Matthew tells of the coming of the Magi, or Wise Men, to Bethlehem. Did they come from Arabia Felix – nowadays southern Arabia? How many came? No one knows, but by the 6th century they were named Gaspar, Melchior, and Balthasar. Why gold, frankincense and myrrh? Gold stands for kingship: Jesus was King of the Jews. Frankincense stands for divinity; Jesus was to be worshipped. Myrrh stands for death and burial; Jesus would become a sacrifice and die for his people. The Wise Men were the very first Gentiles ever to worship Jesus. Isaiah foresaw this response to Jesus: ‘Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.’ The Magi wanted to worship Jesus; Herod wanted to kill him.

Church Duty Rota

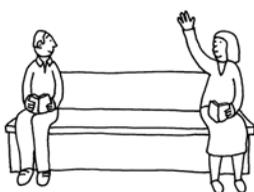
Date	Warden 8.30am	Warden 10.30am	Altar Server	Lay Assistants	Sides- people
January					
5 th	Fred Murphy	Louise Hollingswrth	Nikki Naylor	Nikki N Margaret V	Brenda M Freda E
12 th	Fred Murphy	Julie Crossley	Brenda Maclese	Brenda M Cliff S	Giles E Julie B
19 th	Fred Murphy	Grace Manley	Louise Hollingswrth	Louise H Lyn R	Margaret V Michael V
26 th	Fred Murphy	Jane Cawley	TBC	TBC Alison M	Lyn R Ann A
February					
2 nd	Fred Murphy	Alison Mills	Louise Hollingswrth	Louise H Margaret V	Giles E Julie B
9 th	Fred Murphy	Julie Crossley	Nikki Naylor	Nikki N Grace M	Margaret V Michael V
16 th	Fred Murphy	Grace Manley	TBC	TBC Lyn R	Brenda M Freda E
23 rd	Fred Murphy	Alison Mills	Brenda Maclese	Brenda M Cliff S	Lyn R Ann A

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

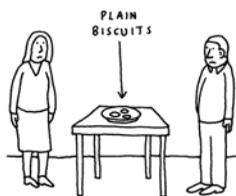
HOW THE CHURCH CAN HELP



EXERCISE



MEETING NEW PEOPLE



HEALTHY EATING



GETTING ORGANISED

AT THE PCC WE'LL DISCUSS THE APCM,
CW VS THE BCP, THE LLM'S CRB,
AND THE OLM'S BAP. OH, AND
THERE ARE LETTERS FROM THE DAC,
THE DDO, THE HOB AND THE ABC



LEARNING A NEW LANGUAGE



TRAVELLING TO NEW PLACES

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
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