



Welcome to the Parish Church of St. Nicholas Burnage

'Knowing, Growing, Sharing in the love of Christ'

As you will be aware, all services and prayer/lent groups have been suspended in the Church of England, the church building is closed for all worship and groups apart from the Food Bank.

If you are housebound or isolating and need any shopping or errands, please let Alison 07932071977 or Jane 07745392374 know as members of our congregation have kindly offered to help where they can.

We will be following the Church of England guidance, this can be found [here](#).

Readings for Sunday 29th March, Passion Sunday

O.T Ezekiel 37. 1-14, N.T. Romans 8. 6-11 , Gospel: John 11. 1 - 45

Morning and Evening Prayer and a service for Passion Sunday

Morning Prayers at 8.30am each day, except Friday and Saturday. This will be very simple, using the Northumberland Prayer tradition

Evening Prayer will be at 1600 GMT each day. It will be based on Common Worship, but with variants from other traditions on some days.

To watch these services:

You can subscribe to Rachel's You Tube channel

here: <https://www.youtube.com/user/SuperBlitzgirl> this means you will be notified.

You can also view all the services on our church website <https://www.st-nicholas-church.org.uk>

You can also 'watch'/participate in Evening Prayer via St Nick's A Church Near You page.

Rachel and Ollie will be delivering a service for Passion Sunday via a 'live stream' to Rachel's you tube channel, and also to the website at 10.30am on Sunday 29th March.

A pastoral message from Andrew

Scripture, story and song

Dear friends,

We are living through strange and distressing times.

Amidst all that is happening right now, how easy are you finding it to pray?

To be honest, I often find it pretty difficult to pray. The anxieties and demands of the present moment so easily overwhelm me. But God can still find a way in. Here are some of the ways that I've felt God's presence this week:

*Through **Scripture**. Yesterday I found myself reading one of the passages which – if we were in church – we would hear this Sunday: Ezekiel's vision of the Valley of Dry Bones (Ezekiel 37.1-14). This is one of the most evocative passages of the whole Old Testament. I sat down in a comfy armchair and read it slowly with a cup of tea. And somehow God's voice came alive for me: 'I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live...' (Ezekiel 37.14).*

Through story. A couple of days ago I finished reading a wonderful novel, [Olive Kitteridge](#), by the American writer Elizabeth Strout. Through snapshots of life in a small coastal community the novel charts one woman's painful journey to love. As I finished the final page I felt gripped by the depth of humanity and the power of love – and in that moment felt suddenly connected to God.

Through song. One of my favourite musicians is the singer-songwriter Audrey Assad. A few days ago she released a beautiful new song called [Shiloh](#), a poetic ballad exploring healing in the midst of grief. Listening to it has become a form of prayer this week.

In this time of crisis and isolation it may feel like God cannot reach us. But that isn't true. Even when we are cut off from the sacraments, God continues to meet us in the ways he has always done: through Scripture, story and song.

I wonder where God might be reaching out to you at this present moment? How might you make space to hear his voice in Scripture, story and song?

With my love and prayers,

Andrew (Curate)

Here is a link to a document on our church website: [Ways to pray if you can't get to church](#) a book of prayers to use at home for personal prayer for those of you who are isolating.

PRAYER LIST March 2020

Please pray for: The family of Eunice Wilshaw, Brenda Denny, Jim Davey, Vi Reed, Barry Southall, Irene Smith, Claire Cawley, Georgie Rose Naylor, Peter Taylor, Ian Lomas, Sylvia Bate, Paul Nield. Ann Ackerman. Winifred Murphy, Norma Cookson.

IN RESIDENTIAL CARE

Muriel Wheatley (Anchor Westfield, Hall Lane, Wythenshawe), Edith Partington.

THOSE WHO HAVE DIED

Dorothy Grundy, Millicent Edwards, Peter Charlton, Amelia Woodhall, Leah, Eunice Wilshaw

ANNIVERSARY list , MARCH 2020

Gill Radford, Steve Johnson, Edith Bate, Audrey Lamb, Herbert Bradley, Peggy Taylor, Elsie Collins, Patricia Kenneally, Edith Lowe, Revd Brian W. Barker, Ada Lloyd, Freda Cornachan, Joan Grundy, Sheila Frewin, Geoff Smalley, John Ennis, Winnie Witty, John Sankey, Roger Males, John Drummond, Auntie Joan (Ackerman), Doris Yardley, Alison Lowther, Sara Pilkington, Sheila Andrews, Denis Rowley, Doris Young, Hilda Court, Arthur Thelwell, Doreen Price, Eric Short, Florence, Barbara Royal, Robert (Bob) Evans, Linda, Christine Bottomley, Doreen Forshaw, Mike Hulme, Uncle Smudge, Noel Janeway.

CHURCH ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING (APCM)

The APCM is due to take place on Sunday 5th April, however, The Bishop of Manchester has informed all churches that we have permission to defer the APCM and plan for it to take place by 31st October 2020. The advice we have been given states that Churchwardens and any other official roles will now stay in post until 31st October 2020.

An important message from our treasurer:

Due to the current Covid-19 situation and the cancelling of regular Church services, we do need to try to maintain our regular church giving.

Thank you to the members of the congregation who have completed a standing order form. This can easily be done via a standing order form

Standing Order forms are available to download on our website at <http://www.st-nicholas-church.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/SNC-Regular-donation-form.pdf>

All that needs to happen is that the form is completed and returned to me to process.

Andrew Mills
St Nicholas Church Treasurer
c/o 2 Glenside Drive
Wilmslow
SK9 1EH

If you would prefer to send a contribution by cheque, please make the cheque payable to 'St.Nicholas PCC' and post it to the treasurer at the address above.

If you would prefer to simply make a one off or occasional payment into the church accounts, here are the BACS details:

Account details: St Nicholas Church PCC
Account number: 02047578
Sort code: 01-02-69
Nat West Bank Didsbury
Please add a reference your initials and postcode.

Thank you for all your support.
Andy

Church giving – Fresh friends boxes are ready for collection

Church Charity for January to March: **RSPCA** (donation can be made via the charity box

Card payments via the card reader machine at the 10.30am Sunday morning service

Birthday List

Do you have a birthday this month?

As we can't sing happy birthday to members of our congregation at the end of the Sunday service, we would like to send birthday wishes via this newsletter. If you have a birthday or you know that someone else in the congregation has a birthday in March or early April, please let us know. Call Alison on 07932071977 or Jane on 07745392374 or email alison@st-nicholas-church.org.uk.

If you would like any notices adding to the newsletter, please contact Alison. Thank you.

Supporting Fair Trade

Message from Judy Fletcher at St Chad's: Please could everyone try and pick up a Fair Trade item in their shopping over the next week or so? The goods are a bit more expensive but very good quality...especially the coffee and the chocolate. Yes I know it's Lent, but it will keep !! The Co-op has some lovely stuff. It's just that I feel sure that our Fair Trade growers and suppliers will be suffering perhaps more than most, with the double whammy of Covid19 and climate change.