



Welcome to the Parish Church of St. Nicholas Burnage

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

Hi Everyone,

Here is the newsletter for Sunday 24th May 2020, The Ascension of the Lord.

We hope you are all well and managing to get all your need during lockdown. There is some easing of restrictions slowly coming in, but we must continue to stay safe and alert to any interaction we have with other people. As you will be aware there is no change or opening of the church building. We hope that we will soon be able to share news that we can open the building for private prayer, and we will certainly share this once we know more.

We want to continue to support our congregation so 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 24th May, The Ascension of the Lord

O.T Reading: Acts 1:1-11 **Psalm:** 47 **N.T. Reading:** Ephesians 1:15-23 **Gospel :** Luke 24:44-53

Rachel and Ollie will be delivering a service on Sunday 24th May at 10.30am, you can watch this service via the links below: On our church website <https://www.st-nicholas-church.org.uk>
Or via Rachel's You Tube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/user/SuperBlitzgirl>

Rachel and Andrew will be delivering services for Morning and Evening prayer as follows:

- **Morning Prayer** at 8.30 am each day, (except Friday and Saturday). This will be very simple, using the Northumberland Prayer tradition
- **Evening Prayer** at 16. 00 pm GMT each day. It will be based on Common Worship, but with variants from other traditions on some days.

Taize Evening Prayer Tuesday 2nd June at 7.30pm on St.Nicholas Church Website.

Wednesday prayer session - Tune in to a quiet half hour of prayer with Rev'd Andrew Bennison on Wednesday mornings at 11.am, the sessions can be viewed via the St.Nicholas Facebook Page

'Gathering, Sharing, Praying'

As the Coronavirus lockdown continues, we are exploring setting up a prayer group to meet regularly (monthly or bi-monthly) over Zoom. Co-ordinated by our curate Andrew and ALM Alison, an introductory session will be held on Monday 8th June at 7.00pm. We are calling this first session '**Gathering, Sharing, Praying**'. It will be a short half-hour session: an opportunity to **gather** with one another; to **share** prayer resources which may use useful during lockdown; and to participate in a short form of evening **prayer**. If there is interest, subsequent sessions will focus on different traditions and practices of prayer, including Ignatian contemplation, meditation and leading intercessions.

No preparation is needed for the introductory session. You do not need to be a prayer 'expert' to participate! We would like to involve as many people as possible.

If you are interested in attending please let Andrew know: curate@st-nicholas-church.org.uk. Further details (including a Zoom link) will be circulated in due course.

A message from Rev'd Canon Dr Rachel Mann

Dear Friends,

'One of the curious delights of English is its flexibility. Indeed, in my view, it is precisely its open texture which has made it so durable and ubiquitous. It is taken up so easily and can be made a person's own. It is now the world's *lingua franca*.

Unsurprisingly, during times of stress and strain, many turn to the riches of the English language to cope. Poetry, of course, has a particular power to address times of challenge. I suspect all of us could list poems which help us deal with difficult times. I often take comfort in the lyric simplicity of Emily Dickinson. I'd love to share some of her words, but unfortunately they are held in copyright by Harvard University! Equally, I've recently been reading works by C.J. Sansom, Agatha Christie and Anthony Burgess.

English is also a brilliant source for 'neologisms', or novel words. Its flexibility is made for play. Unsurprisingly the current situation has thrown up a whole raft of new words and phrases. My current favourite is 'coronacoaster'. I suspect I don't need to explain what it means, but – just in case – it refers to the way living in a time of COVID-19 can leave one feeling very up and down. Indeed, we can feel like we are on a rollercoaster or 'coronacoaster', twisting and turning, being pulled upwards and then rushing down into deep dips. We are all on the COVID 'Big Dipper'.

The fact that someone has come up with a word for a common experience is an indication of how normal it is to feel 'up and down' at the moment. So, I write this week by way of reassurance. Wherever you are and whoever you are, it is okay to feel 'up and down'. As I am fond of saying, Jesus doesn't promise us an easy ride, but he does promise to be with us at every point. This is true of the coronacoaster as much as when life is straightforward. He is with us till the end of the age. Know that countless people have faced uncertain times before and come through. Know that we at St. Nick's are in solidarity with each other. Do not be afraid, for God is in the midst of us.

Rachel x

PRAYER LIST May 2020

Please pray for Jacob Holt, his family and his Godfather, Giles Elliott, 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, Margaret Vessey, Derek Carr.

IN RESIDENTIAL CARE

Muriel Wheatley (Eachstep (Charlestown Unit) Blackley, Manchester M9 7ED) Edith Partington.

ANNIVERSARY list , May 2020

Tony Huddart, Rev.R.Ian McCalla, Paul Raven, Sally Smith, Christine Taylor, Ada Wheatcroft L. Fred Lowe, Ann Clifford , Josephine Hale, Joyce Gibson , Gordon Campbell, Jean Bradbury Melanie Wills, Paul Clark, Peggy Dadswell, Agnes Penny, Maggie Claughton ,Ellen Lowe, Stuart Nunns, Katie Thornburn, Alison Lowther, Christine Heather Ward, Jean Blades, Marjorie Darke, David Witty , Michael Samwell, Doreen Fanshawe, Eileen Klyne, Maureen, Gladys Short, Dorothy Eades



Here are details of a new phone service available to everyone. Daily Hope offers music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England at the end of a telephone line.

A Church of England initiative in partnership with CONNECTIONS at Holy Trinity Claygate, and Faith in Later Life

The line – which is available 24 hours a day on 0800 804 8044 – has been set up particularly with those unable to join online church services during the period of restrictions in mind.

Foundations for Ministry Course

This week marked the end of the 'Foundations for Ministry' course: a nine-month course run by Manchester Diocese, which aims to support churchgoers across Manchester in deepening their faith and exploring their vocation. This year we were delighted to host the course at St Nick's for the first time – and were even more delighted that four members of the St Nick's family took part: Jill Lomas and Paul Brownsell as participants, and Alison Mills and Julie Bodgers as group leaders.

We offer congratulations to Jill and Paul for completing the course, and thanks to Alison and Julie for their commitment as group leaders. This year especially, completing the course has required commitment and perseverance – so 'well done' to all who took part!

If you'd be interested in taking part in the Foundations for Ministry course next year feel free to speak to any of this year's participants, or to any of the clergy team.

Andrew Bennison

A message from our Treasurer:

Thank you to all of you who have continued to offer financial support to our Church. It is truly amazing how our wonderful and generous congregation have rallied round to ensure we can continue to meet our commitments.

If you would like donate to the church regularly, you can set up a standing order direct into our bank account. Forms are available on the website and here is a link to the form.

<http://www.st-nicholas-church.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/SNC-Regular-donation-form.pdf>

All you need to do is print then complete the form and return it 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 me using the details shown above.

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

Account details: NatWest Bank (Didsbury)
Account Name : St Nicholas Church PCC
Account number: 02047578
Sort code: 01-02-69

In order for use to claim Gift Aid, please ensure that any reference you use allows us to identify you. Please add a reference of your initials and postcode. E.g. AJM SK91EH

Thank you,
Andrew Mills, Treasurer

Happy Birthday to the following lovely people who celebrate their birthday in May:

Belated birthday greetings to Margaret Witty for 13th May.

22nd May Claire Cawley

26th May Emily Crossley

If you have a birthday or you know that someone else in the congregation has a birthday in June, please let us know. Call Alison on 07932071977 or Jane on 07745392374 or email alison@st-nicholas-church.org.uk.

If you would like to add any names or notices to the newsletter, please let Alison know on email: alison@st-nicholas-church.org.uk or by phone 07932071977. Thank you

Congratulations to the winners of the St. Nicholas Club for March, April and May are as follows:

Month	Number	1 st Prize (£25)	Number	2 nd Prize (£15)
March	35	Julie Crossley	31	Rainbows (kindly donated by M.Vessey)
April	54	Jackie Walker	64	St.Nick's (kindly donated by W.Murphy)
May	3	Susan Morris	56	Jonathan Greenway

Alison Mills will be in touch with the winners to arrange for them to collect their winnings!