



Welcome to St. Nicholas Parish Church

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

Hi Everyone,

We hope you are all continuing to keep well, here is the newsletter for Sunday 20th December which is Advent 4. We are back in the building and look forward to welcoming you to the Sunday Eucharist for our Advent 4 10.30am service.

Our Sunday service this week will be presented from Church as a live service and on-line at 10.30 am. You can access the service via the link on our website www.st-nicholas-church.org.uk or via the you tube links below. The service for 20th December will be a Eucharist to celebrate Advent 4. The service will be led by Rachel accompanied by Ollie Mills who will sing during the service, Patrick Thom who is on placement with us will be involved as well as the Churchwardens.

Readings for Sunday 20th December, ADVENT 4 OT. Reading 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16, Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26, N.T
Reading: Romans 16:25-27, Gospel Luke 1: 26-39

Here are details of our services over the Christmas period.

CHRISTMAS AT *St Nick's*

JOIN US IN PERSON, OR ONLINE:

Sunday 20th December – Eucharist For Advent 4, 10.30am
Thursday 24th, Christmas Eve– Midnight Mass, 11.30pm

AND OUR FESTIVE, ONLINE-ONLY PRESENTATIONS:

Sunday 20th December – **Christmas Carol Service, 3pm**
Featuring the St Nick's Seasonal Choir

Christmas Day- "Christmas At St Nick's," 10am
A special Christmas surprise from Canon Rachel and Musical Director Ollie.

All of our services can be found on our website:
st-nicholas-church.org.uk

Here are the links to the 10.30am services for the next two weeks,

Sunday 20th December - Advent 4

https://youtu.be/ctS_99r4CX0

If you watch our services on 'You tube' please follow us and leave us some supportive comments, we want to spread the word that our services are on line and that our community is growing.



On Sunday afternoon at 3.00pm, please join us for our Virtual Carol Service with carol singing and readings. We've been busy preparing for the Virtual Carol Service, here is our seasonal choir rehearsing last Sunday!

We have a special guest contributing a reading to the Carol Service. So do watch the service...

The link to the service is here:

<https://youtu.be/pb4dhcOP3qE>

Or you can access the service via our website: www.st-nicholas-church.org.uk

Sunday 27th December – there will be no services in church or online as Rachel and Ollie along with the clergy of Manchester Diocese are taking a well-earned break. Manchester Cathedral will be broadcasting a service.

Date for your diary

Saturday 19th December at 10.30am you are all invited to join us for a **Zoom Coffee Morning and 'Pet Service'**. Please bring your pet and a coffee or tea and join in the fun. Christmas jumpers and decorations are essential. Rachel will lead the coffee morning and blessing.

Pets are welcome on Zoom but if you don't have a pet, please join us, everyone is welcome, this will be great fun!

Please send Rachel an email rector@st-nicholas-church.org.uk if you would like to join us



Thank you all those who joined our **Gathering, Sharing, Praying Group** on 30th November. We discussed week 2 of Advent and used the book, A Journey with the Apostles, by Tom Wright, we ended our meeting with a short Taize meditation kindly delivered by Grace Manley. The group will be meeting from

7.00 to 7.45 pm on **Monday 21st December** for our final Advent session. *Please let Alison know if you would like to join the group and she will send you a link to join the virtual meetings, please contact alison@st-nicholas-church.org.uk.*

The Story is still the same!

'Christmas may look different, but the story is still the same!' That's the message for Christmas in 2020. Coronavirus will make our celebrations this year look very different from usual. However, the message of the baby born in Bethlehem is still relevant!

In one nativity play, the highlight was to illuminate Jesus, with a light in the manger, when all the other lights were turned off. At the appropriate time, all the lights went out, including the manger one. The silence was broken when one of the shepherds loudly whispered: 'Hey, you turned off Jesus.' Of course, nobody can turn off Jesus this Christmas!

The angels announced, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; He is the Messiah, the Lord.' (Luke 2: 10,11). The birth of this baby brings great joy and good news for everyone! As the king of the universe, He has come as our Saviour. In an uncertain world, He offers joy and hope, because He holds this pandemic in His hands. This is a real cause for joy!

'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom His favour rests.' (Luke 2:14). We may feel anything but peace amid the anxieties over our current circumstances. How can a Jewish infant born to a peasant family in first century Palestine bring peace to our lives today? Jesus established peace with God through His death on the cross. Trusting the Prince of Peace for our lives brings God's peace amid the huge uncertainties we face. As the carol says, 'Joy to the world, the Lord has come, let earth receive her King.'

By Canon Paul Hardingham.

Christmas Frustration????

I said to God, upon my knees
"O Lord, I am so cross!
"That gift I sent to Aunt Denise
"Within the post is lost!
"That tree I bought for forty pounds
"(Well, just a penny less)
"Its needles lie upon the ground
"It looks a total mess!"

"I know," said God, "I understand,
"I sent my Son, you know.
"He came to Earth, just as I'd planned
"Two thousand years ago
"Was born within a stable bare –
"The cattle heard Him cry
"He spoke of love, men didn't care
"They led Him out to die."

"No gift was given with such love
"No higher price was paid.
"He left His throne of light above
"For sin His life to trade.
"But even after all these years
"This gift you men eschew,
"So Christmas is a time of tears

"For Me, as well as you."

By Nigel Beeton

Information from the Church of England's website



Preparing for Advent & Christmas 2020: Comfort and Joy

Comfort and Joy holds together the hope that Christmas will bring joy and celebration after a uniquely difficult year with an acknowledgement that – for those who have lost loved ones or livelihoods, or who are potentially still not able to be together with loved ones – it may be the Church's role, both nationally and locally, to provide consolation, rather than assume everyone will be ready to join in jubilation.

[Welcome to the Church of England's official website | The Church of England](#)

Sign up for the Church of England 'Comfort and Joy' daily reflections leading up to Christmas by visiting the website which is linked in the title here.

Daily Hope

Daily Hope is a free phone number (0800 804 8044) offering music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England at the end of a telephone line. We are delighted that the Comfort and Joy reflections, services and some of the music will also be available throughout Advent and Christmas. This will enable as many people as possible to access the content we are developing.

St.Nicholas Club Draw, congratulations to the December 2020 winners:

First prize £25 (56) Caroline Abiodun

Second Prize (65) St.Nick's kindly donated by Jill Lomas

A message from our Treasurer:

If you would like to contribute to church funds on a regular basis, please 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

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

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. For us 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

Birthday and anniversary celebrations

Many congratulations to the following members of our Church family:

December birthdays

Irene Smith Congratulations on your 75th birthday Tuesday 1st December

Ruth Cole Saturday 5th December

Lorna Mills Sunday 6th December

Charlotte Bodgers Sunday 6th December

Katy Vickers Saturday 12th December

Christine Price 17th December