



In Touch December 2016

St Margaret's Church, Burnage



Carols by Candlelight at St Margaret's is packed full of Christmas! Come, one and all to hear the Christmas story and sing all your favourite carols. Enjoy a church full of people; friends, family, neighbours... Come along and enjoy this very Christmassy occasion.

Christmas starts with...

...The wrapping paper, chocolate boxes and decorations in the supermarkets in early October – not too much at this stage, after all they still want us to cough up for Halloween.

... The first time you notice a favourite hit from “The greatest Christmas Album- ever!” being played over a shop’s PA or the radio.

...The neighbours switching on the rather over-the-top outdoor decorations. Has no one told them that September is a bit early to do this and how much electricity this is going to use?

...The first Carol Service in church or the school nativity– Will the “wisemen”

have a scrap again before they sit down this year?

Christmas started with a baby– born in poverty– visited by poor shepherds and wealthy travellers from far away. The child, went as a refugee to Egypt and then returned to northern Israel where he finished his growing up. He learnt his step-dad’s trade and then around age 30, followed the strong sense of calling he had from his true Father, God, to proclaim Good News. He died on the cross and rose again, one day to return. **Christmas starts with Jesus.** So let us try to make our Christmases do the same.

Message from our new rector!



Matt Calladine (Rector)

It was so good to be licensed (the formal service done by a Bishop to welcome a new church leader) on 3rd November. As I write, I have only done one Sunday here and I still feel a bit like a visiting minister. I have a set of keys but have not learnt what opens what. I have met so many people and asked so many people their names. Some of you I will have to ask many times over, but I should get there. We, as a family, have been made to feel so welcome. We love the Rectory and it already feels like home.

Our dog, Chewie, has enjoyed all the new places to walk and the new smells but did not like all the fireworks. We value the way that people did not disturb us as we were settling in and those who did call, brought welcome gifts such as plants and homemade food which went down very well.

The cake mountain that appeared at the licensing and again on our first Sunday just speaks of your generosity and the warmth of your welcome.

I am so looking forward to the way God is going to lead us. I have not come with a big agenda of change but want to observe what is going on, get to know as many of you as possible and then, together, seek God's plan for this church and Burnage. I look forward to meeting more and more people in the wider community of Burnage and hope there will be some very creative work together for the good of all and the glory of God.

Do you know this man?

Revd Mark Ashcroft came as a curate here at St Margaret's in 1982 and this October he became the Bishop of Bolton. He was curate here for three years during the time when Revd Alan Pugmire was the Rector. Some of you may remember him. After three years here, Mark and his wife, Sally, went to Kenya with the Church Missionary Society. He returned to Manchester in 1996 as Rector of Christ Church, Harpurhey, before being made Archdeacon of Manchester in 2006. We continue to support him as he begins this new role as Bishop.



Books and Much More



Burnage Library Activity and Information Hub is an exciting and vibrant community resource. A local lady said "I don't know how I could do without it".
Opening times: Monday- closed, Tuesday and Wednesday 10-1pm and 2-5pm, Thursday 10-1pm, Friday and Saturday 2-5pm.

Promoting Positivity in Local Youth

N-Gage (a youth organisation founded by Christie Spurling) are doing some vital work in our local community. They strive to champion young people by challenging negative stereotypes, raising expectations for themselves and their peers. N-Gage aims to tell good news stories about the young people in our community. They are committed to giving youngsters a voice and opportunity to positively contribute to community life here in Burnage.

In addition to the 'out and about' detached Catalyst youth work sessions, a team of passionate youth workers run centre based sessions within the newly refurbished and brilliantly equipped Catalyst Youth Centre on Burnage Lane. The centre is establishing really well and is a amazing resource for our community.

Why not give one of the following sessions a try?

**Mondays and Wednesdays - 7.30pm-9.30pm
(School Years 7 & above)**

Thursdays - 6-8pm (School Years 4-6)

Catalyst Youth Centre, 345 Burnage Lane, Burnage, M19 1EW



Parish Register

Baptism

Nevannah Mae Lawrence 16/10/2016

Wedding

David James Fox and
Hannah Elizabeth Burton 10/09/2016

Funerals

Kenneth Smith 14/09/2016
Hilda Broadhurst 06/10/2016
Betty Stansfield 21/10/2016
Kitty Dunn 10/11/2016

Thanksgiving for the life of

Jim Waterhouse 09/11/2016

Down Memory Lane

Do you remember Christmas as a child? Did each Christmas follow the same familiar routine? Has it changed over the years? Have you other memories of how things used to be?

Did you know your memories can be recorded for future generations?

Amanda Wait has been Community Development Worker at Burnage Library for almost two years. She has been developing the Burnage Memory Bank and is passionate about her work. “Everybody has a story to tell” she says and is keen to discover what those stories are.

Working with her as a volunteer is John McCrory. He volunteered about three years ago. Born and raised in Burnage, he attended St. Bernard’s School and has lived in Burnage most of his life. He has his own Burnage memories but has also researched and is archiving much

speaking; some write down memories; others share cuttings, photographs, tickets or documents relating to Burnage, and copies are made using a scanner. Some are displayed in the library. Many are on the Burnage Memory Bank website, where you can directly contribute your own memories. Amanda comments “No life is an ordinary life” and wants lots of people to contribute their experiences to the Memory Bank.

Already their work has revealed people moving from Gorton, Ardwick and Openshaw in the 1920s to the new estate being built with gardens, open spaces and tree lined roads like Errwood, Green End and Barcroft. Looking back on the difference it made to people then, John comments history helps us appreciate what we have. “We take things for granted” he says

“during the war an Avon Road resident was taken to court because his garden was not up to the level expected”! The Memory Bank is part of what happens at Burnage Library. It has developed from the Local History Group, but there are IT classes, Craft sessions, a Book Group, English speaking for beginners and a Lego Club. They are keen to meet groups of people either to share information or to enable people to share their memories. You can check the website at:

www.burnageactivityhub.org.uk/memorybank



Amanda and John with the Memory Bank display

of the material for the Memory Bank. How are the memories being gathered? They record people

Prayers for Streets

At St Margaret's we pray each week for people who live and work in the streets of Burnage. Here is a list of streets for the next three months:

Week beginning

January 2017

- 01/01/17 Moorton Ave., Moorton Pk., & Jersey Close
- 08/01/17 Whitethorn Close & Blackthorn Ave
- 15/01/17 Hawthorn Drive, Redthorn Close
- 22/01/17 Mauldeth Road & Harwood Rd
- 29/01/17 Avonlea Dr, Brookthorpe Ave, Bournelea Ave



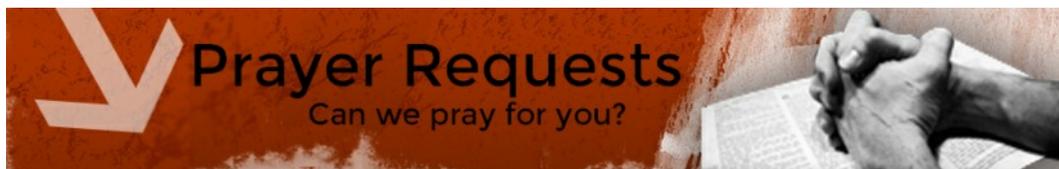
February 2017

- 05/02/17 Hembury Ave, Glendale Ave, St Margaret's Ave & Kenwood Ave
- 12/02/17 Burnage Lane (Mauldeth Rd to Grangethorpe Rd.) & Oakleigh Ave
- 19/02/17 Burnage Ave, Tirza Ave & Brookfield Ct
- 26/02/17 Burnage Lane (Grangethorpe Rd to Milwain Rd)



March 2017

- 05/03/17 Milwain Rd & Hilbre Rd
- 12/03/17 Kempton Rd, Ranford Rd & Crompton Rd
- 19/03/17 Errwood Rd (from Avon Rd to Shawbrook Rd.) & Guernsey Close
- 26/03/17 Errwood Rd (from Shawbrook Rd, to Ranford Rd)



Here at St Margaret's we have a prayer request box in our Parish Centre that is used by various people visiting the centre. We also have an online Prayer Request form on our website. Through this we have prayed for many situations all over the world. We believe God answers prayers and prayer works. Why not use the form to send us your prayer requests? Together we will pray and see what happens.

www.stmargaretsburnage.org.uk/prayer-groups

Father Christmas vs Santa Claus

I was phoned on Christmas Eve by a very distraught granddaughter in Yorkshire. Her cousins in New Zealand had been in touch, and said that Father Christmas had already been there. I should explain that New Zealand is 12 hours ahead of us, and our granddaughter, at 5 years old, was too young to grasp the notion of international time zones. "Would Father Christmas have any toys left for her?" and "how long would it take him to reach her?"

Father Christmas was a traditional figure, who presided over all the celebrations as people marked not only the birth of Christ Jesus, the Son of God, but the start of longer day length at a very cold, dark time of the year and became the Christmas gift bringer for children.

So who was Santa Claus? He is reputed to be a Dutch saint, St. Nicholas, who

was so distressed by the plight of poor children that he gave gifts to the very poorest so that they also could celebrate the birth of Christ.

So how come today's parents are blackmailed into great expense at Christmas? The modern "Santa" is a totally American import, borrowing heavily from the legend of Saint Nicholas, but with all the hype and "Gimmee" of US culture, without the message of celebration, hope and love common to both the traditions of St. Nicholas and Father Christmas.

The real Christmas story - a new born baby, born in poverty and dependent on human love and care, is one which touches the hearts and brings out the best in most people. I believe that Jesus, the Christ child, is the greatest Christmas gift of all from God to mankind.

Pam Corps (Lay Reader, St Margaret's)

Why is Christmas good news to you?

Illustration by Emma Randall from 'The Well Good News' Bible Society booklet.



'The Well Good News of Christmas' is a poem by Dai Woolridge - check out the animated cartoon by Youtubing this code:

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Fear of Cows?

I went recently on my first St. Margaret's walk, approximately 10 miles, starting from Wettonmill at the Southern end of the Peak District, going full circle, and ending back at Wettonmill.

My first hill, and yes it **was** a hill, presented a few problems. Firstly, I thought that my heart was going to explode through my ribcage due to the climb – how unfit I am – and secondly due to the presence of cows on the hill. I was assured that cows were harmless so long as their calves were not with them, and to my relief, this proved to be the case, in this instance.

On we went through the mud, which was plentiful, with many slips, slides and near misses – how some of us maintained our balance I will never know. Then through another field full of cows which, horror of horrors, had their calves with them. The advice I was given this time, was that if a cow came towards me menacingly, stand with my arms outstretched and it would go away....as if! With one eye on the cows, and the other firmly fixed on the stonewall to my left, I envisaged myself sprinting towards the wall and hurling myself over it should a cow even look at me!

Despite the drizzle and the cows I had a great day, so much so that I went on my second walk – no cows this time – centred around Tideswell last Saturday

with my daughter, Lara, tagging along. The weather was glorious and the scenery breathtaking and varied. At one point we were walking through a valley with steep hills on either side which made me feel like a cowboy walking into an ambush with the Native Americans waiting to rise up at the top of the hills and pick us off, one by one. Then, we walked through a wooded area which brought Robin Hood and his band of Merry Men to mind!



Lara and I have thoroughly enjoyed our walks. The company is excellent with much chatting, apart from when going uphill, when conversation dwindles as energy is conserved.

It is a lovely way of spending time chatting with people but most of all it has made me appreciate and take pleasure in the wonderful world that our God has created. So dig out your walking boots and join us on the next walk on 7th Jan.....ring 0161 432 4606 and ask for details.

Anne Maher

THE WELL GOOD NEWS OF CHRISTMAS

Come and enjoy the Christmas story told afresh with poetry, craft, games and conversation



Our Christmas Messy Church is inspired by a poem called 'The Well Good News Of Christmas' written by Dal Woolridge and illustrated by Emma Randal. FREE copy to everyone who comes along.

MESSY CHURCH DECEMBER 12TH FROM 3.30PM AT ST MARGARET'S CHURCH, BURNAGE

Christmas Dates

Monday 14th December:

Messy Church 3.30-5.30pm

Tuesday 15th December:

Tuesday Group (over 55's) Christmas Meal and Carol Service from 12.30pm.

Sunday 20th December:

Carols by Candlelight 6.30pm

Christmas Eve 24th December:

Carols and Communion 7pm

Christmas Day 25th December:

10.30am Communion Services

Carols Round the Tree

A perfect festive opportunity for over 55's to come to St Margaret's Church for a special afternoon service.

2.15pm on 20th December

Traditional carols and a short reflection.

Followed by seasonal refreshments.



Merry Christmas!

St Margaret's Church, 250 Burnage Lane, Burnage, Manchester, M19 1FL
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