

THE PARISH CHURCH OF

ST JOHN



THE DIVINE

BROOKLANDS • SALE



50p

June 2019

From the Editor

Whether you are reading the print or online version, a big welcome to the June Magazine. Easter is now firmly past us but there are still important events in our calendar. Richard points us towards Pentecost and makes reference to the '*They Kingdom Come*' initiative of which I'm sure we will hear more of.

As we approach the halfway point in the year the political impasse is unresolved but the repercussions of this and the consequences of austerity are biting hard. Irrespective of where we stand as individuals on the Brexit divide, the paralysis of our political leadership married to the increasing polarisation of society should be a concern to everybody. Failure to address some key social problems is causing great distress and as Christians it is our duty to respond to fill the vacuum, even if we believe we ought not have to do so. To illustrate this, we reference a Children's Society initiative that demonstrates the problems that many low income families face. Rant over.

Elsewhere we have another fascinating insight into what the editor and Mrs Editor discovered on their holidays and the usual features and write-ups from the stalwart band of magazine correspondents. Isabel and Chris, in anticipation of the editorial rant in the last paragraph, remind us that we have a duty to contribute outside our own church. Plus, as always, some entirely random content. Contributions are always welcome.

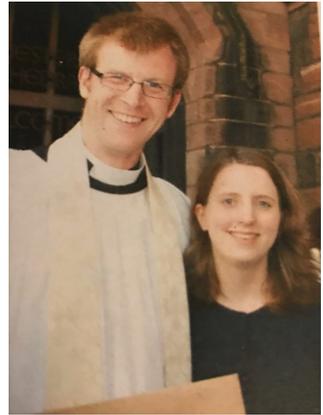
Deadline for next edition is 19th June.

The Editor



Richard writes...

In my letter last month, I encouraged you to make daily prayer a priority throughout Eastertide. How have you been getting on? Perhaps as *Thy Kingdom Comes* begins on Ascension Day, these final nine days of Eastertide offer you a fresh opportunity to pray for the renewing and empowering presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives as individuals as well as our parish.



The invitation to be filled with the Holy Spirit is also a command and one that is timely considering that on 9th June is Pentecost, the day when we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit who breathes life into our lives transforming us from the inside out.

In his book *Everyday Supernatural* Mike Pilavachi says ‘To be a Christian isn’t to tick a box next to a set of beliefs, it’s to enter into a relationship with the living God. As we do this the living God pours his Spirit into us.’ In Ephesians Paul writes: ‘Do not get drunk on wine...instead, be filled with the Spirit.’ The idea is that we need to be continuously filled with the Spirit, we’re like a bucket with a hole in it and in constant need to filling up.

I encourage you to make June the month when you intentionally seek to be filled with the Spirit and join me for an evening of prayer on 4th June as we wait, pray, and invite God to fill us afresh with his Spirit. *Richard*



Circling the City

On 27th April a team of 11 members of St John's set out in the rain to 'circle the city' - a sponsored walk to raise money for Christian Aid's life-saving work throughout the world. Our walk took us through several centuries of Manchester's history as we explored some of the beautiful places of worship in our city on the way. At the churches we visited there were activities to enjoy, opportunities to pray, exhibitions, interesting people to listen to and delicious cakes offered with tea and coffee.

We began our walk at the Cathedral. The building is the old mediaeval parish church. King Henry V first granted it Collegiate status in 1421, and it became Manchester's Cathedral in 1847. Following a service of worship in the Cathedral, our first stop was at Methodist Central Hall, built in 1910. We continued through Piccadilly Gardens and China Town, and along Oxford Road to Manchester Museum. On our return to St Peter's Square, we walked round to the Friends Meeting House, home of Manchester's thriving Quaker community, and only a few minutes walk from the Town Hall we found St Mary's Hidden Gem! It was wonderful to escape from the busyness of the city centre and spend time in this beautiful little church. Opened in 1794, it is the oldest Catholic Church in Manchester. From there we headed back to Cross Street Chapel, where people have worshipped on the site since 1694! It became a Unitarian Church in 1761.

Our walk ended at St Ann's Church, consecrated in 1712. Manchester then was a small rural town little more than a village with many fields and timber-framed houses. A large cornfield named Acres Field, which is now St Ann's Square, became the site for St Ann's church ..something to think about next time you walk through the square.

In spite of the rain, which continued most of the day, we all agreed that it had been a wonderful experience, and what made it special was spending time together, knowing that with each step along the way we were helping to raise money to end poverty.

THANK YOU to everyone who sponsored us. We shall report the final total raised by St John's for Christian Aid in the July Magazine.

Having discovered more about these beautiful buildings, some of us are keen to go back, and spend more time exploring. We have also discovered the Nexus Café in the basement of Methodist Central Hall! If anyone would like to join us for a morning or afternoon in town during the summer months, let me know. It's good to spend time together!

Isabel

Tel: 980 5762

To God be the glory, great things
He hath done;
So loved He the world that He
gave us His Son,
Who yielded His life an
atonement for sin,
And opened the life gate that all
may go in.



Churches Together: Brass Bands and Tea

On Sunday 9th June, 'Churches Together in Sale' hosts an Open Air Service at St Francis Church, Budworth Road/Norris Road, starting at 3pm. The Sale Salvation Army Band will be present and Afternoon Tea will follow. All are welcome.

The Mayor of Trafford, Cllr. Rob Chilton, invites everyone to a Civic Service at 4pm Sunday 30th June, at St Paul's, Sale. The service will be preceded by a procession from Sale Town Hall and followed by light refreshments.

Church Flowers

If you would like to make a donation for church flowers in memory of a loved one, a birthday or an anniversary, please contact Ruth Shaw on 973 9255 or Lynda Tattersall on 973 7140. A typical donation would be the equivalent cost of a bouquet delivered to someone's home.

2 June Doris Heads in memory of her husband, Robert

From the Archive

June 1919

The magazine for June 1919 continued in its austere form and contented itself with brief references to some important items of Parish business. The first related to a confirmation service held at St Mary's, Ashton-on-Mersey, in which no less than fifteen people from the Parish were presented to Bishop Mercer. The Annual Vestry meeting was reported on with the names of those appointed as Wardens and Sidesmen. 'Sidesmen' being the operative word as all the appointees were male.

June 1969

The Reverend Buckley's monthly message focused on the changes happening within the Diocese as a consequence of the re-developments happening across it. He commented that as population movement occurred and new housing built that there was a need to also provide places of worship. The counterpoint to this was that some old churches had now run through their useful lives as declining populations left them redundant. While this was not happening in Brooklands he pointed to other challenges that remain with us. In discussing the problems of ministering to a 'secular Brooklands', he commented-

“ For example, we have not yet learned to cope with the mobility of families - of the twenty-eight young people confirmed last month, only five were baptised here, the rest having moved here during the last few years. We have not yet learned how to support and encourage those who are young in the faith, when parents have abdicated all responsibility in this - of those same twenty-eight young people, only eight have parents who have given them any sort of example in Christian worship. Clear heads, warm hearts, lively souls and willing hands are as desperately needed here as anywhere else.”

The magazine also contained a report on the Annual Meeting and listed the various appointees. The magazine also included a plea for a new Youth Club leader.



June 2019

St John The Divine, Brooklands

Summer Fair



Sat 29 Jun

Time: 2:00 – 4:30 pm

Entertainment Raffle Tombola Beer Tent

Face painting BBQ Cakes Bouncy castle

Afternoon Teas Childrens Stalls Plate Smashing

Adults: 50 pence Children: Free

Hymns We've Sung Recently:

At the Archdeacon's Visitation event at St Matthew's, one of the hymns we sang was 'To God Be The Glory'. It is a wonderful hymn and on digging into it, an interesting back story emerged.

Written by Frances Jane Crosby (Fanny) around 1870, the hymn has its origins in the USA. It travelled to the UK shortly afterwards and became popular at revivalist meetings but fell out of favour in its home country. During his 1952 visit to the UK, Billy Graham rediscovered the hymn and he introduced it back to its home country two years later.

One of the more remarkable aspects of this hymn is that Fanny was blind yet, despite this, began composing hymns from the age of 6. She attended the New York Institute for the Blind from the age of 15. Seven years later she was a tutor there and continued hymn writing throughout her life. The line which refers to "our wonder, our rapture, when Jesus we see" takes on an added poignancy when you consider that the writer was blind.

Commenting on this hymn, hymnary.org says, "this text is unique from Crosby's other hymns because, rather than focus on our experience of God, the words are wholly about God and His perfect glory. In a sense, the hymn perfectly displaces us, removing us from the pedestal on which we so often place ourselves. This displacement is one of the great paradoxes of the Christian faith. It feels very natural for us to seek attention, approval, and our own glory. We like to be in control and present our own image to the world, an image we seek to improve through any means possible. On the other hand, there is great comfort in knowing that the image we try to make for ourselves doesn't matter. We are made in the image of God, which means that whatever we do has to bring Him and Him alone glory. Our lives are wrapped up in God, and so too are the mistakes we make, the wounds we inflict, and all of our shortcomings. These are the things we try to avoid while we maintain control of our lives. But what a joy and a comfort to know that though these things may happen, because God is ultimately in control, and because our own image does not matter, God is still glorified. While we should still try to live a holy and upright life, we should do so to bring God glory, not ourselves. What a beautiful freedom that is." Amen.

If you want to hear a rousing rendition then on youtube there is one from the Royal Albert Hall. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-15v9iworAU&feature=youtu.be> Or just go on youtube and put the hymn name in the search box.

Friends of Friendless Churches

You might think that a 'Friendless Church' is one where you have no friends, but that isn't the sort that I mean. On a walk near Dolgellau recently we came across St Mark's Church and discovered the 'Friends'. They are a charity that adopts redundant church buildings of architectural significance. Tucked away up a country lane in mid-Wales you would be forgiven for not expecting to find such a thing (sorry Llew) but St Mark's is stunning. You can see some photos on the following pages but can also find a more detailed history by a google search (other search engines are available). Just type Brithdir church into the search box. <http://friendsoffriendlesschurches.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Brithdir-Church-Leaflet.pdf>

The write-up on the website really does do it justice.

" St Mark's church was built 1895-1898 to the designs of Henry Wilson. It is one of the few full bloodied Arts and Crafts churches in Wales, and is listed Grade I.

The church was paid for in memory of the Rev'd Charles Tooth, chaplain and founder of St Mark's English Church in Florence, and is particularly important for the boldness of its architecture and the wonderfully naturalistic detail of its fittings.

Inside Brithdir

Inside the church, the visitor is transported from the rugged Welsh countryside to a warm Mediterranean clime, with red ochre walls and a ceiling of vivid blue sky. Let the eyes adjust and notice the decorated font at the west end, conceived by Wilson, modelled by Arthur Grove and made by the Central School of Art in London. At the east end the pulpit and altar are characterised by their intricate naturalistic Arts & Crafts detailing; both designed and (unusually) made by Wilson himself. The choir stalls are beautifully carved with a hare, tortoise, squirrels, rabbits, an owl, a mouse, a kingfisher and a dolphin."

The thing that struck us most though was the copper altar and pulpit even though these hardly rate a mention in the visitor guide. As a counterpoint, the font is made of lead, the greyness maybe more in keeping with the colour of the local stone and slate. A real hidden gem of a place. A bit far to travel to see as a special trip but if you are remotely in the area well worth a detour and definitely worth a look online.





Mary Webster Writes

We had a very engaging and enjoyable speaker in April when Janet James came to tell us about Dodie Smith, the author of the book, '101 Dalmatians'. I confessed to her that I'd done an internet search on the author as all I knew about was the film. She very graciously said that was sometimes the case.

Janet was brilliant and her delivery was excellent. She described the life of Dodie Smith in a way that certainly had me heading back to the internet to learn more. Amazon will take a few 'hits' from me as I order the autobiographies that are still in print. Dodie Smith certainly was a 'one off' in the nicest sense.

By the time you read this we will have had a Musical Quiz Evening led by one of our own, Pat Foy. You will have to wait till next month for the full review which, if it goes true to form, should be a rave review.

We are going to have a 'history' lesson on 26 June when we welcome Sue Wildman whose topic will be 'Suffragettes'. I look forward to hearing more about these wonderfully brave ladies who paved the way for and gave voice to women in society. We modern women owe them a great debt of gratitude.

Some of you may be grateful that I'm not doing my normal 'ramble', but it's been a busy month and I'm reduced to typing this up at Crafty Chat. Thankfully I am just finishing just before our 'tea break'.



June 2019

O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,
To every believer the promise of God;
The vilest offender who truly believes,
That moment from Jesus a pardon receives.



Words of Wisdom

A member of our Church Family has found this text, supportive in managing grief.

“In trivial occupations and the round of ordinary intercourse our minds are nourished and invisibly repaired.”

William Wordsworth

Have you some favourite words to share? If so, place them in the red folder at the back of church or email the Editor.
Brooklandsmag@gmail.com

June Baptismal Anniversaries

Eva Lilly Starling
Dylan James Hyde
Asife Lynne Burkett



From Around St John's



Hello everyone

I hope you are all well and by the time you read this the weather will have improved. Didn't we have lovely weather over the Easter weekend, such a nice change.

Our May meeting saw us playing scrabble and doing a jigsaw, whilst enjoying a good chat. We also enjoyed some homemade cake.

In June we will be welcoming David Murray, who is currently at Christchurch Timperley, to entertain us. Everyone is welcome at our meetings, men women and children.

Best wishes

Sharon

Saint Benno

Benno was a Saxon bishop of noble birth. During his lifetime he supported various Emperors and Popes. He served under Henry IV; was chaplain at Gostar; then Bishop of Meissen. Whilst Benno was Bishop of Meissen, Henry took the Bishops Palace, causing Benno to leave. During his exile Benno supported the Antipope, returning to the true Pope, Urban II, when Henry was excommunicated. Legend has it, that Benno found the key to the Bishops Palace in a fish, hence he is depicted with a key and a fish. Benno, was a zealous preacher and a good musician. Some exegetical works of the gospels are attributed to him. He died in 1107 and was canonised by Pope Adrian VI in 1523.

Feast day 16 June

Editor's notes:

I had to look up a couple of words here. An 'Antipope' is somebody not the Pope, but who has a substantial claim to actually be the Pope himself. Exegesis, relates to interpreting the meaning of a scriptural passage. But of course, you all knew that. Richard is, I'm sure, available to explain this in detail.

And in case you thought there were no funnies...

Doctors were told to contribute to the construction of a new hospital wing. What was their reaction?

The allergists voted to scratch it.

The dermatologists preferred no rash moves .

The gastroenterologists had a gut feeling about it .

The neurologists thought the administration had a lot of nerve.

The obstetricians stated they were labouring under a misconception.

The ophthalmologists considered the idea short sighted .

The orthopaedists issued a joint resolution .

The pathologists yelled. "Over my dead body".

The paediatricians said, "Grow up".

The proctologist's said, "We are in arrears".

The psychiatrists thought it was madness.

The surgeons decided to wash their hands of the whole thing.

The radiologists could see right through it .

The internists thought it was a hard pill to swallow.

The plastic surgeons said, "This puts a whole new face on the matter".

The podiatrists thought it was a big step forward.

The urologists felt the scheme wouldn't hold water; and

The cardiologists didn't have the heart to say no.

Suggested by Helen Berrisford

The Funniest Passover Joke Ever?

A British Jew is waiting in line to be knighted by the Queen. He is to kneel in front of her and recite a sentence in Latin when she taps him on the shoulders with her sword. However, when his turn comes, he panics in the excitement of the moment and forgets the Latin. Then, thinking fast, he recites the only other sentence he knows in a foreign language, which he remembers from the Passover seder: "Ma nishtanah halailah hazeh mikol haleilot." Puzzled, Her Majesty turns to her advisor and whispers, "Why is this knight different from all other knights?"

Come to the Light

A man goes into a dentist's office.

Man: "Excuse me, can you help me? I think I'm a moth."

Dentist: "You don't need a dentist. You need a psychiatrist."

Man: "Yes, I know."

Dentist: "So, why did you come in here?"

Man: "The light was on."

God in the Arts

The National Gallery at Trafalgar Square in London houses one of the finest collections of European paintings in the world, with some 2,300 works spanning the centuries. During this year we are journeying through the gallery to explore one of those treasures each month. By the Revd Michael Burgess.

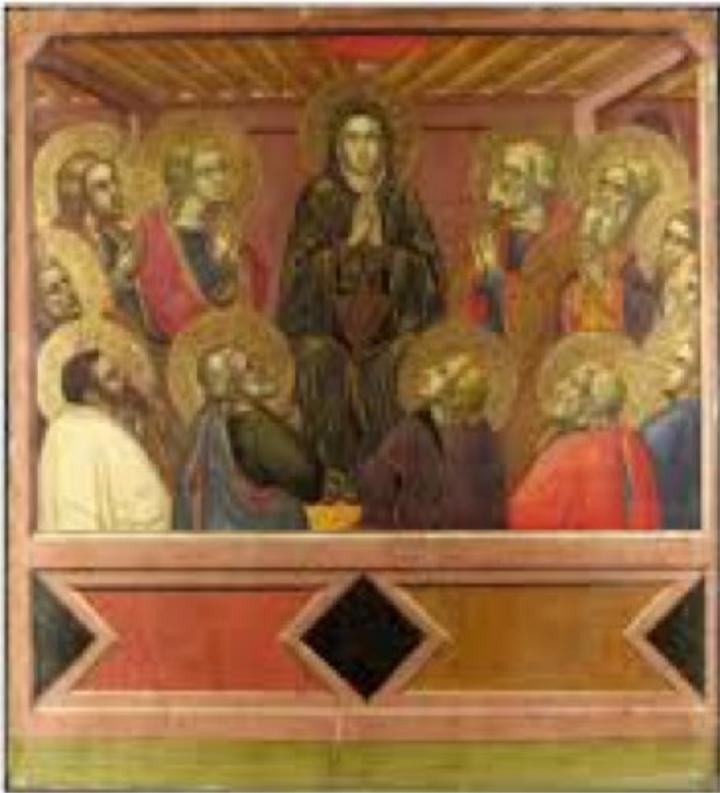
Panel depicting the first Pentecost: Barnaba da Modena

Over the last years praying ‘Thy kingdom come’ has become an important part of church life for the days between Ascension and Pentecost. It has been promoted by church leaders, who have encouraged Christians to follow the pattern of Mary, the mother of our Lord, and the disciples. St Luke tells us in Acts how they gathered in an upper room to pray, while they waited for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

It is the theme of this month’s painting from the National Gallery - a panel depicting the first Pentecost painted by Barnaba da Modena, a prolific Italian artist, in 1377. Here we look into that upper room and see Mary and the twelve, their hands in prayer, and the Holy Spirit descending like a dove into their lives.

The disciples had seen their Lord ascend to the Father, and they must have returned from that mount to Jerusalem expectant, but also concerned and anxious about what the future held for them. Afraid and uncertain, they devoted themselves to prayer. The artist has shown us the gift of the Holy Spirit that marks the birthday of the Church and a new day in their lives. The doors of that upper room may have been closed to the world, but the Spirit came to open them and inspire the disciples to go into that world with a new purpose and hope. The closed world of fear and anxiety was changed by their prayer and by the working of the Holy Spirit.

In the days from Ascension to Pentecost we follow that tradition of prayer. We may also be concerned and anxious about our world and our lives. The Spirit calls us to move from fear to trust. Someone calculated that the words ‘Do not be afraid’ occur 365 times in the Bible - one for the great day of Pentecost, and one for every other day in the rest of the year.



Great things He hath taught us, great things He hath done,
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
But purer, and higher, and greater will be
Our wonder, our rapture, when Jesus we see.



*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the earth hear His voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father, through Jesus the Son,
And give Him the glory, great things He hath done.*

Crafty Chat Club News

Chris would like to thank members of the Crafty Chat Club who helped make Easter Novelties to be sold in aid of
The Nystagmus Network. (UK Reg. Charity)

Nystagmus is a complex visual impairment, characterised by involuntary eye movements, affecting focus and depth perception.

A grand total of £330 was raised which is our best ever year. An increase of 37% from last year!

Also a big thank you to Cafe4u for displaying & selling to many of their customers.

More churches than pubs

The UK now has more churches than pubs, according to new data published by the National Churches Trust. There are around 39,000 pubs in the UK, according to the latest figures from the Office of National Statistics, with more than 11,000 pubs having closed in the UK in the last decade - a fall of almost a quarter (23%). However, there are around 40,300 church buildings in the UK open to the public and being used for worship, according to research carried out for the National Churches Trust by the Brierley Consultancy.

The number of church buildings is also substantially higher than other key public buildings in the UK. There are currently around 14,300 supermarkets operated by grocery retailers, 11,500 post office branches, 7,500 bank branches and 3,600 public libraries. An increasing number of churches in the UK are also becoming local 'community hubs', hosting children's nurseries, senior citizen lunch clubs, concerts and exhibition venues. Some even house post-offices, GP surgeries and farmer's markets. Around 6,000 of the UK's approximately 32,000 polling places are located in church buildings. But...

Funding repairs is 'top problem' facing churches

A new online poll has revealed the top five problems facing the UK's church buildings. In the poll, run on the National Churches Trust's website, people were asked to identify what they thought was the biggest problem facing the UK's church buildings. The top problems were identified as:

- Not enough money available for repairs
- Declining congregations
- Shortage of volunteers to help look after church buildings
- Lack of modern facilities
- Lead theft

Claire Walker, Chief Executive of the National Churches Trust said: "Over the last two years, there has been a 56% increase in applications for our grants, with numbers rising from 381 in 2016 to 593 in 2018. One of the reasons for this increase is that less money is available from the National Lottery Heritage Fund and the end of Government backed schemes such as the Listed Places of Worship Roof Repair Fund."

How long could you make £60 last?

That is the latest challenge from Children's Society, as they seek to highlight the plight of many poor people.

Children's Society says: "Imagine the worst week. Your car needs repairs, your boiler has broken, you need to get the groceries in, but you have only £60 left until you get paid next week. Can you make it last?"

If you would like to test yourself, to see how you would manage, take the quiz at <https://www.childrensociety.org.uk/news-and-blogs/our-blog/difficult-decisions-in-a-crisis?>

Behind the quiz, however, the Childrens' Society is deadly serious. "Low wages, poor housing and public service cutbacks have left many families struggling. They have to make impossible choices every single day. One bit of bad luck quickly leads to families not being able to afford the basics.

"To make matters far worse, the council-run emergency funds that used to be there to support vulnerable families are at risk, and have disappeared altogether in some areas, leaving people with nowhere to turn."

If you can help, go to <https://www.childrensociety.org.uk/>

Do you admit to going to church?

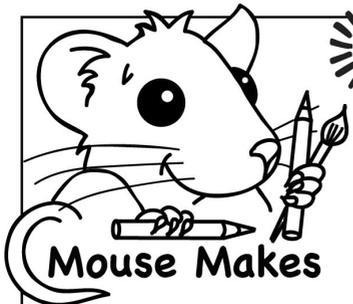
"In the US you have to be religious to be elected, in the UK you increasingly have to pretend not to be." So says Fraser Nelson, editor of *The Spectator*. In a recent newspaper article* he pointed out in the UK, "an MP is quite at liberty to talk about their faith, but they ought to realise it comes at a cost to their credibility.

'This is a side effect of the ongoing collapse of religiosity in Britain. Polls show that barely a quarter of us now profess faith in God or a 'spiritual higher power'."

Fraser Nelson continues: "As churchgoing becomes rarer, it is seen as stranger. More suspect. This increases the incentives to cover up one's faith and treat it like a dirty secret. So, we end up with two self-reinforcing forces: the decline of people going to church - and the decline of churchgoers willing to admit it."

He concludes that: "To be Christian in Britain today is to navigate your way through one of the fastest religious changes in the history of these islands."

* *Daily Telegraph*, 'The decline of religion accelerates when Christians hide their faith', by Fraser Nelson, 30.03.19



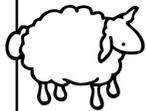
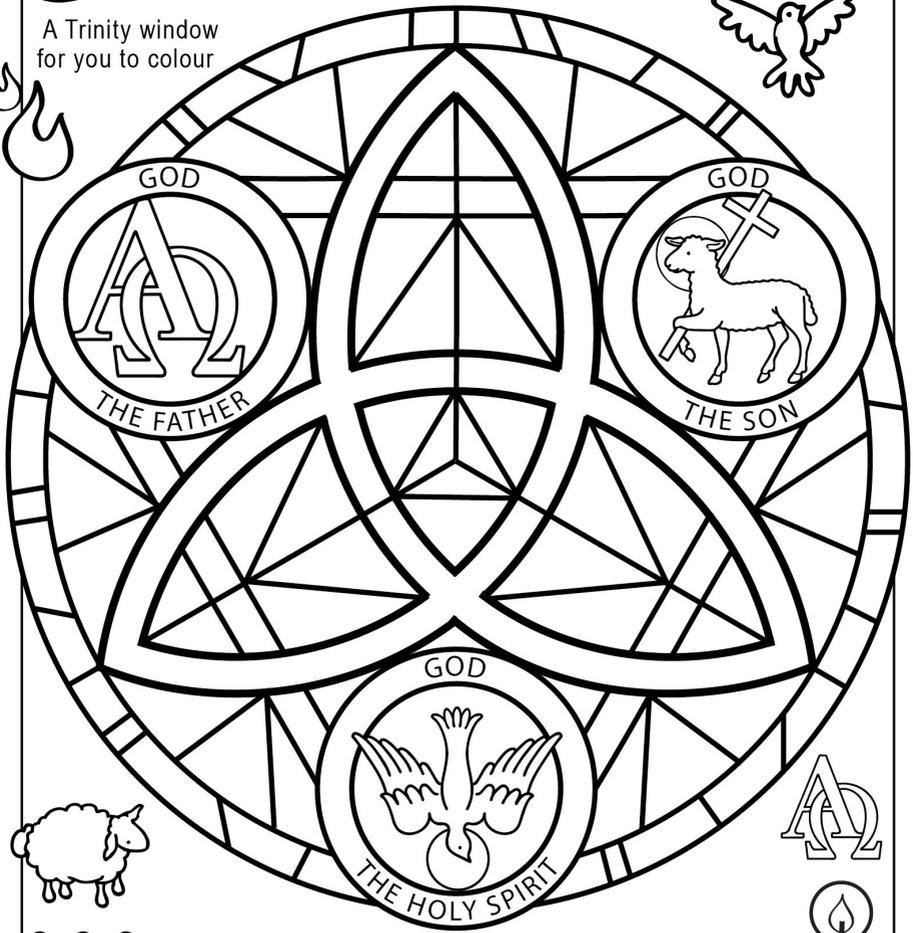
Mouse Makes

"May the *grace* of the Lord **JESUS CHRIST** and the *love* of **GOD** and the fellowship of the **HOLY SPIRIT** be with you."



2 Corinthians 13:13

A Trinity window for you to colour



The Bible teaches us that God is three persons in one: **GOD = FATHER and SON and HOLY SPIRIT**



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STOP PRESS!!! Microsoft have now removed support for all Windows XP systems, which could affect the security of your software. If you are using XP, do give me a call for FREE & independent advice.

“Your service is very good, it is good to know someone is available to help & understands we are not all experts.”

G Singer, Sale

“It has been a pleasure dealing with you & the service I have received is second to none.”

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getting to know others,
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Bring along your own craft project,
use materials provided
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No previous skills are needed.
The chat is as important as the craft.

Everyone is welcome.

St John's Church Hall, Brooklands Road, Sale.

**EVERY 1ST & 3RD WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH.
2.00 – 4.00PM.**

**£1.00 PER MEETING
INCLUDES TEA / COFFEE & BISCUITS**



Sanctuary Guild

*Volunteers in the Sanctuary Guild take
turns to clean the brasses in church, such as
the altar cross, candlesticks, offertory
plates and lecterns.*



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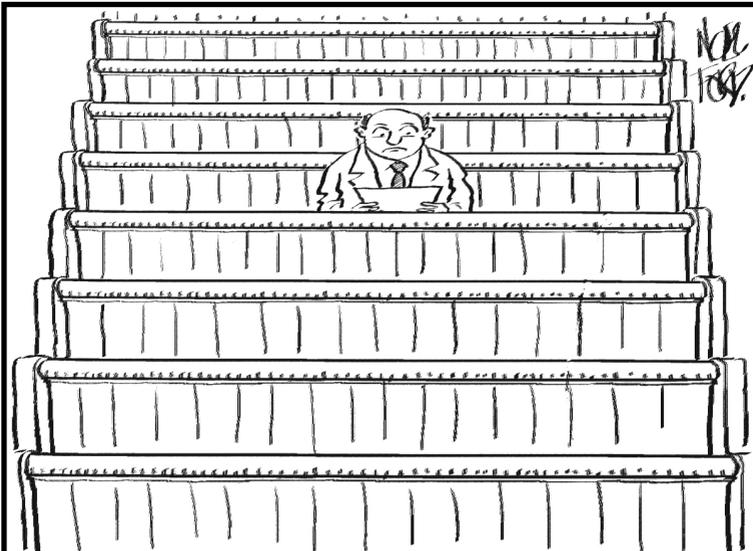


Phil & Gill Etherington

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With the congregation depleted by the bug that was going around, it suddenly dawned on Roy that he wouldn't be able to get away with just miming to the hymns this week

Parish Diary June 2019

- 2nd 7th *Sunday of Easter*
8.30 Holy Communion
10.30 Family Communion
Prayer Walk
4.30 Café Church
6.30 Evensong
- 5th 10.00 Midweek Communion
2.00 Craft Chat
- 9th *Pentecost Celebration*
8.30 Holy Communion
10.30 All Age Communion
4.30 Café Church
6.30 Evensong
- 12th 10.00 Midweek Communion
2.30 Mothers' Union
- 16th *Trinity Sunday*
8.30 Holy Communion
10.30 Family Communion
4.30 Café Church
6.30 Evensong
- 19th 10.00 Midweek Communion
2.00 Crafty Chat
- 23rd *Eco Church Sunday*
8.30 Holy Communion
10.30 Green Communion
4.30 Café Church
6.30 Evensong
- 26th 10.00 Midweek Communion
7.30 Evening Prayer and Women's Fellowship
- 30th *2nd Sunday after Trinity*
8.30 Holy Communion
10.30 Service of the Word
4.30 Café Church
6.30 Evensong

The Parish Church of

St. John the Divine, Brooklands

*In the Deanery of Withington, In the Diocese of Manchester,
In the Province of York*

Website: www.stjohnsbrooklands.org.uk

SUNDAY SERVICES

8.30am Holy Communion
10.30 am Family Communion
(Second Sunday of the Month All -Age Worship)
5.30pm Choral Evensong

Holy Communion is celebrated on Holy Days and Saints Days as announced.

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