

THE MAGAZINE OF ST CHAD'S PARISH CHURCH LADYBARN



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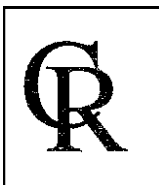
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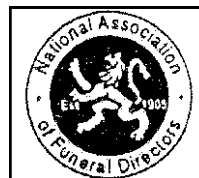
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May 2014

***Taken from the Rectors Report at the
Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)
April 1st 2014***

Saying thank you at these kinds of occasions is a thorny issue for two reasons; firstly because whoever I say thank you to someone else will either feel left out or feel that I've left another person out, and secondly because when it comes to doing things for St Chad's you're not doing them for me, you're doing them for your church and for each other. So have a think during this week about what it is about other people's contribution to the church community that you are grateful for and then on Sunday go and say thank you to them. Don't just think of the obvious tasks like treasurer or churchwarden, think of the less obvious tasks, like who cleans the toilets or who locks up the hall late at night in the middle of winter.

There are some people whom I would like to say thank you to today; to Diane as she steps down this year, after five years as our churchwarden, to Judy, as she continues as churchwarden this coming year without a second warden to share the legal responsibilities with and to Muriel our treasurer for all their hard work and for all their support of the projects we have undertaken during 2013.

Thank you also to John and Helen our Readers, Opal in her role as Accredited Lay Minister, The Reverend Colin Powell and Canon Albert Radcliffe for the part that they each play in our joint life and ministry here at St Chad's. We are fortunate to have each of them, to have a team of diverse people ministering amongst us and enhancing the life and work of this church in their own unique ways.

Breaking with my usual tradition of not spreading my individual thanks further than that, I would like to say thank you to Leslie Fletcher, firstly for the significant help he has been to me as PCC secretary, secondly for all of the work he did for all of us in leading our stewardship campaign and thirdly for the work he does with Christian Aid and with Fairtrade, demonstrating the care of the church for others and helping St Chad's to be more relevant within the community.

Continued on page 4

The Vicar:

The Reverend
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Helen Reid
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And thank you also to everyone else who contributes in a whole host of ways to maintaining this church as a place of worship, as a place where equality and justice can be reflected, and as a Christian presence within this community.

At this meeting last year we discussed, in groups, the then upcoming stewardship campaign and our financial situation and following those discussions we worked hard on issues of stewardship; meeting some but not all of our aims. For example there were requests for new notice boards to better display our presence on this corner and to promote the activities of the church and these are now almost ready to be ordered.

As the stewardship campaign came to an end it became clear that we must learn the lessons from that and that it mustn't just end there if St Chad's is to survive into the future as a church community, and so we invited our newly minted bishop to spend a day with us exploring our concept of mission and looking at ways in which we can progress the mission and the meaning of this church in this community.

Using the information which came out of the mission day with Bishop David (produced at the front of the April magazine) the meeting went on to discuss St Chad's way forward for mission in small groups. Like last year the PCC will consider the results of these discussions and look at realistic ways forward.

**Reverend Elizabeth Davies
Priest-in-Charge**

Ascension Day

Thursday 29th May

Joint service with other churches in the Deanery

7.30pm at St Paul's Church,
Withington

everyone welcome

*'As they were watching Jesus was lifted
up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.'*

INJURY TIME By Beryl Bainbridge
(Winner of the Whitbread Prize Novel 1977)

Welcome to the idiosyncratic world of Beryl Bainbridge, as she drags a middle aged quartet through an evening of black comedy and accelerating injury.

It is Binny's first opportunity to play hostess for her married and extremely cautious lover, Edward. He has finally agreed to bring his respectable friends, the Simpsons, to dinner. During the meal, their strained conversation is punctuated by the arrival of Binny's neighbour, the melodramatic Alma. The frenzy level rises when they are invaded by a gang of bank robbers, pushing a pram full of notes, who take the dinner guests hostage. The house is later surrounded by police, and to show that all is well, the hostages engage in a game of ping pong without a ball. The hostages and thugs finally pile unceremoniously into the getaway car as Edward dramatically shouts to Binny 'I'll never leave you'. However, the car gathers speed, and he promptly falls out, an undignified heap in the middle of the road.

Beryl Bainbridge is a very perceptive, and accurate observer of human behaviour. She has a sparse, almost clinical style of writing, but her words and phrases are so needle sharp, that the characters leap out from the pages and into reality. The book has no obvious plot. Rather, a morbidly humorous narrative, which provides a snapshot of events, taking place during a disastrous and manic evening of expectation and disappointment.

This book scored 8.00.

**Our next book will be 'The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie'
by Muriel Spark.**

Barbara Leary

From the Registers...

Holy Baptism.

We welcome into God's family:

There were no Baptisms in March

Holy Matrimony

We asked God's blessing on the marriage of:

There were no weddings in March

Christian Committal

We commend to God's safe keeping the soul of:

18 Feb Elsie Boyes

19 Mar Colin Gray Young

March weekly collections
Includes plates and envelopes

Mar 2 nd	£307.09
Mar 9 th	£1536.40
Mar 16 th	£219.78
Mar 23 rd	£1459.93
Mar 30 th	£413.44

Christian Aid Week, 11 – 17 May 2014

Help piece back together lives torn apart by war

'The Lord is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer... in whom I take refuge.'
2 Samuel 22:2-3

For a growing number of people across the world, the horror of war is a part of daily life.

Right now, fuelled by the devastating violence in both Syria and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the numbers of people driven from their homes by war is on the rise.

It stands at 42 million people – an appalling statistic and a stain on the conscience of humanity. We can't turn our backs. We must act now.

The good news is that St Chad's and churches across the UK and Ireland can make a real difference.

Last year, a magnificent 20,000 churches across the country, including St Chad's and the other churches in Fallowfield and Withington, helped raise over £12m for Christian Aid Week.

This Christian Aid Week (11–17 May 2014) St Chad's wants to go even further with Christian Aid. Christian Aid wants every church member in Britain and Ireland to get involved – whether by giving, acting or praying. At St Chad's we need as many people as possible to help with the house-to-house collection; overall this is the biggest single act of Christian witness in the UK and possibly in Europe.

Together we can send people living in fear this message: you are not alone. We're with you, helping you to rebuild your lives, and working for peace.

Imagine what such an expression of love would mean to people searching for the strength to cope with the devastation of war, and how it could help to drive out their fear.

Demonstrate God's love for those living in poverty and show how much good the church is doing in the world this Christian Aid Week.

Together we can reach the 42 million people caught up in conflict and help them live a life free from fear.

The house-to-house collection brings hope

£15 could provide blankets for refugee children to protect them from bitter night-time temperatures.
£40 could provide enough good quality and nutritious food for two refugee children for a month.
£150 could help us provide specialist emotional support for a child deeply traumatised by the horror of war that they've witnessed or experienced.

**Be an instrument of God's peace.
Give, act and pray this Christian Aid Week.
Lots more information at caweek.org**

DIARY FOR MAY 2014

1	Thursday	10.00am	Holy Communion
3	Saturday	2.00pm-4.00pm	Event in Garden - Planting of native saplings
4	Sunday	10.00am 6.30pm	Holy Communion Evensong
6	Tuesday	7.30pm 8.00pm	Holy Communion PCC
7	Wednesday	11.00am	Bible Study (Tea/Coffee from 10.30am)
8	Thursday	10.00am 7.30pm	Holy Communion Archdeacons Visitation Emmanuel Church, Didsbury. Everyone welcome.
<u>CHRISTIAN AID WEEK BEGINS</u>			
11	Sunday	10.00am 6.30pm	Holy Communion Service for the beginning of Christian Aid Week, St. Chad's. Everyone welcome.
13	Tuesday	7.30pm 8.00pm	Holy Communion Ladies Group
14	Wednesday	11.00am	Bible Study (Tea/Coffee from 10.30am)
15	Thursday	10.00am	Holy Communion
16	Friday	5.30pm	Prayers in church for Christian Aid Week, followed by envelope collecting by volunteers and then refreshments in church 7.30pm.
18	Sunday	10.00am	Holy Communion
20	Tuesday	7.30pm	Prayers and Music with the Glorianna Singers
21	Wednesday	11.00am	Bible Study (Tea/Coffee from 10.30am)
23	Thursday	10.00am	Holy Communion
25	Sunday	10.00am	Holy Communion
27	Tuesday	7.30pm 8.00pm	Evening Prayer Needlecraft Group
28	Thursday Ascension Day	10.00am 7.30pm	Holy Communion Ascension Day Service at St. Paul's, Withington Everyone welcome.



Spring-time news in the St Chad's Community Wildlife Garden

As Spring gradually unfolds in our Community Wildlife Garden we are being reminded again of God's creative and generous nature, as we witness the continual round of seed-time and new growth.

During this exceptionally wild and wet winter and early spring, it has been good to see that we have created a safe environment for a variety of creatures within our garden. This includes spaces where insects and small mammals have been able to hibernate, some of which are in the 'bug hotel'. We found over-wintering peacock and tortoiseshell butterflies in the garden last week and a very large frog in the pond, hopefully about to lay some frogspawn!

Recent news about our garden is that we have been awarded some grant monies from the 'I Love Manchester' Charity Fund. We are planning to use this money to develop the educational features of the garden, including several permanent, weatherproof 'lecterns', some mobile 'A' Boards and the production of a large number of information leaflets. The lecterns and leaflets will give information about the different areas in the garden, for instance, the Forest Garden, the wildflower beds and the seasonal pond. The 'A' Boards will be useful to promote particular events, and the leaflets are to give out to visitors. We have already begun to share our garden and our thinking with other churches, with local school children, and with other community groups. We very much hope that the new information being provided will ensure a better understanding of the garden and encourage these contacts to develop.

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Within the Garden we are also planning to provide a link to our World War I commemorations at St Chad's, by planting a collection of Flanders poppy seeds. These should be blooming in the wildflower beds during early August, as services are held throughout the country to mark the moment, 100 years previously, when World War I broke out.

We have two other specific events planned in the near future. The first occasion is on **Saturday May 3rd** from **2-4 pm**, when we will be planting a selection of native saplings to form a new hedgerow area. These will eventually provide a safe haven for nesting and roosting birds, and another good environment for insects.

Secondly, we have again been invited to take part in the **Burnage and Levenshulme Open Gardens Day** on **Sunday June 22nd**. We welcomed more than 90 visitors into the garden on the same occasion last year, so are hoping that the same level of interest will be shown again.

Light refreshments will be provided on both occasions and there will be up-to-date information on the Notice Sheet. Please see any member of the Green Group if you would be able to help at these events. You would be **MOST** welcome!

Signed : Judy Fletcher, Muriel Hargreaves, Peter Knight, Barbara Leary, Peter Matthews, Pam Race, Helen Reid and Elizabeth.

This Month's Saint.
May 26th
John Calvin. 1509- 1564.
Reformer.

Most Christians either love John Calvin or shudder at the mention of his name because of the theological system called after him, Calvinism which changed the history of England.

Until the Oxford Movement in the 19th century, the Church of England was predominantly a 'Calvinist' Church. Like Marx and Marxism, the ism named after Calvin became the way he was remembered. It was Calvinism that made the Puritans what they were and led to the triumph of Parliament over the King. It was Calvinism that put the 'iron' into the Scottish soul and led to the primacy of morals and principle in Victorian thought.

John Calvin was born at Nyon in Picardy. His education swung between the arts, law and the classics with a growing interest in humanism. By 1533, when he was 22, his commitment to the Reformation was such that he fled first to Paris and then Basle in Switzerland. In 1536 he published his *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, one of the most influential works of theology of all time. Afterwards he became involved in reorganising the church in Geneva, eventually as a theocracy. He never ceased writing and organising and after Martin Luther's death in 1546, Geneva became the power house of the Protestant Reformation.

More than anyone Calvin put the ideas of the Reformation on a firm, humane and clear, theological basis. God was omnipotent. His grace was sovereign. He elected and predestined, some to salvation and others to damnation. With the advent of sin, human beings had lost their free-will; however, through faith in Christ Christians are saved from guilt and punishment.

As a theological system, Calvinism largely triumphed in the English speaking churches even to some extent among Anglicans; but though it was intellectually powerful and emotionally compelling it was also rather abstract and inclined to become more of an ideology than a theology, eventually falling foul of Christ's great theological principle that 'the Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath.' In other words, theologies become ideologies the moment human nature is forced to fit some ideal system. While Calvin narrowly escapes that charge, many of his followers failed into the trap.

All Christians, however great intellectually, morally, spiritually or pastorally are flawed in some way. In honouring them, it's advisable to reflect on that thought.

Albert Radcliffe.



Rethinking a Life and Death Subject.

With so many named memorials in our Church, understandably St Chad's will soon be taking part in local Commemorations surrounding the Centenary of the Outbreak of the First World War on 4th August 1914.

The dead of WWI numbered at least 50 million, add to that the Second World War and the domestic victims of dictators like Stalin, Chairman Mao and Pol Pot and the total tops 200 million, leading us to the angry thought that no possible good can ever come from war, that it's wicked and cruel and greatly to be deplored and that's all that can be said about it. However, in his book, *War What is it Good For*, the historian Ian Morris has asked us to think again. The heart of his argument is that 'war made states, and states made peace.' It's a thought worth examining and St Chad's enjoys a good discussion.

The evidence for this is mathematical! From bones that survive from the Stone Age, it's reckoned that some 10-20% of those living in small bands of hunter-gatherers died at someone else's hand. But with the invention of agriculture those small wandering groups became first settled villages, then towns and cities and finally nations and states. As wars produced conquerors, those conquerors soon realised the advantage of forcing the losers to join them. It was a bloody process. Individuals were still killed, but each time the percentage who died violently grew less and less, so that the 10-20% of 10,000 BC, became only the 1-2% of the 20th century AD.

There are still wars, and millions still die, but more and more people are realising that wars do not yield the dividends they once did. The individual today stands a far greater chance of not being killed in war than at any other time in history. In short, war has sown the seeds of its own destruction. That's the argument. Let's hope that Morris is right.

However, my own contribution to the discussion would be that unless, and rightly, it's to deplore the role of religion in religious wars, the argument of academics so far has neglected the considerable and positive complementary role of religion in binding societies together peacefully, and that needs exploring. Has Christianity hindered or promoted this march of peace? This is a question that does need exploring and discussing.

Albert Radcliffe

THANK YOU

To all my friends at St. Chad's,

Thank you for the concern, support and offers of help when I had a very bad fall recently.

I am now recovering, albeit slowly, my bruises are fading but I ache all over.

Kathleen

EVENING PRAYER WITH THE GLORIANA SINGERS

Tuesday 20 May

At 7.30pm

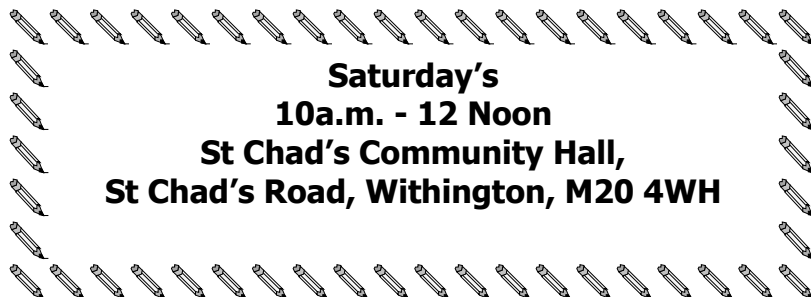
**Performing Pergolesi's 'Stabat Mater'
and Handel's Organ Concerto No 4 in F**

On 20 May, we are replacing our usual Communion service with a service of Evening Prayer in which music will be provided by the locally-based Gloriana Singers, a female choir who rehearse at Union Chapel. They will be conducted by Glynn Davies, the organist of Bakewell Parish Church and will be accompanied by the string section of the Peak Chamber Orchestra and myself on organ continuo. Admission is free - although a collection will be taken in aid of the Organ Fund. Please come and support this important event.

Robert Nicholls

St Chad's Artistic Explosion

**Explore your artistic side, join in
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**Saturday's
10a.m. - 12 Noon
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Contributions for the Magazine

If anyone has any articles to be inserted into future issues of the magazine please could you let Christine Hindley have your copy by the 15th of the month. If it needs typing Christine will need copy by the 12th of the month. Please do not send articles in PDF Format unless there are logos included in your article.

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PARISH CONTACTS

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Magazine Editor	Christine Hindley 0161 224 8067
Ladies Group	Mrs Jean Matthews 0161 445 5632
Flower Arranging in Church	Mrs Barbara Purvis 0161 286 1062
Child Protection Officer	Judith Fletcher/Leslie Bell 0161 248 7689

REGULAR SERVICES

IN CHURCH

Sunday	10.00am	Parish Eucharist
Tuesday	07.30pm	Holy Communion
Thursday	10.00am	Holy Communion

Also on the first Sunday of each month:

08.00am	Holy Communion
06.30pm	Evensong

IN THE HALL

1st Tuesday	08.00pm	PCC
2nd Tuesday	08.00pm	Ladies Group
3rd Tuesday	08.00pm	Book Group
4th Tuesday	08.00pm	Needlecraft Group

Baptisms, Banns, Weddings or Funerals by arrangement with the Vicar.