

THE MAGAZINE OF ST CHAD'S PARISH CHURCH LADYBARN

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DECEMBER 2014

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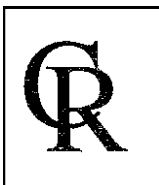
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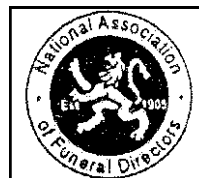
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December 2014

The season of Advent is once again upon us and that can only mean that Christmas is just around the corner. Christmas is an ideal opportunity to invite someone to join you as you come to church, whether that be on a Sunday morning, for the carol service, the midnight service on Christmas Eve or for our short service of Holy Communion on Christmas Day.

So have a think about who you would like to bring with you to St Chad's this Christmas-time and issue your invitation to them. Remember to tell folks to wrap up warm for church this winter as the heating may not be sorted for a while yet.

These are St Chad's Christmas services

Sunday 21st December – The Carol Service is at 6.30pm. Come along and join in the traditional carols and then warm up with seasonal refreshments in the hall afterwards.

Christmas Eve – The First Communion of Christmas (Midnight Mass) begins at 11.30pm.

Christmas Day – Join us for a forty minute service of Holy Communion with carols to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

New Year's Day

This year to celebrate the New Year our New Year's Day service will be a short (forty minute) service of traditional Matins with carols beginning at 11am. Everyone is welcome, so do come and join us as we look ahead to 2015.

Bible studies

Wednesday morning and Thursday evening bible studies take a break during December and will re-commence on Wednesday 14th and Thursday 15th January. Anyone is welcome to join either of these groups where we usually explore our thoughts around the bible readings for the following Sunday morning.

Times of the groups are in the diary page each month.

Rev'd Elizabeth Davies
Priest in Charge

The Vicar:

The Reverend
E J Davies
1 St Chad's Road
Withington
M20 4WH
Tel: 445 1185

Churchwarden:

Judith Fletcher
5 Brecon Avenue
Burnage
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M19 2NJ
Tel: 248 7689

Lay Reader:

John Milner
Tel: 07957 139002

Lay Reader:

Helen Reid
Tel: 0161 434 4902

A FEW THOUGHTS ABOUT A VERY COLD CHURCH !

Following the breakdown of our 50 year old boiler, we find ourselves at a crucial moment in the history of St Chad's, Ladybarn. On looking around the internet at how other churches have managed similar situations, it does seem that such crises can be treated as opportunities.

For instance, at St Andrew's in Ramsbottom, the church roof was recently seriously damaged, following a lightning strike. The response of the congregation is interesting to read about, and this is a quote from a newspaper article about their situation.

"We did not just want to put the building back the way it was, but to make St Andrew's better than ever. The church building is for everyone, not just people who worship here each Sunday."

If you remember from a previous magazine article, we were beginning to make positive moves towards the creation of a Mission Action Plan, here at St Chad's. Despite the major boiler hiccup, Elizabeth, the PCC, and I, all feel strongly that a Mission Action Plan for St Chad's cannot be put on hold. Instead it must be at the heart of our thinking.

Richard Byrom, chair of the Manchester Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC), wrote in a recent CRUX article, that :

"To conserve our church buildings, we must make them work for us in mission. If these much-loved buildings are not vibrant centres of mission, the probability is that the costs of upkeep will overwhelm an ageing congregation, and the building will become flats, or offices, or a warehouse. It may involve disturbing changes, but a church which is not a vibrant centre of mission is unlikely to survive"

The idea of 'mission ' is sometimes hard for us to grasp. However, last March, with Bishop David, we used the framework of the 5 Marks of Mission, as we struggled with what is meant. These 5 Marks are : Telling and Teaching about our faith; Tending the vulnerable within our community; Transforming in-justice, and Treasuring our fragile planet. These activities all make up our mission to Ladybarn and we know that we already tick many of these boxes.

It would be good if we could create a further space that will enable us to continue and develop such 'missionary' work. Such a space would be best if it was warm and welcoming, with flexible arrangements as to how it can be used for different purposes, including day conferences, concerts and small community group meetings. For example, Ladybarn Ward Co-ordinators already use the church building regularly to meet. A re-ordered church building could also enhance our existing mid-week range of worship, perhaps with a quiet space available more regularly.

Continued on page 5

I have held conversations with members of our own church congregation along similar lines. One quote I remember is that St Chad's church is 'the largest covered space within our area, but totally under-used'. Perhaps, before we rush into 'just replacing the boiler' we should, as a church congregation, think carefully about how this un-used space could be developed, and always holding in mind our mission to serve this community.

Elizabeth has emailed our church architect, Nicholas Rank, outlining a few ways forward, and he seems prepared to help us with our thinking. A possible first step would be to consider a 'pod' type structure, probably within the South Aisle of the church, which would provide a small kitchen and some toilets. We would also require much improved IT facilities. This would then mean that the church building itself could become another community 'lettable space'. This would be useful as we are now running out of slots in the newly re-furbished Community Hall. So, the extended use of the church could :

- a) make further provision for the needs of the local community,
- b) provide opportunities for us to 'show-case' all that we do as a church...and why we do it, and
- c) bring us some much needed regular income.

The renewal of our building could therefore become a key part of our Mission Action Plan.

Two final thoughts are :

- a) that we need to explore with Diocesan Officers whether a temporary arrangement can be made to provide some heating in church, both for the sake of the people, and the church fabric; and
- b) if, and when, a plan for the church building begins to emerge, how we invite members of our congregation, alongside PCC members, to be involved in the detail of the planning and implementation.

Judy Fletcher

ADVENT GROUPS 2014

Themes, dates and times

We will be looking at the four final statements in the Nicene Creed as we explore some of the more challenging issues connected with our faith. We say this Creed every week at the Eucharist. What do *we* believe when we say, 'We believe'? What do others think about the same points? What do we say to people who might be exploring faith for the first time, or coming back after a long absence?

These sessions might help us to clarify what we think about these statements in the creed, and are designed to encourage people to explore the statements and to accept that absolutes may not always be possible.

The sessions will run as follows:

Wednesday 3 December Venue: St. Chad's

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins

Wednesday 10 December Venue: Holy Innocents

We look for the resurrection of the dead

Wednesday 17 December Venue: Holy Innocents

We look for the life of the world to come

Each session will begin at **7.30 p.m.**

All the evenings will follow a similar format.

There will be an introduction by the leader of up to **10 minutes**

There will then follow discussion and reflection of no more than **50 minutes**, with **Compline** starting no later than **8.30 p.m.**

Tea/coffee/tasty biscuits will be available no later than **8.45 p.m.** and people will be encouraged to carry on chatting informally about the topic.

Each session will finish off by **9.30 p.m.**

CAROL SINGING IN THE COMMUNITY

This year we will be carol singing in our local sheltered accommodation flats on two occasions.

On Thursday 11th December we will be at Royle Court and at Rowan Court

On Monday 15th December we will be at Oak Court and at Mayes Court

Each evening will begin when we meet in the church hall at 7pm or join us just after 7pm at Royle Court on Thursday 11th and Oak Court on Monday 15th.

Please do try to join us on one or both of these occasions as we take the Christmas message and Christmas greetings from St Chad's out into the community.

Bring your friends and family to sing with us. Everyone welcome.

From the Registers October 2014

Holy Baptism.

We welcome into God's family:

There were no baptisms during October

Holy Matrimony

We asked God's blessing on the marriage of:

There were no marriages during October

Christian Committal

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

Geoffrey Partington

Weekly collections (Includes plates and envelopes)

October 5th	£235.20
October 12th	£255.26
October 19th	£333.36
October 26th	£264.80

DIARY FOR DECEMBER 2014

2	Tuesday	7.30pm	Holy Communion
3	Wednesday	7.30pm	Advent Group at St. Chad's
6	Thursday	10.00am	Holy Communion
7	Sunday	10.00am	Holy Communion
9	Tuesday	7.30pm 8.00pm	No service this evening Ladies Group Christmas Event
10	Wednesday	7.30pm	Advent Group at Holy Innocents
11	Thursday	10.00am 7.00pm	Holy Communion Carol Singing in Royle Court and Rowan Court
14	Sunday	10.00am	Holy Communion
15	Monday	7.00pm	Carol Singing in Oak Court and Mayes Court
16	Tuesday	7.30pm 8.00pm	Holy Communion Book Group
17	Wednesday	7.30pm	Advent Group at Holy Innocents
18	Thursday	10.00am	Holy Communion
21	Sunday	10.00am 6.30pm	Holy Communion Carol Service
23	Tuesday		No service this evening
24	Christmas Eve	11.30pm	First Communion of Christmas (Midnight Mass)
25	Christmas Day	10.00am	Short Service of Holy Communion (40 minutes)
28	Sunday	10.00am	Holy Communion
30	Tuesday		No service this evening
1	New Year's Day	11.00am	Short service of traditional Matins with carols (40 minutes)

THE COMET AND CHRISTMAS

For many of us, the news in November was dominated by the risky landing on the comet 67P of the tiny robot *Philae*. It's there now 'sleeping' until, it's hoped it's batteries recharge in future sunlight, when it will, with luck, analyse the comets surface and find the so-called building blocks of life, which is where it gets really interesting.

As they told us at school, it was Victorian scientists who first discovered that all life as we know it is about the chemistry of carbon. Carbon is the only element from which not only dozens and hundreds of different kinds of chemicals can be built up by millions possibly billions! And then in the 20th century the big discovery in biology was that life on planet earth is written in a chemical code of only four complicated chemicals known by their initial letters as A, C, G and T. It's these, chemicals, in different combinations and permutations, that make up our genes and chromosomes. When those of our mothers and fathers join forces, and the code gets to work, after nine months you and I are the result!

Those complicated chemicals known as our DNA, are made up of simpler chemicals known as proteins and these in turn are composed of simpler stuff known as amino acids and these amino acids really do seem to be the building blocks of life, and, this was a big surprise, not long ago chemicals closely related to them were found in interstellar space, the space between the stars! This was an outstanding discovery, raising the question of whether the chemistry of life was brought to earth from space, possibly by comets.

But there's a problem. Francis Crick, of the double Helix, Crick and Watson fame, summarised the way the chemistry of life works in his famous, *Central Dogma of Molecular Biology*, which says that the way life unfolds is one way only, that we can go from DNA to RNA, and from RNA to proteins, and from proteins to amino acids, but not the other way round. There are no known processes where amino acids can become proteins or proteins assemble themselves into RNA, or RNA form DNA, except in living things. So the problem is: how can life start up the other way round? Darwin suggested a 'warm little pond'. But there's no known way, so far, as to how that could happen. Yet in a 'world that makes itself', which is how Victorian scientists who believed in God described our universe, it's how it must have happened. How can then we jump that gap between 'not-life' and life. This is where the comet 67P might help to bridge a great divide.

Which brings us to Christmas as the bridge over another great chasm, that between God and human beings, between the Divine and the Human. There's just no comparison. The human and the divine are so unlike in every way, one is of time the other of eternity; one is so limited, the other the source of all that exists.

In Christian understanding, this was part of the importance of Jesus as both God and man, human and divine. This is the doctrine of the Incarnation, by which God took flesh, our flesh, made of those very chemicals that the Lander, Philae, is trying to get to grips with on comet 67P. Christmas is not just about the birth of certain baby, it's about some very deep things indeed at the cutting edge of space science.

Albert Radcliffe.

**ST CHAD'S CHURCH
LADYBARN**

CAROL SERVICE

SUNDAY 21ST DECEMBER 2014

6.30P.M.

ALL WELCOME



Bethlehem.

The centre of the world has moved,
marked by the stars as it always is;
and rests now for a while,
not in Rome or Athens,
capitals of might and intellect;
but in Bethlehem,
the old forgotten town,
taken unawares,
when its moment came.

Tend him, Mary,
love the child.

He cries for milk and tender eyes,
warm breasts

and strong, dependant hands;
things of which we are most afraid.

History was becoming human
and we were busy with oblivion.

Albert Radcliffe

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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Sacristan	Mrs Barbara Purvis 0161 286 1062
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	Holy Communion
Tuesday	07.30pm	Holy Communion
Thursday	10.00am	Holy Communion

Also on the first Sunday of each month:

06.30pm	Evening Prayer
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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.
Please inform her of any sick parishioners.**