

# THE MAGAZINE OF ST CHAD'S PARISH CHURCH LADYBARN

Price 30p



NOVEMBER 2015

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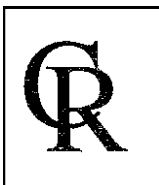
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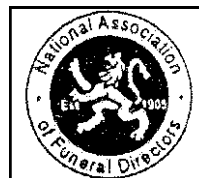
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## November 2015

**A**fter almost eight years as Rector of St Chad's, Ladybarn, the time has come for me to move on. I have spent some time over recent months looking for the job that was right for me to move to, and now I have found it. Once I move I will be just twelve miles from my home town – where my parents still live – and so it feels very much like a welcome home-coming.

On December 7<sup>th</sup> I will become Vicar of a group of parishes in Herefordshire. The countryside is very beautiful and the area is very rural, but it isn't isolated. A few miles to the north is the lovely city of Hereford. A few miles to the south is Monmouth. To the west is Abergavenny and seven miles to the east is Ross-on-Wye. The benefice (group of churches working together) is known as St Weonards Benefice, and the vicarage is in the village of St Weonards – where the biggest of the churches is.

You can read more about the benefice and see pictures of the churches here [www.stw.org.uk](http://www.stw.org.uk)

My last Sunday at St Chad's will be Remembrance Sunday. On that day Jenny is organising a parish lunch at 12 noon in the hall, to which everyone is invited. My thanks to Jenny for arranging this, and also to those who will help her with the preparations etc.

St Chad's has been very active over the past eight years. These are some of the projects that we have undertaken Restoration of the War Memorial in church. Expanding and improving the children's corner.

Rearrangement of the baptistery chairs plus new lighting and now our beautiful embroidery, which have all made for a more accessible place to welcome baptism families.

Creating a permanent home in church for the big wooden cross (which had spent so much time in the cellar) which means that we now have a lovely prayer area where our Holy Week services and some of our mid-week services are held.

Creation of the wildlife garden, to which we have now added the community orchard.

The staging of the World War One exhibition in church.

Extensive – and on-going – updating and modernisation of the Community Hall.

***Continued on page 4***

### **The Rector:**

The Reverend  
E J Davies  
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M20 4WH  
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### **Churchwarden:**

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Manchester  
M19 2NJ  
Tel: 248 7689

### **Churchwarden:**

Jenny Black  
4 Holcombe Road  
Fallowfield  
Manchester  
M14 6QX  
Tel: 286 3698

### **Lay Reader:**

John Milner  
Tel: 07957 139002

### **Lay Reader:**

Helen Reid  
Tel: 0161 434 4902

***Continued from page 3***

We've started a Book-group and a Craft-group. The Ladies Group has become the Tuesday Group. The loyal members of the Friday-group continue to look after the church and the grounds, and now we also have the Green-group caring for the community garden and keeping us in touch with 'Green' issues.

Over the years we've been visited by our local councillors, two Lord Mayors, three bishops, Archdeacons, Area Deans, people who have come to celebrate new births, those who have come to remember loved ones, local people who have come to our social events, and others who have come into church just because they saw the door open. Everyone has found a welcome, and to everyone we have offered a place of prayer and a place of faith.

Just as this move will be a new and exciting chapter in my life and in my ministry, so it also offers to St Chad's and its people an opportunity to move forwards in new and different ways. It's a chance to explore the pattern of worship that we have, and make appropriate changes. It's a chance to explore the possibility of a shared ministry with another local church – or churches. It's a chance to evaluate the work and mission of the past few years and to think about how all of that can be carried into the future with creativity, enthusiasm and faith.

Thank you to the many people who have helped me, over the years, in my ministry at St Chad's – especially those who have been my churchwardens and Treasurer, but also those who have understood the difficult times. Although there is the inevitable sadness at leaving a place and a people that have been a part of my life for eight years, it is the right time – the right time for me and also the right time for St Chad's.

It is my hope and my prayer that, in the weeks and months to come, St Chad's people will work together to find good ways forward, and that St Chad's community of faith will continue to be a central part of this local community, welcoming friend and stranger. Pray for me in my new endeavours – as I will pray for you, in yours.

With every blessing  
Reverend Elizabeth Davies

New address  
St Weonards Vicarage  
Mount Way  
St Weonards  
Herefordshire  
HR2 8NN

### **From the Registers September 2015**

#### **Holy Baptism.**

*We welcome into God's family:*

#### **Holy Matrimony**

*We asked God's blessing on the marriage of:*

#### **Christian Committal**

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

#### **Weekly collections (Includes plates and envelopes)**

06/09/2015	£212.60
13/09/2015	£272.90
20/09/2015	£296.30
27/09/2015	£306.11

### **A Window on St Chad's.**

Our heartiest congratulations to Philip Bethell on his 103rd birthday! Yes! One hundred and third birthday on the 24th of October. We wish him the best of years with his family.

And to Helen Reid on achieving a Foundation of Arts degree from the University of Chester and the Diocese of Manchester,

Also to Leslie Fletcher on a Lifetime Achievement Award for helping set up Maths Support Services nationally for students who struggle with the maths required for their degree, for example, student nurses.

And to Helen Fagan for winning the Southways Competition to name the new building on the site of the old British Legion, It will be named Hayward Court.

And lastly to Christine Hindley on becoming a Great Aunt for the 6th time! Alexander is a son to Fiona and Jay.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Science and Religion evening on Robots and Cyborgs on October 7th was a great success. Over 30 people attended. The subject was the PhD thesis of Scott Midson, a student of Professor Peter Scott. Scott was an engaging speaker who held the audience throughout and fielded a very varied series of questions clearly and expertly.

Trena Radcliffe.



A COURSE FOR THE CHRISTIAN JOURNEY

# Advent course for St Chad's & Holy Innocents

Pilgrim is a major new teaching and discipleship resource from the Church of England. It aims to help every local church create a place where people can explore the Christian faith together and see how it can be lived out each day. It approaches the great issues of faith not through persuasion, but participation in a pattern of contemplation and discussion with a group of fellow travellers.

Rather eccentrically, we are starting with the eighth and last stage of the Pilgrim course, Church and Kingdom. This fits well with this part of the Church's year when the readings and prayers at the Eucharist focus on the kingdom of God. We shall be exploring what it means to live as a child of the kingdom of God and to follow in the way of Christ each day as a member of his Church.

The course book has around 8 pages of resources on each of the 6 sessions with

- Opening prayers
- Bible reading
- Reflection on the Bible reading; the one for Session 6 was written by Bishop David
- Discussion points
- Thoughts for the week
- Closing prayers

Each session will begin at 7.30pm and be brought to an end at 9.00pm with several opportunities for conversation and discussion.

The topics for the six sessions are:

- 1. Praying through Life:** Explores the importance of prayer, particularly daily prayer for the Christian life. *11 November at St Chad's*
- 2. At home and at work:** Looks at how we live out our faith every day and of the importance of Sabbath. *18 November at Holy Innocents*
- 3. Living generously:** Considers what it means to reflect the generosity of God in our own lives. *25 November at St Chad's*
- 4. In all my relationships:** Looks at how faith in the God who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit shapes and changes all our relationships. *2 December at Holy Innocents*
- 5. Confronting the injustices of the world:** Asks how does the Christian life require us to be involved in the affairs of the world and to witness to God's kingdom of peace and justice every day? *9 December at St Chad's*
- 6. Treading lightly on the earth:** Explores our relationship with the earth itself. *16 December at Holy Innocents*

## **Autumn/Advent at St Chad's & Holy Innocents**

### **The Pilgrim course – *Church and Kingdom***

Evenings begin at 7.30pm at either St Chad's or Holy Innocents (venues to follow). Everyone is welcome to these friendly, informal evenings. Hot drinks and biscuits served.

### **Dates and themes**

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November – '*Praying through life*'  
Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> November – '*At home and at work*'  
Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> November – '*Living generously*'  
Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December – '*In all my relationships*'  
Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December – '*Confronting the injustices of the world*'  
Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December – '*Treading lightly on the earth*'

***The accompanying booklet is available from Elizabeth.***

## **Holocaust Study Day at Menorah Synagogue on Thursday 12th November 2015.**

Each year for over ten years now I have been involved in the Holocaust Study Day at Menorah Synagogue. The Nazi's systematic slaughter of 6 million European Jews from 1941-45 is the best documented and most studied of the world's many genocides. To understand human nature and the nature of evil and to prevent such things happening again it's essential to come to terms with what took place at the heart of Europe. This half-day programme at Menorah Synagogue is a local and important contribution to our Christian understanding. I heartily recommend it. Programme details and Entry Forms can found at the back of Church.

**Canon Albert Radcliffe.**

## DIARY FOR NOVEMBER 2015

1	All Saints Sunday	10.00am 6.30pm	Holy Communion All Souls Service
3	Tuesday	7.30pm 7.30pm	PCC Meeting at St. Chad's Taize Service at St. Nicholas
4	Wednesday	11.00am	Bible Study Tea/Coffee from 10.30am)
5	Thursday	10.00am 8.00pm	Holy Communion Bible Study
8	Remembrance Sunday	10.00am	Holy Communion ending with a short act of Remembrance This is Elizabeth's last service at St. Chad's, there will be a parish lunch in the hall at 12 noon (following tea/coffee)
10	Tuesday	8.00pm	Tuesday Group
11	Wednesday	8.00pm	At St. Chad's autumn/advent Pilgrim course meeting
15	Sunday	10.00am	Holy Communion
17	Tuesday	8.00pm	Book Group
18	Wednesday	8.00pm	At Holy Innocent's autumn/advent Pilgrim Course meeting
19	Thursday	10.00am	Holy Communion
22	Sunday	10.00am	Holy Communion
24	Tuesday	7.30pm 8.00pm	Evening Prayer Needlework Group
25	Wednesday	8.00pm	At St. Chad's autumn/advent Pilgrim course meeting
29	Advent Sunday	10.00am	Holy Communion

## YOUR NAME DAY PERHAPS!

In many European and South American countries it's the custom not only to celebrate your birthday but also the name of the saint your called after. So, for example, my name being Albert, I would celebrate on 15th November, St Albert's day! And, as St Albert is the patron saint of one my hobbies and interests, the Physical Sciences, it's a day I don't let go by unobserved!

Although all saints originally had their feast days, sometimes their dates are forgotten. For example, St Weonnard's [pronounced Wonnards] where Elizabeth will be serving when she leaves St Chad's has no known saint's day. Weonnard was a Celtic saint, probably a hermit, and an old window, which no longer exists, showed him carrying an axe. Nothing more is known about him.

And through association, some saints became patron saints, that is they were believed to sustain with their prayers members of a particular group, say a country or a trade or profession. Some like St Dismas [25th March], he was the Penitent Thief, was patron of only one group, Undertakers, and he had to share that with Joseph of Arimathea! While others, like St Barbara [4th December], were patrons of whole multitudes. In Barbara's case, miners, artillerymen, firemen, foundry workers, architects, mathematicians, stonemasons, makers of fireworks, builders and many more. Her cult was very popular even though the lack of evidence as to her very existence meant that in 1969 her name was removed from the list of saints by the Vatican. Apologies to every Barbara in the parish!

Some patron saints come as no surprise: St Vitus, for example, is the patron saint of dancers, while St Lawrence, who was martyred by being roasted alive on a gridiron, is the patron saint of cooks. By some perverse love of irony he is also the patron saint of comedians!

It's surprising what church history can turn up with a little digging. Do you know your name day? If you're Catherine, then November 25th is St Catherine's day and if your name is Andrew, then it's the 30th. You could be there somewhere.

**Albert Radcliffe.**



**Saint of the Month.  
November 22nd  
St Cecilia  
Martyr of Rome c.230.**

**T**he one thing that most people know about St Cecilia is that she is the patron saint of music and is often shown playing a viola, an organ or other musical instrument. Together with King David, Brigid of Ireland, Columba of Iona and Gregory of Nazianen, St Cecilia is also a patron saint of poets.

And that's about all that is known of her! The rest is 5th century romantic legend, according to which she was a young Christian of patrician class betrothed to a pagan called Valerian. However, as she had consecrated her virginity to God, the marriage could not be consummated. Valerian honoured her vow and he and his brother Tibertius were baptised. Later, they were martyred, together with a Roman soldier called Maximus and their martyrdoms are usually accepted as historical.

When, sometimes afterwards, Cecilia was also arrested she too was said to have refused to offer a pagan sacrifice and was sentenced to be suffocated in the bathroom of her house. As the heat and steam failed to kill her a soldier was ordered to behead her.

Cecilia's supposed body was found in 1599 when the church dedicated to her, Santa Cecilia in Trastevere, believed to have been built on the ruins of her house, was rebuilt. Since then her fame has rested on her being the patron saint of music. Her connection with music stems from the story in her legend that as the organs were playing at her wedding feast, she sang to herself, 'May my heart be unsullied, so that I be not confounded.'

John Dryden and Alexander Pope wrote poems for her; Henry Purcell composed his Ode to St Cecilia, and Marc-Antoine Charpentier, George Frederic Handel, Charles Gounod and Benjamin Britten who was born on her feast day in 1913, also composed in her honour. Her connection with music has guaranteed that in an age saturated with music like ours the unknown Cecilia will never be forgotten.

**Albert Radcliffe**



## **ROBOTS AND REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY**

Before the Falklands War in 1982, it was incredibly difficult to get clergy born after the Second World War to observe Remembrance Sunday. For them it seemed a jingoistic sort of day and it was 'time to move on.' But that year, numbers in church and at cenotaphs began to rise notably. In 2015, now that international violence dominates the news it's universally seen as a time to ponder our human attachment to war and violence as solutions.

As well as remembering gratefully the dead of two World Wars and praying for those serving our country in today's armed forces, we reflect too on the ever changing nature of warfare, and that means thinking how, in the very near future, automated weapons systems, or 'killerbots' are likely to dominate military thinking and the battlefield.

Already, the \$200,000 Samsung Techwin SGR A1 robot sentry with its 5.5 mm machine gun and optional grenade launcher patrols the demilitarised zone between North and South Korea. It can detect a possible intruder 2 miles away. At the moment, each stationary sentry has a human handler but these could be dispensed with at some future date.

The problem is, that such autonomous weapons systems are not covered by the Geneva conventions under which all human military operate. Earlier this year, at Geneva, a meeting of the United Nations failed to reach agreement on how the rules of war might be extended and implemented. Further meetings and attempts will be made shortly. Important though it is, media coverage is likely to be slight as public interest at the moment only focuses on what everyday jobs, like bus driver or accountant, are likely to be made redundant.

As artificial intelligence grows ever more sophisticated even the jobs of generals and military strategists are at risk.

Not long ago, thoughts like these would have been dismissed as 'sci-fi', science fiction, but today, when so much finance in the City of London is decided and managed by 'computers', that is automatic or robot systems under another name, we should not be surprised to find that the dependence of management on robots systems in all areas of life is growing exponentially.

'War is too important to be left to robots.' Is it as simple as that slogan might have us believe? Or is it humans who are the more naive here?

This, of course, complicates the whole discussion about, as well as our prayers, for peace. If anyone thinks that the threat is exaggerated we should note that the international Campaign to Stop Killer Robots is serious and already two years old. Stephen Hawking is not the only one to think that while robot systems can be great blessing they also constitute a threat greater than any we have faced so far.

Few days in the calendar are as important as Remembrance Sunday. I, for one, will begin taking politicians as seriously as they should be taken when the military role of robots crops up as an urgent topic in Prime Minister's Question Time.

**Albert Radcliffe.**

## **MIDDLEMARCH:**

**George Eliot**

When a book is labelled 'One of the greatest books in English Literature', it can cause readers to feel quite intimidated. Don't allow such a reputation to prevent you from reading 'Middlemarch'. It is a tantalising insight into the life of a small town in early 19C England, and told through the interwoven lives of the central characters

Dorothea Brooke, an idealistic young woman, rejects the attentions of a local baronet in favour of a dry, elderly clergyman, Mr Casaubon. Later she meets a handsome, young artist, Will Ladislav, and the two young people are mutually attracted. The Mayor of Middlemarch, Mr Vincy, and his wife, have a daughter, Rosamond, who is recognised as the most beautiful and accomplished girl in the town. Tertius Lydgate, a young, ambitious doctor recently arrived in the district, is quite mesmerised by her, and within a short time they marry. Rosamond's brother Fred, in spite of his educational advantages, does not have a future career in mind, instead, he is drawn to hunting and gambling rather than to any kind of meaningful employment. He is in love with Mary Garth, a hardworking girl, brought up with high moral standards, though not from the same social group as the Vincys. Circling around this central group, is Mr Bulstrode, the banker, who sees himself as the lynchpin of the community and likes to behave accordingly.

It is intriguing to read about these people, when they are characterised in such detail, and through them, to see a picture of a town at a particular time of English history. The etiquette of that society; the place of women; the constraints of social class, the problems of life inside an unhappy marriage and the effects of the early changes of industrialisation which are beginning to take place.

This is a complex novel, a portrait of a time, which presents questions as relevant today, as they were when the book was written. What makes a good marriage? What does it mean to be important? How should we treat people with whom we interact? This is a long book, but beautifully written, and with such skill, that the pages fly by, whilst the world of Middlemarch becomes more and more fascinating. Enjoy!

**Barbara Leary**

### **Books we will be reading from November to January**

November King Solomon's Carpet - Barbara Vine

December The Mayor of Casterbridge - Thomas Hardy

January Defending Jacob - William Landay

## 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.

## St Chad's Artistic Explosion

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Tuesday Group	Mrs Jenny Black	0161 286 3698
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 or Evening Prayer
Thursday	10.00am	Holy Communion

Also on the first Sunday of each month:

06.30pm	Evensong
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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.**