



# WELCOME TO ST CHAD LADYBARN

www.stchadladybarn.org.uk



This morning we welcome the Revd Bill Raines to preside and preach

**Gospel acclamation Reader:** Alleluia! Alleluia! There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light. **Response: Alleluia!**

### This morning's music

- 842 Ye servants of the Lord
- 286 Hark! A herald voice is calling
- 152 Dear Lord and Father of mankind
- 22 All praise to our redeeming Lord
- 200 Forth in the peace of Christ we go

### This morning's readings

**Baruch 5.1-9** (reader: Barbara Purvis); **Benedictus**,  
**Philippians 1.3-11** (reader: Kathleen Mulligan);  
**Luke 3.1-6** (Gospeller: Opal Walsh).  
**Intercessor:** Judy Fletcher.

### Today's Eucharistic Prayer:

#### At the lighting of 2nd Advent candle

Lord Jesus, light of the world, the prophets said you would bring peace and save your people in trouble. Give peace in our hearts at Christmas and show all the world God's love.

**Tea and coffee are served in the Hall after the morning service: all welcome**

### Collect for 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power and come among us, and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness we are grievously hindered in running the race that is set before us, your bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory, now and for ever.

### Post-Communion: 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

### 6.30pm today

#### Evensong

#### Readings

### Hymns & Psalms

- 140 Come, thou long-expected Jesus      Psalms 75
- 722 The Lord will come and not be slow      449 Lo, he comes with clouds descending
- Isaiah 40.1-11; Luke 1.1-25

### Thanks to all who helped last week with:

Christian Aid's "Advent Hope" service last Sunday. £159 was raised; enough to buy 106 insecticide-treated mosquito nets to help reduce the risk of malaria in Nigeria.  
 yesterday's festive and sociable Christmas Coffee Morning yesterday; £335 was raised

### This week and further ahead

- 8 December ~ Tuesday      8.00pm Tuesday Group meeting
- 9 December ~ Wednesday      7.30pm at St Chad's (?): 5<sup>th</sup> session of Pilgrim course: **Confronting the injustices of the world.** Considers how the Christian life requires us to be involved in the affairs of the world and to witness to God's kingdom of peace and justice every day.
- 13 December ~ Sunday      Congregational consultation on the preparation of the *Statement of Need* which sets out what we are seeking from our next parish priest. It is a crucial part of the recruitment process so please think and pray about what you would like included.
- 14 December ~ Monday      Carol singing in the "Courts": 7.15pm Mayes Court, 8.00 pm Oak Court
- 15 December ~ Tuesday      Carol singing in the "Courts": 7.15pm Royle Court, 8.00 pm Rowan Court
- 20 December ~ Sunday      3.30pm Carol Service. See Robert if you would like to sing in the extended choir; rehearsals are on Fridays 4, 11 & 18 December at 7.30pm.

### Pastoral care during the interregnum

During the interregnum, please make the Churchwardens aware of illness and similar issues affecting people associated with St Chad's, need for pastoral visits or Home Communion, &c. Telephone calls to the Rectory telephone number (445 1185) will be diverted to a mobile phone which the churchwardens are taking turns to be responsible for.

**Readings next Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent: Zephaniah 3.14-20** (reader: Leslie Fletcher);

**Philippians 4.4-7** (reader: Jenny Black); **Luke 3.7-18** (Gospel: Opal Walsh). **Readings now Year C**

**Intercessor:** Opal Walsh. **President:** The Revd Keith Justice

## Update on ministry at St Chad's in the short, medium and long term

The Churchwardens had a conversation with Archdeacon Mark after the Parish Eucharist on 22 November. He made them aware that Diocesan thinking about the appointment of a new priest for St Chad's had changed significantly since he spoke to the PCC on 6 October. We invited the Revd Stephen Edwards, Area Dean of Withington, to the PCC meeting last Tuesday to give us more details of what is proposed.

He told us that the emerging plan is for a full-time appointment of a priest who will spend half of her or his time at St Chad's and the other half possibly as a mission support priest in the Deanery as a whole. Deanery clergy are preparing the case this post which will be first presented to the Deanery Mission and Pastoral Committee for approval, expecting the Diocese to give the go-ahead in the near future. The position would be similar to that of the Revd Peter Matthews who came to St Chad's in April to talk about mission to young adults. He spends some of his time at St Bride's Old Trafford and the rest as Young Adults Missioner for the Manchester Archdeaconry.

The implications for the appointment process are still being worked out. The Statement of Need, which sets out what we are seeking from our next parish priest, is almost ready to submit to the Archdeacon. So that everyone has the opportunity to read it and give their views, the final draft will be on an A4 notice sheet next Sunday. The PCC has discussed a draft of the Parish Profile which must be finalised by mid-January. It is important that we show ourselves to be a thoughtful congregation, aware of and well prepared for the far-reaching changes which are coming.

This joint post will be attractive so there is every hope that experienced priests will apply and that the new priest may be here by June or July. Whether he or she will live in the Rectory is as yet undecided. The Rectory was inspected recently by staff from the Diocesan Property Department, which always happens at the start of an interregnum. They will advise on the suitability of the Rectory for a new priest.

Stephen told us that whether the new priest will be an incumbent or, like Elizabeth, a priest-in-charge is also undecided. He pointed out that, as far as the congregation is concerned, this is a distinction without any significant difference.

Looking from a Deanery point of view, the forthcoming steep decline in the number of stipendiary clergy in the Diocese means it is still necessary to reduce the number in the deanery to eight by 2025. In one possible scenario for 2025 there would be a team of four stipendiary priests serving the churches in the Deanery north of the River Mersey – that is, in Burnage, Didsbury, Ladybarn and Withington. For this to work our collaboration with St Nicholas, already an excellent example of what can be achieved, may need to widen to take in all these churches.

These developments are part of *Fit for Mission*, the new Diocesan strategy taking forward Bishop Nigel's *Run the Race*. Launching the new strategy, Bishop David wrote “We are called to consider how we best match [our] resources to the needs and opportunities of the present day, yet in such a way as to pass them on in good health to those who will follow us.” Read the rest of his letter here<sup>1</sup>.

Archdeacon Mark is coming again to St Chad's to preside and preach at the Parish Eucharist on 24 February. We can expect him to tell us more about this exciting new prospect for St Chad's.

On a more immediate note, in response to misgivings expressed by members of the congregation, the PCC reversed its decision not to hold the Midnight Eucharist on Christmas Eve so this service will go ahead as hitherto. We have found a way of combining it with an altar in the nave, which is necessary for the service at 10am on Christmas Day, without wholesale re-arranging of furniture which would have been impossible in the time available.

Leslie Fletcher  
PCC Secretary

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.manchester.anglican.org/run-the-race-the-next-lap/bishops-letter>