

THE MAGAZINE OF ST CHAD'S PARISH CHURCH LADYBARN

Price 30p



DECEMBER 2015

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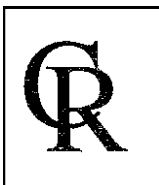
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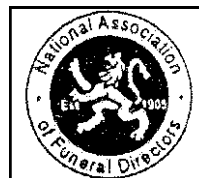
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To all who are part of St Chad's congregation and wider family,

During this period of interregnum Jenny and I will be writing the Editorial article for each of our monthly Parish Magazines. We thought that a useful focus for the December Magazine would be an explanation of the **Parish Profile** document that the Archdeacon of Manchester has specifically asked us to create. Whichever way forward for St Chad's Bishop David decides upon, the PCC has the responsibility of preparing this profile and the deadline for it to be sent into the Diocese is early January 2016.

The Parish Profile must set out :

•key facts and figures about St Chad's and it's Parish ;

- ♦ the pattern and style of worship at St Chad's ;
- ♦ • what we see as our Strengths and our Weaknesses ; and what Opportunities and Threats we think may lie ahead. This is often referred to as a SWOT analysis ;
- ♦ the mission we feel we are already fulfilling within Ladybarn, and also the mission that we hope to develop. Much of this is already drawn up in our Mission Action Plan agreed by the PCC last August ;
- ♦ • what we have achieved recently ; and areas for growth and development that we hope for within the next phase of life at St Chad's ;
- ♦ what we hope for from our next parish priest, set out in a **Statement of Need**. Archdeacon Mark urged us to be specific, but famously added that we should not appear to be looking for a priest who outshines the Archangel Gabriell!

At our November meeting the PCC created a Working Party to begin to draft the Parish Profile and Statement of Need. The Working Party has almost completed the DRAFT Profile and is currently preparing a DRAFT Statement of Need. As this is such an important part of the Profile we thought we would include the headings being used so that you can all think and pray about what should be included in this section. The headings are : **WORSHIP AND SPIRITUALITY : MISSION DEVELOPMENT : MINISTRY AND DISCIPLESHIP and WAYS OF WORKING**. Please reflect upon these headings, and also talk to any member of the PCC about what you would hope to see in a new priest for St Chad's. You could also consult with people from within the Ladybarn community, who may also have something to contribute to this discussion.

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The PCC will meet next on Tuesday 1st December to create a final DRAFT Parish Profile. We then plan to present this draft document to the congregation, for discussion and comment. This will probably be one Sunday morning in December, after the Parish Eucharist. Hopefully, the final document will be agreed at the January PCC meeting on January 5th. Then it goes off to Archdeacon Mark and Bishop David !

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a peaceful Christmas.

Judy and Jenny

A WINDOW ON ST CHAD'S

Our congratulations to:-

Father Colin Powell on the 50th anniversary of his being instituted by Bishop Greer as Rector of his first parish at St Luke's, Cheetham (65-81), His fifty years of faithful ministry was celebrated at the cathedral at Evensong on the day of the anniversary.

And also to Leslie and Judy as part of the Brecon Avenue Alley Group who have won 1st prize in the 'In Your Neighbourhood' category of the Royal Horticultural Society for 'greening' their alleyway. They have flower and vegetable planters, interesting bin housing, climbing plants and seating areas. Peter Knight and Muriel helped in the initial stages of the project.

Congratulations too to all involved in our Green Group on winning a Silver Certificate from the Royal Horticultural Society for their work on the Community Orchard.



Look out for the new embroidered altar and credence table cloths brought back from Sheila and Barbara's recent holiday and donated to St Chad's. The new cloths will be used for the first time at Christmas.

Pam's daughter Sara is now thankfully back at school and able to take part in all activities after an emergency operation on a burst appendix. It is a great relief to her family.

Sheila is delighted that her son Robert and two of his daughters have moved back to Manchester, he for business reasons and the girls for work opportunities,

Trena Radcliffe.

From the Registers October 2015

Holy Baptism.

We welcome into God's family:

There were no Baptism's in October

Holy Matrimony

We asked God's blessing on the marriage of:

There were no Wedding's in October

Christian Committal

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

There were no Funeral's in October

Weekly collections (Includes plates and envelopes)

4/10/2015	£280.50
11/10/2015	£2,313.75
18/10/2015	£301.70
24/5/2015	£232.50

ST PAUL`S C.E.PRIMARY SCHOOL EXHIBITION

On the 11th November we were invited to attend the official opening of the World War I Centenary Exhibition at St Paul`s School..

We began with the Assembly at 10.15 am, during which we saw a film of some of the scenes of the war. We then heard the story of Nurse Vera`s experiences as a nurse during the war, with a demonstration of some of the treatments given to the wounded soldiers, with the children as volunteers, and closed with a service of remembrance.

At 11.05 we watched the official opening of the exhibition and enjoyed a private view, which included many interesting displays and some fascinating items lent by local families. We were very impressed by the art work done by the children which brought the exhibition to life.

The event closed with refreshments and a chance to talk with the dedicated staff who had created the display.

It was a most enjoyable experience.

**Muriel Hargreaves
John Davies**

THE SECRET HISTORY

By Donna Tartt

Donna Tartt is an American author from Mississippi. Her vivid, expressive writing feels unusual when it is compared with some other contemporary American literary fiction. Instead of short, abrupt sentences with an emphasis on dialogue, she uses her eloquent language skills to create the image of an academic society in East Coast America. The narrative flows so seamlessly that it becomes less a storyline, but rather, an enticing summons into the self absorbed world of a group of students.

This is the world, of a closely-knit circle of introspective classics students at a small elite college in Vermont. One of them, Richard Papen, is the narrator. Many years later, he reflects on the traumatic events of that time, which eventually led to murder. Although Bunny Corcoran's death occurs in the opening chapter, few details are given at the time. The remainder of the book, explores the extraordinary circumstances which led to Bunny's death, and delves into the lives of the other members of this socially and academically isolated group.

The impact of the tragedy, on the remaining students, is ultimately much more devastating than their initial reactions suggest, and the catastrophe eventually destroys the tremendous potential of so many promising lives. The book explores in detail, the way in which the students deal with Bunny's death and charts the increase in their psychological problems, as the search for the killer intensifies.

The students of the story are never anything less than tangible, the real genius of the writer. Henry, a gifted linguist with a passion for the lives of the ancient Greeks; the twins Charles and Camilla, who are charming but secretive, Francis, a gay scholar whose country home becomes a sanctuary for the group, Bunny, more comfortable reading Fu Manchu than Greek tragedy, and Richard, who feels the need to hide his mediocre background from the stylishness of his newly acquired friends.

The novel has different, but interwoven themes; aestheticism, the contrasting attitudes towards social class, and it also deals with guilt on several different levels. However, the writing is so skilful, it is only on reflection that these aspects of the book become apparent.

If you only read one book this year, do choose 'The Secret History' It is an amazing and very enjoyable experience.

Barbara Leary

We scored this book 10/10

The Book for December is The Mayor of Casterbridge

Contributions for the Magazine

If anyone has any articles to be inserted into January's issue of the magazine please could you let Christine Hindley have your copy by the 15th December. Articles submitted after this time will unfortunately not be able to be included in the magazine for January. If it needs typing Christine will need copy by the 12th December. Please do not send articles in PDF Format if possible unless there are logos included in your article.

CAROL SINGING IN THE COURTS

Robert Nicholls, our organist, has once again set up the dates for us to sing carols with the residents in their common rooms. They are:-

Monday December 14th 7.15 pm Mayes Court: 8pm Oak Court

Tuesday December 15th 7.15pm Royal Court: 8pm Rowan Court.

If you are free on either or both these dates and times please come along and join us; carol sheets are provided and Robert provides the musical accompaniment. If you require any further information please have a word with Robert, the church wardens or myself.

Helen Reid

The God we've exiled.

He took in his arms the paradox of man
as all the ambiguities of God
lay hidden in the warmth of that new flesh.
Ahead, swarmed the uncertainties of Egypt
like locusts on the far horizon;
while, behind, the threat of Herod's riders
stirred the desert sand hot beneath their feet.
Mary bared her breast to give suck to their son,
and turn their helplessness into prayer.
'Lord God of Israel', she began,
as the child drew hard to milk her breast,
and Joseph moved to put her, nipple-sore,
into his shadow. 'May he grow to serve you,
in the Kingdom that defies this world of fear.'
The shadow moved. 'What is righteousness?',
it asked. 'What of life and its stories?'
'What when our prayers are not the authors of our lives?
Then when, one by one, the stars came out, the child slept.
and they began again their journey into night.
Faith, he knew is traveling with our questions unresolved.
'Amen! Grant him love and wisdom,' she asked.
'Neither an old man nor a baby boy need more.'

Albert Radcliffe.

Saint of the Month December 17th O Sapientia.

O Sapientia is the first of the seven ancient antiphons traditionally used in the western church during the last seven days of Advent. They were omitted from the Book of Common Prayer in 1549 but restored in 1661 when they were transferred from December 16th to the 17th. And from there we get the O Sapientia listing in Common Worship.

The Latin, O Sapientia, means Wisdom and is one of the titles of Jesus as the Christ or Messiah. In other words, Jesus is the Wisdom of God.

It's possible that a little hidden wordplay expands the meaning here, in that if the first letters of the seven titles are read backwards, they spell out an acrostic, Ero Cras, which can mean, Tomorrow I will come, which is the meaning of Advent! The ancient 'O' antiphons are taken up in the Advent hymn, O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.

In the 1690s, the French composer, Marc-Antoine Charpentier, wrote a setting for the antiphons, Ralph Vaughan Williams composed a plainsong setting and, more recently, the Estonian composer, Arvo Part, set them in a German translation for an unaccompanied choir.

However, in the absence of a choir how is the day best observed in an ordinary parish church? Perhaps by meditating on that important but neglected word, Wisdom.

In an world that's changing as rapidly as ours wisdom was never more urgently needed, not only by politicians but by us all as we struggle with social, intellectual and technological transitions more radical than any the world has ever known. Yet, when it comes to wisdom, theologians and philosophers have surprisingly little to say about the subject. Why is this, especially when a number of books in the Bible are classified as Wisdom literature, for example, Job, Proverbs and Ecclesiastes? And Jesus, as well as being a prophet and a rabbi, was also a teacher of wisdom.

It's time the Church began thinking again about what we have lost by abandoning interest in the word. For a start, it has impoverished our understanding of Jesus. What's wise in regard to climate change for example, or the growing use of robots and artificial intelligence. O Sapientia is an important reminder of all such urgent questions.

Albert Radcliffe

DIARY FOR DECEMBER 2015

1st	Tuesday	7.30pm 7.30pm 8.00pm	Holy Communion Taize at St. Nicholas, Burnage PCC
5th	Saturday	10.00am - 12 noon	Christmas Coffee Morning with stalls
6th	Sunday	10.00am 6.30pm	Holy Communion Evensong
8th	Tuesday	8.00pm	Tuesday Group Carols and Mince Pies
9th	Wednesday	7.30pm	At Holy Innocent's autumn/advent Pilgrim Course meeting
13th	Sunday	10.00am	Holy Communion
14th	Monday	7.15pm	Carol Singing at Oak Court and Mayes Court
15th	Tuesday	7.15pm	Carol Singing at Royle Court and Rowan Court
16th	Wednesday	7.30pm	At St. Chad's autumn/advent Pilgrim Course meeting
17th	Thursday	10.00am	Holy Communion
20th	Sunday	10.00am 3.00pm	Holy Communion Carol Singing
25th	Friday Christmas Day	10.00am	Parish Eucharist
27th	Sunday	10.00am	Holy Communion
1st Jan.	Friday New Year's Day	11.00am	Mattins

SUNDAY 29th NOVEMBER 2015

6.30pm

Christian Aid Service for Advent Sunday



Give a precious gift this Christmas

As Christmas approaches, we often find ourselves lost in the aisles of shops along with hundreds of other frantic shoppers who have lost sight of the real meaning of Christmas – even the true reason for giving someone a gift.

In Nigeria, many communities have been receiving gifts but haven't necessarily understood what the gift is, or why they need it – does this sound familiar? The gift they have received is a long-lasting insecticide-treated net, which when hung correctly, should protect people from mosquito bites, and potentially deadly malaria.

Malaria is a leading cause of death in Nigeria, with approximately 250,000 children dying every year. It is particularly dangerous for pregnant women. What is shocking about this situation is that it is preventable but many people don't know how to protect themselves.

Christian Aid partners in Nigeria are working hard to teach communities how to protect themselves from malaria. Nurse Dorothy has received training in malaria prevention and management so that she can deal effectively with malaria cases and share her knowledge with her patients. On the day that we spoke to her she had just helped to deliver Onuchukwu Okoye's baby boy, Israel. Onuchukwu had attended antenatal sessions with Dorothy so she knew how to avoid getting malaria.

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Dorothy's expert care enabled Onuchukwu to protect herself and her baby during pregnancy. Without this help, this story could have had a very different ending.

This Christmas, we are joining with Christian Aid by praying for the work in Nigeria and raising money to support people like Dorothy.

Please stop and remember that, this Christmas, your gifts have the potential to achieve so much. It costs just £3 to buy a long-lasting insecticide-treated net, and £33 to train a primary health worker like Dorothy in malaria prevention and treatment.

Will you join us in giving a precious life-saving gift this Christmas? You can make a donation by visiting **[christianaid.org.uk /christmas](http://christianaid.org.uk/christmas)** or get in touch by calling **0207 523 2269**.



Twice the impact! This Christmas, the UK Government will again match every pound raised* – meaning we can transform the lives of even more people living in poverty.

*Up to £5 million on donations received between 6 November 2015 and 5 February 2016.

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Learning to Pray. I.

Once we start, we never stop learning how to pray, not only because there is so much to learn but because as we learn we change as people. Like love, education and acquiring a skill, praying changes us. This alone makes it a risky undertaking as we have no idea when we begin to take prayer seriously just where it will lead.

Like everything else we learn in this life, prayer begins simply, usually with a prayer we repeat, and learn by heart like the Lord's Prayer. That's how most of us begin as children. But mature prayer is something different altogether. Ultimately, it's prayer as union and communion with God. But getting there, and few of us do, is a long journey, always with stops, often with many stops, along the way.

Prayer, like learning the piano, is one of those things we have to practice if we want to make progress, so the temptation to give up, when it comes, won't come as a surprise. It's this that makes prayer a kind of spiritual athleticism, and all athletes need, as we know, endurance. The ability to stick with our prayers becomes one of the first things we pray for.

For most of us, prayer starts with asking, and when we ask we regress a little, we become more childlike and dependent. It's what happens whenever we go into hospital and hand ourselves over to the medical professions: regression then becomes a part of the trust which is necessary a part of all healing.

So too, in prayer. In the prayer of petition, we regress a little as we ask God for some benefit. It's in asking like this that we come to realise that we are creatures.

And if we ask on behalf of someone else our asking goes beyond an act of faith, or trust and become a demonstration of love. Our prayer has become an act of altruism. There's always more going on in prayer than most of us realise.

Albert Radcliffe



Memorials & Notices from some Parish Churches

Church Notice

Thursday Night - Pot Luck Supper. Prayer and medication to follow.



Wimborne Minster, Dorset

John Penny
Reader if cash thou art
In want of any
Dig 4 feet deep
And thou wilt find a penny



Church Notice

The Low Self- esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7pm. Please use the back door.

Thurmont Cemetery, Maryland, USA

Here lies an Atheist
All dressed up
And no place to go



Malmesbury Abbey, Wiltshire

Hannah Twynnoy
Who died October 23 1703 Aged 33 years
In bloom of Life
She`s snatched from hence
She had not room to make defence,
For a Tyger fierce Took life away
And here she lies in a bed of clay
Until the Resurrection Day



Church Notice

Ladies, don`t forget the rummage sale. It`s a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Don`t forget your husbands.

John Davies

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PARISH CONTACTS

P.C.C. Secretary	Leslie Fletcher	0161 248 7689
Treasurer	Mrs Muriel Hargreaves	0161 224 8802
Organist	Robert Nicholls	0161 225 0414
Sacristan	Mrs Barbara Purvis	0161 286 1062
Magazine Editor	Christine Hindley	0161 224 8067
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.