

THE MAGAZINE OF ST CHAD'S PARISH CHURCH LADYBARN



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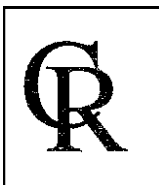
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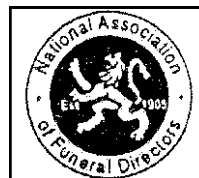
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July/August 2013

On Sunday 9th June we launched our Stewardship campaign here at St Chad's Church. The diocesan stewardship officer, James Emmerson, came and spoke to us during the morning service and now people have taken the stewardship packs out to people and the jigsaw is beginning to take shape as people return their response forms. Soon people will be talking about in what ways it was a success, what impact it has had on the members of St Chad's and how it has changed the image of the church in this community.

We have had the church open more than usual during the weeks of the campaign, people have had conversations with others whom they may not have known very well previously, we have all had the opportunity to explore how we and others offer of our time and of our gifts and skills to create and maintain the church of Christ in this place and, I suspect, we have all found the reality of how much money it costs to keep the church building and the hall cared for and usable something of a challenge. And all of those things mean that the stewardship campaign was already a success before anyone outside the church knew it was happening.

During the weeks of the Easter season we heard in church each week, readings from the Book of Acts, the book in the New Testament which tells us about the establishing and creating of the early church. The first century Christians weren't just setting up a social club for themselves with no thought for the future. They were establishing the church of Christ because they believed passionately in the Gospel of Christ, a Gospel not just for them at that time, but a Gospel for people at all times and in all places. It cost them time, effort and money and it didn't come easily.

We walk in their footsteps. And because we walk in their footsteps then our church here at St Chad's can't just be for us here and now, it must be for those generations of Christians who will follow us and it must build on the legacy of those generations of Christians who preceded us. And so in our stewardship campaign we seek to build and maintain a church, a congregation and a community of faith that will be sustainable, long-lasting and life-giving. It already bears some measure of success, but it will cost us all time, effort and money to build on that foundation. Just like in the early church it probably won't come easily, but just like in the early church, it will be worth the effort we all make.

Reverend Elizabeth Davies
Priest-in-Charge

The Vicar:

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

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Diane Wynn
4 Holcombe Road
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M14 6QX
Tel: 286 3698

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

Lay Reader:

John D Milner
25 Ashfield Lodge
Palatine Road
Didsbury
M20 2UD

Lay Reader:

Helen Reid
64 Heaton Road
Withington
Manchester
M20 4GW



Enjoy a strawberry tea
and support Christian Aid

3.00pm on Sunday 7 July
followed by Evensong at 4.30pm

St Chad's Church
& Community Hall



Arranged by Churches Together in Withington and Fallowfield

Please Note Amendment:
Evensong will be held at 5.00p.m. After the Strawberry Tea

STEWARDSHIP UP-DATE!

Thank you to all those of you who have returned your Stewardship forms, demonstrating your commitment to the life of St Chad's church. We hope you have also put your piece of jigsaw in place to show that you wish to belong to this church community. The picture is beginning to emerge and we hope that by the time you read this our jigsaw will be almost complete!

After months of preparation, we are now approximately half way through the four weeks of visiting. However, there are still months of work ahead, finishing on Advent Sunday. We now need to consider the next step. The Stewardship Team and our Stewardship visitors have all been invited to attend a meeting in mid July. At that meeting we will come together to share the information we have gathered during our visits and in our conversations. We will then begin to plan how to use our offers of support and involvement. We will take careful note of what is appreciated and valued, and hope that we are able to maintain all of those things. We will also consider any suggestions about new and different ways of doing things at St Chads.

Those of you who heard James Emmerson (Diocesan Stewardship Officer) preach to us may remember that he spoke about stewardship as the duty to care for everything with which we are entrusted. He also talked about how each one of us has an individual part to play in this care. He gave us the example of his son who was a member of his local football team. His son turned up at the right time, in the right place and wearing the right kit. However, he only became a full member of that team when he began to play an active part in the game....coming home covered in mud ! Please continue to pray for the work of the St Chad's Team and the Christian presence that we maintain in Ladybarn.....mud not essential !

**From Judy, Leslie and Diane (Members of the Stewardship Team)
July 2013**

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.

NEWS FROM THE BOOK CLUB

Major Pettigrew's. Last Stand: by Helen Simonson

Quite different from some of our previous books, this is a gentle story, set in a small English village. Major Pettigrew, a retired army officer and Mrs Ali, the owner of a village shop become friends through their love of English literature. They have each lost a partner and are trying to stay occupied as a cover for their loneliness.

The story traces the development of their relationship through the increasing frequency of their meetings. Simultaneously, opposition to their inter racial friendship intensifies, and we are made aware of the underlying tensions which can develop, even in such an ideal location.

Most people enjoyed the story, but felt that the characters were stereotyped and two dimensional. It seemed rather unfortunate, that the American author, having set her book in an English village should have included so many American words and phrases which rather intruded into the sense of place.

However, as the central characters were in their 60's, we were able to view this developing friendship from a more uncommon perspective. This caused us to compare the relationship between Major Pettigrew and Mrs Ali with some of the younger characters we have read about this year.

We scored this book 8 / 10.

At Our next Book Club on June 17th, we shall be discussing Black Dahlia by James Ellery.

Quiz With A Difference!

- [1] How long did the Hundred Years War Last?
- [2] Which country makes Panama hats?
- [3] From which animal do we get catgut?
- [4] In which month do the Russians celebrate the October Revolution?
- [5] What is a camel's hair brush made of?
- [6] The Canary Islands in the Atlantic are named after which kind of animal?
- [7] What was king George VI's first name?
- [8] What colour is a purple finch?
- [9] Where are Chinese gooseberries from?
- [10] What is the colour of a black box in a commercial airplane?

Answers on page 8

8am Holy Communion

The 8am Holy Communion BCP service which is held on the first Sunday of the month has not been well attended for several years now. During its June meeting the PCC discussed the future of this service and it was decided not to make a final decision at this stage. However, it was decided that the service would be temporarily suspended during the sabbatical of The Reverend Elizabeth Davies in the autumn. As there is traditionally no 8am service in August it was decided that the July 8am service will go ahead as usually and then the next 8am service would be on the first Sunday of December.

Services During August

There will be no Tuesday evening Holy Communion service during the month of August. Thursday morning services will continue in the usual way at 10am each week.

There will be a service of Evensong at 6.30pm on the first Sunday of August, in the usual pattern.

From the Registers...

Holy Baptism.

We welcome into God's family:

May 12th Jacob Noahson of Zoe Jade Obbard and Jake Anthony Mulvey

Holy Matrimony

We asked God's blessing on the marriage of:

There were no weddings in May

Christian Committal

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

There were no funerals in May

April weekly collections

Includes plates and envelopes

May 5th £216.20

May 12th £296.02

May 19th £190.03

May 26th £425.83

When Good People Have Problems With Righteousness.

The struggle for human rights and the cancellation of Third World Debt are examples of what Christians, and religious people in general, would once have called the Pursuit of Righteousness. Yet, though the word has rather fallen out of use, the idea of wanting to be a better person is still very much alive, while, the belief of the majority of Americans that theirs is a 'righteous nation,' is of global political importance, especially when it collides with Islamist ideas on the same subject. Righteousness, once a word heard only in sermons, has moved to the centre of international politics. 'Righteousness,' said the writer of the book of Proverbs, rightly but dangerously, 'exalts a nation.' Only those convinced of their own righteousness could speak without irony of 'The Evil Empire' or an 'Axis of Evil.'

Not only is the political world troubled by this contemporary emphasis on righteousness, but so is the Church. The pursuit of righteousness in Church and State is a laudable aim. In principle no one could object to it, but in practice, whether it's the projection of 'American values' on to the world screen, or the hounding of gays in the Anglican Communion, those who pursue righteousness can soon begin to display less than righteous behaviour.

This has happened on a number of occasions throughout Church history - in the Church of England most famously in the struggle that led to the Civil War and the triumph of Parliament. The political gains were significant, beneficial and lasting – but the spiritual cost was that Puritan zeal, which was often harsh and joyless, gave the quest for righteousness a bad name. Little wonder that after the Restoration when the more tolerant party of the Latitudinarians gained influence one of their favourite sermon texts was from the book of Ecclesiastes: Be not righteous overmuch.

Those zealous traditions that emphasise righteousness like to appeal to scripture. Their spokesmen quote it often in support of their desire for a righteous church in England and for a righteous nation in America. Not surprisingly, the subversive favourite of the Latitudinarians is never cited.

And where did Jesus stand in these matters? He stood, in fact, surprisingly close to the Latitudinarians! Judea at the time was a land astir with demands for righteousness. The Sadducees called for traditional righteousness, the Pharisees for obedience to the Law of a more radical kind, while the Essenes seemed to believe that they alone were righteous.

When John the Baptist baptised Jesus he was busy with a campaign that called for a righteous nation as the best preparation for the coming of the Messiah. At first Jesus appeared to back him in this, but it was not long however before he was accused of being a glutton and a winebibber, while his ministry to publicans and sinners really did seem like an undermining of the accepted ideas of what righteousness was.

The marvel is that accounts of Jesus 'not being righteous over much' got into the gospels at all. The most famous instance of his flouting received notions of righteousness is, of course, the story of the woman taken in adultery. This was thought to be so dangerous an example of moral laxity that many ancient bibles do not contain it at all. Others place it in St Luke's gospel. The New English Bible was so uncertain of its proper position that it printed it at the end of the gospel with an explanatory footnote.

Continued on page 9

Continued from page 8

But the most subversive of all the stories of Jesus was one felt to be so dangerous that it survives only in one manuscript, the Codex Bezae, in St Luke's gospel. Seeing a man working on the Sabbath, Jesus said, 'Man, if you know what you are doing, you are blessed; but if you do not know, you are cursed and a transgressor of the law.' Yet for many that really is an authentic saying of Jesus. It's easy to see why timid copyists should think fit to leave such a socially destabilising story out of the gospel but impossible to think of a situation in which anyone should invent it.

If ever there was a strand in the bible's emphasis on righteousness that needed adding to the discussions tearing the world apart today, it's the counterbalancing voice of Ecclesiastes, a voice that Jesus worked into his ministry but which his followers have usually been either too zealous or anxious to heed. It's the voice that says: Pursue righteousness but careful, be not righteous over much, it can lead, as history shows, to inhumanity which is the denial of all true religion and the righteousness it seeks to promote.

Albert Radcliffe.

ANSWERS TO QUIZ ON PAGE 6

- [1] 116 years.
- [2] Ecuador.
- [3] Sheep and horses.
- [4] November.
- [5] Squirrel.
- [6] Dogs.
- [7] Albert.
- [8] Crimson.
- [9] New Zealand.
- [10] Orange.

DIARY FOR JULY 2013

2	Tuesday	07.30pm	Holy Communion No PCC this evening
4	Thursday	10.00am	Holy Communion
7	Sunday	08.00am 10.00am 03.30pm 05.00pm	Holy Communion Holy Communion Strawberry Tea Evensong
9	Tuesday	07.30pm	No Holy Communion this evening as it is the Ladies Group outing
10	Wednesday	10.00am	Green Group meeting
11	Thursday	10.00am 07.30pm	Holy Communion Stewardship Team Meeting in Church
14	Sunday	10.00am	Holy Communion
16	Tuesday	07.30pm 08.00pm	Holy Communion Book Group
18	Thursday	10.00am	Holy Communion
21	Sunday	10.00am	Holy Communion
23	Tuesday	07.30pm 08.00pm	Holy Communion Needlecraft Group
25	Thursday	10.00am	Holy Communion
28	Sunday	10.00am	Holy Communion
30	Tuesday	07.30pm 08.00pm	Holy Communion PCC meeting

DIARY FOR AUGUST 2013

1	Thursday	10.00am	Holy Communion
4	Sunday	08.00am 10.00am 06.30pm	Holy Communion Holy Communion Evensong
8	Thursday	10.00am	Holy Communion
11	Sunday	10.00am	Holy Communion
15	Thursday	10.00am	Holy Communion
18	Sunday	10.00am	Holy Communion
22	Thursday	10.00am	Holy Communion
25	Sunday	10.00am	Holy Communion
29	Thursday	10.00am	Holy Communion
1 Sept.	Sunday	08.00am	No Communion service today

**During the month of August there will be no Holy Communion
 on Tuesday evenings
 also there will be no Book Group,
 or Needlecraft Group
 and on Saturday mornings there will be no
 Artistic Explosion**



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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.
Please inform her of any sick parishioners.**