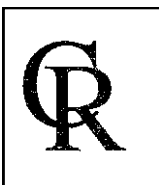


**THE
MAGAZINE
OF
ST CHAD'S
PARISH
CHURCH
LADYBARN**

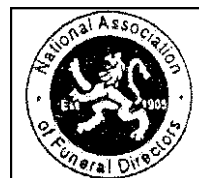


FEBRUARY 2013

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February 2013

Annual Meeting 2013

St Chad's Annual Parochial Church Meeting (the annual meeting) will take place this year on Sunday 17th March at 11.30am in the hall after the morning service. This is an important meeting that everybody should try to attend.

At the meeting officers of the church are elected or re-elected and the annual reports from the different areas of the life of the church are available. The reports from the Rector, Churchwarden and Treasurer will be read out at the meeting and copies of the other reports will be available for people to read while we have tea/coffee after the service.

The annual meeting is an important event in the life of our church. It gives us time to look back and reflect on all that has happened in the last twelve months and to look forward to our plans for the coming twelve months. It gives us a chance to look at the accounts and see how our money is being spent to enhance the life, ministry and mission of the church, and it is a good time for us all to review our own personal giving towards the life of the church.

The meeting is a good opportunity to reflect on the dedicated work done on our behalf by many people and to express our thanks and appreciation to our Churchwarden, Treasurer and PCC. It's also a good time to review our own personal service to our Christian community, there are always jobs that need doing and we may be just the person to do them.

We will keep the meeting as short as possible. Any questions should be kept concise and relevant to the spirit of the meeting, as it is not the forum for in-depth discussions on individual topics, or for in-depth discussion of individual financial issues.

We will need new people to serve on the PCC and on Deanery Synod for the coming year, so please do consider whether this is something you may be interested in.

**Reverend Elizabeth Davies
Priest-in-Charge**

The Vicar:

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

Churchwarden:

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

Churchwarden:

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

FASTING DURING LENT

The 40 days of Lent begin on Ash Wednesday which this year falls on February 13th. There is no fasting on the six Sundays of Lent as Sunday, the Day of Resurrection, is always a feast day. At one time, Christians fasted during both Lent and Advent as conscientiously as most Muslims do today during Ramadan. In theory, in the Church of England, we still fast, though in practice the custom has almost died out, except that is for the general idea of 'giving something up for Lent.'

Providing it is not carried to extremes, for those in good health, fasting is recommended by many in the medical profession, arguing that it has many benefits: these are said to include reduced risk of cancer, of cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and a slowing down of ageing with an increase in life span. But, however welcome these side effects might be, they are no more a reason for fasting during Lent than the wish to diet in order to lose weight! For these and for other reasons fasting is also found in the secular world. I remember as a student sitting my final exams and being given some excellent advice by a German student when he saw me about to dig in to a healthy lunch between exam papers. 'I wouldn't eat all of that,' he said, 'or you'll find yourself going to sleep. In Germany we are advised to sit exam papers after only a light breakfast and a light lunch. It keeps the mind alert!'

In Lent and Advent, our motives for fasting should be spiritual and this is why in the discipline of the Christian life fasting is always linked to prayer. These days social commentators often complain that the young are not as self-disciplined as they used to be; that self-discipline is not taught any more except perhaps in a sport that's taken seriously, or in learning a musical instrument. In an age of instant gratification, of wanting everything 'now', fasting is a way of retaining spiritual and emotional control over our lives.

When fasting is done seriously and combined with prayer, the habit of self-discipline is learned chiefly in overcoming hunger as it's experienced as spiritual distraction. There is no place for comfort-eating in serious prayer and fasting.

Lent is a time for turning our weaknesses into strengths. If we think we talk too much, the fasting is done with the tongue. Likewise if we like to complain, or do things compulsively, then we know where we have to fast. Spiritual and emotional growth seldom comes easily which is why Lent is part of the Church's year that's long overdue a revival.

Albert Radcliffe

DO YOU ENJOY READING?

Why: Come to our 'Book Club'
Where: In St. Chad's Community Hall,
When: 8.00p.m. The 3rd Tuesday of the Month.

We choose our 'Book of the Month' and spend the next four weeks reading the story. When the next 'Book Club Night' arrives we sit round a table with coffee and nibbles and talk about what we have read. It is fascinating to unearth so many differing opinions about the same story and it has always made us question 'What makes a bestseller?' We don't know the answer but we are so enjoying trying to find out.

Everyone is invited to make suggestions for the reading list and our final selection is chosen between us. We try to read books which give us an insight into someone else's world - 'The Remains of the Day' the ordered and confined world of a country house butler and house keeper in the 1930's, 'Dancing Backwards' crossing the Atlantic as a guest on a luxury liner, 'The Count of Monte Cristo' a swashbuckling adventure story set in France, 'Anna Karenina' the classic Russian story of a doomed love affair. 'The Great Gatsby' a life of hedonism in 1920's America. 'The Pilgrimage of Harold Fry' a modern and unusual story of a man on a journey to rediscover himself.

If you think the Book Club is something you would enjoy, do come, you would be really welcome. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, February 19th.



WHY IS EASTER EARLY THIS YEAR?

Easter is the yearly celebration of Christ's resurrection just as Christmas is the annual celebration of his birth – so why then does Christmas fall on the same day each year, 25th December; while Easter last year fell on 8th April, this year falls on 31st March and next year will fall on 20th April? This is why Easter is called a Moveable Feast: it does not fall on the same date each year. The reasons are easy to explain, but working out the day on which Easter falls is a little more difficult.

The first Easter Day, the day when the disciples discovered the empty tomb and first saw the risen Christ, was on the Sunday following the Jewish feast of Passover, in the same way as, quite coincidentally, that's how it falls this year, Passover being kept in Jewish homes all over the world on Monday 25th March while Easter Day falls on the following Sunday.

However, Passover and Easter can be much further apart than that, because though in the beginning, when most converts were Jews, Christians naturally kept to their Jewish calendar; as soon as most Christians were gentile converts they understandably kept to the secular Roman calendar, the one they knew, since when, of course, calendars have changed again. Those studying church history know how this business of different calendars led to a number of interesting disputes and heresies in the early church.

The difficulties over the date of Easter were resolved in principal when, at the famous Council of Nicea, in 325, AD, it was agreed to go along with the Jewish calendar and fix the date according to the full moon, as was the case with Passover, while otherwise using the civil calendar. The formula eventually agreed was that Easter Day would always be kept on the Sunday following the first full moon after the Spring Equinox.



For convenience, the Church always has spring beginning on 21st March, even though astronomically speaking this year, it actually falls on 20th March at 11.02 a.m. The next full moon after that is at 9.27 on 27th March, a Wednesday, which means that the following Sunday is kept as Easter Day.

Continued on page 7

Continued from page 6

Should there ever be a full moon on 22nd March and the day is a Sunday then that day is Easter Day and is the earliest date on which it can fall. The last time this happened was in 1818 and it will not happen again until 2285AD. As full moons are $29\frac{1}{2}$ days apart and there are seven days in a week then it means that the latest Easter can ever be is 25th April. This happened last in 1943 and will not happen again until 2038.

Of course, if Easter is early, then so is Lent, and if Easter is late then so is Whitsuntide, and these fluctuations of up to five weeks in the date of Easter are not always convenient, especially for school holidays. In 1928 Parliament passed a law authorising an Order In Council which would fix the date of Easter as the first Sunday after the second Saturday in April, which would mean that this year Easter would have fallen on 14th April. This law, though passed has never been implemented.

For those interested in these things, the Jewish calendar is a lunar-solar calendar. This means that the months actually follow the moon, and prayers are said in synagogues to mark the beginning of each month. However, this would mean that in a year of $365\frac{1}{4}$ days there can only be twelve $29\frac{1}{2}$ day months, making a year of 354 days. To avoid this, Jews keep their lunar year in time with the sun by adding seven 'leap months' every 19 years. The result is that sometimes Passover is much nearer Easter than at other times.

Albert Radcliffe.

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

'The Church Wardens would like to announce that there is to be a Stewardship Campaign at St Chad's Church this summer. Our Reverend Elizabeth Davies and members of the PCC will lead this campaign, assisted by the Manchester Diocesan Stewardship Officer, Mr James Emerson. The Campaign will be launched on Sunday June 9th and run for 4 weeks. We will be writing a more detailed article in the March Parish magazine.'

DIARY FOR FEBRUARY 2013

3	Sunday	08.00am 10.00am 06.30pm	Holy Communion Holy Communion Evensong
5	Tuesday	07.30pm 08.00pm	Holy Communion PCC
7	Thursday	10.00am	Holy Communion
10	Sunday	10.00am	Holy Communion
12	Tuesday		No service this evening Lent begins
13	Ash Wednesday	08.00pm	Holy Communion with Ashing for the start of Lent
14	Thursday	10.00am	Holy Communion
17	Sunday	10.00am	Holy Communion
19	Tuesday	07.30pm 08.00pm	Holy Communion Book Group
21	Thursday	10.00am	Holy Communion
24	Sunday	10.00am	Holy Communion
26	Tuesday	07.30pm 08.00pm	Holy Communion Needlecraft Group
28	Thursday	10.00am	Holy Communion

Lent Groups 2013

Dates and venues for Lent groups have not been finalised at the time of printing. Please check on the weekly notice sheet for further details.

**This Month's Saint
14th February
St Valentine
Martyr at Rome c269.**

No saint's day is more widely observed in Britain than that of St Valentine, even though no churches are dedicated to him and all that's known of him is that he was martyred for his Christian faith in the city of Rome. The date, 269AD, given in Common Worship, is an educated guess.

St Valentine's fame now rests entirely on his being the patron saint of lovers with the vast number of cards sent, presents bought and meals eaten, in his name.

Just when this association began, no one knows. It's at least as old as Geoffrey Chaucer [1343-1400], and is thought to go back to the old belief that birds begin to mate and build nests on that day. Other historians think that the association dates long before Chaucer to the days of the Roman Empire and the Festival of Lupercalia [February 13-15] associated with the god of fertility.

All of which presents the Church today with either a problem or an opportunity, depending on your point of view.

Ours is now a thoroughly commercial economy. Even secularisation has been commercialised! Things which were once 'religious' and/or 'folk' customs have been adopted by the 'Market'. It's convenient and it helps boost the economy, though it also results in massive shifts in meaning.

Something similar has happened with Easter. More children today can talk about the Easter Bunny and Easter Eggs than about the Resurrection of Jesus. And Christmas is mostly about Father Christmas whose connections with the Nativity or with St Nicholas [in Dutch 'Santa Claus'] have been almost entirely severed.

Some Christians believe that the proper response is to resist the take over entirely and keep these festivals in spirit only, though with as much joy as possible. Others believe that just as the Church baptised old pagan festivals, so in the best way we can, today we have to re-baptise these paganised, though once Christian festivals, because if we don't we sever ourselves from the world for which Christ died.

We may not know much about St Valentine, but his day raises some key questions for Christians in 2013.

Albert Radcliffe

**St Chad's Church,
Ladybarn**

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Sunday 17th March

11.30am

In the hall

A Quiet Day for the season of Lent

St Chad's Church

Saturday 16th March

11am - 4pm

Meet in the hall for tea/coffee at 10.30am.

Tea/coffee in the hall at 2.30pm before the day concludes with a special service of Evensong led by the Prayer Book Society.

Drinks will be provided,
please bring your own lunch.

Everyone welcome.

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.

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PARISH CONTACTS

P.C.C. Secretary	Christine Hindley	0161 224 8067
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
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.**