

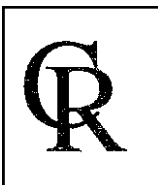
**THE
MAGAZINE
OF
ST CHAD'S
PARISH
CHURCH
LADYBARN**



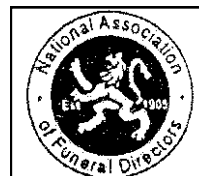
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April 2013

Notes from the Rector's report at the annual meeting

I'd like to say thank you to some people; to Diane and Judy, our churchwardens, and Muriel our treasurer for all their hard work and for all their support of the projects we have undertaken in 2012.

To John our Reader, Helen our nearly reader, Opal in her role as Accredited Lay Minister, The Reverend Colin Powell and Canon Albert Radcliffe for the part that they each play in the life and ministry of St Chad's. We are fortunate to have each of them, to have a team of diverse people ministering amongst us, and they each enhance the life and work of this church.

And thank you also to everyone else who contributes in a whole host of ways to maintaining this church as a place of worship, as a place where equality and justice can be reflected, and as a Christian presence within this community.

I believe we have two big challenges to address during 2013. The first is our financial situation. We aren't really solvent, we have almost no reserve funds and unexpected bills will keep coming along. We didn't pay the whole of our parish share payment last year and we must make additional effort to get back on track this year.

We have received significant grant funding in 2012 which has allowed projects to continue to move forwards, but we do all need to look at how we can, personally and corporately, raise more money. We have done all we can over the past three years to spend less and to save money, so raising money has now become a greater priority.

Our second challenge for 2013 is the Stewardship Campaign, which you've all had chance to read about in the magazine and on today's notice sheet. It's taking place in June but a lot of work is already underway and it's proving to be a useful way of defining who we are and what we're here for. The campaign is not just about money. It's about how we make strangers welcome, how we make our church accessible as a place for all and how we become a more integral part of the local community.

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

The Vicar:

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M20 4WH
Tel: 445 1185

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Diane Wynn
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John D Milner
25 Ashfield Lodge
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M20 2UD

NEWS FROM THE BOOK CLUB

'The Cleaner of Chartres' By Sally Vickers

We were so looking forward to reading this book. We had previously read 'Dancing Backwards' by the same author and it had been one of our most popular stories.

Unfortunately, 'The Cleaner of Chartres' proved to be a disappointment to most of our members. It told the story of Agnes, a foundling, and her eventual employment as a cleaner in the Cathedral at Chartres. What should have been a fascinating insight, failed to draw the reader into the lives of the characters moving in and out of the enclosed world of the great Cathedral. The character development was vague, and initial interest was subsequently lost, as the story appeared to lose its sense of direction.

We scored this book at 6.5 / 10

This month, we are reading 'The Tenant of Wildfell Hall' by Anne Bronte, which we shall discuss on Tuesday, March 19th.

If you are not able to attend the Book Group Meeting, perhaps you would still like to join in at home? You could read the selected 'Book of the Month' and send your score to Jenny, (Tel: 286 3698) who will include it with the others. If you are interested in becoming a 'Telephone Member' please let us know so that we can keep you up to date with our book lists.

Barbara

PRAYER AS THE PERSISTENCE OF VISION.

The beggar holds out an empty hat,
yet I walk on doubting he's genuine.

The years are forever passing us by
but still I see that hat in my empty hand.

Albert Radcliffe

This Month's Saint
21st May.
Helena [c250-c330]
Mother of the Emperor Constantine
and Protector of The Holy Places.

St Helena, after whom Napoleon's island prison in the south Atlantic is named, was of humble birth (she was an innkeeper's daughter) but rose socially when she married the successful soldier Constantius Chlorus. Then, in 292 AD her standing rose even higher when husband became co-Regent of the western half of the Roman Empire. Their son, Constantine, was born about 272 AD and, on his father's death, he succeeded to his title so that from then on Helena's fortunes were dependent on those of her son, most significantly when he became the first Christian Roman Emperor. In 312, she was also baptised becoming a devout Christian and a powerful patron of the Church.

Helena used her position and wealth as the Emperor's mother to alleviate poverty, to build churches across the empire and by lavish endowments to encourage the spread of Christianity. In 324, as an old woman she went on pilgrimage to the Holy Land, building and endowing more churches and where, it was later claimed, she discovered the 'true cross' on which Christ had been crucified. This is the reason why the cross is her emblem in Christian art.

Thanks to the 12th century historian, Geoffrey of Monmouth, it was widely believed that Helena was the daughter of Coel, 'Old King Cole', the king of Colchester and it is as a British princess that her life is celebrated in a famous sequence of medieval stained glass in St Michael's Church, Ashton-under-Lyne.

The town of St Helen's is named after her and for her too, the 9th century poet Cynewulf wrote his poem Elene.

The imperial propaganda machine undoubtedly claimed too much for Helena. Later, every royal dynasty in Europe would attempt to have a family member declared a saint. It was the ultimate status symbol. Yet take away the false claims and the well-spun political image and Helena still remains a woman who, to the best of her ability, used her position to serve God and her fellow human beings. Christian faith and sanctity begins there for everyone.

Albert Radcliffe

The Archdeacon's Visitation
will take place at
St Matthews, Stretford
on Tuesday 7th May at 7.30pm.

Churchwardens and PCC members must attend and
sidespeople are encouraged to attend.

Our Stewardship Campaign at St Chads

What has happened so far? What will happen next?

Between June 2012 and January 2013 St Chads PCC has listened and debated and planned the Stewardship Campaign that is now fast approaching. We were nervous because it is a huge undertaking and an event that has not happened at St Chads for many, many years. Ask Alma about the last one!

We were first visited by James Emmerson, the Stewardship Campaign Officer at the Diocese of Manchester. This was an Open Meeting in June, to which a number of the congregation attended. In October, the PCC then talked over a few issues with the Revd Bob Smith, non-stipendiary Minister at St Paul's, Withington, as they had recently held a similar campaign. Finally, in November we established a St Chad's Stewardship Campaign Team and, following one more visit from James Emmerson in January this year, set off to carry out various tasks.

The approach and process is to be as has been developed by Manchester Diocese. James Emmerson is available to advise us throughout.

An important part of the approach is to create a jigsaw puzzle, made up of 25 photos. The idea behind the jigsaw is that each person in our congregation represents an essential and unique part of the life of St Chad's Church. We all play our part and without each one of us our jigsaw would be incomplete. The jigsaw will have 80 pieces and gradually be completed during the month of the campaign.

The process begins with writing to a wide range of people who all have some connection with St Chad's. These letters are part of a pack that also includes:

· ***A pamphlet***

This outlines what is needed by way of time, talents and money in order to maintain the worship and wider activities at St Chad's Church.

· **Two commitment forms**

One of these is a list of specific activities in which church members could participate. This is still being developed. The other is a confidential form on which to make a regular financial commitment to the work of St Chad's church. Knowing what our future income will be is vitally important to the maintenance and development of St Chad's work and witness.

· ***A card with a number on it.***

When people return their commitment forms they exchange their card for a piece of jigsaw puzzle and are invited to put a piece of the jigsaw in place. As the puzzle is completed the rich pattern of our life at St Chad's will emerge.

Any reflection on stewardship in preparation for the campaign at St Chad's in June must start with God. God gives to us abundantly and graciously in creation and redemption, and in sustaining life, day by day. Christians are challenged to be generous in every aspect of their lives. This is not only about giving money, but giving our time and using our talents. Such generosity should be expected in our homes, in our workplaces and communities...and, of course, in our church life. This stewardship of God's gifts of talents, time and money is the outworking of our faith.

Campaign Team : Revd Elizabeth Davies, Judy and Leslie Fletcher, Margaret Harrop, Christine Hindley, Peter Knight, Jean and Pete Matthews, Trena Radcliffe, , Diane Wynn, Opal Walsh.

Work with Children and Young People at St Chad's Church

An excellent Sunday School curriculum has been offered for many years at St Chad's. However, for two major reasons it has been decided that, at the present time, we are not continuing with this particular aspect of our work with children and young people.

Firstly, despite the imaginative and creative lessons on offer, attendance during the last two or three years has been irregular and often poor. This meant that it was difficult to plan the activities, and most particularly, to arrange any special events. Secondly, and more recently, there has not been anyone from our congregation who felt able and willing to teach regularly in the Sunday School. So there has been a sense that perhaps we need to offer something rather different. A group of us have met on two occasions to think about how to take this important work forward.

We began to think in general about how we could become a more welcoming congregation to our young visitors. One suggestion was that we could offer children 'Activity Bags' as they come into church, with the contents varying according to age. Some of us have agreed to create those, and all contributions to the activity bags would be very welcome. We also thought it would be good to invite all our children and young people to participate in any special church events. Some of them have since made lovely contributions to our recent Christmas Cracker, and to our service of Taize Evening Prayer.

A 'Story Time' has also been offered during the Eucharist, when children in church have been invited go out to the Community Hall to share a Bible Story, during part of the service. A rota of two adults each week was arranged for this. However, again the uptake was poor, so this has been amended to the provision of a wider range of activities being offered in the Children's Corner. Again, any appropriate materials, activities or books would be welcome.

Finally, we have noted that some churches now offer a family activity known as Messy Church. This is usually a half-day event happening perhaps once every two months, and with a particular theme. Messy Church usually includes art and craft-work, baking, games, singing, sharing a meal together, and a worship activity. We have all gone away to learn as much as we can about Messy Church and to think about whether it is an activity that we could offer. There is a Messy Church web-site at www.messychurch.org.uk if anyone else would like to take a look!

We are also promoting visits and links with local schools for children to visit St Chad's Church and our Community Wildlife Garden.

We are meeting again on **Wednesday April 24th at 8pm** in the **St Chad's Community Hall** and others are most welcome to join us. If you are not able to come then please give your ideas and views to members of the group. (Elizabeth, Trena, Albert, Muriel, Christine, Pam, Opal, and the Wardens)

DIARY FOR APRIL 2013

2	Tuesday	07.30pm 08.00pm	Holy Communion PCC
4	Thursday	10.00am	Holy Communion
5	Friday	01.00pm	Wedding in Church
7	Sunday	08.00am 10.00am 06.30pm	Holy Communion Holy Communion Evensong
9	Tuesday	07.30pm 08.00pm	Holy Communion Ladies group
11	Thursday	10.00am	Holy Communion
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	10.00am 07.30pm 08.00pm	Green Group Meeting Holy Communion Needle Craft group
24	Wednesday	07.30pm	Children's work meeting
25	Thursday	10.00am	Holy Communion
28	Sunday	10.00am 06.30pm	Holy Communion service for the licencing of Reverend Stephen Edwards as Area Dean, William Temple Church, everyone welcome.
30	Tuesday	07.30pm	Holy Communion

Is the Old Testament still relevant? Hasn't the New Testament replaced it?

One of the things I've enjoyed about being ordained is that the moment someone spots my clerical collar a question pops into their mind. 'Would you like to ask the Vicar a question?' The teacher of our day school in Middleton once asked her class. A five year old hand shot up. I was ready for something like: 'Who made God?' Or 'Or does God only love good people?' Instead, the child said, 'Vicar, why does the Tooth Fairy need our teeth?' I have never been more flummoxed by a question in my life!

At one of our study sessions at St Chad's I was asked why the Church still reads and values the Old Testament. Is it still relevant? Isn't it all in the New Testament where it's brought up to date?

The man who, famously, first asked this question was Marcion, an heretical bishop who lived from 85-160 AD. Because he believed that the wrathful God of the Old Testament was morally inferior to the God of Love of the New, he was for getting rid of the Old altogether. Understandably, Marcion triggered an enormous debate in the early Church but lost the argument and was expelled. This was because without the Old Testament, the New made little sense. If Jesus was the fulfilment of the Old then he could only be understood properly in its light. Besides, Marcion's views were too simplistic: the Old Testament has a lot to say about the love, mercy and grace of God; and the New has a great deal to say about his wrath. Without the Old Testament, the New seems to come out of nowhere.

But what of the continuing relevance of the Old Testament for today? What can it still teach us? Even allowing for the above, is it necessary for it to be part of the Christian Bible? There are two reasons for it's being necessary: the first is that the Christian Bible is a work in two volumes; the second is that the Bible needs to be read historically with its great themes spread across both halves and an awareness that that history is an important part of Christian history, especially that of the western Christian world. For example, it is impossible to understand Parliament in particular and western democracy in general without knowing how the Old Testament, rather than the New, shaped the political theology of the Puritans in their rejection of the autocracy of Charles I.

Another example of the ongoing relevance of the Old Testament is its place in the long struggle of the American Negroes for freedom and equality. Just the words of Moses to Pharaoh, 'Let my people go,' are enough to establish the connection. Then again, in the struggle of the world's poorest citizens for their economic and political rights, the continuing key role of the Old Testament in Liberation Theology with its emphasis on the preferential option for the poor is one more reminder of the ongoing relevance of the Old Testament. Its concern for God's justice in the nation's life was very much to the fore in the ecumenical co-operation in Liverpool in the 1980s of Bishop David Shepherd and Archbishop Derek Warlock.

For as long, therefore, as the Church of England reads and studies the Old Testament and acts on it, it will continue to have and exercise a social conscience within the life of our nation.

Albert Radcliffe.

Tales from the War Memorial 11.

Rank: Private
Regiment: Kings Own (Royal Lancastrian Regiment)
Unit/Ship: 8th Btn.
Service No: 19280
Died: 2.03.1916
Age: 21
Grave/National Memorial: Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Ieper, Belgium.
Memorial Ref: Panel 12.

Son of David John and Sarah Carner, of 61 Derby Road, Withington, Manchester. Brother of William, Edith, David, Sarah, Gladys, Doris, Alfred and Richard.

Ypres is in Flanders, (Dutch Ieper), and was the centre of four intensive and sustained battles between the Germans and the Allied forces. The first Battle of Ypres was in October and November 1914. The second Battle began in 1915 when the Germans released poison gas, and the violence forced an Allied retreat, which degenerated into a war of attrition, with little significant activity until 1917. The Menin Gate is the memorial to the missing, and it lists the names of 54,332 men who fell in the fighting and who have no known graves.

If you have any information on those commemorated on the War Memorial, please let me know.

John Davies

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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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.**