

THE MAGAZINE OF ST CHAD'S PARISH CHURCH LADYBARN



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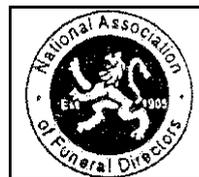
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**The Rev'd Elizabeth Davies is away on Sabbatical until
The 1st December**

'As a Retired Canon Sees It!'

By common acclaim the Science and Religion evening held at St Chad's last month, with Prof. John Dainton FRS, went very well indeed. It was a cold, windy and wet night but some 40 people, including a number of students, braved the weather and came along to hear what we had to say about this topical and controversial subject.

To get the ball rolling, I began by asserting that far from there being a war between religion and science Christian Europe had been the midwife that assisted at the birth of modern experimental physics. Professor Dainton, who holds the Sir James Chadwick Chair of Experimental Physics at the University of Liverpool, responded with his understanding of what scientists mean by truth and its pursuit. A very varied and lively discussion followed in which no one present in any way supported the secular humanist myth that religion is hostile to science,

Increasingly, the world we live in is being shaped by science and technology and though to begin with these might well have been the creation of a deeply Christian culture, what of today? One member of the audience wondered if, in the media at least, the Church had not already given up on its side of the argument. If this was the case then, at St Chad's at least, we had not abandoned the struggle. Religion is not at loggerheads with science.

Both religion and science are self-critical, both develop and grow through internal debate, and both can also benefit through the sort of dialogue held between them as at St Chad's.

Science cannot flourish in isolation from society and it is not entirely self-sufficient or self-directing with respect to the values it promotes. For examples, the more tasks that we hand over to automated machines the more we need to be certain of the human values those machines embody. Human reason alone cannot give us the answers we seek when science begins to reshape what we mean by human nature. It's in areas like this that Christians will again find that their faith is of profound practical importance. What does it mean to be a human creature when, through the latest science, that creature begins to create thinking machines that are in many ways like himself and herself? At least, at St Chad's we have begun to think about such things.

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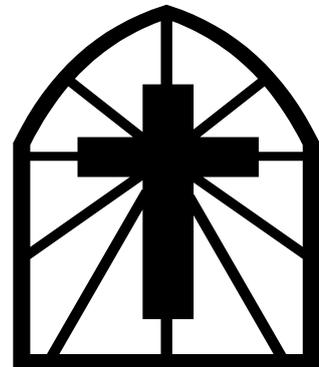
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When we read the gospels we see that they are all about the debates and discussions that Jesus had with his disciples, with the Pharisees and with ordinary Jews. The issues were those of the day. And it's no different with the letters of St Paul. He is always discussing or arguing with someone; so much so that in one instance in his Letter to the Romans because there is no one to argue a point with he actually invents an opponent as a rhetorical device! A church stagnates and dies when the discussion and argument dries up. As a member of the congregation I'm glad that there's no chance of that happening at St Chad's or indeed at any of the churches represented in the turnout at our Religion and Science evening.

Albert Radcliffe.



BIBLE STUDY GROUP

There will be an informal gathering in the Hall

on

Thursday 5th December 2013

At 7.30p.m.

**To discuss starting a Bible Study Group to start in
January 2014.**

All Welcome

Joseph Changes his Mind.

Being asked about the changes we have seen in our lifetime is one of the questions that goes with growing old! My own list is a long one but very near the top is the observation that the public's feeling left out of so much of modern life is one that can't be ignored.

Britain can claim to be among the world's oldest and most successful democracies and yet so few of us vote in elections. As Brian Cox pointed out recently in a much watched TV series, Britain can also boast of having punched well above it's weight in scientific discovery and technological innovation, yet for all that there's a worrying lack of interest in science among schoolchildren.

And when we get to poetry, with the possible exception of the poetry of the First World War, again there is a tremendous gap between what's on offer and public interest. At the moment, English is the world's number one language with a tradition of poetry that's is very much alive and is second to none. It does not however sell very well!

These days, as the Church knows only too clearly, the market and popular culture govern just about every aspect of our lives including religion. So when poetry and religion come together the prospect does not appear to be a very good one!

It may seem a little foolhardy therefore for me to risk bringing out another book of poetry for St Chad's entitled *Joseph Changes his Mind, Poems for Christmas*. I hope that our crowded calendar of events will have room before Christmas for its launch at the bargain price of £3.00, proceeds to church funds.

The book is a collection of most of the Christmas poems I've written in the last 40 years. The title comes from the Christmas story in which, as a 'righteous man', Joseph is 'minded' to put the pregnant Mary away, that is out of public sight, until, and probably to everyone's surprise, changes his mind. It's always struck me that for some reason that change of mind is one of the most significant, but least commented on, parts of the gospel account.

Like all good stories, the drama of Christmas lends itself to poetry. Whether the poet has risen to the occasion is for readers to say, which is why buying a poetry book in today's cultural climate is always an act of faith. I can only hope that should you venture on to this particular sea of faith that you won't find the voyage disappointing.

Albert Radcliffe.



Future clergy ministry in the Withington Deanery and at St Chad's

The Withington Deanery Pastoral Committee has the responsibility for planning the allocation of stipendiary (i.e. paid) clergy to the parishes within the Deanery. The plan is being revised and each PCC in the Deanery is invited to contribute a parish mission and ministry statement. In the context of shrinking financial resources and fewer men and women coming forward for ordination, the new plan has to take account of a significant reduction of stipendiary clergy in the Deanery. This will include St Chad's and St Nicholas's sharing a stipendiary priest in the foreseeable future.

The PCC formulated, and unanimously agreed, this mission and ministry statement from St Chad's. It was submitted to a meeting of the Deanery Pastoral Committee on 15 October at which St Chad's was represented by Judy Fletcher and Robert Nicholls. The final version of our mission and ministry statement will have to be considerably shorter.

Mission and ministry statement from St Chad Ladybarn

A clear picture of a socially complex parish emerges from all recent statistics. There is high mobility, substantial numbers of students and elderly people, considerable ethnic diversity and pockets of significant deprivation. Following this year's Stewardship Campaign, the PCC is assessing the resources of the church community and considering how to best use these in the parish.

The heart of the church's worshipping life is the Sunday morning Parish Eucharist. Regular midweek services are also held, together with BCP Evensong on the first Sunday of the month. Services are held every day in Holy Week. The recent introduction of Anglican Hymns Old and New has enhanced worship. Advent and Lent discussion groups have been held jointly in recent years with Holy Innocents, Fallowfield in the Hulme Deanery. A Lent Quiet Day and other evening events feature in the annual calendar.

There has been some re-arrangement of the nave recently. This has provided areas for quiet reflection, while maintaining flexibility, so that the whole building can be used when required. The creation of the Community Garden in the rectory grounds has provided a focus for environmental awareness and of God in Nature in the midst of a predominantly urban area.

Ministry development has been strong, with a member of the congregation now in their final year of training for the ordained ministry and a second Reader licensed in June 2013.

Despite several initiatives, St Chad's work with children has not been successful, and little progress has been made in developing a ministry with students. These are challenging areas of mission for St Chad's in isolation, so we need to work in partnership with other parishes.

The parish recognises that structurally it is within the Withington Deanery and that it is within this Deanery that its ministerial and parochial future lies. The PCC has acknowledged that St. Chad's, Ladybarn and St. Nicholas, Burnage will be asked to share a stipendiary priest when either of the current stipendiary priests leaves their post.

Foundations for fuller, long-term co-operation between St. Chad's and St. Nicholas's are being laid. Shared worship experiences have included the Prayer Labyrinth at St. Nicholas's in December 2011, a Lent Quiet Day at St. Chad's in March 2012 led by the Revd Rachel Mann, and a Taize evening, jointly led by members of the two congregations, in March 2013. Both the newly licensed Reader and the priest-in-training from St. Chad's have spent substantial periods at St. Nicholas's on training placements. These are promising signs for future collaboration indicating broad liturgical harmony across the parishes.

The PCC also hopes that existing links with Holy Innocents, Fallowfield will be maintained.

Draft Deanery recommendations

PCCs are also invited to submit a draft of the recommendation that the Deanery Pastoral Committee submits to the Diocese for inclusion in the Diocesan Mission Plan.

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St Chad Ladybarn recognises that the overall reduction in stipendiary clergy, leading finally to the 8.4 in the Deanery projected for 2025, has to involve a link between it and St. Nicholas, Burnage. However, there are long-standing links with Holy Innocents, Fallowfield, through the Advent and Lent study evenings, and ecumenical activities focussing on Fair Trade, Christian Aid, and justice and peace. St. Chad's PCC hopes that the developments envisaged in the Deanery Pastoral Plan will not preclude similar arrangements with other churches within or beyond the Deanery for either St. Chad's or St. Nicholas's.

Douglas Young

March 23 1920 - October 15 2013

Last month we heard the sad news of Doug Young's sudden death at his home in Mynytho, North Wales.

He had been one of our churchwardens from 1969 to 1991 and then a "Warden Emeritus" until the end of 1995.

During his time as churchwarden the rector was Revd. Derek Stanesby and so, amongst other duties as churchwarden Douglas was involved in raising funds for the building of the church hall. At this time his wife Irene was Guide Captain and together they organised the Summer Fairs. He was also treasurer and managed to fit in his church life with all of these duties, as well as an important managerial job at the Daily Mail in Manchester.

He always tried to listen to people and had a fund of funny and happy stories including a tale of receiving a pair of binoculars, that were said to be Rommel's, in the North Africa Campaign during the Second World War. He was also involved in the 8th Army's assault on Monte Cassino in Italy during that war.

With his involvement with the 8th Army veterans Association he replaced the sword that had been stolen from the Scott Memorial window in 1989. Although he was adept at using the typewriter he could write his letters by hand, using fine copperplate writing.

He enjoyed fishing with his friends and caught more fish than he and Irene could use, so was very generous in giving them to friends. He enjoyed walking in the countryside as well and said that he remembered lots of his walks just by looking at the Ordnance Survey maps of those areas. Unfortunately Irene died of cancer so he was not able to enjoy a retirement with her.

His faithful service as churchwarden continued during a year's interregnum between Revd. Derek Stanesby leaving, and Revd. Donald Pryce, coming as Rector of St Chad, in 1986.

As he was an 8th Army veteran he was involved with various meetings countrywide and at one of the larger gatherings he met Phyllis; they were married at St Chad's and found a new home together in Wales.

May he rest in peace.

DIARY FOR NOVEMBER 2013

3	Sunday	10.00am	Holy Communion Celebrant Bishop Mark Parish Lunch
		06.30pm	Evensong for All Souls' Day
5	Tuesday	07.30pm 08.00pm	Holy Communion PCC
7	Thursday	10.00am	Holy Communion
10	Remembrance Sunday	10.00am	Holy Communion with act of remembrance
12	Tuesday	07.30pm 08.00pm	Holy Communion Ladies Group
14	Thursday	10.00am	Holy Communion
17	Sunday	10.00am	Holy Communion
19	Tuesday	07.30pm 08.00pm	Evening Prayer Book Group
21	Thursday	10.00am	Holy Communion
24	Sunday	10.00am	Holy Communion
26	Tuesday	07.30pm 08.00pm	Evening Prayer Needlecraft Group
28	Thursday	10.00am	Holy Communion

**Amendment to the above Diary
27th November Advent Group Meeting at 7.30p.m in the Hall**

TALES FROM THE WAR MEMORIAL

HAROLD WILLIAM FRITH

Rank: Boy 1st Class
Regiment: Royal Navy
Unit/Ship: H.M.S. `Monmouth`
Service No: J/24216
Died: 1st November 1914
Age: 17
Grave/National Memorial: Plymouth War Memorial, Devon.
Memorial Ref: 2

Harold William Frith was born at 23 Egerton Street, Fallowfield, the son of William and Elizabeth Frith. In 1911 he was living at 16 Rippingham Road, Withington, an apprenticed watchmaker. He is also commemorated on the Didsbury and St Paul`s Church, Withington, War Memorials.

At the outbreak of the war HMS `Monmouth` was sent to the 4th Cruiser Squadron (the West Indies Squadron). She participated in the Battle of Coronel off the coast of Chile on 1st November 1914. Out- matched and with an inexperienced crew, she was quickly overwhelmed, being unable to use many of her guns due to the stormy weather. The entire crew was lost on All Saint`s Day, together with that of HMS `Good Hope`, a loss of 1570 lives.

If anyone has information about those commemorated on the memorial, please let me know.

John Davies

From the Registers...

Holy Baptism.

We welcome into God's family:

There were no Christenings in September

Holy Matrimony

We asked God's blessing on the marriage of:

There were no weddings in September

Christian Committal

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

There were no funerals in September

September weekly collections
Includes plates and envelopes

Sept 1 st	£297.70
Sept 8 th	£301.07
Sept 15 th	£291.75
Sept 22 nd	£292.93
Sept 29 th	£307.00

Thoughts on November's Gospel Readings

3rd November:

All Saints' Day. St Luke 6:20-31. This section of St Luke, of which this passage is a part, is often called The Sermon on the Plain. In contrast to St Matthew's Sermon on the Mount, which contains very similar material. Judaism in Jesus day was what scholars call an Oral culture; that is that even though books were widely known and used, people still committed the greater portion of what they knew to memory. Prophets and teachers each had disciples whose task was to learn by heart what they heard. Later, like Baruch, Jeremiah's secretary or scribe, they would write it all down. This is how we came to get the gospels. Here for example are Luke's version of the Beatitudes; the condemnation of the wealthy who will not share what they have; and the way in which the disciples of Jesus should treat their enemies in order to avoid violence. The passage ends with the Jewish Law reduced to The Golden Rule: Do to others as you would have them do to you.

10th November:

Remembrance Sunday. St John 14: 23-29. War leaves in its wake such an emotional and spiritual devastation, let alone widespread physical destruction that the survivors are in need of the greatest comfort, re-assurance and support possible. Today's gospel from the farewell words of Jesus to his disciples is about his leaving them and his peace that can fill the sense of loss that that brings. So in war. The sense of loss for those killed in war and much other loss too need not be the last word. The peace of God through Christ can help us rebuild our lives. All the wars in the world at the moment are civil wars and there are more of them than we think. Such wars mean that friends and relatives can be on opposite sides making peace and reconciliation afterwards very difficult. Prayers for peace are never easy when we know the facts.

17th November:

2nd Sunday before Advent, St Luke 21: 5-19. This reading helps in our preparation for the Season of Advent by introducing the theme of the End Time or The Last Days, that is the expected period of chaos, violence and false Messiahs at the end of the world as we know it that would usher-in the Kingdom of God. Christians we are told are not to be misled by wars and rumours of wars. There will be famines and plagues but the end will not follow immediately. These words are important because like the man who stood outside Everton's football ground at Goodison park when I was a boy with a sandwich board proclaiming The Lord is Nigh, there are always some who believe that the world is about to end now. Advent is the season of waiting and it's been a very long wait! The last part of the gospel is about the persecution of the church. In present day Britain the persecution is mostly through occasional mockery of our belief or their marginalising in society; but in Nigeria, Pakistan and elsewhere it can be a life and death matter.

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24th November:

Feast of Christ the King. St Luke 23:33-43. The Feast of Christ the King is a recent addition to the Anglican calendar and this lesson has been chosen because of the words placed over Jesus' head on the cross: This is the King of the Jews. The sign was intended as pure mockery but have always been interpreted as an unintended statement of the actual truth, that on the cross the Love of God reigned in human suffering and the Majesty of God in the humiliation of his servant Jesus. In the circumstances, the penitent thief was probably being sarcastic but Jesus takes them at their face value and tells him, today you will be with me in paradise. Paradise was originally, of course, the garden of Eden, but here refers to the place of waiting for the righteous dead before they are resurrected. With every word spoken on the cross Jesus turns a place of horror, pain and despair into one of love and hope. No one need be entirely a victim of circumstance. By the grace of God it is possible to rise above them. Nothing is more easily said. What makes it possible is a certain kind of lifelong prayer, a costly prayer of faith and love.

Albert Radcliffe

BLEAK HOUSE by Charles Dickens (pub.1852)

This book provides a satirical look at the grindingly slow legal system, in place in London in the 19th century. Dickens had observed the inner workings of the courts as a young reporter. The story illustrates the evils caused by long drawn out law suits in the Court of Chancery. The story moves from the foggy, damp streets of London, through the maze of the Inns of Court and out into the peaceful English countryside.

There are many interesting and also strange characters in this book. It contains romance, murder, mystery (The first British novel in which a professional detective features strongly). It is also a novel of social criticism. Its major theme is defined by the generations-long case of Jarndyce v. Jarndyce, based on a testator who left several versions of a will. The court attempts to determine which is the correct version, which will endow a fortune to the true inheritor. The current Jarndyce, John, the owner of Bleak House, has now little hope of ever gaining anything. The novel also traces the romantic coming of age of his ward, Esther Summerson, against the backdrop of the wranglings in the Court of Chancery. Despite its dingy settings, dreary atmosphere and troubled characters, Bleak House does end happily rather than pathetically or tragically. The principle villain is killed, the killer is brought to justice, Lady Dedlock lives long enough to be reunited with her daughter and the end of the story concludes on a positive and reassuring note.

This book was first written in twenty episodes, as a serial for a magazine. Consequently the story can be quite gripping and intricate, with many sub plots and even more characters. However, we felt that a major fault was the main character Esther, a stereotype of the perfect Victorian lady. As the book progressed it became increasingly grating to read about her perpetual perfection.

It is a long book to read, but most people enjoyed the experience and were pleased they had made the effort.

Our score for 'Bleak House' was 7.5 / 10

St Chad's Artistic Explosion

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Saturday

November

**2nd, 9th, 16th 23rd & 30th
2013**

10a.m. - 12 Noon

**St Chad's Church Hall,
St Chad's Road, Withington, M20 4WH**



**For further details contact Opal
On 07803001231**

£2.00 per session

We hope to visit Whitworth Art Gallery on the 9th November

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. Please do not send articles in PDF Format unless there are logos included in your article.

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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.**