

# THE MAGAZINE OF ST CHAD'S PARISH CHURCH LADYBARN



Price 30p

**DECEMBER 2013**  
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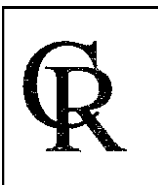
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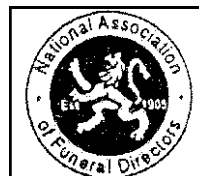
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**December 2013**

## **LOOKING FORWARD TO CHRISTMAS**

**M**any of us will already have started to prepare for the Christmas festivities; looking for presents, buying and writing Christmas cards, looking out the Christmas decorations, making Christmas cakes, visiting relatives and friends, and planning where and/or how we will celebrate on Christmas Day. These tasks can take a lot of time to plan, maybe you are well organised, make lists and will have everything done in good time, but it is so easy for unplanned events to happen and take over our good intentions to be ready for the celebrations.

Advent is the time in the Christian calendar when the church prepares for the Christmas celebrations when we welcome Jesus as the son of God into the world, as the Christ child. Advent is a time too, for us to reflect on that great festival, a time to ponder again on the mystery of our Christian story, a time to reflect on how His coming affects our lives. Although the first Christmas was around 2000 years ago it is a story we can get involved in, in this and every year.

This year we can look at the Christmas story from the Gospels of Matthew and Luke and note the differences in the two accounts. In chapters one and two of St. Matthews gospel there is no mention of shepherds coming to worship the Christ child; they are mentioned though, in St. Luke's gospel. St Matthew's gospel is the one where the magi are mentioned.

This year all of the four Sundays in Advent fall in the month of December, where we reflect on the coming of Jesus Christ into the world as a human being as well as Jesus being the Son of God. Although in these four Sundays we also reflect on the difficult problem of divine judgement at the end of time one of the four last themes that have been part of Advent. We can also reflect on how we are to accept Jesus into our lives and wonder at our Lord and Saviour as being both a human being and the Son of God.

During Advent the church looks more sombre as there are few flower decorations, the altar frontal is purple, but we do have the advent wreath with candles for each of the four Sundays in Advent, the central fifth candle is lit on Christmas Day when we celebrate Christ's birthday.

This month can you spend some time on reflecting on the Christian message of Christmas and to explain it to others?

Wishing you all a joyous and blessed Christmas.

**Helen Reid**

**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 Milner  
Tel: 07957 139002

**Lay Reader:**

Helen Reid  
Tel: 0161 434 4902

St Chad's

Carol Service

Sunday 22nd December

At 3.00p.m.

Tea, Coffee and Mince Pies in the  
hall afterwards



## A Manger at Bethlehem

She was nicely spoken,  
for a girl from Galilee,  
And her time was near,  
'Nearer than the Kingdom!'  
She smiled, then groaned again.  
My wife ran for Maia,  
Who'd brought into this world  
Hundreds of calves and lambs  
and a dozen shepherds too;  
While I, a useless man,  
looked for something to do.  
'A bed', his father said.  
'My son requires a bed'.  
Then I ran too, to where  
Our animals were fed,  
Then scooped their food into a pail,  
And laid him in their feeding trough.



Albert Radcliffe

## Meeting to discuss Bible Study 5<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm in Church

The meeting on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December is for those, who want to come to Bible Study meetings, to discuss how and in what way they would like them to run. Questions such as:-

1. How often should they be?
2. When and where should they be held?
3. What book of the bible would you like to study?
4. Do you want a leader and how much time for discussion do you want?

## THOUGHTS ON DECEMBER'S GOSPEL READINGS

### Sunday 1st December.

**ADVENT I: St Matthew 24:36-44.** Advent is the liturgical season which begins the Church's year. It is the Christian New Year. Since 1753 the secular New Year in Britain has begun on 1st January. Traditionally, the four Sundays of Advent are about 'The Last Things', or The End of the World. The technical word for this is Eschatology. The gospel for the day begins: about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. [Mt 24:36]. This is because then, as now, there was a great deal of speculation about when exactly the world would end. All Jesus will say by way of advice to his disciples is, Keep awake therefore. For you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. [v42]. We must 'be ready,' that is spiritually expectant and spiritually prepared. Like Lent, Advent is a serious season, a season of fasting and prayer. This is why we don't sing the Gloria in Advent while many churches also have no flowers on the altar. Advent is not so much a countdown to Christmas as season in its own right, like Lent a time for study and a meditation.

### Sunday 8th December.

**Advent II. St Matthew 3:1-12.** In the old Prayer Book, the gospels read during Advent made no reference to themes outside Christmas until the Fourth Sunday. Instead they concentrated on the Last Things at the end of the world. This meant that while outside the church people were shopping and the big stores were playing carols inside church the congregation would be singing Advent hymns and ignoring Christmas until Christmas Eve. All that changed with the revision of the Prayer Book with a new generation of liturgists. Hence the gospel for today, Advent II, which has John the Baptist preparing for the arrival of Jesus. John is preparing for the first arrival of the Messiah, hinting that you and I should be preparing for the Second Coming.

### Sunday 15th December.

**Advent III. St Matthew 11:2-11.** The significance of John the Baptist in the life of Jesus is continued on the Third Sunday in Advent when we read how John's disciples asked Jesus, Are you the one who is to come, or are we to ask for another? There is a definite shift here in the emphasis of Advent from the second to the first coming of Jesus. We are being prepared for Christmas rather than for the end of time. By degrees Advent is being downgraded as it were and the focus is shifting from the return of The Lord of History to the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem.

### Sunday 22nd December.

Advent IV. St Matthew 1:18-25. In this passage we have left Advent far behind and move immediately into the Christmas story: Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. It's the account of how when Joseph discovered that his bride to be was pregnant, being a righteous man, he planned to dismiss her. His mind is changed by the intervention of an angel and he marries her. Jesus was not a straightforward birth and the difficulties raise lots of important points which it's the job of the preacher to help the congregation explore.

*Continued on page 6*

**Christmas Day.**

**St Luke 2:1-14.** The old gospel for Christmas Day was the Prologue to St John. Perhaps because they thought it too mystical and theological, this has now been replaced by St Luke's account of Mary and Joseph travelling from Nazareth to Bethlehem where Jesus is born in a fully booked inn, swaddled and laid in an animals' eating trough, a manger. Local shepherds whose job was to look after the sheep for the temple sacrifices are meanwhile visited by a choir of angels who sing of peace and announce that the long expected Messiah has been born nearby.

**Sunday 29th December. First Sunday after Christmas.**

**St Matthew 2:13-23.** This is the story of The Flight into Egypt in order to escape from the jealousy of King Herod the Great and of how in his rage, Herod slaughters all children who were two years old or younger. One purpose of this story is to identify Jesus as the new Moses for, like Moses, Jesus life is threatened and he finds safety in Egypt. The gospel writers do not spell out these themes. We are expected to see what's under the surface for ourselves. Likewise, Jesus is in exile and the exile of the human race from God after the Garden of Eden is another biblical theme we are meant to pick up and meditate on.

**Albert Radcliffe.**

**From the Registers...**

**Holy Baptism.**

*We welcome into God's family:*

There were no Christenings in October

**Holy Matrimony**

*We asked God's blessing on the marriage of:*

There were no weddings in October

**Christian Committal**

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

There were no funerals in October

October weekly collections  
Includes plates and envelopes

Oct 6 <sup>th</sup>	£341.00
Oct 13 <sup>th</sup>	£280.14
Oct 20 <sup>th</sup>	£377.23
Oct 27 <sup>th</sup>	£273.47

## NEWS FROM THE BOOK CLUB

### **The Kingmaker's Daughter by Philippa Gregory**

This is the fourth book in the 'The Cousins War Series' which charts the rise and fall of the Plantagenet dynasty and their claims and counter claims to the throne of England. The story is told through the life of Anne Neville, the younger daughter of The Earl of Warwick, 'The Kingmaker' of the title. With no male heirs, he uses his daughters to promote his own ambition to be at the centre of power and prestige of 15th century England.

Married and then widowed by the age of 14, Anne Neville was a pawn in a political game. Controlled, first by her father and later by her second husband Richard, Duke of Gloucester (The future Richard III) she was manipulated by the whims of several ambitious men, as they jockeyed for position and changed their allegiance from York to Lancaster and back again. The story opens in her childhood, as she watches the celebrations of Edward IV and his new queen, Elizabeth Woodville. It follows her first marriage and widowhood, to the fulfilment of her father's ambition, as she becomes queen when her second husband, Richard, takes the English throne. Sadness haunts her, and when she loses her only child, Edward, to sudden illness, she dies not long afterwards, still only a young woman of 28.

If you enjoy reading historical novels, then do consider this book, which brings to life a rather shadowy character from the 15th century. The main players are all here, the relationships are interesting, and their lives interweave as the struggle for power moves from one side of the protagonists to the other.

Some in the group have reservations about historical novels with their contrived conversations between people who only existed in a particular time and place. There was also concern about the author's use of modern terms in an historical context. 'Windows' in a 15th Century castle is an example. However, this book was considered to be an 'Enjoyable Read' with a fast moving story which helps to shed light on to a less well known period of our history.

We scored this book 8.1 /10



**Barbara Leary**



## **Didsbury TFSR Group Supporting Sierra Leone**

The Didsbury TFSR Group is pleased to announce that they have been able to send funds to finance development programmes amongst Sierra Leone communities.

Funds raised by the Group over recent years at events such as the Didsbury Festival and Parrswood Environmental Centre are going to directly fund two elements of a major multi - charity community programme in the region around Bo in southern Sierra Leone. Communities in this area have experienced the traumas of the recently ended civil war as well as the ravages of HIV/AIDS on family life.

**Craftshare, HELP - SIERRA LEONE, Feed the Minds and Tools for Self Reliance** are co-operating with an overall programme specifically targeted at young, unemployed adults. The 12 months programme will include specific training on Carpentry, Tailoring, Building, Metal work and Auto mechanics trades for an identified group of 125 people, and will cover Life Skills and HIV/AIDS awareness. The courses the Didsbury Group are funding are for Carpentry and Metal Work, each for 15 people, which will give participants a good grounding in relevant aspects of technical and vocational training, which ultimately will lead to the strengthening of a local economy and improved educational opportunities for both boys and girls as the skills are spread within communities.

The initial stage of the scheme involved 'training trainers' in essential business skills such as administration, financial organisation, pricing, purchase of materials and covering life and business skills including organising work rosters, sales records, financial transactions and the management of income, resources and production. This phase has recently been completed. (October 2013) The necessary tool kits are coming from TFSR headquarters in Southampton and are the largest consignment that TFSR has ever prepared. They will be packed in to a **40 foot** shipping container and will include **400** individual tool kits together amounting to some **14,500** tools, which it is hoped will soon start their long journey to Sierra Leone.\* Each kit sent is individually addressed to the community trainer, who will then broaden the training process by passing on the skills they have been taught previously. And so the ball will continue rolling..... from 120+ trainers to well over 850 participants.

***Continued on page 9***



***Continued from page 8***

Gradually, it is envisaged, employment prospects will increase bringing better and wider opportunities for education for younger age groups as well as economic and health benefits for families hitherto experiencing severe and prolonged poverty. Individual enthusiasm and entrepreneurship, based on previously taught skills, will lead to the emergence of hope for an increasing number of people. All members of the Didsbury Group are happy to be lending a hand, encouraged by the support we receive from so many members of our local community.

Thank you.

For further information please, or to donate tools, please contact -  
Trevor on 0161- 445 3734

\* The consignment left for Southampton docks late afternoon October 31<sup>st</sup> 2013.

### **The Star Stood over Bethlehem**

Mary watched its progress across the heavens.  
Sirius-bright it paused where she had stopped.  
What does it mean for a star to stand still?  
Their movement marks the passage of a day.  
a year in all the stories of the world.  
Was this some halt in time? Had the skies ceased  
To signify the destinies of men?  
Bethlehem was near. Like a break in prayer  
They rested where their road had narrowed.  
The hesitation ran deep within her,  
A silence reaching to the child within,  
Questioning that 'Yes' she had given God.  
Like an angel, Doubt, the strengthener of faith  
Was visiting his children, prodding her  
Where trust and confidence held dark retreat.  
Joseph sat beside her; doubt sat with doubt,  
Until its final arguments were spent;  
For compared with faith what has doubt to offer?  
She stood and then her pains began again.

**Albert Radcliffe**

## DIARY FOR DECEMBER 2013

1	Sunday	10.00am  6.30pm	Advent Sunday Holy Communion  Evensong
3	Tuesday	7.30pm 8.00pm	Holy Communion PCC
4	Wednesday	7.30pm	Advent Group Meeting
5	Thursday	10.00am 7.30pm	Holy Communion Bible Study Group (in Church)
8	Sunday	10.00am	Holy Communion
10	Tuesday	07.30pm 08.00pm	Holy Communion Ladies Group
11	Wednesday	7.30pm	Advent Group Meeting
12	Thursday	10.00am	Holy Communion
15	Sunday	10.00am	Holy Communion
17	Tuesday	7.30pm 8.00pm	Holy Communion Book Group
18	Wednesday	7.30pm	Advent Group Meeting
19	Thursday	10.00am	Holy Communion
22	Sunday	10.00am 3.00pm	Holy Communion Carol Service
24	Tuesday	11.30pm	First Communion of Christmas
25	Wednesday (Christmas Day)	10.00am	Short Service of Holy Communion with Carols
26	Thursday	<b>No Service this morning</b>	
29	Sunday	10.00am	Holy Communion
31	Tuesday	<b>No service this evening</b>	

## Lottery Heritage Grant for First World War Commemoration

As many of you will realize, 2014 is the one hundredth anniversary of the start of the First World War. To mark the event at St Chad's we are proposing to produce a book giving the details of the 192 casualties who are listed on the St Chad's War Memorial, in our Remembrance Chapel.

A Lottery Heritage grant application for this book is about to be made. An 'Expression of Interest' has been submitted and our project description is : '**Book giving information about men of Ladybarn who lost their lives in WW1**'. Estimates for printing, artwork, publicity, and a launch event are currently being sourced in order to meet the criteria for funding. The grant fund for the purpose of commemorating WW1 offers financial assistance of between £3,000 and £10,000.

John Davies is taking the lead on this project and John and the PCC would like you all to help us to remember these men. Please do let us know if you have any souvenirs of them, such as medals, uniforms, photographs, newspaper cuttings and so on.

We are hoping to launch the book as part of a more general exhibition about the World War 1 period. So, if you have any WW1 memorabilia, documents or photographs which could be included in such an exhibition, then we would love to have a look at them. These would not have to be specific to the people named on the St Chad's memorial tablet.

If you think you are able to help in any way, then please speak to John Davies, or any member of the PCC.

# **St Chad's Artistic Explosion**

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**Saturday**

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**Will open again in January**

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



**For further details contact Opal  
On 07803001231**

**£2.00 per session**

## 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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## **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
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.**