

# THE MAGAZINE OF ST CHAD'S PARISH CHURCH LADYBARN



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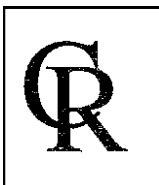
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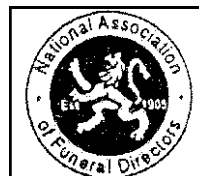
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## September 2013

**A**fter many months of planning and preparation I will be taking my sabbatical from 2<sup>nd</sup> September for twelve weeks. It's an opportunity that comes very infrequently in ordained ministry and it's not an opportunity that will come my way again and so I am very much looking forward to the whole experience.

The Diocese of Manchester describes a sabbatical as follows,

*The sabbatical is understood to be a time for space and reflection, refreshing and equipping for the future. It is a chance to step back from the immediacy of parish life and to look again at our ministry and work and rhythm of life. It is a chance to let God speak to us more deeply and afresh. While a sabbatical is not a right, it is the policy of the diocese to try and ensure that clergy are able to take a sabbatical at due times, such that the sabbatical is for their own good and without detriment to the parish.*

During the twelve weeks of my sabbatical I will be spending some time on retreat with the Benedictine community at Mucknell Abbey, in Worcestershire. This will be the first time I have visited the community since they moved from their previous home at Burford and I look forward to that time..

The major theme of the rest of my sabbatical will be an extended creative writing course with the Open University. I have begun to plan this and have started work on the course, which promises to be absorbing and interesting.

Here at St Chad's we continue to have many on-going problems, not least with our delicately balanced financial situation, with maintaining a building which is large and difficult to manage and with trying to maximise usage of the community hall in order to benefit the local area. All of those things can become very disheartening at times.

During the next twelve weeks there will be a number of visitors coming to St Chad's to preach and preside on Sunday mornings and on weekday services and I hope that, through the ministry of our visitors, St Chad's can continue to see a sustainable vision of the future for the church. Please do come along and meet our visiting priests and try to support the church as much as possible by regular Sunday attendance during the coming weeks.

**With best wishes**  
**The Reverend Elizabeth Davies**  
**Priest-in-Charge**

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Tel: 248 7689

### **Lay Reader:**

John Milner  
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### **Lay Reader:**

Helen Reid  
Tel: 0161 434 4902

## **Update on the Stewardship Campaign June/July 2013**

We had three aims for the Stewardship Campaign

- Renew our sense of mission
- Get more people more involved
- Address the financial situation

The financial outcome is straightforward to report on. Thirty five financial commitment forms were returned forms, 22 people promised to increase their regular giving, 10 promised to continue at their present level of giving and three of the forms were blank. The promised increases in giving total just under £4,000 per year before Gift Aid is taken into account, which indicates how committed core members of the congregation are to St Chad's. Thank-you letters have been given to all these 32 people whose generosity will relieve some of the financial pressure on St Chad's.

Getting more people more involved will take time. All the roughly 45 Time and Talents forms returned have been opened and looked at by a subgroup from the PCC. Each one of these forms listed tasks which the respondent already carries out and their willingness to continue helping "keep St Chad's on the road". Some people mentioned new things which they would like to become involved in, the most numerous being Bible study.

Bible study groups are something which Elizabeth will be taking the lead on. There are many different ways of approaching bible study so she will listen to what people are seeking before deciding on the way forward. She has organised an informal gathering for everyone who is interested so that we can think about dates, times, venues, format etc. This will take place in the hall on Thursday 5 December at 8.00pm, with a view to Bible study groups beginning soon after Christmas. This timetable will make possible careful planning bearing in mind that there have not been Bible study groups at St Chad's for well over ten years. If you are interested in joining a Bible study group then please put the date in your diary and spend some time thinking about what you are expecting from Bible study.

There were a few other offers of new contributions to the life of St Chad's; people will be approached individually about these. Please remember that it is not necessary to wait for a Stewardship Campaign before offering to help with the tasks that keep St Chad's going!

There were other good outcomes from the Stewardship campaign. Lots of conversations took place around the visits that the Stewardship team made to members of the congregation. There was good teamwork, shared effort and responsibility amongst all those involved and a feeling of anticipation about the future of St Chad's. In the initial feedback from the Stewardship visitors, there was some pessimism about the seemingly limited extent of mission and outreach which had been achieved so the biggest challenge of all is to renew our sense of mission. To help us think about this Alison Peacock, the Diocesan Mission Planning Officer is coming on 23 October to talk to a joint meeting of St Chad's and St Nicholas Burnage. Those who heard her when she last came to St Chad's will remember how very well informed she is about the parish profiles and statistics on which mission should be based.

**Leslie Fletcher**

## The Gospel Readings for September 2013

The gospel readings for September are about Jesus as a controversial teacher. Generations of preachers have worked hard to turn what Jesus said into comforting and homely truths. They are anything but! In the old days, confirmation candidates used to be taught to read the gospel through beforehand on Saturday night when they prepared for communion. It's good advice. It taught me that very little of what Jesus said could be described as 'reassuring.' It was usually mind blowing and challenging stuff and made him more enemies than friends. This month's readings introduce us to some of Jesus' favourite faith transforming debating techniques.

### **1st September: St Luke 14: 1, 7-14.**

Jesus is invited to a Sabbath meal by a leader of the Pharisees. But it's a trap! He's being tested to see what sort of teacher he is and how good a Jew. To understand how he argues his case, using what the rabbis called the qal vahomer argument, and turns the situation to his advantage, it's recommended that you read the whole passage, 14: 1-14. Qal vahomer is Hebrew for 'from the lighter to the heavier.' For example, when in Matthew 7:11, Jesus says, 'If you then being evil know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your father who is in heaven give what is good to those who ask him,' that's an example of the qal vahomer argument, from the light to heavy. Once recognised it can easily be spotted.

### **8th September: St Luke 14: 25-33.**

The gospel begins with one of what are called 'The Hard Sayings' of Jesus, about carrying our cross, a saying that explains why Jesus had such a difficult time with his own family. These are sayings which also illustrate what the great German wartime anti-Nazi theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer called The Cost of Discipleship. It has little to do with bearing a physical affliction. This saying about hating our family also demonstrates another of Jesus' methods of argument, hyperbole, or exaggeration in order to make a point. If last week's gospel reading was an introduction to his much used qal vahomer argument, this week demonstrates the spiritual effect of hyperbole.

### **15th September: St Luke 15: 1-10.**

The Parable of the Lost Sheep is a beautiful story about what a responsible shepherd just wouldn't do: that is, leave a hundred sheep unprotected simply to go looking for one that was lost? Yet that is just the point of the parable, God loves like that! Jesus' teaching methods are nothing if not controversial. Taming him as a preacher, as we preachers usually do, always misses the point. On many occasions the response he expects from us seems to be: 'Go on! Pull the other leg.' Three weeks, and three different ways of arguing to open up closed minds.

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**22nd September: St Luke 16:1-13.**

The parable of the dishonest manager; another unlikely story with no generally agreed interpretation, except to open our minds to grace and to show how the love of God and the kingdom of God and our responses to them are not what we might think. Jesus comic use of surprise, exaggeration and absurdity was the way in which he opened the closed minds of his hearers, then and now.

**29th September: St John 6:25-35.**

The first of the seven I Am sayings of Jesus which form a kind of scaffolding on which the gospel of St John is built: I am the bread of life, whoever comes to me will never be hungry. Jesus surprised and shocked his hearers by the apparently outrageous claims he made for himself. Reading behind Jesus' debating methods like this we can see that St John's gospel is really about who Jesus is. The seven I ams all add up to the claim in the prologue which opens the gospel, that he is the incarnate word of God.

**Albert Radcliffe.**

## **Summer Time in the St Chad's Community Wildlife Garden**

Our recent Stewardship Campaign, together with our forthcoming Heritage Open weekend, have both helped us to keep in mind the need to steward God's earth well. Good stewardship of our planet, with her myriad of creatures and plant life, should ensure that this precious heritage is handed on to future generations. Our Diamond Jubilee Bee Friendly garden status seems particularly timely. Recent research shows that the serious decline in our bee population continues. However, the evidence shows that city bees are doing quite well, because of the prevalence of flower filled parks and gardens, obviously including ours!

It has been a delight to see our garden thriving in the sunshine. We planted a wildflower meadow in late Spring and this has been full of cornflowers, flax, poppies and teasels. These flowers brought in a wide range of different sorts of bees, some beautiful cinnabar moths (and their gaudy caterpillars!) and a recent profusion of peacock butterflies. The pond has also settled well. We now have a resident frog and have been visited on several occasions by dragonflies. We also continue to welcome a range of human visitors into our garden, most particularly in early May when we took part in an Open Gardens event. Lots of ideas and seeds were exchanged !

Finally, our most recent development has been the creation of our sun clock. This clock accurately tells the time from your own shadow...if you stand in the right place and the sun is shining! Please come along and try it. It is always possible to visit the garden on a Friday morning or after Church on a Sunday. The Garden will also be open all over our Heritage Open Weekend, September 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>.

The Green Group, and those who take particular responsibility for managing the garden, would very much welcome new members from our congregation to join their endeavors.

**Judy Fletcher**

## **From the Registers...**

### **Holy Baptism.**

*We welcome into God's family:*

There were no Baptisms in June/July

### **Holy Matrimony**

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

There were no weddings in June/July.

### **Christian Committal**

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

5 July Margaret Bowcock

9 July Harry McKay

June / July weekly collections  
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June 6 <sup>th</sup>	£277.81
June 9 <sup>th</sup>	£493.45
June 16 <sup>th</sup>	£313.25
June 23 <sup>rd</sup>	£324.42
June 30 <sup>th</sup>	£376.33
July 7 <sup>th</sup>	£300.53
July 14 <sup>th</sup>	£196.60
July 21 <sup>st</sup>	£236.71
July 28 <sup>th</sup>	£322.86

## **BIBLE STUDY GROUP**

The Time and Talent forms from our stewardship campaign revealed that a significant number of people are interested in us setting up a bible study group here at St Chad's. That's good news. Spending more time looking at the texts that describe and define our faith can only be a good thing.

This is something that needs some thought and preparation and as most people will be aware I will be away on sabbatical for twelve weeks from the beginning of September. I am planning that we will establish bible study groups in January and in preparation there will be an informal gathering, for anyone who is interested, in the hall, at 7.30pm on Thursday 5th December. Coming to this meeting doesn't commit you in any way but it will be an opportunity for us all to think about what we think a bible study group is (they're not all the same), what we want from our bible study group, along with practical details such as venue, time, day and format. If the group is large then it's possible that we may have two groups, one meeting in the evening and one meeting during the day, so if evening gatherings aren't your thing please do still come along on 5th December. If you're interested in a bible study group but can't be there on 5th December then please let John Milner know, with a little written note of your preferred days/times

**The Reverend Elizabeth Davies**

## **NOTES FROM THE BOOK CLUB**

### **The Black Dahlia by James Ellroy**

We disagreed wildly about this book. Some people were fascinated and enthralled by the story whilst at the other extreme, one or two gave up after the first chapters.

It tells the story of the murder of Elizabeth Short, one of California's great unsolved mysteries, through the investigations of a young police officer, Bucky Belchart.

As Bucky becomes more involved in the case, his initial interest develops into an obsession which almost destroys him. He is never portrayed as a perfect hero and sometimes behaves more like his underworld adversaries than a policeman. However, he is, in many ways, much more appealing for being flawed.

The investigation takes the reader through the darker side of post war Hollywood, with its violence, sex and dishonesty. It is very atmospheric, and Bucky's psychological struggle with his own demons, creates a story which in turn grips and horrifies.

We have not read a book by James Ellroy before. His style of writing is sharp, very well observed and quite different from anything we have previously experienced. If you would like to revisit the black and white cinematic world of Humphrey Bogart and Lauren Bacall, then perhaps this should be your choice at the book shop.

We gave this book an average score of 8.

Our 'Summer Read' will be 'Bleak House' by Charles Dickens which we shall discuss at our next meeting on Tuesday, September 17th.

**Barbara Leary**

## **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**





## **St Chad's Church will be open for visitors**

- **Saturday 14 September: 12.00noon to 4.00pm**
- **Sunday 15 September: 2.00pm and 4.00pm**

There will be an informal service of prayer at 4.00pm on Saturday and Evensong at 4.00pm on Sunday

The Community Wildlife Garden will be open and there will be displays by church groups, music, activities for children, goods for sale and refreshments in the Hall.

St Chad's Church was designed by the Manchester architect Cecil Hardisty and built 1906. It has interesting stained glass windows, a Grade II listed organ built by Harrison of Durham in 1906, and the local War Memorial.

Bring your family and friends to look around this interesting building and see what your local church has to offer. Find out more at

- [www.heritageopendays.org.uk/directory/st-chads-church-ladybarn](http://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/directory/st-chads-church-ladybarn)
- [www.stchadladybarn.org.uk](http://www.stchadladybarn.org.uk)

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

## **Our St Chad's Church buildings...up-date August 2013**

In recent months a number of new issues have arisen with regard to our buildings.

**Firstly**, dry rot has appeared in the Priest's Vestry, probably with some connection to the previous infestation. This has been inspected by Steven Welsh, one of the Diocesan architects from Buttress, Fuller, Allsop and Williams, and a representative from Robinson's Preservations. We have received a full report and quote for the removal of the rot, which the PCC has accepted. Steven Walsh has therefore instructed Robinsons to carry out the work and we are waiting to hear when this will begin. We feel a bit nervous about this as Robinsons have said that 'the full extent of the decay cannot be determined until it is fully opened up' !

**Secondly**, some work is also required on the maintenance of the church roof. There are two slipped tiles on the high roof of the church and we have had our only remaining lead stolen from the bell tower and nearby elevations. We are currently obtaining quotes for this work but also hope that much of the cost will be covered by our insurers. The PCC has agreed that we proceed with this claim.

**Finally**, an update on the clearance and refurbishment of our Community Church Hall.

- New windows, doors and blinds have all been fitted.
- As our Hall is now extensively and regularly let to a variety of users, our current furniture and storage arrangements were not really fit for purpose any longer. So we have disposed of quite a lot of old furniture and cupboards. It seems that tables and chairs such as our old ones, are badly needed in Beitbridge, Zimbabwe, for education projects. They have therefore been sent there by a bona fide international organization called Freecycle.
- The walk-in cupboard has been painted and re-fitted with shelving. New arrangements will be made with all those groups and users who need to securely store their equipment in there.
- New tables have now been delivered but we may be exchanging some for lighter weight ones, for different usages. Our colour co-ordinated chairs are ordered and will arrive soon, at our convenience.

Please note that we have not suddenly become a wealthy church and all of the above re-furbishment is being paid for out of Grant Monies. However, we do now hope that our Hall rental income will steadily increase as the Hall is becoming a much pleasanter space to let .

**Judy and Diane, and the Hall Management Team**

## DIARY FOR SEPTEMBER 2013

1	Sunday	10.00am 06.30pm	Holy Communion Evensong
3	Tuesday	07.30pm 08.00pm	Holy Communion PCC
5	Thursday	10.00am	Holy Communion
8	Sunday	10.00am	Holy Communion
10	Tuesday	07.30pm 08.00pm	Holy Communion Ladies Group Meeting
12	Thursday	10.00am	Holy Communion
15	Sunday	10.00am	Holy Communion
17	Tuesday	07.30pm 08.00pm	Evening Prayer Book Group
19	Thursday	10.00am	Holy Communion
22	Sunday	10.00am	Holy Communion
24	Tuesday	07.30pm 08.00pm	Holy Communion Needlecraft Group
26	Thursday	10.00am	Holy Communion
29	Sunday	10.00am	Holy Communion

## WALKING WITH A PURPOSE

Two miles beyond the westernmost tip of Llŷn/the Llyn peninsula in North Wales lies Bardsey Island, an important place of Christian pilgrimage since the sixth century. Nearby on the mainland is the small village of Aberdaron, from where many pilgrims set off on the final leg of their journey – Bardsey's Welsh name, Ynys Enlli "island of the tides", hints at the perils of the crossing.

Judy and I love the serene St Hywyn's Church, almost on the beach in Aberdaron, and the poetry of R. S. Thomas, its vicar in the 1970s. We have vivid memories of a Bangor Diocesan pilgrimage with hundreds of pilgrims packing St Hywyn's – we had to receive our Communion in the churchyard in the wind and rain! It was quite natural then that the first part of my 70th birthday walk, to the westernmost tip of Llŷn, became something of a pilgrimage, though this time there was no rain and we would have liked more wind to keep us cool in the blazing sun.

One mediaeval pilgrim route to Aberdaron starts 130 miles away at Holywell, so starting from Caernarfon, a mere 43 miles away along the Wales Coast Path, was taking it comparatively easily. We – Judy, our friend Peter Kelly and I – walked nearly ten miles on the first day, along the shoreline so quite flat. The second day was completely different – after the only serious climb of the whole walk, we crossed Bwlch yr Eifl, at 1,400' above sea level with glorious views in all directions; 18 miles so far. The next day we were joined by our youngest son Dominic, his girlfriend Nic, Judy's sister Sally and her husband Ty so we were a party of seven. Our route took us past the Ty Coch Inn at Porth Dinllaen which had just been voted "the third-best beach bar in the world", creating much excitement locally, so we had to stop there for lunch! By the end of the day we had walked to the village of Edern, 25 miles from Caernarfon.

In the next two days we covered 18 miles from Edern to Aberdaron, the most remote and dramatic stretch of the entire walk. There is an inescapable feeling of walking to the edge, to what the Romans called finistere, and thought of as the end of the world. As R. S. Thomas described his journey there

I have crawled out at last,  
far as I dare on to a bough  
of country that is suspended  
between sky and sea.

We rested for an hour at Pentire camp site, whose owner offers refreshments to bona fide pilgrims, which she defined as those "walking with a purpose". On a baking hot day her home-made elderflower cordial was very welcome. Unfortunately, we arrived in Aberdaron having walked 43 miles from Caernarfon too late to visit St Hywyn's.

By this stage Judy, Peter and I were feeling rather drained by the heat so on Saturday 20 July we walked only five miles, from Hell's Mouth to Bwlchtocyn, for a wonderful barbecue in the setting sun at Dominic and Nic's camp site. On the Sunday Nicholas, our middle son, walked with us from Bwlchtocyn as far as Abersoch before he had to dash back to his student medical placement at Chesterfield Hospital. Dominic and Nic returned to London but a few hours later we were joined by Margaret, Peter's wife and Pauline, another old friend.

The next day we returned to Aberdaron to walk to Plas-yn-Rhiw, and lost our way, briefly, for the only time in the whole ten days. By this time Peter and I had walked the Wales Coast Path from Caernarfon to Llanbedrog, apart from three shortish sections which were mainly on roads, bringing our total to 63 miles. The south coast of Llŷn between Llanbedrog and Criccieth is rather dull so we returned for a day to the north coast to show Margaret and Pauline the wildlife and dramatic scenery. This added six miles to our total and allowed us a very brief visit to St Hywyn's. That evening we were delighted to be joined by our close friends Chandra and Asoka – they had planned to be there throughout, but in the event were prevented from being with us until the final day.

*Continued on page 13*

**Continued from page 12**

The final day, Wednesday 24 July, was my birthday. The easy 5-mile walk from the delightful seaside town of Criccieth to the delightful seaside village of Borth-y-Gest was everything I could have wished for. There was glorious sunshine, the very familiar magnificent scenery and excellent company. We built a cairn of 70 stones on a quiet inlet off the Glaslyn estuary to mark the official completion of 70 miles and recognise the sense of a pilgrimage which had lasted throughout. In the evening we returned to Bryn Teg, our house in Dolwyddelan, had a pleasant meal in the nearby hotel and a chocolate birthday cake baked by a neighbour, rounding off a wonderful birthday.

The experience exceeded my expectations in every way. We visited familiar places bringing back treasured memories of many holidays spent in Llŷn but also discovered picturesque coves and beaches we did not know. It was a delight to have the support of family and friends for every stage of the walk and to feel the growing sense of walking with a purpose.

My purpose was raising money for Christian Aid and Oxfam. Donations and promises so far come to more than £700 so my thanks to all these sponsors. According to Christian Aid's emergency appeal for Syrian refugees:

- £200 will provide food for a refugee family for a month – including milk, cheese and beans to keep children healthy.
- £500 will provide 20 women with hygiene kits to ensure they remain healthy even in unsanitary conditions

**Leslie Fletcher**

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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.**