

THE MAGAZINE OF ST CHAD'S PARISH CHURCH LADYBARN



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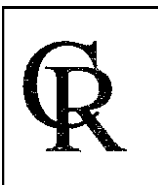
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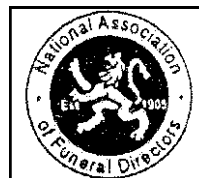
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**The Rev'd Elizabeth Davies is away on Sabbatical until
The 1st December**

'The Problem as A Retired Canon Sees It!'

June marked the 50th anniversary of my ordination to the priesthood and the Church of England has been in decline ever since! With over 600 full-time new clergy, 1963 saw the high tide of ordinations in our church. Since then clergy numbers have more than halved. The end of National Service had a great deal to do with the decline but the how and why has never really been explored.

Our task now at St Chad's and in every parish across the country is how to set about reversing the decline in national influence. Every parish, including St Chad's, should have a plan.

In the Soviet Union, during the years of Communist control, 1917-91, churches were closed, property confiscated, religious education banned and clergy persecuted, and yet after 70 years of oppression, no sooner had Communism collapsed than the Orthodox and other churches sprang back to life. At least some of the credit must go to Russian grandmothers who had quietly had their grandchildren baptised and who taught them how to pray along with other basics of faith,

The most important thing for the survival of the church in discouraging times like ours is to pass our faith on to our children and this is something we have not been very good at in Britain. It's an issue that needs our serious attention.

Another problem is the steady rise in the fifty years since the writer was ordained of popular culture. Popular culture is almost entirely secular. The Christian faith hardly gets a look in. And that's where the battle has been lost, perhaps not even been fought for young people growing up. Their culture has been not so much atheist as irreligious. This urgently needs our attention.

And then there is the whole area not of popular culture but of informed and educated opinion. Fifty years ago the Christian presence there was a strong one. There were popular authors like the crime writer Dorothy L. Sayers, who was also an important lay theologian, and the Anglican convert and Nobel-prize winning poet T. S. Eliot. There are no Christians of their stature in national cultural life today.

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Whatever plans that our church draws up for re-engaging spiritually with the nation they must include discussion at both popular and informed levels. Those who argue strongly against religion and dismiss it out of hand need to face the fact that without religion the evolution of the human species as nature's most successful social animal would not have been possible.

Furthermore, as atheists attempt to argue their case on scientific grounds, they can be challenged historically as experimental science was first developed by practising Christian scientists. Our universities, where science took root were all founded by the Church.

Without the Christian Church the west would not be where it is today. It's time we debated this in earnest with atheists who argue otherwise. For all that the atheists claim to argue on rational grounds too often they advance their claims by satire and ridicule attempting to make the Church seem irrelevant and outdated. But this too is where they can be challenged because human beings are much more than reasoning creatures and, in any case reason, has its limits. As scientists and mathematicians are currently exploring the limits of reason and logic there is clearly room here for an important discussion between believers and unbelievers. We need one another as each is the reality check of the other!

These are just a few of the areas where we need to debate the modern world with those who cannot take the Church seriously. The secular world desperately needs these things to be discussed both in the media and at parish level. But can such things be realistically debated at parish level? The truth is that with a parish full of students St Chad's cannot afford not to discuss them. Neglect here means that we will be letting our young adults down and betraying a pastoral trust. If Soviet grandmothers could save the Orthodox Church for Russia surely St Chad's can mount its own attempt in Ladybarn.

We should pray then for our church leaders at national and parochial level as they seek to create plans for taking on the spiritual failures of both the church and the world.

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

GOSPEL READINGS FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER

The Gospel Readings for the Sundays in October.

6th October: St Luke 17:5-10.

Today's short gospel passage is about two deep and vast subjects: faith and service; and, as always, Jesus tackles them in ways that test our discipleship to the limit. When we attend to what he says, he never leaves us feeling comfortable. The measure of our faith is the extent to which we trust God yet, when exercised, even a little faith goes a long way. Among the ancient Jews the mustard seed was traditionally the smallest of all seeds – and it's all we need. In other words, we can never plead that we don't have the faith needed for some important act of faith. When exercised, even the smallest amount of faith will work great things. As for Christian service, we are in the position of Roman slaves: that is however much we do and at whatever cost and effort we can never do more than what God asks of us. In other words, we will never get away with doing a good deed for an unworthy reason, like expecting a reward, for example.

13th October: St Luke 17: 11-19.

All human societies have their prejudices and this miracle which functions as a parable was used by Jesus to subvert a particular prejudice among his fellow Jews, namely their contempt for the Samaritans. Biologists say that competition is always greatest among species competing for the same ecological niche, an image which describes the relations between Jews and Samaritans almost perfectly. Both religions were descended from the ancient Israelites. The Jews had gone into exile at the time of Jeremiah, the Samaritans had not, but both had the same Five Books of Moses, the Torah. The hatred and rivalry between them occasionally exploded into full blown war. On this occasions ten lepers were healed by Jesus but of the ten only one, described by Jesus as a 'foreigner', takes the trouble to go back and thank God – and, here's the sting, he was a Samaritan – the one that prejudiced Jews would least expect to do such a thing.

20th October: St Luke 18: 1-8.

Persistence is sometimes a virtue, a good thing, and sometimes it's not, it's a nuisance. Today's gospel, The Parable of the Unjust Judge and the Importunate Widow is about those times when it can be both! And it's both in prayer. Like everything else in life prayer has its temptations and one of them is to give up too easily. In the parable, a widow who has been badly done to by someone keeps bringing her case to court only to have her petition ignored. In the end, the judge listens and does rightly by her. In the same way, says Jesus, don't give up with God, keep at your prayers. God is a just judge.

27th October: St Luke 18:9-14.

This is the passage about the Tax Collector and the Pharisee praying in the temple and in which the first asks for God's mercy because he taxed people more than he should and kept the difference; while the second reminds God of what he's done over and above what the religious Law, the Torah, required of him, such as his fasting twice a week and giving a tithe, a tenth, of his entire income rather than of just a specified portion. In other words, the Tax Collector stole while the Pharisees gave generously. Which of the two men was 'justified' that is was in the better relationship with God? The answer would seem obvious:., the generous Pharisee. Being controversial Jesus says it was the repentant Tax Collector! When we understand why he said that we are beginning to understand the gospel!

Albert Radcliffe

This Month's Saint.
27th October
St Chad, Bishop of Lichfield,
Missionary, 672.

Because St Chad's Day, 2nd March, falls during Lent, a few years ago we changed it to its alternative date when it can be celebrated as our patronal festival more appropriately.

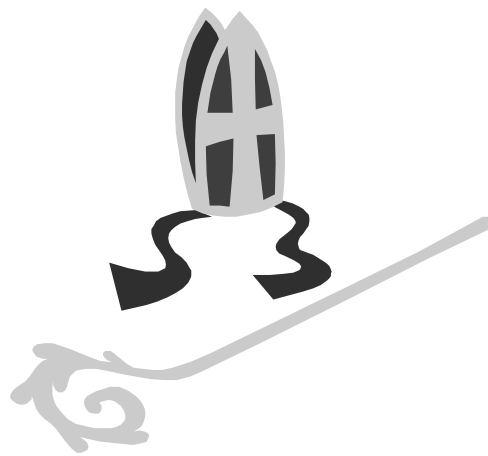
Before England existed, the part of the world we know as Greater Manchester was divided between two kingdoms with the River Irwell as the boundary between them. On the north side of river lay the kingdom of Northumbria and on the south that of Mercia. In Northumbria, the tribes identified themselves as Angels, while in Mercia they were Saxons. Both sets of peoples were Germanic invaders who came to Britain after the Romans left. In religion, they were 'pagan' and they colonised and then culturally displaced the Welsh speaking Britons.

In Mercia, the man largely responsible for the conversion of the pagan Saxons was St Chad, who has churches dedicated to him in Ladybarn, Moston, Oldham, Rochdale, Saddleworth and Tonge Fold.

St Chad was from the kingdom of Northumbria and a pupil of the great Irish missionary and apostle of the north, St Aidan, who died in 651. At his headquarters at Lindisfarne, St Aidan trained twelve Anglian, that is English, monks to be future leaders of the church. At first, Chad's ministry was among the Angles of Northumbria; then, on his brother Cedd's death, in 664, he became Abbot of Lastingham and, not long afterwards, Bishop of the Northumbrians, at York. For this he was soon in trouble with the absent and short-tempered St Wilfred whose job it really was! St Wilfred had been away in France and King Oswiu and the Northumbrians had thought he'd been there long enough and appointed Chad in his place. When Wilfred returned, Chad

withdrew without complaint to Lastingham. It was a lesson in humility for Wilfred who then arranged for Chad to become Bishop of the Mercians.

Chad was bishop among the Mercians for only three years but in that time he impressed them with his organising abilities and above all with his prayerfulness and Christian character. Until Archbishop Theodore insisted he ride, Chad walked everywhere. Bede, in his great history of the early English church, wrote that 'he administered his diocese in great holiness of life, following the example of the ancient fathers.'



St Chad was the sort of person who could do more in three years than most of us could manage in a life time and his achievements in the Lichfield diocese, which he founded, survive to this day. Regrettably, his shrine was destroyed by Henry VIII and four surviving bones, said to be his are in the Roman Catholic Cathedral in Birmingham. Lichfield Cathedral, however, still owns a fine 8th century Mercian illuminated Gospel Book that was once associated with his shrine.

Albert Radcliffe.

Church buildings up-date October 2013

Thankfully the dry rot that appeared in the Priest's Vestry and the cellar below has now been removed and the area thoroughly treated. The work was carried out by Robinson's Preservations, under the supervision of a member of the Diocesan Architect's Team. We were informed that the fungus had not spread beyond the area that was visible.

With regard to the theft of sections of our church roof, thankfully (again!) our firm of insurers, called Ecclesiastical, have agreed to 'engage' with the claim. This means that they will pay for the repairs when they receive appropriately itemized estimates of costings. This is proving tricky but we are working on it! It does seem that there is more damage than was originally found and we are trying to clarify this.

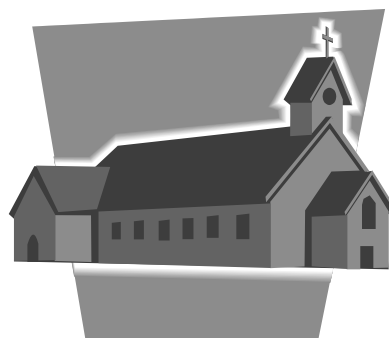
Finally, and very positively, we are able to give a final update on the clearance and refurbishment of our Community Church Hall, which you have been appreciating for a few weeks now.

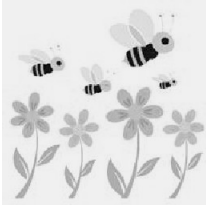
- Our old tables and chairs were sent to Beitbridge, Zimbabwe, 6 weeks ago, by Freecycle, where they are needed in schools.
- The walk-in cupboard has been emptied, the old cup-boarding dismantled and removed, a coat of paint applied throughout, and new shelving constructed and installed. The shelving has now been filled with carefully selected items !
- New tables have now been delivered, following some concern about the weight of the original ones.
- New, comfortable and colour-co-ordinated chairs (with the blinds), a table trolley and a chair trolley, have all arrived to complete our new look.

At our September PCC Meeting a formal vote of thanks was proposed to Muriel Hargreaves, who has project managed the whole Community Hall refurbishment process throughout the last 6 months, using various grant monies.

Sincere thanks were also expressed to a team of people who have given much time and energy to complete the necessary tasks, as and when required.

Judy Fletcher and Diane Wynne (Church Wardens)





ST CHAD'S GREEN GROUP

**TUESDAY 29TH OCTOBER
7.30PM**

ST CHAD'S COMMUNITY HALL



**Red Rose Forest
Talk and slide show to be given by
Kevin Wigley
Red Rose Forest Green Streets Officer**

Have you ever wondered who made the improvements to your local green space, or have you had any trees or bulbs planted on your street recently?

Do you know who helps to create, maintain and improve woodlands across Greater Manchester?

These are just a few of the things which the charity Red Rose Forest are involved in.

Kevin will tell us a little about the history of the charity and its past, present and future projects.

Refreshments will be available and admission
is by donation and in aid of Red Rose Forest projects

From the Registers...

Holy Baptism.

We welcome into God's family:

Cameron Mark Jackson Son of Noreen Jackson

Callum Michael Jackson Son of Noreen Jackson

Holy Matrimony

We asked God's blessing on the marriage of:

There were no weddings in August.

Christian Committal

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

There were no funerals in August.

August weekly collections

Includes plates and envelopes

August 4th £296.55

August 11th £256.52

August 18th £274.45

August 25th £366.40

FROM A NEW READER

The licensing service on Sunday June 16th, at William Temple church in Wythenshawe was a lovely and joyous ceremony. This was for the licensing in the Manchester diocese of eight new Readers and granting the title of Reader Emeritus on those Readers who had attained their seventieth birthday, by Bishops Mark and Chris...

One of the new Readers is deaf and she had her deaf working dog with her. He was very well behaved and seemed quite at home amongst all of the people in the large congregation and participants in the service. His name is Flynn by the way. This was a diocesan occasion the service sheet being produced by the diocesan officers in charge of Readers.

Before the service started the eight of us had to be sworn in to our new position of Reader and this was written in the service books, we were all given our copy of our oaths along with the licences to be Readers in the Diocese of Manchester and in my case to be a Reader at St. Chad, Ladybarn. We were also given a copy of the New Testament and Psalms from the diocese.

The service marked an end to the three years of part time study of the course and the beginning of a new ministry at St Chad's. The following Sunday marked that new beginning at St Chad's in the usual Sunday Eucharist, John giving an eloquent sermon. The buffet we had together afterwards was another form of celebration. So thank you all for coming to the licensing service and also for the presents handed to me by our Rector, Elizabeth, which were the Reader's blue scarf, the beautiful bouquet of flowers, the two books from the Common Worship series and the book token. The two books, both with red covers, are the New Patterns for Worship and Exciting Holiness, the first one gives more ideas for services in Common Worship and the second gives the collects and readings for each Saint's day and other officially significant people in the church's life who are remembered in the church's calendar

The training is not over yet though as there are two more modules to be done in this coming academic year both of which are held at weekends and of course as a Reader I am expected to continue with saying daily prayers and bible reading.

Once again thank you for all that you have done and your time that you have given to me during the past three years training to be a Reader and particularly for your prayers.

Helen Reid

A prayer for Readers in the Diocese of Manchester

God of Love in whom we live and move and have our being;
We bring before you the Readers of our Diocese,
And all who are preparing for this ministry.
May we journey as pilgrims in the strength of your Spirit,
In the fellowship of your love, and in the footsteps of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord,
Who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

Why our St Chad's Traidcraft stall matters...

Fair trade in the UK is worth a staggering £1 billion a year – the largest fair trade market in the world. It is a fantastic achievement and one for which we thank God, and for which churches like St Chad's can take a great deal of credit. However, now that fair trade products are available in supermarkets you may think that the job is pretty much done and that we don't need to bother anymore with the goods on the church stall. That isn't entirely true....and this is what Traidcraft says about the issue.

Why should I buy from St Chad's Traidcraft stall, not a supermarket?

Supermarkets sell huge quantities of food products at very competitive prices. However, they can only work with those fair trade food producers who can supply them in the volumes they need. So they offer no opportunity to producers who aren't yet at that level – but would like to be.

They are also unable to sell the goods made by those struggling to support themselves and their families by making crafts, textiles, jewellery, ceramics, or paper and card products.

A large part of Traidcraft's effort is therefore directed towards helping some of the poorest and smallest producers gain their share of the growing global fair trade market. You can play a vital role in making that work possible by buying cards and gifts from the Traidcraft Christmas catalogue and from the St Chad's Traidcraft stall.

How can supermarkets sell Fairtrade products cheaper than Traidcraft?

Tesco alone has a weekly turnover of around £1 billion – as much as the whole fair trade market in the UK for a year! Even the smaller supermarket chains are still very large compared to Traidcraft. Their size means they can afford to offer products at lower prices because their operating costs are, proportionately, much lower.

So Traidcraft supporters at St Chad's are asked to pay higher prices?

In the case of a few products – yes, that is the case. However, if you believe what Traidcraft is doing is right, then choosing to buy from St Chad's stall rather than a supermarket is a way to help. A good turnover on our stall means that more families are given the opportunity to work their way out of poverty, and more communities enjoy the sort of amenities we take for granted, such as clean water, a school, and a local medical service.

Why does Traidcraft sell its products to the supermarkets?

Traidcraft was originally set up to change the way the world trades – and so getting the really big shops to adopt fair trade principles is part of their mission. Although the fair trade market has grown impressively in recent years, it is still only a tiny fraction of trade in the UK, let alone the world. If we can move the global companies even a little way towards fairer trade, that will open up huge opportunities for many more producers. Supermarkets also do offer a whole group of customers the opportunity to buy fairly traded products, even if those folk never darken the doors of a church !

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Why is support from churches so important to Traidcraft?

Here are a few reasons :

--Traidcraft was originally created as a Christian response to poverty and the support of the churches has always been critical to its growth and achievements

--What we buy always involves choices, and the choices about how we spend our money send powerful signals to government and to business

--Christian living can sometimes, involve sacrifice, and if you are prepared to be self-sacrificial at times, this makes impressive role models for others

---And finally....because you're making a difference to all the families who can look forward to a brighter, better future because of what you do at St Chad's.

Judy and Leslie

PS Catalogues now available !

ALL BOARDED UP

An old lady once told me how she had married in the cathedral during the war when after the bomb in 1940 its whole east end was boarded up.

She brought out the photograph and smoothed the creases of time. Enormous plywood boards for reredos, as unpainted as a widow's face, divided the nave from the bombed-out chancel.

'We were married here,' she said, 'as the war turned in our favour.'
A finger bayoneted the picture, memory guided by grief.
'He was on leave – see, at the steps, just there.
He said I looked beautiful.

Her past is all shored-up now
and as fragmented as the Cathedral
quire after Goering's bomb.

On the way home,
I passed youths with boarded-up eyes
and death modelling clothes,
and rows of shops, steel shuttered,
with concrete bollards
standing like anti-tank protection
against ram-raiders in their specially
adapted cars.

I wondered what might count as
marriage here,
in this divide and time of war?

Albert Radcliffe.

DIARY FOR OCTOBER 2013

1	Tuesday	07.30pm 08.00pm	Holy Communion PCC
3	Thursday	10.00am	Holy Communion
5	Saturday	10.00am	First Saturday at Holy Innocents
6	Sunday	10.00am 06.30pm	Holy Communion Evensong
8	Tuesday	07.30pm 08.00pm	Holy Communion Ladies Group Meeting
10	Thursday	10.00am	Holy Communion
13	Sunday	10.00am	Holy Communion
15	Tuesday	07.30pm 08.00pm	Holy Communion Book Group
17	Thursday	10.00am	Holy Communion
20	Sunday	10.00am	Holy Communion
22	Tuesday	07.30pm 08.00pm	Evening Prayer Needlecraft Group
23	Wednesday	07.30pm	Meeting with Alison Peacock jointly with St. Nicks
24	Thursday	10.00am	Holy Communion
27	Sunday	10.00am	Dedication Sunday and St. Chad's Day Parish Eucharist with Rev. Stephen Edwards (Area Dean)
29	Tuesday	07.30pm	Holy Communion
31	Thursday	10.00am	Holy Communion

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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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.**