



# Chads News

16th May

Dear Church family,

I hope you are well and having a good week. Last weekend the world was lit up with two very different forms of light show. The first was the extraordinary Northern lights on Friday night (we were asleep – gutted!) and the second the Eurovision song contest on Saturday (we were asleep – relieved!).

I've been reflecting on these two very different types of colourful extravaganzas. One created by God as a beautiful display of his creation, the second created by humans and marred by controversy and witchcraft. I used to love Eurovision, but this year I had no desire to watch it and from what I've heard, I'm relieved that I didn't. In general I don't like being reactionary or judgemental about cultural occasions, but there were two aspects of Eurovision which particularly saddened me, controversy and cursing.

Eurovision used to be a fun, glitzy, colourful, creative event, a bit of fun a lot of cultural stereotypes maybe and a range of talent on show. But all I heard about this year was controversy, conflict, cultural clash, the reporting of the event seemed preoccupied with finding as much division and anger as possible. The second thing I've heard about is the blatant evil, witchcraft and cursing from one of the songs.

As I said, it is not my desire to be reactionary and judgemental and moan about secular culture. I believe we battle darkness through prayer and living different from the world around us, we shine the light brighter. So how do we do that in this instance?

First we respond to controversy with peace. Our world loves the drama of emphasising division and distrust (I realise it could be said I'm doing that here) we can respond by looking for words that build up and not pull down. Seeking to encourage reconciliation and not division, seeking to listen not judge.

Secondly, we overcome cursing with blessing. Jesus is very clear about this in Luke 6v28. One of our core values in St Chads is 'loving community', seven days a week we seek to be a blessing in our homes, workplaces, schools and community. That culminates in the final words of our Sunday services, when we speak out God's blessing, but also in every cup of tea served in Guywood, every kind word of encouragement shared at work, every time we pray for those in need.

So my friends, let's be people of light. When light shines in the darkness it is beautiful and transforms the world around us.

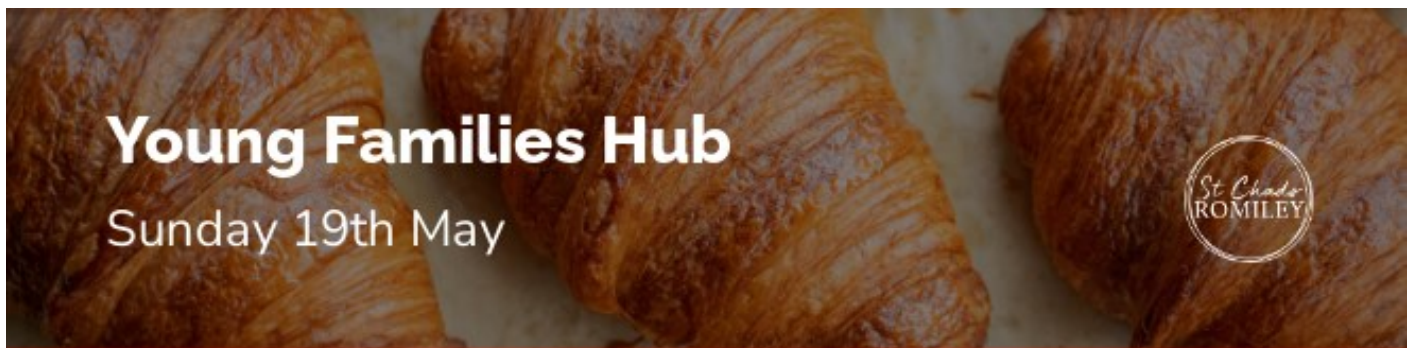
with love,  
Richard.



## Giving

Last Sunday, to follow up our series on money and generosity, our church warden Andrew gave a presentation on our church finances and crowd funding. The vast majority of St Chads income is from the generous giving of our church family. Andrew shared how we are stretching out in faith in doing what we believe God is calling us to, but we do need to see a significant uplift in our regular income from giving, in order to resource the ministries we believe God is calling us to. More details about our finances and giving to St Chads are available in the attached booklet, which explains how church funds are stewarded and how you can contribute.

You can pick up a paper copy of the latest giving booklet from the back of church.



**Any young adults or those with young families - this is the hub for you!**

The hub will be sharing breakfast together before the 11am service this Sunday (19th May).

If you would like to meet up and get to know people we would love to see you. Please ring Shereen on 07835162827 to let them know you're coming or if you have any questions.



## **Volunteer Evening**

6th June

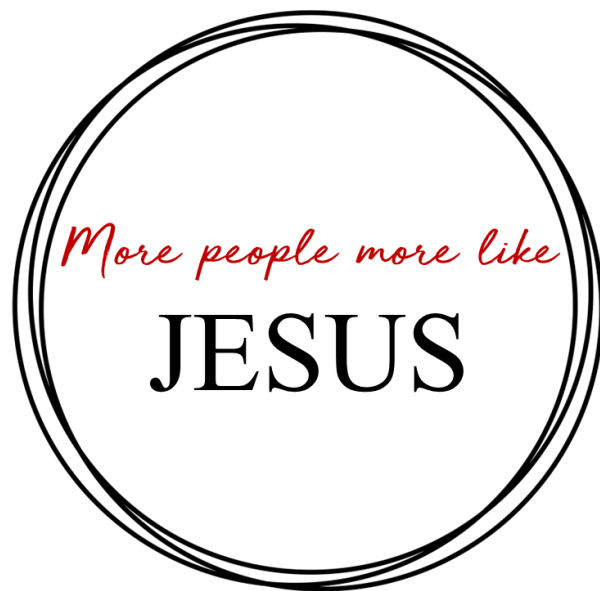
**Do you volunteer on one of our many teams that serves the Chads family and our community?**

If so, we would love to invite you to a cheese and wine evening celebrating our wonderful volunteers and the incredible work you do.

On **Thursday 6th June** we are hosting our annual Volunteer Evening at 7.30pm in the Guywood Centre. We would love for as many of our incredible volunteers to come as possible.

Please RSVP to [alys@stchadsromiley.co.uk](mailto:alys@stchadsromiley.co.uk) or sign up [here](#).

**Please note the LifeCentre closes on Thursday the 23rd May  
and re-opens on Tues 4th June.**



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