



Dear Church Family,

It has been a year since I was licensed by Bishop Sam and you welcomed us back home to St. Chads. While this year has been filled with immense blessings, it has also been an incredibly steep learning curve. Seeing what God is doing in our church is a great delight, and as we sense that we are on the cusp of a season of abundance, I am so grateful to God for calling us back at such an exciting time.

Last Easter Sunday, I preached in Gee Cross and found it deeply emotional. This year, I have the privilege of preaching again on Easter Sunday - what do you think the chances are of more tears? Easter Sunday is a wonderful day of celebration, and during our 11 a.m. service, we will be celebrating new life through full-immersion baptism. Hearing the stories of God's goodness, faithfulness, and restoration is always a joyous occasion, often accompanied by a few tears of gratitude and joy.

Tears hold deep significance in our lives. I can only imagine the tears that were shed at the cross and in the days that followed, as the women tended to Jesus' broken body. Where was their Saviour? Where was their hope for the new kingdom? Psalm 56:8 says, "You keep track of all my sorrows. You have collected all my tears in your bottle. You have recorded each one in your book." This verse reminds us that God sees every tear we shed and holds them as a reminder of our pain and struggles.

But what does it mean when the Bible says that God collects our tears? Firstly, it symbolise His immense love and compassion for us. Just as a parent comforts their child, God cares for our pain and carries our burdens with us. Secondly, it reminds us of His sovereignty. Even in our deepest sorrow, we can trust that God is still in control. Though we may feel lost or alone, we can take comfort in knowing that He has not forgotten us. This year we have a space to sit in the place of sorrow, a place of mourning but where there is 'still hope' on Saturday evening, come and sit in the liminal space, worship and pray together in church. We journey together through our Easter services starting on Palm Sunday 9.15 & 11am, Maundy Thursday 7pm, on-to Good Friday Meditations 1pm, Still Hope on Saturday 7.30pm and culminating with Easter Sunday celebrations 9.15 & 11am.

We are holding the space for Easter prayer, running from Good Friday into Saturday, sign up and come to pray as we reflect on being Easter people living in a Good Friday world. The world can be dark, and at times, we may feel as though hope is slipping away, the truth is that death is defeated, and Jesus is alive.

As we move forward together, let us hold on to the truth that our God "is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine" (Ephesians 3:20). It is good to be home again.

with love,
Katie

Prayer Events

April

The most important gatherings of the month, our times of prayer, the very source of our life in God together. Please do make these a priority: it's vital that we seek God together and fundamental to all we do.

Weds 23rd April - 1.30pm in the church lounge

Tues 29th April - 7.30pm in the LifeCentre



Electoral Roll 2025

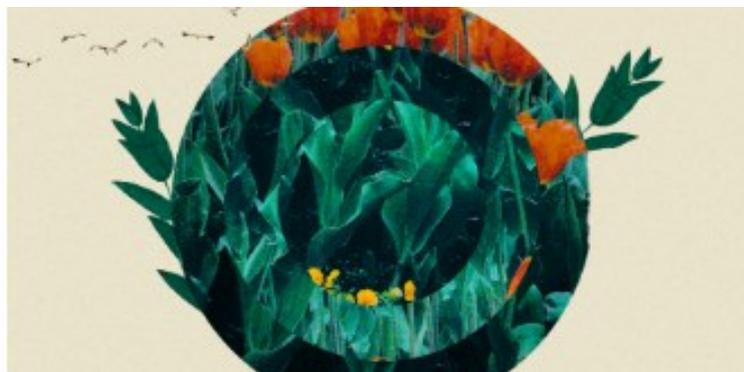
The Electoral Roll is the membership list of St Chads, as set out by the guidelines of the Church of England. We would love for as many members of Chads to be a part of this as possible.

We are collecting data online so it is stored securely on our ChurchSuite database. To sign up digitally please click [here](#).

We are aware that technology and completing forms online is not always easy. With this in mind, for anyone who would like help completing the form, Jane and Alys will be in church on Sunday 27th April after the 9.15am service has finished and before the 11am service starts.

If you are not going to be in church that Sunday but would still like more assistance completing the form, please call the Church Office on 0161 430 4652 to arrange a time to come into the LifeCentre or arrange other assistance.

Easter



This Easter, we hope you can join us as we experience the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus through worship, prayer, and reflection.

Maundy Thursday - 17th April

7.00pm - Communion

Good Friday - 18th April

1.00pm - Meditations on the Cross

Still Hope - 19th April

7.30pm - an evening of worship and reflection

Easter Sunday - 29th April

9.15am - Easter Celebration with communion

11.00am - Easter Celebration with baptism and confirmations

Prayer Room

This Easter, we are opening up the church lounge as a Prayer Room for set times over the Easter weekend.

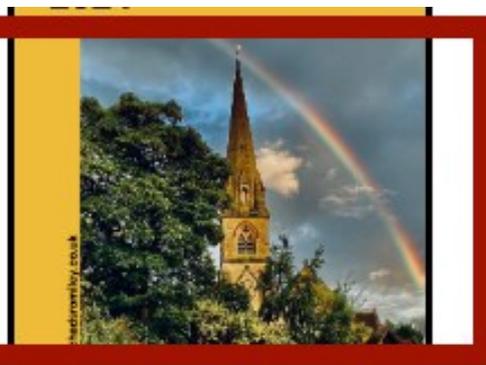
You can sign up for a slot at the back of church - multiple people can sign up for the same slot.

Easter Sunday Baptisms

On Easter Sunday (20th April) at our 11am service we will be doing full immersion baptisms and confirmations.

This is always a joyful occasion and so we would love to invite those who have made a decision to follow Jesus to consider taking the plunge. Dave will be organising some preparation sessions for those making this step, so please do get in touch with any member of our staff team to be included.

Annual Report 2024



Each year we produce our Annual Report. This is a fantastic tool to reflect over the past 12 months in the life of St Chads. Reports include reflections from Richard along with various members of our incredible team as we seek to love, not just our church family, but the wider community of Romiley.

You can view a copy [here](#). Copies are available at the back of church. You can also find a pdf on our website under the Following Jesus/Resources tab.



Vision Sunday

11th May

Vision Sunday
Sunday 11th May 2025
10.00am Church Family Breakfast
10.30am Vision Sunday (inc APCM)

Vision Sunday is a chance for our whole church family to gather to eat, chat, worship, pray and hear about what God is doing amongst us. As a Church of England church, we are required to hold an annual meeting. (APCM stands for 'Annual Parochial Church Meeting, which is Anglican language for AGM!') This includes some reporting and voting and simple business items for our life together, as a way of keeping you up to date with the practical behind-the-scenes things that are necessary for keeping the church going. These things are about our life together as a church family and so we integrate the APCM bit into a whole morning which more thoroughly expresses who we are as St Chads.

The APCM is the official annual general meeting of St Chads. As a church we vote annually for our Wardens, our PCC and lay members of Deanery synod for the following year. To stand or vote for any of these positions, you need to be on the electoral roll. If you would like to know more about being part of the PCC, please have a chat with our wardens (Andrew Goddard or Jan Ford), Jane, Richard or Katie in church or via the Church Office.

We will start at 10.00am with breakfast of pastries, coffee and tea (and juice). This will be a lovely chance for both congregations to spend time together. At 10.30am we will come together to worship and take communion together as family. Richard will then be looking back over some highlights of the last year and sharing the vision for Chads. After communion the children will be watching a film in the church lounge (and finishing the pastries!). The APCM part is integrated into our worship, prayer and hearing from God's word, we keep it as brief as possible!

Please do come along; young and old, new people and people who have worshiped at Chads for fifty years or more. There is something special about being all together.

Any questions please give the Church Office a call.