



Dear Church Family,

What a weekend!! Festivals at St Chads are always special, I think we celebrate and praise in such a beautiful way, and this Easter felt especially special! I arrived at the Maundy Thursday after a long day with, I admit, low expectations and then so many people arrived and then the Holy Spirit turned up! There was such a peace and joy and rich faith in the room. That continued all weekend, there was a depth and a powerful sense of engagement at our Good Friday hour at the cross. Then I went into the prayer room after that and the sense of God's blessing on us as a church hit the next level. The work Sharon, Anna and Florence had put into the prayer room was so beautiful. The profound engagement in the gospel they had captured in the prayer activities really helped me connect with God and I felt so encouraged to be part of a church with such a mix of gifts, faith and creativity.

On Saturday we saw lots of families from our community engage with the brilliant Easter trail and for many coming into the church building was the highlight, lots of the children wanted to stay and were urging their parents to engage more with Jesus. That was accompanied by many visitors to the prayer room through the day and a lot of tears and wide-eyed wonder at meeting with God. When I spoke to Sharon before the evening service, she was glowing with excitement. This sense of God with us flowed into Saturday evening's 'Still Hope' service, as it was a brand new initiative we had no previous experiences to know if anyone would come! Thankfully many of you did and I will never forget the expressions on your faces as you left! It's hard to put evenings like that into words, we had encountered the presence of God! Each individual spending time with our creator and yet collectively experiencing the same thing, the Holy Spirit filled the room and the memories are so precious I don't know how to describe it.

Sunday morning was also breathtaking, a wonderful sermon from Katie and joyful worship at 9.15am and then at 11am we had probably our biggest service for years. Thank you to all who gave up their seats and sat on the floor or had children on your laps. To see people of all ages, many guests of those being baptised and to celebrate together and hear Kim's testimony was just .... Wow!

Trying to capture a weekend like that in words on a page feels too thin and limited, but I do hope you were able to taste some of what I've described and if not this weekend, then let's keep inviting God to send his Spirit on us in similar ways. The joy of baptisms and the conversations we had with those returning to church and coming back to God, urge us on to keep seeking God. I passionately believe that there is a link between our increased commitment to and momentum of prayer as a church and greater experiences of God.

I have spoken to friends around the country who experienced similar things to us over Easter weekend, I know of 3 other churches who also had their highest ever attendance on Easter morning and when I visited Luke and Jack's church in Oxford on Sunday night at least 15 people gave their lives to Jesus in that service and that was their 3<sup>rd</sup> service of the day and the quietest they'd had!

What we're experiencing in part here in Romiley, God is doing around the country and there have been a number of reports and studies to verify this. These include a report by our mission partner the Bible Society on what they are describing as 'The Quiet Revival' – you can read their report [here](#).

So how do we respond to what God is doing? God always works in partnership, what he initiates, he calls us to join in with. So we don't sit back and let it happen, we let him stir our hearts and draw us to our knees to ask for more. Let's prioritise sharing Jesus with those he is at work in, including those coming back to him. Let's keep praying, keep being open to more of the Holy Spirit, keep asking and inviting God to come. Let's carry on with what God has called us to do, (unless he tells us to stop!). We have invested so much time and love into building relationships in our community, I believe many of those we have connections with could start becoming more spiritually hungry to know more of God. Are we ready?

with love,  
Richard.

## Prayer Events

### April

Our monthly prayer events just get better and better each month! We are meeting with God in them and joining in with his purposes and plans, they're really not to be missed. So come and join us for our next one which is on **29th April** and put the May dates in your diary (14th daytime, 21st evening).

The time we put in together in seeking God in prayer, is so fruitful in occasions like Easter Sunday when we see him answer!

## WhatsApp Groups



WhatsApp has become a great tool for connection and communication in the life of St Chads. WhatsApp has developed over the years and now has a Community function, which will serve our use as a church family better than the large chat groups we currently have.

At the beginning of May we will be closing the two current service WhatsApp groups and using only the new community. If you would like to join the new WhatsApp Community but have yet to do so, please click [here](#) to give your consent. Once you have filled in the consent form there will be a link to request to join the new community.

Any problems, do get in touch with Alys at the church office on 430 4652 or email [alys@stchadsromiley.co.uk](mailto:alys@stchadsromiley.co.uk).



# Men Behaving Dadly

**Who's your role model for Fatherhood?**

**Want to be a better Dad and know what makes your child tick?**

Over six weeks, the Men Behaving Dadly course looks at the issues men face in their role as Dad and provides practical help. Running on Thursday evenings starting on 8th May at the LifeCentre, the course will be looking at:

- your child's top ten emotional needs
- empowering men in their relationships with their children
- what are you repeating from your Dad?
- discovering the uniqueness of Fatherhood
- finding work-life balance
- how to listen

You can sign up [here](#) or via our website [www.stchadsromiley.co.uk](http://www.stchadsromiley.co.uk).



## Vision Sunday

11th May

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.

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.



## Wild & Free

17th May

**Rested. Rooted. Reignited.**  
**Saturday 17th May 2-9pm**  
**Ivy Church, Didsbury**

You are invited to a women's gathering centring on finding true rest in God, being deeply rooted in His truth and allowing Him to reignite what's been lying dormant.

We'll share in worship, creativity, prayer and prophecy, powerful messages and unhurried space to simply be with Him.

Come just as you are - and leave renewed. It's hosted at Ivy Church Didsbury on Saturday 17 May, 2 -9pm with a break for you to get food with a friend (or make a new one!).

Early bird booking of £5 per ticket to 9 May, then tickets are £8.

You can buy your tickets by scanning the QR code at the back of church.

