



Dear Church Family,

As I write this 130 Cardinals are assembling in the Sistene Chapel for Conclave, it's possible by the time you read it that white smoke will have billowed out of the specially installed chimney and the Roman Catholic church will have a new Pope. On Sunday, with less pomp, fewer red robes and marginally less global media attention, we will assemble in St Chads for our Vision Sunday, which includes the election of our wardens and PCC. The two events are significantly different, not least because as it currently stands, we have exactly the right number of nominations for the PCC and so we don't anticipate going to a vote or producing any white smoke. (We are delighted Ian is back at work after his hip operation, but I decided not to ask him to 'install a special furnace and chimney for Sunday' on his first week back!!)

Despite the differences of these two events, there is a link, which is our belief that the Holy Spirit directs and guides his people, and our role is to listen to him for that guidance with major decisions. I've recently been reading the book of Joshua, on the one occasion when they didn't enquire of the Lord about a battle, they got beaten up and dispirited. When it comes to apportioning the land to each tribe for centuries of land ownership, they researched, shared leadership authority and cast lots as a means for God to make the decision. This month marks the 1700yr anniversary of the Council of Nicea agreeing the Creed. That decision has given a foundation of the core of our faith for billions of people over the past 1700 years.

The bigger the decision, and the more people it impacts, the more significant it is that we consult the Holy Spirit and do so collectively. This is why we have a PCC, it's why the cardinals are locked inside the Sistene Chapel & papal residence until they can make a decision together. How does this work? How can a group of people discern the guidance of the Holy Spirit together?

The first principle is humility, this doesn't work by power games and dominant personalities. As a church we seek to listen to one another, not impose our opinions over others. The second is letting go of what we're holding onto and being open to God guiding us and willing to listen to new ideas, including through the gift of prophecy. Through the Bible God surprises his people, His ways are not our ways. That doesn't mean God's will is always surprising, sometimes we discern his will in the clearest most common-sense option, but we need to be open to surprises or changing our mind. The fourth principle is 'does it fit with God's values?' If the PCC decided to blow the 2026 budget on installing a VIP lounge at St Chads for a privileged few gold card church members to have champagne and prawn sandwiches between services, whilst serving water and no biscuits to the rest of the congregation, it could be argued that wasn't a biblical approach to justice.

As well as Joshua, I've been reading the book of Acts. In Acts 15, the early church holds its first council, to decide whether new gentile believers should be circumcised (thankfully they decided no). They listened to stories of God at work, different views and they looked at the Bible until they came to a unified agreement. In their conclusion, they wrote "It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and us". Please pray for our PCC and our Ministry Leadership Team, that we will be united in humility, biblical values and unity in discerning what is good to the Holy Spirit in the life of St Chads. (& pray for the Cardinals too for the person God is calling to be Pope!)

With love,
Richard

Men Behaving Dadly

Starts 8th May



There's still time to sign up for Men Behaving Dadly that starts tonight...

Over six weeks, the Men Behaving Dadly course looks at the issues men face in their role as Dad and provides practical help.

You can sign up [here](#) or via our website 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.

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!

Part of the meeting requires us to sign off the minutes from last year's meeting. If you would like to re-read them you can find them under the Resources/Annual Report section of our website..

Please do join us.

Prayer Events

May



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.

May:

Weds 14th 1.30pm in the church lounge

Weds 21st 7.30pm at the LifeCentre

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



Mission of the Month

Christians Against Poverty

Through a team of hundreds of dedicated staff members based in all four UK nations, and hundreds of incredible churches delivering CAP services, people in desperate need are discovering life-changing freedom and hope every day.

Since 1996, CAP has seen tens of thousands of families and individuals break free from debt and poverty. And as the impact of the cost of living crisis is felt in households across the UK, there is much more to be done.

CAP now meets with the Government and works hard to ensure they recognise the consequences of cuts, and to suggest policies that can work better in the long term.

Here at St Chad's we run the CAP Money Coaching course and St Mark's Bredbury runs the CAP Life Skills course. Debt Help in Stockport is run from All Hallow's Cheadle.

Please join CAP in praying for lasting change for those experiencing poverty. Join in praying for those they support to experience freedom in Jesus.



Youth Ministry

All three of our groups (TBN, TNT and Youth Church) have continued to grow and flourish over the last term. Over the three groups we have covered completely different parts of the bible, from Genesis to the Life of Jesus, to Hebrews. All of which we have seen great engagement from the young people and continued growth in their relationships with Jesus and with one another. Looking forward, we have our annual Youth Weekend Away coming up at the end of June, followed by our Youth Takeover at the beginning of July. Both of which are very exciting for the young people.

Finally, with Zeke leaving in July, we are praying, dreaming and planning for how best we take this ministry forward.

Prayer points

- That our youth continue to grow and flourish over the coming months
- That the Youth Weekend Away and Youth Takeover are great successes in terms of our youth growing in faith and relationships with one another
- That we find the right people to take on the leadership of all three groups

Volunteer Evening

19th June



**Volunteer Evening
Thursday 19th June
7.30pm at the Guywood**

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

On **Thursday 19th 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.

Personal invites and details on how to sign up coming soon...

Everyday Faith podcast

14th May

Don't miss this powerful evening of faith, storytelling, and encouragement!

On **Wednesday 14 May at 7.15 for a 7.30 start**, St Mark's Church in Bredbury will host a live recording of the Chester Diocese's *Everyday Faith Podcast*, featuring stories of how Christians live out their faith in daily life. The panel, hosted by Ruth Bull of Transforming Lives Together, includes Paul Smikle from Mottram Deanery, Clair Connor from Stockport Deanery, and Gayle Cross from Chadkirk Deanery—three individuals who integrate their beliefs into their work and communities. The evening aims to spark honest conversations about everyday discipleship and inspire attendees to see faith as part of everyday experiences, not just Sunday worship.

Here's a link for more information on their website: [Everyday Faith - podcast panellists revealed - Diocese of Chester](#)