



Dear Church Family,

Yesterday I attended a one day conference on church multiplication, the theme of the day was 'missionary discipleship', giving a focus both to being with Jesus and being sent out by Jesus. Like any conference, there were some outstanding moments and some moments when I realised I'd tuned out and was more interested in checking WhatsApp and sports scores! By the middle of the afternoon I realised my brain was full, I'd heard five or six people telling us what they thought "the most important thing to focus on in your church is...." I tuned out and instead of tuning into WhatsApp and cricket scores, I tried to tune in to the voice of the Holy Spirit. "Lord, what is the most important thing for us at St Chads at the moment?"

Attempting to answer that question is one of the most important things I do as leader of St Chads. (much more important than WhatsApp and even more important than cricket!) I realised I had too many potential answers in my head and realising that itself caused the Holy Spirit to guide me back to three things I sensed from God. Firstly, the call I shared at our vision Sunday, to give God space. If there is too much going on in our heads, it's a good sign that we need to create space to be still with God. Secondly, a sense to carry on what he has already given us to focus on: Glorifying God, Loving Community and Following Jesus, these capture a life which is God-orientated and prayerful, which is soaked in love and building community and moving forwards in the direction Jesus is calling us to. Thirdly, to create some space in the diary with Katie and Dave to discern together what God is calling us to focus on as a church family in the autumn.

When we consider listening to God and creating space for him, I want to highlight two ways we're doing that in July. The first is our Original Design Evening, which is in church on Tuesday 8th July. Some of you will have done original design evenings in the past, if you are newer to St Chads we haven't done one for a while. It's a low-pressure environment to have a go. They are a really beautiful way to practice listening to God for words of encouragement and identity for others in a relaxed joyful yet deep way. I absolutely love them!

The second is our 100 hours of prayer in Sanctuary from 7am on 16th July to 11am on 20th July. I would love to encourage everyone in St Chads to commit to signing up to spend an hour in prayer in Sanctuary during those days and nights. The Sanctuary is the very heart of the LifeCentre and St Chads and a place to meet with God. As I have prayed about what it means to give God space, he keeps calling me back time and again to this invitation to spend time with him and for Sanctuary to be a place of encounter. I'll share more below, but I urge you to join in with this, it isn't a special thing for a few keen people, this is an invitation for you.

Have a great week and enjoy the sunshine.

love,

Richard

Bishops Deanery Visit

The Bishops are coming to visit!

All three of our Bishops (Chester, Stockport and Birkenhead)are coming to visit our area on **1st & 2nd July**. The Church of England is arranged with parishes (the area one church serves, in our case Romiley) which are grouped with 10-20 other churches in its area called a deanery. Bishops Mark, Sam and Julie are visiting our deanery on those dates. They want to meet people of all ages and talk about Jesus with those who don't know him and encourage and connect with those who do. They will be visiting schools, businesses, community groups and church ministries which are meeting on those dates, (including RPS, EarlyLife, the LifeCentre and Mini-Chadders).

Bishop Mark will be leading and preaching at our Wednesday Communion on 2nd July at 11am and we'd love to invite you to join our regular Weds communion congregation that week. Mark is an inspirational and godly man, well worth listening to.

There will also be a **worship service** for the whole deanery at **All Saints in Marple on Tuesday 1st at 7.30pm**, which will include interviews with Mark and Sam, who will be sharing both personally and about the wider vision of the Chester diocese. As an Anglican church, we are part of a much larger movement of God at work in our region and we hope this evening will inspire us in our faith, unite us with other local Christians and inspire us to share Jesus in our community. It would be great to have a good crowd from St Chads to bring our joy, love and passion for Jesus into that occasion.



Gather & Share

Sunday 6th July

Gather & Share - A Table for Everyone - Sunday 6th July

Church isn't just for Sundays in a building - it's about everyday life, shared meals, and genuine friendship.

We're starting something simple: people gathering in homes to eat, talk, and just be together. Lunch could be a BBQ, soup and a sandwich or a full on Sunday Roast. Whatever lunch looks like for you, the goal is connection.

We recognise that sometimes it's hard to make that first invite - so we're making it easy.

Some will host, some will be guests. Everyone brings something, even if it's just themselves.

Everyone is invited to pull up a chair.

To help us plan well, we're asking people to sign up via ChurchSuite - whether you would like to host or be a guest. Once you've signed up we will then match people up and you can decide how it looks. Hosts can then chat with their guests about things like food arrangements, transport, and timings.

To sign up, please click [here](#), or get in touch with **Alys in the church office**, Monday to Thursday, on 0161 430 4652. You can also sign up using the **QR code displayed in the church foyer**. **Sign-up closes on Friday 27th June**. The team will be in touch the following week with more details.

Great Big Green Day

Saturday 12th July

Join us at the Guywood Centre on Saturday 12th July from 10am for a fun, hands-on event for all ages!

Explore five interactive zones:

- **Food Zone** – Try local recipes, plant seeds, and meet sustainable food producers.
- **Craft Zone** – Make seed bombs and upcycle t-shirts.
- **Games Zone** – Play and learn about saving water and reducing your carbon footprint.
- **Home Zone** – Discover eco tips for your home, from recycling to heat pumps and e-transport.
- **Speaker Zone** – Hear inspiring talks and see the school poster competition

100 hours of prayer

Weds 16th - Sun 20th July



God is inviting you to come and spend time with him.

We have set aside 100 hours in Mid-July for us to prioritise prayer and that starts with the invitation to everyone in St Chads to set aside an hour to come and pray in Sanctuary between 7am on 16th and 11am on 20th July.

There will be some set times of led-prayer during the 100 hours, but for most of the time the room will be there and open for you to stop, be still and be with Jesus. Sanctuary is always available for that when the LifeCentre is open, but we are setting things up to make it available through the nights too. (If you'd like the details of access please email alys@stchadsromiley.co.uk - note Alys's working days are Mon-Thurs office hours). There will be a sign up sheets in church and online, we can't guarantee sole use of the room, but the focus is quiet space with God, except at the gathering times.

Unlike previous blocks of prayer, we are keeping this one simple. The prayer stations for our Easter prayer room were amazing, this time however is about space with God. If you've never spent an hour in a prayer room in prayer it can seem like a challenge, but I am sure you'll find it powerful and be so glad you did! We'll provide a simple resource available to use if the idea of an hour in prayer feels daunting, it will give you a bit of shape and guidance if that's helpful.

As we pray in there through 100hrs I believe the rich, powerful sense of God's Presence in there will grow deeper and stronger. It's hard to articulate in a letter like this just how much I sense a passion that God is calling us all to give him an hour of our time over those four days and inviting us to meet with him. So please put something in your diary and join in with this. The Creator of the Universe is inviting us to spend time with him, that's worth making a priority.



Mini Chadders Night Out

Mums' Night Out! - Friday 4th July - 7.30pm at the Guywood

A summer evening of Greek vibes, good food & great company

We would love to welcome you to a summer night out—think **relaxing, Greek, holiday vibes**.

You'll be greeted with a welcome **cocktail** and the beautiful sounds of live music from **Katie Durham**. Then take your seat and enjoy a delicious spread of **authentic Greek mezze** - followed by flavour-packed **chicken or halloumi gyros**, freshly prepared and served with all the trimmings by the fantastic **N29**.

We'll finish the evening with more live music and good conversation. **Bring what you'd like to drink!**

Get your tickets [here](#).

Dads' Curry - Sat 19th July - 7.30pm at the Guwood

Join us for a relaxed evening with **authentic homemade curries, rice, dhal, and naan**, catered by **Sidrah's Kitchen** - plus the **chance to chat** with other dads and male carers.

Being a dad is one of the most rewarding - and sometimes challenging — roles we can have. That's why we're creating a space to **unwind, connect, and enjoy good food and good company**.

A **welcome beer and soft drinks** will be provided — and you're welcome to **bring your own drinks** for the rest of the evening!

Get your tickets [here](#).

Prayer Events

Each time we gather, we're meeting with God in powerful ways and aligning ourselves with His purposes and plans. The time we spend together in prayer is bearing real fruit - strengthening our faith, deepening our unity, and releasing God's presence among us.

June:

Thursday 26th June - 7.30pm at the LifeCentre

July:

Weds 9th July - 1.30pm in church

Weds 16th July - 7.30pm at the LifeCentre