



Dear Church Family,

Happy Bonfire Night!

I went to sleep last Saturday listening to the booming rumble of multiple firework displays all around us. I imagine there will be more tonight and more this weekend. As I lay listening to them under a warm duvet, not watching them in a cold wet muddy field I reflected on how we hadn't arranged to take our boys to a bonfire party or fireworks display this year, but I was nostalgic for the times when we did.

The first year here, when we thought it would be genius to get the big views across Manchester from the top of Werneth Low. I had a church meeting, so Nells put our boys in py-jamas and dressing gowns with hot chocolate and marshmallows and bundled them into car seats (they were all v little) and drove up to the Low at about 6pm. When I got home from my meeting after 9.30pm the house was empty. The Low was gridlocked and they got home after 11pm! It takes years to get to know an area.

As I thought about bonfire nights past, what I realised was that my most joyful memories were of bonfires not fireworks. I love a good firework display, I love the colour, the noise, the Wow, the surprise, the drama of it all. But I really, really love standing around a fire with friends and family, sipping a warm drink, chatting to or just being with those I love. There's something wonderfully deep and life giving about gazing at a fire as it burns away and something deeply wonderful about the colours and flickering of the flame. The simple warmth, connection and quiet beauty of the fire lingers far longer in our hearts than a burst of light in the sky.

We are consumers of entertainment, fed ever more exciting, Wow-factor drama. We seek the new, the better, the faster, louder, more spectacular... and yet it does not satisfy our hearts. Year on year, fireworks displays have got bigger, more amazing, longer and louder, the problem is with each one, we can long for an even better one next year. There is a danger that we apply the same to our spiritual lives. We want more dramatic experiences with God, more powerful worship songs, more jaw-dropping stories, more 'better-ever' events. Those moments are gifts from God, and can shift us, but the real work is the fire of God's love, burning consistently in our hearts.

I've been reading the book of Revelation this week. It doesn't have fireworks, but it does have 'flashes of lightning, peals of thunder'. It has fire and lampstands, and angels and trumpets and beasts, scrolls and horses. There's plenty of drama, loud moments, but all of this is just to get our attention to the real focus. The Lamb upon the throne. The multitude gather and bow down, before the one who is eternally there, the one who died so that we can be free. The one who laid down his life for us.

God isn't asking you to chase the latest spectacle, he isn't calling you to be a brief fire-work, he is wanting to set a fire of love in your heart, which will burn for decades. The fire is fuelled as we read his Word, spend time alone in prayer, focus on his glory in worship, and in deep honest friendships with others.

Come Holy Spirit and burn in our hearts.

with love,

Richard

Prayer Events

We really believe God is on the move and we are seeing some exciting things happening in our church and our nation, but we want more!! When God's people pray, lives are changed, families restored, hope renewed, salvation comes – and that includes you!

Our monthly prayer times are the very engine room of St Chads and always encouraging. Do come and join us.

5th Nov - 7.30pm

19th Nov - 1.30pm

2nd Dec - 7.30pm

10th Dec - 1.30pm

Daytime gatherings are held in church, evening gatherings are held in the LifeCentre.

Memorial Service

Sun 23rd November



This service is for all who have been bereaved. It offers a time to remember loved ones, to say "goodbye," and to turn to God for His comfort and strength.

Members of St Chad's are encouraged to invite family or friends who may be grieving to join us for this meaningful occasion.

If you would like the name of your loved one to be read out during the service, please add their name to the list at the back of church from **Sunday 9th November**.

We hope this will be a gentle and prayerful opportunity to remember those you love.

Baptisms

Sunday 30th November



We believe there are some in our church family for whom now is the time to take the step of baptism, or to reaffirm their baptism vows. We would love to have a service of full immersion baptisms and confirmations on **Sunday 30th November**. We don't want to wait until Easter (although we're praying to see more people baptised then too!) And so we've included this in our autumn schedule.

If you would like to be baptised, or reaffirm your baptism vows or be confirmed, or discuss what that might mean for you, then please speak to Dave, Katie or Richard and we'd be delighted to have a conversation with you about that.



Christmas Generosity 2025

This Christmas, we once again want to reflect **God's glory** and **Jesus' lavish love** by reaching out to those in need within our local communities.

We're inviting **financial donations** to support our **Christmas Hamper Initiative**, helping to bring comfort and joy to families and individuals who might otherwise struggle during the festive season.

About the Christmas Hampers

Each hamper will include a **Christmas treat** and a **gift voucher for a local supermarket**, giving families the freedom to choose what they need most.

We distribute hampers through our partnerships with local schools and community organisations, and we also welcome **personal nominations**.

If you know someone who would benefit, please email:

✉ office@stchadsromiley.co.uk

How to Give

Online Donations

Bank: *St Chads PCC*

Reference: *Christmas Generosity*

Sort Code: **08-92-99**

Account Number: **65874394**

Cheque or Card Donations

Cheques: Payable to *St Chads PCC* (please write *Christmas Generosity* on the back).

Card donations: The Giving Machine will be available at the back of church.

If you would like to make a donation over £30, please could you make a direct bank transfer (account details above)? This way we can collect Gift Aid.

Please make all donations by **Sunday, 30th November**.

Thank You

Last year we were *overwhelmed* by your generosity and the many stories shared by our local schools and partners. Together, we can once again make a meaningful difference and share the love and hope of Jesus this Christmas.

