



Dear Church family,

I would love to share an update on our plans for our All-Age services. Creating opportunities for our 11am congregation to worship across all generations has been something we have valued at St Chads for decades. Over the past 12 years this has taken the form of our monthly 'Blended' services. Last year we undertook a consultation and review, listening carefully to feedback from all generations within our 11am congregation, which has been hugely helpful. I want to share some of the outcomes with you.

The first question we asked was whether God is calling us to continue gathering for worship in this way. We believe He is. We believe that this is something God values and that a good all age service expresses our anchors of glorifying God, loving community and following Jesus. We recognise Blended services haven't always been everyone's preference, and this style of worship isn't right for every service. However, we believe that worshipping together as family is a key part of discipleship for us all.

In the light of that we have decided to hold All Age services less often, enabling us to put more time and care into preparing them. Going forwards they will be once every half term rather than monthly.

We have also formed an All Age team, who will meet at the start of each term to pray, plan, and reflect together to make these services really special. The team is: Anya, Daniel, Zachary, Adrian, Eden, Hannah, Anna, Katie, Dave and me. We will be commissioning and praying for this team on Sunday morning.

During the consultation instead of asking, '*what do you enjoy?*', as worship isn't about personal preferences, we asked '*what enables you to engage with God?*' The responses were rich and varied, reflecting not just our different ages, but the different ways we connect with God. The team has discussed these and we want to continue to include elements of praying together, having fun together, connecting in conversation, sharing stories and worshipping together. Rather than have a sermon, each service will focus on one key Biblical truth and then embrace it in our lives and prayers in all sorts of interactive ways. We have actually been trying this out for the past six months and the feedback has been positive.

Finally the name! – Part of the reason for the consultation was that we sensed these services were ready for a change and we want this to be a fresh, new season of worshipping as all ages. While we still quite like the name 'Blended', we felt a change of name signals something fresh. However, to be totally honest, after prayer and lots of chat and many suggestions, we haven't yet landed on a name which the whole team can get excited about and that conveys all we're aiming for. For now, we'll simply call these services 'All Age'.

Ultimately the name isn't the most important thing. What matters is that we gather as a family and in our different ways, glorify God, love our community and follow Jesus.

With love,
Richard.

Alpha



We started our latest Alpha course on Tues 13th January, and had a great evening with a group of people who are interested in exploring the Christian faith. Sadly however there aren't really sufficient people at this stage to make the course work over the next ten weeks and so we have decided to pause for a little while to prayerfully invite more people who are wanting to join in with the course.

Please keep praying and if you know people who would value an invitation, then do invite them. Research consistently shows that the vast majority of people who become Christians, do so through personal invitation from friends. Also recent research shows remarkable evidence of how many people would warmly welcome an invite to explore faith.

We will let you know when the course is going to re-start and if you know of someone who would like to join Alpha, then please put them in touch with Kirstie or the church office.



One of the greatest joys at St Chads over the past year has been seeing our monthly prayer events steadily growing and very much established as a key part of the life of our church. Thank you to all who have come alone and joined in with this most essential part of our life together. We pray because we want to see More People, More like Jesus and we absolutely believe that this is only possible in God's power not our own.

Our prayer events are interactive and engaging, I believe they are becoming spiritually richer and deeper and this year we will continue to grow in dwelling in God's Presence. This call is for our whole church family, I would love you to think of attending a monthly prayer event as a core part of what it means to be part of St Chads. Here are the dates for February and if you haven't yet come along to a prayer event, then give it a go. I always go home energised and encouraged and we get to partner with God in seeing his kingdom come.

February Prayer Events:

Weds 4th Feb - 7.30pm in the LifeCentre

Weds 11th Feb - 1.30pm in the church lounge.

Clothes Swap

5th Feb



Thursday 5th February - 7pm at the LifeCentre

An evening to share, connect, and refresh your wardrobe.

Join us for our **Clothes Swap Evening**. Bring along items from your wardrobe that you no longer wear and swap them for something new-to-you.

There's a **£1 entrance fee** on the door to help cover refreshments, so you can enjoy a drink while you browse, swap, and socialise.

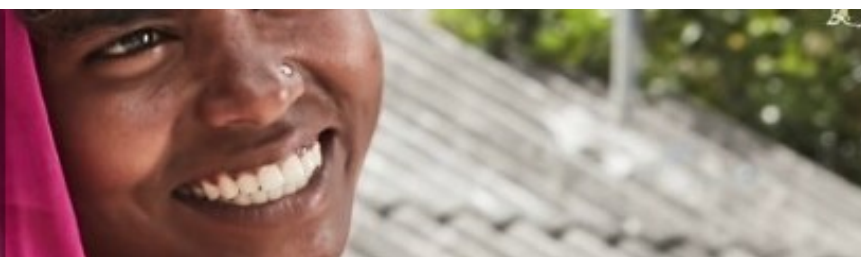
How it works:

- Bring clean, good-quality clothes you're ready to part with
- Pay £1 on entry for refreshments
- Browse what others have brought
- Swap, try on, and take home your new favourites

Any leftover clothes will be given to charity. **All ladies welcome.**

IJM Prayer Evening

10th Feb



Throughout February, churches across the world unite with **International Justice Mission** and **24-7 Prayer** in a powerful movement of prayer - crying out to God for freedom and justice for those suffering under slavery, trafficking, and violence.

We invite you to join us on Tuesday 10th February, 8:00pm in church.

We will stand, **pray**, and **worship** together for 90 minutes, believing that God will move.

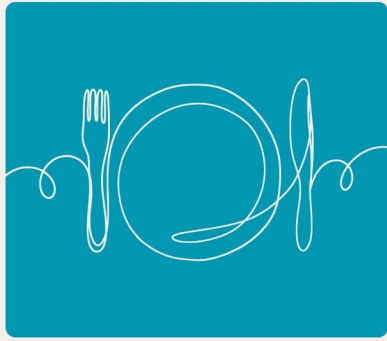


This practical and effective money management course is designed to empower you with the knowledge, budgeting skills and confidence to better manage your finances.

The course starts on **Thursday 19th February at 7.30pm** and runs for **4 weeks** at **Romiley Lifecentre**.

money:course

For more information or to book a place, please contact **Paul on 07940 937891**.



New here?

Want to find out more about our vision and values?

Welcome Lunch's are a great way to meet other new people, find out a bit more about St Chads and our vision and ask us any questions you might have. Children are very welcome!

The lunch will be hosted at the LifeCentre straight after the 11am service. For those who come to our 9.15 service, please come along for 1pm.

To sign up please email alys@stchadsromiley.co.uk.



Mission of the Month

The Nora Sturges Health Centre was founded in 2003 in memory of Molly Dow's mother, a doctor who returned to faith in God shortly before her death. Located in Benguela, Angola, it is run by the local diocese and supported in the UK by MANNA.

The Centre treats a wide range of patients, most commonly for malaria and typhoid fever.

Please pray for plans to establish a pharmacy opposite the Centre, which would provide vital income to support its ongoing work.



Ministry of the Month

Oasis is a friendly, inclusive group for people who live alone or spend a lot of time by themselves, offering companionship and connection in a relaxed and supportive setting. Guests can enjoy a simple lunch, good conversation, and a range of fun, inclusive activities while building friendships in a welcoming atmosphere.

Please pray for:

- guests and the team to know God's presence, peace, and strength
- blessing on the team, with energy, kindness, and joy
- guests to leave encouraged, supported, and aware of God's love