



Dear Church family,

One of the questions I have been pondering as we think about *Dwelling in God's Presence* is how this connects with God sending us out on mission, to bring his love and life to the world. This season is very much about tending our hearts and learning to dwell with God — but the Bible shows us that time spent with him never stops there.

As we dwell in God's Presence, particularly in prayer, he inspires and equips each of us to make a difference in the world in the unique ways he has called us to. He changes our hearts and stirs in us a longing to see the renewal he desires for all things. Over the coming week, we'll have some very practical opportunities to put this into action.

This evening (Weds 4th) we have our monthly evening prayer event, (with the day-time on next Wednesday). These evenings are always a combination of dwelling and partnering with God in prayer.

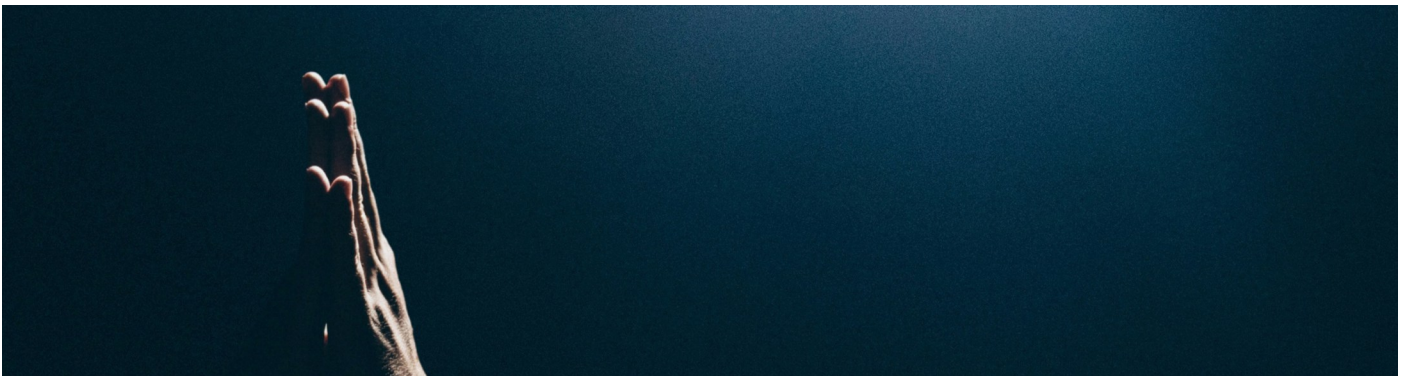
On Sunday (8th Feb) we have Missions Sunday and I am delighted that Sam Durrant Hollamby from St Barnabas Hattersley will be our guest preacher. Sam and his wife Katy planted St Barnabas a couple of years ago and they are seeing God moving in beautiful ways in their community. Last year we took on St Barnabas as one of our mission partners and we count it a privilege to both support them financially, but also relationally. They are full of faith and people of prayer and passion, I know God will speak to us through Sam and raise our faith for what God can do in our community. We will also have time to share about some of our other mission partners and pray for them.

On Tuesday 10th we have a special evening, which captures this vision of both dwelling in God's Presence and praying for God's mission to God's world. We are hosting an evening of prayer and worship as part of IJM and 24/7's Prayer for Justice Tour. For any young girl to be ripped away from childhood innocence and her loving community, into a life of exploitation and fear is so hideous it makes my stomach turn just writing this. Yet there are millions of victims of modern-day slavery around the world. They feel powerless, but we aren't powerless to bring change. IJM and 24/7 prayer are two global organisations who have seen God do amazing things when his people pray. Yes, I know it is mind blowing that us gathering in Romiley - but more importantly in God's Presence - can genuinely save lives and protect the most vulnerable. But that is the truth and so I urge you to come and be a part of this and let's make it a really special evening.

One other thing on God's heart is the damage to his creation through climate change. A tiny way the women of St Chads can make a difference is to be part of our clothes swap on Thursday night. As well as a great chance to have a fun evening together and refresh your wardrobe. So don't miss out on that.

Details of all these events are below, do read on and we'd love you to come and be a part of them.

Love,
Richard



Prayer Events

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. A focus of this evening will be exploitation and abuse of children. We recognise that this is a heavy and disturbing subject and want to be open about that in advance so you know what you're coming to. As such we wouldn't recommend this evening for under 18s.

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.

