



Dear Church Family,

It was a truly wonderful Easter in so many ways. From Thursday to Saturday we had opportunities to engage deeply with God's truth in our services. Alongside our beautiful and powerful interactive prayer space, it was wonderful to welcome families from our community to come and experience it. Then on Sunday, the joy of baptisms and confirmations. I also had the privilege of leading communion for a local church on between our services, and so I walked into a jam-packed St Chads at 11.10am on Sunday morning, to such an atmosphere of joy and love. What a special morning it was!

Last night we had another special moment with our Alpha launch, welcoming 30+ guests, to enjoy a delicious meal, warm hospitality and to whet their appetite to know more about Jesus. Please be praying for those who are signing up, that each one will discover the wonderful good news of what Jesus for themselves.

This is my last Chads News before I head off on Sabbatical, so I want to share a little bit about that, before I disappear for 3 months. It is a great blessing that the CofE offers sabbatical leave to withdraw as Jesus did, to be with God, re-orientate, invest in relationships beyond parish life and learn. (You can learn more about the Chester diocesan approach to sabbaticals [here](#).)

I chose to apply for a sabbatical this summer as after a few years of team building, I have every confidence in Katie, Dave, our staff and leadership team to continue to see St Chads flourish. It is also ten years since my last sabbatical, and a significant moment for our family, with major exams and important transitions for our boys, and then Luke and Kez's wedding in October.

So what will I be doing?

The first thing is going away with Nells for some quality time together, followed by a silent retreat in St Beunos in North Wales, (A place I've heard wonderful things about). Then a period of study for my doctorate, alongside supporting Caleb and Micah through exams. My research focuses on healthy gospel-formed leadership, (I'll happily talk about it for hours if you ask me in the autumn!). I'll also walk part of St.Oswald's Way, along the Northumberland coast, and spend time on retreat near Lindisfarne.

Finally I go to Korea with Micah for 5 days and then the rest of the family join us for a big holiday in Cambodia and Vietnam. (We searched to find somewhere beautiful where the food is cheap enough to feed our boys for 3.5 weeks!!). We land back shortly before NewWine, I'm sure camping with jetlag will be fine!

I have been working with Katie, Dave, the wardens and staff on handover and the team are well-prepared and empowered to make decisions in my absence. It will be a great time for others to step into new leadership opportunities.

As you can probably tell, I'm hugely excited about each part of this. Plenty of time with God, to hear his voice, quality time with those I love the most, and time to learn and be equipped for the next stage of ministry. I don't expect it all to be comfortable, as I shared at Still Hope, when we are still, things settle and that includes being more aware of the grotty stuff in our hearts, (believe me there's plenty in mine!). I would really value your prayers, I want to hear God speak deeply to my heart and for him to be Lord over this time both for our family and for St Chads.

With love,
Richard.

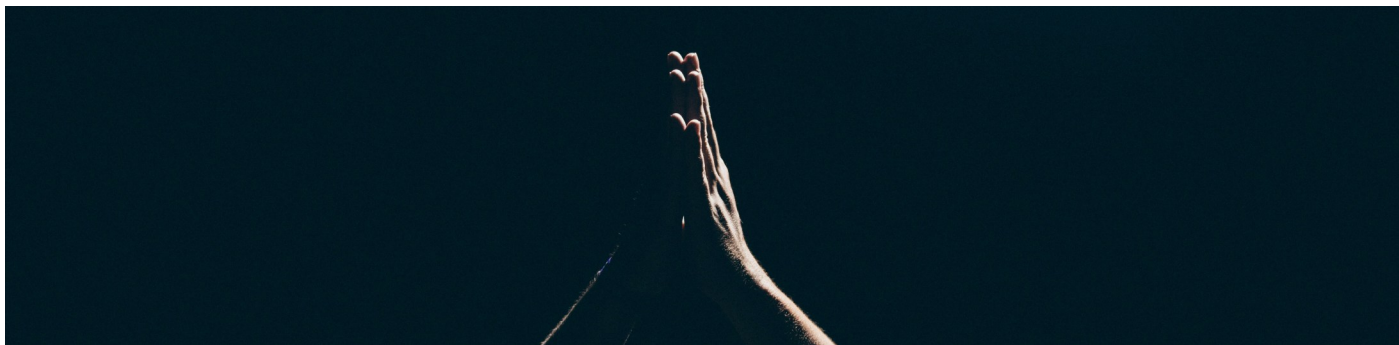


Mission of the Month

This month, we're focusing our prayers on **Danny and Flavia Lescano**, who are serving in Salta, Argentina.

A key part of their ministry is among the Wichí community, an indigenous people group in northern Argentina. They have asked for prayer regarding a serious land issue affecting this community. Although the Wichí people have historically owned their land, they are now facing exploitation and injustice. Please pray for protection, justice, and wise resolution in this situation.

Danny and Flavia have also been training local believers from the Wichí community, equipping them to lead Bible studies within their own communities. Pray for them as they continue to release and disciple others - that there would be lasting fruit, strong local leadership, and new churches planted.



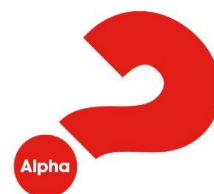
Prayer Events

It's been a great joy to see our monthly prayer events at St Chads grow and become a key part of church life. We pray because we want to see more people become more like Jesus, relying on God's power rather than our own.

These gatherings are becoming increasingly rich and meaningful, as we continue to seek God's presence together. We encourage the whole church family to make these prayer events a central part of life at St Chads.

April Prayer Events:

Weds 22nd Apr - 7.30pm in the LifeCentre



Alpha

Even though the Alpha Launch Event has happened, it's not too late to join the full course... Held at the LifeCentre on Tuesday evenings, Alpha is open to anyone who's curious - no pressure, no judgement.

Over 10 weeks, we'll be exploring questions on life, faith, and purpose through open conversation, plus a half-day session on Saturday 16th May.

Everyone is welcome.

For more details please get in touch with Kirstie at mail@kirstiegoddard.co.uk.



Vision Sunday & APCM – Sunday 10th May 2026

Everyone is warmly invited to join us for Vision Sunday in a few weeks' time.

We'll start at 10:00am with a relaxed church family breakfast, followed by worship and communion at 10:30am as we gather together as one church family. Children will head to the lounge after communion to watch a film.

This Sunday also includes our APCM, where we'll be voting for Churchwardens, Deanery Synod representatives, and PCC members. To stand or vote, you must be on the electoral roll - please contact Jane if you'd like to be added.

If you're interested in serving on the PCC, speak to one of our wardens, Jane, Katie, or the Church Office.

Everyone is welcome - we'd love you to join us!

Annual Report 2025

Our Annual Report reflects on the past year at St Chad's, with contributions from Richard and our team as we continue to serve our church family and the wider Romiley community.

[You can read it online](#), with printed copies available at the back of church. The digital version is also on our website under "Following Jesus" ➔ "Resources".

Live streaming

Due to rising operational and production costs, we have made the decision to discontinue the live streaming of church services. While live broadcasts will no longer be available, sermons will continue to be recorded and uploaded to our website, allowing you to stay connected and engaged at a time that suits you.

[Sermons can be found on our website](#) under the "Following Jesus" ➔ "Resources" section.