



Dear Church Family,

Next Sunday 31st the 11am service is heading outdoors to have a picnic together in the park with games and lots of fun. This might seem weird and not very churchy. You might be thinking of not attending because you don't have young children. You might think it just sounds like a longer Sunday Challenge and you only just tolerate that.

We often say at St. Chad's that we have a 'high theology of fun' but do we stop to think what we mean by that? I did a bit of research on this recently. Don't worry, keep reading, it's not *quite* as boring as it sounds. I looked through twenty youth ministry books and searched for the word 'fun'. I then separated those mentions into 'positive', 'neutral' or 'negative'. Can you guess which won? Over 80% of the mentions of fun in a youth ministry context were negative! Book after book said we should be having less fun to give more time for God stuff.

Here's the thing. I think fun *is* God stuff. We don't have fun to lure people into encountering God in the serious holy bit. We have fun because God created fun and wants us to enjoy Him, one another and His creation. Jesus had fun – lots of it. His opponents are continually criticising him for attending too many dinner parties! I'm convinced that fun is an in-the-moment experience of joy, named as a fruit of the Holy Spirit in Galatians 5:22. We, the people of God empowered by the life of the Holy Spirit, should create opportunities for fun together. Fun opens the door to relationship, honesty, trust and seeing the grace of God acting amongst us. It strengthens us as a community and makes us more comfortable in prayer and worship with one another. It shows the world what true enjoyment looks like and invites others into the life of the Holy Spirit with us which in turn brings them true joy. Fun is fun-damental.

This Sunday is Pentecost, when the disciples, that group of Jesus closest friends, received the Holy Spirit in the upper room. And what's the first thing they do? Stay inside the building to do more serious God stuff? No, they spill out onto the street to share what they've received. The people think they're drunk because – presumably – they're just too joyful! So what better way for us to celebrate Pentecost than spilling out of the building into the park and having FUN? Let's celebrate the life of the Holy Spirit together.

When we say we have a high theology of fun we really mean it. So bring food, bring a friend and come ready to be church together!

Blessings,
Dave



The LifeCentre will be closing for half term from Friday 22nd May and will re-open on Tuesday 2nd June.

As we take a short break over the holiday period, we'd really value your prayers for the team. Please pray that this would be a time of good rest, refreshment, and encouragement for everyone involved, and that they would return renewed and ready for all that lies ahead next term.

We're so thankful for all the care, support, and hard work that goes into the LifeCentre each week, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back again in June!



On Sunday 31st May, we'll be gathering a little differently as a church family...

We'll be holding just one service in the church building at 9:15am. Our usual 11:00am service won't take place at church because instead, we'll be heading to the park for a church family picnic, games, and time together.

We'd love for you to join us at Romiley Park from 11am if you're able. It'll be a great chance to relax, connect, and enjoy time together outdoors.

Please bring your own picnic, rugs or chairs, and any games you'd like to share. And of course... please pray for sunshine!



Clothes Swap

We're excited to invite you to our upcoming **Ladies' Clothes Swap Event** — a fun, sustainable, and social evening where you can bring along clothes you no longer wear and swap them for something new-to-you!

Whether you're clearing out your wardrobe, looking for a style refresh, or simply fancy a lovely evening with great company, this is the perfect opportunity.

- Bring clean, good-quality clothes, shoes, bags, or accessories
- Browse and swap for items you'll love
- Enjoy refreshments, chats, and a relaxed atmosphere
- Support sustainable fashion and reduce waste

Location: LifeCentre Date: Thursday 11th June Time: 7-9pm

Simply bring a few pre-loved items in excellent condition and exchange them during the event. Anything left over will be donated to charity.

Feel free to invite friends — the more the merrier!



Save the date...

As we continue this new rhythm in the life of our church, these evenings are all about creating space to gather, fix our eyes on Jesus, and spend unhurried time in His presence. We'll have extended worship through song, moments of silence, listening to God, and responding to wherever the Holy Spirit leads.

Join us **Friday 12th June at 7.30pm** in church - we'd love to see you there.



Volunteer Evening
7.30pm Weds 17th June
Guywood Centre

We'd love to invite all of our amazing volunteers to a special evening together as a small way of saying thank you for everything you do. Your time, energy, faithfulness, and servant-hearted support make such a difference in the life of our church, and we're so grateful for each of you.

The evening will be a chance to relax, enjoy good food and company, and celebrate all that God is doing through our church family together.

Please sign up at the back of church or email alys@stchadsromiley.co.uk.

We really hope you can join us!



www.stchadsromiley.co.uk