



Dear Church family,

This Sunday will mark the fifteenth anniversary of my licensing as vicar of St Chads! I'm sorry we won't be with you to mark the occasion, as it is our son Luke's wedding in Oxford this weekend, a far more significant event for future anniversaries.

I guess after fifteen years as your vicar, I am finally not feeling like this is my new job – it takes me a long time to adjust to things! When we arrived Micah had just started walking and he's now nearly as tall as me. There are so many things we are grateful for in God bringing us to Romiley, each member of family has grown and flourished here and we have seen God do beautiful things. Looking back at these anniversary moments we see how the things of real value often grow steadily and slowly, so it is good to pause at these staging points and give thanks. What anniversaries are you celebrating this year?

Many things come to mind as I reflect on the years gone by and what is to come, I just want to highlight three: your generosity, our life of prayer and giving space for God to move.

When we came to St Chads, part of the vision God gave us for the culture of the church was some core values, which included generosity. We found that St Chads was already a generous church and we wanted to see that continue. Over the past week we have seen beautiful expressions of generosity in our church family, £1088 given for harvest, £884 given for KBF at the cake sale and £482 given for the men's curry night. Generosity is an expression of both love and justice, two things which we see clearly in God's heart throughout the Bible. Let's continue to be a generous church, our generosity enables God's love to reach people in very practical ways.

The second is our life of prayer. I remain absolutely committed to intercessory prayer being at the very heart of the life of St Chads. Early this morning I was reading about church planting movements in Muslim countries and what had been learned in times of extraordinary growth. The first lesson those leading the movement emphasised was the centrality of prayer. We long to see God move in our community, to see the Holy Spirit bring people into an eternity with God, through the forgiveness of sins. We long to see the poor provided for, lives restored, joy released, loving community built. When prayer is central to a church's life, then these things happen.

Next week we have our next 24hrs of prayer and prayer event. Giving this intentional time to pray shifts us and brings new life. Sanctuary is a beautiful place of encountering God and hearing him speak. At the last 24hrs prayer I did the midnight to 1am slot and the sense of closeness to God and the power of his presence still makes my heart beat faster to write about it now. The things God said to me there, I am still unpacking and thinking and praying through. I urge, encourage, exhort you to set aside some time to pray during our 24hrs prayer. Not just for immediate needs, but to pray for whoever and wherever God places on your heart. When we devote time to God, he can do far more than just trying to do it in our own efforts and we become more fully alive in the process. Practical details will be in the church WhatsApp or contact me if you want to know more.

Thirdly, as I look back, I think of the many times we have seen the Holy Spirit impact people through our services. Sometimes bringing healing, sometimes in his kindness leading us to repentance (Romans 2:4), and sometimes empowering us to obey his will. We are in a season of wanting to give more space and time in services to respond to God, we do this differently in each service, (the Holy Spirit is infinitely creative), and amazing things happen when we respond to God. To do this more, we would love to equip more people in prayer ministry. We don't want to create another team or rotas or limitations, but we do want those who pray to be

trained, to ensure we do so honourably and safely for all. On Sunday 1st November at 1pm we are going to have a short prayer ministry training session, in church, after the 11am service. See below for more details.

So, thank you for all you have given to us as a family in the first fifteen years of our time in Romiley. The love, generosity, wisdom and kindness we have received from St Chads is immeasurable and we are truly grateful both to God and to you, the St Chads family.

With love,
Richard

24hrs of Prayer

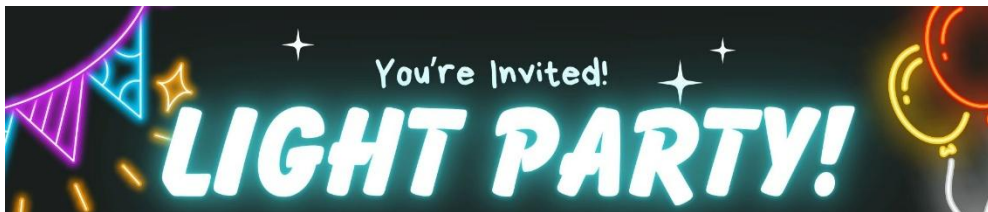


Once again, we're setting aside **24 hours to pray together**, from **7.30pm on Tues 20th Oct - 7.30pm Weds 21st Oct**.

Our prayer space will be based in **Sanctuary**. You're welcome to come and pray at any point during the 24 hours. While you can pray anywhere, there is something powerful about having a shared space where we can gather, seek God and pray for our church, our community and the year ahead.

If you would particularly value having Sanctuary to yourself, or would like to pray with your small group, you can **book an hour through the WhatsApp poll** in the church WhatsApp group.

Come for an hour, come with others, or simply drop in when you can.



Join us on 31st October for a scare-free alternative to Halloween — fun for all the family! Open to Primary School aged children - parents we're asking you to stay for the fun this year!

Wear your favourite party outfit and come ready to dance, play and light up the night!

There'll be games, disco, hot dogs and plenty more — we'd love to welcome you all for an evening of fun! 🍔 🎵 ✨

Come along and let's light up the night together! 💛

Sign up at the back of church.

MEMORIAL SERVICE

Sunday 22nd November at 2.30pm

This special service is for all who have been bereaved. It offers a quiet and prayerful space to remember loved ones, to say goodbye, and to seek God's comfort, peace and strength as we navigate the journey of grief.

Members of St Chad's are warmly encouraged to invite family members 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 aloud during the service, please add their name to the list at the back of church, available from **Sunday 8th November**.

We hope this will be a gentle and comforting opportunity to come together, give thanks for those we have loved, and find support and hope in God's presence.



Worship Night

7.30pm Friday 16th Oct

Come & worship with us this Friday as we set aside time to centre our hearts on Jesus and dwell in His presence without hurry.

A space to slow down, listen, reflect and encounter God through **music, prayer, Scripture, silence, art, colour and other creative materials**.

Come as you are, with no pressure to perform — simply an invitation to draw near, be present and respond to God in whatever way feels meaningful to you.



Prayer Ministry Training

Come and be trained in prayer ministry.

Join us at **1pm on Sunday 1st November** for an introduction to prayer ministry training. We'll walk through the basic model we use

for praying with people at the end of our services and explain how you can get involved. By offering this core training, we hope to widen the number of people who can safely pray for others during services.

We'll be using the NewWine training resources. If you've already served on a team at a NewWine event and received this training, we consider you trained, but you're very welcome to join us anyway!

Email alys@stchadsromiley.co.uk to sign up.



www.message.org.uk

This month our Mission Partner is The Message Trust. The Message Trust is a worldwide move-ment passionately sharing the love of Jesus Christ in words and actions with the hardest to reach young people and communities.

Prayer points:

- Manchester Schools Tour - pray that the young people impacted by last weeks tour will follow through, join local churches and embark on their walk with Jesus.
- Message Ethiopia launches this week. Pray for the workers as they engage with the children on the rubbish dumps. Pray they meet Jesus and have their lives transformed .
- Greater Manchester Prayer Evening (26th November@ Lighthouse Church). Pray that the church corporate, across Manchester can come together and pray for Kingdom Come in our day, and in our neighbourhoods.



www.stchadsromiley.co.uk