

Dear Church Family,

Every month, my brother Mike and I send each other a playlist of the top eleven songs we've been listening to. We follow a different theme each month. I can fully recommend it as a way to continually think of and do something small for someone you love. One of my favourite themes this year was 'time travel'. Our February playlists were made up of one song from every decade from the 1920s to the 2020s. As Mike's playlist moved from Howlin' Wolf to The Stooges and then Joy Division and onto Talking Heads, the sense of time slipping by was almost palpable. In half an hour a century passed. I listened with my eyes closed and imagined the backdrops to those songs. Financial crashes, another world war, rationing, communism, hippies, punks, Margaret Thatcher, skateboards, the end of apartheid, Diana, the internet, hurricanes and earthquakes, covid.

And through it all, Christmas. This festival which has been celebrated for more than two thousand years. This story repeated for generations, passed down through communities and families. Think of the backdrops to all your Christmases. It's the same but also of its time. It changes as music changes, familiar but always new. At Chads we hold Christmas in that space of tradition and freshness. We want it to be timeless and of-its-time. Because that's what Christmas is: a story that never grows old – the miracle of the infinite becoming an infant. We never want to lose that, never diminish it. But Christmas is also living and breathing, Jesus in our hearts in majesty. It's memory and event all at once. It's now.

This year, we've made one change in particular so that those we invite will know more what to expect: Unplugged has been renamed 'Carols by Candlelight'. It's Christmas, we sing carols. This isn't dead nostalgia but memory and emotion which we pray leads to an encounter with the living Jesus. It will still contain all the creativity and

contemporary relevance we're used to but it also taps into that timelessness. The other major shift this year is that Carols & Chaos is moving to the Sunday afternoon to make more space for those who want to also attend Carols & Readings in the morning as a more traditional offering. See below for the full list of everything we're doing this year.

As always, we have listened to God's vision for what this Christmas should revolve around. We felt strongly He was asking us to focus on The Gift of Joy. In particular, please do consider what a gift of joy might look like for those who struggle to find it through our Christmas Generosity initiative. So may His joy be yours this Christmas, the joy that has sustained us for two thousand years and the joy which gives us hope and life today.

Blessings,

Dave



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.

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.



Christmas at St Chads

Christmas is Coming!

With the help of our incredible ministry leaders and volunteers, we've been busy preparing a wide range of Christmas events and services for all ages.

We can't wait to celebrate together and welcome our community into our buildings during this special season.

Below is a snapshot of our Christmas church services over the coming weeks:

Friday 18th December

7.30pm - Carols by Candlelight

Sunday 20th December

10.30am - Carols & Readings.

4pm - Carols & Chaos *(at the Guywood)*

Christmas Eve

4pm - Come to the Stable *(a celebration for all ages)*

11.15pm - Midnight Communion

Christmas Day

9am - Christmas Communion

10.30am - Christmas Celebration

Invites for friends, family & neighbours with service times are available at the back of church.

LifeCentre Christmas

As ever, the LifeCentre workshops are proving very popular. There are still some spaces on the Gingerbread House Workshop on **Saturday 12th December**. Tickets are £15 and can be purchased from the LifeCentre.

And of course, Lifey Christmas Carols will be back at 2.30pm on Thursday 17th December!

Christmas Generosity

Christmas should be a time of joy, but for some in our community it can bring worry and uncertainty. Our **Christmas Hamper initiative** aims to share the joy of Christmas with local families and individuals who are struggling.

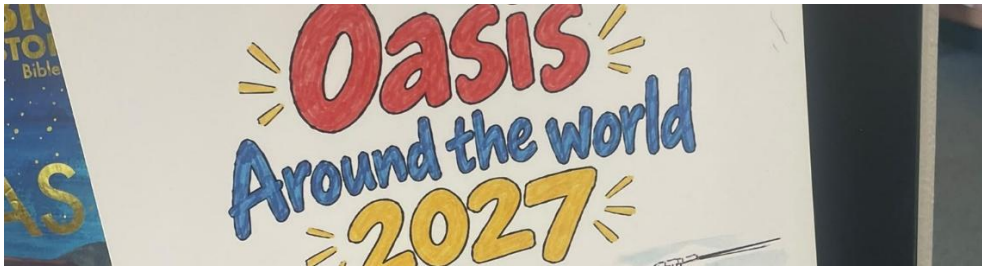
Each hamper will include a **Christmas treat and a supermarket gift voucher**, giving people the freedom to choose what they need most. Hampers are distributed through local schools and community organisations, and we also welcome personal nominations. If you know someone who would benefit, please email office@stchadsromiley.co.uk.

How to give:
Bank: St Chads PCC
Sort code: 08-92-99
Account: 65874394
Reference: Christmas Generosity

Cheques (payable to St Chads PCC) can be given in church, and the giving machine will also be available. For donations over **£30**, please use a bank transfer so we can claim Gift Aid.

Please make donations by Sunday 29th November.

Thank you.



Oasis Calendars

The Oasis 2027 calendar has arrived and can be purchased from the LifeCentre. All proceeds are going to the Moya Cole (St Ann's) Hospice.



Reset - 6th Feb

New Wine Women's Day, Reset, is at Chads on Saturday Feb 6th. A quarter of tickets have sold so far, and we don't want anyone to miss out.

Book your tickets over at
https://nwln.churchsuite.com/events/hiyxfuaf

Or scan the QR code at the back of church.

Mission of the Month - Tearfund

Tearfund is a Christian charity working with churches and communities around the world to tackle poverty and injustice. They provide practical support in times of crisis while helping communities build a stronger and more sustainable future, putting God's love into action.

Thank you, St Chads, for your faithful partnership in following Jesus where the need is greatest. We also wanted to specifically thank the 16 members from St Chads who are part of the '*Romiley Alms Generosity Collective*', combining their giving to support a brilliant project in Zimbabwe.

Tearfund Prayer Requests

- **Equipped Churches 🙌:** We praise God for the 76,000 churches that have been equipped in Church and Community Transformation worldwide (that's more than both McDonalds and Starbucks shops globally combined!)
- **Super El Niño Threat 🌊:** Unprecedented Ocean temperatures are driving a severe global climate shock. Research from the Climate Impact Lab projects over 451,000 heat-related deaths globally (equal to filling Wembley stadium - 5 times over!)
- **Vulnerable Communities 🌍:** Pray for families facing extreme drought, heat, and flooding across Africa and the Middle East.

- **Protection for the Most Vulnerable 🛡️:** Pray for children, the elderly, and people living with disabilities who suffer most during severe climate shocks.
- **Local Church Leaders 🤝:** Pray for wisdom for local church and community leaders as they manage early warning systems and distribute emergency preparedness resources.
- **Tearfund Staff & Partners 💙:** Pray for safety, strength, and favour for Tearfund staff and local Christian partners setting up water and agricultural infrastructure.
- **Provision of Resources 💰:** We have established a Disaster Preparedness Fund so that life-saving action can reach all communities in need, before the peak of **El Niño** hits.



Ministry of the Month - Mini Chadders

It's been a fantastic time for Mini Chadders! Prammies, Baby Buddies and Just for Dads are going well, with families connecting, building friendships and growing in belonging.

Light Party was incredible! We welcomed families from church and the wider community for disco, crafts and a special message about trusting that Jesus is always with us. We also joined the community trail with glow sticks, balloons and treats, reminding children how loved they are.

Looking ahead, we're launching *Family Tea* this Friday — a space for families to connect, share food and explore faith together. Please pray for opportunities for relationships and faith to grow.

There's lots more to come, including Early Life fundraising, Christmas parties and our **CHRISTMAS TRAIL** on 9th December for community families and 11th December for Romiley Primary School Year 1. If you can help, please get in touch at hannah@stchadsromiley.co.uk.

Prayer points:

- Give thanks for the families connecting through Prammies, Baby Buddies and Just For Dads, and pray that these relationships continue to deepen.
- Pray for Family Tea, that it would be a welcoming space where families encounter Jesus and discover ways to grow in faith together.
- Pray for all our upcoming Christmas events, particularly the Christmas Trail, that many families would hear the good news of Jesus in a fun, accessible and meaningful way.
- Pray for new volunteers to join the Mini Chadders team, bringing their gifts, enthusiasm and hearts for families.

We're always so grateful for the amazing people who make Mini Chadders possible, and we're always welcoming new volunteers. If you'd like to get involved, please get in touch at hannah@stchadsromiley.co.uk.

St Chads ROMILEY

www.stchadsromiley.co.uk