

Dear Church Family,
We had a wonderful time at the Romiley Christmas tree lights switch-on event on Saturday, thank you to all the team who came out to share gifts and invites with the crowds. Wow it was busy! With the lights going on and our series on the fruit of the Spirit completing, it's beginning to feel a lot like… Advent!

As a church I love how we are growing to embrace and value specific seasons, not as religious traditions, but as opportunities to draw near to God and focus on specific aspects of our walk with him. There is great spiritual richness and depth in these seasons. Advent is a time of anticipation, historically a time of silence, a time to process grief, a time of waiting and praying for Jesus' return and also a time of preparation, not just practically but making room in our hearts. So, I have been reflecting on how we can make the next few weeks not only a time of preparation and invitation but seeking God and letting Him work in our hearts.

This first aspect is Jesus!
This Sunday at the start of Advent we will be starting a new preaching series on Luke's gospel. There's a lot there and we'll take it slowly so prepare for an extended time of our preaching focussing on Jesus. How about taking the 24 days of Advent and reading as chapter a day of Luke's gospel through this season?

The second aspect is, of course, prayer!
We have brought our monthly prayer events for December to early in the month, in order to give us time to pray for God to move in people's hearts this Christmas and to soak all our events in prayer. I have a renewed eagerness and expectation of seeing people come to know Jesus this Christmas, and we know that is what happens when we pray. So here are three prayer initiatives for you. The first is our

monthly prayer events: **Weds 2nd (evening) and Weds 9th (daytime)**, these have sometimes been quieter in December, but by being earlier and with a focus on praying with faith for Christmas, let's make them to busiest ever! Our monthly 24hrs of prayer will be 1st - 2nd December in the Sanctuary. You might need to get in quick to book a slot and if we fill the 24hrs we can extend it.
In addition to this, we are also going to arrange to have Sanctuary open from 6-7pm every evening midweek (Mon-Fri) to pray, both for our community and in silence in God's presence. If you want to be a part of those and need details of access, contact me for that. In Lent a group met every day in a similar way, and it was so powerful how those who came met with God and I believe we saw a shift in the spiritual atmosphere in the church following that. So do try to be a part of that.

The third aspect is anticipation.
We're taking the lovely tradition of an Advent calendar and making it digital. Through Advent, starting on Sunday 29th, we will be sharing a brief 'Advent Calendar' post each day on the St Chads announcements on WhatsApp. It will include contributions from all sorts of people in our church family in all sorts of ways and I'll post them each day at 8am. So, look out for those, and do engage with them. If you are not on the WhatsApp announcements group then email **alys@stchadsromiley.co.uk** and she can set you up for that.
There is of course much, much more to share, so we're doing Chads News weekly through Advent, to keep you up to date and give you easy access to the details. So please read on to hear more about Christmas generosity, special events for all ages and more.

With love,
Richard.



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.

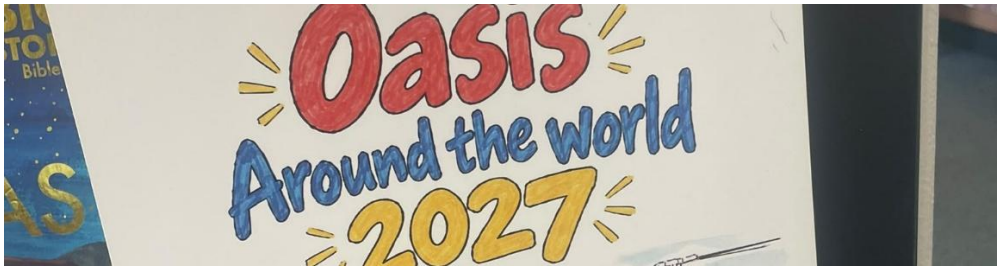
Each hamper will include a **Christmas treat and a supermarket gift voucher**, giving people the freedom to choose what they need most. Hampers are distributed through local schools and community organisations, and we also welcome personal nominations. If you know someone who would benefit, please email 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 or at the back of church using the giving machine.

All proceeds are going to the Moya Cole (St Ann's) Hospice.



Sunday 6th Dec 4pm

As in previous years the focus will be on setting hearts and minds on the real reason for the celebration. Through traditional and contemporary song, we prepare to celebrate the greatest gift of all – the gift of God's own Son born to be our Saviour.

These concerts are always joy filled occasions. We'd love to see some of the Chads family there.

St Chads ROMILEY

Prayer Events

Weds 2nd Dec - 7.30pm - LifeCentre

Weds 9th Dec - 1.30pm - church lounge





www.stchadsromiley.co.uk