

ST CHAD'S NEWS

St Chad's Church & Community Centre Hunter Street, Burton upon Trent

April

2018

www.stchadsburton.org.uk

 @vicargeorge

FREE OF CHARGE

Surprised by Joy

The famous apologist, author and philologist C S Lewis wrote an autobiography, outlining his early life in Northern Ireland and his life as an Oxford student and lecturer. It is called *Surprised by Joy*. Amongst other things he describes how he came to a Christian faith on the upper deck of a bus on his way home from university to his student accommodation. He describes himself at that point as being the most miserable and most reluctant convert in all Christendom. There might be a touch of hyperbole about that claim, but we get the point.

C S Lewis describes joy as being an experience that creeps up on you. If you set out to find it, it will elude you. You might find something else in the search: pleasure, company, happiness; but he argues joy will not be there. Joy for Lewis is an unplanned emotion of pure pleasure, it can't be manufactured and it cannot be anticipated, but when it is present it is pure and sweet.

Since the clocks have moved forward I have sensed moments of joy, particularly because the weather has given us a few days of warmth and sunshine after what seems to have been a winter that has lasted for ages and given us three good snow falls. Last Sunday I was able to get out in the garden – at last. The grass needs cutting already, and the ground was not as wet as I had anticipated, so I was able to get on with some work. I put together a fox-proof hen run, we have had hens for many years in the past, but the last lot came to an untimely end, so we are taking greater precautions this time. Joy snuck up on me: the warmth on my back, the pleasure of having done something creative and a slight pain in the arm from having successfully screwed in so many screws.

On Monday evening I left a meeting at John of Rolleston School at 7.45pm. I was surprised as I came out that it was not dark. Certainly the evening was well advanced and I needed to put on the lights on my bike, it was mild. There was a wonderful chorus of bird song, rooks were rebuilding their nests and the old houses on Chapel Lane and the bottom of Beacon Road looked so attractive in the gathering gloom. Joy had snuck up on me again, a surprising delight at the end of a business meeting, the smell of damp soil and air and a couple of miles to cycle home. What pleasure and what joy.


The first Easter morning must have been the example of the greatest joy ever. In the cold dawn and a group of women doing what had to be done for the body of their loved one, making their way to the tomb in which they had seen his body laid. Expecting a solemn task they were surprised by Joy. Not a cold, grey body, but a living warm one, and unanticipated event they found hard to grasp. Surprised by Joy, they certainly were at the presence of the risen Jesus.

The two churches will be joining to celebrate Easter at 6am, just before dawn on Sunday 1st April. For me it is an electric time, the light coming up, gathering in a dark church with each person holding a candle. We will go outside, light a fire and sing *Kindle a flame to lighten the dark* and we will go back into the church with the big Easter candle lit, join in the ancient hymns of the church called the *Exsultet* which have been sung for centuries and will be sung around the world on Easter morning. So we will be joining with people all over the world and through time as we say the words together. As the gospel is read the lights come on in the church and we hear of the meeting of Jesus and Mary in the graveyard garden.

It thrills me as we join together to do these things, as we recall the amazing event of the Resurrection, Jesus's return to life and his defeat of death. It is the key celebration of the year. Who knows, as we take part in the liturgy together we may find that we are overtaken by joy as Christ finds us as we celebrate the Easter morning.

George

Contacts at St Chad's

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Parish website: www.stchadsburton.org.uk

Church wardens

Julia Elliott Tel.: 01283 565057 **(and Centre Bookings)**
Lynda Jones Tel.: 01283 516398

Yellow lines --- ---

The Parish Council has been consulting on how additional parking spaces could be introduced within the parish along with any additional parking spaces – you may have received a letter through your door.

No decision has been made as to how this could be achieved and the parish council are therefore seeking thoughts from local residents. They suggest additional parking and restrictions could be as follows:

- Removal of yellow lines at the junction of Hunter Street and Thornley Street to give more parking spaces for residents.
- Removal of yellow lines from Stafford Street and Sydney Street to give more parking space for local residents.
- Introduction of yellow lines on the corner of Eton Close.

Comments are welcome to the Kay Lear, the clerk to the Council:
clerk@horninglowandetonparishcouncil.co.uk or phone 530554, by 5th April.

What's on in the Centre in April			
Tuesday	3rd	11.00-14.00	Lunch Club
Wednesday	4th	09.30-11.30	Parent & Toddler Group (Main Hall)
		09.30-11.30	Wellbaby Clinic (Eton Room)
		19.00-21.00	BIPA Drama Group
Thursday	5th	14.00-16.00	Darby & Joan
Friday	6th	09.30-11.30	Parent & Toddler Group (Main Hall)
Sunday	8th	14.00-17.00	9th Burton Scouts
Monday	9th	10.00-15.00	BIPA Drama Group
		19.00-21.00	PHAB (Eton Room)
Tuesday	10th	09.30-12.00	Neighbourhood Weekly Drop-In
		19.30-21.00	Yoga (Main Hall)
Wednesday	11th	09.30-11.30	Parent & Toddler Group (Main Hall)
		09.30-11.30	Wellbaby Clinic (Eton Room)
Thursday	12th	14.00-16.00	Darby & Joan
		19.00-21.00	Burton Belles WI
Friday	13th	09.30-11.30	Parent & Toddler Group (Main Hall)
Saturday	14th	12.00-15.00	Private Party
Sunday	15th	<u>10.00-14.00</u>	SIKH Community
Monday	16th	10.00-15.00	BIPA Drama Group
		17.30-18.30	Karate (Eton Room)
		19.00-21.00	PHAB (Eton Room)

Tuesday	17th	09.30-12.00 10.00-11.00 17.00-18.00 18.00-19.30 19.30-21.00 19.30-21.00	Neighbourhood Weekly Drop-In Ladies keep fit Rainbows Brownies Guides Yoga (Main Hall)
Wednesday	18th	09.30-11.30 09.30-11.30 09.30-12.00 19.00-21.00	Parent & Toddler Group (Main Hall) Wellbaby Clinic (Eton Room) Conversational English & Knitting Club Bipa Drama Club
Thursday	19th	14.00-16.00 15.45-17.15 17.30-18.45	Darby & Joan Mix Mania After School Club Thursday Crew After School Club Year 7+
Friday	20th	09.30-11.30 17.45-18.45	Parent & Toddler 9th Burton Scouts
Monday	23rd	10.00-15.00 17.30-18.30 19.00-21.00	Bipa Drama Club Karate (Eton Room) PHAB (Eton Room)
Tuesday	24th	09.30-12.00 10.00-11.00 17.00-18.00 18.00-19.30 19.30-21.00 19.30-21.00	Neighbourhood Weekly Drop in Ladies Keep Fit Rainbows Brownies Guides Yoga (Main Hall)
Wednesday	25th	09.30-11.30 09.30-11.30 09.30-12.00 19.00-21.00	Parent & Toddler Wellbaby Clinic (Eton Room) Conversational English & Knitting Club BIPA Drama Club
Thursday	26th	14.00-16.00 15.45-17.15 17.30-18.45	Darby & Joan Mix Mania After School Club Thursday Crew After School Club Year 7+
Friday	27th	09.30-11.30 17.45-18.45	Parent & Toddler 9th Burton Scouts
Saturday	28th	<i>Eyes Down 19.30</i>	Bingo in aid of PHAB
Sunday	29th	15.30 onwards	YFC Star Buds
Monday	30th	10.00-15.00 17.30-18.30 19.00-21.00	BIPA Drama Group Karate (Eton room) PHAB (Eton room)

Milestones



We have celebrated the baptism of the following, who has entered into membership of the church of Christ

25th March

Layla May Davies

It is with sadness that we recall the recent death of the following with whom we have had contact through the ministry of St Chad's.

Ann Slack

25th February

Tim Grey

28th February

Eileen Alesbrook

4th March



One hundred years ago: We remember soldiers from St Chad's who died in the First World War

12th April 1918. William Frederick Joseph Faulkner. Private 45354 18th Bn Durham Light Infantry. His memorial is at Le Grand Baumart British Cemetery, Steenwerk, France. Age 44. Married to Annie Faulkner, 71 South Broadway Street. He had two children and was a railway shunter before call-up.

16th April 1918. William Arthur Florence. Lance Corporal 45622 4th Bn North Staffordshire Regiment. His memorial is at Hadauville Communal Cemetery Extension, France. Age 24. He lived at 83 Goodman Street.

18th April 1918. Charles Wrightson. Private 267369 2/6th Bn Sherwood Foresters. His memorail is at Ploegsteert Memorial, Hainaut, Belgium. Age 28 Son of George and Elizabeth Wrightson.

24th April 1918. Edward Frank William Gothard. Private 126669 Machine Gun Corps (Infantry). His memorial is at Arras, France. Age 20. Son of Edward Frank and Caroline Lydia Gothard, House 7, Branch 2, Wellington Street.

26th April 1918. Harold Freeman. Private G/61673 2/4th Bn West Surrey Regiment. His memorial is at the Jerusalem War Cemetery.

Dead or Alive

The Bishop of Shrewsbury's pastoral letter for April 2018

My Dad tricked me. Aged seven, it was my first trip to London and we went to Madame Tussaud's. Seeing that I needed the lavatory, he told me to ask the attendant at the foot of the stairs where to go. When I asked him, the attendant didn't answer. Only by touching his cold hand and turning to see my father grinning, did I realise he wasn't alive, only a wax dummy.

Dead or alive? Response or non-response is the test. Why are so many people only half-alive? Why is it that children seem to be more vividly alive than their parents? Or why should young people express so great a dread of becoming middle-aged?

I like the seaside - the beach, the sea and the rock pools - but I didn't realise how dull I had become to its wonder until I enjoyed it with my daughter, Fran, when she was a toddler. To walk fifty yards along the beach could take half an hour because every pebble, every bit of shell, every dry twig or bit of seaweed was an object of such wonder and awe that you had to squat and examine and squeal with delight. Heaven lies about us in our infancy and even a trek across the beach can become the golden journey to Treasure Island. Where did it go, that intensity of response? How comes it that most of us lose the gift of seeing the ordinary as extraordinary? This is why Jesus said that the Kingdom of God is for the childlike, for it is the Kingdom of the fully alive. The unaware and the half-dead have no place in it because they have no feeling for it.

There is a frustrating amount of deadness around - the sleeping sickness, apathy and lack of response. Perhaps it's fear that does it. We shrink from the pain of being fully awake. The child who is so intensely alive to the wonder of each shell and pebble quickly discovers that she

cannot tunnel that vision so as to be aware of only the beautiful and happy things. Eyes that remain open to the glory of the world must see its ugliness as well. So growing up is usually a process of closing up. Awareness makes demands. Awareness hurts. So we begin to grow a protective shell and become a bit blind, a bit deaf, a bit dead.

In the gospels, Jesus is portrayed as a human totally alive to God: supremely aware and responsive. He noticed the unattractive small character perched in the sycamore tree and he heard the cry of the blind beggar above the noise of the crowd. 'In him was life and the life was the light of all people' (John 1:4). During Holy Week and Easter we remember how that life went down into death and was overwhelmed. On the cross, the aliveness of Jesus Christ went down under the deadness that is our sickness and sin. Surrendering himself to death, he drew it into himself and absorbed it. Our sin was absorbed in Christ's forgiveness. Jesus has opened up a way for us. He transformed death into life.

At Communion we remember that he died to bring us new life. The bread is broken as he was; the wine is poured into the cup as his life was poured out. 'Because I am alive, you shall be alive also'. God transforms bread because he wants to transform us. We are blessed to be a blessing to others, to make a real difference.

The invitation is there. It's not forced on anyone but neither can you receive by sitting back and doing nothing. He says: Ask. Come. Take. His aliveness is on offer. Choose life!

Wishing you a joyful Eastertide

*+Mark
April 2018*

What's on this month ... in the church

Sunday 1st April

Easter Day

6am Dawn Service
8am Holy Communion (Quiet Service)
10am Holy Communion

Wednesday 4th April

5pm Open4prayer

Sunday 8th April

2nd Sunday of Easter

8am Holy Communion (Quiet Service)
10am Holy Communion

Wednesday 11th April

5pm Open4prayer

Sunday 15th April

3rd Sunday of Easter

8am Holy Communion (Quiet Service)
10.30am Souper Sunday All Age Service
Followed by Annual Church Meeting
4pm Open to God St Mary, Stretton

Sunday 22nd April

4th Sunday of Easter

8am Holy Communion (Quiet Service)
10am Holy Communion
7pm Service of Healing & Wholeness St Mary, Stretton

Sunday 29th April

5th Sunday of Easter

8am Holy Communion (Quiet Service)
10am Holy Communion



At St Chad's and St Mary's we believe that prayer changes people and changes things. Collectively we pray on Sundays for people and places, seeking God's help and to bring to him the troubles we have. We also pray as individuals. During April we will be praying for people and businesses on the following streets on the following days of the month. The streets in ordinary

type are in St Chad's parish, those in *italics* are in Stretton.

We also think it is important to read the bible as part of the way of sustaining our relationship with God, so there are suggested bible readings for each day as well. These follow the Church of England lectionary, so we will be reading the same passage of scripture as thousands of people throughout the country.

1	<i>Longbow Close</i>	John 20:1-18	16	Middleway Park	Acts 6:8-15
2	<i>Longbow Grove</i>	Mt 28:8-15	17	Millers Lane	Acts 7:51-8:1a
3	Longfellow Close	John 20:11-18	18	<i>Monarch Close</i>	Acts 8:1b-8
4	<i>Lovatt Close</i>	Luke 24:13-35	19	<i>Moncrief Drive</i>	Acts 8:26-end
5	<i>Main Street</i>	Luke 24: 35-48	20	<i>Moor Furlong</i>	Acts 9:1-20
6	Maltings Industrial Estate	John 21:1-14	21	<i>Mountbatten Close</i>	Acts 9:31-42
7	Manor Industrial Estate	Mark 16:9-15	22	<i>Nene Close</i>	Acts 4:5-12
8	<i>Manton Close</i>	Acts 4:32-35	23	<i>Newbury Drive</i>	Rev 12:7-12
9	Masfield Crescent	Luke 1:26-38	24	<i>Newhay</i>	Acts 11:19-26
10	<i>Meadow Lane</i>	John 3:7-15	25	<i>Norman Terrace</i>	Mark 13:5-13
11	Meadow Road	John 3:16-21	26	Northside Business Park	Acts 13:13-25
12	Meadow side Drive	John 3:31-end	27	Parker Street	Acts 13:26-33
13	Meredith Close	John 6:1-15	28	Perle Road	Acts 13:44-end
14	<i>Metcalfe Close</i>	John 6:16-21	29	Police HQ	Acts 8:26-end
15	Middle Yard Leisure Park	Acts 3:12-19	30	Princess Way	Acts 14:5-18

If you would like prayer for yourself or anyone you care for, then please contact a member of the church and we will commit ourselves to pray for that specific need.

Dean & Smedley



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