

ST CHAD'S NEWS

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

January

2018

www.stchadsburton.org.uk

 @vicargeorge

FREE OF CHARGE

Entering into things

Well, I can say I had an excellent Christmas this year. I have enjoyed the build up to it, I enjoyed the day itself as well as Boxing Day and I don't feel too sluggish now that I have returned to work – which must mean I haven't eaten too much, as I certainly haven't had any exercise. It isn't that it has been a Christmas without any bad news (more of that later) I think it is more because I have just tried to enter into Christmas without reserve, I have as much let Christmas have me as I have tried to have Christmas.

It all started, I suppose, with the decorating of St Chad's church on 30th November, which I would normally argue is a bit early, but it was convenient. There were a good number to help and it all looked lovely when it was done, and I wasn't sent up the step ladder to arrange the decorations around the church screen. There was Christmas Lunch number 1 at St Mary's on 4th December, followed by Year 1 from William Shrewsbury coming into the church for a telling of the Christmas story. We told it together – with a bit of encouragement, they knew it well enough. We had lots of angels and shepherds, there were lots of travelers in the town of Bethlehem and everybody had a part to play. The children entered into the story and didn't hold back, and that is why they enjoyed it so much, I suspect.

Tuesday 5th was Christmas Lunch number 2 at St Chad's Lunch Club. On the Thursday we had our annual Christmas Concert with the Burton Concert Band and Tower View School. The band did their usual professional job and the school performed with gusto, particularly an amazing (and daring) drum routine. There was our Christmas Market on 9th and then the following week got *really* busy!

The Tuesday Drop-In group shared Christmas Lunch (number 3) and then on Thursday there were three schools in St Chad's and St Mary's for their Christmas services and concerts and I had lunch (number 4) at Lansdowne School. School Christmas lunches aren't what they used to be. It was excellent, turkey with all the trimmings and Christmas pud. There was no pink custard, but I was told that it does still happen from time to time. On the Friday (16th) I went off to Sheffield in the evening to see *Star Wars* in 3D at the Imax screen with my son – we have watched them all together, so the opportunity was not to be missed.

Sunday 17th a lovely Christingle service at St Chad's. With all the candles on the Christingles alight it was wonderful to see everyone's faces lit up as we sang *Like a candle flame* and *Light up a candle*. It began for me a thought about the contrast between light and dark. It is a message that comes through time and again in the gospel readings for Christmas. There is the introduction to John's gospel, which speaks of a light shining in the darkness and the dark has not overcome it (or possibly not comprehended it). That is an important image in itself: light overcomes darkness, Jesus as light of the world guides us in a sometimes dark world or through dark events in our lives. The same image of light and dark shows up in the nativity story in Luke's gospel: Jesus is born in the night and the angels come to the shepherds in their field at night 'and glory shone around'. Because of the light that shone on the shepherds they were able to respond to the message and visit the child Jesus.

There was Messy Church in the afternoon and then in the evening a carol service at St Mary's: the church was full and 250 candles lit as we sang our last three carols of the evening. The joy and anticipation was palpable. Monday Christmas lunch number 5 with a house group from St Mary's and then carol singing around the wards at Queen's hospital.

Christmas Eve: Sunday Communion as usual and then the walking Nativity around Stretton, following a donkey into the church. There was standing room only and everyone sang familiar carols, back for carol service at St Chad's before midnight Communion. For me Midnight Communion is always a special service, with the air of anticipation. I reflected as I stood at the Communion rail waiting for people to come and receive bread and wine what a privilege it is to serve two churches and share in such events as these. When I got back home after the service I was greeted by people coming to join us for wine and mince pies and family members had started to arrive.

Christmas Day: a simple service in the morning, the rest of the family who were going to have Christmas with us arrived and then the final Christmas lunch (number 6). There were presents and drinks and we played games until about 2am. Boxing Day was a little more sedate and there was *Mary Poppins* on the television in the afternoon.

Writing it all down like this makes it seem rather busy! I suppose it was, but that was part of the joy of it – it invaded my life and rather took me over, perhaps that is why I got so much out of it. It is much like the Christian faith

itself. You can stand on the edge and look in and it will affect you very little. It is only when you plunge into it; become involved in the call of God on your life and respond to it that you more fully experience what it is to be loved by God and to falteringly follow the way he wants to guide us into the light.

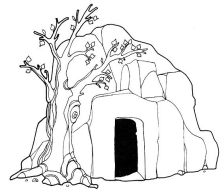
But the Christmas period has not been one of unalloyed fun and feasting. As usual there were a number of people who passed away in the run up to Christmas. For the families of the bereaved Christmas will not have been at all the thing of joy that mine has been. There are also members of the church communities who have been affected by serious and unexpected illness, for them it has been a time of worry, possibly made to feel more so because it is a season of happiness. That will, of course, happen. Illness and death are no respecters of the season.

Christmas is when we celebrate and marvel at the Incarnation. God becoming human (more literally, becoming flesh). God entered fully into the the life of humanity: sharing its illnesses and injuries. We assume Joseph, his human father, died at some stage in Jesus's life as he is not mentioned after the birth narratives, so Jesus experienced bereavement. God does not stand apart from the difficult times we go through any more than he stands apart from the joys. It may not make it any easier to sit beside a desperately sick family member or to grieve the death of a friend; but he is with us and shares with us. A title given to Jesus at the announcement of his birth is Emanuel, meaning 'God with us'. There to guide us in good and bad times and to give light to our way ahead – something good to be aware of as we enter a new year.

George

Milestones

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.



Ivy Harvey

6th December

Contacts at St Chad's

Vicar: Revd George Crossley, The Vicarage, 113 Hunter Street, Burton upon Trent, DE14 2SS. Tel.: 01283 516804 email: vicar@stchadstmary.org.uk

 @vicargeorge

Curate: Revd Ben Care, St Mary's Vicarage, 44 Church Road, Stretton DE13 0BW. Tel.: 01283 565795 Email: curate@stchadstmary.org.uk

Associate minister: Revd Dennis Warner, 90 Beech Lane, Stretton DE13 0DU. Tel.: 01283 548058. email: densue@uku.co.uk

Reader: Shirley Irons, 3 St Chad's Close, Burton upon Trent, DE13 0ND. Tel.: 01283 548746

Reader: Jenny Knopik, 3 Lansdowne Terrace, Burton upon Trent, DE14 2RH. Tel.: 01283 515535. email: jenniferknopik@ymail.com

Parish website: www.stchadsburton.org.uk

Church wardens

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

Variety enables enrichment

The Bishop of Lichfield's pastoral letter for January 2018

I have over the last months been watching the quite sudden physical decline of somebody I have known well for many years. From being a very active and agile 83.6 year old, she has become an 83.9 year old who finds mobility different, who experiences almost constant pain, and who needs daily help to perform quite ordinary daily actions. It has been an awkward and testing period for her and for those who know and love her, and uncertainty about the future has compounded the difficulty. Probably you may know somebody going through a similar experience, or possibly this is where you yourself are in your own life now.

My friend has been remarkable for the cheerfulness and resilience with which she has mostly greeted this, and she has been well supported by family, neighbours and fellow church members. Sometimes, though, the realisation of what she has lost and is losing must make her want to cry, and I think that things have been made all the harder for her by the way she has always thought of health and well-being as a moral issue. What I mean is, that for most of her life she has regarded it as an ethically good thing to be active and busy, a clear duty to walk far and exercise hard, and even a conscientious obligation to go swimming before breakfast each day.

Certainly this is no bad set of values, and it has kept her well for decades. But now that her body will no longer allow her to do the things she once did so easily, there is the danger that she will think of herself as a moral failure, a burden on others, and generally useless. In fact, her strong Christian faith has helped her to get to the point where she can see through the temptation of worthlessness to realise that she still has worth and value in her new condition, but it has not been easy for her to get there.

The kind of physical disabling which I have described in her later years is something that any of us could experience at any point in our lives, whether for a while or indefinitely. And for some people it is, in one way or another, a condition which marks the whole of their lives. We label these people as 'the disabled', but the deeper reality is that they are women, men and children like ourselves, differing from us only in that they are encountering constraint and limitation in a more comprehensive or permanent way. Because they have lived for years in this way, there may well be truths which we can learn from them about the living of our lives; in any case, whatever our differing abilities, we can be mutually enriched through our companionship, mutual service and prayer within the church. Nor we should we forget that the church itself is the Body of Christ, the fellowship of One who won our healing through his physical wounds.

In the autumn, I licensed The Revd Zoe Heming as Enabling Church Adviser for our diocese. Herself needing to use a wheelchair for much of her daily life and work because of chronic pain, Zoe not only knows the reality of disability in practice, but has also reflected and prayed about its meaning for Christian discipleship. She has written: 'God walks with us and can help us be less afraid of not being who were aged 20 - faith and gifts can still grow even as our bodies decline. There are so many simple, inexpensive ways to worship together and embrace one another's gifts to make sure that no one is isolated

from church life or left feeling like a “bad Christian”.

All of us want to be kind to those who have to cope with disabilities in their lives, but we also need to realise how much we can learn from one another. All of us want our churches to be places of welcome for people of differing abilities, but there are many practical issues which we need to look at to make that welcome a reality. Zoe will be available to work with all of us through the coming years, and she would be glad to hear from you. She can be contacted by email - enabling.church@lichfield.anglican.org - and by phone - 01952 810942.

+Michael January 2018

What's on in the centre in January			
Wednesday	3rd	09.30-11.30	Parent & Toddler Group (Main Hall)
		09.30-11.30	Wellbaby Clinic (Eton Room)
		09.30-12.00	Conversational English & Knitting Club
Thursday	4th	14.00-16.00	Darby & Joan
Friday	5th	09.30-11.30	Parent & Toddler Group (Main Hall)
Monday	8th	10.00-15.00	BIPA Drama Group
		17.30-18.30	Karate (Eton)
		19.00-21.00	PHAB (Eton Room)
Tuesday	9th	11.00-14.00	Lunch Club
		10.00-11.00	Ladies keep fit
		17.00-18.00	Rainbows
		18.00-19.30	Brownies
		19.30-21.00	Guides (Eton Room)
Wednesday	10th	09.30-11.30	Parent & Toddler Group (Main Hall)
		09.30-11.30	Wellbaby Clinic (Eton Room)
		09.30-12.00	Conversational English & Knitting Club
		19.00-21.00	BIPA Drama Group
Thursday	11th	14.00-16.00	Darby & Joan
		15.45-17.15	Mix Mania After School Club
		17.30-18.45	Thursday Crew After School Club Year 7+
		19.30-21.00	Burton Belles WI
Friday	12th	09.30-11.30	Parent & Toddler Group (Main Hall)
		17.45-18.45	9th Burton Scouts
Sunday	14th	10.00-14.00	Sikh Community

Monday	15th	10.00-15.00 17.30-18.30 19.00-21.00	BIPA Drama Group Karate (Eton) PHAB (Eton Room)
Tuesday	16th	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 (Eton Room) Yoga (Main Hall)
Wednesday	17th	09.30-11.30 09.30-11.30	Parent & Toddler Group (Main Hall) Wellbaby Clinic (Eton Room)
Thursday	18th	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	19th	09.30-11.30 17.45-18.45	Parent & Toddler Group (Main Hall) 9th Burton Scouts
Saturday	20th	Eyesdown 19.30	Bingo in aid of PHAB
Monday	22nd	10.00-15.00 17.30-18.30 19.00-21.00	BIPA Drama Group Karate (Eton) PHAB (Eton Room)
Tuesday	23rd	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 (Eton Room) Yoga (Main Hall)
Wednesday	24th	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	25th	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	26th	09.30-11.30 17.45-18.45	Parent & Toddler 9th Burton Scouts
Monday	29th	10.00-15.00 17.30-18.30 19.00-21.00	Bipa Drama Club Karate (Eton Room) PHAB (Eton Room)

Tuesday	30th	09.30-12.00	Neighbourhood Weekly Drop in
		10.00-11.00	Ladies Keep Fit
		17.00-18.00	Rainbows
		18.00-19.30	Brownies
		19.30-21.00	Guides
		19.30-21.00	Yoga (Main Hall)
Wednesday	31st	09.30-11.30	Parent & Toddler
		09.30-11.30	Wellbaby Clinic (Eton Room)
		09.30-12.00	Conversational English & Knitting Club

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

Wednesday 3rd January

5pm Open4prayer

Sunday 7th January Epiphany

8am Holy Communion (Quiet Service)

10am Holy Communion

Sunday 14th January 2nd Sunday of Epiphany

8am Holy Communion (Quiet Service)

10am Holy Communion

Wednesday 17th January

5pm Open4prayer

Sunday 21st January 3rd Sunday of Epiphany

8am Holy Communion (Quiet Service)

10.30am All Age Souper Sunday

7pm Open to God St Mary, Stretton

Tuesday 23rd January

7.30pm Bible Study Vicarage

Wednesday 24th January

5pm Open4prayer

Sunday 28th January 4th Sunday of Epiphany

8am Holy Communion (Quiet Service)

10am Holy Communion

7pm Praise Service St Mary, Stretton

Wednesday 31st January

5pm Open4prayer



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 January 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	Churnet Court	Luke 2:15-21	17	Derby Road	1 Sam 17:32-51
2	Clarke Industrial Estate	John 1:19-28	18	Derby Street	1 Sam 18:6-9,19:1-7
3	<i>Claymills Road</i>	John 1:29-34	19	Derby Street East	1 Sam 24:3-22a
4	Clough Drive	John 1:35-42	20	Derwent Close	2 Sam 1
5	<i>Conway Close</i>	John 1:43-end	21	Derwent Park	John 2:1-11
6	<i>Corden Avenue</i>	Mt 2:1-12	22	<i>Deveron Close</i>	2 Sam 5:1-10
7	<i>Craythorne Road</i>	Mark 1:4-11	23	Dickens Close	2 Sam 6:12-19
8	<i>Crest Close</i>	Mark 1:14-20	24	<i>Dovecliff Crescent</i>	2 Sam 7:4-17
9	<i>Crestwood Close</i>	Mark 1:21-28	25	<i>Dovecliff Road</i>	Mt 19:27-end
10	<i>Crichton Ave</i>	Mark 1:29-39	26	<i>Duchy Close</i>	2 Sam 11:1-17
11	Dallow Close	Mark 1:40-end	27	<i>Earls Court</i>	2 Sam 12:1-17
12	Dallow Crescent	Mark 2:1-12	28	Eccleshall Bus Park	Mark 1:21-28
13	Dallow Street	Mark 2:13-17	29	<i>Edinburgh Way</i>	2 Sam 15:13-16:13
14	<i>De Ferrers Croft</i>	John 1:43-end	30	Electric Street	2 Sam 18:9-19:3
15	<i>De Ferrers School</i>	1 Sam 15:16-23	31	<i>Elwyn Close</i>	2 Sam 24:2.9-17
16	<i>Denbigh Close</i>	1 Sam 16:1-13			

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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