

Chads News 21st November

This weeks intro comes from Katie...

Dear Church Family,

I returned from Uganda on Monday to snowy British weather - a sharp contrast to the 30+ degree heat I left behind. Thank you for praying for me during this journey with Tearfund. It's impossible to travel and remain unchanged, and this trip was no exception. Seeing Tearfund's work firsthand was an incredible privilege. Words can only hint at the miracles, transformation, and hope we witnessed as God's church brought healing not only to people but to the land itself.

Our team of church leaders was prayerful, prophetic, and full of joy. After 21 hours of travel, we arrived and stopped at a supermarket where armed guards stood at the entrance, yet worship music played inside - a striking illustration of the tension between brokenness and healing.

The next morning, we visited a rainforest, marvelling at God's creation as monkeys swung through the trees. Later, we visited the Martyrs' Shrine in Namugongo, where we learned about 25 young men martyred for their faith. Their story was a humbling reminder of the cost of faith and the courage it demands.

We then flew north with Mission Aviation Fellowship to Kotido, an isolated region often overlooked. Despite extreme challenges - 80% illiteracy, poverty, drought, and famine - we met some of the most joyful Christians of the trip. Joining them in dancing down the track as we saw Tearfund's Church and Community Transformation program in action. Local churches are not only spreading the gospel but also equipping communities to thrive, often with women leading the change.

The rapid transformation was astonishing. Villages just months into the program had sanitation, improved food security, education, and vibrant worship. Communities identified and developed their own resources: ponds were dug, vegetables grown with irrigation, animals raised, fruit dried, and honey harvested. It was inspiring to see faith in action, with churches bringing holistic healing to individuals and entire communities. Food insecurity remains a pressing issue, with up to 75% of crops failing. Yet, this program empowers people to build sustainable solutions. The gospel is changing lives, and in Kotido, we saw the church being a beacon of hope.

We prayed with dedicated teams who have given their lives to these communities. Watching them kneel in the dust as we asked for God's protection and provision was deeply moving. Their faith and resilience left an indelible mark on my heart.

This is just a glimpse of what we experienced. We heard countless stories of transformation: children now attending school, men abandoning abusive behaviours, and communities sharing new skills. Generosity overflowed - church offerings were so abundant that we were gifted food as an expression of gratitude. Church attendance is soaring, leading to larger churches being built as community hubs, and as the projects grow, schools and hospitals follow.

Trauma healing training is another vital part of this work, addressing the scars of horrific atrocities. The resilience and hope we witnessed was extraordinary, a testament to the power of faith in action. I'd love to share more!

My heart is overflowing.
with love, Katie x

Prayer Events



Prayer is core to what we do in St Chads and we want to continue to see momentum of God changing lives. Our prayer events are unpressurised, dynamic and spiritually refreshing and make a huge difference. They are a full expression of glorifying God, loving community and following Jesus.

Our next prayer event is:

Weds 27th Nov 1.30pm in church

December Prayer Events are:

Tues 10th December 7.30pm in the LifeCentre

Weds 11th December 1.30pm in church



Memorial Service

24th November

Memorial Service - Sunday 24th November at 3.00pm.

The service is for all those who have been bereaved. Many people find a service of this kind a very valuable part of the process of saying 'Goodbye' to those they love and also turning to God for his comfort and support through this time. Very often a beautiful part of this service has been members of St Chads bringing members of family who are grieving to join us.

We hope that it will be an opportunity for you to remember those you love.

You've Got to Smile!

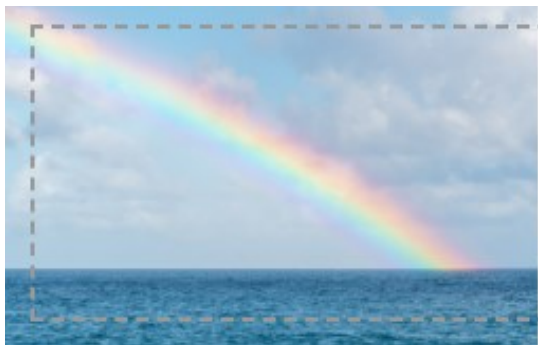
The new Oasis book

**YOU'VE
GOT TO
SMILE!**

The Oasis book 'You've got to smile!' is now available!

The book is packed full of wonderful stories from the Oasis community along with recipes for delicious soups and sweet treats.

A bargain at £5, you can pick up a copy from the LifeCentre or after the 9.15am service this Sunday (cash only please).



Rainbow Concert

Sunday 8th December

**Come and join us for the Rainbow Concert on
Sunday 8th December in church at 7pm.**

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, words and drama 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. The event is free but there will be a collection in aid of the Alzheimers Society.

Christmas 2024



Christmas is fast approaching and, together with our incredible team of ministry leaders and volunteers, we have been busy putting together a huge range of Christmas events and services for every age. We are so looking forward to celebrating together and welcoming our community into our buildings.

Whilst there is a huge range of events happening over the coming weeks in our various buildings and ministries, a snapshot of our Christmas church services are as follows:

Friday 20th December

8pm - Carols Unplugged

Sunday 22nd December

10am - Carols & Readings - with a choir and festive refreshments after the service. If you would like to be part of the choir please get in touch with the office and we can put you in touch with the right people!

12pm - Carols & Chaos (with turkey barms at the Guywood)

Christmas Eve

4pm - Come to The Stable (a family service to celebrate together)

11.15pm - Christmas Communion

Christmas Day

9am - Christmas Communion

10.30am - Christmas Celebration

Postcards with all these dates will be available at the back of church.



Christmas Generosity

This Christmas, once again, we want to reflect God's glory and Jesus' love to those in need in our local communities through our Christmas Generosity initiative. We are inviting financial donations which will fund food hampers for local families and gifts for children who may otherwise receive none.

You can give financially via the paying machine or a direct bank transfer. If you can help with hospitality at one (or more!) of our Christmas services, please fill in the back page of the booklet and return to the church office. Thank you!

For all the details grab a copy of the booklet from the back of church.



Romiley
LifeCentre
Christmas

**Christmas at the
LifeCentre**

Christmas has well and truly arrived at the LifeCentre!

Along with a beautiful range of charity Christmas cards and gifts, the LifeCentre has the following festive events to get you in the Christmas mood:

7pm Weds 27th November - Glass Workshop. Join us as we make glass Christmas decorations. Tickets £20.

2.30pm Saturday 14th December - Gingerbread House building. Bring your little ones with you to build and take home your very own Gingerbread House. Tickets £15 per house.

All tickets are available to buy from reception at the LifeCentre.