

Dear Church Family,

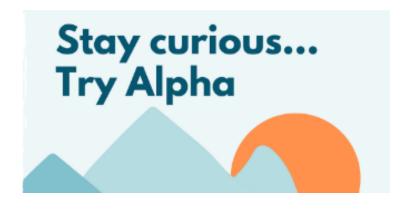
Welcome to our first proper Chads News of the year. After what felt like a slow start with that sense of calm (& desire to hibernate) which comes with snow and ice, it now feels like the year is bursting into life, staff are back at work, new things are starting and the year is underway. In particular a big start to the year has been the start of Alpha, we are delighted that a great number of people have joined the course and there are others who have shown interest. We have consistently prayed over recent years for God's Spirit to be at work bringing people to salvation and when that becomes a reality it is hugely exciting. Please be praying for Alpha, for those who have started and those who couldn't make the first week to come along and join in.

Another sign of the Holy Spirit at work which I'm hearing about is a renewed hunger for the Bible amongst our children and young people. I have heard a number of stories in the past week of children and young people starting the year with a real hunger to read the Bible. When we commit to regularly engaging with God's Word, it completely transforms us, there's nothing else like it. I cannot tell you how much this excites me, to think of our Under 18s filling their hearts and minds with the seeds of God's truth, which will bear fruit through their lives. Please pray for this to spread, for them to find habits and patterns that make their reading sustainable and for this same hunger to spread from them to all of us over 18s too!

A third encouragement for the start of the year is the joy of meeting many new people who have been coming to St Chads on Sunday at both services. I love watching our church family chatting to visitors and helping them feel welcome. This is so valued and appreciated and something that we can all do, so please keep extending that love and welcome. Our next welcome lunch is on Sunday 16th February, so if you're chatting to someone over coffee on a Sunday, please do let them know about that and help them to sign up for it, so that we can extend that welcome further and help them find a home in St Chads if God is calling them here.

with love, Richard

Alpha



Alpha is a 10 week course that explores the basics of the Christian faith in a welcoming, open and friendly environment. Each session starts with a meal in small groups before a short talk on a question of faith. There's plenty of time to share your thoughts - you can say anything you like or nothing at all. There's no charge and never any pressure.

Everyone is welcome. No matter your background of beliefs, you're invited.

Alpha is happening at the Romiley Lifecentre, on Tuesday evenings and runs for 10 weeks. The evening will start at 7pm and finish at 9.30pm. There will be a one day workshop on Saturday 1st March. Whilst we have had the first session it's not too late to join!

If you have any questions email Kirstie Goddard - (mail@kirstiegoddard.co.uk)



The most important gatherings of the month, our times of prayer together, the very source of our life in God together. Please do make these a priority, it's vital that we seek God together, it is fundamental to all we do.

The dates for January are: Weds 29th 7.30pm Etherow (LifeCentre)

February dates:

Weds 12th Feb 1.30 in Church Lounge

Thur 13th Feb - 7.30pm Etherow (LifeCentre)



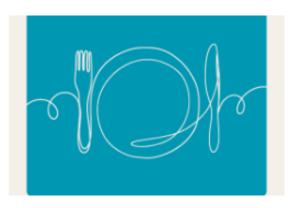
The CAP money course is a 4 week course created by CAP (Christians Against Poverty). It is a revolutionary money management course that teaches people budgeting skills, to enable them to get more in control of their finances, to save, give and prevent debt.

We will be running the course at St Chads over 4 Thursday evenings, starting on 30th January.

For more details please get in touch with Paul Adshead (07940 937891)

Welcome Lunch

Sunday 16th Feb



New to Chads? Want to find out more about our vision and values?

The next Welcome Lunch is on Sunday 16th February and is a great way to meet other new people, find out a bit more about St Chads and our vision and ask us any questions you might have. Children are very welcome!

The lunch will be hosted at the LifeCentre straight after the 11am service. For those who come to our 9.15 service, please come along for 1pm.

Please sign up here or email <u>alys@stchadsromiley.co.uk</u>.



The Manchester event is now sold out, but if you haven't got a ticket, there are other some team tickets still available.

For more details email katie@stchadsromiley.co.uk

