



Dear Church family,

This week in our Sunday preaching and lent blogs we are looking at 1 Corinthians 12. You may have got ahead and kept abreast of things by having a nosey through Tim's blog this morning. You don't need to, and you might not be able to stomach all his puns or learn them by heart, but you might want to knuckle down and cast an eye over it to keep your finger on the pulse.

During Wednesday communion this week, 1 Corinthians 12.26 stuck out to me: *'If one part (of the body) suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honoured, every part rejoices with it'*. I often think of that verse (and the very similar Romans 12.25) when I come to write these front pages of Chads News. Every week, some of you reading this will be going through tough times or a difficult week, others will be enjoying celebrations. (Our church warden Andrew has a landmark birthday today, so I hope he is celebrating!). Part of our unity comes from the empathy we experience in being sensitive to those who are hurting and rejoicing with those celebrating.

This empathy is particularly important this weekend on Mothering Sunday. For some amongst our family a day about motherhood is painful for all sorts of reasons of loss or broken relationship. For others, the opportunity to give flowers to Mums and have a Sunday lunch somewhere is a joyful celebration of those who have poured so much into our lives. As a church family we weep with those who weep and rejoice with those who rejoice and if we can do that with love and empathy, all are blessed and jealousy and comparison fade away.

Mothering Sunday is also about 'the Mother Church', historically a day when those who worked far from home, could return to their home church, where they were baptised, to reconnect with their roots. Maybe for you St Chads is your Mother Church and this Sunday is a celebration, there may be folk who visit this weekend who are returning to visit, please make them feel welcome. Thinking of baptism, for a number of folk St Chads will soon become 'the church where they were baptised' as we prepare for full immersion baptisms and reaffirmation of vows on Easter Sunday. It's not too late to join them if you believe now is the time for you to make that public commitment of your faith.

It is interesting to think of St Chads as our 'MotherChurch', this community as a place of nurture, love, the sense of a warm hug and being accepted and in Paul's words in 1 Corinthians 12, honoured. One way we have found to be connected as a family is through WhatsApp, you may have noticed this week that we are changing from congregational groups to a WhatsApp Community. Thank you to all those who have already responded and if you haven't yet, then this is a little reminder!

As well as honouring all the women of St Chads this weekend as part of Mothering Sunday, we will be honouring and thanking lots of people on Sunday 11th May which is our 'Vision Sunday' and includes our APCM. We'll share more about that Sunday in due course, it is a key part of our year and part of being a church family together. That date also includes voting for our PCC, revision of our electoral roll, and sharing our annual report. If you want to stand for PCC, please get in touch. If you haven't done your electoral roll forms yet click [here](#) (everyone needs to this year) and we would love you to read the [Annual Report](#) as it shares a lot of encouragement about the life of St Chads in 2024.

With love
Richard.



Ministry of the Month

Early Life

Early Life is a baby bank for Stockport working with health and social care professionals to help vulnerable families across the borough.

This month alone they have sent out:

- 12 baskets, each containing on average over 100 items and additional bags of toiletries and nappies
- 50 gifts for Mother's Day to young Mums in Brinnington
- Shared beautiful blankets with High Peak Baby Bank
- Prepared 5 prams for new Mums
- Unpacked a delivery of 20 new Moses Baskets from Clair de Lune
- Received donations of many beautiful baby clothes



Please pray:

- That the team are ready to see and hear the prompting of the Holy Spirit
- That the team continues to work together, that the joy, laughter and friendships never run out
- That the donations needed, continue to arrive, so that the team can always say yes
- That new volunteers join the team
- That they continue to gather testimony and stories to share, which all point to Jesus.
- For the Mums and their babies. That they know they are loved beyond measure, that their babies are precious in God's sight and they are not mistakes. That they know they can have a hope and a future.



Mission of the Month

The Alexandria Library

The Alexandria Library is a multi-cultural outreach bookshop on the Curry Mile in Rusholme, Manchester. It sells new books in Arabic, Farsi, Kurdish and Urdu as well as English. Bibles in many more languages too. There is a range of second hand books, mostly in English. English classes and a small Church meet here. The aim is to make Jesus known.

Please pray for:

- the trustees to know God's way ahead for the ministry
- the staff, mostly volunteers, that we may know God's leading as we interact with all who come in
- finance
- ordering of new stock, including artwork, gifts and cards
- wisdom for the closure of our small sister shop in Rochdale

Donations of most second hand books are much appreciated. Please speak to Gill Gosling if you can help. Thank you!

Prayer Events

April

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

Weds 23rd April - 1.30pm in the church lounge

Tues 29th April - 7.30pm in the LifeCentre

Baptisms

On Easter Sunday (20th April) at our 11am service we will be doing full immersion baptisms and confirmations.

This is always a joyful occasion and so we would love to invite those who have made a decision to follow Jesus to consider taking the plunge. Dave will be organising some preparation sessions for those making this step, so please do get in touch with any member of our staff team to be included.



Young Families Hub Lunch

6th April

Our Young Families Hub is meeting for lunch after the 11am service in the Guywood on Sunday the 6th April.

For more details please contact Shereen on 07835 162 827



**This Easter, we
hope you can
join us as we
experience the
passion, death,
and
resurrection of
Jesus through
worship,
prayer, and
reflection.**

MAUNDY THURSDAY
17th April

7.00pm - Communion

GOOD FRIDAY
18th April

1.00pm - Meditations on the Cross

STILL HOPE
Sat 19th April

7.30pm - an evening of worship
& reflection

EASTER SUNDAY
20th April

9.15am - Easter Celebration with
communion

11.00am - Easter Celebration with
baptisms & confirmations



Vision Sunday

11th May

Vision Sunday
Sunday 11th May 2025
10.00am Church Family Breakfast
10.30am Vision Sunday (inc APCM)

Vision Sunday is a chance for our whole church family to gather to eat, chat, worship, pray and hear about what God is doing amongst us. As a Church of England church, we are required to hold an annual meeting. (APCM stands for 'Annual Parochial Church-Meeting, which is Anglican language for AGM!) This includes some reporting and voting and simple business items for our life together, as a way of keeping you up to date with the practical behind-the-scenes things that are necessary for keeping the church going. These things are about our life together as a church family and so we integrate the APCM bit into a whole morning which more thoroughly expresses who we are as St Chads.

The APCM is the official annual general meeting of St Chads. As a church we vote annually for our Wardens, our PCC and lay members of Deanery synod for the following year. To stand or vote for any of these positions, you need to be on the electoral roll. If you would like to know more about being part of the PCC, please have a chat with our wardens (Andrew Goddard or Jan Ford), Jane, Richard or Katie in church or via the Church Office.

We will start at 10.00am with breakfast of pastries, coffee and tea (and juice). This will be a lovely chance for both congregations to spend time together. At 10.30am we will come together to worship and take communion together as family. Richard will then be looking back over some highlights of the last year and sharing the vision for Chads. After communion the children will be watching a film in the church lounge (and finishing the pastries!). The APCM part is integrated into our worship, prayer and hearing from God's word, we keep it as brief as possible!

Please do come along; young and old, new people and people who have worshiped at Chads for fifty years or more. There is something special about being all together. Any questions please give the Church Office a call.

Don't forget the clocks go
forward this weekend!

