



CHADS NEWS

28th November

Dear Church family,

December is nearly here and with it the start of Advent. Advent is a season of anticipation as we await Jesus's return and remember that he came into poverty, to set us free and from humble beginnings bring hope of a better kingdom. We are marking the start of Advent with 'Missions Sunday' on 1st December. This will be an opportunity to build on last week's sermon of Good News for the poor and hear more from Katie about her trip to Uganda. (She did promise to share more in her wonderful letter in last week's Chads news)

We have so much going on through December that we are going to be sending you Chads News weekly for a few weeks rather than overwhelm you! One of the joys of this season is that it gives each of our ministries and partnership opportunities for special events, to invite members of our community to take the journey home, to knowing Jesus for themselves. We reach out throughout the year and so Christmas is an opportunity to take the relationships deeper, through enthusiastically inviting those we connect with through the year, and helping them to connect with Jesus.

First and foremost, please pray. Pray for those who are part of the ministries you serve, pray for those you know in your community and friendship network, pray for those you will be inviting to St Chads this Christmas. When we pray, God does amazing things and without prayer our efforts are to be honest, fairly futile in comparison to God's work. So pray! Oasis, Mini-Chadders, The Cherry Tree Project, Warm Space, Blast, the LifeCentre, the care home visiting team, our youth groups and Rainbow all have special events coming up. Chads News isn't the place to share all the details of specific groups, (again we don't want to overwhelm you) and each group will be communicating directly with those who are involved. So please pray for those running those events and for all who will be invited to hear more about Jesus.

We will be gathering to pray for all that is going on this Christmas on Tues 10th (evening) and Weds 11th (daytime), these really are such a vital part of St Chads life, we long to see others share in the hope that we have found in Jesus. So do join us for those events.

And finally, can I encourage you to prayerfully give to our Christmas generosity campaign if you haven't already done so. It is a real privilege to be able to bless those in need in our community in this way and in order to prepare that and distribute the gifts in time for Christmas the final deadline for responses for that are this Sunday 1st December.

With love,
Richard

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.

December Prayer Events are:

Tues 10th December 7.30pm in the LifeCentre

Weds 11th December 1.30pm in church

You've Got to Smile!

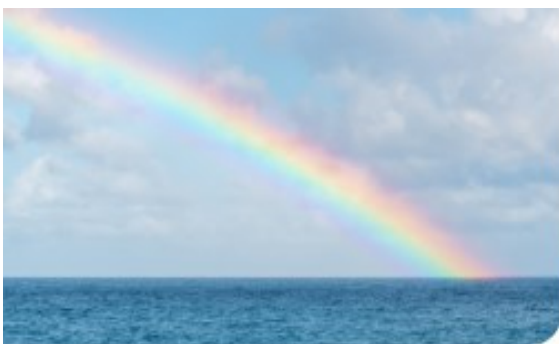
The new Oasis book



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.



Rainbow Concert

Sunday 8th December

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

As in previous years the focus will be on setting hearts and minds on the 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 barmes at the Guywood)

Christmas Eve

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

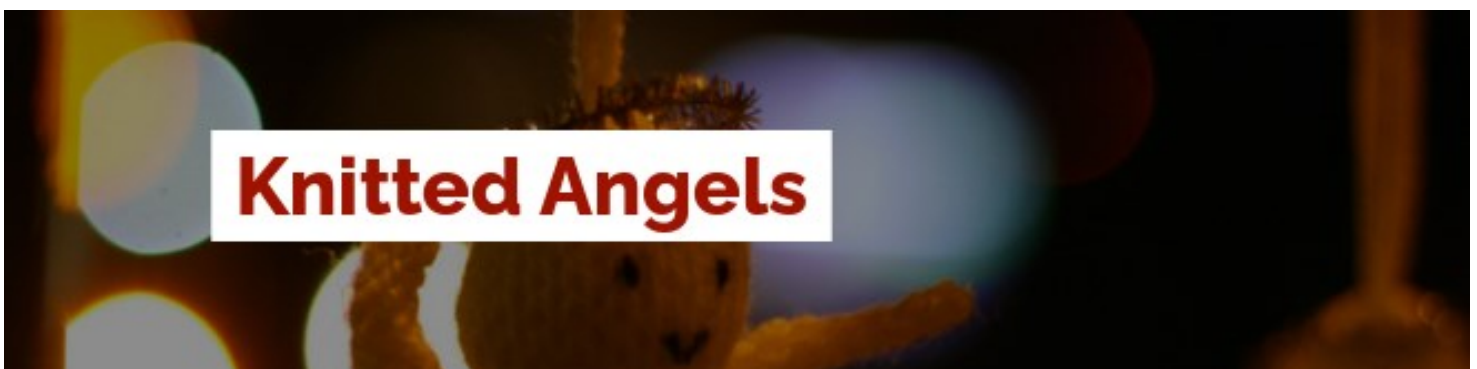
11.15pm - Christmas Communion

Christmas Day

9am - Christmas Communion

10.30am - Christmas Celebration

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



Thank you to everyone who has already completed some angels for us - the pile is getting bigger!

The very last date for delivery to church is Sunday 15th December but the week before would be great. Please bag them with your name and the number you have knitted.

Don't stop now - every one counts towards our 300 target.



Christmas Generosity

This Sunday 1st December is the last chance to give to Christmas Generosity campaign. We are inviting financial donations which will fund food hampers for local families and gifts for children who may otherwise receive none and asking people to help at one (or more!) of the many services we are holding over the Christmas period.

You can give financially via the paying machine or a direct bank transfer. If you can help with hospitality at one 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.



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:

2.30pm Thursday 12th December - Carols at the LifeCentre. Come and you join us for carols and festive treats!

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.