

inspire

A dark blue background featuring a silhouette of a nativity scene. A bright, multi-pointed starburst trail descends from the top center, illuminating the scene. The trail consists of numerous white, multi-pointed stars of varying sizes, creating a sense of light and movement. The nativity scene includes a manger with a baby, Mary, Joseph, and several shepherds with staffs on the right. The overall mood is serene and celebratory.

DEC 17-JAN 18

YOUR LIFE AT ST CHAD'S CHURCH

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3 Dec - 27 Jan 2018



2018 'A new beginning' ...

We have been reading through Isaiah in our morning lectionary readings this month, and I was taken by this verse in Chapter 43: Behold I am doing a new thing. Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland. Someone shared this verse at Rhema last Sunday and commented that it was a good verse for us as a church. As we look to a new year, and to what God is going to do in us and through us as a church in 2018 let's pray that we would be open and attentive to the 'new' thing he wants to do amongst us. With this in mind, I've set a day of prayer (and fasting) right at the beginning of the year on the first Wednesday to pray about the coming year, to hear God's voice and pray together that God would pour out his Spirit in blessing on us in 2018. Please join us at Chad's during that day to pray, or, if you can't physically be there then pray during the day with us. It is exciting to see what God wants to show us and do in us.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steve Burmester'.

Revd Steve Burmester Vicar, St Chad's Church



T.ed - I need to explain why this edition is not what I had said it would be: I had hoped that as it is nearing Christmas it would be one of greetings, shared memories of Christmas and happy thoughts for all to enjoy, but alas no contributions have come in. I have endeavoured to give this month a Christmassy flavour none the less, with a bit of focus on what the reason for the season is. May it be all of peace and joy for you as advent is around the corner and all the preparations begin.

This is the final edition for this year as the editing team take a break. We'll be back at the end of January and as ever your contributions are invited. Please send to dalenemoore2@gmail.com before the tenth of the month.

Peace and joy to you all.

Dalene Moore, Inspire's Editor

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dalene Moore'.

Getting to know you

Chris Birch



My parents were Methodists and I was brought up with Chapel and Sunday school at least twice on Sundays. When I went away to the University in Guildford (studying Industrial Chemistry) I lapsed. I met Hilary in Guildford. We married in 1974 and having realised Chemistry was not for me, I went to train as an accountant in London. However, we always felt we wanted to move back **up north** where our families were.

In 1978, we moved into Irwin Drive where Emily and Tim were born. When Hilary recovered from a spinal fusion operation (as a result of a car accident) in 1979, we started to attend St Chad's. Both Emily and Tim were baptised at St Chad's and attended Sunday School. I became a PCC member and was very involved in the building and financing of the new hall. At about that time, I attended a men's event at Salford University with others from St Chad's, where, during the singing of 'Thine be the Glory', God

spoke to me. I accepted Jesus into my life and was confirmed shortly after.

In 1996, we moved to St John's Lindow. Two years later I was asked to take on the position of Treasurer and joined the PCC.

In 2009, we returned to St Chad's. It felt like coming home and as soon as I retired in 2012, I was asked to take on the Treasurer role. I also seemed to pick up a maintenance role (don't know how!) which has included the large project to redevelop the rear hall and of course the dreaded drains.

Both Hilary and I are very happy at St Chad's, the teaching is stimulating and challenging. We have both found lovely house groups, have renewed friendships and made new ones.

Our two children live locally and we have 3 grandsons, so we have plenty of opportunity to spend time with them, and love it. My LEGO building skills have improved tremendously!

VOLUNTEER VACANCIES

There is a constant need for volunteers in the various and many areas of Ministry at St Chad's. Please note the highlighted vacancies indicating their new or more urgent status this month. If you could help, please contact one of the people listed below:

- People to help in Aroma Café – Greg Aspinal
- Flower arrangers – Sue Thompson
- After service refreshment set up and clear up – Margaret Wood
- Help in the Pastoral Care team – Carol Cutts
- Prayer Ministry team – especially for the 9 a.m. service – Dalene Moore
- Cleaning rota – Lynda O'Briane
- Sunday clubs – Carole Harding
- Messy Church – Jo Burmester

- Praise and play – Sheila Millar
- Musicians and singers 10.30 am service – Gareth Brown
- **Musicians and singers 6 pm service - Rob Moore**
- Maintenance – Chris Birch
- **Church service prayers – Jim Lethbridge**
- **Church service scripture readers – Jim Lethbridge**
- **Sound desk operators 10.30 am service- Steve Burmester**
- **Sound desk operators 6 pm service - Steve Burmester**

Paid Vacancies- Speak to Steve Burmester:

- Permanent Verger
- Office administrator- 10 hours per week



A Child's Christmas in Wales (extract)
By Dylan Thomas

Years and years ago, when I was a boy, when there were wolves in Wales, and birds the colour of red-flannel petticoats whisked past the harp-shaped hills, when we sang and wallowed all night and day in caves that smelt like Sunday afternoons in damp front farmhouse parlours, and we chased, with the jawbones of deacons, the English and the bears, before the motor car, before the wheel, before the duchess-faced horse, when we rode the daft and happy hills bareback, it snowed and it snowed.

But here a small boy says: "It snowed last year, too. I made a snowman and my brother knocked it down and I knocked my brother down and then we had tea."

"But that was not the same snow," I say. "Our snow was not only shaken from white wash buckets down the sky, it came shawling out of the ground and swam and drifted out of the arms and hands and bodies of the trees; snow grew overnight on the roofs of the houses like a pure and grandfather moss, minutely-ivied the walls and settled on the postman, opening the gate, like a dumb, numb thunder-storm of white, torn Christmas cards."

"Were there postmen then, too?"

"With sprinkling eyes and wind-cherried noses, on spread, frozen feet they

crunched up to the doors and mittened on them manfully. But all that the children could hear was a ringing of bells."

"You mean that the postman went rat-a-tat-tat and the doors rang?"

"I mean that the bells the children could hear were inside them."

"I only hear thunder sometimes, never bells."

"There were church bells, too."

"Inside them?"

"No, no, no, in the bat-black, snow-white belfries, tugged by bishops and storks. And they rang their tidings over the bandaged town, over the frozen foam of the powder and ice-cream hills, over the crackling sea. It seemed that all the churches boomed for joy under my window; and the weathercocks crew for Christmas, on our fence."



Sunday 3 December

☉ Blessed Lord, who has caused all holy scripture to be written for our learning: grant that we may hear them, read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them, that by patience and comfort of thy holy word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which thou hast given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

Bernard East

Residents of Barton Close

Monday 4 Dec

☉ Pray for Manchester Universities' combined Carol Service this evening at RNCM. † Pray for our 'Pastoral Care' team. 🏠 Pray that reading time in our primary schools will include key Bible stories.

Hilary Elbourne

Residents of Beaufort Chase

Tuesday 5 Dec

☉ Pray for the students in the Translation Department of the Theological College of N Nigeria, TCNN. † Mission Committee this evening - 2018 budget. Pray. 🏠 Give thanks for the positive use of Social Media. *Brenda Evans* *Residents of Beaumont Court*

Wednesday 6 Dec

☉ 15 students at TCNN working to translate the Bible in their 15 different languages. Pray! † Pray for the 'First Wednesday' talk today. 🏠 Pray that the light of Christ will shine in Styal Prison this Christmas.

Alex & Betty Fairweather

Residents of Beeston Road

Thursday 7 Dec

☉ Pray that God's hand will be on the religious and political leaders of Iran. † Pray that those on the Aroma 'Desk' can keep a clear head and a friendly smile. 🏠 Give thanks and pray for Angel Tree, linking mothers in Styal with their children at Christmas.

Dawn & Connor Fairweather

Benbrook Grove

Friday 8 Dec

☉ Despite great persecution many Iranians are turning to Jesus. Pray for them! † Give thanks for the benefits St Chad's gains from Gift Aid. 🏠 Pray for those who have significant physical disabilities.

Gavin & Pauline Ferguson

Residents of Benson Walk

Saturday 9 Dec

☉ International Anti-corruption Day - pray for those fighting corruption worldwide. † Pray for the LIFT Christmas Coffee Morning with Steve and for Messy Christingle in the afternoon. 🏠 Pray for Staff and Residents of Adlington Manor.

Lilian Firth

Residents of Bidston Drive

Sunday 10 December

☉ Human Rights Day. God of justice and love, we praise you for sending your Son to live and die that we might live freely and forgiven. Help us to uphold the rights of people everywhere to be treated with fairness and dignity. (CARE) † Pray for our Tearfund Partners, Cambodia Hope Organisation, particularly in raising awareness of the dangers of child trafficking. 🏠 Pray for those who work to protect children from on-line abuse and exploitation.

Margaret Firth

Residents of Birtles Way

Monday 11 Dec

☉ Tearfund ask us to pray for Celia, a lawyer in Kampala, who works to defend the rights of street living children there. 🏠 Give thanks for easily available help for regular Bible study. Pray they may be used!

Margarita Forber

Residents of Blackden Walk

Tuesday 12 Dec

☉ At Hannukah, the Jewish Light Festival, may they find Jesus, light of the world. † Pray for Praise and Play and Rainbows Play Group's Christmas today. 🏠 Pray for those who experience Sexual Dysphoria.

Noel & Gillian Foulkes

Residents of Bosden Close

Wednesday 13 Dec

☉ Pray that in every workplace Christians will bring the 'aroma of Christ' by their lives and words. † Pray that all who have the need will be able to have Communion at home before Christmas. 🏠 Pray for Social Workers who have extra responsibilities at this time.

Mark Fox

Residents of Bosley Close

Thursday 14 Dec

☉ Pray for Yemen and for OM and other Christians working there in very difficult circumstances. † Pray for staff, residents and their families at Eden Mansions Carol singing today. 🏠 Pray for Carers whose dedication makes it possible for people to stay in their own homes.

Jal Framji

Residents of Brandon Close

Friday 15 Dec

☉ Pray for Christians in Saudi Arabia who must keep their faith hidden. † Pray for the Guides coming to St Chad's for their Christingle service today. 🏠 Lord, stir us from being couch potatoes!

Natasha Fraser

Residents of Brereton Road

Saturday 16 Dec

☉ Give thanks and pray for Hampers of Hope, especially over Christmas. † Pray God's blessing on the Hullabaloo Concert for Hampers this evening. 🏠 Pray that effective safeguards will be in place to limit the dangers of on-line gambling.

Stephen & Valerie Furber

Residents of Bridge Drive

Sunday 17 December

☉ **Retrak**, based in Cheadle Hulme, works in Uganda and Ethiopia seeking to return street children to their homes and families and to reduce young children's vulnerability to future exploitation, by working with young children, mothers and community members in 'at risk' rural areas to tackle the drivers of trafficking and child migration. † Pray for Ian Pettigrew in his work as Chairman of Trustees for Retrak. 🏠 Pray that the Government will reduce the stake allowed on Fixed Odds Betting Terminals.

Lou Gabbitas Residents of Brindley Grove

Monday 18 Dec

☉ Give thanks and pray for the many children who have completed Retrak's Life Skills course. † Give thanks for the musicians and singers who lead worship at St Chad's. 🏠 Pray for the staff at Abbeyfields Residential Home, the residents and their families.

Sheila Gardener *Residents of Brompton Way*

Tuesday 19 Dec

☉ Pray that single parents will find helpful support, particularly as they prepare for Christmas. † Pray that our Sidespeople can give a special welcome to visitors who join us over Christmas. 🏠 Pray that binge drinking will lose its appeal for young people.

Bob & Margaret Garner *Residents of Brooke Avenue*

Wednesday 20 Dec

☉ Pray for schemes which will identify and support people isolated and trapped in their homes over Christmas. . † Pray for our Wardens, David and Steve as they give practical support to Vicar, Steve. 🏠 Pray that people will not be caught out by scam phone calls.

David & Val Gilbert *Residents of Brooke Drive*

Thursday 21 Dec

☉ Pray that Esther McVey MP will be able to retain her independent voice as she represents Tatton constituency. 🏠 Give thanks and pray for those who take care of money for St Chad's. 🏠 Pray for our Independent Cheshire East Councillors Barry and Dennis.

Margaret Gill *Residents of Brooke Way*

Friday 22 Dec

☉ Pray for the special ministry of Chester Cathedral over Christmas. † Pray that our Christmas arrangements will go smoothly and that the team helping with administration will have a good holiday. 🏠 Pray for effective systems to monitor and prevent child abuse.

Pat Grange *Residents of Bulkley Road*

Saturday 23 Dec

☉ Pray for the crew of OM ship Logos Hope who will be sharing the Good News of Christmas in Santa Marta, Columbia. † Pray that the practical arrangements for Carols in the Paddock will go well. *Matthew & Lisa Greatorix* *Caldy Road*

Sunday 24 Dec **Christmas Eve**

☉ Give thanks and pray for the opportunity we have as Churches Together to use the Paddock for our Community Carol Service. † Pray that the Embrace Carol Sheets we use will encourage many to be thankful for all that we have and support their work, particularly with refugees and displaced people in the lands of the Bible who have so little.

Caitlin, Callum, Lowen, Coby & Dexter Greatorix Campden Way

Monday 25 Dec **Christmas Day**

☉ Lord Jesus, Light of the World, we worship and thank You for coming amongst us to save us from our sins through Your cross and resurrection. No darkness has the power to separate us from your redeeming love or extinguish the light of Your eternal kingdom. Hallelujah!

Donna Gleeson *Residents of Cardenbrook Grove*

Tuesday 26 Dec **St Stephen's Day**

☉ Pray for Andrew Brunson, who has now been in prison without charge for over a year. † Pray for Colin and Ikekie who have pastoral care for colleagues. 🏠 Pray for parents as they develop good relationships with teenage children.

Steve, Hannah & Charlie Greenlees *Carlton Ave*

Wednesday 27 Dec

† Give thanks for the many positive contacts through the Bible Correspondence Course in Turkey. Pray for wisdom in personal contacts. 🏠 Pray that school staff, our Vicar, Steve, and others able to take holiday at this time, will be refreshed.

Barbara Gunshon *Residents of Chamberlain Drive*

Thursday 28 Dec

☉ Pray for Christians in Turkey who are able to bring practical help and Gospel Hope to Syrian refugees there. † Emma Hinds and the Christians in Schools team give thanks for all that was achieved last term. Pray for them as they prepare for a new term.

David & Chris Hall *Residents of Chelford Way*

Friday 29 Dec

☉ Pray for CARE and others maintaining the value of marriage only between one man and one woman against alternative lifestyles. † Give thanks for Carole's leading of Sunday Club. Pray for more children and helpers. 🏠 Pray for staff and residents at the Seashell Trust.

Carole Harding *Residents of Cherington Close*

Saturday 30 Dec

☉ In 2018 Tearfund will be celebrating its Jubilee. As they give thanks for all that has been achieved in the past 50 years, pray with them for the transforming power of the Holy Spirit to bring new hope now and in eternity to more of the world's poor and powerless.

Zee & Jon Hardisty *Residents of Chester Close*

Sunday New Year's Eve

☪ Lord, we commit our lives to you afresh as we look ahead into 2018. You know everything that lies ahead so please renew our faith in You, restore our strength to serve You and rekindle our love to delight in You. In Jesus name, Amen (CARE). † Lord we pray for Christians in parts of the world where the 'Western' New Year can be a time for greater harassment. Watch over them and keep them from harm by night and day, in Jesus name. (Barnabas) 🌿 Lord, Handforth may change in 2018; You do not. Thank you!

Ellen, Edwin & Henry Hardisty Christleton Way

Monday 1 January 2018

☪ Pray for OM's new work in European cities. Based on the Riverboat *Andante*, first port of call is Arnhem tomorrow. † Pray that as we 'welcome strangers' into St Chad's this year, our love may draw them into fellowship. 🌿 Lord as Handforth grows this year, may our vision grow!

Alec & Anne Harris

Residents of Church Close

Tuesday 2 Jan

☪ Give thanks for the crew members and team on *Andante*. Pray for their impact on the Riverboat industry as well as city dwellers. † Pray that those who followed the Alpha Course will keep growing in faith. 🌿 Give thanks for the care provided and pray for the Hawthorns.

Joyce Holland

Residents of Church Road

Wednesday 3 Jan

☪ UCCF staff support Christian groups in all Universities. Pray for them in conference before the start of term. † Please pray with us in Church on this day of prayer for 2018. 🌿 Give thanks and pray for the multi-faceted work of Age UK.

Gene Holt

Residents of Chamberlain Drive

Thursday 4 Jan

☪ Give thanks for the many Nepali Christians who are commending the Gospel through relief and medical work. † Pray for our Resources sub-committee as they meet; for wisdom in assessing priorities. 🌿 Pray for those directly affected by planned developments in Handforth.

Margaret Holt

Residents of Chelford Way

Friday 5 Jan

☪ Pray that post-IS the lands of the Middle East may find ways of peace, and relief for those who have suffered so greatly. Give thanks and pray for those who read and lead Intercessions on Sundays. Pray that those afflicted by eating disorders will find the help they need.

John & Denise Horrocks Residents of Cherington Close

Saturday 6 Jan

☪ *Epiphany*. Eternal God, who by the shining of a star led the wise men to the worship of your Son: guide by His light the nations of the earth, that the whole world may behold your glory; Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Jenny Ithell

Residents of Chester Close

Sunday 7 January

☪ Pray for Emma Hinds and her co-workers at Christians in Schools, CiST, as they begin a new term. Give thanks for the welcome they receive in many local schools, pray for openings in schools not yet visited and resources to meet all requests for their help. † Give thanks for the time CiST worker, Jill Elston, has spent with us. Pray for her as she seeks God's directing for her future.. 🌿 Pray for our local Primary Schools, The Grange, Wilmslow Academy and St Benedict's, Heads, staff and children.

Marjorie Jackson Residents of Colshaw Walk

Monday 8 Jan

☪ Pray for CiST worker, Andy Wisdom, as he develops contacts in local Secondary Schools. † Pray for the fellowship at Christ Church, Colshaw, giving thanks for those who 'keep the show on the road' week by week. 🌿 Give thanks and pray for the Lindow Singers.

Jim & Pat Jones

Residents of Coniston Drive

Tuesday 9 Jan

☪ Give thanks for the 15,000 volunteers who regularly go into UK schools with dramatised Bible stories through the 'Open the Book' initiative. † Pray for this evening's PCC meeting. 🌿 Pray for an increased awareness and use of recycling opportunities..

Jonathan, Cheryl, Daniel & Eleanor Jones

Courtney Green

Wednesday 10 Jan

☪ Pray that the authorities in Pakistan will be prepared to defend the rights of minorities who are under increasing pressure. † Pray that practical help will be available to cover the many little maintenance jobs which arise around our church buildings.

Liz Kelly

Residents of Cranage Avenue

Thursday 11 Jan

☪ Pray for the protection of young Christian women in Pakistan who are at risk of shocking abuse. (USPG) † Give thanks and pray for those on the church cleaning rota. 🌿 Pray that the promotion of ethical trading standards may be widely accepted in the business world.

Cathleen Kennedy Residents of Crossfield RoadRay & Joan Moores

Friday 12 Jan

☪ Pray for the visit of OM ship Logos Hope to Barranquilla, Colombia until 30 Jan. † Pray for 'the Desk', staff, clients and customers on Fridays, Aroma's busiest day. 🌿 Give thanks for positive reporting in the Wilmslow Guardian. Pray for the staff to keep positive.

Denise Kennedy, Kirsty and Amy Cuddington Way

Saturday 13 Jan

☪ Pray for those helping Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh and for an end to their harassment in Myanmar. † Pray for those preparing for any part in our worship tomorrow. 🌿 Give thanks and be ready to praise every positive story and programme we find on TV and radio.

Carole Kenyon

Residents of Dairybrook Grove

Sunday 14 January

🕊️ Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. The Caribbean Churches work together to heal the wounds in the body of Christ. Reconciliation demands repentance, reparation and the healing of memories. The whole Church is called to be a sign and an active agent of this reconciliation. † This week pray that churches in Handforth and the worldwide Church will follow this lead given by Caribbean Christians. 🙏 Jesus prayed that we might be one that the world might believe. Pray this for Handforth.

Anne Kerr Residents of Dairy House Road

Monday 15 Jan

🕊️ Pray for Handforth Church leaders, the Revd Katy Thomas, Father William O'Reardon and Robert Larkman. † Pray that those who worship at St Chad's at different times will also know a unity in Jesus. 🙏 Pray for Colshaw Community Police Support Officer, Kerry Hancock. *Sue Kershaw*

Residents of Davenham Road

Tuesday 16 Jan

🕊️ Pray for OM Conference GO in Germany until 27th. This is a critical training period for new OM workers. † Pray for the Worship Sub-committee who will meet this evening. 🙏 Pray that everyone in Handforth will take responsibility for keeping our village litter-free.

Jill & Steve Kimber

Residents of Dean Close

Wednesday 17 Jan

🕊️ Pray that GO Conference trainers, including Colin & Ikekie, will be sensitive to individuals' particular needs. † Pray that the Lord will watch over John & Roey for good in their ministry, family and health. 🙏 Pray for those who feel that their life has lost any purpose.

Rev John & Roey Knowles

Residents of Dean Drive

Thursday 18 Jan

🕊️ Pray that those responsible for the appointment of bishops (especially for London and Truro) will know God's directing. † Pray for a long term solution to our need for a Verger. 🙏 Pray that those who are elderly and frail will know their life still has purpose and value.

Sally Kingsford

Residents of Dean Row Road

Friday 20 Jan

🕊️ Pray for churches at present without a permanent leader, including St Michael's, Bramhall and St Catherine's, Heald Green. † Pray that we will be faithful in our support for Jane. 🙏 Another Friday night in Manchester, another busy night for Street Pastors. Pray!

Jane L.

Dean Road

Saturday 21 Jan

🕊️ Pray that Christians in Chelford will see the replacement of their Market with housing as an opportunity not just a loss. † A Wedding at St Chad's today. May Jesus be there with His blessing. 🙏 Pray that Handforth, as a community, will be willing to welcome refugees. *Feriel Lu Lababedi*

Residents of Delamere Road

Sunday 21 January

🕊️ Leprosy Sunday. Because leprosy is now curable and its incidence has decreased, it is no longer seen as a health priority and finding funding for programmes is more difficult, but there is still a great need to reach and treat sufferers in more remote areas and to overcome the widespread stigma the disease still carries. 🙏 Pray for the Leprosy Mission, TLM, give thanks for those many who have come to faith through its care and pray that it will continue to receive needed financial support.

Jim & Avril Lethbridge

Derwent Drive

Monday 22 Jan

🕊️ Give thanks that through the giving of TLM supporters, Purulia Hospital in India will have a new Outpatients Department. † Pray for Sheila, Avril, Joan and the tea ladies as they ensure Praise and Play runs well. 🙏 Give thanks and pray for our local Tennis Club.

Jackie Lawton

Residents of Dinglebrook Grove

Tuesday 23 Jan

🕊️ Pray for Advocates speaking up so that the stigma still associated with leprosy in India can be removed. 🙏 Pray for the Pastoral Sub-committee meeting today. 🙏 Give thanks for our local shop-keepers; may our support encourage them and help them to prosper.

Janet Lewis

Residents of Dunham Road

Wednesday 24 Jan

🕊️ Pray for Schools of Biblical Theology, SBT, which support local church leaders. (Crosslinks) † Give thanks for those who keep our church and halls clean and do our flower arranging. 🙏 Pray that those who come into Handforth for their work will find a welcoming village.

Anne Long

Residents of Eastham Way

Thursday 25 Jan

🕊️ Pray for BST's running at this time in Nepal and Myanmar. † Pray for church families to keep good contact with children now studying away from home. 🙏 Pray for those who are struggling with life limiting disabilities.

Rachael & Charlotte McDowell *Residents of Elm Grove*

Friday 26 Jan

🕊️ Give thanks and pray for the many young people who have matured in faith through Capernwray Bible School. † Pray for Capernwray students visiting us this weekend. 🙏 Give thanks for the care provided by East Cheshire Hospice; pray for the Chaplains.

Enid McFall

Residents of Eddlestone Grove

Saturday 27 Jan

🕊️ Pray for other local churches getting to know the Capernwray students visiting them. † Pray for our Breakfast meeting with Capernwray students. 🙏 Pray for safety on our local roads, care and respect for all road users as traffic volume keeps increasing.

Anne McFarlane

Residents of Elton Close

An African Farm Christmas

Annually before Christmas my grandmother sewed little bags made of old flour sacks; these were filled with home-made biscuits, sweets and toffees for each child on the farm.

A few days before Christmas, all the workers were driven to the nearby village trading store on the back of the farm lorry, in order to do their Christmas shopping. Most families bought new clothes for all, if they could afford it.

On Christmas day all the mothers, swinging their hips a little to show off their new dresses, would gather at the farmhouse for homemade cake and beer brewed especially for the day, by the farm cook. Excited children, dressed in their new clothes, would be on the lawn with mugs

of cordial and their parcels of sweets. They sang and danced, joined after a few mugs of beer by their mothers.

The men were in another building with granddad, enjoying roasted meat and beer. Granddad would usually slaughter a young ox for the men to roast and any leftover meat they could take home to their families.

To me as a child, this was Christmas, much more so than the tree and the stockings and the roast turkey that we usually had on Christmas-eve. In the hot climate a midday roasted meal was too much and it is still the way things are done these days, with cold left overs or a barbeque on the day. T.ed

*If you look for me at Christmas
You won't need a special star
I'm no longer just in Bethlehem
I'm right there where you are.
You may not be aware of me
Amid the celebrations-
You'll have to look beyond the shops
And all the decorations
But if you take a moment
From your list of things to do
And listen to your heart, you'll find
I'm waiting there for you.
You're the one I want to be with
You're the reason that I came
And you'll find me in the stillness
As I'm whispering your name.
Anon*



Farewell from David & Maureen Barrett

David and I would like to Thank our friends at St. Chad's for the kind words and love expressed to us when we moved away to Chester. Our years at St. Chad's blessed our lives so richly. The teaching and Spirit-led activities inspired and motivated us. The people we met each Sunday enriched our lives greatly. We have settled well in our new place and are seeking the fellowship God wants us to be part of to worship and serve Him. We will never forget you and pray God will continue to bless your ministry in Handforth. With love in Christ.



The Alpha course – an interview with Carissa Weatherby

Q: Why did you attend the Alpha course?

A: I have been going to the Rhema service with my boyfriend Brice, who is a Christian and something about it sparked my interest, after initially thinking Christianity was not for me. Alpha was recommended as a course where I would be able to find some answers and learn more about the Christian faith.

Q: Was it what you had hoped and expected?

A: It was different to my expectations because it was more relatable to what I wanted to know.

Q: What did you learn about Christianity?

A: It doesn't have a good reputation with young people and I found out that it is not some kind of cult full of rigidity.

Q: What did you learn about Yourself?

A: That it's OK to question things, particularly Christianity and religion.

Q: Would you recommend Alpha to your friends?

A: Yes, particularly to young people because it dispels the negative image of Christianity.

Q: What was the highlight for you?

A: The testimonies from the video and especially others on the course and the biscuits!!

December Services

Sunday 3rd December

9.00 am Holy Communion
10.30 am Morning Praise
6.00 pm Rhema

Wednesday 6th December

10.30 am Advent Meditation

Sunday 10th December

9.00 am Morning Prayer
10.30am Holy Communion
6.00 pm Rhema

Wednesday 13th December

10.30 am Holy Communion (BCP)

Sunday 17th December

9.00 am Holy Communion
10.30 am Nativity Film Service
6.00 pm Rhema

Wednesday 20th December

10.30 am Morning Prayer (CW)

Christmas Eve 24th December

10.00 am Joint service - Communion
6.30 pm Carols in the Paddock
11.00 pm Midnight Communion

Christmas DAY 25th December

10.00 am Family Service

Wednesday 27th December

10.30 am NO SERVICE

Sunday 31st December

9.00 am Holy Communion
10.30am Holy Communion
6.00 pm NO Rhema

January Services

Wednesday 3rd January

all day DAY OF PRAYER

Sunday 7th January

9.00 am Holy Communion
10.30 am Morning Praise
6.00 pm Rhema

Wednesday 10th January

10.30 am Holy Communion (BCP)

Sunday 14th January

9.00 am Morning Prayer
10.30am Holy Communion
6.00 pm Rhema

Wednesday 17th January

10.30 am Morning Worship

Sunday 21st January

9.00 am Holy Communion
10.30 am Morning Worship
6.00 pm Rhema

Wednesday 24th January

10.30 am Holy Communion (CW)

Sunday 28th January

9.00 am Morning Prayer
10.30am Holy Communion
6.00 pm Rhema

Wednesday 31st January

10.30am Outing together

Ministry Leadership Team

Vicar

Revd Steve Burmester 01625 250559

Associate Minister

Revd John Knowles 01625 526531

Readers

Jim Lethbridge 01625 520815
Ian Pettigrew 0161 4394737

Wardens

David Gilbert 01625 250485
Steve Furber 01625 522370

Administration

Office Number 01625 532145

Funeral Verger

Roey Knowles 01625 526531

Safeguarding Officer

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