

## Church in the Community



20<sup>th</sup> July 2008

Saint Chad's, Handforth

*Hope 08* is the national initiative challenging the churches to be active in their local communities. In John 17 Jesus prays for his disciples “they are not of the world.” “My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one.” “As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world.”

In Matthew 5 Jesus challenges us as we live ‘in the world’ but are not ‘of the world’, he says, “You are the salt of the earth..... you are the light of the world ..... let your light shine before men.”

The following is a list of some of the many groups and organisations with which members of St Chad's are linked. These are the activities through which we meet with others in our community, Christians and non-Christian. These represent some of the key places where Jesus calls us to shine as lights for him.

Charity shops – British Heart Foundation, Scope, MS, Marie Curie  
Community Care – transport etc.

Friends of Meriton Park

Handforth Garden Society

Handforth Wilmslow Alderley Athletics Club

Greater Manchester Community Basketball

Lindow Singers (and other music groups)

Royal British Legion

Tennis club(s)

Walking Club(s)

Wellspring, Stockport

Women's Institute

WRVS – Lunch Club

“We are the Bibles the world is reading. We are the creeds the world is needing. We are the sermons the world is heeding.” (Billy Graham)

Let us pray for one another in our daily lives that we may know and show Christ in us more clearly in all we do.

Lord, we believe this is your world but too often  
we lock ourselves away in churches,  
We have prayed “Thy will be done” but in public life  
we have obeyed the world,  
We have seen you challenged in public life,  
but would not stand up and be counted;  
We have been self-confident, taken our eyes off you  
and by our life denied you.

We pray therefore for courage as we go out from church  
and into the world,

We pray for perseverance to do your will  
even when this is the hardest way,

We pray for strength to speak out for the gospel  
and to live our lives accordingly,

We pray for obedience even when it may seem dull  
or irrelevant.

We pray that we may see Jesus in all whom we meet  
and that they may see your glory in our lives

Not through our own efforts but  
through your love and power within us.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord,

Amen.