



# *Sharing the Light*

## *ST CHRYSOSTOM'S CHURCH NEWSLETTER*



*April to June 2017*

# Sharing the Light

## *Celebrating God's love for the World*

*Dear Friends,*

At our Easter Vigil service we light the large Easter Candle from the Easter fire. Then there is a simple and lovely tradition. The people present have candles. One or two are lit from the Easter candle and then the light is passed around among the people as they share the Easter light with one another. Slowly and peacefully the light increases. It is a beautiful sight to see the light slowly spreading as candlelight is shared.

We believe St Chrysostom's is a special church with a loving and joyful message of faith and inclusion for all. We want to share the light we have been given!

So we've a special new initiative this Easter time. It's called *Sharing the Light*. We're lighting an additional Easter Candle from our large one this year and this candle will go to different gatherings.

Some of the events will be in church, many will be beyond. You can read about the wonderful variety in this newsletter. This is a special opportunity to share our Easter message at St Chrysostom's together and to invite others to join in.

Please do all you can to encourage this special initiative and pray that we may enjoy sharing the light and encouraging hope this Eastertide.

*Fr Ian*

# Sharing the Light

## Events

Sharing the light begins, of course, at Easter Day, when we celebrate the Risen Christ and light the Easter Candle – a sign of God’s light and love for the world.

In the days after Easter we’ve special events to encourage sharing the light.

**On Saturday May 6<sup>th</sup> we’ve a Wine and Cheese evening at Church** with a short film, and opportunity to meet and discuss, Paul Pritchard invites Gay and Lesbian Christians and friends to this evening.

Informal Eastertime celebration for all ages **at St Chrysostom’s School on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May at 3pm.** Fr Ian leads a relaxed and friendly afternoon with craft activity, opportunity to meet, and refreshments.

On May 13<sup>th</sup> we are going on our 10<sup>th</sup> **day pilgrimage to Ladyewell,** and encouraging lots to attend, and bring a friend. More details below.

Fr Chris is leading an **afternoon for the elderly at Richmond Court on the afternoon of Friday 19<sup>th</sup> May.** It will include singing, with visiting singers, a short fun quiz, and refreshments as well as lots of time to meet and chat.

On May 21<sup>st</sup> we’ve an informal **meeting of Christians and Muslims together** as we share food, and talk about our common ground and how together we can share light for our world. The meeting is at St

John's School at 3pm and will be led by Fr Ian, Sandra Palmer and Gareth Elswood (Head teacher).

Our **Young Adults are having a get together** on May 25<sup>th</sup> on Ascension Day – for a party, with food and hopefully fireworks. Hannah and Sarah are the hosts for this gathering.

On Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> May **Open Table** invites its friends and supporters for a *Sharing the Light* service followed by a meal together in Church. Fr Chris and Alan Beck will be the hosts for this.

On Saturday June 17<sup>th</sup> women of our church and their friends gather for a Chocolate evening organised by Mtr Kim and Hannah.

**Our Sharing the Light events lead towards a special  
Sharing the Light event at Church  
with Bishop Mark on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> June at 6pm  
EVERYONE is encouraged to attend.**

Each of our events will be friendly and welcoming and we encourage people to come along with friends or family. At each event there will be opportunity to discuss how we can share light for our world, and how we can encourage the message St Chrysostom's offers to our community and people.

As well as these special events for differing peoples others are planned - some are small events one or two are larger ones.

**Our Sharing the Light initiative will be supported by prayer.** During Easter week, Monday to Friday 17<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> April prayers will be said for our church and its people, that we may be 'Easter People,' sharing God's light. The Rosary Group on 28<sup>th</sup> April and 26<sup>th</sup> May, at 5.30pm will pray the Luminous Mysteries. And we are asking Sr Jean and Sr Linfa and the sisters at the CHN Convent to support us in prayer too.

# NOTICE BOARD AND DIARY DATES

## SUNDAY WORSHIP

### Parish Mass at 11am

*Sunday Mass is our main act of worship and we invite all to attend and be a part, week by week. If for some reason you can't make a Sunday then there is, of course weekday worship.*

**Vespers at 5pm** each Sunday. Led by a variety of people this is a quiet, reflective act of worship.

### Weekday worship:

**5pm Monday to Friday,**

Vespers on Monday and Friday and Mass, Tuesday to Thursday.

*Open Table*, is a welcoming inclusive service (often a Mass) for all people. Everyone is welcome and there is a special welcome to LGBT people. It is held at 5pm on the last Sunday of each month and is followed by refreshments.

Open Table will be on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> April, 28<sup>th</sup> May and 25<sup>th</sup> June (main Sharing the Light event) all at 5pm.

Church is usually open Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons from 2pm to the end of 5pm worship.

*St Chrysostoms Church welcomes new people. Anyone is welcome to volunteer to read at worship, to serve at the altar or to help in other ways at worship and in church work. Simply speak to one of the priests or say 'Yes!' if asked!*

*St Chrysostom's is a welcoming, inclusive and caring faith community that embraces diversity and celebrates the joy of Christ*

## Diary of Special Events and Worship in Eastertide and June

**Easter week:** Each Day Monday to Friday 5pm Prayer – Monday, Tuesday and Friday, Vespers and Wednesday and Thursday, Mass.

**On Sundays in Eastertide** at 11am Mass our different preachers will speak on what Easter means for them. They will welcome thoughts and comments over tea or coffee after Mass. Here is the list of preachers. The majority are women, - let's remember that it was women who first told of the Resurrection.

Easter Day	Fr Ian
Easter 2 (23 <sup>rd</sup> April)	Fr Chris
Easter 3 (30 <sup>th</sup> April)	Canon Alma Servant
Easter 4 (7 <sup>th</sup> May)	Sr Jean Mary CHN
Easter 5 (14 <sup>th</sup> May)	Hannah Loeffler-Kemp
Easter 6 (21 <sup>st</sup> May)	Revd Katy Cunliffe
Ascension Sunday (28 <sup>th</sup> )	Revd Dr Kim Wasey

**Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> April is a special day for Fr Ian and his family.** Lucy, Fr Ian's eldest daughter is getting married at St Chrysostom's. Church members are very welcome to come to the wedding ceremony at Church, you are asked to arrive from 11.30am for a 12Noon start.

**Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> April is designated as *Godparents' Sunday*** when we pray for all Godparents and we encourage Godparents to come along to 11am Mass and pray for their godchild / godchildren.

**Saturday May 6<sup>th</sup> Sharing the Light Wine and Cheese event** at Church for LGBT people

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May 3pm *Messy Easter*** – craft, worship, refreshments and conversation at St Chrysostom's School. Sharing the Light.

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May Ladyewell Pilgrimage – see notice later.

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2.30pm Sharing the Light event for the elderly at Richmond Court

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> May 3pm Christian and Muslim gathering at St John's School *Sharing the Light*

5pm Vespers led by Young Adults of Church 'Light for the World'

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> May Young Adult Sharing the Light party

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> May 10am to 3pm Spiritual Pilgrimage to Walsingham event arranged by Diocese of Manchester hosted at St Chrysostom's.

26<sup>th</sup> May to 4<sup>th</sup> June Nine Days (Novena) of Prayer – 'Thy Kingdom Come'

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> May Open Table Sharing the Light event

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2pm School Confirmation at Church

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> June Music for a Summer Evening – Concert for Church funds

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> June 7.30-8.30pm Holy Hour for Justice and Peace in the world. Guided time of prayer and silence. All welcome. This is June's Justice and Peace group.

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> June Chocolate evening – Sharing the Light event.

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> June Corpus Christi 11am Mass of Corpus Christi, 5pm Benediction

**Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> June Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus 7.30pm** Sung Mass, preacher Fr David Warner SCP. Followed by a meal together in Church.

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> June 6pm Sharing the Light celebration with Bishop Mark.**

## **EASTER CHAPEL**

During the 50 days of Easter we transform the Anson Chapel into an Easter Chapel and encourage people to visit and reflect and pray about Easter. Classes from St Chrysostom's School will visit during Eastertide and we will have special events and times of prayer there too. Fr Julian has created a lovely Easter garden, Hannah has worked on some simple prayer activities, people can leave prayer requests there and they will be offered in worship. The chapel will be open from Easter Day. Do visit.

## **PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO LADYEWELL: Saturday May 13th**

This year will be the tenth joint St Chrysostom's / St Peter's Oughtrington pilgrimage to Ladyewell, and to celebrate that it's going to be a special one. Bishop Mark will be leading. We're inviting everyone along. Let's make it a 'grand day out'! We leave church, by coach at 9.30am and we'll be back for 5pm. Bring a packed lunch. Coach fare £5 for adults, children free. Sign up in Church to come.

## **CONFIRMATION**

Any young people (Yr 5 or above) and any adults who would like to be confirmed are asked to write their names on the notice in Church



as soon as possible. This year the Confirmation will be on 25<sup>th</sup> June (at the Sharing the Light celebration).

## **MAY – Mary’s month**

May is a special month when we honour Mary, the Mother of Jesus. We’re refurbishing, a little, the area around Our Lady’s statue in Church, and this will be rededicated on May 27<sup>th</sup> by Bishop Mark.

As usual during May Our Lady’s statue will be crowned, and the crowning ceremony will take place with some children from St Chrysostom’s School on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May at 11am.

Fr Chris will be inviting us to say the Angelus daily in May, either once or morning, noon and evening, each day. We look for volunteers to ‘cover’ each day. Sign up in Church.

## **MAY – and Mary’s meals**

Mary’s meals is a fantastic charity raising money to give children school dinners in needy countries of our world. Knowing their children will be fed parents send them to school, thus helping them receive a good education. This is a simple solution to an area of world poverty.

As usual we’re raising money for Mary’s meals this May, and involving the local community. This year Mary’s Meals tell us 40p given to Mary’s Meals gives a child school dinners for a week in the developing areas which Mary’s Meals serves.

At Church events to support Mary’s Meals include a collecting pot at Our Lady’s statue throughout May, a sponsored 1k or 2k run or walk (!), in Birchfields Park at 1pm on May 21<sup>st</sup>. And more adventurous runners are inviting sponsorship for running in the BUPA Manchester Run on May 28<sup>th</sup>, full details of how to sponsor closer to the date.

Look out too for a schools and church quiz evening in May, raising money for Mary's meals.

### Sharing the Light – among ourselves at Church

As part of our Sharing the Light plans we are encouraging people at Church to get to know one another a little better. One way we are doing this is to update the photos on our church noticeboard. These help us put names to faces. In addition we are encouraging people to take part in worship – many do – and others could. So if you are asked to be a welcome, or to bring up bread and wine, or help in other ways do please say yes!

On one or two Sundays we will be inviting people to have a name badge with their first name on it. This, we find, is a great way to find out the names of people.

On Pentecost Sunday we're going to have a special presentation in place of the sermon which will help us to see how God the Holy Spirit is at work among us and in our area. This is a special way of recognizing God at work among us.

Come to Church!

To help get to know one another, and to build up our faith it's good to come to church week by week. This helps us build up our fellowship at Church and also means we are there to worship and pray, as well as to encourage new people among us. Think about it! Will you commit to being at 11am Mass each week whenever you possibly can?

Looking ahead: This year's parish pilgrimage to Walsingham is 21<sup>st</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> August. Do let Fr Chris know if you are coming.

## **Church Council**

Our Annual Meeting was held at Church on April 2<sup>nd</sup> at Church. After 15 years as churchwarden Desmond has decided to take a break and stand down. Fr Ian thanked Desmond for his outstanding work as churchwarden in that time. Desmond's term of office comes to an end at the end of May and we are hoping to have a proper 'Thank You' to him soon – look out for announcements!

Here is this year's Church Council:

Clergy: Canon Ian Gomersall (Rector and Chair of the Church Council) Revd Dr Kim Wasey and Revd Chris Hartley (Associate Priests)

Churchwardens: Alan Beck and Andrew Omokaro

Deanery Synod Reps: Admos Chimhowu, Ann Landon and Paul Pritchard

Council members: Sandra Palmer, Edward Moss, Pippa Allen, Kenson Li, Desmond Ward, Tayo Adebowale, Angela Lim, Helio Van Dunem and Amar Saleem.

**Language Classes for Victims of Human Trafficking** and others are held in Church, Mondays and Fridays 3-5pm. We welcome volunteers to help at the classes. Please contact Alan Beck for details.

**Our Parish Schools** welcome volunteers to assist with helping children to read. Please speak to Fr Ian, or one of our school foundation governors – Tayo Adebowale and Sandra Palmer - if you'd be willing to help, and they will put you in touch with the right person.

# CONTACT

*Church website: [www.stchrysostoms.co.uk](http://www.stchrysostoms.co.uk)*

*Church blog: [www.ourchurchblog.co.uk](http://www.ourchurchblog.co.uk)*

**Church Office 0161 225 2550**

**It is recommended that non urgent messages for the clergy are left on the answerphone on this number or e mailed to [office@stchrysostoms.co.uk](mailto:office@stchrysostoms.co.uk)**

## **Clergy**

Canon Ian Gomersall 225 2550 (Rector) 07711670225

Mtr Kim Wasey 07944 155772 (Associate Priest)

Fr Chris Hartley 232 0644 (Associate Priest)

Fr Julian Cam and Canon Alma Servant regularly assist at Church.

Parish Assistants: Hannah Loeffler Kemp, Anne Noltenius

## **Church Council Officers**

Church Treasurer – Edward Moss 07764 331 527

Church Secretary – Sandra Palmer 248 7605

## **Churchwardens**

Andrew Omokaro 07882 958660

Alan Beck 07748907236

*Remember to follow what is going on at Church through the Church Facebook group and page, and through Twitter. @StChrys*