



**ST CHRYSOSTOM'S CHURCH  
PARISH OF VICTORIA PARK  
MANCHESTER**

**CHURCH NEWSLETTER**  
*Autumn 2017*



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

## ***Fr Ian writes:***

Each year in September and October we enter a season of welcome at St Chrysostom's. Thousands of new students arrive in our area. Schools return after the holidays and we welcome new people to church, among them new parish assistants. This time of welcome and change brings with it new hopes and challenges as we meet new people and encounter new outlooks and views.

Welcoming and listening to people of difference is very much part of our day to life at St Chrysostom's Church. With that in mind we are having two new singing groups beginning. One is for primary school children, one for adults. I hope church members will join in if they can. Singing has been proved to be good for mental, spiritual and even physical well being, and singing together is a great way of meeting people and developing community. I hope you'll think of joining Victoria park Voices – and who knows we may notice also a difference in singing at Church worship too!

Please have a look at our priorities over the coming weeks. They are given later in the newsletter. It helps us know where our church work is being focused and how we can have a part too.

Our church exists to worship God – that is why attendance, each week if possible, is so important. Important not only for the individual but also to help each of us support and encourage one another by our presence. With this in mind could I particularly draw people's attention to our 140<sup>th</sup> celebration at Church on October 15<sup>th</sup>, and to the great Feast of Christ the King on November 26<sup>th</sup>, when Bishop Jack Nicholls is coming to celebrate Mass. They will be special days in our church life.

With my prayers and best wishes,

***Ian***

# 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. Takes a variety of forms and is led by a variety of people. It is a quiet, reflective act of worship, followed by a cup of tea and fellowship.

### 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. It is an informal and friendly group. Everyone is welcome and there is a special welcome to LGBT people. It is held on the last Sunday of each month and is followed by refreshments.

Open Table is held on the last Sunday of each month at 5pm.

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

## Diary of Special Events and Worship

**Children's Voices: Tuesdays at 3.50pm, begins on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> September.** For details see later.

**Victoria Park Voices – our adult Singing Group – open to all begins on Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> September 7pm.** More details later.

**Feast of St Michael and All Angels Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September** Sung Vespers at 5pm

**Time for Tea. Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> September.** Are you 60 or over? Then you are warmly invited to a free tea at Church – nice cakes, sandwiches and good conversation! For church members, and their friends. Just come along – from 3pm.

**McMillan Coffee Morning immediately after Mass on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October.** Lots of cake, coffee and tea – and an impromptu auction – all raising money for the excellent work McMillan Nurses do in the community to help Cancer patients and their families.

**Silent Vigil of Prayer at the Friends' Meeting House during the Conservative Party Conference.** A group from church will attend the Vigil on the steps of the Mount Street Quaker Meeting House at 1pm on 2<sup>nd</sup> October. Anyone is welcome to come along.

**World Smile Day, Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October.** As usual Fr Ian will be visiting St Chrysostom's and St John's Schools to encouraging friendship and smiling among the children! If you want to join him for part of the morning just have a word with him.

**Our Harvest collection this year** is for Cornerstone Day centre, Denmark Street who do such excellent work for the homeless and needy of the area. Gifts of tinned off, coffee, tea, sugar, biscuits, soap powder, washing up liquid especially welcome.

We will give thanks to God for Harvest and the beauty of Creation on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October at 11am Mass.

We'd like help to transport Harvest gifts to Cornerstone on Monday morning, 9<sup>th</sup> October. Offers of help are very welcome.

**St Chrysostom's Church is 140 years old this year.** We're celebrating our Feast of Dedication on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> October, with a celebration Mass at 11am and at 5pm a Mass of Requiem, giving thanks for past worshippers. On this Sunday there will be a shared lunch after Mass, and we are invited to renew our commitment to St Chrysostom's and it's future.

We've a **Children's half term activity day on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> October** – with craft and musical activities. 9.30am to 3pm. All primary school aged children are very welcome.

**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> November is All Saints Day.** Sung Mass at 5pm

**Our All Souls Liturgy** – at which we remember and pray for members of our family and friends who have died is at 5pm on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> November. Please make a note of the date. It is not only good to come to remember, but also to encourage and support others that come too.

**On Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November, we've a special fund raising concert** for the Medaille Trust – who work so hard for victims of human trafficking.

**Remembrance Sunday**, when we remember those killed and injured as a result of war is on November 12<sup>th</sup>. Mass for Remeberance Sunday at 11am will begin at 11am prompt with the two minutes' silence.

**The Feast of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Universal King**, is on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> November – this year we have a special guest celebrant and preacher, Bishop Jack Nicholls, former Bishop of Sheffield.

**The termly concert of the Olympias Music Foundation** (OMF) with children and tutors' performing, is on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November at 7pm.

**Advent begins on Advent Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December.** As usual our small nativity figures of Mary, Joseph and the donkey will journey around our local community before arriving at Church at Christmas – this is our Advent Posada.

More details of Advent and Christmas events in our next Church newsletter, please note the Carol Service is on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December at 6pm.

**Victoria Park Voices** is a singing group for all, organised by Kathy, our music outreach worker. It meets on Thursday 7-8.30pm and is aimed at being an enjoyable time of singing together – for anyone who'd like to come along. First meeting Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September, but if you can't make that come any Thursday thereafter.

**VICTORIA PARK  
VOICES NEEDS  
YOU**

A FREE, ALL ABILITIES, ALL AGES SINGING GROUP FOR  
RESIDENTS OF VICTORIA PARK AND SURROUNDING AREAS

Everyone welcome! Bring yourself, your kids, your partner, your dog for a relaxed evening of singing and socialising. We would love to see you!  
St Chrysostom's Church, MK4 5BG  
Every Thursday 7.8-8.30pm  
Come along from Thursday 28th September and say hello!

For more information, contact [kath@vovp.co.uk](mailto:kath@vovp.co.uk)

The flyer features a graphic of a piano keyboard at the bottom, with black and white keys.

**Children's Voices** is the equivalent group for children – run as a partnership between church and OMF. Its for primary school children and is on Tuesdays 3.50-4.50pm.

## **Pilgrim Course**

“We believe...”, “I believe...” these opening words start the statement that we make each Sunday at Mass.

I often find myself rattling off the words without thinking about what I am saying- and I’m sure I’m not alone in that.

Starting on Wednesday October 4th we are going to meet to have an informal conversation around the creeds. We will explore the reason for having them, and what they mean to us.

We will be following a course designed to help all of us to understand them, and the aim is to think about the words and their meaning.

We will meet at 7.15 for tea/coffee have a discussion and more refreshments, and then say Night Prayer together at 8.50pm.

We will aim to be friendly and relaxed – so do come along and explore with us! The group will be led by me with help from Paul Pritchard, and others.

## **The Justice and Peace Group, Fr Chris writes**

We have a group of folk who meet once a month to discuss issues of concern. We meet for tea and coffee and then talk about faith and action. Everyone is very welcome at our Justice and Peace Group. Simply come along and join the discussion! If you have a concern that you feel we should look at please let me or Admos Chimhowu know. I hope to see you at our meetings.

We met on **Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September** and welcomed Alex Taylor as our speaker. Alex had made a special study of the Rwandan genocide. It was a challenging and thought provoking meeting.

On **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October** we welcome Prossy Kakooza who has been successfully granted asylum in the UK, having fled Uganda as a result of the horrific laws against LGBT people. This is a special open meeting, to which all are invited.

## **Rosary Group**

Paul Pritchard arranges the Rosary group which meets after 5pm Vespers in Church on the last Friday of the month. Paul is keen to welcome new members – and emphasises that no experience is needed – new members are guided in saying the rosary, and rosaries are available to be used.

## **St John Chrysostom Federation of Schools**

We are delighted that our two parish schools – St Chrysostom's and St John's are developing their work together, and their friendship with church. This term St John's has a new Head of School Mrs Juliet Francis, and we welcome her.

A special exhibition organised by church and schools is being planned for church in Advent – more details later.

Working with the schools Church is aiming to have a second hand book sale of good children's books at the schools in the Spring term. Donations of good children's books are very welcome. The sale is to encourage reading, and books will be sold at a low price – and money raised will go to charity.

## **Our Key Priorities at Church to the end of 2017**

In common with many churches in the Diocese of Manchester we have a 'plan of action' at Church (Mission Action Plan) – looking at outreach and church life. It covers to the end of 2018 and is divided into workable sections.

The priorities we have in place for this for the next few months are:

- To have in a place a good, working, welcomers' rota for Sunday Mass, and to seek at least two new welcomers.
- To recruit new Sunday School (Kharis) helpers and to revise procedures for Kharis.
- To hold a group exploring our Christian faith.



## **KHARIS**

One of our action points in the Mission Action Plan is to recruit one or two more volunteers to help in Kharis, our Sunday School. We need to make sure we have the right number of helpers. What we would particularly like is two or three adults to volunteer to 'sit in' say once a month, to support the leader simply by being present and encouraging the children. This role does not involve leading. Please volunteer!

## **YOUNG ADULTS GROUP**

We are aiming to re-establish our young adults group this academic year. It's been great to see involvement of more young adults in worship and activities at Church over the last few months. We hope to hold another Young adults retreat, probably in lent next year. What is a young adult? The answer is probably anyone who thinks they are one!

## **WALSINGHAM**

All those who went on this year's pilgrimage to Walsingham thoroughly enjoyed it. Fr Chris is reviewing our Walsingham Pilgrimage and looking at ways we can grow the number who go. If you have thoughts do speak to him.

## **Mary, Mother of Jesus**

In our Mission Action Plan is our aim to enhance the area around Our Lady's statue to encourage prayer and devotion. Its part of our intention to enhance our worship and spirituality within our tradition. We have already begun to do this, and hope to continue this development in the next few months.

Mary – as mary, the Mother of Jesus is honoured in Christianity and also in Islam, and we hope that title 'Mary, Mother of Jesus' will help be a focus of prayer and hope between Christians of the area and people of other faiths

## **Sunday morning Mass**

Sunday Mass is our main act of worship. The Mass is what forms and renews us as our Christian fellowship. It's a delight that we have such a varied group of people. Nearly every week there are new people coming – some visitors, some short time residents, some wanting a change from their own churches.

Welcome, fellowship and joy in faith is at the heart of our Christian life at St C's. To help us get to know one another our lay assistants have suggested that once a month we invite people to wear a name badge. We'll do this on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> September and on 15<sup>th</sup> October, and on 26<sup>th</sup> November.

We are also doing a major revision of the photographs at the welcome table. Don't be shy – have your photo taken, or if you prefer e mail one to the church office [office@stchrysostoms.co.uk](mailto:office@stchrysostoms.co.uk).

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## **A few small reminders**

To help preserve the peace and quietness of Church we asked that mobile phones are not used in Church to receive or make phone calls.

We ask that smokers please refrain from smoking on church property, and in particular we ask that smoking be avoided at the church door and in front of it.

We welcome donations towards church flowers. Ann Landon does a splendid job with the flowers. If you'd like to give a donation please give it to her or to Edward, our treasurer. Why not choose to give for a particular Sunday – perhaps in celebration of a personal event or in memory of someone. Suggested donation for this is £20.

## **St Chrysostom's Church – our tenants**

We are delighted to welcome other churches to use our premises. The Romanian Orthodox Church are worshipping here on the first and last Saturdays of each month. They have been with us now for about two years and are friendly and welcome tenants. Their liturgy is and gatherings are primarily in Romanian. They are served by Fr Dan, from Nottingham, or Fr Cyprian from Leeds.

Pastor John leads a Korean Presbyterian Congregation which meet every Sunday afternoon at Church. It is a joy to welcome them. They have started with us since the Summer. Worship is held in Korean.

The Ethiopian Orthodox Church, led by Fr Samuel, are worshipping on those Saturdays not used by the Romanian church. The Ethiopian church are negotiating having a church of their own and so are only with us for a few months.

In addition we hope to welcome a Telugu (Indian) fellowship once a month on a weekend.

## **Lay Assistants**

Edna George, Andrew Omokaro, Admos Chimhowu and Ann Landon are our lay assistants, with Paul Pritchard in training to be one, and we are helped by Sisters Jean and Lynfa. There is a lay assistant on duty each Sunday morning, and the lay assistants are looking at ways to extend and develop their pastoral ministry in the parish.

*The image on the cover is of a water colour of the Church by the Wirral artist Ian Fennelly. We are very grateful to Mr Gareth Elswood, Executive Headteacher of the Parish Schools for presenting Church with the painting and the digital copy of it. .*

# 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

Revd Dr Kim Wasey 07944 155772 (Associate Priest)

Revd Chris Hartley 232 0644 (Associate Priest)

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

Parish Assistants: Jasmine Allen and Izzy Gayden-Pitts

## **Church Council Officers**

Church Treasurer – Edward Moss 07764 331 527

Church Secretary – Sandra Palmer 248 7605

## **Churchwardens**

Andrew Omokaro 07882 958660

Alan Beck 07748 907236

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

*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!*