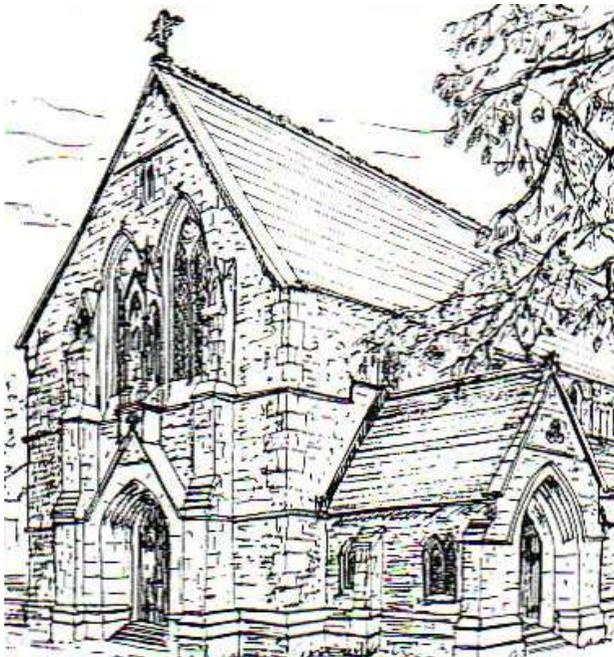




**ST CHRYSOSTOM'S CHURCH
PARISH OF VICTORIA PARK
MANCHESTER**

CHURCH NEWSLETTER
Summer 2016



www.stchrysostoms.co.uk

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

Fr Ian writes:

We are living in unsettling and troubled times, and many people, not least those with children are concerned for the future.

I have been particularly concerned that political and other events seem to have unleashed some aggressive and unpleasant attitudes. I know, of course, that study of history shows that this happens. History also shows that such times calls for people of courage and principle to stand up for, and to live out their principles.

We are constantly reminded at St Chrysostom's, not least at the Mass itself, that God welcomes all people and rejoices in the diversity of God's people. Humanity is enriched by variety.

It may seem that in troubled times we can do very little – our areas of influence may be small. However, our willingness to stand up for our beliefs, our willingness to treat others as family, our willingness to be united in worship and prayer will be a sign and an example for others, and at Church we can encourage one another in this.

In 1868 the American Christian writer Susan Warner published a hymn for children which remains well known to this day. Its words are simple, some may say simplistic, but I believe they encourage each of us to do what we can where we are.

*Jesus bids us shine with a pure, clear light,
Like a little candle burning in the night.
In this world of darkness so let us shine—
You in your small corner, and I in mine.*

With my best wishes for a peaceful and enjoyable Summer,

Ian

NOTICE BOARD AND DIARY DATES

Worship in July

Sunday: **Parish Mass at 11am** Vespers at 5pm

Open Table, informal and inclusive Mass is at 5pm on July 31st.

From 25th July 5pm weekday worship ceases until September, we invite people to Pray Vespers! at 5pm wherever they are. (See later)

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.

Worship in August

Sunday worship in August continues as usual.

In August we are encouraging people to say Vespers at 5pm wherever they are and a link to Vespers for the day will be posted in the Church facebook Group and Page.

Weekday worship in Church Monday to Friday at 5pm restarts on September 5th.

Open Table, is a welcoming inclusive service for all people. 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.

During August church will usually be open from 3-4.30 on Monday and Friday afternoons.

Our Wednesday 'Place of Welcome' resumes in September.

Diary of Special Events and Worship

Sunday 14th August is the Feast of the Assumption of Mary, always a popular feast at St Chrysostom's, and we encourage everyone to come along.

Festival Mass is at 11am, followed by wine, tea or coffee.

In the afternoon we are serving afternoon teas (suggested donation £2.50) from 3.30pm followed by Benediction at 5pm, at which Fr Michael Burgess will preach.

The Parish Walsingham Pilgrimage is from August 15th to 19th.

There may still be a place or two available if you want to go – speak to Fr Chris as soon as possible. You'd be very welcome.

During the pilgrimage special prayers are said for our people and our concerns. You are welcome to give Fr Chris prayer requests. A requiem Mass will be celebrated for our loved ones who have died, again if you want someone named at that mass let Fr Chris know.

Summer Social at Desmond and Michael's September 3rd 3pm

Once again Desmond and Michael kindly invite us to their home for our Summer Social. Its always a very enjoyable time together. This year it's on September 3rd at 3pm. The cost, including a very generous meal, is £8. All money raised is for church funds. Make a note of the date. Desmond and Michael are selling tickets.

Church open afternoon September 11th 1.30pm to 5pm

As part of the national heritage Open Days for visitors, with a guided walk in Victoria Park led by Fr Ian at 2.30pm.

Sing Evensong! September 11th at 6pm

Once again we're having our popular Sung Evensong – everyone is invited to come along and have a go at singing. Tea is served beforehand and then at 5.15pm we have a rehearsal ably guided by Dr Noel preston then we sing out Evensong at 6pm! Everyone is very welcome, (however well you sing).

Our Patronal Festival: Feast of St John Chrysostom

Sunday 18th September

St C's is one of the few churches in England dedicated to St John Chrysostom so we feel we've a special privilege to celebrate his life and teaching. Our Festival Mass is at 11am and 5pm Benediction is followed by refreshments and an informal chat about some of Chrysostom's sayings.

Welcome Sunday 25th September

This is the Sunday when we especially invite all to come along and we make a special effort to welcome those who are new to the area. 11am Mass is followed by special light refreshments, and we have Open Table, our informal inclusive worship at 5pm.

Harvest Sunday 9th October

A Sunday to say Thank You to God for our food and for all who help provide it. Together with St Chrysostoms and St Johns Schools we collect food to share with the needy of Manchester. After the Sunday all the food is taken to Cornerstone, nearby, who provide nutritious meals for the homeless and needy of our area.

We're celebrating St Chrysostom's Church's 139th birthday on Sunday October 23rd

Each year we give thanks for the Church and people of St Chrysostom's and pray for our work and witness today. 11am Mass is followed by a shared lunch. We invite everyone to bring food along to share.

And looking further ahead:

Our All Soulside service of prayer and remembrance at which we pray for those whom we have loved who have died is on Sunday November 6th at 5pm.

Our Autumn Fair this year is in Church immediately after Mass on November 20th the Feast of Christ the King.

This year's Carol Service will be at 6pm on Sunday December 11th.

Parish Assistants

We have been very grateful for the work and enthusiasm which Kate and Mycah have brought in their time with us as parish assistants. Kate continues her training for the priesthood and is going to the Queens' Foundation in Birmingham to study, and Mycah returns to the US – with a wealth of experience. We wish them both well, and look forward to hearing from them in the future.

We welcome two new parish assistants in September. Hannah Loeffler Kemp is joining us from Duluth, Minnesota, on the same scheme Mycah came to us on – organized through the Lutheran Church. Hannah graduated in 2015 and is currently doing church youth work. Hannah enjoys a wide range of outdoor activities.

Anne Noltenius, joins us from Bremen in Germany. Anne will be doing a 'gap year' with us before going on to University. Anne plays the violin and enjoys singing in a choir. Anne also is from a Lutheran church.

English Language Classes

Our language classes at Church are about to reach their first birthday. Well done! This is worthy of celebration. The classes do wonderful work on behalf of us all not only for those who have been trafficked to England but also to others needing to improve their everyday English skills.

Well done to Alan, who set up and runs the classes. They are held each week on Mondays and Fridays from 3pm, and also to the volunteers who help. Over the year over 40 people have benefitted from the classes, men and women, from a variety of countries such as Slovakia, Poland, Vietnam, Hungary, Czech Republic and Ethiopia.

Place of Welcome

St Chrysostom's has joined the Places of Welcome scheme, indeed we are the first place to do so in Manchester. It's a very simple scheme – we offer a friendly welcoming space for anyone who cares to call by on a Wednesday from 2-4.30pm There will be a free drink and biscuits and help to anyone who needs local information. We'd like people to volunteer with this – it just means making a drink for those who call by and being a friendly presence. Just speak to Fr Ian or Fr Chris.

Places of Welcome takes a break in August and resumes in September – but in August church will usually be open on Monday and Friday afternoons for callers.

Welcome Panels

Each year Year 6 (leavers) children from St Chrysostoms and St Johns Schools work together on a small art project for church. For example, in the past they have helped make the mosaics at the side of church and at the church door. This year the children have worked on artwork to place in the panels above the inner doors of the church porch. Do have a look at them when you come to church. They brighten the porch and emphasise our message of welcome to all. We are grateful to children and teachers who have taken time and effort to do this for church.

Church Floor

You will have noticed how lovely the church floor is now looking after we have had it cleaned and polished. It certainly has brightened up the church and especially made the area at the back of church more flexible and usable. New chairs and tables also make this area more flexible. All the funding for this has been provided by a grant from the Diocese of Manchester.

Icons

You may notice from time to time we are placing a large and beautiful icon near the back of church. These icons belong to the Romanian Orthodox Church, who use our church for their liturgy twice a month. Fr Dan, their priest, has said we are welcome to use the icons too if we wish.

Stories from the Decades

In this year in which we are celebrating the Queen's 90th birthday we've been talking to a variety of local people who had their childhood in one of the decades of the Queen's life. We've created a blog post on our church blog for each of the decades the decades up to the 60s are now published and the remainder will be issued over the coming weeks. They make very interesting reading, and will no doubt bring back many memories to those who read them.

Mary, Mother of Welcome

We have been blessed to receive a grant from a small charity supporting the work of churches like ours, to encourage our devotion to Mary, and to tell others too. The grant will be used to move Mary's statue slightly in Church, and to provide prayer material, not only in English but in other appropriate languages too. We also hope to sponsor a lecture, and provide some children's teaching material. As we know Mary is an important figure not only in Christianity but also in Islam and so this is very much in keeping with our local area.

Given our emphasis on inclusion and welcome, deriving from the welcome Jesus gives to all people, we hope our statue will become a kind of 'shrine' to Mary, Mother of Welcome, and a place where we can encourage prayer for all people whatever their background, faith or outlook.

SCP Conference

Early in July St Chrysostom's helped to host the annual conference of the Society of Catholic Priests (SCP). SCP is a body of priests, male and female, of the Anglican Communion which exists to encourage an inclusive priesthood renewed in vision and prayer. Those priests who came have said how much they appreciated the worship at St Chrysostom's. Thanks to all who helped make it a special time.

Prayer in August

In August there will be a special series of sermons on popular prayers at 11am Mass. 5pm Vespers will also pick up this theme. Fr Chris will speak on the 'Serenity Prayer', Canon Alma on the 'Anima Christi (Soul of my Saviour)', Mtr Kim on the Hail Mary and Fr Julian on Lighten our darkness.

We're also inviting people to post about their favourite prayer in our Facebook group, and there will be special entries on the church blog too.

Pray Vespers! – in the summer holidays between 25th July and 4th September inclusive when Vespers is not said at church at 5pm we invite people to pray vespers wherever they are at 5pm. Over 20 people have joined the rota to make sure it happens. They have chosen one or several days. Fr Chris is organizing this and welcomes volunteers to go on this rota. He will explain how to say Vespers to volunteers. We'll be following progress in the Church facebook group.

We are also encouraging more to sign up to our weekly prayer e mail – with topics for prayer. Ask Fr Chris if you'd like to receive this e mail, or for more details.

Look to the future – developing our mission at St C's

Church Council hasn't met recently at St Chrysostom's. That's because a sub group of the Council has been putting together a 'Mission Action Plan' which will be brought to the next Church Council.

The Diocese of Manchester is asking every parish to have such a plan, which helps focus direction for the church.

Our planning group has consisted of Fr Chris, Paul, Admos and Tayo. We are grateful for their work in putting this together. Here is a summary of what will be presented to the Church Council in September.

Our plan will be to:

- Extend Places of Welcome as resources allow, and increase Community use of the Church Building.
- Encourage action to continue to make the Church Building Accessible.
- Explore possibilities of more student involvement with Church via University Volunteer Agencies.
- Enhance work with young people, looking at linking with Schools' Audits and working to engage more with 12-18 years old.
- Look at the Safety of Church building and risk assessment especially with Mental Health Needs in mind.
- Work at ways of enhancing worship with Inclusion and Welcome as priorities in this.

Developing ministry

The Mission Action Plan calls for us to work together as we grow and develop our lovely church. The improvements in the church building, and its appearance are an encouragement to us.

In the Autumn we will also be looking at developing lay ministry, though, for example, helping to lead worship, preach, welcome people, doing outreach work in our local community and beyond.

We're already extending the number of people who are Eucharistic ministers (who administer the chalice at Mass). More people are willing to say vespers on behalf of the church. We hope to develop further ways in which can develop ministry.

We are hoping that a group from church will attend a special Day Conference in Heaton Mersey on 1st October with Revd Rose Hudson-Wilkin (Priest in Charge of St Mary at Hill, London and Chaplain to the Speaker of the House of Commons). The Day is entitled *How can we encourage Anglicans from Minority Ethnic Communities to greater participation in the Church?*

Further work on the church building

The guttering work to church is now complete. The next task is to improve drainage and that should begin in the next few weeks.

In the coming months we hope to introduce cupboards to the back of church for storage of the new chairs and to enhance storage for the kitchen area. We are also hoping to finally begin work on making a disabled ramp at the side door of church.

The Church Council; has agreed to have a *Christus Rex* crucifix behind the main altar to replace the current coloured banners we use. We hope that crucifix may be in place for the Feast of Christ the King.

CONTACT

Church website: www.stchrysostoms.co.uk

Church blog: 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

Clergy

Canon Ian Gomersall 224 6971 (Rector)

Mtr Kim Wasey 07944 155772 (Associate Priest)

Fr Chris Hartley 232 0644 (Associate Priest)

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

Church Council Officers

Church Treasurer – Edward Moss 07764 331 527

Church Secretary – Sandra Palmer 248 7605

Churchwardens

Andrew Omokaro 07882 958660

Desmond Ward 431 5445

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!