

Sunday Services

- 8am** Holy Communion
- 9.30am** Parish Eucharist (every Sunday except 1st)
1st Sunday: Family Eucharist (aiming to last 45 minutes)
- 10am** Eucharist at **St Alkmund's**
- 11.15am** Methodist Service
- 6pm** 1st 2nd & 4th Sundays Evensong
3rd & 5th Sundays Methodist Service
- 7.30pm** 3rd Sunday Prayer and Healing Service

Children are always welcome. Our Junior Church takes place during the 9.30am Eucharist and a crèche is available.

Weekday Services

Morning & Evening Prayer

Said daily at 8am & 5pm (Thursday 8am - Silent Prayer)

Holy Communion Wednesday 10.30am Friday 8.20am

St Alkmund's Tuesday 1.05pm Short Eucharist (25 mins)
Thursday 10.30am BCP Communion

Special Services

For details of special services and any changes to standard service times please see our website: www.stchadschurchshrewsbury.com or contact the church office. For **Weddings, Baptisms, Funerals** or other individual enquiries, please contact the Vicar via the church office.

The Church is open 8am - 5pm (12noon on Sunday)

Vicar	Revd Mark Thomas	343761
Assistant Priest	Revd Chris Walker	07972478193
Methodist Minister	Revd Derrick Lander	355326
Church Office	Nicky Matthews	365478
	(Weekdays 10am-1pm) info@stchadschurchshrewsbury.com	
Website	www.stchadschurchshrewsbury.com	



St Chad's Newsletter Christmas 2009

Open doors, open hearts, open minds

Christmas Services Everyone is welcome

Christmas Eve

4pm Children's Crib Service

7pm Traditional Service of
Lessons and Carols

11.30pm Midnight Mass



Christmas Day

8am Holy Communion with Carols

10am Christmas Festival Eucharist
Our children invite you to come and share two stories of Christmas

*With All Good Wishes
for a very Happy Christmas*



A striking image of the Christmas season is of the wise men travelling to meet two very different kings: Herod, representing secular authority, concerned with what was expedient



and protected his own skin, ruling by fear. Jesus, portraying the kingship of God in the form of a vulnerable infant, self-sacrifice becoming the manner of his living, his kingdom one of peace and joy. It is a similar contrast to that presented when Jesus stands before Pilate on Good Friday. The question that is posed to us is: what sort of kingship and authority do we present to the world as individual Christians and as a Church? We all have power over others – as employers, as consumers, as parents and grandparents. Do we use that power in a way that exploits and brings fear, or in a way that brings the best out of others and sets them free?

Looking at Jesus, we see that he used his authority and leadership in service, in powerless loving, not in domination. He was concerned to live by absolute values, not by what was politically expedient. Jesus didn't seek to protect his own skin or his reputation, but lived and died for others. And we are invited to become his followers, our free will is never compromised or exploited. Force and fear have no place in Jesus' fellowship.

As St Chad's launches its appeal, it is the principles of love and service that must always guide our decision making. St Chad's must always seek to be open and to provide the space and freedom for anyone to come in and discover the peace of God's kingdom in a way that is right for them. It is our task never to use fear or exploitation, but to foster that desire for God, that "soaring, sacred thirst, ambassador of bliss" (Thomas Traherne) that is the only path to the true and real joy of Christmas.

Mark Thomas



Music at St Chad's

The Friday concerts at 12.40pm

are becoming an established part of Shrewsbury's musical scene with increasing audience numbers year by year.

Concerts begin again on **January 8th** and run weekly until the end of August.

From March 17th to May 12th (16 recitals on Wednesdays at 5.45pm and Fridays at 12.40pm) Richard Walker will play the

Complete organ works of J.S.Bach

at St Chad's, as part of the fund-raising needed for the renovation of the organ.

We believe that this is the first time it has been done in Shropshire, so please support this major enterprise!

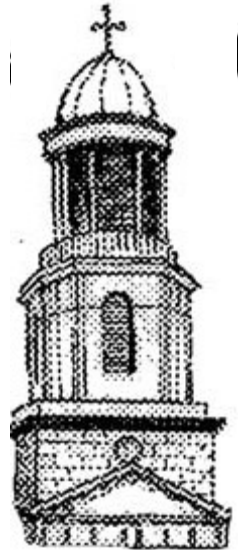


Details of both these series are to be found on the leaflets available in the church and also on the church website.

New Children and Families' Worker

St Chad's is very pleased to welcome Lesley Hall to our staff from December 1st, employed on a half-time basis to help develop and grow our families' and children's work. She was formerly a head teacher near Oswestry, and has been with VSO in Ethiopia for the last two years.

In 2010 we are planning to launch a major campaign for repairs and improvements to St Chad's. The last five-yearly survey identified that the church tower will become dangerous within the next few years, and the necessary works to render the tower safe for the foreseeable future will cost almost £1 million. The campaign will have to seek support from both members and the wider community. On top of this, it is time for our wonderful organ to be comprehensively restored, and indeed we have just paid the deposit to the firm engaged to undertake the work, ready for it to begin in 2011. Both these essential works together with some improvements we would like to make will require finance of approximately £1.5 million, plus a further £100,000 for architects' and other professional fees, including the costs involved in raising the money.



To help us raise this sum, we have recruited a firm of consultants, Action Planning, who are in the middle of the Research and Feasibility Study for the campaign. Our consultant, Ken Pearson, lives in Bath and he has extensive experience in conducting capital campaigns for churches both in this country and in South Africa. Ken has worked on successful campaigns for Bath Abbey and St Martin in the Bullring, Birmingham, for example. Some 35 interviews have been held with church members and Ken is now completing this first stage: 1) with interviews with decision-makers outside St Chad's but within Shrewsbury and the county and 2) with researching institutional and other grant makers. It is hoped that the PCC will have a first report on our potential for support by early next year.

In addition to the immediate capital needs within the campaign, we hope that it will also enable us to establish a strategy for income generating to meet similar financial demands in the future.

There will be more news about the campaign early in the New Year. Meanwhile, if any reader would like a copy of the Case Support that Ken Pearson has written, please contact Rod Clark on 01743 358998 or rod.clark@virgin.net

St Chad's Darwin Lecture

The Bishop of Swindon, Dr Lee Rayfield, will be the next Darwin lecturer. He is the Church of England's official spokesman on Charles Darwin and evolution, and will be speaking on Wednesday February 24th 2010 at 7.30pm at St Chad's.