



Building Community

It was great to see so many on our first week of 'Exploring God'. About one hundred and fifty people took part in the first week of the course. Please pray for them and for the course. This is a great way to grow in faith and to build community.

Another fabulous opportunity for building community and developing our relationship with God will be the parish weekend away at Quinta in July (9th-11th). We have some great speakers from an organisation called **Lumière**. Our speakers will be helping us to discern our preferred styles of relating to others and how we might accommodate different styles of relating. They are great fun people. We will also be having a session on understanding and living with different spiritualities, as well as a big splodge of free time to explore the Shropshire countryside.

For those who've never taken the plunge before, the parish weekend away is fantastic. It's brilliant for getting to know people and kids have a fantastic time too – Oliver keeps nagging me "when are we going to have another weekend away, daddy?" We're in the process of working out the costs at the moment, but in truth I'd rather people came and paid what they can afford than stayed at home feeling resentful! This brings me to a related topic. Obviously it's great that a good many of us go to one of the summer camps like Greenbelt, New Wine, Keswick or Soul Survivor. I would never want to stop that, but as a church we can't plug everything. In a year where we have a parish weekend away we will not be promoting the summer camps – we want you to come away with us! In a year where there is no parish weekend away we'll be enthusiastically promoting the summer camps. (WARNING! RECTOR CHEEK COMING UP) If you can afford to go to the parish weekend away and a summer camp then perhaps you could instead donate the cost of a ticket for someone who can't afford to do either ;-)

Another way to build community is our welcome on Sunday. I'm delighted to report that we have over £100K in hand for the St James' project, which is ostensibly about our welcome. A significant donation has also been made for the development of the foyer in Emmanuel too. What great news!

Finally, people sometimes ask me why we should give something up for Lent. C.S. Lewis wisely answers this by stating that "fasting is a practise that enables us to meet the real enemy." I'll leave you to ponder what he might mean by that.

Have a great week,
Nick B

Wednesday 3rd March
Extended Parish prayers in the Parish Centre, Upper Hall
9 till 10 am

February 22nd - March 7th has been designated as Fairtrade Fortnight this year. To mark this, we invite you to do two things-

1. If you're at Emmanuel, have a look at the Traidcraft information display and learn a bit more of its history and its current aims.
2. At both churches, whether or not you buy Traidcraft products regularly, please come and have a look at the stall. Traidcraft is currently campaigning to encourage the UK's biggest tea brands to switch to fairtrade, and there will be special offers on all Traidcraft tea. **WE'D LOVE IT IF EVERY FAMILY WERE TO BUY JUST ONE ITEM DURING THE FORTNIGHT!** You might even come back for more!

PHOTOS - WANTED: YOUR FACES

"We are the Church" is the heading on our photogallery of church members - on display in each church building. Some of you are new and haven't yet been included. Some of you have grown up and look different from the little tots we have smiling out at us. It is time for a major revamp. We are attempting to do this on 5 Sundays during Lent (from 21 February to 28 March).

Please look out for the people with cameras at the end of each service - and let them capture you (and your name) for our display boards. If you miss them and want to send us a digital photo you already have, please contact Christine Sandiford (434 1343 or christine@sandiford.info) so you can be included.

ELECTORAL ROLL REVISION

If you are not yet on the church electoral roll, you will be able to join it in the month of MARCH - from Sunday 7th to Sunday 28th. Forms will be available then. People must be 16 or over and baptised, **and** must either live in the parish (please check boundaries) **or** have worshipped at St James' and Emmanuel for 6 months. Our APCM (Church AGM) is on Sunday 25 April and you need to be on the Electoral Roll in order to vote!

Even if you are not interested in voting, joining the Electoral Roll is a way of saying 'I belong to this part of the body of Christ'. If you have questions, contact our Electoral Roll Officer, Christine Sandiford (434 1343 or cksandiford@hotmail.com).

Greening of St James Work Parties Thanks to all who helped yesterday!

Everyone is very welcome to help with maintain the work on the grounds at St James that we have done over the last couple of years. We are hoping that the grounds will look particularly good this year be entered for Didsbury in Bloom and Didsbury Open Gardens! So your help, whatever your age or gardening ability, would be very welcome. Come along to one, or all, of the following dates 20 March and 15 May. We will work from 10am till 12 noon & refreshments will be provided.

Jam sales will take place at St James' after 9am and 10.30am services on Sunday, 28th February, Sunday 14th March, Sunday 21st March and Sunday 28th March but NOT 7th March as I am away at a conference. As promised 'frilly' jam pot lids and a gift card will be available to enable Mother's Day and Easter gifts to be bought, if desired. We are just £1 short of £900 towards

the St James' Kitchen Fund as we approach the last weekend of sales in February 2010. By agreement with Brian Fox jams, etc will be sold at the Music Concert at Emmanuel on Saturday, 20th March.

Thanks for your continued support and glass jars.

Diana and David Leitch

Teenagers! – what every parent Has to Know

Discover what's really going on inside your teenager's head - and how you can help. Rob Parsons is a really a dynamic speaker. It's worth every parent of a 10+ child hearing what he has to say - and bring a friend!

Wed 10th March 7.30pm at Oasis Academy, Salford. If you are interested please contact Sian. There are fliers in church.

Congratulations to

Jonathan and Rachel Leslie
on the safe arrival
of their daughter
Sophia Rose, born
on Tuesday
weighing 7lb. 8oz.



ONE VOICE

GLOBAL POVERTY PRAYER WEEK 2010

'One Voice' is a Tearfund led initiative that aims to bring churches around the world together in a week of **Prayer for Global Poverty** between 1 - 7 March. In short, 'One Voice' is about praying for change, and being prepared to be the change.

The Tearfund.org website has loads of information and ideas to help people get involved. As church family we are focusing our involvement on the weekend of March 6 & 7th.

On Saturday, March 6th there will be a **Day of Prayer in No.6** from 10am to 6pm with lots of information to help inform our prayers. The information will include details of our local and international partners with whom we work to address global poverty.

On Sunday, March 7th we will be taking a special collection at all of our services for the Mustard Tree. We will not be collecting money but clothes – clothes for all ages that we no longer need but which others will make great use of. Just bring the clothes in a bag to church on March 7th and we will make sure they get put to good use.

Please Pray for:

- The Lowe family (Chris & Karena) following the sudden death of Chris's father
- Ruth & Tony Higgs and family following the death of Tony's mother.
- Sylvia Bradley and her daughter Caroline in USA whose husband is very seriously ill.
- Rebekah MacDonald and her family, especially her mother who has been diagnosed with cancer
- Baby Adam Collis, now at home.
- Shirley Doss recovering at home from her hip replacement operation.
- Margaret Williams, now in Clyde Court. Ask Jim Britt for more information!
- Andy Hunter's mother having treatment for cancer.
- The Bealing family, especially Emily.
- Caroline Throup and Jo McKee, training for ordination.
- Anne Reddish (Ernest Camotta's daughter) David (Alison Whale's father).
- Chris Pitt (former leader of Parris Wood CU) living with leukaemia.
- Sam Elliott, Louise & Guy, Rod and Dolly Ashman; Jean McFarlane; Ernest Camotta, Trixie Appleby.
- Irene (Julie Throup's Mum) who is struggling with Arthritis in her spine.
- Nick as he takes up his new post.
- Helen Petty & Sarah Emmerson (glandular fever), both in L6, Parris Wood and Christian Union leaders.
- **Our Mission Links:**
- Martin, our mission partner working with Wycliffe Bible Translators.
- Keith and Joyce Wood with OMF in Watford
- Jenny Green, Joseph & Hannah in Kisoro, Uganda.
- Ann Lipson in Kimilili, Kenya.
- Jo Finlay going to Kimilili on 20th February to take up the post of Gap Co-ordinator for ICFEM.
- Mags Duggan in Malaysia for a month.
- Howie and Sally Pickering with God Squad
- Ron Finlay with PROTEM
- Sabine Stockton with Friends International
- Sandra van Zuylen with Navigators



Danger
Smile Zone

This is a warning to the men of our church – beware of Siân...she is looking for men to get involved with youthwork. Think back to when you were in short trousers and remember the men who took time to kick a ball around with you, lead Bible studies, take abuse from you and generally be a good role model.

Now, it could be your turn! Currently, we have no men involved with our fantastic 15+ Deeper group, we will also be losing at least one Pathfinder (11-14) leader, and we have stopped our monthly Saturday morning football, due to lack of...you guessed it...MEN!

I promise you this is one of the most rewarding areas of church life, there's never a dull moment, so start thinking about what you have to offer and how much you could learn!

Child Protection Training

Thanks to everyone who came along to the training on Sunday.

Sian will be in contact with all our registered helpers who didn't make it to arrange another session.

Safeguarding our children is a priority and training is compulsory for all our volunteers.

Congratulations to Siân

Who heard last Sunday afternoon that she has been recommended to train for ordination.

Please pray her as she discusses an appropriate training plan which will suit her needs and the needs of her family.

Yoof & Kids

Tuesday 2nd - **Deeper (15+)** - 8-10pm in the Youth Room

Thursday 4th - **BUZZ (Yr 3-6)** - 6-7.30pm in the Parish Centre

Coming up this half term – 'Experience Easter' – in Emmanuel and news of a Confirmation trip (for 14+) to Finland in July!!!

*Advance notice, especially for those who enjoyed Mamma Mia: Sing-a-long High School Musical, Saturday, 8th May, 1-5pm at Ivy Manchester
Minimum donation of £3 on the door.*

Stamping your attendance cards (for Wedding, Baptism or School Admission)

The official stamps will be available at the end of the services.

We can only accept an official stamp on your attendance card as confirmation of your attendance.

Admission to Didsbury CE Primary School

The clergy in consultation with the school admissions committee would just like to remind parents/carers that separate stamp cards are required for both nursery and reception for those seeking entry under category 3 of the admissions policy. The same card cannot be used for both points of entry!

If you require an attendance card for any of the above please contact the Parish Office.