DATES FOR YOUR DIARY{

Sun 1st Nov:	3.00pm	All Souls Service
Mon 2nd Nov:	9.45am	Sparkles (weekly)
Mon 2nd Nov:	1.00pm	Zoom Prayer Meeting
Mon 2nd Nov:	6.30pm	Ignite (weekly)
Tues 3rd Nov:	10.00am	Sunshine Community Café (weekly)
Tues 3rd Nov:	1.15pm	Chair Exercise (weekly)
Tues 3srd Nov:	7.00pm	Alpha in Church Café
Tues 3rd Nov:	7.30pm	Prayer for Revival (weekly)
Wed 4th Nov:	11.00am	Mothers Union
Thurs 5th Nov:	12.30pm	Chair Exercise (weekly)
Fri 6th Nov:	11.30am	Tai Chi (weekly)
Fri 6th Nov:	8.00pm	Choir Practice (weekly)
Sat 7th Nov:	12.00	Shoebox Bring and Buy and Lunches
Tues 10th Nov:	7.00pm	Alpha in Church Café
Wed 11th Nov:	12.00	MCC
Sat 14th Nov:	2.00pm	'Shared Journey' Bereavement Group
Fri 20th Nov:	1.00pm	Christmas Market Prep
Sat 21st Nov	11.00am	Christmas Market
Wed 18th Nov:	12.00	MCC
Tues 24th Nov:	7.30pm	PCC Meeting
Sat 28th Nov:	8.00am	Men's Breakfast
Sun 29th Nov:	3.00pm	Advent Service

For November shoeboxes, we will be collecting anything that we usually put in shoeboxes, but in particular sweets and gloves. Thank you for all your generous support.

Sundays 25th October and 1st November, to complete the café. Please give if you are able.

The **Church** Office is open every day except Thursday between 10.00am and 1.00pm for enquiries of any kind. Pauline Loomes, our Church Administrator can be contacted by **tel: 020 8590 8076**
e-mail: churchoffice@stchads.church **Church website is:** www.stchads.church

CHADDERBOX NOVEMBER 2026
THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. CHAD'S CHURCH, CHADWELL HEATH

"And God spoke all these words: "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery". (Exodus 20:1-2, NIVA)

Growing up in Nigeria, one of the films I looked forward to watching on television was *The Ten Commandments*. Released in 1956, this epic retelling of the Exodus story was almost guaranteed to appear on television every year. While the dramatic Red Sea Crossing was always memorable, I was captivated by the scene when the "Finger of God," portrayed as a streak of lightning, engraved the commandments onto stone tablets. The first words written were: "**You shall have no other gods before me**." (Exodus 20:3)

At nearly four hours long, the film is a reminder of just how deeply the Bible has shaped culture around the world. Remarkably, decades after its release and thousands of miles away, families like mine were still watching and engaging with this Hollywood take on a story drawn from Scripture. Even now, many folks still say, "***I try to live by the Ten Commandments***" regardless of whether they consider themselves practising Christians. The commandments are central to the way moral values have come to be understood across the world, forming the foundations of the justice system and criminal code in much of western civilisation.

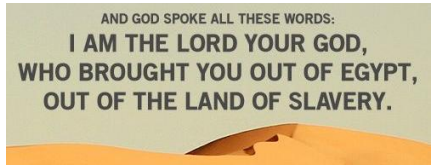
When our homegroup discussed what the Ten Commandments mean for Christians today, we found it helpful to recall the first "commandment" that God gives to humankind. "***God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it...***" (Genesis 1:28). This statement is not primarily a demand, but a covenant rooted entirely on the character of the Creator God who is faithful and sustains humanity's flourishing

God's instructions then, are at their core, blessings that are given so that we might thrive. Imagine a parent giving their young teenager a curfew of midnight by which they must return from their evening out. Embedded within the curfew is the fact that permission has been granted to go out and have a good time – that parent desires only good outcomes for their child.

Of course, many teenagers will tend to see boundaries as restrictive rather than protective and if we are honest, we often relate to God in much the same manner. We focus on what's been forbidden, rather than on the One who gives the instruction. Yet before God speaks the Ten Commandments, He first introduces Himself as One who rescues, liberates, and saves. He reminds His people that He has brought them out of slavery and into freedom. The Divine directives are about living well within the freedom that God has already provided. They are a pathway towards abundant life, towards Jesus, if only we would see them that way.

For this reason, I sometimes prefer using terms other than "commandments", as did the early Church. They adopted the Jewish "Ten Words" or "Ten Sayings," reflecting the Hebrew phrase *aseret haddevarim*. Therefore, for much of the life of the Church, the Greek term *Decalogue* was used, meaning "ten words" (deka = ten and logos = word) and it wasn't until the 1500s that they began to be translated as "Ten Commandments". Perhaps they are also to be received as articles of divine covenant that contain much wisdom. The Apostle Paul declares that Christ Himself is "**the power of God and the wisdom of God**" (1 Corinthians 1:24).

As we grow in Christ, we are drawn ever deeper into that wisdom and there can be no greater blessing. Yet this transformation is never intended to stop with us. Writing a 2nd time to the Corinthians, Paul describes believers as living letters, written by Christ Himself, ***not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts*** (2 Corinthians 3:2-3). We are testimonies to be read by others. So, whether we call them commandments, words, sayings or articles of covenant, perhaps the invitation is the same. Read them again over the next few weeks as though Christ Himself were writing to you: "**I am your Saviour who gave His life for you. Therefore, live this way, so that others may see and believe**".



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Men's Breakfast Saturday 28th November at 8.00am – 9.30am. £5pp, come and enjoy breakfast and great conversation and company .

Shared Journey

Shared Journey, our new bereavement support group meets on Saturday 14th November at 2.00pm in the Royal Room. New members welcome

On Sunday 1st November at 3.00pm, we will be holding a Memorial Service to remember loved ones who have passed. Please contact the office if you would like to have a loved one's name read out.

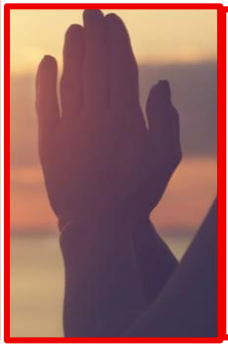
On Saturday 7th November from 12.00 noon, there will be a Shoebox 'Bring and Buy' and Lunch/Coffee Afternoon. This is to raise money to buy the last of the items we need to fill our shoeboxes. Bring along something to sell and hopefully find a bargain or a Christmas present. Lunches and tea, coffee and cake will be available, a raffle, and guaranteed good company. Hope to see you there.

T4U
real people making
a real difference

Tuesday 3rd November is a day of prayer and fasting. Here are some prayer points.

- For the world at war, and that leaders of all nations would turn to God for counsel. For the Middle East, Ukraine and all others parts of the world where there is war.
- For all countries where there have been natural disasters, floods, storms, fires and for all emergency services,
- For the fallen world which is economically, socially, climatically and politically damaged. An end to gang culture and knife crime, for safe streets.
- For the NHS, emergency services and Education services.
- For those struggling in their faith.
- For those in our Church Family who are unwell, awaiting test results and operations (see weekly notice sheet).
- For the homeless, refugees, unemployed, lonely and isolated.
- For support workers and families caring for loved ones.
- For the Royal Family
- For those mourning loved ones.
- For our clergy, staff team and all volunteers, PCC, church groups.
- For the church globally.
- For our building project to be completed soon, so our vision to service the community can be realised.
- Scriptures for **families and friends**. "But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord!. **Joshua 24: For help** "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble". **Psalm 46:1**

The next Zoom Prayer meeting will be on Monday 2nd Nov at 1.00pm. Please join us for half hour of prayer for the church, church family, the world and any other issues you wish to share. Just follow the link bit.ly/StChadsPrayer



Alpha continues on Tuesday 3rd , 10th and 17th November. Please let us know if you can provide a meal for 12 people on 10th or 17th November. Thank you.

NOVEMBER 2026 SERVICES

Traditional Holy Communion at 9.00am

This is a Book of Common Prayer service every Sunday for those who prefer something more traditional and reflective and lasts for 50/60 minutes.

All Age/Family Church at 10.45am

A contemporary service with times of worship and teaching, and lasts about 80/90 minutes. When it is not All Age Worship (AAW), children leave for Junior Church after we have worshipped together as a church family for the first part of the service.

Sunday 1st November	All Age Worship
Sunday 8th November	Remembrance Sunday (No 9.00am)
Sunday 15th November	Family Church with Holy Communion
Sunday 22nd November	Family Church
Sunday 29th November	Family Church with Holy Communion

Saturday 21st November is St. Chad's Christmas Market, from 11.00am to 2.30pm. As usual, lots of help will be needed, so if you would like to get involved, please speak to Iain or anybody on the fundraising committee (see noticeboard in church for list of members). We will need people to help on Friday 20th November to build the stalls and help with preparation, if you would like to run a stall for the church, or would like to have your own table, again, please speak to a committee member. A table will cost £25. We also welcome new ideas, so if you have a fabulous idea for anything we could do differently or that has not been done before, please let us know. Would you be able to donate to our Christmas Raffle, that will take place at the Christmas Market, Please see below a list of items required.

Christmas Raffle

Christmas Pudding
Small Christmas Cake
Table Crackers
Napkins/Christmas table cover
Chocolates
Biscuits
Crisps/nibbles
Pickles
Tea
Coffee
Fruit Juice
Tinned Fruit
Tinned Cream
Crackers for cheese
Wine
Children's Chocolate
Mince Pies
Tinned custard
After dinner mints

Advent Service in church on Sunday 29th November at 3.00pm. A choir-led traditional service of carols and readings.

Shoebox and Toy Service

On **Sunday 6th December,** we will be holding our Annual **Shoebox and Toy Service**. We donate toys to local charities, a local Women's Refuge, Haven House Children's Hospice and the local foodbank, all very worthy causes and in great need at this time.

The toys we donate must be new and unwrapped please, as some of the charities chose gifts appropriate for their clients. Please remember the older children and teenagers.

At the service, we will place the gifts under the tree, and bless these gifts and also our shoeboxes as they begin their journey to Eastern Europe.

If you know of a charity that would appreciate some of these toys, please let us know.