

**Flood Defence !! Meeting with MP and Council Officers**

On 10 January representatives from your Residents Association attended a meeting with local MP Chris Williamson and the lead council officers for Derby City Council flood defence partnership "Our City Our River" (OCOR)".

**Detailed Plans**

We were told that detailed plans for Phase 1 of the project (which includes Chester Green) will be published in the next few weeks. They told us that residents will receive letters, information will be available on the OCOR website and local drop in sessions will be arranged. A business plan to justify funding of the complete plan to defend the City of Derby has been submitted to the government.

**Disturbing**

We were disturbed that the lead council officer was unable to answer questions about the detail of the defence plans for Phase 1. We also expressed concern about plans for new housing near the river, when the new flood insurance deal excludes new build properties. Why would developers invest in new housing if they would then be hard to insure?

**Aida and Ex-Tomlinsons Sites**

It was confirmed that as yet no interest has been shown by developers in the Aida or ex -Tomlinsons sites but OCOR believed that developers would

come forward if and when government funding is granted.

**Local sports facilities**

We expressed our concerns about the impact of council cuts and possible flood defence plans on bowls, tennis and cricket facilities in Chester Green. No reassurance was given regarding large increased council charges to the Bowls Club and we have to wait till plans are made public to see the impact of flood defence locations on sports facilities.

**Family Housing and Schools**

We emphasised the need for larger family housing if development is to take place and discussed school catchment areas, both issues resulting in young families leaving Chester Green. Paul Robinson said he would discuss school catchment with the Council's schools officer; and that housing plans formed part of the Core Strategy which was currently in the consultation process. *The meeting was not as informative as we had hoped. It is crucial that residents do respond to the forthcoming consultation as these plans will have a major effect on Chester Green.*

To see recently updated draft plans of flood defences go to :  
[www.ourcityourriver.co.uk](http://www.ourcityourriver.co.uk)

**To contact the Little Chester Residents Association please see our web-site:**  
<http://www.littlechester.org.uk/>  
**Or contact: Andrew Meehan 01332 298079**

**CHESTER GREEN METHODIST CHURCH**

**Sunday 9 Feb**

**12.00 noon**

**EMERGENCY MEETING TO DISCUSS FUTURE OF THE CHURCH**

(a DVD will be set up to keep any children present occupied!)

It is with sadness that we would like to let everyone know that the future of Chester Green Methodist Church is very much in doubt.



The church has been working in the Chester Green community since 1887 but, despite our very best efforts, the congregation has been steadily reducing over recent years. We have now reached crisis point with a congregation too small to sustain a church and community hall.

Since the hall was revamped almost 10 years ago it has been providing a resource for the community, and is a popular location for children's parties, exercise classes, toddler groups (messy play, music groups etc). The church's own toddler group, Chester Green Chums, has been providing a service to young families for 8½ years. Other family activities run by the church such as holiday clubs, Christmas fairs and Nativity services are always very well attended. Despite being a small church we have also developed a number of different types of service in recent years including Messy Church café style services, 'Kitchen Table' discussion services as well as traditional services and the long running Sankey Mens Choir services.

Sadly we now find ourselves in the position where we do not have the 'people power' to keep the church and hall going. From speaking to people locally we have realised that the community is not necessarily aware of this situation. We have therefore decided to hold a public meeting as one last chance to see if Chester Green Methodist Church can continue to operate.

**We would invite anyone who is interested to come along and let us know your thoughts.** The meeting will be held after our Messy Church service so if you would like to get a flavour of what the church is like please do join us for Messy Church at 11.00 beforehand.

## COMMUNITY GROUP NEWS

### **Family Quiz Night Saturday 15th February**

We are looking forward to welcoming all our friends and supporters back to the Centre with our first event of the year on the 15th February - a special Family Quiz Night arranged by our brilliant local quiz expert, Rhian.

She has some great ideas for rounds to suit all ages, including a surprise feature just for the children! Admission from 6.30 for a 7pm start is £1.50 adult members, £3 non members, 50p member children, £1 non members with under 5's free. Come along and help us make this event, a first for us, a great success! (The bar and tuck shop will be open of course)

### **12 April—"What Became of the Red Shoes?"**

The Saturday 12th April "Pocket Panto" favourite Becky (star of the Nottingham Playhouse panto "Dick Whittington"), will be returning to the Centre with a new version of her own award winning family show "What Became of the Red Shoes?". Another great show to look forward to so don't book your Easter break and miss out! More details to follow nearer the time. **Thank you** website [www.chestergreencommunitygroup.yolasite.com](http://www.chestergreencommunitygroup.yolasite.com)

### **The late Madge Topham**

As many people will know, Madge Topham was a greatly loved and respected local resident and councillor. Glenda would like to pass on her thanks to all who attended her mum's funeral and also to thank everyone who donated to the "Liversage Court Amenities Fund" in her memory. A total of £356 was raised for this worthwhile cause. Your generosity is much appreciated. Thank You.

### **Prize Draw raises £540 for the "Tiny Tim" Trust**

A wonderful £540 was raised in the 2013 Coach and Horses Christmas Prize Draw. The money will be donated to the Tiny Tom organisation in Chesterfield which supports disabled and disadvantaged children and their families. The presentation of the money will be on Thursday, February 20th, at 7.30 pm in the Coach and Horses and everyone is welcome to attend – the presentation evening is usually a convivial event! Many thanks to everyone who contributed in any way to the fundraising, either by donating a prize or by buying a Prize Draw square, and to the Coach Charity Committee for their efforts.

## ST PAUL'S CHURCH - CHESTER GREEN

2nd Feb 10 am Soul Breakfast (in the Hall)  
9th Feb 10 am Contemplative Communion  
16th Feb 10 am Soul Sanctuary  
16th Feb 8 pm Soul Café  
23rd Feb 10 am Holy Communion  
2nd March 10 am Soul Breakfast (in the Hall)

### **Soul Café is back!**

**A one-off special for Valentines– Sunday 16th February, 8 pm** There will be the usual mix of coffee and cake, great live music, poems, stories and hopefully even a poem from the Soul Café poet laureate. A chance to meet up with friends – and a great place to bring friends. All welcome.

[www.stpaulschestergreen.org](http://www.stpaulschestergreen.org)

### **Have you lost a parrot?**

During the RSPB's annual bird count last weekend, in one Chester Green garden, close to the river, a green parrot with bright red beak was spotted on the seed feeder. Is this yours, or is it a wild parakeet straying north from the flocks which are multiplying in London and the Home Counties?

Chester Green is becoming a Sanctuary for a wide variety of small birds. Also spotted during a space of one hour were:-

5 blackbirds, 2 robins, two blue tits, 2 great tits, 4 long tailed tits, 2 chaffinches, 4 goldfinches, 3 greenfinches, 2 bull finches, 2 magpies, 2 crows, 2 collared doves and 2 wood pigeons. The usual wren was not to be seen, starlings were absent, as last year, and for the first time in over 30 years there were no house sparrows but perhaps they were visiting your garden.

## CHESTER GREEN METHODIST CHURCH

Sun 2 Feb 11am Service with activities for children during part of the service

Sun 9 Feb 10.30am Breakfast, 11am Messy Church (informal café style service in hall with crafts action songs etc), 12.00 *Open Meeting to discuss the future of the church (a DVD will be set up to keep any children present occupied!)*

Sundays 16th and 23rd Feb – no services (half term)