

As part of the body of Christ in Chorlton, our aim at Central is to witness to the love of God through our worship and service. We believe that this should be a thread running through all our lives, not just a focus of what happens on Sundays.

This is reflected in how we use our buildings.

C4 Community Centre and Chorlton Youth Project meet on our premises throughout the week, together with Alcoholics Anonymous and other organisations, all of which offer a variety of activities and support to a wide group of people of all ages.

Members of our congregation are involved in these in different ways. Our witness also extends beyond our premises. Many of us are heavily involved in the community, the workplace, and in the home.

We seek to make our faith real in these places, with all their tensions, challenges, sorrows and joys, and we acknowledge the importance of bringing these issues into our Sunday worship.

But our faith is not just about challenge. It must also nurture and inspire us, and encourage us in meeting the challenges, and give us a sense of peace in a busy and noisy world.

On a Sunday morning, we use a variety of worship material from different sources.

We often use hymns and prayers from the Iona Community which offers alternative images of God and the Kingdom.

From time to time we use reflective music from the Taize tradition which is often based on biblical material.

And just as our witness should not be limited to a Sunday, neither should our spirituality. We have regular bible study sessions, when we discuss and reflect and pray together. We also aim to provide help and support for personal spirituality, through advice or books of bible notes, and prayers.

If you would like more details or to talk about any of these issues, please contact the secretaries (details overleaf).

We do not claim to have all the answers; none of us is perfect; but we are willing to share with you on your journey of faith.

"To you alone, O Lord, and not to us, must glory be given because of your constant love and faithfulness" (Psalm 115:1)

In an increasingly materialistic and individualistic society, we as Christians are challenged to acknowledge God as at the centre of life, and that God's kingdom values of justice and equality must determine how we live. We give thanks for God's love in every area of our lives, that in our joys and in our sorrows we can trust in God for strength and mercy.

"Lord, I must question you about matters of justice. Why are the wicked so prosperous? Why do dishonest people succeed?" (Jeremiah 12:1)

Life often seems unfair. Good people get hurt and damaged; bad people seem to get all the luck. We wonder why there is so much suffering in the world. We rage against injustice and inequality. And sometimes it feels that God is silent. There is nothing wrong with question and doubt. Indeed, there are no easy answers. Even Jesus once felt abandoned by God. It is not always easy to feel God's presence during the difficult times of our lives. But, in ways that we do not fully understand, we believe that God *is* with us and weeps with us, and that God can lead us into newness of life.

"Come to me, all of you who are tired from carrying heavy loads, and I will give you rest!" (Matthew 11:28)

Being a Christian does not mean that we will never feel our responsibilities weighing heavily upon us. Sometimes we feel worn out and exhausted by the demands and needs of other people. God does not offer to take away these responsibilities. In Christ, God tells us that we do not need to rely on our own strength, and invites us to share our burdens with him, so that we can learn from him. The weight is not on our shoulders alone, and we can know that the living Christ bears the weight with us, so that we can experience his rest and his peace.

An Everyday Prayer

Eternal God,
Mother and Father of us all,
we place ourselves in your care today.

Lift up our souls
when we are worn down by anxieties and
responsibilities.
Give us the strength to feel a new sense of purpose, a
fresh beginning,
and a greater awareness of your presence.

Help us to see the world and all its people through your
eyes.
Stir up within us feelings of compassion so that we can
deal lovingly and graciously with the people whose
paths we cross today.

As we go about our daily lives
in a busy and demanding world,
let us remember Jesus
who gave everything for the sake of other people,
yet who also understood his own need of solitude and
prayer.

Help us to follow his example
and to seek the peace that comes from quiet reflection.

Help us to be strong enough to give
and gentle enough to receive.

Nurture us,
sustain us,
inspire us.

Hold each one of us in strong and tender arms.
Help us always to know that you are with us,
and that you will lead us onward.

AMEN.

Sunday service

10.45am

with children's group

Communion Service
is on the 3rd Sunday
of each month

for more details
contact the church secretaries

chorltoncentralsecretary@gmail.com

and visit the church website
to learn more

www.chorlton-central.org.uk

CHORLTON CENTRAL CHURCH

Baptist and United Reformed

www.chorlton-central.org.uk

Barlow Moor Road
Chorlton
Manchester M21 8BF



*Living and praying
for God's kingdom
in the world*