

# St Matthew's News

The Parish of Edgeley and Cheadle Heath



February 2013  
Issue 11

## Sunday Service Times

### Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> February

10:30<sup>am</sup> Whole Parish Worship  
incl. Prayer for Healing

### All Other Sundays

9:30<sup>am</sup> Formal Service

11:15<sup>am</sup> Less Formal Service  
(with children's groups)

Image: FreeDigitalPhotos.net

links to Facebook and Twitter can be found on our home page  
[www.edgeleyandcheadleheath.org.uk](http://www.edgeleyandcheadleheath.org.uk)

**LOVE is...** all around... a many splendoured thing. **LOVE is...** the gift we are happy to give away. **LOVE is...** something we all long to receive.

Love is also painful. Once you have given away some of your love you have also entered into an agreed risk that in the giving and receiving there may well be unavoidable pain.

After the breakdown of a relationship, a friend of mine once declared her intention to build a walled-in area around herself into which she would never again let anyone else come. I empathise with the sentiment but what a wealth of experience of life she would have missed out on if she had held to that view.

In his book *The Learning of Love*, Simon Parke expresses like this: *First of all, love greets. In those early moments, love welcomes. In the beginning, love establishes safety for the other. Love establishes space for the other. To give such love is to die a little, of course, but to receive it? Well, it's like stepping into a sunlit playground after triple maths...*

I was recently watching a programme celebrating the 30<sup>th</sup>

anniversary of one of my favourite tearjerker films, the magical *ET*. The film tells the story of how a small boy, Elliott, comes to love a strange and alien creature. It depicts the often hilarious way their love and friendship develops and their ultimate triumph over the hierarchy of adults with too little imagination, too much prejudice and not enough love. Along with the love comes the inevitable time of pain and separation and when Elliott thinks *ET* has died he says "I don't know how to feel. I can't feel anything any more."

I expect we all have times when a sense of loss, a bereavement or a relationship breakdown leaves us with a similar sense of numbness, and perhaps like my friend we want to wall ourselves in, to prevent further damage. However, we have an infinitely more reliable source of **Love** words than popular culture can provide, and the unfathomable depths of the Love of God with which we can surround ourselves.

One of the abiding images of comfort that I return to at times of vulnerability and pain is that of



Julie J

the huge hand of God holding me as a small child. Safe and secure, snuggled into the Love of God, protected from pain around me and then enabled to love again and to go on loving.

Despite its potential for pain, without that experience of love we are so much less than God

## Introducing Audrey Mannion...

I was born and raised in Cheadle Heath. Although I have attended St Matthew's church for 76 years, where my parents attended, my faith has grown stronger over the years. My father and grandfather were in the choir. My roles in church are: Churchwarden, Mother's Union Secretary, choir member, and I run the Saturday Café.

As a child, my favourite toy was the doll's house my father made me for Christmas. I was an Auxiliary Nurse on Maternity for 30 years at Stepping Hill. To relax, I enjoy reading and walking; watching *Call the Midwife*, *Emmerdale*, *Casualty* and nature programmes. I also enjoy a Sunday Roast with all the family.

My dream competition prize would be to win enough money to help my children be financially

created us to be. "I have come that you might have life, life in all its fullness," said Jesus. That fullness of life is most exquisitely experienced through **Love** - which is indeed, *a many splendoured thing* and I hope that you will also find it is *all around*, enriching and enabling your life. **Written with my Love.**

secure and also help fund the new church building. I would love to visit Canada. The last thing I would give up is my home.

The hardest decision I ever had to make was for my mother to go into a nursing home. If my house was on fire, I would save my daughter, who lives with me, because we care for each other. It upsets me when people have petty quarrels, the community drop litter and that wealth in the world is never shared equally. My grandmother was the greatest influence on my life.

From the Bible, I would recommend Psalm 139 - to know that the Lord knows everything about me. I feel closest to Jesus when I am in St Matthew's church, my other home.



## What's News

### Out with the old... and in with some new friends

I don't know about you, I get so excited clearing out clutter. *But how about de-cluttering a whole CHURCH?* That's what faced us at St Mark's. You may have attended services at St Mark's before it closed as part of our



transition to St Matthew's at Easter 2011. Did you know about the two kitchen areas, the sports hall, the *basement*?

Every room was full of old cupboards, trunks, desks, chairs, pews, even the odd coat stand. *Something had to be done.* We got in touch with Restore, a shop in Stockport which is part of Acorn Treatment and Housing. It supports people recovering from alcohol and drug addiction. As well as making furniture beautiful again and running a great café, the group has recently opened a treatment centre in Macclesfield.

The chaps from Restore have done a fantastic job of taking all the old furniture. Some is being donated by the Parish, some will

be paid for. Any remaining items will be sold on eBay and similar sites. It has been a dirty, smelly, back-breaking job but we have done a great deal towards helping a deserving cause and made some new friends along the way!



**I just had to share** another part of the day with you: the Lord had truly gone before me in everything that happened. It was not my idea to contact *Restore*. I woke up one morning, a few weeks ago, with the whole project in my head and was most definitely led by the Lord to seek out these people; they have responded with such wonder and grace, it has been a delight!

- My devotionals over the previous few days had centred on being a witness for Jesus.
  - I bought some vegetables at the Co-op and a small bottle of anti-bacterial hand wash (which I never usually buy).
  - I found a small first aid kit in a pile of books at St Mark's.
  - I found some slim, 'friendly' Mark's Gospels in the vestry.
- And then... (continued inside)**

## More News...

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- One man cut his hand. We had no running water in the building - Thank You for the anti-bacterial hand wash and the first aid kit!
- Another man asked me quietly if I knew anything about the Bible. He had tried to read it but didn't know where to find the 'stories' about Jesus - Thank You for the booklet of Mark's Gospel!
- The man told me he had fought with drug addiction for years and

that during that time he had forgotten about God. I reassured him that God had not forgotten about him and that God loved him to bits, and had never left him. The man was quite tearful when I told him how much God loved him - Thank You for giving me the chance to witness this!

I was filthy with dust, my clothes stank of damp and I was incredibly grubby, *but* I honestly felt that I had never been more blessed! Praise God! **Pam R**

## Thank you All for:

**£381.50** sent to from regular collectors and donations from our Christingle.

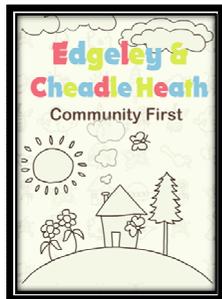


And **£440** sent to raised from *Coffee and Carols* and Christmas collections.



## Free cash!

If you are involved with community groups in Edgeley and Cheadle Heath you can apply



for grants of between **£250 - £2,500**. *The clock is ticking...* applications must be in by **8<sup>th</sup> February!** For details see: [www.echcommunityfirst.org.uk](http://www.echcommunityfirst.org.uk).

Last year, St Matthew's Church Lads and Church Girls Brigade and the Children and Young People team successfully applied for funds. We held family swimming pool parties, a day-trip to Eureka and hosted *Bubblegum Christmas* for St Matthew's School. Our family activities were thoroughly enjoyed by our local community and we made lots of new friends!



## What's on this month

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> February

9:30<sup>am</sup> Toddle Time @ St Matt's

12:45<sup>pm</sup> Funeral of Eunice Brooks

7<sup>pm</sup> Choir

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> February

8:30<sup>am</sup> Prayer Breakfast

10<sup>am</sup> Saturday Café

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> February

10:30<sup>am</sup> Whole Parish Worship

*At communion we offer prayer for healing for you and those you care for.*

Lead: David/DavidBr ~

Preach: David

Spring Harvest final payment due today

Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> February

8:30<sup>am</sup> Home Group

1:30<sup>pm</sup> Socially Yours

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> February

10<sup>am</sup> Holy Communion

7:30<sup>pm</sup> Home Groups

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> February

9:30<sup>am</sup> Toddle Time @ St Matt's

7<sup>pm</sup> Choir

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> February

10<sup>am</sup> Saturday Café

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> February

9:30<sup>am</sup> Holy Communion

Lead: Julie ~ Preach: Janet

11:15<sup>am</sup> Holy Communion

Lead: Julie ~ Preach: Mike

Magazine Articles Due

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> February

8:30<sup>am</sup> Home Group

1:30<sup>pm</sup> Socially Yours

Ash Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> February

Services with ashing

10<sup>am</sup> Holy Communion

7:30<sup>pm</sup> Holy Communion



Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> February

7:30<sup>pm</sup> Mother's Union

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February

9:30<sup>am</sup> Toddle Time @ St Matt's

7<sup>pm</sup> Choir

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> February

10<sup>am</sup> Saturday Café

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> February

9:30<sup>am</sup> Holy Communion

Lead: David ~ Preach: Lucy

11:15<sup>am</sup> Holy Communion

Lead: David ~ Preach: Lucy

200 Club – Subs Due

*Lent Groups start this week  
See Notice Sheet for details*

*Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> February*

**8:30<sup>am</sup> Lent Group**  
**1:30<sup>pm</sup> Socially Yours**

*Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> February*

**10<sup>am</sup> Holy Communion**  
**11:15<sup>am</sup> Lent Group**  
**7:30<sup>pm</sup> Lent Groups**

*Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> February*

**7:30<sup>pm</sup> Deanery Synod**  
*@ St Saviours*

*Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> February*

**9:30<sup>am</sup> Toddle Time @ St Matt's**  
**7<sup>pm</sup> Choir**

*Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> February*

**10<sup>am</sup> Saturday Café**

*Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> February*

**9:30<sup>am</sup> Holy Communion**  
**Lead: David ~ Preach: Guest**  
**11:15<sup>am</sup> Holy Communion**  
**Lead: David ~ Preach: Guest**

*Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> February*

**8:30<sup>am</sup> Lent Group**  
**1:30<sup>pm</sup> Socially Yours**

*Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> February*

**10<sup>am</sup> Holy Communion**  
**11:15<sup>am</sup> Lent Group**  
**7:30<sup>pm</sup> Lent Groups**

## ***Looking ahead***

*Friday, 1<sup>st</sup> March*

**9:30<sup>am</sup> Toddle Time @ St Matt's**  
**7<sup>pm</sup> Choir**

*Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March*

**8:30<sup>am</sup> Prayer Breakfast**  
**10<sup>am</sup> Saturday Café**

*Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March*

**10:30<sup>am</sup> Whole Parish Worship**

### **January Funeral**

Dorothy Woodfinden, Kaiya Ali,  
Jackie Depledge, Ernest Willis,  
Miriam Clarke, Noel Hope

### **January Baptism**

Alice Raffter, Grace Slater



**Spring Harvest** is now only 9 weeks away and final payment is due on the 5<sup>th</sup>!

Could you please get your balance to David as soon as possible. Thanks