

St Matthew's News

The Parish of Edgeley and Cheadle Heath



May 2014
Issue 26

Sunday Service Times

Sunday 4th May

10:30^{am} Whole Parish Worship

All Other Sundays

9:30^{am} Formal Service

11:15^{am} Less Formal Service
(with children's groups)

Image: Michelle Meiklejohn / FreeDigitalPhotos.net

Facebook: www.facebook.com/ParishEdgeleyCheadleHeath

Twitter: twitter.com/ParishEdgeleyCH

Website: www.edgeleyandcheadleheath.org.uk

May I?

As a child growing up on Fox Street, we used to play a game called 'May I?' One of us stood on the pavement on one side of the street, the rest on the pavement opposite (in those days there were very few motor vehicles and streets were used as playgrounds). The 'one' called out a name and how many steps to take. That person was only allowed to move if they asked 'May I?'

This game frequently comes to mind when we pray 'I/we may', such as, 'that we may perfectly love you...' in the prayer of preparation, and 'grant that we may serve you in newness of life...' in the prayer of penitence, both from the communion service. I remind myself that its use in this context is not a request, not to be understood as an option. We are being much more positive than that! We will do something but we need to remember that we will not be alone, God will be with us.

The letters of the word can be thought of as an acronym. MAY - Me And You. An acknowledgement that God is with us, working with us, always a support and help in all we do.



If we were to replace *may* with *will*, could we be sure that it would not lead us down a selfish, self-centred path, forgetting the vital role our Lord God has in all we do? Surely that is too great a risk to take. That being said, we should be positive in our faith that with God's help we will achieve what he needs us to do.

So might I suggest that in our prayers, where we are praying 'we may', it means 'with Your help Lord, we will!' And God will bless you in all works you do in his name.

...the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes - with sighs too deep for words.

Romans 8:26

Tiny Things 

Give bone marrow: Register through *The Anthony Nolan Bone Marrow Trust* www.anthonynolan.org.uk or phone 020 7284 1234

Team Talk

News from the ministries

Communications: We have launched our **Facebook:500** initiative, aiming to have 500 people following St. Matthew's on Facebook by the



end of the year. We hope to reach local people and inform them of our activities through Facebook. Church members have been given a long and a short prayer, and have been asked to pray for God to make it happen. You do not need to be on Facebook – or even to know what it is! – to pray for it. If you can't remember to pray every day, we ask that you pray every day you remember. Copies of the prayers are available on the leaflet stand or from Pam Robinson or Linda.



Worship: We are delighted with the success of our signed service, held on the last Sunday of the month at 11.15am. We regularly have four or five friends from the deaf community join us for this service, along with hearing signers who are interested in learning how to introduce this into their own churches. We are now making plans with Walthew House (the centre for the deaf and blind in Stockport) to launch their 'See, Hear, Stockport' awareness week at our signed service in September.

If you are interested in finding out more, see Karen Bailey or Pam Robinson.

Social & Community:

@SaturdayCafe continues to grow. In March, we were visited by the local Scout group and in April, you can pop in to see FLAG (For Local Advice and Guidance) who can signpost you to a wide variety of support services for you and your family. We are also getting to know our local police team quite well, with the regular police surgeries.

Introducing... Grace Anderson

There is no time in my life when I did not know Jesus is my Saviour, that I am loved by my Heavenly Father. As a child I did not like my name but then I read:

Great Riches
At a vision to live by
Christ's for me and you
Expense

I was born in Blackpool and trained as a teacher in Liverpool. My first teaching post was with the Surrey Education committee.

I married and had three children; went through a divorce. Never underestimate the trauma of divorce: it was instituted by God; but it is his 'plan B'.

God has never given up on me, has often assured me he has plans for my life. He has

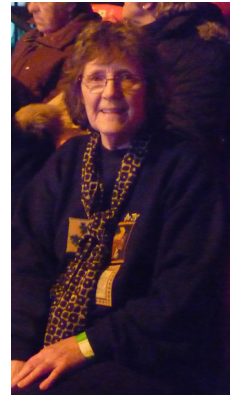
Honouring God

How do you honour God? In the first of what we hope will become a regular feature, we asked Dave Blakeney that question. He told us: *I tie back my hair every day but on Sundays I leave it*

accompanied me when I took risks; often blessed me; given me the confidence to face failure.

I am part of St Matthew's and also my parish church of St Mary's, Cheadle. I have an active role in Stockport Christian Counselling, which I find very fulfilling.

I enjoy reading biographies. The lives of Christian heroes are inspiring, especially Martin Luther King and Dr Paul Brand. I like the cinema, and watching dramas on TV - *Downton Abbey!* And eating out with friends; visiting family: life is busy with ten grandchildren!!!!



loose - my life was once a mess but now, because of God, the only mess in my life is my hair! It reminds me of what He's done for me.

If you'd like to share the way in which you honour God, please speak to Linda.

Church Lads' & Girls' Brigade

We are now recruiting members for the Martins, Y/team and JTC sections and also New Leaders to help in running the Company. We meet on Monday nights in term time from 6:30 to 8pm. For more information contact



Dave Wood M.B.E. Mobile: 07925531300. Email:

bowerfield24@hotmail.com

More information about the Brigade can be found at www.clcgb.org.uk

Please read the report as it is a great testament to how much we as a church are achieving despite being a relatively small congregation. It can be viewed on the website or at the back of church.

The 200+Club

This is a monthly draw where half the money raised goes in prizes and half is given to the church. Last year we gave out £545.50 in prizes and £545.50 to the church.

It costs £1 a month for a number; you can have as many or as few numbers as you want. The saying, *You have to be in it to win it* comes to mind...

If you would like to join in the fun, see either **Mary** or **Graham**.

APCM

The annual meeting was held after the whole parish service on Sunday 6th April. This meeting is our opportunity to let the congregation know what has been happening in the past year in all the church groups and organisations. It is also our formal arena to elect members of the electoral roll into key roles within the church. This year we have two new church wardens in Steph Haynes and Graham Mitchell; six new members of the PCC: Karen Bailey, Sylvia Parker, Sue Levene, Audrey Mannion, Mark Goodwin and Mark Rushton; and two new deanery synod representatives in Lucy Brewster and Grace Anderson.

Mother's Union

St Matthew with St Mark's

There has been a Mother's Union branch at St Matthew's since 1907. The M.U. is concerned with supporting marriage and family life, with children central to the church's growth and future.

Membership is worldwide - over 8 million. Africa has one of the largest memberships. Money is raised to help members in countries less fortunate than ours; and is used to support literacy, child care, AIDS victims, the siting of wells, farming projects and much more. All money raised goes straight to the projects concerned. At present, our branch is donating writing materials to Melanesia, where there is a great need for them.

We are a thriving branch of over twenty-six members, but new members are always welcome - male, female, young and not-so-young. David our vicar is the only male member at the moment!

We meet on the second Thursday of each month in church at 7:30pm.

Norma Stowman(Branch Leader)

Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

In the News!

We are delighted to see many of our initiatives appearing in the local news, as well as further afield. We regularly pop up in the *Stockport Express*, and the local reporter has been seen jotting down information from our notice board!

You may have seen the *Impact* booklet, which features stories from across the Diocese,



including five of our success stories. @SaturdayCafe was recently featured on the Home page of the Diocesan website www.chester.anglican.org. It is fantastic to see all of our hard work being celebrated, both near and far. **Pam Robinson**

What's on this month

Friday, 2nd

9:30^{am} Toddle Time
7^{pm} Choir Practice

Saturday, 3rd

8:30^{am} Prayer Breakfast
10^{am} Saturday Café
10^{am} More Hard Labour!

Sunday, 4th

10:30^{am} Whole Parish Worship
Lead: David ~ Preach: David B'
Holy Communion
with Prayer for Healing
6:30^{pm} Indian Experience

Tuesday, 6th

8:30^{am} Home Group
1:30^{pm} Socially Yours
7^{pm} Referral Fitness

Wednesday, 7th

10^{am} Holy Communion
7:30^{pm} Meeting at St Andrew's
about Women Bishops
7:45^{pm} Home Groups

Thursday, 8th

7:30^{pm} Mother's Union

Saturday, 10th

10^{am} Saturday Café
incl. Police Surgery &
flag@saturdaycafe
10^{am} Children's Leaders walk
1^{pm} Food Safety Level 1

Sunday, 11th

9:30^{am} Holy Communion
Lead: David ~ Preach: Julie
11:15^{am} Morning Worship
Lead: Heather ~ Preach: Julie

Monday, 12th

1^{pm} Stockport Sling Meet
& Library
6:30^{pm} Brigade

Tuesday, 13th

8:30^{am} Home Group
1:30^{pm} Socially Yours
7^{pm} Referral Fitness

Wednesday, 14th

10^{am} Holy Communion
11^{am} Mothers' Union
at Chester Cathedral
7:45^{pm} Home Groups
Magazine Articles Due

Friday, 16th

9:30^{am} Toddle Time in church
7^{pm} Choir Practice in church

Saturday, 17th

10^{am} Saturday Café incl.
Police Surgery in church
1:30^{pm} Wedding in church

Sunday, 18th

9:30^{am} Holy Communion
Lead: David/Heather ~ Preach: David
11:15^{am} Holy Communion
Lead: Sue ~ Preach: David

200 Club – Subs Due

Monday, 19th

6:30^{pm} Brigade

Tuesday, 20th

8:30^{am} Home Group
1:30^{pm} Socially Yours
7^{pm} Referral Fitness
7:30^{pm} Ministry Group Leaders
at the Vicarage

Wednesday, 21st

10^{am} Holy Communion
7:45^{pm} Home Group

Thursday, 22nd

2:30^{pm} St. Matt's School Service
in Church

Friday, 23rd

9:30^{am} Toddle Time in church
7^{pm} Choir Practice in church

Saturday, 24th

10^{am} Saturday Café in church

Sunday, 25th

9:30^{am} Teen Breakfast the Vicarage
9:30^{am} Holy Communion
Lead: Julie ~ Preach: Sue
11:15^{am} All Age Signed Service
Lead: David ~ Preach: Lucy

Tuesday, 27th

8:30^{am} Home Group
1:30^{pm} Socially Yours
7^{pm} Referral Fitness
7:30^{pm} Archdeacon's Visitation
@ St. Mary's, Stockport

Wednesday, 28th

10^{am} Holy Communion
7:45^{pm} Home Group

Thursday, 29th

1^{pm} Twins and Multiples Group

Friday, 30th

9:30^{am} Toddle Time in church
7^{pm} Choir Practice in church

Saturday, 31st

10^{am} Saturday Café

Looking ahead

Sunday, 1st June

10:30^{am} Whole Parish Worship
Lead: Julie/Heather ~ Preach: Julie
Holy Communion
with Prayer for Healing

All times and dates correct
at time of going to press.
Please check the notice sheet,
website, Facebook or Twitter
for any changes.

April Funerals

Ian McCarrol, Peter Milns,
Annette Chadwick

April Baptisms

Charlie Thomas, Cloe Thomas,
Grace Cameron-Stuart,
Maisie Steele