

St Matthew's News

The Parish of Edgeley and Cheadle Heath



November 2014
Issue 31

Sunday Service Times

Sunday 2nd November

10:30^{am} Whole Parish Worship
with Healing Prayer

All Other Sundays

9:30^{am} Formal Service
11:15^{am} Less Formal Service
(with children's groups)

Sunday 23rd Nov, 11:15^{am} Signed

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Come in Out of the Gloom

November is a month of short days and long nights, the exuberance of bonfire night, the solemnity of remembrance, the weather getting colder and a time to wrap up in winter clothes. Sometimes we get a bright day, other times it feels like perpetual gloom from morning till night. I don't fancy moving to one of those Scandinavian countries where it doesn't get light for months on end, although I wouldn't mind visiting in summer. Still, there are compensations for these colder, darker days: coming inside to make a hot drink, the excuse to snuggle up watching TV for a bit, and the chance to indulge my preference for cosy fleeces over smart clothes.

It isn't going to be gloomy in church this year - with our fantastic new lighting we should remain bright and cheery right through the winter months! Please do encourage anyone who hasn't been in for a while to come and experience the

transformation
- pass on the message!

Sometimes it can be a challenge to remain cheerful as we move to colder, darker days. And we might need a bit more than a brightly lit church building. We need the light of Christ and the warmth of fellowship. We are all invited to join in; no one need be left out in the cold or the gloom. We are also invited to take that light and warmth with us into our community to share in friendship with those around us.

Yours in the light of Christ and the warmth of fellowship,

Heather

Christmas Starts With Christ!



Beginning in mid-November, this campaign will run for six weeks. There'll be posters on the notice boards, flyers to hand out, and daily posts on Facebook and Twitter.



Heather Adams

Meeting of Deanery Churchwardens

The Venerable Ian Bishop (Archdeacon) met with Stockport Deanery churchwardens in early October.

He was keen to hear about our successes and challenges, and we were able to tell him about the success of our Lighting Project, and our new Refugee & Asylum Seekers Support Group. He was very excited with this initiative, and the support it offers to people otherwise left isolated and vulnerable.

Other successes included a community allotment, and new Storytime Service for 0-11 years (St. Alban's, Offerton); a Community Café and regular pet services (St. Saviour's, Great Moor); and a new MIND Art Group (St. Peter's).

Discussions included being prepared to speak about our love and faith in Christ, how discipleship courses help congregations understand why we believe, and the value of

making space for reflection in retreats and pilgrimages.

It was an enjoyable opportunity to share our experiences.

Steph and Graham



The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe at Chester Cathedral



This Christmas, Chester Cathedral will take visitors on an exciting journey to the magical land of Narnia, transforming spaces within the magnificent building to bring C.S. Lewis's classic tale to life.

**29th November - 6th January.
Entry free.**

Alpha - a joint venture with St. George's and St. Gabriel's - coming in the New Year. Watch this space.



Half a Lifetime Ago

On a Sunday in September 1994, I received the highest award given by Church Lads' & Church Girls' Brigade – the Bishop's Badge - here at St. Matthew's.

I had joined the Brigade run by Captain David Wood in April 1981, at St. Augustine's in Cheadle Heath. It was a week after my seventh birthday. Five years to the date of joining the Brigade, I was confirmed at St. Mary's in Cheadle, by Frank Sergeant, the Bishop of Stockport. Eight years later he presented me with my Bishop's Badge and certificate.

In 1993 the Brigade at St. Augustine's closed as then-Captain Catherine Gaddes left and there was nobody to take over running it. I moved companies, and was welcomed to St. Matthew's Brigade by Captain Ian Donegani.

I left the Brigade after being at St. Mary's in the Market Place and returned to my roots at St. Augustine's, where I became a Churchwarden.



St. Augustine's had to close the building in 2005 and move to St. John's Methodist church, down the road. A few years later, of course, St. Marks and St. Augustine's came together here at St. Matthew's as one parish.

It is amazing where our personal Christian journey in life goes, and how our faith gets us through it! **Mark.W.Rushton**

Continued from over...

more loveable rather than where it should be squarely placed: on our willingness to have our capacity to love increased as we daily make the decision to love and try to like those whom we find difficult in our midst.

Introducing... Kieran



Robinson

My full name is Kieran James Robinson. I am eighteen.

You might not see me in church very often but I sometimes come with my mum, Pam. When I do go to St. Matthew's, people are always friendly and patient. I don't really understand God but I liked going to the Teen Breakfast, which Jon Adam sorted every month, because I got the chance to talk about all sorts of things with Robert.

I like playing my X-Box and other video games. My favourite movies are sci-fi, especially *Star Wars*, and films about World War II.

My favourite people at St Matthew's are Sue Mayo, because I like to see her and I like to hear the things she talks about; and David Brewster, because I like to chat with him.

Feed My Sheep...

Helping the Homeless

Our harvest celebrations were a great success and the generous donations from both St Matthew's Church and School have been safely delivered to The Wellspring.

The Wellspring, situated on Harvey Street just around the corner from Stockport market, is open 365 days a year and provides a wide range of support for homeless people, or those at risk of becoming homeless. This includes advice on debt and money management, education courses, health checks and counselling.



The Wellspring also has shower facilities and the all-important kitchen. This is where your donations come in – feeding hundreds of people every week, the centre relies entirely on donations so every tin and packet donated really does make a difference.

Please look out for information about our Christmas present appeal for The Wellspring. And if you feel you are able to do a little more, you can find out about their Rucksack Project by visiting their website:

www.thewellspring.btck.co.uk

What does it mean to love...

We heard, just a week ago, Jesus response to some Pharisees and Sadducees who were trying to catch him out with a question about which of the myriad commandments in the Jewish Bible was the greatest.

Jesus response, for which they had no answer, was 'Love the Lord your God' and 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'

Well no arguing with that! You'd think, but you know it's amazing how quick we are to complicate such seemingly simple commands. For instance, I'm sure you've heard people say, we're called to *love*, not to *like*. Sounds reasonable.

But do you know what I think to that suggestion? **Rubbish!** I think that is a total cop-out!

It would suggest that loving is something that you can do at arms length; something that is more about a decision, than an wholehearted giving of oneself to the other. It suggests that it's OK to give a lesser response to the one whom we find difficult than the one whom we instinctively like. That kind of attitude is dismissive to and demeans the one whom we say we love (but don't like). Is that the kind of love you want to experience?

The images of love that the bible uses to describe God's love for his people could never be described as *at arms length*. A mother (Isa 49:15) or father (Ps 103:13) for their child (Hosea 11:1,3), a groom for a bride (Isa 62:5, 54:5, Eph 5:25), and the ultimate example in Jesus' willingness to give his life both for his friends and those who would count themselves as enemies (1 John 3:16).

When people say that thing about *loving but not liking*, they turn the command of Jesus on its head. They put the emphasis **Continued on back page...**

What's on this month

All events (except Home Groups)
in church unless otherwise stated

Saturday, 1st ~ All Saints Day

8:30^{am} Prayer Breakfast

10^{am} Saturday Café

incl. **Police Surgery**

**7:30^{pm} LIFT: GLO lead prayer,
worship at St Mary's**

Sunday, 2nd ~ All Souls Day

10:30^{am} Whole Parish Worship with
Holy Communion
with *Prayer for Healing*

Lead & Preach: Julie

Monday, 3rd

1^{pm} Stockport Sling Meet & Library

6:30^{pm} Brigade

Tuesday, 4th

8:30^{am} Home Group

1:30^{pm} Socially Yours

Wednesday, 5th

10^{am} Holy Communion

7:45^{pm} Home Group

Thursday, 6th

**1^{pm} Refugee & Asylum Seekers'
Support Group**

Friday, 7th

9:30^{am} Toddle Time

7^{pm} Choir Practice

Saturday, 8th

10^{am} Saturday Café

Sunday, 9th - Remembrance Sunday

9:30^{am} All Age Holy Communion

Lead: David ~ Preach: David Brown

11:15^{am} All Age Service

Lead: Lucy ~ Preach: David

Monday, 10th

6:30^{pm} Brigade

Tuesday, 11th

8:30^{am} Home Group

1:30^{pm} Socially Yours

Wednesday, 12th

10^{am} Holy Communion

7:45^{pm} Home Group

Thursday, 13th

7:30^{pm} Mothers' Union

Friday, 14th

9:30^{am} Toddle Time

7^{pm} Choir Practice

Saturday, 15th

10^{am} Saturday Café

10:30^{am} Fairtrade Fair

@ Stockport College

Sunday, 16th Second Before Advent

9:30^{am} Holy Communion

Lead: Heather & David ~ Preach: Lucy

11:15^{am} Holy Communion

Lead: David ~ Preach: Mike

200 Club – Subs Due

Monday, 17th

6:30^{pm} Brigade

Tuesday, 18th

8:30^{am} Home Group

1:30^{pm} Socially Yours

Wednesday, 19th

10^{am} Holy Communion

7:45^{pm} Home Group

Friday, 21st

9:30^{am} Toddle Time

7^{pm} Choir Practice

Saturday, 22nd

10^{am} Saturday Café

Sunday, 23rd Christ the King

9:30^{am} Holy Communion

Lead: David ~ Preach: Julie

11:15^{am} All Age Signed Service

Lead: Lucy ~ Preach: Julie

Monday, 24th

1^{pm} Twins and Multiples Group

6:30^{pm} Brigade

Tuesday, 25th

8:30^{am} Home Group

1:30^{pm} Socially Yours

Wednesday, 26th

10^{am} Holy Communion

7:45^{pm} Pub Quiz @ the Old Vic

8^{pm} Cursillo in Gatley - see Irene

Friday, 28th

9:30^{am} Toddle Time

7^{pm} Choir Practice

Saturday, 29th

10^{am} Saturday Café

incl. **Police Surgery**

Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe

29th November - 6th January

@ Chester Cathedral

Sunday, 30th Advent Sunday

9:30^{am} Holy Communion

Lead: Julie ~ Preach: Heather

11:15^{am} All Age Holy Communion

Lead: Julie ~ Preach: David

Looking ahead

Saturday, 6th December

12^{pm} Christmas Fair

Sunday, 7th December

10:30^{am} Whole Parish Worship

Lead & Preach: Bishop Peter

1^{pm} Curry Sunday Lunch

details correct at time of going to press

October Baptisms

George Williams, Evie-Belle Bowling

October Funerals

Gladys Sopiak, David Strong, Cliff
Wild, Betty Gregory,
Ross Noble

December Groups

Please advise Linda
of any date changes if
you wish to ensure correct
information across all media.