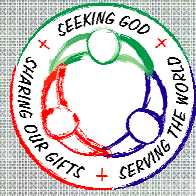


# St Matthew's News

The Parish of Edgeley and Cheadle Heath



March 2015  
Issue 34

## Sunday Service Times

### Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March

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

### All Other Sundays

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

11:15<sup>am</sup> Less Formal Service

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Facebook: [www.facebook.com/ParishEdgeleyCheadleHeath](http://www.facebook.com/ParishEdgeleyCheadleHeath)

Twitter: [twitter.com/ParishEdgeleyCH](http://twitter.com/ParishEdgeleyCH)

Website: [www.edgeleyandcheadleheath.org.uk](http://www.edgeleyandcheadleheath.org.uk)

Telephone: 0161 480 5896

## Love Shine a Light

*You are the light of the world  
- like a city on a hilltop  
that cannot be hidden.*

**Matthew 5:14**

As I prepared to write this article I received a wonderfully uplifting email message from a member of our congregation - real original words; not an internet round-robin! Having thanked the sender, I shared with someone else that the words, and the simple and gracious love behind them, made me beam - not simply smile - but beam.

Thoughts of that word *beam* then flung me straight back to my now (VERY) long ago Sunday School days and those formative, and never to be forgotten, Christian memories of knowing that Jesus wanted me for a sunbeam; alongside the call upon my life that came in the words of *Jesus bids us shine with a pure clear light.*

Nowadays, I don't feel I could totally concur with the tagline of that particular hymn - *you in your small corner and I in mine* - as I think the call is to shine out together in unity for God; though I take the point that each of us must keep on being a sunbeam, must keep on shining out, *in this world of darkness*, even, and perhaps especially, when we are away from the observant gaze of the rest of our fellowship.

As we continue our Lenten reflections through these weeks of preparation for the bursting forth of that glorious beam of light that comes with the risen Jesus, we perhaps should consider whether the way we live, the things we say, our reactions to other people, are fulfilling that call to shine out constantly and consistently for Jesus - for as the words of that hymn tell us, *Well he sees and knows it if our light is dim.*

Called to reflect the light of Jesus - who is the Eternal Light - to the world, let's ask ourselves: what effect is my life having on other people? Do I make them beam on a regular basis or is the response to my behaviour more likely to be a grimace through gritted teeth?

*Jesus bids us shine first of all for him.*

With loving smiles  
in and through Christ. **Julie Jxo**

*I am the light of the world.  
If you follow me  
you won't walk in darkness,  
because you will have the light  
that leads to life.*

**John 8:12**



Julie Johnson

## Mothers' Union Supports National Marriage Week

7<sup>th</sup> -14<sup>th</sup> February, 2015

What a response by the congregation to this event! Marriage memorabilia of all kinds - including wedding and bridesmaid dresses, photographs and more - were brought to church on the Saturday. This delighted Dorothy Wilde, who had the task, with some willing assistants, of displaying it all.



Dorothy added many lovely items which she had made herself. She worked very hard all weekend, as objects kept coming in.



Many photographs were taken of the display (see Pam Robinson if you're interested) and the lovely comments were really encouraging.

Keep the date in your diary – Dorothy is already planning next year's event!

**Norma Stowman, MU Branch Leader**



### Pack Your Pets!

Are you planning a holiday this year?

If so, please take a toy animal with you and take a photograph of it in an interesting spot, doing an interesting thing: perhaps visiting the Taj Mahal or Hadrian's Wall; eating a five course meal or a soggy butty.

When you arrive home, please give the photo to Di Bebb. At the end of the holiday period (April-September), Di will mount them on a display in church. Speak to Di or Norma for more details.

All we ask is for a minimum £1 donation, all proceeds to MU charities.



Image Victor Habbick FreeDigitalPhotos.net

**Please note:** MU meeting for March 12<sup>th</sup>, 7:30pm is in the vicarage. Father Peter to lead our quiet evening.

**Norma Stowman**

### Electoral Roll

Please let Julie Johnson know if you have changed address, phone number or email details during the past 12 months. Thank you.

### Welly Walk!



We had a wonderful morning with St. Matthew's School nursery children! The children visited us as part of their "Where my wellys take me" adventure.

The children found out a little bit about our church and how we help the community (it was lovely to see how many had played at our Toddle Time group!). We talked about how much God loves us; we played some music with tambourines and drums; and even got to dress up!

The children were very well behaved and it was lovely to see their smiles.

**Pam Robinson**

### Are You An Unpaid Carer?



is a new club open to carers and people with care needs, as well as people who work as staff or volunteers. You could benefit from a wide range of offers. To find out more, visit [www.carersmart.org](http://www.carersmart.org)

**Source: SignPost Stockport for Carers**  
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### Women's World Day of Prayer

*Informed Prayer, Prayerful action*



Churches Together in England describes this event as follows:

*Women's World Day of Prayer is a worldwide movement of Christian women who come together to observe a common day of prayer held on the first Friday in March each year, and who, in many countries, have a continuing relationship in prayer and service. Through Women's World Day of Prayer women are encouraged to become aware of their talents and use them in the service of the wider community.*

*The Day of Prayer begins as dawn breaks over the islands of Tonga in the Pacific and continues across each continent until the last Services of this special day are held back in the Pacific on the islands of Samoa, circling the world in prayer for about 36 hours.*

Please join us at St Matthew's for this moving service on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2015, 2pm. Speak to Audrey Mannion for more details.

Image: Ambro at FreeDigitalPhotos.net

### Flower Fund



Money was donated to the flower fund in January in memory of the **Procter Family**; and in February in memory of **Brenda Bowers**.

## **The Parochial Church Council (PCC)**

At this time of year we start preparing for the annual meeting, looking back at how the year has gone; and forward as we elect people onto the PCC.

The PCC is a legal body and its main purpose is promoting in the Parish the whole mission of the Church: pastoral, evangelical, social and ecumenical.

Members have a responsibility to act in the best interests of the PCC;



THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

### **House of Bishops' Pastoral Letter on the 2015 General Election**

*The House of Bishops of the Church of England expressed the hope for political parties to discern "a fresh moral vision of the kind of country we want to be" ahead of the General Election in May.*

*In a pastoral letter to the people and parishes of the Church of England, the Bishops urge Christians to consider the question how can we "build the kind of society which many people say they want but which is not yet being expressed in the vision of any of the parties?"*

Please think and pray on this question before casting your vote in May.

Press Release. Used with permission

ensure we comply with the law; use funds wisely; and take good care in everything we do.

Now is an especially exciting time as we reflect on our vision and consider how best to share the Good News of Christ. Joining the PCC is a great way of getting involved, shaping the future direction of St. Matthew's and helping with the day-to-day business.

David, Pam and Steph will be very happy to answer any questions.

**Steph Haynes**

### **Easter Eggcitement**

As Easter approaches we are preparing for and sharing the news of Jesus; not only in **Sunday Club**, but also in our wider outreach. We will be meeting the Year 6 pupils from St Matthew's School again at our **Easter Unwrapped** session; and we will hold our **Good Friday Crafts** event and service. Numbers at the craft event have steadily increased over the years so prayers for its continued growth will be welcome.

Looking further on in the calendar, we will be going to **Spree Camp** again this year. Any of our children aged 9 years+ are welcome to come with us and have a great time. This is a Christian camp with slots throughout the weekend for the children to find out more about their faith - in between enjoying exciting activities. See me if you are interested in joining us.

**Karen Bailey**

### **Lent Course**

This year's Lent course is entitled *Visions of the Church* and will look at various pictures of the church which we find in the New Testament, including 'the household of faith: *the family of God*', 'the vine', 'the body of Christ', 'a royal priesthood', and 'the bride of Christ'. In exploring these images we will aim to develop our vision for our own church.

There will be two study groups, one on Tuesday mornings at 8:30<sup>am</sup> and one on Wednesday evenings at 7:45<sup>pm</sup>. The theme of each session will also be included in the Wednesday morning communion service in church. For those who would like to follow the course but are unable to attend a group, the notes for each session will be posted on the website.

Each session is complete in itself, so if you can't come to them all, do come to any that you can. Keep an eye on the notice sheet or the website for further details.

**Mike Taylor**

### **From the Editor**

Thank you to all of this month's contributors.

If you would like to write an article for the magazine, speak to Linda. All you need is a rough draft; we'll do the rest!

### **Calling Local Residents...**

Did you know that you can regularly meet with your councillors and police team to discuss local issues? The Northgate Road Residents' Association (NORRA) meets every other month at the Alexandra Pub on Northgate Road.

Don't be fooled by the name! This meeting is open to all local residents (Edgeley and Cheadle Heath) and new members are very welcome. The next meeting is Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April, 7-8<sup>pm</sup>.

### **Feeding the Food Bank**

Over the last two years, your generous gifts of food and other items have helped many local people, through our connection with *Chelwood Foodbank Plus*.



As you may know, a new foodbank has now opened on Castle Street and, with the blessing of the lovely people at Chelwood, we will now be taking your donations to the Olive Branch. Please continue to donate what you can; every little really does help!

**Pam Robinson**

## What's on this Month

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

*Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup>*

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

**Lead:** David ~ **Preach:** Ian Rumsey

**2<sup>pm</sup> Alpha** at St George's

*Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup>*

**6:30<sup>pm</sup> Brigade**

*Tuesday, 3<sup>rd</sup>*

**8:30<sup>am</sup> Lent Group**

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

**7:30<sup>pm</sup> PCC** in the Vicarage

*Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup>*

**10<sup>am</sup> Holy Communion**

**2<sup>pm</sup> BFG** at the Vicarage

**7:45<sup>pm</sup> Lent Group**

*Friday, 6<sup>th</sup>*

**9:30<sup>am</sup> Toddle Time**

**2<sup>pm</sup> Women's World Day of Prayer**

**3<sup>pm</sup> Craft Fair** at St George's

**7<sup>pm</sup> Choir Practice**

*Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup>*

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

**10<sup>am</sup> Saturday Café**

*Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup>*

**9:30<sup>am</sup> Holy Communion** with Baptism

**Lead:** David & Lucy ~ **Preach:** David

**11:15<sup>am</sup> Morning Worship**

**Lead:** Heather ~ **Preach:** David

**1<sup>pm</sup> Baptism**

**2<sup>pm</sup> Alpha** at St George's

**3:30<sup>pm</sup> Bishop of Stockport** installation  
at Chester Cathedral

*Monday, 9<sup>th</sup>*

**1<sup>pm</sup> Stockport Sling Meet & Library**

**6:30<sup>pm</sup> Brigade**

*Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup>*

**8:30<sup>am</sup> Lent Group**

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

*Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup>*

**10<sup>am</sup> Holy Communion**

**7:45<sup>pm</sup> Lent Group**

*Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup>*

**7:30<sup>pm</sup> Mothers' Union**

*Rev. Peter: Quiet Evening*

*Friday, 13<sup>th</sup>*

**9:30<sup>am</sup> Toddle Time**

**7<sup>pm</sup> Choir Practice**

*Saturday, 14<sup>th</sup>*

**10<sup>am</sup> Saturday Café** incl. FLAG

*Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> ~ Mothering Sunday*

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

**Lead:** Peter ~ **Preach:** David Brown

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

**Lead:** David ~ **Preach:** David Brown

**2:00<sup>pm</sup> Alpha** at St George's

**200 Club – Subs Due**

*Monday, 16<sup>th</sup>*

**6:30<sup>pm</sup> Brigade**

*Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup>*

**8:30<sup>am</sup> Lent Group**

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

**7:30<sup>pm</sup> Ministry Group Leaders**

*Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup>*

**10<sup>am</sup> Holy Communion**

**7:45<sup>pm</sup> Lent Group**

*Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup>*

**7:30<sup>pm</sup> Deanery Synod**

*Friday, 20<sup>th</sup>*

**9:30<sup>am</sup> Toddle Time**

**7<sup>pm</sup> Choir Practice**

*Saturday, 21<sup>st</sup>*

**10<sup>am</sup> Saturday Café**

**11<sup>am</sup> Table Top Sale**

*Sunday, 22<sup>nd</sup> ~ Passion Sunday*

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

**Lead:** David B<sup>r</sup> & Julie ~ **Preach:** Lucy

**11:15<sup>am</sup> Morning Worship**

**Lead:** Julie ~ **Preach:** David

**2<sup>pm</sup> Alpha** at St George's

*Monday, 23<sup>rd</sup>*

**6:30<sup>pm</sup> Brigade**

*Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup>*

**8:30<sup>am</sup> Lent Group**

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

**7:15<sup>pm</sup> Skills & More 2**

*Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup>*

**10<sup>am</sup> Holy Communion**

**7:45<sup>pm</sup> Lent Group**

*Friday, 27<sup>th</sup>*

**9:30<sup>am</sup> Toddle Time**

**7<sup>pm</sup> Choir Practice**

*Saturday, 28<sup>th</sup>*

**10<sup>am</sup> Saturday Café**

**10<sup>am</sup> Refugee & Asylum Seekers**

All details correct  
at time of going to press

*Sunday, 29<sup>th</sup> ~ Palm Sunday*

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

**Lead:** Heather & David ~ **Preach:** David

**11:15<sup>am</sup> All Age Holy Communion**

**Lead:** David ~ **Preach:** Lucy

**3<sup>pm</sup> Ecumenical Service**

at Morrisons

*Monday, 30<sup>th</sup>*

**6:30<sup>pm</sup> Brigade**

*Tuesday, 31<sup>st</sup>*

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

### Looking Ahead to April

*Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup>*

**7:30<sup>pm</sup> Meal** with Communion

**8:30<sup>pm</sup> Watch of Prayer**

*Good Friday, 3<sup>rd</sup>*

**10:30<sup>am</sup> Easter Crafts**

**2<sup>pm</sup> Hour** at the Cross

*Saturday, 4<sup>th</sup>*

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

**10<sup>am</sup> Saturday Café & Hard Labour**

**1-3<sup>pm</sup> Opening** of the  
**Rose Walker Community Centre**

*Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> ~ Easter Day*

**5<sup>am</sup> Christians Together**

Sunrise Service

**10:30<sup>am</sup> Signed Easter Celebration**

and Healing Prayer

**Lead:** David & Lucy ~ **Preach:** David

*Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup>*

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

followed by our APCM

**February Funerals**  
Marjorie Johnson and Joan Parkinson