

St Matthew's News

The Parish of Edgeley and Cheadle Heath



May 2015
Issue 36

Sunday Service Times

Vision Sunday 3rd May

10:30^{am} Whole Parish Worship
followed by a
Bring & Share Lunch

All Other Sundays

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

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Facebook: www.facebook.com/ParishEdgeleyCheadleHeath

Twitter: twitter.com/ParishEdgeleyCH

Website: www.edgeleyandcheadleheath.org.uk

Telephone: 0161 480 5896

One thing I really love about young people is their idealism.

They believe that they can change the world. That the decisions they make matter. Their passions are easily roused.

Thinking back three decades or so I remember being passionate about politics and being hugely disappointed at the poor showing in an election of the party that I favoured.

Now these many years later my cynical mind suggests that all those in power are the same. That it doesn't really matter what colour accents the politicians outfit, nothing will really change. And I am sadder for it. If I were an AA Milne book, I'd say I've lost my inner Tigger and that Eeyor is taking over.

But need it be that way?
Does the passing of the years inevitably lead to disappointment?

Well I don't know about politics – though at the moment I'm not holding out much hope!

However when it comes to the church I believe God has got big plans.

We may at times feel disappointed. We may sometimes find ourselves in a rut. But as we seek to explore and follow his will... as we search after his vision for what this church could be, then we can have confidence that

he'll provide all that is needed to make that vision a reality.



David the Vicar

...to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, for ever and ever.

Ephesians 3:20-21

His plan A... in fact his only plan for the transformation of lives and society is his Church.

Worship Group

The worship group exists to coordinate, plan and reflect on our worship, particularly Sunday and Wednesday services. As well as playing a role in making sure worship happens week by week, we also meet to reflect on our worship and discuss ideas for developing worship creatively in the future.

We are enthusiastic about the variety of worship styles in our different services, and aim to make our worship accessible to all. Recently, we have been thinking about our All Age worship. Please speak to David Brewster or Heather Adams if you would like to talk further.

Heather Adams

As I See It... Life at St Matthew's

David and Lucy Brewster are responsible, hardworking, and dedicated in their Christian service to the parish.

The congregation are sincere, caring, Christian people; harmonious in their dedication as church members.

The successes at St Matthew's have been numerous, including Toddle Time, Socially Yours, Comfortable With Computers, social evenings, excursions, Alpha courses, and the summer and Christmas fairs, amongst other things. Baptisms, weddings, Christingles and carol services are well attended. And the church now has excellent lighting!

The vision for improvement, renovation and change has involved many years of painstaking hard work and dedication, in order for the vision to be fulfilled to become an effective vehicle in this parish. A lot of planning has been necessary but the key element in bringing the vision to fruition has been continual prayer by



NeeNawNee NawNeeNaw!

Would you like to join us at holiday club this year? The theme is

church members.

Pam Robinson, St Matthew's Community Development Manager and Vision Coordinator, works extremely hard and recently informed us of the fruits of church members' hard work; progression and successes are plain for all to see.

Steph Haynes, church warden, is working hard with her applications to secure funding to prevent damage and preserve our listed building. Did you know the church was built between 1855-1858?

We have some long-serving members, including Janet Critchley, Ernie Shaw (since 1954), and Audrey Mannion, who has served the church for a remarkable 77 years – she's one of the fixtures and fittings (only joking, Audrey!). How about some plaques for our long-serving members?

16,000 people came through our doors last year, which proves to me that St Matthew's is a vital and effective vehicle in serving the people of Edgeley and Cheadle Heath.

Mark Abercrombie

'Cops and Robbers' and we will run from Tues 4th Aug – Fri 7th Aug, with a set up on Monday 3rd Aug.

Let Karen Bailey know if you're interested.

Five Things I Love About Jesus



- I truly couldn't imagine my life without Jesus.
- Jesus loves me despite all my faults and He chose me.
- I can tell Him everything: all my worries, fears and joys.
- When things go wrong I have complete trust that Jesus will do what is best for me, even though I may not see it at the time.
- I feel blessed being part of Jesus' family - our Church family. The friendships and relationships we have with each other in Church is really special.

Shum Goodwin

Oops! A True Story

Lois' wonderful article on leafletting last month reminded me of my own experience one December, posting the Christmas flyers. I was nervous but willing.

Partnering with a friend and our dogs, leafletting wasn't too bad for the first two streets, in spite of the trembling hands which caused me to trap and scrape my knuckles on every letterbox on my side of the street.

Come the end of the third street, however, my partner found me in near-hysterics. Not sure whether I was laughing or crying, she finally coaxed it out of me that, instead of a leaflet, I had accidentally – *I swear!* – posted a bag of dog poo.

At the bottom of the street I knew I was holding one lead, twenty-five leaflets and (being a responsible dog owner) one bag of poo; but when I arrived at the top of the street, I was minus twelve leaflets and one bag. I immediately knew I'd accidentally (*honest!*) posted the poo – after all, what other explanation could there be?

My friend, feeling that the very least we could do was knock on each door, ask for our poo back and assure the tenants that we at St Matthew's really don't go in for hate crimes, marched me down to the bottom of the street – and spotted my lost excrement lying in the road! Truly, a Christmas miracle. It must have slipped out of my gloved hands as I fumbled with lead, leaflets and letterboxes.

I have not leafleted a house in the parish since; and no one has asked me to. When we desperately need all the help we can get, I wonder why?

Anonymous (for obvious reasons)

Rolling the Stone Away

We had an exciting time over the Easter period with our children's activities. **Easter Unwrapped** pulled together a Youth on the Edge team from SBC and St Matthew's to present the story of Easter to the children of Year 6 from St Matthew's school. It



was lovely to see the children again – having met them at Christmas – and we were all impressed by their knowledge of Easter and by their willingness to participate. It made the two hours fly by with everyone enjoying themselves. We learned about Easter and baptism, and we all came together for communion at the end.

Easter Sunrise Service

The reservoir wildlife had some early morning visitors this Easter Sunday. We gathered around a brazier for the sunrise service to welcome in the dawn and give thanks to the risen Christ.

The birds joyfully sang their own chorus of worship music, spreading the good news. As the light spread slowly across the lake, there came a stillness which helped focus our minds amidst the rush of life, drawing us back to that first morning. Christ is risen. He is risen indeed. Hallelujah!

Kevin and Steph

On Good Friday we held our annual craft and service event. This year we saw our numbers swell beyond expectations – forty children –



God is good as we had prepared for forty! The painting, glass decoration, pretzel crowns, planting and book marks went down well, with everyone helping to make a prayer cross. After the crafts we all came together for a short service. What a blessing to share the day with so many families.



Thank you to everyone who contributed to this month's magazine.

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

Stronger Together

St Matthew's church is delighted to be working with our friends at Walthew House to help raise awareness and provide services for those affected by hearing loss or visual impairment.



For the last few years, St Matthew's has offered a signed service on the last Sunday of the month, as well as providing support to the annual Christmas Carol Service at Walthew House. It was our pleasure to be part of the launch of the *See & Hear Stockport* event last year and we were pleased to attend the first open day.

As part of our growing partnership, a member of the St Matthew's church family now regularly visits Walthew House to read poetry to two of the groups which meet there.

Visits are reciprocated: we were very grateful to Kay and Sue, with guide dog Tetley, for their recent session here at St Matthew's on visual awareness and guiding.

We are looking forward to working together in the future and are already planning a *Dining in the Dark* experience and a tactile tour of church. Details to follow...

Pam Robinson

House of Bishops' Pastoral Letter on the 2015 General Election

In Britain, we have become so used to believing that self-interest drives every decision that it takes a leap of imagination to argue that there should be stronger institutions for those we disagree with as well as for those "on our side". Breaking free of self-interest and welcoming our opponents as well as our supporters into a messy, noisy, yet rich and creative community of communities is, perhaps, the only way we will enrich our almost-moribund political culture.nd locally and nationally, has

The Church of England, locally and nationally, has learned how to build constructive alliances with other voluntary agencies, charities and community groups. The fallacy that people can only work together if they agree about every issue is proved wrong day after day. It is precisely this ability to make, and break, alliances – so that people can work together on issues they share, but may not be on the same side on other issues – which makes intermediate institutions, and the voluntary sector generally, so crucial to a flourishing democratic society.

Please think and pray on this before casting your vote this month.

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What's on this Month

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

Weekly

Mondays

6:30^{pm} Brigade (except 4th & 25th)

Tuesdays

8:30^{am} Home Group (except 26th)

1:30^{pm} Socially Yours

Wednesdays

10^{am} Holy Communion

7:45^{am} Home Group (except 13th & 27th)

Fridays

9:30^{am} Toddle Time (except 28th)

7:30^{pm} Choir Practice

Saturdays

10^{am} Saturday Café

Other Events

Saturday, 2nd

8:30^{am} Prayer Breakfast

Sunday, 3rd Vision Sunday

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

Lead: Julie ~ **Preach:** David

12:30^{pm} Bring & Share Lunch

Monday, 4th

12:30^{pm} Stockport Sling Meet & Library

Saturday, 9th

10^{am} Café with Signpost for Carers & Comfortable With Computers

Sunday, 10th

9:30^{am} Holy Communion

Lead: David ~ **Preach:** Julie

11:15^{am} Morning Worship

Lead: Lucy ~ **Preach:** Julie

Tuesday, 12th

Mother's Union at Chester Cathedral

Wednesday, 13th

7:30^{pm} Pub Quiz at The Olde Vic

Thursday, 14th

7:30^{pm} Mothers' Union: Joanne Watson
From The Furniture Station

Saturday, 16th

10^{am} Café with Police Surgery

1^{pm} Wedding

Sunday, 17th

9:30^{am} Holy Communion

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

11:15^{am} Holy Communion

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

200 Club – Subs Due

Tuesday, 19th

19:15^{pm} Skills & More 2

Friday, 22nd

7:30^{pm} Organ Recital at All Saints' Church

Saturday, 23rd

First Aid Training: Details TBC

Sunday, 24th

9:30^{am} Holy Communion

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

11:15^{am} Morning Worship

Lead: Heather ~ **Preach:** David

Saturday, 30th

7:30^{pm} Summer Fair Planning Meeting

@ St. Matt's Vicarage

Saturday, 30th

10^{am} Saturday Café &

Refugee & Asylum Seekers Drop-in

Sunday, 31st

9:30^{am} Holy Communion

Lead: Peter ~ **Preach:** Mike

11:15^{am} All Age Signed Holy Communion

Lead: Julie ~ **Preach:** Heather

Looking Ahead to June

Saturday, 6th

8:30^{am} Prayer Breakfast

Sunday, 7th

10:30^{am} Whole Parish Worship

with Healing Prayer followed by
Curry Lunch at the Chilli Massala

Wednesday, 17th

7^{pm} Signing Session in the Vicarage

Tuesday, 23rd

6:30^{pm} Tactile Tour with Walthew House

All details correct at time of going to press
Please speak to group/event leaders for
more information; or
check the website and Facebook page

Big Bible Event: Acts

Experience the amazing story of the first Christians and find out how it's still sizzling today. An event for children and their families or church groups. Come to Chester Cathedral on Saturday 16th May from 9.30^{am} - 2^{pm}.

Four Megazone workshops will explore key parts of the story using storytelling and drama, art, music, and technology. Each runs four times, so you can join in as many as you want: choose when you arrive. Lots of drop-in Minizone activities will also run right through the day with makes, challenges, games, a labyrinth and much, much more. There is no age limit, but activities will be great for children aged 5-11 with lots for the rest of the family to join in too.

April Weddings

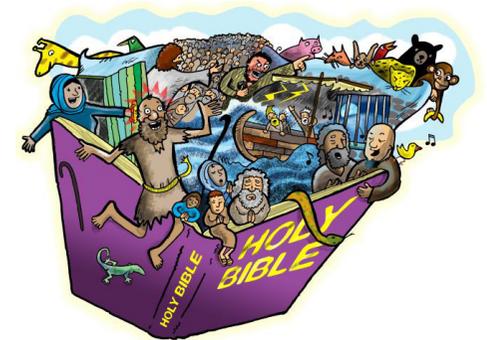
Paul and Victoria Lamb

March and April Funerals

Maureen Crosthwaite, Ken Jones,
baby Grace Robertson, Nellie Riley,
Doreen Priest, Neil Sugden

March and April Baptisms

Mirrie Whalley, Olly Jones, Mia James,
Jack McGarr, Niamh McGarr,
Amelia Dunn, Emilie Black



Megazones last 40 mins starting at **10.00, 10.50, 11.45** and **1.15**.
Worship celebration: 2.00 - 2.30pm.

Tickets: £3 per child (aged five and over) Adults need to book a FREE ticket. There is no booking fee for phone bookings (£1.00 per booking online). Places limited. Bookings through the Cathedral box office: 01244 500959 or www.chestercathedral.com

Full information about the day and tickets will be emailed to groups and families after booking.