

St Matthew's News

The Parish of Edgeley and Cheadle Heath



June 2015
Issue 37

Sunday Service Times

Sunday 7th June

10:30^{am} *Whole Parish Worship*

All Other Sundays

9:30^{am} *Formal Service*

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

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As you know I've been preparing for a long walk through Yorkshire. As you read this, I'll be on my final push towards Whitby.

It's been quite an undertaking. From deciding that it sounded like a good idea to the journey itself has taken months of meticulous planning and research... Yeah right – this is me we're talking about.

I had done a bit of research, buying maps and beginning to think about a route. Planning where to stay (but not getting around to booking until a week before we were meant to leave). I'd found a gift aid sponsor form on the internet, but hadn't printed it off until a couple of weeks before we embarked on the adventure.

In spite of my inability to nail down plans until they became absolutely urgent things worked out (or at least I hope they did) and the journey began as planned.

You'll often hear the Christian life compared to a journey. Before Christians were called Christians they were called followers of the Way (Acts 9:2), and in a sense I think it's a shame that we've lost that. The journey is a great image for us to hold in mind as we think about the direction in which our lives are going.

It is far too easy to see being a Christian as something static - a decision we made however many years ago to say yes to Jesus, but in

those intervening years maybe, as far as our faith goes, not a lot has changed. How far would you say you have travelled in your faith in these last years?



David the Vicar

At this time following Pentecost, it is good to reflect upon the huge adventure on which those first followers were about to embark. They had been given clues, but I very much doubt that they had much of an idea of what was going to happen next.

But the book of Acts gives an insight into the willingness of those first Christians to go where Jesus sent and do what he asked. They were open to the Holy Spirit's leading and excited about the way in which God wanted to use them. Can the same be said about us?

As we move through these next months let's open our hearts again to the possibilities that are available to those who are willing followers of Jesus. It might surprise you where we end up.

From Your Wardens

***Thank you to Steph and Graham
for this issue dedicated to
wardens' work***



A Warm Welcome

We are hoping to host a session soon for everyone on the Welcome Team, and it would be great to have your thoughts, please.

Welcome is a really important part of ministry.

Not just when offered to new members of our church family, or people visiting for an event or passing through; but also as a gift to each other, with a smile or friendly word able to lift spirits on even the greyest of days.

The welcome can also be thought of as the official start of worship: a physical shepherding in of the flock, as well as bringing people into a happier frame of mind, more receptive to the work of the Holy Spirit.

So we will be in touch again shortly once we have some sort of structure to the session, and any ideas will of course be very welcome. ***Steph***

Jesus the Carpenter

I have often joked that I am that bit closer to Jesus than most. Why? Because we were both tradesmen, both in the construction business, Jesus as a carpenter and me as a decorator.



Joseph, his earthly father, taught him all he knew and although my father was not a decorator he did do his own decorating. I can see him now sitting on a chair with a roll of wallpaper hooked in the top of his feet as he cut away the borders that protected the edges of the paper - we don't have to do that these days, thank goodness.

But it allows me to understand the relationship that Jesus and Joseph must have had, and how closer their work must have brought them, especially during the childhood of Jesus.

As Jesus grew older and his carpentry skills would have improved I have often wondered how Joseph must have felt when Jesus decided that his calling was not in the carpentry business, but in what his Heavenly Father had planned out for him. Not planned out for the next decade or two, or for the next thousand years or two, but for ever more. ***Graham***

Help in Church

Each Sunday we have our Traditional Eucharist Service, don't we? There can be forty to fifty members of the congregation who attend this service on a good day. But how many members of the congregation help to make our Church and the service possible?

You may think that this is an odd question. I thought so too until one day (for want of something to do) I started doodling and added up who did what. I ended up somewhat surprised.

For the Traditional Eucharist we have those who actually take part in the service, beginning with our vicar, our organist, side persons and vergers, choir, readers (Lucy, Heather and David). Then during the service we have three other readers, and then the assistant with communion. Plus the two welcomers who also do the collection, and our volunteers who take up the Elements. Also, we have those who run the Sunday School and then - most important of all - the Church Wardens and Service Wardens (although that's a matter of opinion, I suppose!).

On top of this we have the volunteers who have learned to sign for special services.

These are the people who take part in the actual service. Then we have to add those who do the tea and coffee,

our cleaner and the ladies who do the flowers each week, plus those coming in to water them. Where would we be without a clean Church, those beautiful flowers and those refreshments after the service?

If we add all of these members together we have an approximate figure of 36 volunteers per Traditional Service; and many of them do other things as well.

This figure does not include the PCC or any other groups, only the Sunday School.

You start adding up what people do for the Church and see if you are as surprised. ***Graham***

Our Toilet

Toilets are often taken for granted and the butt of jokes, sometimes controversial, and not all churches have one. We have been doing quite a bit of work to our toilet lately: replacing the water heater, adding a paper towel dispenser and including some complimentary toiletries.



Our toilet is now also twinned with a toilet in Liberia. If you haven't seen it, there is a photo on the wall. The donation we made to participate in

 the twinning will be used by Tearfund to provide clean water, basic sanitation and hygiene education.

So why have we done this?

Statistics vary, but there are about 3.5 million people in Liberia, approximately half of whom are Christian.

They have suffered from two civil wars and there is widespread tuberculosis, diarrhoea, malaria and, most recently, Ebola. People expect to live until about the age of 57, with nearly a quarter of under-5s malnourished. The country also has one of the highest incidents of sexual violence against women in the world.

As well as a charitable outworking of our faith, it will be great if we can develop some links with, for example, the schools and churches. Their official language is English and there will be lots we can perhaps learn, share and pray about.

Something to ponder whilst doing the necessities!

Steph

Church and State A Tale of Two Cities

An exhibition is running at Chester Cathedral until the end of 2015 to mark the 800th anniversary of the Promulgation of the Magna Carta on June 15th 1215.

Should the Church get involved in politics? Ever since Magna Carta, for better or for worse, it has been. The Church was as much a party to the Charter as the rebellious Barons, and the first freedom the Charter guaranteed was the freedom of the Church from interference by the State. How was that freedom affected when Henry VIII centuries later proclaimed himself "Supreme Head" of the Church of England - a position still held by the Queen? Is there a Christian theology of the State? Is there a Christian politics, as the recent Bishops' Pastoral Letter Who is my Neighbour? suggests? These are some of the questions the exhibition explores.

My kingdom is not of this world...

John 18:36



**CHESTER
CATHEDRAL**

To arrange a visit for groups or individuals, contact the Librarian:

peterbamford47@yahoo.co.uk

Little Drummer Boy

***Ever wondered who's making
all that noise over in the corner
on Sunday Mornings?***



I had my first drum kit aged ten but I changed it after two years for a train set. I bought another kit at seventeen after watching the drummer at the Dora Reeds Dance School. I joined the Skyliners Dance Band after a month and played with them until I got engaged.

I re-joined the band after two years and stayed with them until 1973. I have played with many bands and musicians at many venues over the years, including residencies at the Farmers' Arms in Brinnington, Brinnington Labour Club, West Towers Marple and the Rudyard Hotel in Heaton Moor.

The band reformed at the request of Father Stephen Foster for the 140th anniversary of St Matthew's in 1998. We still have the occasional session on Wednesdays in church.

I enjoy my Sundays playing in church. It's different from what I've done before and can be challenging at times, but nothing else gives the same buzz as an appreciative audience.

George Seager

Geography Lesson

When I was a young girl, even before I became a teenager, I heard powerful stories of people transformed by the love of God, setting sail to China to become missionaries. But I didn't want to go to China.



I wouldn't believe in this God, this Jesus. I didn't want to give up all that I had, all that was familiar, to venture into dark, unknown, uncharted territory.

My life went into a holding pattern for over thirty years until one day, on a step just halfway down my stairs, I opened my heart and let God in.

His blazing love became my light, my joy, my hope. He led me to church, to a new place of belonging. He showed me how He has prepared me to use my gifts in His service. He gave me a new path, a new direction. He fulfilled my purpose.

I joyfully left the safety of a steady career to embark on a new journey, destination uncertain, but with absolute trust in the One who holds the wheel.

I have come to realise an essential truth: this is my China. ***Pam Robinson***

What's on this Month

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

Tuesday, 2nd

1:30^{pm} Socially Yours

Wednesday, 3rd

10^{am} Holy Communion

Friday, 5th

7^{pm} Choir Practice

Saturday, 6th

8:30^{am} Prayer Breakfast

10^{am} Saturday Café

Sunday, 7th

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

Lead: David & Lucy ~ Preach: David

1^{pm} Curry Lunch at The Chilli Massala

Monday, 8th

6:30^{pm} Brigade

Tuesday, 9th

8:30^{am} Home Group

1:30^{pm} Socially Yours

Wednesday, 10th

10^{am} Holy Communion

7:45^{pm} Home Group

Thursday, 11th

7:30^{pm} Mothers' Union: Barbara Davies
(Bees and their Benefits)

Friday, 12th

9:30^{am} Toddle Time

7^{pm} Choir Practice

Saturday, 13th

10^{am} Saturday Café

with Police Surgery, Age UK
and **Comfortable With Computers**

Sunday, 14th

9:30^{am} Holy Communion

Lead: Julie & David Brown ~ Preach: Heather

11:15^{am} Morning Worship

Lead: Julie ~ Preach: Heather

Monday, 15th

6:30^{pm} Brigade

Tuesday, 16th

8:30^{am} Home Group

1:30^{pm} Socially Yours

Wednesday, 17th

10^{am} Holy Communion

7^{pm} Signing Session in the Vicarage

7:45^{pm} Home Group

Thursday, 18th

7^{pm} Holiday Club Planning Meeting
in the Vicarage

Friday, 19th

9:30^{am} Toddle Time

7^{pm} Choir Practice

Saturday, 20th

10^{am} Saturday Café

Sunday, 21st

9:30^{am} Holy Communion

Lead: David ~ Preach: Julie

11:15^{am} Holy Communion

Lead: David ~ Preach: Julie

200 Club – Subs Due

Monday, 22nd

6:30^{pm} Brigade

Tuesday, 23rd

8:30^{am} Home Group

1:30^{pm} Socially Yours

6:30^{pm} Tactile Tour of Church –
With Walthew House

Wednesday, 24th

10^{am} Holy Communion

7:45^{pm} Home Group

Friday, 26th

9:30^{am} Toddle Time

7^{pm} Choir Practice

Saturday, 27th

10^{am} 10^{am} Saturday Café &
Refugee & Asylum Seekers Drop-in

Sunday, 28th

9:30^{am} Holy Communion

Lead: David & David ~ Preach: Lucy

11:15^{am} All Age Signed Service

Lead: Heather ~ Preach: David

Monday, 29th

6:30^{pm} Brigade

Tuesday, 30th

8:30^{am} Home Group

1:30^{pm} Socially Yours

6:30^{pm} PCC in the Vicarage

Looking Ahead to July

Wednesday, 1st

7^{pm} Signing Session in the Vicarage

Saturday, 4th

8:30^{am} Prayer Breakfast

Sunday, 5th

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

Saturday, 11th

10^{am} Saturday Café
incl. Police & Legal Surgeries

Wednesday, 15th

7^{pm} Signing Session in the Vicarage

Saturday, 18th

10^{am} Summer Fair

Thursday, 30th

10^{am} Emergency Services Day
On Castle Street

May Wedding

Rachel Nugent and Greg Collier

May Baptism

Henry James Mooney

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.



Flower Fund

In loving memory of **Jim**, a much loved
husband and Dad. **Margaret Clare.**

*

In loving memory of **Colin Mannion.**



Image: Victor Habbick;
FreeDigitalPhotos.net