

# ***St Matthew's Church***

## ***APCM Report 2014***



***The Parish of Edgeley and Cheadle Heath***

***19 April 2015***

### **Our Vision**

“Responding to the call of Jesus on our lives, we will be a welcoming, growing and vibrant congregation, seeking God, sharing our gifts and serving the world. “

### **Church attendance:**

There were **137** on the Electoral Roll as reported at the APCM in 2014.

The average attendance on a normal Sunday morning service, counted in October 2014, was **80**

During the year, we were responsible for **36** Baptisms, **4** weddings, and **42** funerals - of which 10 were in Church

At our special seasonal services there were:

**141** on Easter Day

**463** during Advent

**252** at Christingle services

**101** at Midnight Mass / Christmas Day

links to Facebook and Twitter can be found on our home page

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

## Prayer Ministry

We are quite happy with most of the things we have set up -

Prayer Breakfast, Prayer rotas, Prayer Tree are all running fine.



We have not had to change much this year. However, the Healing Prayer Team is too small, we need more people on the Team to enable us to continue to supply this Ministry. We have the papers in place to train new members, so anyone who feels they would like to know more please contact one of our Team, it really is an amazing experience and a privilege to pray for others.

We are struggling a little with the World Map, any suggestions would be gratefully received, we will keep trying different things until we find one that we are happy with.

If you have a suggestion about improvement or a new idea please see one of the team, all ideas will be very welcome. Thank you to all the Prayer Team members for their input and support, and to David and Julie for their encouragement and guidance.

## Discipleship

Looking at our inner spiritual growth as a



church, the Discipleship team has overseen study materials for the home groups and also for the Lent Course on the subject of 'The Cross', and, looking more outward, has organised an Alpha course jointly with St George's, Heaviley, with planning taking place in autumn 2014 and the course beginning in January 2015.

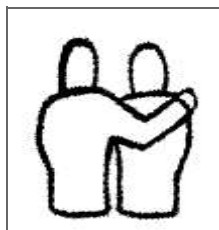
## Cursillo



We are a small committed group, part of the Families of Faith Within our Churches, who meet once a month to encourage and support each other in our lives of prayer, study and action which is to 'win the world for Christ'. We have the blessing of our Bishop of Chester, indeed Cursillo cannot function without this blessing. Do you have a desire to grow and 'be more' in service for our Lord. If so the Cursillo method can be a powerful tool. If you are interested, speak to Mary Mitchell or Irene Hinde.

## Pastoral

The Team continues in the work of getting to know and being known to all church



members. Informally, we monitor church attendance and endeavour to follow up absences through home visits, phone calls, texts and e-mails. As the age demographic of our membership continues to rise there is an increasing need for fairly regular home visits to our less able members. This year we have also needed to be aware and act on various difficulties that some of our younger members have been experiencing.

David is usually able to cover any urgent hospital admission visits, for which we are most grateful to him.

The number of church members receiving regular monthly Home Communion remains at 8 though these are not all the same 8 people as at the 2014 report. Thanks must go to Irene Hinde who quietly continues this particular work, now ably supported by Sylvia Parker. Julie & David also cover Home Communions.

Thanks go also to all those church members who have made visits to the sick and elderly during the year and kept the Team up to date with news and information. Also thanks to those who faithfully provide transport to enable less able folk to continue their church attendance.

## Communications

The Communications Team worked closely with the Community Development Manager this year, on two projects in particular: increasing

the number of Facebook followers; and on the *Christmas Starts With Christ* campaign. The number of Facebook followers has more than tripled to 212 and Twitter followers number 653. Website hits were almost 385,000 for the year, which is an average of 1055 per day. The magazine now has many more articles written by parishioners. Our plans for 2015-2016 include a new look for the magazine.



## Community and Social

What a busy year! From summer fairs to table top sales, fun days to training courses, we have found new and innovative ways of engaging with our community. Our Saturday Cafe has been slowly changing, with the second Saturday being dedicated to drop-in sessions for different community groups under our new @SaturdayCafe venture. We have had visits from Signpost for Carers, scouts, even the local



magistrates! Our Heritage Open Day and Fun Day were the most popular so far and our event to mark the centenary of the start of World War 1 was very well attended. At the end of the year, we launched the *Comfortable with Computers* service, which has been well received by local people. Working with the C&YP Team, we enjoyed swimming pool parties and a day trip to Llandudno.

We couldn't do any of this without the help of so many people so thank you - every little really does help to continue to grow relationships with our local community

We have also had fun within our church family with pub quizzes, curry lunches (and an Indian Experience, thank you Wayne and Jecce)! Our Hot Pot supper was a lovely evening and we have even enjoyed a couple of pamper evenings with our Body Shop fundraisers.

We are always keen to involve new people, so if you enjoy organising nights out (or nights in!) please speak to Pam Robinson.



## **Socially Yours**

This lovely group continues to meet every Tuesday afternoon in church. Supported by both St Matthew's and Quality Care of Cheadle, the group is open to anyone who is on their own or just fancies some company. Each week, there are different activities on offer ranging from speakers, gentle exercises, cooking and crafts. We enjoy puzzles, quizzes and bingo, and of course, lunches out at the pub!



We have a good relationship with Stockport Academy students and have joined them for Remembrance Services and afternoon tea.

New members and volunteers are always welcome

## **Children and Young People Youth on the Edge**



Our joint venture with Stockport Baptist continues to strengthen with holiday activities throughout the year. We have our joint calendar which includes Holiday Clubs, pool parties, and Y6 teaching with Bubblegum Christmas and Easter Unwrapped. We also went to SPREE

camp this year with some of our Sunday Club and had a great time enjoying outdoor activities and Christian teaching. The team continues to grow to bring relationships and Jesus to children and young people in our parish.



### **Toddle Time**



Toddle Time is St Matthew's group for babies, toddlers and preschoolers with their parents and carers. We meet on Friday mornings from 9.30-11am and aim to provide a fun and friendly group for our local community. We begin with playtime and crafts, and then share in healthy snacks before getting out the treasure box and finishing with songs. During the past year we have introduced electronic registration and signing in. Toddle time is run by a team of enthusiastic volunteers drawn from church and community.

### **Children in Church**

We provide two groups for older and younger children during our 10.30 and 11.15 services. We have welcomed some new children and families into our church this year

and it's been great to see friendships growing among the children.

We have a dedicated group of leaders, but are in need of some more helpers to ensure we always have enough adults for our two groups. Numbers of children vary from 5 up to around 15, so we have to be prepared for whatever numbers appear on the day! We are still using sources from Scripture Union, but are often looking at other resources for inspiration. Our children and young people participate in church life in many ways. This year we have introduced "Song of the Month", which we learn in Sunday Club and then teach to the church at the All-Age service.

### **Brigade**



The Brigade at National Level in 2014 received a grant of over half a Million Pounds from the Youth United Uniformed Action Fund to Promote and Develop the Work of the Brigade. This Grant has enabled the Brigade to employ a National Training and Development Officer and five regional Development Officers.

Suzanne Rainford the North West Regional Development Officer has been in recent months supporting the Company Staff with the work of the Company here at St Matthews.

Recruitment of Members is increasing slowly and hopefully will continue.

Both June Dean and Pam Ogden decided to retire from the Brigade at Christmas and can I take this opportunity to thank them both for their commitment and dedication to the Company over many years. With both June and Pam leaving it as meant a reorganisation of the Company Staff and Finance Committee. We need to recruit at least two more members of Staff and two more members of the Finance Committee

If anyone is interested in becoming a Brigade Leader or helping as a member of the Finance Committee please have a word with David or contact me.

Can I thank David & Pam Robinson for their support and the Family of the Church for their Prayers and support during the last year.

## **Worship**

The worship group coordinates plans and reflects on our worship, particularly for Sunday and Wednesday services. As well as playing a role

(alongside many others) 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. Recently we have been thinking about our All Age worship. We are enthusiastic about the variety of worship styles in our different services, and aim to make our worship accessible to all.

## **The Choir.**

We are a happy little group who really enjoy our singing. Charles continues to play for us and helps us when we get stuck on something, Thanks Charles we don't know what we would do without you; but the Conducting is now in my lap, until we can get someone who knows what they are doing!. We meet most Fridays to practise the Hymns for Sunday plus other bits (that you may hear sometime). We really enjoyed our Coffee morning with Carols and made a good amount of money towards the purchase of Oil filled candles for the Altar, thank you to everyone who supported this event. We have also joined together and sang Carols in aid of Cancer Research UK at the Hinds Head Pub raising around £500.00 for the Charity, then we sang at Tatton Court for the residents at Christmas time, we do seem to get around a bit.

Last, but by no means least, we would like to Thank David, Julie and Peter for their Support and help with the music for the Services, and we love it when Lucy joins us to sing.

## Groups in church

### Mothers' Union.

Another good year for our MU branch but sadly we have lost, through death and illness, two of our elderly members. However we continue to do our best to support our Church - fundraising for MU charities, participating in special events like Marriage Week. We support the local Women's Refuge and also the Deanery and Diocesan Festivals. New Members and guests at our monthly meetings are always most welcome.



## Finances



The total receipts and payments for 2014 are detailed in the financial statement.

Grants were received from Tudor Trust (to cover the cost of a Community Development Manager), Stockport Community Development Fund (to bring computers and information technology to the community), Stockport Area Flexible Funding (to set up a Refugee Drop in Centre) and Comic Relief (a grant we are managing for Socially Yours). A gift from Forever Manchester was received for Toddle Time.

St. Mark's Church and land and St. Augustine's Vicarage were sold

during 2014. Some of the money from this has already been spent on new lighting for the church and the balance is retained for the development of St. Matthew's site. We have continued to support charities locally, nationally and internationally, examples being Chelwood Food Bank, Children's Society and Christian Aid. This year we have paid our Parish Share in full.

At the end of the year there was £36,779 in our current accounts of which £32,273 is restricted or designated and £193,487 in savings accounts (Vernon Building Society and Central Board of Finance Deposit Fund).

It is PCC policy to try and maintain a balance of unrestricted funds which equates to six months unrestricted payments to meet emergencies. This is equivalent to £38,000 and this year we have enough free reserves to meet this.

## Servers Report

Twelve months ago, we had three servers which during the year increased by one to four, the person appointed being Wayne David, who has settled in really well.

We are all dedicated and cover all services during the year. We could always do with more servers and if anyone would like to join us, please have a word with Father David, Ken Hazeldene or Ernie Shaw.

**Your PCC** During the year the following people have served as members of the PCC:

**Clergy:**

Rev David Brewster

Rev Julie Johnson

**Wardens:**

Mr Graham Mitchell

Ms Stephanie Haynes

***Representatives on***

**General Synod:**

Lois Haslam

**Deanery Synod:**

Lucy Brewster

**Diocesan Synod:**

Grace Anderson

**PCC Secretary**

Karen Bailey

**Parish Treasurer**

Sylvia Parker

**PCC Representatives:**

Cynthia Green

Naomi Farrow

Phil Johnson

Kevin May

Jecee David

Mark Rushton

Audrey Mannion

Mark Goodwin



# Building our Future



We've had a busy few months with regards to our building plans. We have been given the go ahead to buy St. Matthew's Vicarage to use as parish rooms and office space and we are in the process of working through the details of the purchase. Hot off the press is the announcement that we have been awarded the better part of £82,000 from the Listed Places of Worship Roof Repair Fund for urgent work on the Church Roof and Gutters. Whilst we will need to use some of our own money to complete this project, this grant gives us the majority of the money that we will need. We are also continuing to develop the plans for the work to our Church interior and we hope that we will have these firmed up shortly. With the work that has already been undertaken on our church lighting and all the work that is being planned, we are developing our buildings so that St Matthew's will continue to minister to the people of our parish for many years to come.

## Health and Safety

As from last year we have introduced Fire Alarms to the Choir vestry and outside the boiler room

& toilet area as well as a Carbon Monoxide tester following consultation with Stockport Fire Service last November. We have David Brown who has taken on the role of our new Fire Officer and with the help of Pam Robinson & Steph Haynes we have been working on changing & implemented the Health & Safety Policy for St. Matthew's making sure that we try to keep everyone who uses the church safe! If you feel there are any Health & Safety issues you want to talk about in church please contact Mark Rushton and we can work together to make sure St. Matthew's a safe place.

Just to add that over the year we have run Food Safety, Health and Safety (both Level 1) and First Aid Training courses.

## Deanery Synod

This year has seen a couple of changes within Stockport Deanery. Janet Owens became Curate and Jenny Mayo-Lythall was made Assistant Priest of St. Thomas Stockport with St. Alban, Offerton. The team at St. George's was joined by Chris Moore as Curate, with whom we have been running the recent Alpha course. Our own Sue Mayo was lent to Cheadle, All Hallows, and will be licensed to continue ministering there today! Over the last year the Deanery Synod has been considering a

Deanery GAP and mission statement. The latter is, "Seeking, Sharing and supporting each other as we proclaim the love of Jesus in Stockport." We are looking forward to an away day in July as we continue to think through how we can further support each other within our Deanery.

### **Warden Report**

Thank you to everyone for your prayers and patience throughout this last year. It has been very much appreciated.

We started the year by establishing a team of service wardens to help support Sunday worship, and their help and enthusiasm throughout has been invaluable. July–September was mostly spent on the Lighting project. December–January was spent preparing an application for money to repair our roof, gutters and downpipes.

General maintenance included clearing gullies, laying flagstones, lagging pipes, removing a decaying Ash tree, repair and painting gates and the garage, and repair of the lightning protection system.

We have also been working with Pam across a range of community endeavours, and supporting David and Cynthia with Sunday afternoon baptisms.

Other work included making sure we comply with the legal and insurance requirements of running

our church: H&S, Fire, Employment, The Charity Commission, compiling our property register, updating the inventory and maintaining a key register.

We have been writing quarterly reports for the PCC to help share knowledge, and these are available at the back of church. Next year will be an exciting time, and the churchwardens can expect to be leading on maintenance and redevelopment of the Church, the decisions around purchasing 99 Chatham Street to use as our parish rooms, and helping support mission and ministry across the Parish.

### **Community Development**

In summer 2014, St Matthew's was successful in securing three year's worth of funding for a full-time Community Development Manager role. Pam Robinson took the role and continued her work in helping to build links across our community. The role has four parts: networking (building relationships), supporting (helping groups), leading and managing (the "hands on" part of organising Fun Days, @Saturday Café, etc) and shaping values and influencing (helping us to have a positive impact on our community). On behalf of St Matthew's, Pam is also a Trustee at the Olive ROC Centre on Castle Street and Chair of Trustees at the Rose Walker Community Centre in Cheadle Heath.