

St Matthew's Church,

Parish of Edgeley and Cheadle Heath

APCM Report 2018

Responding to the call
of Jesus on our lives we will be...
family not acquaintances,
disciples not bystanders,
servants not volunteers,
unapologetic evangelists not apologetic believers.
In the power of the Spirit
we will be whole hearted not half hearted.



Church attendance:

There were **125** (140 if we include our children and young people) on the Electoral Roll as reported at the APCM in 2018.

The average attendance on a normal Sunday morning service, counted in October 2018, was 70

During the year, we were responsible for 25 Baptisms, 0 weddings, and 16 funerals - of which 14 were in Church

At our special seasonal services there were:

225 on Easter Day

291 during Advent

459 at Christingle services /Midnight Mass/Christmas Day

Foreword - Reverend David Brewster writes:


"Again it's been great to read through the report and to see so many of the things that we did in our church life last year. Thank you to everyone who has been part of our story so far. It is right that things continue to change. We say goodbye to some old faces and hello to lots of new. And though there will always be challenges as we continue to move forward together, through God's grace he will help us to serve him and the people of our community."

Ministry Teams

Discipleship



The Lent course, entitled 'Connecting with God', explored a variety of approaches and aids to prayer. The course, practical rather than theoretical, was well attended and found to be very helpful by all who came. The Advent course followed the same pattern as previous years, with, on successive weeks, a carol service for the bereaved, a session of Advent family crafts, and a contemplative session on Advent themes. However low attendance would indicate some rethinking for next year. Midweek fellowship and study groups have continued; the Tuesday morning group in Church House has continued to be well attended; the Thursday evening group, sharing food and fellowship as part of open church, has been low in numbers but remains an important part of making church accessible to our community.

 **Cursillo**
(pronounced "Kur-see-yo") –
Anglican Cursillo is.....
a movement of the Church
providing a method by which Christians
are empowered to grow through prayer,
study and action and enabled to share
God's love with everyone.

Cursillo is one way of being a disciple. It is based on a simple discipline of prayer, study and action. Its purpose is to support the church in its mission of growing disciples.

A small, faithful yet committed group of Christians meet once a month, usually on the last Wednesday at different venues. We encourage and support each other

through out lives of prayer, study and action. It would give us much joy to welcome YOU, or just come and see. Contact Irene Hinde (456 1892) or Mary Mitchell for details or have a look at our website: (Chester Cursillo)

www.chestercursillo.org.uk and that of the British Anglican Cursillo

www.anglicancursillo.co.uk.

Community and Social

Social events – Social activities continue to be very well supported thank you, and we have enjoyed regular pub quizzes at Ye Olde Vic, and filled the restaurant at Chilli Massalla!

We hosted 2 afternoon teas in partnership with Age UK and NCS (National Citizen Service).

And at the reading group we have read another 7 books, with authors including Corrie Ten Boom, Rob Parsons and Adrian Plass. It's lovely to be able to share ideas with friends, and suggestions for any new reads are always very welcome.

Our Parish picnic



Children and Young People

Children in church – This year we have had a review about how we deliver our Sunday sessions – and have shifted from splitting into age groups to providing activities that focus more on learning styles. We have also decided to stop rushing, and focus on a bible passage over a 2 week period. Overall, the results have been very positive – not least in that

the leaders are working much more closely together, which reduces the workload. And that the children and young people are spending more time together, getting to know each other better.

As ever, the numbers on a Sunday fluctuate, but our talented and responsive team cope with whoever arrives. Thanks goes to them: Jon, Mike, Becca, Heather W and Corinne (newly on board). And a special thank you goes to Lois Haslam as she steps down from Sunday Club after many (many) years of dedicated teaching.

Youth on the Edge-



We continue to join forces with our friends at Stockport Baptist Church to provide Christian based activities for the children in our Parish.

Our Go Global Holiday Club was a success on all fronts, with healthy numbers of children – all of whom were provided with a lunch every day as part of the Holiday Hunger initiative. For this the team received an award from the Diocese 'Filling the Gap' programme in recognition of the activities we provide in the holidays.



At the end of the holidays, SBC ran

Holiday in the park at Alexandra Park – engaging with anyone visiting the park with craft, bouncy castle, food and prayer.

We continue to meet with Y6 school children at our Easter and Christmas Unwrapped events, supported by the Christians in Schools Team.

Toddle Time –



Toddle Time is a group attended by around 40 children and their carers, every Friday in term time. The group offers different activities for the children, including a wide range of toys and crafts. There are also light refreshments offered to both the children and their carers. The group finishes off with a play in our treasure box and singing nursery rhymes.

From September onwards, we haven't had the extra members in our Time for God students, and this has been felt. Saying that, Ruth (Alfie's



mom) has come on board, as have Heather Travers, Sandra Lambourn and Doreen Shannon – all whizzes in the kitchen! A big thank you to all the team that volunteer their time to help out every Friday, whether they are in the kitchen,



signing people in, doing the crafts or socializing with the children and their carers. It is a group enjoyed by local families as well as some outside of the area.

Toddle Time's outdoor messy play day at the end of the summer term.



Worship



Worship Team - Worship happens in the parish in lots of ways! We aim to be an inclusive and inviting church and to make worship accessible to as many people as possible.

There is chance to come together for worship as a whole church on 1st Sundays and on the Major festivals when we have Whole Parish Worship at 10.30am. On other Sundays there is formal communion at 9.30am and a less formal service at 11.15am. The second Sunday is often an occasion for Baptism, at the 11.15am service or afterwards. You may have noticed we have been encouraging afternoon baptism families to come back and receive a welcome into the church at a Sunday service. The last Sunday 11.15am service is special because it is both All Age and signed! There is a said communion service with a short sermon at 10am on Wednesday providing a chance to take time out during the week to meet together. The Wednesday service changes slightly each week – one week a healing service, another a traditional Book of Common Prayer communion, and other weeks that follow the seasonal Sunday worship material – at one of which we pray for the work of the Mothers' Union.

Our services are led by a team of people—so that you see different faces at the front, and hear from different people each week.

Our worship often includes music! Choir lead the singing at 9.30 on Sunday, and music group at 11.15, with involvement by both when we come together for worship. On a number of occasions during the year a much larger group of singers has come together to practise a special item to sing.

Worship is of course not just about services. It goes on in small groups, in school assemblies, in children's groups and in many different places.

We want to say thank you to everyone who contributes to our worshipping life through different ministries, both those who do the same jobs reliably week in week out, and those who turn their hand to whatever the need is at the time. We recognize that the more our worship is a joint effort, the more we all grow together.

Choir - We are a happy little group who really enjoy our singing, we love to join together with members from the music group, under Andy and Corinne's Leadership, to perform full harmony songs. We currently have 6 members, 2 Altos and 4 Sopranos. Sadly we lost Barbara last year and we were so sad to hear of her death shortly after she left us.

Charles continues to play for us and does a sterling job. Thanks Charles.

We meet every other Friday in the afternoon to practice the Hymns for Sunday and anything else we are preparing for.

Again we really enjoyed our Coffee morning with Carols and made a good amount of money which bought a number of blankets for the Syrian Appeal. The proceeds from the refreshments went to an Epilepsy Charity in memory of Barbara. We would like to thank everyone who supported this event and made it so special.

We would also like to Thank David and Julie for their Support and help with the music for the Services.

We hope you will continue to enjoy our music as much as we do.



Pastoral

Revd Julie takes the lead on the pastoral work that goes on in the Parish maintaining contact as closely as possible through information

gathering to which all church members are expected to contribute.

Julie takes note of newcomers in church and keeps an eye out for anyone who goes missing from regular attendance. She also maintains a next of kin phone register for emergency use – please let her know when any personal details change. Along with Sylvia Parker, Irene Hinde and Revd David we also currently minister to 6 members who can no longer attend church; taking Communion to them at home.

Mother's Union



Our Mother's Union meets each month on the Second Thursday. The meetings are well attended and we have enjoyed an array of interesting, funny and varied subjects from our Guest Speakers.

We currently have 24 members, having recently lost our Indoor Member, Janet Webb. Our thoughts and Prayers go out to Janet's family at this sad time. May Janet Rest in Peace and Rise in Glory.

In February 2018, Norma Stowman stood down as Branch Leader after 9 years, and Rita Waters took over. Another change saw a new Secretary this year - after years of service Audrey Mannion has stepped down and Diane Bebb has been elected. Our Grateful Thanks go to Audrey for her dedication and hard work in her Role as Secretary over the years.

There has been a varied programme this year:

Ed Leavy – Loaves and Fishes
Laura Whillans – Zeal Church
Peter Hall – Walking the Penine Way
Rev Mike Newman – Being an Army Chaplain
Gerry Sullivan – working with Refugees in Lesbos.

And Janet Critchley led our quiet evening, and we had our summer and Christmas parties which were well attended

We look forward to our 2019 Meetings and hearing our Guest Speakers. If you would like a copy of our programme please ask Rita or Di and they will provide a copy for you.

Prayer

Prayer Ministry Group is still around, although we have only 2 members – Alan Pickstone and myself. We oversee the Prayer Breakfast Rota and the Healing Prayer Rota.



Healing Ministry

We could do with more People on the Healing Prayer Team, Julie joined us last year and is a valued member of our team. If you would like to know about Healing Prayer please ask one of us about it.

If you have any suggestions about our Prayer Ministry please contact Di Bebb.

Our Church Life

Community Development Manager's Report:

Another busy year of building connections in our community and improving the lives of local people. Pam continued to support the regular groups in church and in the local area, as well as our large public events, such as the fairs and the Heritage Day. We celebrated our tenth Community Open Day with over 40 local groups and activities. Pam worked with Linda Cosgriff for **Looking Backward, Looking Forward**, 100 years commemoration on the end of WWI. This included poetry from Stockport Writers and a "river of poppies", with over 2000 poppies being created by the community.



The largest new project is the very successful Friendly Fridays project, launched in February and based at the Rose Walker centre. It's a community drop in for all ages and many of our church family attend.



New contacts include the GoodGym, who have helped clear the garden at Church House and clean the church, and the Asda Champions, securing grants and donations for ourselves, Friendly Fridays and the Olive Cafe. Pam also connected with a local drone company, securing free drone footage of the church.

Long term funding for the CDM post, from the Tudor Trust, ended in the summer, and an interim grant from the Big Lottery,

Awards for All, has given us the space to look for additional grants. Smaller grants have been secured for projects such as Youth on the Edge, Friendly Fridays, Ready to Grow, and children's crafts.

Churchwarden's Report



It seems that the year has passed very quickly, doesn't seem 12 months since we were cringing as Karen named and shamed us that our report was late.

I wish that I had written the report as the year progressed, trying to think back on the events that have happened is difficult. (Note to self, if elected again DO THIS!)

One of the exciting things to report is that after a lot of planning, we are finally getting the work started on Church House. As of this meeting we should be a couple of weeks into the project.

After this the plans for the interior of the Church will be our next priority.

We can honestly say that our job is made so much easier thanks to all of you at St Matthews, helping and supporting all that goes on within the Church and beyond.

We continue to support the Clergy team with your help, and report back to the PCC at the meetings.

Building Report

The Buildings Group was reconstituted by the PCC at the beginning of 2018 and has been busy since then. With the help of a new architect the remaining faults in the roof and downspouts were identified and have been remedied, along with the internal plaster damage that had resulted. With regard to the church interior, new plans have been drawn up for internal reordering and provision of improved facilities. The over-elaborate

plans for the development of Church House drawn up by our previous architect have been stripped down to a more realistic achievable plan, and work will be under way by the time this report is published.

Stockport Deanery

Just as the PCC governs the church locally, there are two other groups in our diocese that have responsibility for the wider church.

The Deanery Synod meets three times a year – Spring and Autumn for formal meetings and a Quiet Away Day in the Summer when we have an opportunity to for further fellowship and reflection. St. Matthew's has two lay representatives, Lois Scarisbrick and Grace Anderson (elected for three years) as well as David and Julie. The Deanery Synod meets mainly for mutual support across the Stockport churches. We invite speakers to

help us reflect on our ministry in the Deanery.



'Thy Kingdom Come' prayer walk around the Deanery with Bishop Libby.

Diocesan Synod meets twice a year with an optional extra date if it is thought necessary. The main role of Diocesan Synod is to oversee the various boards and committees of the Diocese (including Finance, Social Responsibility, Mission). At the meetings we receive reports, ask questions, and challenge. David has been on Diocesan Synod for several terms. Election to Diocesan Synod is for three years and there is currently a

vacancy if anyone fancies taking on the role.

Until mid 2019 Lucy was on both of these Synods on account of being on General Synod.

Financial Review

The total receipts and payments for 2018 are detailed on the financial statement. A lottery grant was received towards the cost of a Community Development Manager; we also received a grant for Socially Yours from SMBC and one from Ward funding towards our summer activities (this was through St. Matthew's Community Hub account). During the year we have continued to support the Children's Society, Christian Aid, Wellspring and the Dagher family in the Holy Land. We have also sent donations to the Congo Church Association, Unicef, Christians in School and this year's lent giving went to Stockport Loaves and Fishes. Due to increased giving we have yet again paid our Parish Share in full.

At the end of the year there was £4,904 in our current accounts of which £4,196 is restricted or designated and £168,597 in savings accounts (Vernon Building Society and Central Board of Finance Deposit Fund). There was £1,258 in the Community Hub Account. It is PCC policy to try and maintain a balance of unrestricted funds which equates to six months unrestricted payments, to cover emergencies. This is equivalent to £37,800 and, because we still have unspent legacies, we have enough free reserves to meet this.

links to Facebook and Twitter can be found on our home page
www.edgeleyandcheadleheath.org.uk