

St Matthew's News

The Parish of Edgeley and Cheadle Heath



March 2013
Issue 12

Sunday Service Times

Sunday 3rd & 31st March

10:30^{am} Whole Parish Worship
incl. Prayer for Healing

All Other Sundays

9:30^{am} Formal Service

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

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

What are you giving up for Lent?

The question is often asked. Giving something up for 40 days is a custom which can help us enter into the season with a sense of purpose and greater awareness.

Consider looking at Lent in a deeper way. For many of us, giving up something is the beginning and end of our reflections on Lent. We went to the Ash Wednesday service to begin Lent, so there's nothing to worry about now til Palm Sunday or even Maundy Thursday! It can be tempting to say, *I'm giving up beer / chocolates / sweets / alcohol / TV / Cinema / biscuits*, but without more reflection, it can become simply a way of showing God and other people how strong we are; being more about us than any conversation / relationship we have with God.

Then at the end of Lent we go back to what we gave up. Lent isn't simply about us *giving up* something. Lent is a season in which God wants to *give* us something. God wants to help to transform our lives and make us more free as people. This year, we might reflect and ask the deeper question:

What is God inviting me to change this Lent?

How do I know what God is stirring in me?

Begin by listening to your heart: *Where am I feeling uncomfortable with the choices I make? With the things I have done? With the habitual ways I respond?* The Lord will be speaking to us in those small nagging moments of discomfort.

It might be that we know deep down that giving up sweets and biscuits will be better for our health, so it's the right thing to do. Asking *what about ourselves we would like to change this Lent* requires a little more reflection.

Each of us can think of something that gets in the way of our relationship with God. Instead of just giving something up, commit to taking something on!

1. building your relationship with God by more time spent reading / studying your Bible.
2. finding more time for prayer.
3. making space to helping other people.
4. donating to a charity.



Rita Waters

As we reflect, we might realise that changing a particular way we live is coming to us as a call from God and we don't have to do it alone.

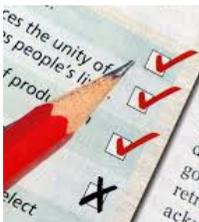
God is working with us on these changes and will remain faithful and help us. We all need help but that's where talking and listening to God can make the difference.
Yours in Christ, Rita

What's News...?

 In our **Lent Groups**, **When God Speaks** we're looking at the old testament prophets. If you've not yet joined a group - why not? It's not too late. If possible please bring a bible.

Electoral Roll

Forms are available from church. You can sign up if you are baptised, over 16, live in the Parish or have worshipped at St Matthew's regularly over the last 6 months. Forms to be returned to the Rev. Julie Johnson before Easter.



Please help the **Dogs' Trust** by collecting stamps (foreign, pictorial and 40p and over). Leave a margin of at least ½ an inch round the stamp and pass to Norma Stowman.



Prayers for the World

As you come into Church, to your right, this map of the world is on the notice board. We use it to pray for the needs of the world.



Attached to the map are topics that we suggest for prayer (currently *Persecuted Christians*), with a ribbon leading to the country concerned. We include people who have been affected in previous years by disaster or war and who are still suffering from the effects of those situations. Topics are changed periodically and many countries are covered over the year.

If you have something you want to add to the map please see one of the Prayer Team: Irene Hinde, Jackie Taylor or Di Bebb. We will gladly add it for you. Suggestions would gratefully be received. If you want to know more please ask.

Introducing Ken Hazeldine...

I was born and raised in Edgeley; live in Poynton; was baptised at St Augustine's in Cheadle Heath and came to faith when I was 15.

I have attended St Matthew's since 1995, though I have had connections here for some time: I was married here; my three children were baptised; my elder daughter married here; and my grandparents and parents married here too! My father was in the Boy's Brigade and both my father and I attended the school.

I am a Verger of the church, assisting Father David with weddings and funerals and writing out the wedding registers. I ensure everything is prepared for worship on the nave altar i.e. wine, bread, vessels and candles. I must ensure there is a plentiful supply and order as required. As a Server, you will see me at the altar every Sunday morning at the 9:30 service. I am also a school governor.

My favourite subject at school was History, and still is. I am fascinated with the development of our country over the centuries. To relax, I read biographies and

 delve into family history. Currently I am reading Sir Stamford Raffles, the founder of Singapore. I would love to visit New Zealand. Trust me to choose the farthest destination - here's hoping, one day! Also, I would love to return to my favourite European country, Austria.

My dear mother was the greatest influence of my life!

From the Bible, I would always recommend 1 Corinthians 13. It encapsulates the true belief of our Lord Jesus! I feel closest to Jesus when in church with all my friends in the congregation.

May I make a plea to anyone who could join our small band of Servers? The work is not arduous; it is a blessing. Full instruction will be given. Commitment does not mean every week! Anyone interested, please speak to Father David, Ernie Shaw, Jean Proctor or myself. This will be particularly useful when covering holidays and sickness.

Thank you for reading and God bless. **Ken**

Journey through Easter



Easter Unwrapped.

Friday 15th March (1^{pm} - 3^{pm}) @ St Matthew's Church. Following on from Bubblegum Christmas, this is an event for Y6 pupils that will detail the story of Easter through baking, quizzes, bible study and team games. Pupils from some of our local schools are invited.

Easter

Extravaganza

Wednesday 27th March (10-3p.m.) Activities, games, crafts and learning more about the Easter story – run by Stockport Baptist Church.



Maundy Thursday, 28th March 7^{pm} **Meal with Communion**, followed by a **Watch of Prayer**.

Good Friday, 29th March



10:30^{am} **Easter Crafts**

followed by a short service at 11:^{30am}.

2^{pm} **the Cross of Christ**,

a devotion lead by our choir.

Holy Saturday, 30th

March. 8:30^{am} Prayer Breakfast. 10^{am} Help clean the church and grounds up for Easter.

Easter Day - Sunday

31st March @ 10:30^{am}.

All Age Festival Service followed by an Easter Egg Hunt.



St Matthew's

Saturday Café

10-11:30am. All year round - just pop in for a brew and a teacake. All very welcome!!



Did You Know...?

◇ **Exodus 20** (Ten Commandments) - it took God just 4 words to tell us not to kill (*You shall not kill*) but needed around 100 words to explain what "rest" was (keeping the Sabbath...).

◇ The only domestic animal not to be mentioned in the Bible is the cat?

What's on this month

Friday, 1st March

9:30^{am} **Toddle Time @ St Matt's**

7^{pm} **Choir**

Saturday 2nd March

8:30^{am} **Prayer Breakfast**

10^{am} **Saturday Café**

Sunday 3rd March

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

at communion

we offer prayer for healing for you and those for whom you care

Lead & Preach: David

Tuesday, 5th March

8:30^{am} **Lent Group**

1:30^{pm} **Socially Yours**

Wednesday 6th March

10^{am} **Holy Communion**

11:15^{am} **Lent Group**

7:30^{pm} **Lent Groups**

Thursday 7th March

7:30^{pm} **Deanery Synod**

@ St Saviours

Friday 8th March

9:30^{am} **Toddle Time @ St Matt's**

7^{pm} **Choir**

Saturday 9th March

10^{am} **Saturday Café**

Sunday 10th March

9:30^{am} **Holy Communion**

Lead: David ~ Preach: Julie

11:15^{am} **Morning Worship**

Lead: Lucy ~ Preach: Julie

1^{pm} & 1:45^{pm} **Baptism Service**

Magazine Articles Due

Tuesday, 12th March

8:30^{am} **Lent Group**

1:30^{pm} **Socially Yours**

Wednesday 13th March

10^{am} **Holy Communion**

11:15^{am} **Lent Group**

7:30^{pm} **Lent Groups**

Thursday 14th March

7:30^{pm} **Mother's Union in Church**

Friday 15th March

9:30^{am} **Toddle Time @ St Matt's**

1^{pm} **Funeral in church**

7^{pm} **Choir**

Saturday 16th March

10^{am} **Saturday Café**

Sunday 17th March

9:30^{am} **Holy Communion**

Lead: Julie ~ Preach: David

11:15^{am} **Holy Communion**

Lead: Julie ~ Preach: David

200 Club – Subs Due

Tuesday, 19th March

8:30^{am} Lent Group

1:30^{pm} Socially Yours

7:30^{pm} PCC Meeting

@ St Matt's Vicarage

Wednesday 20th March

10^{am} Holy Communion

11:15^{am} Lent Group

7:30^{pm} Lent Groups

Friday 22nd March

9:30^{am} Toddle Time @ St Matt's

7^{pm} Choir

Saturday 23rd March

10^{am} Saturday Café

Palm Sunday, 24th March

9:30^{am} Holy Communion

Lead: David ~ Preach: DavidBr

11:15^{am} Holy Communion

Lead: David ~ Preach: Sue

3^{pm} Christians Together

@ Morrisons

*No Home Groups, Toddle Time
or Choir this week!*

Tuesday, 26th March

1:30^{pm} Socially Yours

Wednesday 27th March

10^{am} Holy Communion

Maundy Thursday 28th March

7^{pm} Meal with Communion

8:30^{pm} Watch of Prayer

Good Friday 29th March

10:30^{am} Easter Crafts

2^{pm} Hour at the Cross

7:30^{pm} Tenebrae

@ Edgeley Community Church

Saturday 30th March

8:30^{am} Prayer Breakfast

10^{am} Saturday Café

10^{am} Hard Labour round Church

Easter Day Sunday 31st March

6^{am} Christians Together

Sunrise Service @ the reservoirs

10:30^{am} Easter Sunday

All Age Service with Signing

Lead & Preach: David

Looking ahead

Sunday 7th April

10:30^{am} Whole Parish Worship

Sunday 21st April

10:30^{am} Whole Parish Worship

followed by our APCM

February Funerals

Eunice Brooks, George Owens,

Frances Lee, Enid Taylor,

Eileen Lane