

St Matthew's News

The Parish of Edgeley and Cheadle Heath



December 2014
Issue 32



Sunday Service Times

Sunday 7th December

10:30^{am} Whole Parish Worship
with Bishop Peter

Sunday 21st December

11:15^{am} All Age Signed Carol Service

All Other Sundays

9:30^{am} Formal Service

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

Image: digidreamgrafix; FreeDigitalPhotos.net

Facebook: www.facebook.com/ParishEdgeleyCheadleHeath

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Jesus' Love Goes Viral

I was teaching Year 5 about how the people of Eyam dealt with the arrival of the plague in their village, and how they quarantined themselves so that they would not spread the disease to surrounding villages.

The children were quite shocked at the villagers' bravery and self-sacrifice. I sometimes wonder whether putting other people first has gone out of fashion. It's all about 'me.'

If ever there was an example of self-sacrifice and putting others first, it was Jesus. I have no real idea what heaven will be like, but I'm pretty sure that it's not the sort of place anyone

would find easy to swap for a life of hardship and pain in the Middle East.

And yet that's just what Jesus did. He left his home to join us in ours so that we

could know the abundance of the love, joy and peace which God longs for us to have in our lives.

Sometimes those things seem very distant. It's not the superficial happiness that the John Lewis advert beguiles us with (other department stores available!). What Jesus came to bring us is deep and lasting.

May God bless us all this Christmas.



Lucy Brewster

Accessing Advent

Love Life Live Advent, published by Church House Publishing, offers actions, prayers and reflections for each day of Advent, to help families celebrate the real meaning of Christmas.

As well as the book, you can find more information on Twitter and Instagram or at <http://www.chpublishing.co.uk>.



A Message From June Dean

I will be retiring from Brigade at Christmas, so I would like to say a big thank you to everyone for supporting myself and the children when we did the sales and raffles, especially the ladies who baked cakes for us year after year.

Thank you. And God Bless you all.

June Dean



Got Questions About Life?



From Sunday 4th January for twelve weeks we will be joining with St George's to run an Alpha Course.

Here are some FAQs:

What is Alpha?

Alpha is a series of interactive sessions that freely explore the basics of the Christian faith.

Who is it for?

Alpha is for anyone who is curious about what it is to be a Christian. The talks are designed to encourage conversation within a friendly, informal environment. No question is out of bounds.

How does it work?

PC Power!
We were pleased to be awarded a grant for laptops and internet connection in church. We have purchased both and are now ready to launch our new initiative, *Comfortable with Computers*, which will help people build their confidence in getting online and getting the most out of their computer or tablet.

Thanks to Roy Higham who has taken

Alpha runs over twelve sessions, which will take place mainly at St George's; but with some time later in the course at St Matthew's.

The sessions will run on Sundays from 2^{pm} to 4^{pm} with an afternoon tea provided and with activities for children, too. Each session begins with a short talk and ends with a discussion where you can share your thoughts.

At any point, if you feel that Alpha isn't for you, that's not a problem. There's no pressure or follow up.

How much is it?

There is no charge for Alpha but we thank you in advance for any voluntary contributions towards the cost of afternoon teas.

How do I join or find out more?

There are invitation forms available in Church. For more information, please see David or Lucy.

the lead in this project, we also have a lady from our community, Maeve, who is keen to get involved.

We will have our first pilot session on Saturday 13th December, 10-12noon. We will then host the sessions monthly to begin with. We will advertise through the usual channels and would encourage other volunteers to get involved so that we can help more people. All sessions will be free of charge. Please speak to **Pam Robinson** if you are interested in attending or helping.

Introducing Joseph

I stand watch now over my sleeping wife, the baby an unfamiliar weight in my arms. I gaze into his eyes, so full of wonder and surprise. And love.

This is no ordinary miracle of birth but a gift from God. Indeed, God Himself come among us at last. Emmanuel, God with us.

My hands, so rough from the years at the plane and the lathe, cradle his head as I lay him in the manger. I touch his hands and think about the skills I will teach him as he grows: how to build and craft beautiful things from simple, raw materials, like wood and nails.

And then I smile.

Who am I to teach this child anything about creation? For his hands flung the stars into space and he knows them all by name.

Who am I to teach this child how to

make something out of nothing? For he is the master craftsman; we are but clay on his potter's wheel.

Yes, who am I?

Well, for now and until his time is come, I am his earthly father. My resolve is strong against the whispers from those who scoff at me for raising this boy. For I will raise him, protect him, teach him.

And love him. For God loves this world so much that he has sent this boy, His only Son, to be our saviour.

My son.

My Jesus.



Pam Robinson

The Archbishop of York, Dr John Sentamu said,
"I love Advent - it's a wonderful season of watching and waiting for the big day to arrive. Christmas is coming – make room for the manger!"

Source: www.archbishopofyork.org



Feed My Sheep ...helping the homeless

It's that time of year again... a time of giving and receiving; a time when our wallets and purses lose weight whilst our waists expand!



Some people in our local community, however, have no money to spend and rely on the generosity of others for a decent meal.

The Wellspring, situated on Harvey Street just around the corner from Stockport Market, is open 365 days a

year and provides a lifeline and place of hope and comfort for homeless people, or those who are at risk of becoming homeless.

For several years now we, as a church, have



collected presents to be handed out at the *Wellspring Christmas Lunch*. Small presents, costing no more than £2 each, but with little gifts of warm gloves or socks, something smelly or something sweet (no alcohol or tobacco) to show that we care.

Please support our *Christmas Present Appeal* for *The Wellspring* by bringing along as many gifts as you can (we need 130) and marking them either

wardrobes, get a rucksack, sleeping bag, gloves, hat and scarf, fleece, undies, socks, toothbrush, flask, and tins of food with ring pulls, spoon, puzzles and pens and drop them off at Wellspring.

man, woman or either. If you wish, you could add a card.

If you are concerned for the homeless, you could also help with the *Rucksack Project*. Go to charity shops or rummage through your

The rucksack packs will then be distributed to homeless people and rough sleepers in Stockport.

If you can't make a full pack, then donate any of the items listed and packs will be made from items received.

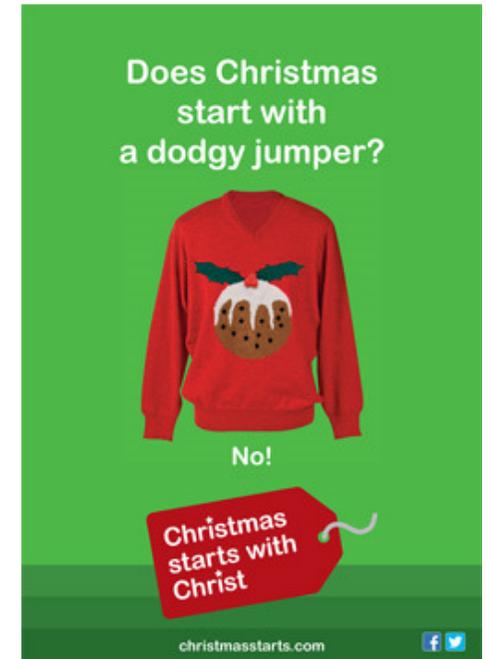
NOTE: If you'd like to provide a 'ladies pack' then mark the rucksack 'LADIES'.



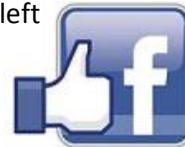
<http://www.thewellspring.btck.co.uk/>

Christmas starts with Christ

Over the last few weeks, we hope you've noticed the flyers, posters, display board, tweets and Facebook posts that have supported our campaign to remind people that **Christmas starts with Christ**. Please join in by commenting on social media or posting your thoughts or prayer requests in the box in church. And please tell your friends. Remember: Christmas doesn't start with a notice in a magazine *Christmas starts with Christ*.



We only have 31 days left of our **Facebook:500** initiative, aiming to have 500 followers of St Matthew's on Facebook by the end of the year.



We need 333 new followers so please pray that God will send us two followers **a day**. You do not need to be on Facebook (or even to know what it is) to pray with us. Copies of the prayers are available on the leaflet stand or from Pam and Linda. If you can't remember to pray every day, we ask that you pray every day you remember.

Multiples Message

The Twins group will not meet again until the New Year. The session on 8 December has been cancelled.

...an angel of the Lord appeared to *Joseph* in a dream and said, '*Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.*'

Matthew 1:20-21

What's on this Month

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

Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe
29th November - 6th January
@ Chester Cathedral

Monday, 1st

6:30^{pm} **Brigade**

Tuesday, 2nd

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

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

Painting Christmas Decorations

7:30^{pm} **PCC @ St. Matt's Vicarage**

Wednesday, 3rd

10^{am} **Holy Communion**

7:30^{pm} **Memorial Service with Turners**

Thursday, 4th

1^{pm} **Refugee and Asylum Seekers
Support Group**

2^{pm} **Christmas Crafts at Olive Cafe
& 3^{pm} Booking essential**

Friday, 5th

9:30^{am} **Toddle Time**

1^{pm} **Bubblegum Christmas**

7^{pm} **Choir Practice**

Saturday, 6th

12 - 3^{pm} **Christmas Fair**

Sunday, 7th *Second of Advent*

10:30^{am} **Whole Parish Worship**
with Bishop Peter
and Prayer for Healing

1^{pm} **Curry Lunch at Chilli Massala**

Monday, 8th

6:30^{pm} **Brigade**

Tuesday, 9th

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

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

7^{pm} **Body Shop Party**

Wednesday, 10th

10^{am} **Holy Communion**

7:45^{pm} **Home Group**

Thursday, 11th

2^{pm} **Christmas Crafts at Olive Cafe
& 3^{pm} Booking essential**

7:30^{pm} **Mothers' Union Christmas Party**

Friday, 12th

9:30^{am} **Toddle Time**

7^{pm} **Choir Practice**

Saturday, 13th

10^{am} **Saturday Café**

incl. carols with St Matthew's Choir

Sunday, 14th *Third of Advent*

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

Lead: David ~ Preach: David Br

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

Lead: Julie ~ Preach: David Br

Monday, 15th

6:30^{pm} **Brigade**

Tuesday, 16th

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

12:15^{pm} **Socially Yours Christmas Lunch**
at The Farmer's Arms

Wednesday, 17th

10^{am} **Holy Communion**

7:45^{pm} **Home Group**

Friday, 19th

7^{pm} **Carolling Around the Pubs**
meet at St Matthew's

Saturday, 20th

10^{am} **Saturday Café**

12^{pm} **Carols at Olive ROC**

Sunday, 21st *Fourth of Advent*

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

Lead: David ~ Preach: Lucy

11:15^{am} **All Age Signed Carol Service**

Lead: Heather ~ Preach: Julie

200 Club – Subs Due

Tuesday, 23rd

Church Decorating Day (TBC)

Wednesday, 24th ~ *Christmas Eve*

10^{am} **Holy Communion**

4^{pm} **Christingle**

5:30^{pm} **Christingle**

11^{pm} **Midnight Mass**

Thursday, 25th ~ *Christmas Day*

10:30^{am} **All Age**

Christmas Celebration

Merry Christmas!

**And may God bless you
and your family.**

Saturday, 27th

10^{am} **Saturday Café**

incl. Police Surgery

Sunday, 28th ~ *Holy Innocents*

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

Lead: Peter ~ Preach: David

11:15^{am} **All Age Communion**

Lead: Julie ~ Preach: David

Wednesday, 31st ~ *New Year's Eve*

10^{am} **Holy Communion**

Looking ahead to January 2015

Saturday, 3rd

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

Sunday, 4th

10:30^{am} **Whole Parish Worship**
and Prayer for Healing

November Funerals

Paul Winstanley, Beryl Hodgson

November Baptisms

Jessica Burge

All details correct at time of going to press



Christmas starts
when we feed
the hungry

Let's all support
our
local foodbank

Christmas starts with Christ

christmasstarts.com

