

St Matthew's Community Development Project

How Can a Small Organisation Make a Big Difference?

Community Development Project:

breaking down the walls of social isolation and empowering our community.

The **Community Development Manager's (CDM)** role is focused on four areas:
Networking, Supporting, Leading and Managing, and Shaping Values and Influencing.

The following report details progress in these areas over the last twelve months.



How can the resources of and in the community be used to the best effect? **Networking**

- By **drawing together the many small groups** that have in the past worked in isolation from each other and largely from the local community.
- By **establishing a growing network** of community groups, local leaders, businesses, churches and schools, to identify the details of groups and activities working for our area.
- By bringing these together **through a robust communication** network (websites, social media, time-table of activities and monthly newsletters) so that people are aware of what support is available to them.
- By **facilitating this growing network** so that people and groups are being linked with resources and vice versa and enabling new independent working relationships to grow across the network.
- By **raising awareness of opportunities** so that local people engage with resources much more frequently, making their future more secure.

Pam Robinson, our Community Development Manager, has established these networks, working hard to maintain and develop them. She is always looking for ways in which new relationships can be built. These networks have now started “talking to each other”, thanks to her efforts, making the whole network stronger and giving it a wider reach.

Key activities	No. of people impacted	How are people impacted?	Next Steps...
Regular contact and engagement with over 20 Community Groups (see Annex 2)	Directly – 50+ Indirectly – 200+	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By sharing of information across a wide range of diverse populations • By creating opportunities for groups to meet with local people at their point of need 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to build these relationships, encourage networks to talk to each other and become self-sustaining.
Strong working relationship with 3 local Councillors and local MP	Borough-wide impact plus national exposure through Parliamentary Newsletter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By working strategically with local Councillors so that current and future needs of the local area can be identified 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to work together to strengthen local facilities, sharing knowledge with local people to ensure facilities are well used and less likely to be withdrawn.



Key activities	No. of people impacted	How are people impacted?	Next Steps...
Stronger ties with local schools through regular promotional material and personal visits	Over 1,000 children monthly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By sharing information about community activities provided by St Matthew's Church and the wider community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to develop the strong links between four primary schools and the local high school To continue to build links with the remaining primary school
Work as a community hub by providing monthly pop in sessions for community groups and training courses	60+ per month	<p>By providing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local police surgeries Monthly pop in sessions for groups including <i>Signpost for Carers, Healthy Stockport, Magistrates, Furniture Station</i> Training courses for Health and Safety, Food Safety and First Aid have been well received 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish twice-yearly first aid training Continue to build connections with small, local businesses, enabling them to access training, normally beyond their means, which in turn leads to building a stronger community
Maintain and continue to grow virtual populations	1,000+ every month	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By establishing a strong presence on the internet, we can connect and share information across a wide and diverse range of people (4 websites, 5 Facebook sites, 1 Twitter feed), monthly newsletter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to build and sustain virtual populations, encourage links and cross over Continue to develop "hard copy" information and connect with those who are not online



Food Safety Training – Patricia Garrett, St Saviour's Church (Manager of St Saviour's Community Café)

Thank you Pam for organising the course. I found it very interesting and helpful. Although we seem to have a lot of the 'rules' in place already, there are a few we could improve on. I hope to inform and refresh all our co-ordinators and volunteers in due course.

Stockport Magistrates Community Engagement Team

It was a pleasure as always to come to St Matthew's, we really enjoyed ourselves. We would be delighted to come back anytime for the Saturday Cafe and certainly we will be with you for the fun day.

REACH website for Edgeley and Cheadle Heath

Jackie B - Pam, I've just had a look at your new site and think it is very informative. Thank you.

Gerald M – The new site gives a lot of useful info in a clear and easy to access way - very helpful!

Letter of support – Ann Coffey, MP, Stockport

I have been very impressed by the way you have developed your role in creating community links – through the activities at St Matthews and the community centres, through Olive cafe and through social media. We now have a kind of hub which brings together the local community groups, the voluntary sector organisations like Walthew House and Age UK, the local Councillors and the agencies which are there to help the general public - eg the neighbourhood policing teams.

The outcome of your work in setting up this hub is to provide support to local people when they need it. It seems to me that we are now seeing all this “take off” in terms of increased volunteering in the area, increased opportunities for learning through links with the College and the Academy and overall increased community involvement.

Letter of support – Kay Kelly, Walthew House

Our partnership work with St Matthew's brings great benefits to our service users and is a great example of how local diverse communities can work together.

What hasn't worked / where we plan to develop

The @SaturdayCafe initiative, which provides an opportunity for community groups to meet with local people on a monthly basis, is considered a good idea by many people but hasn't resulted in large numbers actually attending. However, it is still seen as a great opportunity to build links with local groups and we will continue to spread the word that support is on the doorstep. Our plans for a new community centre on our grounds are being revised to allow us to achieve our objectives of creating a community hub more immediately by purchasing the existing vicarage (currently owned by the Diocese of Chester). Our plans are then to open the space for community use and develop the facility by extending the property to allow for a large-scale function room.



How do we support groups to become sustainable? **Supporting**

- By multiplying resources **through partnering** with groups working in our local area.
- By **offering information and practical advice** to help groups secure funding for training and resources.
- By **promoting** groups through the sharing of information across all communication platforms and giving invitations to attend the annual Fun Day.
- By **attracting new volunteers from the community** who wish to offer their time and skills.
- By **sharing skills** in leadership, training, governance, funding, communication and community engagement.

Pam has supported, empowered and “breathed new life” into a range of community groups, bringing expertise, ideas and creativity.

Key activities	No. of people impacted	How are people impacted	Next Steps...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secure funding for local groups 	£7,840 for 7 groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By sharing awareness of funding opportunities and reviewing bids 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to identify funding streams and bid accordingly • To secure longer term funding for CDM role beyond the initial 3 year Tudor Trust funding
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotion of activities and events 	1,000+ every month	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By establishing a strong presence on the internet, we can connect and share information across a wide and diverse range of people (4 websites, 5 Facebook sites, 1 Twitter feed), monthly newsletter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to build contacts to share information
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteer opportunities 	16 per month	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By supporting volunteers across four groups: <i>Socially Yours, Comfortable with Computers, Toddle Time, Refugee and Asylum Seeker Drop-In</i>. CDM has been the focal point, providing advice, guidance, governance and on-going support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to encourage volunteers to build sustainability



Key activities	No. of people impacted	How are people impacted	Next Steps...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trusteeships <p>Olive ROC Centre Rose Walker Community Centre (Chair of Trustees)</p>	2 charities and their users	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By the effective use of skills for benefit of wider community By securing future of community centre By helping the community café (ROC Centre) to thrive 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to build on these role and extend awareness across the community

Toddle Time

Diane, mum to twins Harvey and Harrison - *I love all the different activities my boys can do, because they have quite different interests. This group is a lot more organised than others we have been to, and all the volunteers are very friendly and approachable. They are really interested in me as a person and genuinely want to know how I would improve the group. It is great that other people come along, like Family Info Link, so that we can find out what is going on in the local area – it's not easy finding things out for yourself when you have two year old twins! This is my chill out space, I love Fridays!*

Comfortable with Computers

Yvonne O - *Huge thank you again to Pam R for organising this. My friend Trish Adams and I found it hugely helpful once again for me and first time for Trish. Roy was so helpful & very patient. Another good teacher or helper as they prefer to call it. Many thanks.*

Maeve (volunteer) - *I absolutely love my time volunteering at the computer sessions! I love helping people and it gives me a great deal of satisfaction seeing someone overcoming a problem.*

Socially Yours

Janet (volunteer) – *I often feel quite isolated myself and although I am retired I still feel I have a lot to give. So I got in touch with St Matthew's and Pam talked me through the opportunities they had for volunteering. I loved the sound of the Socially Yours group so I went along for a visit. I really liked what I saw and now look forward to Tuesday afternoons!*



Trusteeships (see letters of support)

Gerry Sullivan (Olive Patron) – *[Pam] has a good local knowledge and has helped to organise regular craft events for children, winning the support of local business to help fund these activities. She is at the heart of everything we do at the Cafe, helping with local projects and events.*

Sheila Bailey, local Councillor, regarding the Rose Walker Community Centre – *Pam is particularly good at networking and has made considerable efforts to try and make sure that all the community groups in the area and as many individuals as possible are aware of what is available and encouraged to join in.*

Letter of support – Key Kelly, Walthew House

Pam has willingly shared her knowledge and experience of organising large scale events to help us prepare for a summer fair next year and is always proactive in sharing our news and events.

Letter of support – Bridie Meehan, Quality Care of Cheadle

Pam has organised various speakers to come along to the group, giving a new insight to things maybe they had not come across or have forgot in life.

What hasn't worked / where we plan to develop

We are slowly starting to attract volunteers to our groups. We now have around sixteen community volunteers across four of our groups. We are pleased with the number of volunteers we have managed to attract but with more volunteers we could extend the range and scope of the activities we offer, both in church and in the wider community. We want to continue to develop our mentoring of volunteers so they continue to feel valued, can see they are both making a difference and gaining valuable experience. Pam has been instrumental in encouraging the Olive ROC Centre/Cafe to offer life-enhancing opportunities to adults with learning difficulties and this is something we would like to encourage wherever we have influence in the local community.

Youth+
on the **EDGE**



How do we engage with our community? *Leading and Managing*

- By **organising large scale public events** to connect with larger sections of our community, draw people in, including fairs, table top sales, craft fairs, heritage events, WW1 commemorative event, Family Fun Days, as well as Open Days at the Community Centre.
- By **organising holiday activities** for families including swimming pool parties, holiday clubs, day trips, craft sessions.
- By **building on existing activities** to improve opportunities for people to find support and information, including police surgeries and Saturday Café drop-in sessions with local community groups.
- By **building partnerships** with groups who are already working with vulnerable members of our community, such as those with sight and hearing loss, the lonely and isolated.

Without **Pam's** efforts, many of these events would never have been imagined, let alone "brought to life."

Key activities	No. of people impacted	How are people impacted	Next Steps...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large scale public events, eg, Fun Day, Heritage Day, Fairs 	1,000+ per year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By strengthening the community spirit • By sharing knowledge and information • By creating opportunities for families to have fun 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to build and develop these events
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Youth on the Edge</i> (holiday activities) 	70+ families per year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By organising swimming pool parties, holiday clubs, day trips, craft sessions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to build and develop these events, exploring other opportunities and links with other groups
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>@SaturdayCafe</i> 	100+ per year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By providing monthly drop-in sessions with community groups, local police surgeries, <i>Comfortable with Computers</i> • By creating opportunities for face-to-face conversations, to build relationships 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to build and develop and raise awareness of these monthly sessions with local people, online, through newsletter and face-to-face
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Socially Yours</i> 	20+ per week	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By supporting a friendship group for isolated people, which thrives through activities, lunches out, speakers, quizzes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to develop programmes for the group to enable it to thrive, improve awareness of the group amongst local people, care homes



Key activities	No. of people impacted	How are people impacted	Next Steps...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Tactile Tour</i> 	50+	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By being inclusive and open to all but particularly accessible to people with sight loss 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Build on the partnership with Walthew House (centre for blind and deaf in Stockport), <i>Dining in the Dark</i> in October

Saturday Café

Gill – *I am not a church attender, I haven't been to church since I was 9. I met Pam through various community committees and we became friends. I started coming to the Saturday Cafe a few months ago and I have always found it to have a friendly atmosphere, with a warm welcome from everyone. During that time, I have had the opportunity to get help from the local police, Age UK, and local Magistrates. I am a Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator so this type of contact has been really useful to build up face-to-face links with people I had previously only had contact through email.*

Socially Yours

Alan – *I love this group! I love the activities, the chatter, the cups of coffee and the bingo. I love the speakers who come along, they are always really interesting. I love the visits to the high school, the children are always so kind and a pleasure to talk to. I love the lunches at the pub! Most of all, I love having somewhere to go and people to talk to, I live on my own and value the new friendships I am making.*

Fun Day

Dave, SAVY (Stockport Action for Voluntary Youth) – *It was a great opportunity for us to come to the Fun Day. We support lots of community organisations but not everyone knows who we are so to have the chance to connect with so many groups and individuals was a real blessing!*

Callum, age 6 – *I loved the fire engine!*



WW1 Event

Linda (Stockport Writers) – *This was a wonderful opportunity for Stockport Writers to partner with St Matthew’s to honour the fallen, by reading from the War Poetry Canon. I was impressed by the community involvement – people, who were not all church members, brought along memorabilia; folk of all ages and walks of life came along to share the experience. Stockport Writers are delighted with our growing partnership with St Matthew’s, such as our participation in Fun Days, where we offer opportunities for people to try creative writing, for example, community poems.*

Holiday Activities

Jackie B - *Having been an Edgeley Resident for 35 years (and still migrating back to Castle Street every day despite moving to Offerton) I can see the positive effect your role is having on the local and wider community. You make people aware of local activities, charities and spread the word about lovely hidden gems like Cheadle Heath Pavillion (now the Rose Walker Community Centre). You bring the community together with your coffee mornings and craft activities and with your annual Summer Trip. Your summer fairs and craft and Christmas fairs give local people the chance to buy goods at a reasonable price, and stallholders to make a few bob. And you, personally, make a difference to somebody's day, every day. The St Matthew's Facebook page shares good thoughts and kind messages, and must boost a lot of people's days. I hope you continue to be funded forever, as you do a grand job, and I appreciate all that you do for people.*

What hasn't worked / where we plan to develop

This is one of our strongest areas and has grown beyond all recognition from our first large scale Fun Day in 2009. We have developed and diversified to offer as many different opportunities as we can for our community to “get together”. We are particularly excited about our Tactile Tour, which will not only strengthen our partnership with Walthew House, the centre for the blind and deaf in Stockport, but open our historic church to members of our community who are often isolated.

We have not yet been able to progress our plans for developing a Credit Union, however, we are actively supporting and developing the free debt counselling service being offered at the Olive ROC Centre. We are starting to develop a signposting service for those who are in sudden financial difficulties.



How do we speak out for justice to those who make decisions? *Shaping Values and Influencing*

- By **being a force for good** in the community, reaching out to those who are isolated, and building relationships through partnerships.
- By **getting involved** through Trusteeships and being a community leader.
- By **attending local Residents' Associations** and sharing information and concerns.
- By **becoming a known presence in the community**, open to conversations, and building relationships.

Pam, our Community Development Manager, is a “hand’s on” person, deeply interested in the lives of local people. She builds strategic relationships to ensure that voices can be heard and information about needs and concerns can be shared.

Key activities	No. of people impacted	How are people impacted	Next Steps...
• Trusteeships	2 charities and their users	• By being in a position to speak for the isolated and vulnerable	• To continue to build links
• Community leader	20+ groups and their service users	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By being a person of influence, with groups turning to CDM to ask for help and support to move forward • By working with local businesses to offer training opportunities and gain funding support for small projects 	• To continue to build links
• Residents' Associations	100+ per month	• By having regular contact, sharing information and raising awareness of activities	• To continue to build links and identify additional groups to contact
• Opportunities to build relationships with groups and organisations	500+ per year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By creating opportunities for people to talk face-to-face with, for example, local police to resolve local issues and build trust • By raising awareness of challenges facing people with 	• To manage <i>Dining in the Dark</i> with Walthew House (October 2015)



Key activities	No. of people impacted	How are people impacted	Next Steps...
		<p>disabilities, for example, sight or hearing loss, and to build positive relationships with them</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By supporting local people through managing a donation point for Foodbank and other services 	

Local Police Surgeries

Jade S - *I recently had a surprising experience with a few police officers at a drop-in service at St Matthew's Church. My hubby and I have had problems with our neighbours for months now and we were getting desperate for help. We honestly had no idea what to expect but, wow, the advice and support we got exceeded all expectations. I have to say I personally walked out of there on cloud 9. The positive and encouraging words from the team were just what we needed when our spirits were low and we were so disheartened. Thank you for making us feel part of the community and as if our problems were important to you.*

Letter of support – Ian Bishop, Archdeacon of Macclesfield

The Church of England has a long history of providing support to all in our community and the work Pam is doing as the Community Development Manager at St Matthew's Church is having a huge impact on the lives of local people. In fact, the impact has been noticed across the Diocese and other churches are now turning to St Matthew's to see how they can better engage with their communities.

Pam's work is appreciated by the Local Authorities, Local Charities, Local Businesses and Schools. She is a brilliant community connector who is generating energy and building cohesion in a diverse and challenging area. Links have been formed that have had an effect way beyond Pam's immediate role and she has become a key person in the whole local economy.

Letter of support – Bridie Meehan, Quality Care of Cheadle

Pam helps all the people in her life path feel worthy and loved



Letter of support – Sgt Phil Lowe

The Neighbourhood Policing Team has come to find the reliability of the role a necessity in supporting and engaging with the public. The police surgeries we hold a monthly basis to speak with members of the public, listen to their views and ask what they want to see in their community is all supported, arranged and promoted by the Community Development Manager Role and helps us immensely.

What hasn't worked / where we plan to develop

This area of work is building slowly. As the networks develop and relationships build, people are turning to St Matthew's for guidance and signposting. Local PCSOs have contacted Pam to ask for help in planning the Emergency Service Day, which is taking place on 30 July. Pam's influence has meant that the day will involve considerably more community support organisations than originally planned, many of whom are part of the network Pam has built up, such as Healthy Stockport. This gives further opportunity for closer contact between groups who can help local people and those who need the support.

The growing links between Pam and local community leaders, such as councillors, our MP, police teams and public health managers will bring great benefits to the lives of local people.



Annex 1 - Social media developed and managed by Pam Robinson, CDM

St Matthew's Church



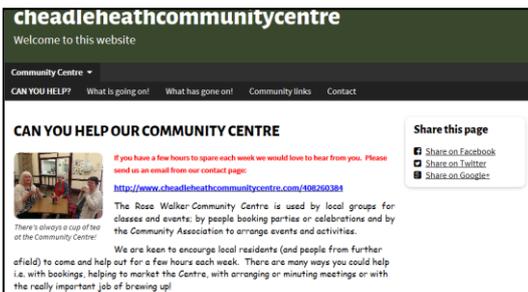
www.edgeleyandheadleheath.org.uk <https://www.facebook.com/ParishEdgeleyCheadleHeath>

Olive ROC Centre



www.oliverocentre.org.uk <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Olive-ROC-Centre>

Rose Walker Community Centre (formally Cheadle Heath Community Centre)



www.cheadleheathcommunitycentre.com www.facebook.com/rosewalkercommunitycentre

Reach Your Community (for residents of Edgeley and Cheadle Heath)



www.reachyourcommunity.co.uk

Annex 2 – Regular Contact with the following Local Groups

- Age UK
- Alexandra Park Primary School
- Ann Coffey, MP Stockport
- Bridgehall Primary School
- Cheadle Heath Community Association
- Cheadle Heath Primary School
- Chelwood Baptist Church
- Community Dental Service
- Diocese of Chester, Corporate Social Responsibility
- Edgeley Community Church
- Exercise with a Punch (community fitness)
- FLAG (For Local Advice and Guidance)
- Furniture Station
- Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service
- Greater Manchester Police Neighbourhood Police Teams
- Healthy Stockport
- Life Leisure
- Local Councillors
- Local scout groups
- Mind (mental health charity)
- Northgate Road Residents' Association
- Olive Community Projects and Olive Branch Foodbank
- Olive ROC Centre
- Quality Care of Cheadle
- Salvation Army
- SAVY (Stockport Action for Voluntary Youth)
- Signpost for Carers
- SPARC (Stockport drug and alcohol recovery)
- St Matthew's Primary School
- Stockport Academy
- Stockport Against Abuse
- Stockport Baptist Church
- Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council (SMBC) Neighbourhood Management Teams
- Stockport Writers
- Walthew House (Stockport centre for the blind and deaf)
- Wellspring (Stockport's charity for the homeless)
- York Street Community Centre

Annex 3 – Letters of Support



STOCKPORT
METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

Town Hall, Stockport SK1 3AL
Switchboard: 0161 480 4949

12th June 2015

To Whom it may concern

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing this letter in support of Pam Robinson, Community Development Manager for St Matthew's Church, Grenville Street, Edgeley.

I, and my Ward colleagues, have had the pleasure of working with Pam over a number of years in her capacity as a champion of community groups and community involvement in Edgeley and Cheadle Heath. However, I would like to concentrate my comments on the work she has done to support the Rose Walker Community Centre in Cheadle Heath.

This Centre was on the brink of closure, facing considerable financial and managerial problems. Having already seen how committed, competent and caring Pam is in all her dealings with the community I was delighted she agreed to become part of the solution for this Centre.

She has taken a major leadership role in becoming the Chair of the newly formed Trustees of the Cheadle Heath Community Association (the organisation that manages the Centre). She has encouraged other people to take on roles and supported them in doing so. In order to raise the profile of the Centre Pam organised an Open Day which was very well attended. She has taken a leading role in regularising the governance of the Centre i.e. booking forms, conditions of hire etc. The Centre now has a website and a Facebook page and information is included in newsletters.

Pam is particularly good at networking and has made considerable efforts to try and make sure that all the community groups in the area and as many individuals as possible are aware of what is available and encouraged to join in. She has worked with us, as local Councillors, and has been more than welcome to use our webpage and newsletters as another way to spread information and raise awareness.

If you need any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sheila Bailey".

CLLR SHEILA BAILEY
bailey.harding@ntlworld.com
0161 442 8695





Ann Coffey MP

Member of Parliament for Stockport
House of Commons
London, SW1A 0AA

Pam Robinson
Community Development Manager
St Matthews CE Church
99 Chatham Street
Stockport SK3 9EG

15 June 2015

Dear Pam,

Re: Community Manager role

I realise that it's now just a year since we met you and Kieran at Olive café shortly after the opening of the venue in Edgeley. A year on, I am writing this note to thank you for all the work you have done in the local community over such a short time, and to offer my support for your continuing role.

As you know, I have been the local Member of Parliament for Stockport since 1992, and before that I was a local Councillor in Edgeley – so I know the area very well. Residents in many parts of the area experience social and economic deprivation or feel isolated from the community.

I have been very impressed by the way you have developed your role in creating community links – through the activities at St Matthews and the community centres, through Olive cafe and through social media. We now have a kind of hub which brings together the local community groups, the voluntary sector organisations like Walthew House and Age UK, the local Councillors and the agencies which are there to help the general public - eg the neighbourhood policing teams.

The outcome of your work in setting up this hub is to provide support to local people when they need it. It seems to me that we are now seeing all this “take off” in terms of increased volunteering in the area, increased opportunities for learning through links with the College and the Academy and overall increased community involvement.

I believe there are great benefits to the community in your continuing role at St Matthew's and I very much hope that the grant funding for the post of Community Development Manager will be continued.

With best wishes
Yours sincerely

ANN COFFEY MP
ann.coffey.mp@parliament.uk

The Tudor Trust
7 Ladbroke Grove
London
W11 3BD

The Ven Ian Bishop
Archdeacon of Macclesfield

01928 718834 ext 234

ian.bishop@chester.anglican.org

12th June 2015

To whom it may concern

Dear Sir

Pam Robinson – Community Development Manager at St Matthew Edgeley and Cheadle Heath

I am writing in support of the application for continued funding for the above post.

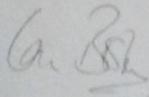
Five years ago St Matthew Edgeley and Cheadle Heath became a new parish through the amalgamation of three parishes. Two churches were closed and prospects were somewhat bleak. However St Matthews set about the task of becoming an important community hub for the area. This is being achieved by the remarkable work being done by the Vicar, Rev David Brewster and the Community Development Manager, Pam Robinson, who is the subject of this grant application.

The Church of England has a long history of providing support to all in our community and the work Pam is doing as the Community Development Manager at St Matthew's Church is having a huge impact on the lives of local people. In fact, the impact has been noticed across the Diocese and other churches are now turning to St Matthew's to see how they can better engage with their communities.

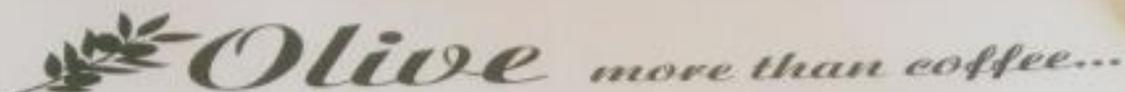
Pam's work is appreciated by the Local Authorities, Local Charities, Local Businesses and Schools. She is a brilliant community connector who is generating energy and building cohesion in a diverse and challenging area. Links have been formed that have had an effect way beyond Pam's immediate role and she has become a key person in the whole local economy.

I do hope you can support this really significant work

Yours faithfully



Ven Ian Bishop



www.oliverocentre.org.uk

The Olive Café
88-90 Castle Street
Edgeley
Stockport
Cheshire
SK3 9AL

To whom it may concern:

Dear Sirs

Re: Pam Robinson, Trustee of Olive ROC Centre, Edgeley and Community Development Manager.

The Olive ROC Centre has been operating for 13 months and during that time Pam Robinson has been an invaluable support to its development and success. We are at the heart of Edgeley, and aim to provide good quality, locally produced food in a warm and friendly environment. We are supported by representatives from the local churches in Edgeley and other groups offering sign-posting and support on a number of issues.

Pam works primarily at St. Matthew's church and has a wide ranging role in the community. She has been instrumental in linking us with the Edgeley people and small local businesses. She is well known and respected in the area and her connections have been vital for the acceptance and success we have achieved.

Pam is a hands-on person, and has set up the Olive ROC Centre website, see: www.oliverocentre.org, she has maintained and set up the Olive ROC Centre Facebook page, and keeps the Café informed of local activities through our in-house TV. She is full of creative ideas and brings encouragement to everyone she meets.

Pam is a Trustee of this Centre together with other representatives. She has good local knowledge and has helped to organise regular crafts events for children; winning the support of local businesses to help fund these activities. She is at the heart of everything we do at the Café, helping with local projects and events.

I recommend her without reservation and I value her management and communications skills together with her personal understanding and compassion for the local community.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "G. Sullivan".

Geraldine Sullivan
Patron of the Olive ROC Centre, Edgeley.

Café Managers: Mia Parkinson & Camilla Farrar

Telephone: 0161 9480 2577



of
CHEADLE

142 Shaw Heath · Stockport · Cheshire · SK2 6QS
Telephone/Fax 0161 480 4893

The Tudor Trust
Stockport

22.6.2015

Dear Sir/Madam,

I would like to confirm that Pam Robinson has worked in partnership with Quality Care of Cheadle for a few years now, together we have encouraged people who are isolated in the community to come out and have social interaction with other neighbours, make new friends and generally improve their social lives. Many are widowed, have cared for a parent all their life or are disabled themselves. Some live with family but are still lonely.

Pam has organised various speakers to come along to the group giving a new insight to things maybe they had not come across or have forgot in life. She has organised life saving training such as first aid to people who would not normally have thought about needing it, and encouraged volunteers to come along to help out, giving them a purpose in their daily lives. She has organised fun days, fetes, and generally given otherwise lonely, sad, and isolated people a reason to get up and not only help themselves have a better life but enable other to do so in the process.

The local Stockport Academy pupils have been interacting with the club members since Pam invited them, at Christmas, to sing some carols. Since then the pupils have arranged afternoon tea at the school, made hampers for them at Christmas time and the barriers between the younger and older generation have been well and truly broken down thanks to Pam.

She is full of energy and it radiates where ever she goes, filling everyone in the room with it. Pam helps all the people in her life path feel worthy and loved, and I am glad our paths crossed she is always available with a smile and a kind word no matter what. She is a great asset to St. Matthews and Socially Yours Club.

Yours Very Sincerely,

Bridie Meehan
Registered Manager
Quality Care of Cheadle



27/06/15

PS 19228 Phillip Lowe
Greater Manchester Police
Cheadle Heath Divisional Headquarters
Europa Way
Stockport
Cheshire
SK3 0SA
0161 856 9770
19228@gmp.police.uk
stockportwest@gmp.police.uk

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of Greater Manchester Police to highlight the enormous amount of work that has been done by the Community Development Manager at St. Matthew's Church in conjunction with the Neighbourhood Policing Team.

The funding that is given to support the Community Development Manager has become absolutely pivotal in build links throughout the community and between partnership agencies. The role has become a bridge for members of the public from all walks to connect with services available to them such as the Police and Community Safety Unit.

The list events that have been arranged through the Community Development Manager are endless. The Neighbourhood Policing Team has come to find the reliability of the role a necessity in supporting and engaging with the public. The Police Surgeries we hold on a monthly basis to speak with members of the public, listen to their views and ask what they want to see in their community is all supported, arranged and promoted by the Community Development Manager Role and helps us immensely.

The support that comes from St. Matthew's Church does not stop at the Neighbourhood Policing Team and the number of partnerships that benefit is vast. The support extends to Food banks, Leisure Centres, Legal Surgeries, Brigades, Local advice and guidance meetings, Signpost for Carers, First Aid Training, food safety training and Redeeming Our Communities.

Should this role ever be removed, it would be at great detriment to the community and partnership agencies. The consistent reliability the role provides helps the community develop and grow day in day out.

Many Kind Regards,

PS 19228 Phil Lowe

Police Sergeant
Stockport West Neighbourhood Policing Team
Greater Manchester Police

GREATER MANCHESTER
POLICE



112 Shaw Heath,
Stockport, SK2 6QS
Tel/Fax: 0161 480 2612
Email: admin.walthewhouse@ntlbusiness.com

Walthew House

To whom it may concern
In support of St. Matthew's Church
June 2015

Dear Sir or Madam

Walthew House is a small independent charity working with people with a sight or hearing loss in Stockport. The charity supports 250 local people each week who access one or more of the volunteer led services we provide. These include:

- A not for profit equipment resource centre, selling equipment to aid independence like talking watches, clocks and kitchen gadgets, amplified phones, large print items and magnifiers
- Social activities and classes for adults including art and craft, steel band, luncheon club and trips out, with groups catering for the specific needs of sign language users, people who are hard of hearing and people with sight loss
- A weekly youth club where all activities are fully inclusive for sign language users and young people with little or no sight
- An information helpdesk, regular newsletter produced in large print, audio formats, braille and as a British Sign Language DVD
- A free counselling service for people with a sight loss
- Braille class and transcription service
- Audio transcription service (in partnership with Stockport Talking Newspaper Association, which has its recording studio permanently based at Walthew House)
- A monthly drop in hearing aid clinic provided by Stepping Hill Hospital
- Not for profit room hire for other local organisations working with people with a sight or hearing loss

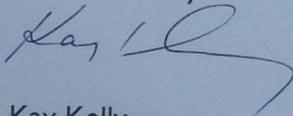
Walthew House is delighted to be working in partnership with St Matthew's Church to raise awareness of the challenges faced by people with sight and/or hearing loss. Pam has worked hard to promote not

only the monthly signed services offered at the church but also been instrumental in organising a tactile tour of the church, to help people explore this heritage building through a multi-sensory experience. Pam has willingly shared her knowledge of experience of organising large scale events to help us prepare for a summer fair next year and is always proactive in sharing our news and events.

We are looking forward to our Dining in the Dark experience, which Pam is helping to organise at the Olive ROC Café in October, which will serve as both an awareness exercise for the local community and as a fundraising opportunity.

Our partnership work with St Matthew's brings great benefits to our service users and is a great example of how local diverse communities can work together.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kay Kelly', with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Kay Kelly
Executive Manager