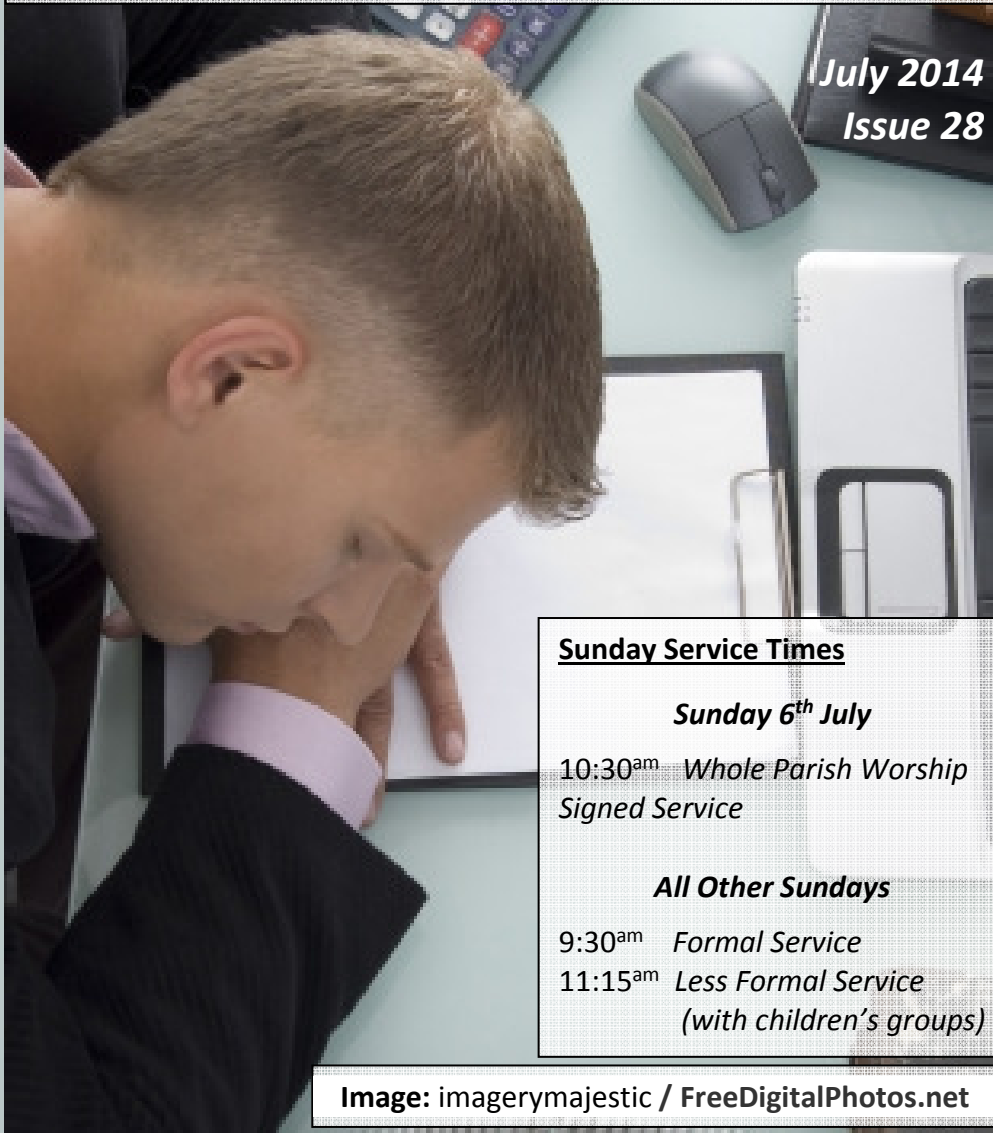


St Matthew's News

The Parish of Edgeley and Cheadle Heath



July 2014
Issue 28



Sunday Service Times

Sunday 6th July

10:30^{am} Whole Parish Worship
Signed Service

All Other Sundays

9:30^{am} Formal Service
11:15^{am} Less Formal Service
(with children's groups)

Image: [imagerymajestic](http://imagerymajestic.com) / FreeDigitalPhotos.net

Facebook: www.facebook.com/ParishEdgeleyCheadleHeath

Twitter: twitter.com/ParishEdgeleyCH

Website: www.edgeleyandcheadleheath.org.uk

Peace and Quiet?

I know that as I write this many of you will be preparing for your holidays; sadly I've just returned from mine, and it got me thinking: I had spent months looking forward to my holiday in France and some much needed peace and quiet. Peace from all the daily concerns of an ever-growing family life; peace from the pressures of work; some time to just sit and watch life pass by, instead of being part of the rat race that is life at the moment.

The biggest bonus would be to actually spend some time with my wife and family; time that didn't involve me lending money out, dropping someone off somewhere, fixing something or communicating by leaving notes on the table for each other!

I had convinced myself that two weeks in the sun and a chance to rest this weary body was what I needed most. And the holiday was fantastic and I was able to catch up with where everyone was in their lives.

But for me, instead of the rest bringing me peace and quiet and a renewed focus, it was the opposite; my mind just became

too busy for me. Before I had gone on holiday I had felt the closest to God that I have ever felt, I was reading and *understanding* more and better than ever. I felt truly at peace within myself, more at one with God than I had ever felt. But on holiday I lost that focus and am now playing catch up.



David Brown

My thoughts are that God uses every life experience to show us something. In my case it was to illustrate that when I am closer to God and studying I am more in tune with what I am meant to be. But I also believe in the grace of God that is so forgiving that it is possible to have these ups and downs, these periods of separation without God holding it against us: such is His love for me and for you.

Our Facebook:500

initiative, aiming
to have 500
people following



St Matthew's on Facebook by the end of the year, has garnered a mere five followers this month. We would like to remind people to 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.

Do You Care?

Stockport Signpost for Carers has launched a new website which has details of events and information for carers:

<http://www.carersvoicestockport.weebly.com/>

SignPost Stockport for Carers:
0161 442 0442 for general enquiries.

Tiny Things

Prayer

Available 24/7/365
No connection fee

Let There Be Light...

At long last, the new lighting is about to be installed!

Work will begin on **Monday 14th July** and last around six weeks. During this time, there will be **NO ACCESS** to church Monday to Friday, until after 5^{pm}. This means that other arrangements will have to be made for church activities and for groups who meet in our building. See notice sheets for details.

The church will be available as normal on Saturdays and Sundays. We are sorry for the inconvenience and ask that we all be gracious to each other during this disruption. It will be worth it!

If you have any questions, please speak to David, Graham, Steph or Pam Robinson.

Three More Years...

We received some great news last weekend. *The Tudor Trust* has awarded us a grant to pay Pam as our *Community Development Manager* for the next three years. They were impressed with both Pam and the work we are doing in our local community.

I Long to Dwell in Your Tent Forever...

There will soon be a pop-up tent at the back of church. At April's Liverpool Toolkit conference, one workshop was entitled *The Spirituality of under-5s*. I went out of curiosity; I left feeling inspired. Spirituality was defined simply as an 'innate sensitivity' to the world and those around us, with faith being the framework. We cannot teach spirituality, but we absolutely can nurture it in our younger children.

Did you know? "Compared with adults, children are more than twice as likely to be aware of experiences that make them feel close to God." **Did you know?** "Many children feel that no one takes their spiritual thoughts and feelings seriously, and they soon think that religion is 'right' and that they must be wrong." (*Children's Spirituality: What it is and why it matters*. Rebecca Nye, 2009).

I left the workshop with an idea of how we, **as a congregation**, can nurture our children's spirituality. The key is to provide a safe space for 'deep play and

exploration' to occur; to provide time to talk about God's gifts and to get lost in play. Deep play can be described as the activity that so absorbs you that you lose track of time and all things around you, so that you connect with your inner spirituality. Our children lose themselves in activities but we often need them to move on 'a bit quicker' to get through *our* day!



We are going to create a space - a pop-up tent - for our children to find quiet and solitude whilst exploring pre-prepared toys and activities. I'd like to call the space our 'Angel Space' but I'm open to suggestions.

Adults won't get involved. Our children will find their own depth without us interfering. Our role will be to listen and respond to the children's thoughts, 'wonders' and opinions, and take them seriously... we might even have the privilege of being in the moment of wonder that our children share with us.

Karen Bailey

Honouring God

How do you honour God?
We asked Mark Rushton that question. He told us:



Through service; my duties in church. I'm glad to do it.

If you'd like to share the way in which you honour God, and appear in a future magazine, please speak to Linda.

Summer's Here!

The Friends of St Matthew's School group will be holding a Summer Fun Day on Saturday 12th July, 11-2 in the school grounds. Games, bouncy castle, tombola and refreshments.

And don't forget our own Summer Fair on Saturday 19th July. Please leave your donations at the back of church.

Volunteers are always welcome!

The Diocesan Lay Conference (Part I)

Apprentice? You're hired was the theme of the conference. Topics covered were: *Called by Jesus; Following the Master; Living in God's Story; What does it mean to be a disciple of Jesus?*

The weekend flowed really well. It was inspiring, not just the set talks but also the input from delegates. The proposal, *The plural of disciple is church* really resonated with me; it stresses that church is the people, not the building.

In my first group session we were encouraged to seek asset-based solutions, concentrating on what we are good at. Although St. Matthew's was given as a good example, the warning is not to get complacent. Another session discussed *All day, every day discipleship* - the evening and morning day. We sleep to get ready for the day's work, not sleep after working.

It was well worth attending!

Janet Critchley

Introducing...Sue Mayo

I was born and raised in Liverpool. My favourite toy was...books! My favourite subject at school was English. That's where the books were. I wanted to be an actress. I became a theatre and TV director and producer. It turned out I couldn't act! I was also a teacher and more recently an ordained person working in schools. Now I'm mostly grandma!

I came to faith in 1993 after my 9 year old daughter had made a commitment to Christ. I was led by her. I have come to church in the parish for 4 years, coming here because I was ordained and working at Stockport Academy. I wanted to worship where I was ministering and David was gracious enough to take me on. I love it!

To relax, I spend time doing anything with my family; I read, walk and travel when possible. I would love to visit Israel. I always have at least three books on the go. I'm enjoying Michael Simkin's book *What's my Motivation?* It's about being an actor and it's making me roar with laughter.

The hardest decision I ever had to make was leaving my work with Christians in Schools Trust. I'm still trusting God that I heard right and that it will become clear what I'm going to have to do next.



I would like to be locked in church with...sounds corny, but, Jesus. I've got a lot of things I'd like to ask him and I think he's got a great sense of humour too (he was from the north, you know!). The event that had the greatest influence on my life was becoming a Christian. Best thing I've ever done. I feel closest to Jesus when I am alone with him.

If I could recommend just one Bible passage to a friend it would be the whole of Paul's letter to the Philippians, which is like a love letter from God; but especially Philippians 1:6 "he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. It reminds me that when I feel helpless and hopeless and like I'm not making any spiritual progress at all, God will never give up on me.

What's on this month

Tuesday, 1st

8:30^{am} Home Group
11:30^{am} Funeral of Lilian Procter
1:30^{pm} Socially Yours in church

Wednesday, 2nd

10^{am} Holy Communion
7:45^{pm} Home Group

Friday, 4th to Sunday 6th

Spree Camping for 8+

Friday, 4th

9:30^{am} Toddle Time
7^{pm} Choir Practice

Saturday, 5th

8:30^{am} Prayer Breakfast
10^{am} Saturday Café
incl. **Police Surgery**
1:30^{pm} Wedding of
Lee Hughes and Claire Horiensky

Sunday, 6th

10:30^{am} Whole Parish Worship
Lead & Preach: David & Lucy
Holy Communion
with *Prayer for Healing*

Monday, 7th

1^{pm} Stockport Sling Meet
& Library in church
6:30^{pm} Brigade in church

Tuesday, 8th

8:30^{am} Home Group

Tuesday, 8th

1:30^{pm} Socially Yours
at *Stockport Academy*

Wednesday, 9th

Magazine Articles Due
10^{am} Holy Communion
7:45^{pm} Home Group

Thursday, 10th

7:30^{pm} Mothers' Union in church
Healthy Stockport

Friday, 11th

9:30^{am} Toddle Time
7^{pm} Choir Practice

Saturday, 12th

10^{am} Saturday Café incl.
healthystockport@satcafe
11^{am} Friends of St Matthew's
School Fun Day

Sunday, 13th

9:30^{am} Holy Communion with Bap
Lead: David ~ Preach: Heather
11:15^{am} Baptism Service
Lead: Julie ~ Preach: Heather
1 & 1:45^{pm} Baptism Services

Monday, 14th

6:30^{pm} Brigade

Tuesday, 15th

8:30^{am} Home Group
1:30^{pm} Socially Yours at
Olive Café, Edgeley

Wednesday, 16th

10^{am} Holy Communion

Wednesday, 16th

7:45^{pm} Home Group

Friday, 18th

7^{pm} Choir Practice

Saturday, 19th

12^{pm} Summer Fair

Sunday, 20th

9:30^{am} Holy Communion
Lead: Sue ~ Preach: David
11:15^{am} Holy Communion
Lead: Sue ~ Preach: David

6:30^{pm} Taizé Service

200 Club – Subs Due

Monday, 21st

6:30^{pm} Brigade

Tuesday, 22nd

8:30^{am} Home Group
1:30^{pm} Socially Yours
at Olive Café, Edgeley
7:30^{pm} PCC in St Matts Vicarage

Wednesday, 23rd

10^{am} Holy Communion
7:45^{pm} Home Group

Saturday, 26th

10^{am} Saturday Café

Sunday, 27th

9:30^{am} Teen Breakfast
in the Vicarage

Sunday, 27th

9:30^{am} Holy Communion
Lead: David ~ Preach: Peter
11:15^{am} All Age Signed Service
Lead: David ~ Preach: David

Monday, 28th

6:30^{pm} Brigade

Tuesday 29th to Friday 1st August

1:30^{pm} Holiday Club at St John's
5^{pm} Holiday Club at St John's

Tuesday 29th

8:30^{am} Home Group
1:30^{pm} Socially Yours
at the Farmer's Arms

Wednesday, 30th

10^{am} Holy Communion
7:45^{pm} Home Group

Looking ahead

Sunday, 3rd

10:30^{am} Whole Parish Worship

Sunday, 10th

11:30^{am} Tess Bailey's Baptism

All times and dates correct
at time of going to press.
Check the notice sheet, website,
Facebook or Twitter for changes.

June Baptisms

Layla Kick, Adam Fillingham,
Charlee Weston, Joshua O'Shea,
Gracie Plant

June Weddings

Paul Sheilds & Laura Gaskill