

# St Matthew's News

The Parish of Edgeley and Cheadle Heath



September & October 2014  
Issue 30

## Sunday Service Times

### *Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> October*

10:30<sup>am</sup> Parish Harvest Festival  
with Healing Prayer

### *All Other Sundays*

9:30<sup>am</sup> Formal Service  
11:15<sup>am</sup> Less Formal Service  
(with children's groups)

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> Oct, 11:15<sup>am</sup> Signed

Image: Arvind Balaraman

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/ParishEdgeleyCheadleHeath](http://www.facebook.com/ParishEdgeleyCheadleHeath)

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## *The Paradox of Autumnal New Beginnings*

The large removal van was closing its doors on the contents of a home as I passed by. I turned and looked right into and through the now empty house. *House* only now, no longer *Home*. *Home* is a place where you have invested and imprinted your hopes, dreams and (sometimes peculiar!) tastes. *House* is what now stands empty, bereft, sad and lonely. But wait! *House* represents a new opportunity, a fresh start, an as yet unwritten story, a place where a new family will find its opportunity to make a mark, to lay down distinctive echoes of ongoing life. *House* will become *Home* again.

September brings that paradox of sadness and opportunity to so many, and even when we no longer have any personal connection to the school year, it still seems to mark a point of change. It may simply be the sadness that those long summer days are receding and the heating bills loom large! It may be that we have experienced the sadness of bereavement or

broken relationship, and must face a tremulous new beginning.

For all of us though, just like that clean and shiny first page of the new school exercise book (for those students who don't yet do it all online!), opportunity awaits.

John Keble and Timothy Dudley-Smith have thoughts on those lines in the words of their scriptural based hymns:

*New every morning is the love  
New mercies, each returning day  
Past put behind us  
For the future takes us*

Let us resolve to put behind us whatever mixed experiences the past months may have brought and eagerly embrace the next and newest phase of our life, committed anew *To live for Christ alone*.

Love to you from me, in His name. **Julie Jxo**



Julie Johnson

## Diocesan Lay Conference

The conference was a welcome opportunity to get away from normal activities, refresh and meet some really interesting people. An added bonus was the beautiful sunshine.

The weekend's theme was discipleship, and we explored what it means to be a disciple of Jesus today. Described as a full-time practical apprenticeship, so not just for Sundays and bible study, we thought about the challenges of serving wherever God has placed us in the world. And whoever He has placed us with: our family, friends and colleagues.

We developed these ideas further in workshops, and at one we discussed daily ethical dilemmas, drawing on personal experiences ranging from workplace bullying through fraud to suicide.

But for me the most memorable moment was walking on the shores of Hayes Lake early on Sunday morning singing, *Breathe on me Breath of God*, bathed in early morning light and accompanied by bird song. **Lucy**

## You Don't Bring Me Flowers...

**A message from Irene Hinde**

*I am retiring on 22<sup>nd</sup> November as leader of our 'Flower Team' and will be handing all monies over to our Treasurer, Sylvia. It has been a joy and privilege to serve over many years.*

*I remain hopeful that someone will take over. I will always be available to give guidance if desired.*

*I give my grateful thanks to all who have travelled this journey with me, especially June.*



*With my love in Christ, Irene.*

'Yes, grass withers and flowers fade, but the word of our God endures forever.' **Isaiah 40:8**

Thanks so much to Irene for her many years of dedicated service as leader of the flower team. If you would like to see flowers in church on a regular basis, see David to talk about the possibilities. 😊

## General Synod July '14 Report in Summary

*A copy of the report in full may be found on the website.*

Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> July 2014 was a momentous day in the history of the Church of England. It was the day on which the General Synod agreed to women priests being ordained as bishops. There are already a significant number of women bishops in the Anglican Church in other parts of the world and also in other denominations worldwide - but never before could one be ordained in England! An announcement of the first woman bishop in England could come as early as Christmas.

We also debated how we could support the families of members of the Armed Forces living in our parishes; some simplified prayers for use at a Baptismal Service where the family were unfamiliar with church; the relaxation of the robes clergy are expected to wear when leading worship; the provision of housing for retired clergy; and the mission opportunities for churches when the country celebrates the 800<sup>th</sup>

anniversary of the signing of the Magna Carta in June 2015.

Question time was lively! There were numerous questions about same-sex marriage and assisted dying - both very emotive issues.

**Lois Haslam**

## MU Fundraising Day



Mothers' Union members held a fundraising day in church during Saturday Cafe on 20<sup>th</sup> September.

Cakes and coffee were on sale; and Charles Stowman played favourite hymns for a donation.

Thank you to everyone who supported the event and helped to raise £220.

**Facebook:500** saw a gain of **21** new followers in **August** and **September**. Please keep praying for another 364 by December 31.





Our signed service in September marks the opening of *Walthew House's - See-Hear Stockport*. The week will see different events and publicity for people with hearing and visual impairments, including a poetry reading by St Matthew's parishioner Linda Cosgriff. We are excited to be part of this week and look forward to strengthening our relationship with Walthew House.

Our normal signed service on the 28<sup>th</sup> September will be completely accessible for the visually impaired.

Please be aware that working dogs may be in the building. Do not fuss them without first asking permission from the owner. Thank you. **Karen Bailey**

## Pooling Resources

Three pool parties were held at Avondale Leisure Centre over the first three Mondays in August. They were very well attended, with a total of 27 adults and 54 children over the three weeks.

We have learned valuable lessons about reminding people when the parties are on! Many people booked well in advance but didn't turn up on the day because they forgot it was happening.

A 'thank you' card was sent to Avondale, recognising their support in organising these parties.

Some of the feedback we received:

*Friendly, fun and very good value!*

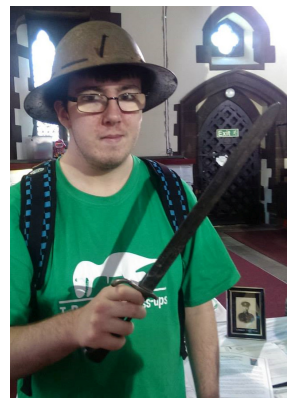
*Fun, party atmosphere.*

*Seeing how happy everyone was, climbing and sliding on the inflatable.*

**Karen Bailey & Pam Robinson**

## The Lamps Are Going Out...

The 9<sup>th</sup> of August saw the church humming with activity. Our commemorative event to mark the start of World War I attracted at least five times our usual Saturday morning numbers, including many people who don't usually come in to church.



We had six large tables of loaned items on display - thank you, every one! Visitors were keen to know the stories behind the artefacts and owners like Ed Mayo and Lucy Brewster stayed to chat about them.

Stockport Writers was represented by Linda and Alex Cosgriff, who gave readings of poetry from



the Great War canon.

Children - and some adults - enjoyed decorating commemorative candle holders with Karen Bailey. The morning was rounded off by music from the period and a taste of Pam Robinson's delicious Anzac biscuits.

**Linda Cosgriff**



## House of Fun!

We had a great holiday club this year, down at St John's Methodist Church. We transformed it into Rocky's Plaice



restaurant, and treated our 'customers' (the kids) to four afternoons of tasty treats!

The children learned about Peter setting up the first church, and were introduced to different characters and themes. We met Dorcas and learned about her LOVE for others.



We had the usual story-telling, crafts and games. The children loved the theme song and got involved playing blow-up air guitars! And then there was the amazing and messy drama from Linda and Lucy as two hapless new chefs in the restaurant, guided by their mentor, Chef Tagliatelle (aka Mike).



Prayer was the foundation to the club, and as a result

God blessed us by doubling our numbers from 13 to 26 by the end of the week. Once again the whole team was brilliant and really supported each other and the children. **Karen Bailey**



## Wales Welcomes Us

The day trip to Llandudno was a very popular day out; and very successful. There was a mix of ages, from families with toddlers to older folk having a trip out on their own. Some regular churchgoers came on the trip but the majority came from the wider community. Some old faces returned and new faces were made to feel welcome. A total of 49 people attended.

Feedback included: *Thank you for organising such a lovely day. You made so many families happy today.*



*You do so much for the local community - I hope the church continues to receive funding in order for you to continue helping families and all the social groups that you run. We really appreciate all that you do.*

The popularity of the day trip, at £5 per head, is unsurprising in light of a recent report on the BBC website from Barnardo's, which states that **one in five families in England are unable to afford a trip to the seaside** on a Bank Holiday. **Pam Robinson**

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-28899021>

## Spree 2014

This year, some of our older Sunday Club - Tess, Emily and Ria - joined the Baptist Church in attending Spree camp at Sandiways in Cheshire.

Despite some rain on the first night, we had a great time. Each evening and morning we attended a meeting which included drama, silly games, fab songs and some Bible teaching – the theme being 'Encountering God'.

During the day we had loads of challenging activities that we could all join in with – wall climbing, archery, biking, kayaking; and just chilling! For lunch on Sunday we partook of the most amazing banquet: cocktails, water melon, bread, cheese, meat, and the most wonderful pudding – a shared banana split served in a gutter!!!

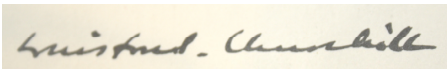
We all had a wonderful time learning about God and making new friends. *Roll on Spree 2015!*

**Karen Bailey**

## Church of Fun!

Our Heritage Open Day and Family Fun Day have been the best so far. We opened our doors to our community and they came pouring in - which was a big improvement on the summer fair, when all that poured was the rain.

On **National Heritage Open Day**, people came to see our beautiful church, take photographs, and enjoy memories. We had parish records of baptisms and wedding dating from 1858. We even found a hand-written note of thanks to St Matthew's from Winston Churchill!



The **Fun Day** was the biggest to date. We had over 20 community stalls and activities, including a fire engine and the Eden Bus! It was fantastic to see so many smiling faces and the event has been praised by all of the groups who attended. The local PCSO said:

*I can honestly say it was by far the best event I have done to date. It attracted a wide range of the local community due to the variety of stalls/entertainment you had invited, meaning we got to speak with people from all backgrounds and give some good crime*



*reduction advice and products to people we wouldn't normally get to meet and speak to.*



*I established some links with community groups I hadn't dealt with before and have already made arrangements to attend some of these groups going forward.*

And this from Imelda Watson at FLAG:

*Thank you for giving FLAG the opportunity to attend St. Matthew's Summer Fair. I found it a great opportunity to raise*

*awareness of Stockport FLAG, to chat to members of the public, and to hand out some information packs we have developed on Loan Shark Awareness for SK3 private tenants.*



*We are very familiar with the events held at St Matthews for members of the community and find them well organised, offering an array of information and fun for the residents of Edgeley.*

*We look forward to the next one.*



These days could not take place without an army of volunteers so thank you to all who came along and helped in any way. Special thanks go to Linda Cosgriff, for writing 39 poems for people and putting together the community poem; and to St Cuthbert's and Stockport Baptist Churches for helping to supervise the Eden Bus.



You can see more photographs of both days on the website.

**Pam Robinson**



## Does My Print Look Big In This?

The magazine you are holding has been printed using our brand

new printer, which has been gifted to us by Stockport-based CDL, a market leader in software solutions who employ over 450 people in the local area. CDL are committed to supporting community work - and so have also generously donated a *mountain* of paper for our use!

The high volume printer will help to substantially reduce our printing costs, as CDL have negotiated a fantastic cost per copy contract with their supplier, Danwood. The printer will also provide us with another way of supporting our community groups, by offering low cost, high quality printing for special events.

A big thank you to everyone at CDL, from everyone here at St Matthew's.

## Hair Today...



Back in May, *SMN* featured Dave Blakeney, who let his long hair flow loose on Sundays to honour God and symbolise the only mess in his life.

Dave has now used his hair to honour God in a new way - by shaving it off! Along with six of his mates, Dave raised around **£2500** for medical and food supplies to send to Syria. Well done, Dave!

## It's Good To Share

Sue Mayo has been temporarily seconded to All Hallows' Parish until a new incumbent is appointed there, so we won't see her at St Matthew's for a short (we hope) while.

Sue remains licensed to Edgeley & Cheadle Heath.

## Anglican Cursillo

### What is Anglican Cursillo?

A method of supporting and encouraging our lives as Christians. Cursillo (pronounced "kur-see-yo") is a Spanish word meaning a short course in Christianity.

### What can Cursillo offer?

An opportunity to grow in faith. A chance to know the love and grace of God and the joy of Christian fellowship. A way of experiencing Christian community and helping one another in our spiritual journey and in active witness. An opportunity to develop one's gifts of ministry in the Church. It embraces the insights and good teaching of all the traditions of the Anglican Church. It operates within the Church and not outside it, so it works together with groups and organisations within a parish.

### Who is it for?

Any baptised member of the Anglican Church (laity or clergy) who is curious, searching, discovering, growing, wanting to be joyful and confident in their faith.



When Irene gave me a leaflet about Cursillo in 2007 I read it and didn't understand what it was all about, but latched onto the words above and felt that I wanted to know more about 'growing in my faith.'

### My Story

I attended a Cursillo weekend. They run twice a year, beginning on a Thursday evening and ending on the Sunday afternoon.



During those three days we lived, worked and worshiped together, listened to talks given by different people, both lay and ordained, and shared in various social activities. We heard short talks on subjects like Grace, Faith, Study, Sacraments, Ideals, Evangelism, and Christian Community in Action.

There were fifteen talks in all, which led into lively discussions in small groups. In addition, there was Holy Communion each day and a number of chapel meditations. Learning, praying,

sharing, singing, laughing and living together is the basis for discovering what it means to say "We are the body of Christ."

The three days are not an end in themselves but very much a beginning. The three-day weekend leads into the fourth day...the rest of our lives.

The impact of a weekend varies with every individual. Some had my experience: I was blown away with the weekend and became more confident in my faith and began to understand a bit more about the faith journey that God had mapped out for me. A friend at church actually said to me after I had attended my weekend, "You have changed."



Some people find that the weekend impacts on them slowly over a number of years; some find it is not for them - but maybe God knows what impact it has had!

Please feel free to ask questions of any of us who are part of the Cursillo community. Irene Hinde

is the Lay Rector of our area and I am the Lay Director of Chester Cursillo. We will be happy to chat and try to answer any questions you may have. **Mary Mitchell**

You can also visit the Diocesan website: [www.chestercursillo.org.uk](http://www.chestercursillo.org.uk)  
National website: [www.anglicancursillo.co.uk](http://www.anglicancursillo.co.uk)

## From the Editors

Many apologies, dear readers, for last month's absent issue of *SMN*. As the magazine's management team is effectively a two-man band, glitches will occasionally occur for reasons beyond our control.

We would like to thank everyone who contributed articles about the amazing summer of activities which we experienced here at St Matthew's. Hasn't it been fun?!

We would also like to remind you that all members of the church are invited to submit articles for *SMN*. Just speak to Linda.

We hope you enjoy this month's bumper magazine!

## Community Poem

I represented Stockport Writers again at this year's Fun Day. Last year, I offered free poetry workshops - and not one person came, to my embarrassment. And puzzlement - am I the only person in Stockport who enjoys writing poetry? As it turned out, I'm not.

This year, I offered to write poems *for* people. I asked for name, age and five random facts, and then cobbled something together in five minutes.



For the first takers I said, *Come back in ten minutes*. More people signed up; I told them to come back at the end of the day to collect their poem. Eventually it was, I'll *email it to you tomorrow*. And finally, *You'll have it by the end of next week, I promise*. By the end of the day, thirty-nine people wanted poems about themselves!

At the same time as writing the poems, I invited people - at Pam's suggestion - to write a community poem: the theme for the day was joy, so I asked them to name three things that brought them happiness; and to say why.

Roughly forty people completed the form, resulting in a poem three pages long, in fifteen five-line stanzas. I cut out the answers, sorted them into themes and *voila!* One community poem. And one exhausted poet.

Copies of the poem are available to those who would like it. Just speak to me.

**Linda Cosgriff**

# What's on this month

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

Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup> Trinity 15

**9:30<sup>am</sup> Holy Communion**

**Lead & Preach: David**

**11:15<sup>am</sup> All Age Signed Service**

**Lead: Julie ~ Preach: David**

Monday, 29<sup>th</sup> St Michael & All Angels

**1<sup>pm</sup> Twins and Multiples Group**

**6:30<sup>pm</sup> Brigade**

Tuesday, 30<sup>th</sup>

**8:30<sup>am</sup> Home Group**

**1:30<sup>pm</sup> Socially Yours**

**7:30<sup>pm</sup> Skills & More 2**

*at Christ Church, Woodford*

Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup>

**10<sup>am</sup> Holy Communion**

**7:45<sup>pm</sup> Home Group**

Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup>

**1:00<sup>pm</sup> Refugee & Asylum Seekers  
Support Group**

**2:30<sup>pm</sup> Funeral of Gladys Sopiak**

Friday, 3<sup>rd</sup>

**9:30<sup>am</sup> Toddle Time**

**7<sup>pm</sup> Choir Practice**

Saturday, 4<sup>th</sup>

**8:30<sup>am</sup> Prayer Breakfast**

**10<sup>am</sup> Saturday Café**

**6:30<sup>pm</sup> Hot Pot Supper**

*at the Pavilion*

Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> Trinity 16

**10:30<sup>am</sup> Parish Harvest Festival**

Holy Communion & Healing Prayers

**Lead: David Br ~ Preach: David**

Monday, 6<sup>th</sup>

**1<sup>pm</sup> Stockport Sling Meet & Library**

**6:30<sup>pm</sup> Brigade**

Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup>

**8:30<sup>am</sup> Home Group**

**1:30<sup>pm</sup> Socially Yours**

Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup>

**Magazine Articles Due**

**10<sup>am</sup> Holy Communion**

**7:45<sup>pm</sup> Home Group**

Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup>

**11<sup>am</sup> Heritage Open Day**

**7:30<sup>pm</sup> Mothers' Union**

*Tonight: Charles Stowman*

Friday, 10<sup>th</sup>

**9:30<sup>am</sup> Toddle Time**

**7<sup>pm</sup> Choir Practice**

Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup>

**10<sup>am</sup> Saturday Café**

Sunday, 12<sup>th</sup> Trinity 17

**9:30<sup>am</sup> Holy Communion**

**Lead: Julie ~ Preach: Lucy**

**11:15<sup>am</sup> Morning Worship**

**Lead: Lucy ~ Preach: David Br**

Monday, 13<sup>th</sup>

**6:30<sup>pm</sup> Brigade**

Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup>

**8:30<sup>am</sup> Home Group**

**1:30<sup>pm</sup> Socially Yours**

Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup>

**10<sup>am</sup> Holy Communion**

**7:45<sup>pm</sup> Home Group**

Friday, 17<sup>th</sup>

**9:30<sup>am</sup> Toddle Time**

**7<sup>pm</sup> Choir Practice**

Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup> St Luke's Day

**10<sup>am</sup> Saturday Café**

Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup> Trinity 18

**9:30<sup>am</sup> Holy Communion**

**Lead & Preach: David**

**11:15<sup>am</sup> Holy Communion**

**Lead: Heather ~ Preach: David**

**1<sup>pm</sup> MU Sunday Lunch**

*at the Davenport Park Hotel*

**200 Club – Subs Due**

Monday, 20<sup>th</sup>

**6:30<sup>pm</sup> Brigade**

Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup>

**8:30<sup>am</sup> Home Group**

**1:30<sup>pm</sup> Socially Yours**

**7:30<sup>pm</sup> PCC at the Vicarage**

Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup>

**10<sup>am</sup> Holy Communion**

**7:45<sup>pm</sup> Home Group**

Friday, 24<sup>th</sup>

**9:30<sup>am</sup> Toddle Time**

**7<sup>pm</sup> Choir Practice**

Saturday, 25<sup>th</sup>

**10<sup>am</sup> Saturday Café**

*incl. Police Surgery*

**11<sup>am</sup> Craft Fair**

Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup> Trinity 19

**9:30<sup>am</sup> Holy Communion**

**Lead: Peter ~ Preach: TBC**

**11:15<sup>am</sup> All Age Signed Service**

**Lead: TBC ~ Preach: Heather**

Monday, 27<sup>th</sup>

**1<sup>pm</sup> Twins and Multiples Group**

**6:30<sup>pm</sup> Brigade**

Tuesday, 28<sup>th</sup> St Simon & St Jude

**8:30<sup>am</sup> Home Group**

**1:30<sup>pm</sup> Socially Yours**

Wednesday, 29<sup>th</sup>

**10<sup>am</sup> Holy Communion**

**7:45<sup>pm</sup> Home Group**

**8<sup>pm</sup> Cursillo**

Friday, 31<sup>st</sup>

**9:30<sup>am</sup> Toddle Time**

**7<sup>pm</sup> Choir Practice**

**Light Party at SBC – details TBC**

## August and September Funerals

Elsie Roberts, Philip Lynch,  
Dean Gillespie

## August and September Baptisms

Tess Bailey, Harrison Shepherd,  
Luke Brady, Finn Seaton,  
Georgia Perkins, Elsie Mitchell,  
Freddie Skelly, George Williams

## September Weddings

Derrick Lawley and Sarah Wilson