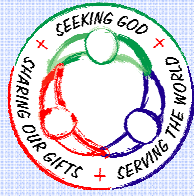


St Matthew's News

The Parish of Edgeley and Cheadle Heath



January 2015
Issue 33



Sunday Service Times

Sunday 4th January
10:30^{am} Whole Parish Worship

Sunday 25th January
11:15^{am} All Age Signed Service

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

Image: Stuart Miles; FreeDigitalPhotos.net

Facebook: www.facebook.com/ParishEdgeleyCheadleHeath

Twitter: twitter.com/ParishEdgeleyCH

Website: www.edgeleyandcheadleheath.org.uk

Telephone: 0161 480 5896

What's in a name?

One of my wife's colleagues was due to have a baby on 25th December. I have been suggesting that following the blessed event, Lucy should call up and ask *How's baby Jesus doing?*

But Lucy, being Lucy... she won't. She doesn't even think it's particularly funny - how we've stayed married for so long is a mystery!

Although Jesus is still a fashionable name in some Hispanic communities, it is unlikely that Lucy's friend or any other parent will name their new-born after God's son.

Names in the Bible are important, and it's easy to miss their significance when all we hear is a collection of sounds.

The name Jesus is full of significance and has a long pedigree. Translating back through a couple of languages you come to the name Joshua which derives its meaning from the Hebrew verb - to rescue or deliver.



David the Vicar

It's so easy to take our faith for granted... to have it running in the background like one of those annoying programs that seem to be constantly slowing down our computers.

But as the angel said to Joseph, *...you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.* The name reminds us that we need saving and we need a saviour.

Exciting News!



Libby's appointment was announced by No.10 Downing Street on Wednesday 17th December. She was introduced at Stockport Town Hall. She will be consecrated as the 8th Bishop of Stockport at a ceremony at York Minister on Monday 26th January.

the Diocese of Chester

The new Bishop of Stockport - and the **first woman bishop in the history of the Church of England** - will be the Revd Libby Lane, currently Vicar of St Peter's, Hale, and St Elizabeth's, Ashley.

We here at St Matthew's offer a very warm welcome to our Bishop elect and look forward to working with her.

Got Questions About Life?

From Sunday 4th January for twelve weeks we will be joining with St. George's to run an Alpha Course, a series of interactive sessions that freely explore the basics of the Christian faith. It will be of interest to anyone who is curious about what it is to be a Christian. The talks are designed to encourage conversation in a friendly, informal environment.



A Dog for God

I am like my dog, Molly. When I sit down, she jumps up next to me but fidgets.



She needs to sniff her bottom, scratch behind her ear, chew her toe, circle, circle, circle to find the best, comfiest spot in which to lie down.

She always has an ear up for threatening noises: passersby chatting or whistling; wind rattling the letter box. Her eyes constantly scan the room for unsettling movements. Finally, she climbs onto my knee and falls asleep, secure in feeling as close to me as she can possibly be.

I go through a similar routine when it's my quiet time (without the butt sniffing, I hasten to add): I need to empty the dishwasher; wash, dress; make a brew, my bed, breakfast; check emails, Facebook, my blog.

No question is out of bounds.

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.

There is no charge. For more information, please see David or Lucy.

Finally, when I've done everything I think I need to do, I settle down to the actual - the *only* - thing I need to do: spend time with God. I pray, write, read His Word and feel blessed and refreshed.

I suddenly understand what my dog instinctively knows: get the other stuff out of the way, and I am secure in feeling as close to Him as I can possibly be.

But I know something Molly doesn't: I should get the other stuff out of the way *after* my quiet time, not before.

Jesus did nothing without praying about it; He began every day with God. He knew what was important. I can think of no better example to follow. I think I'll pray that I can do the same.

But first, let me write my shopping list...

Linda Cosgriff

Image: SOMMAI; FreeDigitalPhotos.net

Christmas starts with Christ

Thank you to everyone who read, responded, prayed, tweeted or shared in this campaign. We hope that our daily reminders brought the wonder of Christmas into your lives.

We had a wonderful response on our social media sites, with one of our posts being shared with over 4500 people! It has been a joy to know that we have been raising the name of Jesus high in both the local and global community.

Facebook: 500

At the time of going to press in mid-December, we had 181 Facebook followers. Whilst this is 319 people short of our goal to have 500 followers by the end of the year, it is still an achievement: we have tripled the original number of followers in just nine months.

Thank you to everyone who prayed for the **Facebook: 500** initiative.

We give thanks to God for all of those He led to Like St Matthew's Page; and pray that He will lead them to like Him, too!



Laptop Tips



The first session of *Comfortable with Computers*, helping people build their confidence using a computer or tablet, ran on December 13th, to the accompaniment of sponsored carols from the choir during Saturday Cafe!

Special thanks to a friend from our community, Maeve, who helped our first two patrons get to grips with modern technology.

If you don't know your mouse from your megabytes, then come along to one of these new monthly computer sessions.

Held on the second Saturday of the month, from 10-12, our willing volunteers will help you gain confidence. Whether you want to send an email, Skype your relatives in Australia, or simply find the 'ON' switch, they can help you get started. You are welcome to bring your own equipment but we will have some available.

See Roy Higham or Pam Robinson for more details.

All the Fun of the Fair

What a wonderful afternoon we had at our Christmas Fair. Hundreds of people came along to enjoy the stalls, raffles and tombolas; and the Irish Coffee and mulled wine in particular.



The fair is always about more than raising vital funds for church. It is a real opportunity to get to know and bless our local community.



It was a really festive event, with people taking the opportunity to 'follow the star' and take a journey around the church to the nativity scene at the altar. Many people wrote out prayers to leave in the manger, which were offered up at our service the next day.



We couldn't have done it without so many willing hands and hearts, so thank you to all who were involved.

They came for the coffee but followed the star!

Socially Yours

It has been lovely to see some familiar faces from St Matthew's coming along to the Socially Yours group but we would love to see more.

If you feel like you need a bit of company once a week, do come along and join in. We meet every Tuesday afternoon, 1.30pm - 3.30pm here in church. We enjoy hot drinks, cakes and biscuits and lots of different activities. We make soup, enjoy crafts and have a variety of speakers - and even the odd game of bingo!



We also have meals out at the pub, most recently, a delicious Christmas Dinner at The Farmer's Arms, where we were entertained by pupils from Stockport Academy, who sang carols and gave us hampers which they had made up themselves.

Tell your family, friends and neighbours; but do come along yourself.

For more details, see Pam Robinson.

Recycle - Throw your Christmas cards into the blue bin or take them along to the supermarkets, many of which have special bins available for old Christmas cards. And don't forget to recycle your tree.

Share - Bought too much food? Bring it along to church and donate it to the food bank - but please ensure it is not out of date.

Sort - New Year is a great time to sort out cupboards, wardrobes and even that big scary space under the stairs. There are lots of charity shops in Edgeley who would love to take in your old books, plates and furniture.

Remember: one man's junk is another man's perfect blouse.

Volunteer: New Year, New Start

If you have a little time on your hands, why don't you see what opportunities there are around Stockport to help others? You can volunteer for groups which meet at St Matthew's, such as Toddle Time or Socially Yours, or elsewhere in town, such as Wellspring.

For other opportunities, visit Anchorpoint at Greylaw House, 41 Chestergate, Stockport.

What's on this Month

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

Saturday, 3rd

8:30^{am} Prayer Breakfast
10^{am} Saturday Café

Sunday, 4th

10:30^{am} Whole Parish Worship
with Healing Prayer
Lead: David ~ Preach: Julie

2^{pm} Alpha at St George's

Monday, 5th

12:30^{pm} Stockport Sling Meet/Library
6:30^{pm} Brigade

Tuesday, 6th

1:30^{pm} Socially Yours

Wednesday, 7th

10^{am} Holy Communion

Thursday, 8th

7:30^{pm} Mothers' Union

Friday, 9th

9:30^{am} Toddle Time
12^{noon} Reaffirmation of Marriage Vows
7^{pm} Choir Practice

Saturday, 10th

10^{am} Saturday Café
1^{pm} Vision Awareness Session
with Walthew House

Sunday, 11th

9:30^{am} Holy Communion
Lead: David & Lucy ~ Preach: David
11:15^{am} Morning Worship
Lead: Lucy ~ Preach: David
2^{pm} Alpha at St George's

Monday, 12th

6:30^{pm} Brigade

Tuesday, 13th

8:30^{am} Home Group
1:30^{pm} Socially Yours
7:30^{pm} PCC @ St. Matt's Vicarage

Wednesday, 14th

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

Friday, 16th

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

Saturday, 17th

10^{am} Saturday Café

Sunday, 18th

9:30^{am} Holy Communion
Lead: David ~ Preach: Julie
11:15^{am} Holy Communion
Lead: David ~ Preach: Julie
2:00^{pm} Alpha at St George's
200 Club – Subs Due

Monday, 19th

6:30^{pm} Brigade

Tuesday, 20th

8:30^{am} Home Group
1:30^{pm} Socially Yours

Wednesday, 21st

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

Friday, 23rd

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

Saturday, 24th

10^{am} Saturday Café
incl. Police Surgery

Sunday, 25th

9:30^{am} Holy Communion
Lead: David & Heather ~ Preach: David
11:15^{am} All Age Signed Service
Lead: Julie ~ Preach: Lucy

2:00^{pm} Alpha at St George's

Monday, 26th

1^{pm} Twins and Multiples Group
6:30^{pm} Brigade

Tuesday, 27th

8:30^{am} Home Group
1:30^{pm} Socially Yours

Wednesday, 28th

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

Friday, 30th

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

Saturday, 31st

10^{am} Saturday Café

Looking ahead to February

Sunday, 1st

10:30^{am} Whole Parish Worship
and Healing Prayer
Lead: David ~ Preach: Lucy

2^{pm} Alpha at St George's

Saturday, 7th

8:30^{am} Prayer Breakfast

Tuesday, 24th

7:30^{pm} Skills and More @ St. Matt's
Children's Leaders Training

December Funerals

Fred Steele, Jeanie Hall

December Baptisms

Isabelle Buckley

All details correct at time of going to press

GOT QUESTIONS
ABOUT LIFE



St. Matthew's and
St. George's

Alpha Course

at St George's Church,
Heaviley, Stockport,
SK2 6NU

You are invited to Alpha.

An opportunity to explore
what being a Christian is all about.

Starts on **Sunday 4th January from 2-4^{pm}**

Refreshments and activities for children.
There is no charge for Alpha.

To find out more or to book your place
speak to David or go to

www.stgeorgestockport.org.uk

or

www.edgelevandheadleheath.org.uk

a joint venture between St. Matthew's and St. George's

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