

St Matthew's News

The Parish of Edgeley and Cheadle Heath



September 2015
Issue 40



Sunday Service Times

Sunday 6th September
10:30^{am} Whole Parish Worship

Sunday 27th September
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)

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Who Do You Think You Are?

Personally, I think this series is more interesting than the last one - so far!

It got me thinking about our Heritage Open Day and people who may visit us. They may be looking for information about family members, or just wanting to look around. People often look to their background - who their family was, what they did - in order to help make sense of who they are and how they fit into the grand scheme of life.

We have an opportunity to help people discover who they are in God's

*Though we are many,
we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.*

I think we would all agree that our children are a hugely important part of the church family. Our longing is that they grow up taking a full and active part in all that we are and do. One area of our practice that is slightly out of step with this longing is in relation to communion.

The traditional practice in the Church of England is that children are baptised when very young then at around the age of twelve they are encouraged to be Confirmed - to affirm for themselves the promises that were made on their behalf at their baptism.

This leaves a number of years where

eyes. The Heritage Day and the Fun Day are both fantastic places to get into conversation with people in our community and introduce them to the living God who loves them and has a plan for their lives. If you've never been involved before, I'd encourage you to do so.

Who do you think you are?
You're part of God's family; and together we have a job to do.

Lucy Brewster



they are excluded from full participation in the churches life.

The church has made it possible for children to receive communion before confirmation. So that this may happen here at St. Matthew's, the PCC needs to agree that this is something which we wish to explore (this was agreed at our last meeting), the wider church needs to be consulted (that's what I'm doing now!), then we have to make a formal request to the Bishop for leave to proceed.

Those children who wish to receive communion will have the permission of their parents and some teaching about what communion means. Please talk about it amongst yourselves and come and tell me what you think. Thanks. David

It's a Fair Cop

The cries of *Cops and Robbers* are still going around in my head... despite holiday club 2015 coming to an end!

We had a great week sharing the theme of Cops and Robbers. We heard about Joseph's brothers and the bad things that they did. The children learned songs, memory verses and Joseph's story, with key word reminders every day: *Hope, Trust, Freedom, Forgiveness*.

We had 25 children by Friday, some of whom had cancelled previous activities to join us because they were having such a good time. We 'graduated' four girls, one of whom had been with us since she was five. Her mum said, 'Thank you for providing such a wonderful holiday club over the years. Both girls loved every minute!'

At the end of the week, all of the leaders agreed that this year was 'the best ever!'

Karen Bailey



Food for Thought

Below is a poem I came across in *Liturgy of Life*. The ordination of women has outdated it, but it helps some of us who had doubts.

Peter Jennings

Did the Woman Say?

By Frances Croake Frank

Did the woman say,
When she held him for the first time
in the dark of a stable,
after the pain and the bleeding
and the crying,
'This is my body, this is my blood'?

Did the woman say,
when she held him for the last time
in the dark rain on a hilltop,
after the pain and the bleeding
and the dying,
'This is my body, this is my blood'?

Well that she said it to him then,
for dry old men,
brocaded robes belying barrenness
Ordain that she not say it for him now.

Oops!

Due to a cut and paste error, some of the holiday club prayer cards should have asked people to pray for *Jesus' presence throughout the week*, and not, as was printed, *throughout the wee*. We apologise for the mistake.

The Hands of God



For some years I have attended signing weekends organised by Chester Diocese. As a result (though I'm not sure how), I own a Chester Diocese

Signer t-shirt and I can be called upon by the diocese to sign at different locations.

As well as the weekend away there are training days for other signers in the diocese. In July, St Matthew's hosted the training day, led by two talented Christian interpreters, Lyn and Sue. At this session, we each took a part of the service and delivered it in church in the afternoon. It was an opportunity to learn from and support each other; a must to maintain our skills.

One of the events at which I sign is the Cheshire Show opening service. I think I have attended four or five services; and I have been joined by Pam Robinson for the last three years. We sign the whole service. This year, Bishop Libby attended and expressed her thanks to us, which was lovely.

The service focus is to pray for the organisation and the days of the show. The service is blessed with numerous clergy, dignitaries, a choir... and us! It is a nerve-wracking experience, but a

privilege all the same. **Karen Bailey**

Heritage Open Day and Fun Day

This month, we have two wonderful opportunities to welcome our community into church. On **Thursday 10th September, 10^{am}-6^{pm}**, for **Heritage Open Day**, our doors will be open for people to tour the church, look at photographs and memorabilia, as well as registers of marriages and baptisms. The heritage event is part of an annual national campaign to encourage people to visit places of historical value.

On **Saturday 12th September, 11^{am}-3^{pm}**, we welcome over twenty community groups to our **Fun Day**. Visitors include police, magistrates, councillors, St. Matthew's school, scouts, Life Leisure and many more. You can even have a go at Zumba!

Entrance to both events is free so we are looking forward to meeting lots of local people.

Can you spare an hour or two on either day to help?

If so, please speak to Pam.



Christian Community in Action



At St Matthew's we often make plans to draw members of the community to join us. The Church, as a team, carries out these plans to help the community, to be there for them.

We hold fetes, fairs, open days, etc., inviting our neighbours in. Many people do come in and are often heard to say, *This is our church*. Unfortunately, they do not use 'their church' every Sunday, and that is where we come in - where we all come in.

As believers in our Lord Jesus, we are the Christians in our Christian community, and it is our responsibility to welcome our neighbours when they visit: to be friendly and let them feel that coming to church is coming to Christ, not to a building full of Bible bashers forcing them to *Come In, Sit Down, Be Quiet*. They must realise that as members of the congregation, they are the Church, they *are* children of God, as are we all.

Working together to bring people to Church and so to God is a part of our Christian community in action.

Graham Mitchell

Summer Fair



The Summer Fair was brilliant again, and a credit to all the hard work by everyone.

It is good to try new things, and two changes seemed to work really well.

Firstly, we moved the prayer table into a more prominent position within the Nave, and throughout the event there was a steady stream of people going up. Irene's quiet prayers and listening ear were much appreciated, and an oasis of calm amidst the bustle.

Secondly, this year we had lists of ingredients for all the food we sold. This meant we had information readily to hand for anyone with a dietary concern, and thank you to Mark and Pam for organising it.

I think both of these things show how we are trying to care for people in a very practical way; responsive to need whether physical or spiritual, and a robust Christian presence within our community.

Steph Haynes

Baptisms

People may not realise it, but there were thirty-six baptisms in church last year. Usually held on the second Sunday of the month, many occur in the early afternoon after the regular congregation has gone home.

So we have been trying to help David and Cynthia. Typical tasks include: greeting and handing out service sheets; preparing water in the urn; tidying church before and after; doing the reading; setting up candles, oils, and the baptismal shell; and just being available if needed.

Each baptism brings around fifty visitors, and we can have three times that amount jostling together if several children are being baptised. Guests are often unfamiliar with church, and it is a privilege to welcome them all to St. Matthew's.

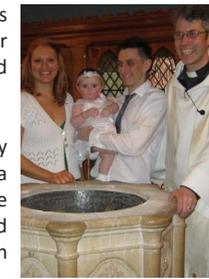
Water is necessary for life, and baptism symbolises washing away sin, and a new life sustained and refreshed in Christ.

During the service we make a promise to help the child and their family follow Jesus.

I often ponder on the different lives these children will have. What are their personalities? What problems are ahead? What achievements?

Volunteers are always welcome. Please see David or Julie if you want to help; and please pray for all of our visitors, especially these new lives being welcomed into Christ's family.

Steph Haynes



Kenya Calling

Don't forget to see the Osiligi Troupe at St. George's on September 22nd.

The performance is a story of their lives to music, and is fully narrated, so that the audience knows what is going on.

Please check the website: www.osiligi.org for more information.



Noticing the overlooked...

I hadn't seen the damaged plaster in the porch until Graham mentioned it. It was hidden behind the door with the umbrellas, not too surprising because the porch is somewhere we pass through on the way to someplace better!

But perhaps we need to linger with the unnoticed before noticing the overlooked. And it was only by spending time on the repair we noticed *Light of the World*: discoloured and hanging wonky.

From a painting by William Holman Hunt, it shows Jesus knocking at the long-unopened door of our heart. Inspired by verses from the Bible, the door can only be opened from within.

'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.'

John 8:12

'Behold,

I stand at the door and knock.'

Revelation 3:20

The print is dedicated to *Christopher Sidney Bond; A devoted Sunday School Teacher in this Parish; who entered unto rest on July 4th 1918.*

Christopher was Audrey's Uncle, and nearly 100 years ago the people of this church decided to recognise his work with children.



Behold, I stand at the door, and knock; if any man hear my voice, and open the door

People, places and things can over time all become damaged and wonky. Over-familiar, taken for granted, ignored or forgotten, we have such busy lives but making time to linger brings rewards in the most unexpected places.

We have remounted the print and moved it into the social area pending a new porch. Hopefully it will bring inspiration and comfort for many years to come. **Steph Haynes**

What's on this Month

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

Weekly

Mondays

6:30^{pm} Brigade

Tuesdays

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

Wednesdays

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

Fridays

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

Saturdays

10^{am} Saturday Café

Other Events

Saturday, 5th

8:30^{am} Prayer Breakfast
10^{am} Police Surgery

Sunday, 6th

10:30^{am} Whole Parish Worship
with Holy Communion & Healing Prayer
Lead: David ~ Preach: David
Followed by Bring & Share Lunch

Tuesday, 8th

7:30^{pm} PCC in the Vicarage

Wednesday, 9th

7:45^{pm} Signing Session in the Vicarage

Thursday 10th

10^{am} Heritage Open Day in church
7:30^{pm} Mothers' Union

Saturday, 12th

11^{am} Fun Day

Sunday, 13th

9:30^{am} Holy Communion
Lead: Julie ~ Preach: Julie

Sunday, 13th

11:15^{am} Morning Worship
Lead: Heather ~ Preach: Julie

Saturday, 19th

10^{am} Comfortable With Computers
1^{pm} Wedding

Sunday, 20th

9:30^{am} Holy Communion
Lead: David & Lucy ~ Preach: David
11:15^{am} Holy Communion
Lead: Julie ~ Preach: David

200 Club – Subs Due

Saturday, 26th

10^{am} Refugee & Asylum Seekers Drop-in

Sunday, 27th

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

Looking Ahead to October

Harvest Weekend, details to be announced

Saturday, 3rd

8:30^{am} Prayer Breakfast

Sunday, 4th

10:30^{am} Whole Parish Harvest Festival
with Holy Communion & Healing Prayer
Lead: Julie ~ Preach: Karen Beal

All details correct at time of going to press
Please speak to group/event leaders for more information; or check the website and Facebook page.

September Baptisms

Tyler Ashcroft, Lynn Ashcroft,
Mila-Rose Usher, Hayley Gibson

September Weddings

Louis Quinn-Williams & Natasha Myers

September Funerals

Steven Morton