

St Matthew's News

The Parish of Edgeley and Cheadle Heath



November 2015
Issue 41

Sunday Service Times

Sunday 1st November

10:30^{am} Whole Parish Worship

Sunday 29th November

11:15^{am} All Age Service

All Other Sundays

9:30^{am} Formal Service

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

Facebook: www.facebook.com/ParishEdgeleyCheadleHeath

Twitter: twitter.com/ParishEdgeleyCH

Website: www.edgeleyandcheadleheath.org.uk

Telephone: 0161 480 5896

To Everything There Is a Season

Reflecting on this time of year and the turning of the seasons, almost inevitably my brain tuned in to, *Turn! Turn! Turn!* It holds the distinction of having the oldest original lyrics for a Number 1 hit, being based on Ecclesiastes 3:1-8.

The Chapter begins: *For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.* It goes on to recall the many pursuits which occupy our lives.

Do we find Solomon's adage to be wise and true for us, as 2015 runs away to its season-turning conclusion, bringing the familiar comforting mix of the secular celebrated alongside the sacred: All Saints, All Souls, Bonfire Night, Remembrance Sunday, Christ the King; and then the jollity of Christmas Fairs and Carol Services set in the midst of the awesome solemnity of Advent?

In our perpetual human turning from one thing to another, are we making sufficient time for those "matters under heaven" that will sustain us when dark and difficult days come?

Real life has a cruel tendency to break through at the most inappropriate season. Whilst we are embracing and celebrating, others are mourning, distracted, and distressed.

In this season of remembrance, we could find encouragement and challenge in words from those verses that didn't make it into the song: *God has made everything suitable for its time; he has put a sense of past and future into human minds, yet they cannot find out what God has done from beginning to end... it is God's good gift that all should eat and drink and take pleasure in their work... whatever God does endures for ever... all should stand in awe before him.*



Julie Johnson

May we all find more time to be with God in joyful, trusting fellowship; and rediscover how he longs to sustain us through every turning season of our lives.

With love & blessings, Julie J xo

October Baptisms

*Eli Williams, Theo Johnson-Rehm,
Rio Johnson-Rehm, Stevie Owen*

October Weddings

Adam Child and Kelly Hodgkins

October Funerals

*Pauline Shepherd, Sylvia Lodge,
Joan Pryce*

It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year...for some of us

At their last meeting, the PCC agreed to collect Christmas gifts, as we have done in previous years, for the regular members of Wellspring. Last year we needed 125 presents - 100 for men and 25 for women. It will help if folk bring more presents suitable for men. As we did last year, we are putting a limit of £2 on the value of the contents of each parcel.

What to put in your parcel? **Essentials include:** toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, toiletries, make up (for the women).

Something warm: socks, gloves, hat.

A treat: chocolate, sweets, biscuits, playing cards, crossword book, etc.



And talking of Christmas

It's our **Christmas Fair on Saturday 28th November 12 - 3^{pm}**. We would be grateful for your donations of prizes, bottles, toys, bric-a-brac (no electrics), chocolates, books, DVDs etc. There will be a table at the back of church for the next few weeks. Please also sign up to help, before the event and on the day. Every little helps!

Cakes - if you are baking cakes for the fair, please complete an ingredients list with your baking.

NO ALCOHOL, TOBACCO OR SHARP OBJECTS

Please wrap your parcel and enclose a Christmas card saying it +Matthew's Church - but don't bring it to church until after the Christmas Fair.

Please mark your parcels **MAN, WOMAN** or **EITHER** so we can ensure everyone gets an appropriate present.

You won't manage to get the entire list for £2 but do what you can to make your parcel interesting. If you can manage more than one parcel that would be helpful.

You have worked wonders in previous years - see what you can do this year.

Thanks a lot!

Lois Haslam

Image courtesy of Salvatore Vuono at FreeDigitalPhotos.net

With Grateful Thanks

Thank you so much to all who were involved in the **Yellow Tea Party** held on September 25th in aid of St. Ann's Hospice. Thank you to the helpers on the day, those who baked, donated cakes and/or raffle prizes, all who came along and enjoyed afternoon tea and everyone who made a donation or bought raffle tickets.

The grand sum of £204.29 was raised. Well done!

Janet Critchley

Image courtesy of mapichai at FreeDigitalPhotos.net



Dining in the Dark

As part of my Community Development Manager role at St Matthew's Church, I am also a Trustee at the Olive ROC Centre (the Olive Cafe) on Castle Street, Edgley

On Thursday 8th October, we held an event to raise awareness of the challenges facing people with sight loss, as part of *World Vision Day*. We worked with Walthew House, Stockport's centre for the blind and deaf, who brought volunteers and resources.



which mimic different sight loss conditions.

It was a fantastic day, with lots of people also trying out our Sensory Challenge: wearing a blindfold whilst trying to work out household items with touch and smell. The cold noodles were particularly challenging to guess!

David Bond of Walthew House said, *It has been a fantastic experience working with Olive Cafe and their customers.*

Everyone has really enjoyed trying on glasses and blindfolds and finding out how Walthew House can support

people with sight or hearing loss.

Pam Robinson

We encouraged our customers to "Dine in the Dark" and have coffee and cake whilst wearing blindfolds or special glasses



In Remembrance

On September 20th my daughter and I were privileged to attend the 75th Anniversary of the Battle of Britain Service at Westminster Abbey. My father was a bomber pilot and was killed in 1940.

There were large numbers of the RAF and family members of those killed in the Battle of Britain attending the service. Prince Charles was there and we were seated in the area just behind him.

The service was beautiful, with wonderful singing by the choir; and moving prayers and readings.

The most moving part was the Act of

Remembrance, when the Battle of Britain Roll of Honour was carried through the Abbey to be placed on the altar. I was fortunate to have been shown my father's entry on a previous visit.

It was a chance for all the congregation who had lost a family member to pay their respects and remember them with pride for the part they played in the Battle of Britain.

The service ended with the Last Post and Reveille. The whole occasion will be remembered by us forever.

Anne Littlewood



common responsibility and our common humanity. As Christians we believe we are called to break down barriers, to welcome the stranger and love them as ourselves (Leviticus 19:34), and to seek the peace and justice of our God, in our world, today."

Desmond Busted of Premier Christian Media. Used with permission

Comfortable with Computers: Feedback

I have attended a session of Comfortable with Computers at St. Matthew's church and found it very helpful indeed. The last lesson I had cost me twenty pounds and the knowledge I gleaned from this wasn't a patch on the information I brought away with me from the church. So thanks to the volunteer there who kindly gave up his time to help me take my first step into the 21st Century!

**Comment left online
by a satisfied customer.**

What is the best shape for mission and ministry to our parish?

At our PCC in October we began to think about how we are doing as a church. On the whole I think what we do is great. Our worship is inspiring

and challenging. Our community contacts stretch us to reach out in service to those around us, but we are barely touching the 16,000 + people who live in the parish.

Five years ago we began to ask the question, *What is the best shape for mission and ministry to our parish?* This led to the closing of two of our congregations and us all moving into St. Matthew's. I had hoped that with these changes we would start to see a gentle growth in our worshipping community and we have certainly seen glimpses of fresh shoots.

But we are struggling to communicate the relevance of Jesus to those whom we serve, so I believe it is time to start asking that question again.

In answer we might say that what we are doing is right and if we just hold our nerve eventually everything will come out right.

We might say that what we are doing is basically right and all we need to do is make some tweaks and additions.

We might decide that a more radical transformation is necessary.

We need to go once more to that scary place of asking not, how do I like things, but what kind of people is God calling us to be. In our discussions nothing will be off the table, we'll be challenged to think the unthinkable trusting that God knows what he is doing, and that he can be trusted.

Archbishop's 'Heart is Broken'

The Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby has said his 'heart is broken' by the 'wicked' refugee crisis, and stressed the UK cannot 'turn its back' on the situation. "My heart is broken by the images and stories of men, women and children who have risked their lives to escape conflict, violence and persecution," he said.

Archbishop Justin released a statement as the world reacted to the image of three-year-old Aylan Kurdi, whose lifeless body washed up on the shore of Turkey. He and his family were trying to escape Islamic State

militants in Syria when the boat they were in collapsed.

"There are no easy answers,"

Archbishop Justin said. "My prayers are with those who find themselves fleeing persecution, as well as those who are struggling under immense pressure to develop an effective and equitable response." He added: "Now, perhaps more than ever in post-war Europe, we need to commit to joint action across Europe, acknowledging our



Feeling Crafty

Our **Craft Fair** was a huge success, both in the number of craft stalls on offer and the people who came through the doors!

From cupcakes to knitted cardigans, gift bags to framed art, there was plenty to choose from. Orders were taken for personalised, one of a kind presents for Christmas and the cupcakes were delicious!



Here's part of an email we received from one of the charities to whom we gave a free table:

Thank you so much for inviting us to the craft fair today. It was really kind of you. There were some lovely things there. We did really well - better than I originally thought - and made £96.50. Please pass on our thanks to everyone involved in organising today.

Thanks as always to all who helped on the day.
Pam Robinson



Did I mention the cupcakes...?

St Matthew's is fast becoming a hub for the local community and, as well as raising almost £300 for church and helping two charities raise vital funds, we had the opportunity to chat to local residents and share their memories of coming to our beautiful church.



What's on this Month

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

Weekly

Monday

6:30pm Brigade

Tuesday

8:30am Home Group (except 03/11)

1:30pm Socially Yours

Wednesday

10am Holy Communion

7:45pm Home Group

Friday

9:30am Toddle Time

7:00pm Choir Practice

Saturday

10am Saturday Café

Other Events

Sunday, 1st ~ All Saints

10:30am Whole Parish Worship

with Holy Communion & Healing Prayer

Lead & Preach: David

Saturday, 7th

8:30am Prayer Breakfast

Sunday, 8th ~ Remembrance Sunday

9:30am Holy Communion

Lead: David & Heather ~ **Preach:** Lucy

11:15am Morning Worship

Lead: David ~ **Preach:** Julie

Thursday, 12th

7:30pm Mothers' Union

Saturday 14th

10am Comfortable with Computers

10am Police Surgery

Sunday, 15th Second Before Advent

9:30am Holy Communion

Lead: Julie ~ **Preach:** David

11:15am Holy Communion

Lead: Peter ~ **Preach:** David

200 Club – Subs Due

Sunday, 22nd Christ the King

9:30am Holy Communion

Lead: Peter ~ **Preach:** Heather

11:15am All Age Signed Service

Lead: TBC ~ **Preach:** David Brown

Saturday 28th

12pm Christmas Fair and Refugee Drop In

Sunday, 29th ~ Advent Sunday

9:30am Holy Communion

Lead: David ~ **Preach:** Mike

11:15am Holy Communion

Lead: Julie ~ **Preach:** David

Looking Ahead to December

Wednesday, 2nd

7:30pm Christmas Service of Remembrance

date to be confirmed

Saturday, 5th

8:30am Prayer Breakfast

Sunday, 6th

10:30am Whole Parish Worship

with Holy Communion and Healing Prayer

1pm Curry Lunch at the Chilli Massala

Friday 11th

1pm Bubble Gum Christmas

Year 6 from St Matthew's and Alex Park

Sunday, 13th

3pm Carol Service at Walthew House

All details correct at time of going to press. Speak to group/event leaders for more info, or check the website and Facebook page.