

St Matthew's News

The Parish of Edgeley and Cheadle Heath



she shall bring forth a son,
and thou shalt call his name **JESUS**:
for he shall save his people from their sins.

MATTHEW 1 v 21

December 2015 - Issue 42

Sunday Service Times

Sunday 6th December

10:30^{am} Whole Parish Worship

Sunday 20th December

11:15^{am} All Age Service

All Other Sundays

9:30^{am} Formal Service

11:15^{am} Less Formal Service

(with children's groups)

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Facebook: www.facebook.com/ParishEdgeleyCheadleHeath

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The Best Christmas Gift Ever

There are several members of my family who live a long way away and who I won't be able to meet up with until well after Christmas. So I've been on the lookout for special things to send to them, little things that can be posted, and my daughter is busy sewing felt Christmas decorations to send to people. I hope this will lead to smiles as parcels plop through letter boxes and are unwrapped, and that those who receive these presents will feel the love with which they have been put together.

Before Jesus was born, his Mother Mary was told that he would be called *Immanuel*, meaning *God with us*. Jesus being born at Christmas is God's gift to the world, God's son being born

There's Still Time...

...to donate Christmas gifts to the Wellspring. Please remember the £2 limit.

Essentials include: toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, toiletries, make up
Something warm: socks, gloves, hat
A treat: chocolate, sweets, biscuits, playing cards, crossword book, etc.

NO ALCOHOL, TOBACCO OR SHARP OBJECTS

as a baby, God becoming one of us. This is one of the reasons we call the story of Jesus *the Gospel* - it is Greek for *good news*.



Heather

Paul, the writer of New Testament letters, describes this good news as "the gospel that has come to you" (Colossians chapter 1 verses 5 and 6, if anyone wants to look!). The story of Jesus is good news for the world and also for each of us, like a specially chosen parcel arriving on our doorstep. God understands how wonderful and how hard it is to be human. God cares about your joys and sorrows, and mine.

Christmas good news is for every one of us - God's love for us in Jesus. Happy Christmas! **Heather Adams**

Please wrap your parcel and enclose a Christmas card saying it comes from St. Matthew's Church.

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



Image courtesy of Danilo Rizzuti at FreeDigitalPhotos.net

Message in a Bottle



News from the Pastoral Team - *especially, but not exclusively, for those who live alone.*

Following a suggestion from Irene Hinde, we are collating emergency next of kin contact numbers for people on our Electoral Roll, so don't be surprised to be asked!

In addition, for use in your own home, I have a number of the excellent *Message in a Bottle* kits, supplied to us, free of charge, by Romiley, Marple and District Lions Club. You write down your medical and contact details, pop them in the small plastic container supplied, and keep that in your fridge.

With a visible "green cross" sticker on the inside of your front door and a corresponding one on the outside of your fridge, this little bottle has proved to be a life saver in emergency situations. Ask me for one.

Julie J for the Pastoral Team

Quote... Unquote

Church is not a shrine for saints;
it's a hospital for sinners.

SERVERS ARE SERVED!



May I, on behalf of all the servers in church, convey my gratitude in connection with the recent social event organised by the church wardens, Stephanie and Graham.

This was a meal out to the Mickerbrook Pub, Cheadle Heath. The fellowship was heartwarming and was an opportunity to talk and interact in a social setting. The carvery meal was excellent on a particularly busy Sunday afternoon. The outing also included partners and friends, which added to the enjoyment.

Thank you very much again Stephanie and Graham.

Yours in fellowship,
Ken, Ernie, Jean and Wayne

P.S. Calling any potential future servers! The tasks are easy and full training will be available. The honour of being a server in this church is both rewarding and spiritually uplifting.

When did you first believe in God?

When did you first believe in God? Not just as a child when you had assemblies at school, or when you had to take part in the nativities, or being taken to Church by your parents. Even the more enjoyable times like weddings or baptisms (there was always a party afterwards).

But when did **you** actually *get the call*, if you see what I mean, as an adult.

Like the majority of you I always believed in God, I simply did little about it. I did enjoy going to weddings and believed deep down that you were not really married unless you were married in Church before God. I also enjoyed the Easter services, Harvest and of course Christmas, especially the carol service. So even from my childhood the foundations were there.

Later in life my wife many times said, 'How about going to Church'. I did go with her to a couple of services and to be honest was not impressed so I called it a day. Mary then decided to try another Church, that big one on Grenville St. I always had an excuse and eventually she went alone. She kept telling me how good it was so, now and again I came with her. I got to know people and began to attend more often and really enjoyed the services. I even surprised Mary one week-end when she was away, she

was convinced that there was no way I would go to Church alone, I did and to be honest surprised myself.

Then came the time when I decorated the interior of the Church. By then we were members of the congregation and the Church was approaching its 150th year. Most of the time I was on my own in the Church, but I never felt alone. One day a chap turned up to move some of the pews and said to me. 'Don't you find it spooky in here all alone?' My simple answer was 'no'. Then it came to when I had to paint the chancel. After a day of painting the walls it got dark and time to go home. I was putting my coat on and looked around and at the main east window above the altar. Now during the services I always looked at that window but this evening I actually 'saw' it. The main figure is of course Jesus, then I counted the eleven disciples. Just a minuet eleven?

I must have counted them three or four times before I read what I was looking at. It is the ascension of Jesus into Heaven which explains eleven disciples. Judas would be missing wouldn't he as after betraying Jesus he had killed himself.

Then I also noticed the disciple covering his face. I was getting good by now and realised that this would be Peter, ashamed for denying Jesus three times.

I then started looking at the rest of the windows, each one telling its own

story. Later on my way home still thinking of that beautiful window, I thought about how old it was, obviously the same age as the Church 150yrs. That meant that it was built in the 1850s when the majority of working class people had difficulty in reading, if they could read at all.

Many churches are much older than St. Matthews, so their congregations of two or three hundred years ago or more, definitely had difficulty in

Let's Listen and Pray

Dietrich Bonhoeffer was a German Lutheran pastor imprisoned and executed by the Nazis. He spoke of a Christian community living or dying by its intercessory prayers one for another.



So how well do we know each other, and the problems we face?

How do we move our prayers from the abstract to the particular?

Everyone has something: not enough money, too much debt, loneliness, family tensions, unemployment, overwork, low confidence, poor or failing health.

reading and that is where the stained glass windows came in. They couldn't read the books but they could read what the pictures in the windows told them.

They would have done exactly what I had just done. And now I ask those of you who, like me, have looked at those windows at every service. Have you seen what you were looking at?

Graham Mitchell

Dietrich also said "We do God's work for our brothers and sisters when we learn to listen to them"

So perhaps find someone you normally just nod to, or even struggle to like. Share what feels comfortable, remember to listen, think about how best to help, and please pray for each other.

Steph Haynes

Socially Yours

Tuesdays in church, 1:30-3:30pm.

Join us for friendship, quizzes, crafts, food and speakers! Everyone welcome, only £3 a week.

Coming up: talks by the fire service and St John's Ambulance, plus Christmas crafts and a party!

See Pam for details.

Colour-Coded Church

At different times of the year the colours of some things in church change: the coloured vestments - stole, chasuble, cope that the priest wears and the altar frontal, pulpit and/or lectern fall, and the pall (the cloth that covers the chalice or ciborium on the altar).

These 'liturgical colours' have been used in church since medieval times, both as a teaching device and to mark the special days and seasons in the church's year.

Purple is used during Lent, Advent, and for funerals. It has always been the colour of royalty. Advent and Lent are times of penitence, self-discipline, and preparation for the great events in our Lord's life, so a sombre colour suits the season and also reminds us of Jesus' kingship in our lives.

White is used for the seasons of Easter, Christmas and Epiphany. It symbolises joy, celebration, purity, innocence, gladness and light. It is also used for Saints days when the saint (as far as we know) died a natural death rather than being martyred.

Red is for fire and blood. The Holy Spirit is often represented as tongues of fire, so red is used for Pentecost (when the Holy Spirit descended on the disciples in Jerusalem), ordinations, and many church dedications. Red is used on days commemorating martyrs, who gave

their life-blood in witness to our Lord.



Gold is associated with riches and kingly attire and is only used for Easter Day, that greatest of Christian Festivals. Not all churches have gold vestments. Many just have gold thread on their white frontals.

Green is the colour you see for much of the year, used during 'ordinary time' (we use this term if it is not a particular season or day). It is the colour of growth, of leaves and grass. These are the main colours used in churches, but you may see others in some churches, and all sorts in some cathedrals. You should now be able to crack the code!

Deirdre Morris

Advent Reflections at Olive Café

Led by people from the churches of Edgeley, these lunchtime meditations will help you connect with the heart of Christmas. No need to book.

14th – 18th December, 12:15 - 1^{pm}.

Early Essentials

Support new mums and babies - our Toddle Time group now collects for Early Essentials (on the first Friday of the month), a group that helps new mums and babies. See the poster and shopping list either online or at the back of church.

What's on this Month

All events (except Home Groups) are in church unless otherwise stated. Some groups will close for Christmas; please check with group leaders for up-to-date information.

Weekly

Monday

6:30^{pm} Brigade (not 21st & 28th)

Tuesday

1:30^{pm} Socially Yours(not 22nd & 29th)

Wednesday

10^{am} Holy Communion

Friday

9:30^{am} Toddle Time (not 18th & 25th)

7:00^{pm} Choir Practice(not 25th)

Saturday

10^{am} Saturday Café (not 26th)

Other Events

Tuesday, 1st

7:30^{pm} PCC at 99 Chatham Street

Wednesday, 2nd

7:30^{pm} Christmas Remembrance
with Turners

Saturday, 5th

8:30^{am} Prayer Breakfast

Sunday, 6th

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

1^{pm} Curry Lunch
at the Chilli Massala

Wednesday, 9th

7:30^{pm} Advent Lite

Thursday, 10th

7:30^{pm} Mothers' Union
Christmas Party

Friday 11th

9:30^{am} Toddle Time Christmas Party
1^{pm} Bubblegum Christmas with
St. Matthew's & Alex Park Schools
Year 6

Saturday 12th

10^{am} Carols for Charity
10^{am} Comfortable with Computers
11^{am}-3^{pm} Christmas Gazebo Event
at Olive Cafe

Sunday, 13th

9:30^{am} Holy Communion
Lead: Peter ~ **Preach:** David
11:15^{am} Morning Worship
Lead: Steph ~ **Preach:** David
3^{pm} Carol Service
at Walthew House

Wednesday, 16th

2^{pm} St. Matthew's School
Christmas Service in Church

7:30^{pm} Advent Lite

Friday 18th

7^{pm} Carolling Round the Pubs
meet at St Matthew's at 7^{pm}

Sunday, 20th

9:30^{am} Holy Communion
Lead: David ~ **Preach:** David Brown
11:15^{am} All Age Carol Service
with Children's Performance
Lead: Lucy ~ **Preach:** David
200 Club – Subs Due

Wednesday, 23rd

2:30^{pm} Carols at Plane Tree Court

Thursday, 24th **Christmas Eve**

4^{pm} Christingle
5:30^{pm} Christingle
11^{pm} Christmas Midnight Mass

Friday 25th **Christmas Day**

10:30^{am} All Age Celebration

Sunday, 27th

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

Looking ahead to January

Saturday, 2nd

8:30^{am} Prayer Breakfast

Sunday, 3rd

10:30^{am} Whole Parish Worship
with Holy Communion & Healing Prayer

Tuesday, 12th

7:30^{pm} PCC at 99 Chatham Street

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.

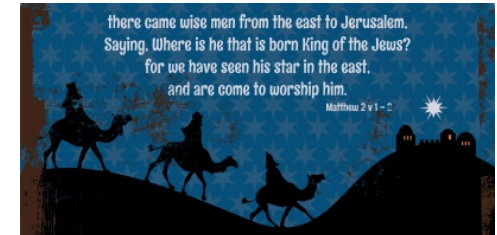
November Baptisms

Ellie-May Potter, Calan Price,
Isabella Hadwin, Rory Cook

November Funerals

Allan Rowlands, Hilda Stansfield,
Martin Brocklehurst, Leslie Clarke
Baby Noah Fitzpatrick

Introducing... ...The Wise Men



We stop and gaze down on the quiet town, softly glowing in the light of the star. Within these streets rich and poor, free man and slave, are sleeping, all unaware that tonight the world has changed forever.

For we have read the signs; we have long planned this journey. We are weary now but exultant as we make our way to this holy place. We step down and humble ourselves before the child and his parents.

His mother looks ashamed of this low place but we smile and honour her. We offer gifts, symbols of all that is to be: gold for a king; frankincense for healing; myrrh for the grave.

He who flung the stars into place settles down into his manger and sleeps once again.

We take our leave and prepare to return home - another long and dangerous journey, avoiding the court of Herod at all costs. But as we leave, I lift my eyes to the heavens and wonder about this child: his journey home will be much longer than mine...

Pam Robinson