

St Matthew's News

The Parish of Edgeley and Cheadle Heath



Jan/Feb 2016
Issue 43



Sunday Service Times

Sunday 7th February

10:30^{am} Whole Parish Worship

All Other Sundays

9:30^{am} Formal Service

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

**Last Sunday of the month:
signed service at 11:15**

Image courtesy of Boaz Yiftach at FreeDigitalPhotos.net

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Happy New Year

Congratulations to everyone on surviving the Christmas madness once again and making it to the dawn of a brand new year. I've used the word madness because that's often how it feels, with everything going full tilt and with hardly time to catch your breath; rush, rush, rush - not to mention spend, spend, spend! It's hardly been possible to sit down and take in the amazingness of Christmastide and the significance of God's wonderful blessings revealed in the Christ child.

So I thought that this year I'd try a different kind of resolution; instead of joining the gym again, or resolving to eat less and drink less, and all the other promises to ourselves that January forces us to make, I'd try something different.

I thought I'd try by setting aside fifteen minutes a day to simply BE. To just sit, empty my mind and rest in God's presence.



I spend a great deal of time talking about God to anyone who will listen, and a great deal of time reading and studying about God, and a great deal of time praying to God - with a list as long as my grandchildren's Christmas lists!

But I rarely spend time simply being in His presence and allowing His Spirit to wash over me and to listen to Him. To me, this New Year will be about receiving and accepting God's gracious gift of the Son of Man in my life, and making time to be in His presence.

Peace and love be with you all.

Sermons Online

Remember if you are missing from Church any Sunday, you can now hear the sermons online. Visit our website:

<http://www.edgeleyandcheadleheath.org.uk/media/>



At St. Matthew's we are going to be holding a **Taizé Service** every last Sunday of the month.



Sunday 31st January at 6^{pm}

As Far Away as it Ever Was



We certainly got into the Christmas spirit this year! Our Fair was a huge success - a fantastic turn out with £1000 raised along the way, thanks to stalls, cakes, Irish Coffee and Father Christmas. Thank you for your donations! We have donated all that was left over from the fair to the Olive Branch food bank and to Loaves and Fishes. Both groups work with those who are homeless or in desperate need, as well as refugees. Your donations will bless many in our community.

Pam Robinson



Our choir sang for Beechwood Cancer Care and raised several hundred pounds. In fact, we sang our hearts out across the community, from the Rose Walker Centre to Castle Street and Plane Tree Court, to the pubs and restaurants of the Parish. We did ourselves proud.



And let's not forget our wonderful worship services, from the glorious chaos of our Pass the Parcel Nativity to the fun of Christingle, the peace of the Midnight Mass, to the joy of Christmas morning. We shared God's amazing gift to all and all who came were blessed.

The Tactile Tour On Tour

In 2015, we invited the community in to experience church differently, through touch, sight, smell, sound and taste, with our *Tactile Tour*. Working in partnership with Walthew House, a local independent charity supporting people who have a sight or hearing loss, the tour was well received by local people.



Recently, we were asked to take the *Tour* on tour, and take items from church to social groups for adults with sight loss who are based at Walthew House. This mini tour was a great success!



Using items such as clergy robes, chalice and paten, crosses, even frankincense and myrrh, people had the



opportunity to handle, taste and smell items we use during our services. We even brought tambourines and drums so that we could "make a joyful noise to the Lord!"

Members of the group thoroughly enjoyed the experience: Jim remarked that *it was excellent - I liked the enthusiasm in particular*; whilst Judy said that she *found learning about the different rituals and artefacts interesting*.

We are now looking to take our *Tour* to local residential homes for the elderly, and to other suitable venues.

Pam Robinson



Mothers' Union News



There has been a Mothers' Union at St. Matthew's for over 150 years. The Mothers' Union is a Christian organisation dedicated to the promotion of marriage and family life. We are dedicated to supporting our church in every aspect of its life.

We have a current membership of 24, and three prospective new members. There are over 80,000 members worldwide, with small memberships in some African countries doing remarkable work in their communities.

Recently, through the *Take a Furry Animal on Holiday* project – wonderfully organised by Di Bebb – we raised £135. It was sent to Mary Sumner House (MU headquarters in London) for the Relief Fund, to help the current refugee problem; and any other needy situation. We were also able to give a donation to church through the branch fundraising day late last year. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of both ventures.

Outside the church we support *The Women's Refuge*, with toiletries and items for babies and children. These are greatly appreciated by the organisation, as many mothers and children come to the Refuge with absolutely nothing.



If you are interested in joining us, our meetings take place on the second Thursday of each month at 7:30pm in church. We have many interesting speakers; plus time to chat afterwards over tea and biscuits.



We welcome men and women to our meetings; and look forward to seeing you soon!

Norma Stowman, Branch Leader

Toiletries Image courtesy of John Kasawa
at FreeDigitalPhotos.net

St. Matthew's School Talk



The children of Years 5 and 6 wrote poems in November to commemorate Remembrance Day. Here is a poem written by Bethany in Year 5:

Image courtesy of Dan at FreeDigitalPhotos.net

Remembrance

I am the bomb that blows up the land.
I am the tank that treads through the mud.
I am the bullet shooting through their soul.
I am the death on Flanders Field.

I am the bravery badges of the soldiers.
I am the many medals on the uniforms.
I am the strength of families.
I am the honour of the tears.

I am the peace when the war ended.
I am the hope that the pretty poppy gives.
I am the silence that was given at the end.
I am REMEMBRANCE DAY!

Preparing for the Year Ahead

January is the time for resolutions and looking forward.

The Sunday after Epiphany is also traditionally called 'Plough Sunday', when farmers would bring their ploughs (or the village plough) to church for God's blessing for the coming year.

The next day, 'Plough Monday', saw the resumption of work after Christmas festivities: making or mending tools, repairing fences and

looking after livestock.

Farming methods have changed, but the month is still one of anticipation and preparation.

So although it is tempting to hunker down with a cup of cocoa, this may be a good time to take stock, lay aside that which is past, and re-focus on the work ahead.

And may God speed the plough and prosper the work of our hands.

Steph Haynes



Life's Blessings

Before you say an unkind word, think of those people who can't speak.

Before you complain about the taste of your food, think of those who have very little to eat.

Before you complain about the person you live with, think of someone who's crying out to God for a companion.

Before you complain about your struggles in life, think of those who died at a young age.

Before whining about how much time you spend in the car, think of those who have no choice but to walk long distances.

When you complain about your job, think of the unemployed or disabled, who would love to work.

And, when depressing thoughts seem to get you down, put a smile on your face and remember God loves **you**. You're alive and you are here for a very good reason.

From
The Association for Church Editors.
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Neighbourhood Crafters

Bring your knitting, crocheting, and sewing and create items for charity! £1 donation at the door, includes refreshments. Wednesday 24th February, 6:30-9:30^{pm} in church. We also need help on the night to set up, brew up, etc. See Pam.

Image courtesy of Apolonia at FreeDigitalPhotos.net

Image courtesy of blackzheep at FreeDigitalPhotos.net



Find out about getting online with this new project.

Tuesday 16th February, 3-6^{pm}.

We also need help to run the St. Matthew's stall. See Pam

December and January Funerals

Veyron Frain, Jesse James, Gerry Lambourn, Bert Simcock



What's on...

All events (except Home Groups) in church unless otherwise stated. Please check with group leaders for up-to-date information.

Weekly

Monday

6:30^{pm} Brigade

Tuesday

8:30^{am} Home Group

1:30^{pm} Socially Yours

Wednesday

10^{am} Holy Communion

7:45^{pm} Home Group

Friday

9:30^{am} Toddle Time

7:00^{pm} Choir Practice

Saturday

10^{am} Saturday Café

Other Events

Sunday, 24th January

9:30^{am} Holy Communion

Lead: David & Heather ~ Preach: Julie

11:15^{am} Holy Communion

Lead: Steph ~ Preach: Julie

Saturday 30th January

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

Sunday, 31st January

9:30^{am} Holy Communion

Lead: David ~ Preach: David

11:15^{am} All Age Signed Service

Lead: Julie ~ Preach: David

6^{pm} Taizé Service

Saturday 6th February

8:30^{am} Prayer Breakfast

Sunday, 7th February

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

Lead: David ~ Preach: Lucy

Thursday, 11th February

7:30^{pm} Mothers' Union at the Vicarage

Saturday 13th February

10^{am} Comfortable with Computers

Sunday, 14th February

9:30^{am} Holy Communion

Lead: David & Lucy ~ Preach: Val

11:15^{am} Morning Worship

Lead: Heather ~ Preach: Val

Sunday, 21st February

9:30^{am} Holy Communion

Lead: Peter ~ Preach: Heather

11:15^{am} Holy Communion

Lead: Julie ~ Preach: Heather

200 Club – Subs Due

Saturday 27th February

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

Sunday, 28th February

9:30^{am} Holy Communion

Lead: David & David ~ Preach: Julie

11:15^{am} All Age Signed Service

Lead: David B^r ~ Preach: Mike

Looking Ahead

Saturday, 5th March

8:30^{am} Prayer Breakfast

Sunday, 6th

10:30^{am} Whole Parish Worship

with Communion and Healing Prayer

Lead: David ~ Preach: Julie

more info on our website and Facebook page

