

St Matthew's News

The Parish of Edgeley and Cheadle Heath



March 2016
Issue 44

Sunday Service Times

Sunday 6th March
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 **Stuart Miles**
at FreeDigitalPhotos.net

Facebook: www.facebook.com/ParishEdgeleyCheadleHeath

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Gifts

March this year encompasses not only Mothering Sunday, but Easter Day and all the Lenten events in between.

Traditionally, gifts of flowers are given on Mothering Sunday and, on Easter Day, gifts of eggs made from chocolate. On Good Friday, through His Son, God gave the gift of freedom from sin to all who believe - a fulfilment of His gift of the Christ child at Christmas; but God's gifts did not stop there!

Paul writes in chapter 12 of his first letter to the Corinthians about the gifts God has given through the Holy Spirit. Verse 8 lists application of those gifts in the church. Each one of us has a gift that we can use within St Matthew's, even though we may not think we have. Amongst those listed is 'those able to help others'; this covers all manner of things from the ability to be a listening ear to being a Welcomer (also known as a

Sidesperson); helping at the altar as a server, to helping lead worship as a member of the choir or music group; helping with flower arranging, to being one of those who makes the brassware shine; helping serve refreshments on a Saturday or Sunday morning, to helping at Toddletime.

This is not an exhaustive selection by any means. Look around to see where help is needed and you may find yourself saying, just like Yozzer in *Boys from the Blackstuff*:

'I could do that. Gizza job.'

With much love and prayer.



1 Corinthians 12: 4-6

There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.

Sermons Online

Remember - you can now hear Sunday sermons online. Visit the website:

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

Home > Audio
Audio

Title	Author
9:30am Worship	Val Hindmarsh
Description	
Psalm 91; Romans 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13	



Women's World Day of Prayer



Share in worship and prayer with Christians from all around the world. This year's service has been prepared by the women of Cuba on the theme of *Receive children. Receive me*. The Revd Canon Elaine Chegwin-Hall will speak at *The Salvation Army Citadel*, Stockport Rd on Friday 4th March, 2^{pm}.

Celebrating National Marriage Week 2016

This is the third year the Mothers' Union has had a display to National Marriage Week. The response to my request for items was overwhelming. Many people brought along their treasured memorabilia.

Lovely wedding albums were on view for all to browse; photos in frames; marriage and birth certificates, too. Many were of couples who married here at St. Matthew's. It was a pleasure to reminisce through the ages.

Did you see the wedding licence which cost 10/-? The groom was on a 48-hour pass from the forces and as he and his wife were married during Lent, permission had to be obtained from the Bishop of Chester – hence the inflated charge instead of the usual 7/6. That couple were Roly and Margaret McDonald, Janet Critchley's parents.

Also on show were four delicate christening robes, ranging in age from 81 years to over a hundred. One robe, belonging to Audrey Mannion, had been in use for seven christenings, from 1901 to 1971.

Wedding dresses were kindly loaned by Karen Perry and Lucy Brewster. The dresses were beautiful, presented on mannequins in the church windows.



How stunning they looked with sunlight shining behind them through the colourful windows. Thank you, ladies.

Displayed in a lovely jewellery box was a silver-mounted Mothers' Union badge, presented to Margaret Bryant on her enrolment in 1961. Such an achievement. She was a lovely lady.

My grateful thanks to my brilliant helpers Edith Shepherd, Sandra Lambourn, Graham Mitchell, our vicar David, my daughter Lynda for the loan of the mannequins, and Charles Stowman for playing Mendelssohn's Wedding March after that Sunday's service – so apt for the occasion.

My utmost appreciation goes to everyone who helped make these two days a success.



Exciting Changes to Saturday Cafe!



Our Saturday Cafe is a great opportunity for people to come in and get to know us. We invite people to enjoy tea and coffee, take a look around the church, even book baptisms and weddings.

From this month, we invite you to get involved with the cafe on the **second Saturday** of the month as we make exciting changes to encourage more local people to visit!

All Talked Out

At the end of this month, Linda Cosgriff will step down as Communications Team Leader.

If you would like to be involved with the Communications team in some way - big or small - please speak to either David or Pam Robinson.

There are many ways you can be involved, including:

On the second Saturday, we will have our regular cafe with *Comfortable with Computers*, offering free help to support people using their laptops or tablets; David serving and chatting to customers; our new *Neighbourhood Crafters* will meet, creating items for charity; and our *Refugee and Asylum Seeker Drop in* will offer friendship to anyone who has had to leave their home country. We will also be having regular visits by the local police. All these activities are free and open to all.

Please support this new venture by joining in with an activity or simply chatting to new people. We welcome donations of cakes - no need to bake from fresh; we are happy with store bought!

See David or Pam for more information.

Pam Robinson

- Updating the indoor/outdoor notice boards
- Facebook
- Twitter
- The website
- The magazine
- Tidying the information table
- Weaning old leaflets from the leaflet stands

If you can serve in even one small way, you would be most welcome.

A Banner Speaks (Part One)



I travelled down to Canterbury last August for the National Ultreya. I have never been that far from Chester Diocese before and was excited about the prospect, although a little worried that my driver, Beth, would forget me. But no need to worry as Beth duly picked me up and I travelled in her car.

Because it was such a long way we had to stay overnight, and I spent a comfortable night in Beth's car before heading to the King's Hall, where I was taken from my plastic bag. Listening in to the conversation going on around me, I think I might be getting a new banner carrier made, if Mary remembers to ask the lady at Church about making me one....

I stood in the entrance hall with all the other banners, awaiting the procession. Once everybody had gathered, we marched down the steps to line up for the walk of witness into the Cathedral.

I can be carried high, but this did prove a bit of a problem as on the day it was quite windy. My ribbons were blown about and sometimes when we stopped they didn't behave, and wrapped themselves around anyone who was within range.

It was lovely to hear comments such as, *What a good idea to have the diocese on the back of the banner*, and, *Don't the ribbons look good? We will have to think about that for our banner*. I know you shouldn't, but I felt really good and raised myself even higher...which caused Mary more problems, carrying me in the wind.

After the lovely service in the Cathedral we marched out and stood in a semi-circle while all the Cursillistas came out. The mayor came over and walked down the line and stopped to talk to Mary. She lost concentration and let the wind take me, and I tapped the lady next to me on the head. Maybe Mary shouldn't be left alone with me in future! Thankfully, the lady was fine and laughed the incident off.

Then it was time to be rolled up and packed away for the journey home.

In April's magazine, read all about my next outing to the Cursillo weekend at Savio house. Until then, Nick and Sue kindly let me reside in their home free of charge.

**Chester Cursillo Banner,
transcribed by Mary Mitchell**



The New Girl

A few months ago I had the privilege of being elected on to the Church of England's General Synod. It's the only law-making body in England other than Parliament, so it's quite a big deal to be part of it. Which is why, on the first day of Synod back in November, I found myself waiting to go into Westminster Abbey for a service with the Queen thinking, *What on earth am I doing here?!*



The answer to that question is three-fold. For some time, God had been gently easing me out of my comfort zone and challenging me that if he asked me to do something I wasn't sure I could do, he would also go with me and help me to do it. The second thing was that Lois Haslam, who had been on Synod for the last 10 years, persuaded me that it would be a good thing to do and that I would really enjoy it and grow through it. I wasn't convinced about the enjoying part, but she was absolutely right. I love it!

The third thing was learning how unrepresented Primary education is on Synod as the meetings are during school time. My boss is very understanding, so we've got round that one.



I cannot fully express in these few words what a thrill it is to see the church in action at Synod. To hear from the Archbishops of all that they are doing. To meet people from all walks of life and all strands of the church. To debate issues on which we are divided, but through which we learn to love each other better. To be able to put pressure on Government on behalf of people in need of compassion and justice.

If you want to know more, please ask. I'll be only too happy to talk about it. Don't say you weren't warned!

Lucy Brewster



What's on in March

All events in church unless otherwise stated. Please check with group leaders for up-to-date information.

Weekly

Monday

6:30^{pm} Brigade

Tuesday

1:30^{pm} Socially Yours

Wednesday

10^{am} Holy Communion

7^{pm} Lent Group – Faith Pictures

Friday

9:30^{am} Toddle Time

7:00^{pm} Choir Practice

Saturday

10^{am} Saturday Café

Other Events

Friday 4th

2^{pm} Women's World Day of Prayer

*The Salvation Army Citadel,
Stockport Road*

Saturday 5th

8:30^{am} Prayer Breakfast

Sunday, 6th

10:30^{am} Whole Parish Worship

with Communion and Healing Prayer

Lead: David ~ Preach: Julie

Thursday, 10th

7:30^{pm} Mothers' Union

Quiet evening with Diane Bebb

Saturday 12th

10^{am} Saturday Café including
*Comfortable with Computers,
Neighbourhood Crafters &
Refugee & Asylum Seekers Drop-in*

Sunday, 13th

9:30^{am} Holy Communion

Lead: David & Lucy ~ Preach: David

11:15^{am} Morning Worship

Lead: Val ~ Preach: David

Saturday 19th

10^{am} Police Surgery

Sunday, 20th

9:30^{am} Holy Communion

Lead: Julie ~ Preach: Peter

11:15^{am} Holy Communion

Lead: David ~ Preach: Lucy

3^{pm} Palm Sunday Service –

in Morrison's car park

200 Club – Subs Due

Maundy Thursday, 24th

7^{pm} Meal with Communion

8:30^{pm} Watch of Prayer

Good Friday, 25th

10:30^{am} Easter Crafts

2^{pm} An Hour at the Cross

Easter Sunday, 27th

6^{am} Christians Together Sunrise

Service at the Reservoir

10:30^{am} Whole Parish Signed Worship

with Healing Prayer and Egg Hunt!

Lead: David & Lucy ~ Preach: David

Looking Ahead to April

Saturday, 2nd

8:30^{am} Prayer Breakfast

Sunday, 3rd

10:30^{am} Whole Parish Worship

with Communion and Healing Prayer

Lead: David & Lucy ~ Preach: David

Sunday, 17th

10:30^{am} Whole Parish Worship

followed by our APCM

and Bring and Share Lunch

Sunday, 24th

6^{pm} Taizé Service

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

February Baptisms

Evan Jackson, Emily Ryder

January & February Funerals

Peter Butcher

Easter Unwrapped

On Friday 18th March (very soon!) we are inviting the Y6 pupils from St Matthew's and Alexandra Park Schools to come to church to find out about the story of Easter.

Is spreading the clear message of Easter important to you? If so come and join us in delivering the message in a fun way. We need people to lead small groups and make refreshments for 90 children. Can you serve in this way? If so, see Karen B asap.

Good Friday Crafts

Sign up now to help welcome families to our crafts on Good Friday.

We need help with the welcome desk, simple craft activities, refreshments, setting up and tidying away. Speak to Karen Bailey for more details.



Wellspring Open Day, Saturday 12th

March – 2:30-6^{pm}. Find out how they help Stockport's *Hidden Homeless*.

Details at the back of church.