

# St Matthew's News

The Parish of Edgeley and Cheadle Heath



May 2016  
Issue 46



David the Vicar

**What is the church for?  
To what kind of church  
would I invite a friend?**

These are two of the questions that we asked at our Vision Day on 3<sup>rd</sup> May last year.

When we think about it hard enough... when we reflect on what we read in the bible it's pretty obvious - you expressed ideas about *belonging*, *growing*, *serving*, and *telling* (you'll notice them in our new logo). But expressing those themes in a concise and memorable way is not so easy. So over the last year the PCC has been searching for the right words.

After much sifting and distilling, we came up with...

*Responding to the call of Jesus  
on our lives we will be...  
family not acquaintances,  
disciples not bystanders,  
servants not volunteers,  
unapologetic evangelists  
not apologetic believers.*

*In the power of the Spirit we will be  
whole hearted not half hearted.*

We saw a difference between the bad habits that it is so easy to fall into as a church and what Jesus would have us become.

Some of the ideas will already be second nature to you. Others will take time to become part of who you are, but we believe that these practices are vital if we are going to continue to make a difference in our Parish.

## Easter 2016



It already feels like an age since Easter.

At our Palm Sunday *Christians Together* Service in Morrison's Car Park we were able to share the message of Jesus with lots of shoppers.

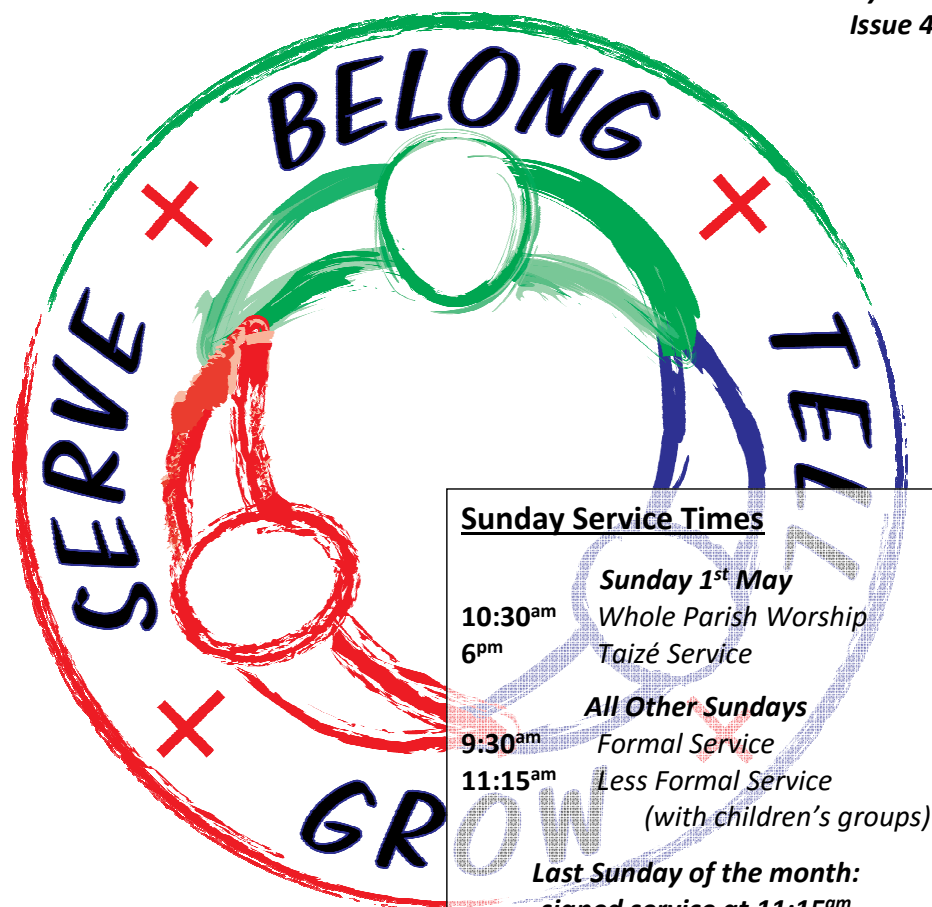
Our *Maundy Thursday Meal* was moving as we reflected on the *Servant King*, and the *Watch of Prayer* took us to that place of stripping away all nonessentials and finding Jesus there.

On *Good Friday* we had a good turn out for our crafts - in one of our activities we prepared a trolley for the *Community Passion* on Castle Street (see over). Our evening was completed with the *Tenebrae Service* (readings and songs for Good Friday) at the *Community Church*.

On *Holy Saturday* we had a short service to reflect on the emptiness of a life without Jesus.

And on *Easter Day* we began our worship before sunrise at the Reservoirs and then continued with a Whole Parish Worship followed by an *Easter Egg Hunt*.

**Alleluia, Christ is Risen**



### Sunday Service Times

#### **Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> May**

10:30am Whole Parish Worship  
6pm Taizé Service

#### **All Other Sundays**

9:30am Formal Service  
11:15am Less Formal Service  
(with children's groups)

**Last Sunday of the month:  
signed service at 11:15am  
and Taizé Service at 6pm**

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/ParishEdgeleyCheadleHeath](http://www.facebook.com/ParishEdgeleyCheadleHeath)

Twitter: [twitter.com/ParishEdgeleyCH](http://twitter.com/ParishEdgeleyCH)

Website: [www.edgeleyandcheadleheath.org.uk](http://www.edgeleyandcheadleheath.org.uk)

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## Coming Soon

### Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday

We are celebrating the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday by bringing forward our *Fun Day* and renaming it a **Community Open Day!**



Join in as we bring church and community together on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> June, 11<sup>am</sup> - 3<sup>pm</sup>. This is a free event and everyone is welcome. There will be lots of groups from the local area, sharing information about their activities, as well as information about all we do here in church. There will be special royal themes throughout the day and a goal of having 90 people pledge to give blood or sign up for organ donation.

As part of our weekend we would like

### It's time to sign up for our Church Walk



As we trailed last month, following our *Whole Parish Worship* on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> July we will be holding a sponsored walk to Didsbury and back to raise funds for our *Deanery Christian Aid Project*.

Sponsor forms and a map with routes of several different lengths meeting at Fletcher Moss before our return

to invite you to take part in our '90 Year Challenge.'

We are looking for people from our community born in each year of the Queen's life who are willing to share a picture and some information about themselves. These will be used in a power point presentation which will be showing in church during our Open Day. If you have a story about the Queen or another member of the Royal Family, or memories of a previous royal event, so much the better!

So, If you were born between 1926 and 2016 we would love to hear from you. (If you were born in the last few years, we will need some help and permission from your parents!) You can contact us via our Facebook page or call Lucy on 07436 017841.

journey can be found at the back of church. Even if you can't walk far, please join us for our picnic.

The project aims to *increase access to reproductive health information and services to vulnerable women in Southern Ethiopia*, and the deanery churches have pledged to raise at least £5,000 between us in two years. The EU will then fund match at 5:1.

Please put the date in your diary, sign up to take part, and start getting friends to sponsor you.

## News

On Palm Sunday there was a lovely service of thanksgiving at St. Mary's in the Marketplace: offering thanks for the restoration and reordering of the church. And thanks also for the ministry of the Reverend Roger Scoones, who is retiring to the Cotswolds, and will help support churches within the South Cotswolds Team Ministry.

During the service some new rooms were dedicated, with prayers for the church past, present and future.

Bishop Libby thanked everyone for all their hard work over the past few years, and spoke movingly of our church buildings: describing them as inspirational places to gather and worship God, centres of human endeavour, and assets supporting and shaping mission in Stockport.



The words of the closing hymn seemed very apt: "Now thank we all our God, with hearts and hands and voices, who wondrous things has done, in whom His world rejoices..."

### St Matthew's Digital Life

Whether you have a computer or not, you may be well aware of strange words such as *Facebook* and *Twitter*... these are social media sites which connect the world into a virtual population. We have a growing presence on these sites and, although many people who connect with us will never walk through our doors, we are still reaching them with the good news of Jesus and a glimpse into our active and friendly church!

In December, the story of a Christmas



hamper between Jade, a young woman who wanted to honour her mum through donating a gift, and our very own Marie, was shared 7,000 times. In January, our 'virtual tour' of church reached over 5,000 people!

If you have a computer, don't forget to follow us and if you are a regular user, have a chat with Pam Robinson to see how you can help us stay active!

## ***A Banner Speaks (Part Three)***



In May I was proudly shown in all my glory to new participants, soon to become Cursillistas. It always warms my heart that while I am resting, waiting for my moment in the weekend, I can hear all the laughter and the sense of love and friendship that is occurring.

In June I had a lovely outing to Leicester. Marj, a Leicester Cursillista (and our Kath's sister), kindly took me on the visit to represent Chester Cursillo at Leicester Cursillo's 21st birthday celebrations in the Cathedral. What a lovely day! Also kind Marj made me a banner bag - how posh do I feel?! Shouldn't say it but I will: it's about time, Mary!

Don't mean it really.

In July I stood in my new stand that Canon Veronica had given me – so much more elegant than being propped up by the wall - at the Cursillistas' retreat weekend. It was held at Foxhill and was a lovely weekend, and I could feel that everyone had a wonderful, spiritual rest, with

challenging teaching thrown in.

Until September I had a good rest residing with Mary once again, then it was off to the National Ultreya in Blackburn. I travelled up in Mary's car with Irene and Julie. We only had a short walk from the car to the Cathedral but it was so much more comfy in my new bag. Once inside the Cathedral, after registration, Mary was asked to place me alongside all the other banners. It always is lovely to meet with them once a year. There was a huge banner for Blackburn Happening (the young people's Cursillo). Because we were placed in front of the choir stalls and the whole day was conducted in the Cathedral, we were able to witness the great atmosphere of Cursillistas meeting, sharing, singing (lots of that) and worshipping together.

Mary asked Carol and Beth if they would like to carry me for the procession. After the Eucharist they carried me back up the aisle with the other banners. It was so funny because in all the photographs that Mary took, I had legs (maybe a new look).

I went home tired after the National Ultreya, with Beth, as she needed me for the weekend in October at Foxhill.

This is my last article for the magazine; I hope you have enjoyed hearing about my adventures.

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



## **Great Wave of Prayer**

The Archbishops of Canterbury and York have invited churches to pray for the evangelisation of the nation during the week before Pentecost Sunday (8<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> May).

The week of prayer will culminate in 'Beacon events' around the country over Pentecost weekend, where people will pray for the renewal of the Holy Spirit and the confidence to share their faith.

The Archbishops said: *'At the heart of our prayers will be words that Jesus himself taught us - 'Thy kingdom come, thy will be done.'* It is impossible to overstate the life-transforming power



**Come to an evening of** worship and testimony at the Olive ROC Café on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> May, 7:30-9:30<sup>pm</sup>.

Simon Sullivan, from the Message Trust will talk about *The Oaks*, a Christian home for ex-offenders in Wythenshawe. Several of his group will also give short testimonies. To find out more speak to Pam or Julie.

*of the Lord's Prayer. It is a prayer that is reassuring enough to be on the lips of the dying and yet dangerous enough to be banned in cinemas.*

*It is famous enough to be spoken each day by billions in hundreds of languages and yet intimate enough to draw us ever closer into friendship with Jesus Christ. It is simple enough to be memorised by small children and yet profound enough to sustain a whole lifetime of prayer. When we pray it with sincerity and with joy, there is no imagining the new ways in which God can use us to his glory.'*

See more at - [thykingdom.co.uk](http://thykingdom.co.uk)



At St. Matthew's, church will be open between 6:30<sup>pm</sup> and 7:30<sup>pm</sup>, Monday to Saturday (9<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> May) with a structured time of prayer between 6:45<sup>pm</sup> and 7:15<sup>pm</sup>.

### **April Baptisms**

Isobel Marray,  
Keara, Kayleigh and Keaton Skopek,  
Rebeca Fitzpatrick  
and Charles Farghaly.

### **April Funerals**

John Becket, John Penney,  
Ian Williams.

### **April Weddings**

Nathan Willet and Donna Duckworth.





### *some thoughts from Revd Julie J*

'So what do you do at Spring Harvest?' asked the lady steward at Worcester Cathedral.

We 7 (well-seasoned and newby) 'Springys' had stopped off for lunch on the way to Minehead - yes, our church group was for the first time heading for deepest Zummerzet where the zider apples grow - not bleakest east coast Skeggy!

'Do you have Harvest Festivals every day?' the questioner continued. (!!!)

Well I guess if a *Harvest Celebration* is one of giving thanks to God for the rich variety of his provision and care for us, I suppose that would be one way of describing it.

The daily celebratory Harvest diet is safely gathered in with worship, prayer and Bible teaching, alongside opportunities to engage with, and be challenged by, topics explored in a wide variety of seminars with top class speakers.

Using parts of the story of Moses we looked at ideas around *encounter, enlist, everyone, equip* and *empower* - illustrating the 2016 theme of *Game Changers*. We were encouraged to be just that, in all aspects of our life and witness, whilst acknowledging that ultimately it is God who is the all-powerful Game Changer through the ongoing work of his Holy Spirit.



### ***Understanding Dementia***

Please come along to the free Dementia Friends awareness session here in church on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> May, 12:30<sup>pm</sup> - 1:30<sup>pm</sup>. Find out about dementia in a fun and informal way!

Signpost for Carers will also be attending, so you can find out about support available to carers.



### ***EU Referendum***

Unsure how to vote?

Come to a pre-referendum meeting at St. Thomas' Norbury on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June. Speakers include the Right Honourable William Wragg MP and Stockport counsellor Jon Twigge.

## ***What's on in May***

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

### ***Weekly***

*Monday*

**6:30<sup>pm</sup> Brigade**

*Tuesday*

**8:30<sup>am</sup> Home Group**

**1:30<sup>pm</sup> Socially Yours**

*Wednesday*

**10<sup>am</sup> Holy Communion**

**7:45<sup>pm</sup> Home Group**

*Friday*

**9:30<sup>am</sup> Toddle Time**

**7<sup>pm</sup> Choir Practice**

*Saturday*

**10<sup>am</sup> Saturday Café**

### ***Other Services and Events***

*Sunday 1<sup>st</sup>*

**10:30<sup>am</sup> Whole Parish Worship**

**Lead: Julie ~ Preach: David**

**6<sup>pm</sup> Taizé Service**

*Thursday 5<sup>th</sup>*

**7:30<sup>pm</sup> tbc Ascension Day Service**

to mark the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Reader Ministry @ St. George's

*Saturday 7<sup>th</sup>*

**8:30<sup>am</sup> Prayer Breakfast**

*Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup>*

**9:30<sup>am</sup> Holy Communion**

**Lead: David ~ Preach: Lucy**

**11:15<sup>am</sup> Baptism Service**

**Lead: Lucy ~ Preach: Heather**

*Thursday 12<sup>th</sup>*

**7:30<sup>pm</sup> Mothers' Union**  
with the **Community Police**

*Saturday 14<sup>th</sup>*

**10<sup>am</sup> Saturday Café** with...

*Comfortable with Computers, Neighbourhood Crafters, Refugee and Asylum Seekers Drop-in.*

*Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> Pentecost*

**9:30<sup>am</sup> Holy Communion**

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

**11:15<sup>am</sup> Holy Communion**

**Lead: Peter ~ Preach: David**

*200 Club – Subs Due*

*Sunday, 22<sup>nd</sup>*

**9:30<sup>am</sup> Holy Communion**

**Lead: David ~ Preach: Julie**

**11:15<sup>am</sup> Morning Worship**

**Lead: Heather ~ Preach: Julie**

*Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup>*

**7:30<sup>pm</sup> Worship and Testimony**  
@ Olive Café

**8<sup>pm</sup> Cursillo 4<sup>th</sup> Day Gathering**  
@ St. Matthew's Vicarage

*Sunday, 29<sup>th</sup>*

**9:30<sup>am</sup> Holy Communion**

**Lead: Julie ~ Preach: David**

**11:15<sup>am</sup> All Age Signed Service**

**Lead: David ~ Preach: Lucy**

**6<sup>pm</sup> Taizé Service**

### ***Looking Ahead***

*Saturday, 4<sup>th</sup> June*

**8:30<sup>am</sup> Prayer Breakfast**

*Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> June*

**10:30<sup>am</sup> Whole Parish Worship with Holy Communion and Healing Prayer**