

St Matthew's Church,

Parish of Edgeley and Cheadle Heath

APCM Report 2016

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.



Church attendance:

There were **124** on the Electoral Roll as reported at the APCM in 2016.

The average attendance on a normal Sunday morning service, counted in October 2016, was 79

During the year, we were responsible for 33 Baptisms, 3 weddings, and 19 funerals - of which 7 were in Church

At our special seasonal services there were:

102 on Easter Day

373 at Christingle services /Midnight Mass/Christmas Day

links to Facebook and Twitter can be found on our home page

www.edgeleyandcheadleheath.org.uk

Introduction from the Vicar

Well that's another year – how time flies.

I wanted to begin this report with a big thankyou to everyone who has worked so hard to make our church life richer over the last year. So thanks and well done.

The General Synod is doing a lot of thinking at the moment about how to encourage the whole people of God - that includes you - to be active in ministry, not just in church, but in the whole of their lives. That is certainly what we have witnessed over the last twelve months as the following report will confirm.

We encouraged each other in our Lent Course to have confidence in our faith and our ability to tell our faith stories. We finished the work on our Mission Statement to focus our thinking on the kind of church we believe God is calling us to be. During my Sabbatical, for which I am very grateful, the whole church pulled together to not just stand still but begin new initiatives. This included the Season of Invitation where we were encouraged to invite our friends, family, neighbours and acquaintances to the big seasonal events in church. All that on top of the usual run of church life.

But our challenge, if we are to continue to see people come to faith in Jesus, is for each of us to expand our understanding of mission and ministry to include every sphere of our lives, and we can only do this as we encourage and support each other.

Another thankyou goes to all those who have given of their finances over the last twelve months. Being British, we don't like to talk about money, but it is vital to the ongoing ministry of the church. In these tight economic times, we shy away from asking people to give more, but the simple fact is that whilst we paid our Parish Share in full, this was only possible because we

dipped into money given in people's Wills. If we are going to be viable in the long term with costs going up every year, we will need regular giving to increase. I know that some of you will rightly feel that you are giving at or even over your limit, and for that we thank you. Can I ask that the rest of us look prayerfully at our giving to see if we could give more? And if you do not give by either standing order or through our planned giving scheme, can I ask you to sign up?

This year we have seen God at work in our lives and in his Church. He is faithful and can be trusted. I look forward to reading the report for 2017.

David

Ministry Teams

Community and Social

Socially Yours

Continues to grow from strength to strength. It has been lovely to see many of our church family enjoying attending the group where we hear from different speakers, do crafts, cooking, quizzes and generally have a fun Tuesday afternoon! Our ties to Stockport Academy continue to grow, with invitations to Afternoon Tea and the Poppy Drop, as well as hampers at Christmas. Everyone is welcome to join us



200+ Club

"Farewell" to the 200+ club

This year has seen the end of the 200+ club, it has run its course and we now have so many other exciting ways to support the Church. Just to thank all the supporters of the club over the years, and that includes past and present members, as looking back at the records it has been running since at least 1995.

Discipleship

Throughout the year the two homegroups pursued their study of Acts, gaining many insights into the experiences of



the first Christians and into issues which confront the church now as then. Our Lent course, based on the Church Army *Faith Pictures* material, was well attended, with an average of 18 people at each session. The Advent course, entitled 'Time for things that matter', was designed to appeal as much to non-church people as to church



members, and included an Advent Family Crafts session, organised by Karen. It was much enjoyed by the families who attended and looks set to become a regular feature of the Advent season. From September onward all church members were encouraged to take up the opportunities

of the Seasons of Invitation, with invitation cards to church events and festivals. Our challenge was to be not just a welcoming church but a church which invites.



Cursillo (pronounced "Kur-see-yo")

A small, faithful yet committed group of Christians who meet once a month, usually on the last Wednesday of the month at different venues. We encourage and support each other through out lives of prayer, study and action. It would give us much joy to welcome YOU, or just come and see. Contact Irene Hinde (456 1892) or Mary Mitchell for details.

Children and Young People

Children in church



We provide two (and a half!) groups for older and younger children during our 10:30 and 11:15 services. Numbers of children vary from 4 up to around 15, so

we have to be prepared for whoever appears on the day! Recently we have re-started to separate the older group, into "active" and "thoughtful", to expand their knowledge and understanding of the bible in the most appropriate way.

We still use resources from Scripture Union, but do enjoy producing and working with our own materials.



We often go "off-script" for Christmas and Easter, and are looking towards teaching the children about the 4 parts of the Church's mission statement.

We have had an additional helper this year in the form of Sara our "Time for God" worker, and she has been involved in every aspect of running Sunday club.



Our children and young people participate in church life in many ways. We are still trying to learn a "new" song in Sunday Club, and encourage the children to join in with all the activities at the All-Age service, with plans to allow the children to take a lead the prayers.

We hope to provide care and education for our children for as long as they attend our church."

Children and Young People continued



Our collaboration with Stockport Baptist continues with the established calendar of holiday activities: Holiday Clubs, pool parties, Christmas and Easter Unwrapped: this year we worked with 90 children from Alexander Park and St. Matthew's Schools – and were supported by CiST. We went to SPREE camp at Sandilands with some of

our Sunday Club and had a great time enjoying outdoor activities and Christian teaching. The team continues to grow to bring relationships and Jesus to children and young people in our parish.



Our joint working has meant that this year, we have shared a Time for God worker – Sara Bozsoky. Sara is from Romania, and has been an important part of our outreach and mission across Edgeley and Cheadle Heath. Her timetable covers many aspects of our varied community input: Toddle Time; Socially Yours; Loaves and Fishes; Olive Café and Olive Branch etc. She has shared her time between both churches, supporting our children in church when she is with us.

Toddle Time



Toddle Time continues to flourish for a 4th year, with a core group of 25-30 children, but more

often 40+ children – which sees us having to close the doors! We are able to acknowledge various annual celebrations through our craft and activities: Christmas, Easter, Valentine's Day, Mother's Day,

Spring, Winter... the list goes on!

We have had visits from the local library, a local photographer and Life Leisure, and continue to support the Early Essentials collection.

It is our priority to get to know our families, and ensure no-one is left on their own. Parents have commented: "I've missed coming here", and "this is the best Toddler group we go to", so we are certainly meeting a need.

So, a big "thank you" goes to our dedicated and loyal team: Becca, Sylvia, Audrey, Pam, Mike, Heather, David, Sara and Maren (Time for God Workers), and Aihua (parent volunteer) who make our Toddle Time memorable for all that attend.

Worship



The Choir

We are all still enjoying our singing in the Choir and hope that our enthusiasm spreads. We are pleased to say that we have two new recruits. Barbara, who has been with us almost 1 year now and Torill who has recently joined us. We are still on the look-out for new members especially Tenor, Bass and Alto, if you are interested please have a word with one of us or come along to the practice.

Once again we held our Morning Coffee and Carols in December and raised a good amount which we donated to the Olive Branch. They were delighted. We would like to thank all who supported this joyous event.

Charles continues to play for us, although at the time of writing this report he is ill, we wish him well, send him our love and look forward to singing with him again soon. Thanks Charles for your dedication to us.

Worship Team

Worship happens in the parish in lots of ways! We hope that this means that there is chance for people to get together and worship as a whole church, and also a



variety that meets different needs, enabling wider participation. The main time we try to get together as a church family is at Whole Parish on 1st Sundays and also the major festivals. On other Sundays there is formal communion at 9.30

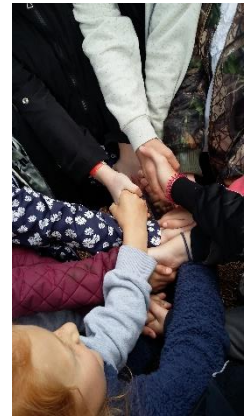
and a less formal service at 11.15. The last Sunday 11.15 service is special because it is both All Age and signed! People have appreciated the introduction of a monthly evening Taize service for a different sort of reflection. The communion service on Wednesdays continues to be well attended. Apart from worship services, we find worship going on in school assemblies, in our children's groups, and in many different places, so there is a cross over with the work of the other teams.

Our services are led by a team of people—so that you see different faces at the front, and hear from different people each week. David took a Sabbatical during the year which both presented a challenge and an opportunity for others to take a greater role in leadership. We want to say thank you to everyone who contributes to our worshipping life through different ministries (including all the boring or difficult jobs), and by being there and being part of worship.

Our services end with us being sent out into the world – to worship God by serving him out beyond the church walls.

Pastoral

Grace Anderson, Lois Haslam, Julie Johnson, Audrey Mannion and Sylvia Parker make up the Pastoral Team and in a variety of ways we try between us to keep informed about the pastoral needs of our church family and to act accordingly.



We are grateful to many other members of the family who are learning to be more than acquaintances and assist in the broad scope of this work which is the calling of all of us.

Despite no longer worshipping with us on Sundays, Irene Hinde still keeps up her monthly round of Home Communion with Sylvia at the wheel and lending another listening ear to our housebound members. David Brewster, David Brown and Julie J also administer Home Communion; at present we have 10 members who remain part of the family through this particular ministry.



We have had a good year with well attended meetings and interesting speakers. We have not had any new members, and currently have 26 members, with two not renewing their membership this year. We do our best to support our church and fund-raise for different MU charities. New members and guests are welcome at our monthly meeting.

We have been pleased to have a new, lighter banner made for us and it will be dedicated. We are very grateful to David, Julie and Peter for their continued support of the MU.

Prayer

before the service on Sunday

Alan and Grace, though a very small group, provide an invaluable ministry to the church. They pray for every member of our church family by name and for a blessing from God in our worship.



Prayer Breakfast

This has become a vital part of our church's life. Up to twenty people meet at 8:30am on the first Saturday of every month to pray for local and global needs. The leading of the group is shared between a small team so each month has a different focus. Please think about making this a priority.

Healing Ministry continues on the first Sunday of each month at our *Whole Parish Worship*. This year we welcomed Steph onto the team and it is good to have her with us. We could do with more people to help with the rota.

Our **Prayer Chain** continues to be well used. We have prayed for a very wide variety of needs in the last twelve months. We believe that God hears and answers our prayers.

Our Church Life

Community Development Manager's Report:

It has been another productive year for our community development work, with new relationships being built across the local area. We consolidated our monthly groups onto the second Saturday of the month, with the computer group and local police surgery



being joined by the Neighbourhood Charity Crafters group. As well as making and donating a range of hand-made products to local good causes, the crafters also held a Bean Bag Bonanza in church and made over 60 bean bags for St Matthew's School.

Our summer and Christmas fairs were well attended, as was the Heritage Open Day. Our Community Open Day, previously known as the Fun Day, was brought forward in line with celebrations for the Queen's 90th birthday. Around 37 different groups and activities were on offer, with very good feedback received.



In December, we were delighted to welcome Little Giggles private nursery to church, to perform their nativity - over 200 adults and children came to enjoy the show! We continued to build links with St. Matthew's School, with their coffee afternoon being moved into church, to allow more parents to come along and invitations extended to our congregation.

Our Community Development Manager secured a third year of funding and continued to represent St. Matthew's at the Olive Cafe and the Rose Walker Community Centre. In May, she also took on the role of Chair of the York Street Management Committee.

Churchwarden's Report

Just a short report on things that have been happening over the last year.

We have continued to oversee the work the Quinquennial report instructed us to do over the 5 years, until the next one due this year.



The major things that have happened this year - Land drains and flagging completed, which has spent all the monies received from the grant from *Listed Places of Worship Roof Repair Fund*, thank you to Steph for her continued help with this.

The purchase of 99 Chatham Street has been ongoing over the last year and hopefully nearing completion. Then the work starts on refurbishment to meet our needs.

We have been keeping the PCC up to date with all that has been happening along the way.

Thank you to all of you for your continued support and patience.

Stockport Deanery

"Seeking, Sharing and Supporting each other as we proclaim the love of Jesus in Stockport."

It's been another busy year in the Deanery. We said farewell to Roger Scoones from St. Mary's, Gareth and Lizzie Robinson from GLO, and Andrew and Jenny Lythall from St. Thomas' and St. Alban's, and welcomed Alec Corio to St. George's. We have almost reached our target of £5000 for Christian Aid with a year and a half of the projected fund raising time remaining, due in no small part to the

amount raised by our sponsored walk in the summer. A big 'thank you' to everyone who has played a part in raising funds for this very worthwhile project. Bishop Libby has visited the Deanery several times this year, including meeting with the Deanery Synod in the autumn to talk about future plans for Stockport. With vacancies at St. Mary's, St. Peter's and now St. Thomas', there is scope for thinking outside the box and dreaming dreams for future ministry in the town centre. Synod members were asked to put forward suggestions about what Stockport needs and how those needs might be met.

There was a wonderful service and afternoon tea in September to celebrate St. Gabriel's 80th birthday, at which Bishop Peter presided. Bishop Libby has been working closely with our Archdeacon, Bishop Peter and others and we hope to have an idea fairly soon about the future shape of ministry in the town centre parishes. Meanwhile, Mike Newman is on loan from St. Cuthbert's to help cover services at St. Mary's, where he has been joined by Matthew Barber (Community Development worker) who has been working on the 'Curating Spaces for Hope' initiative.

This year marked the 150th anniversary of modern Reader ministry. For those unable to attend the national celebration in London or the Diocesan service in Chester, St. George's hosted a Deanery celebration which was very special. We have benefitted greatly as a Deanery from the prayerful leadership of our Rural Dean, Canon Diane Cookson. Please pray for her as she continues to care for the parishes currently in interregnum.

General Synod

Lucy Brewster is one of our Archdeaconry representative on the General Synod.

Financial Review

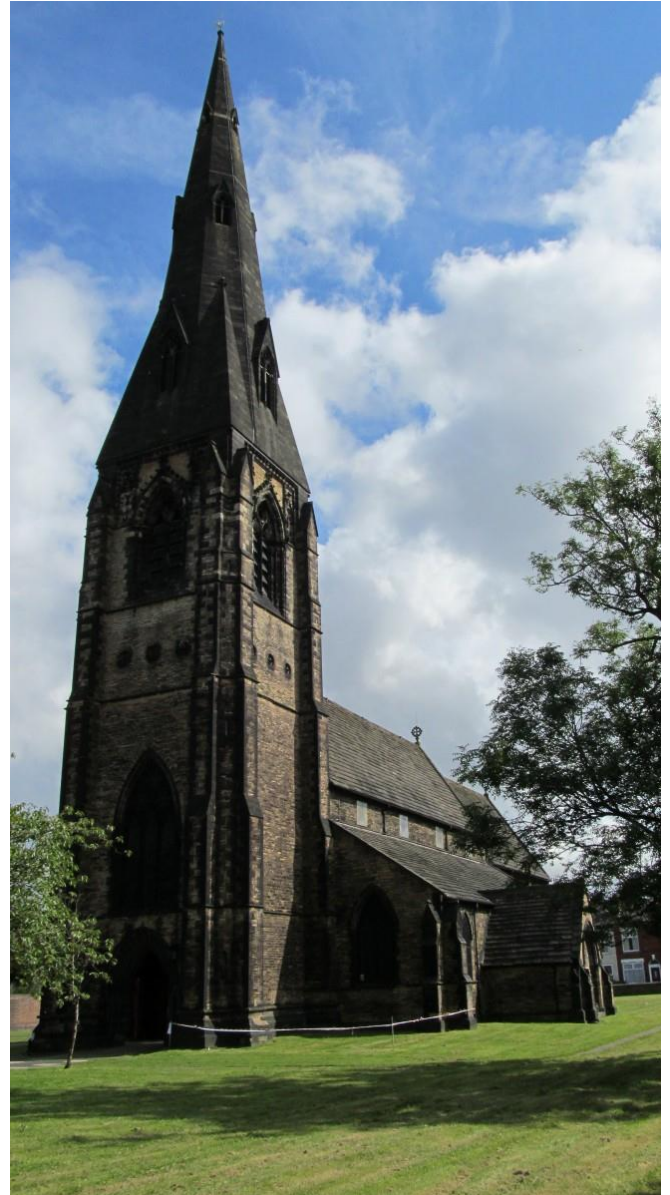
The total receipts and payments for 2016 are detailed on the financial statement.

Grants were received from Tudor Trust (to cover the cost of a Community Development manager) and SMBC ward funding (for outreach projects in the community) During the year we opened a St Matthew's Community Hub account to hold funds for outreach projects and to make applications for some grants easier.

This year we have continued to support the Children's Society, Christian Aid (including the deanery Christian Aid partnership) and Wellspring. We have also supported the Alzheimer's Society, Alzheimer's Research, Barnabas Fund, Marmalade House and the Olive Branch. We have paid our Parish Share in full.

At the end of the year there was £13,087 in our current accounts of which £11,757 is restricted or designated and £249,803 in savings accounts (Vernon Building Society and Central Board of Finance Deposit Fund). There was also £827 in the Community Hub Account.

It is PCC policy to try and maintain a balance of unrestricted funds, which equates to six months unrestricted payments, to cover emergencies. This is equivalent to £38,250 and, because we still have unspent legacies, we have enough free reserves to meet this.



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