

St Matthew's News

The Parish of Edgeley and Cheadle Heath



September 2013
Issue 18

WELCOME

Sunday Service Times

Sunday 1st and 15th September

10:30^{am} Whole Parish Worship

All Other Sundays

9:30^{am} Formal Service

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

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Links to Facebook and Twitter can be found on our home page
www.edgeleyandcheadleheath.org.uk

Back to... work, school, church

My mother always loved going on holiday - the planning; meeting new people; new places, food and customs. Yet she also looked forward to returning home. She liked the familiarity of her home, family, friends and neighbours - something she and I have in common. As the song says, "It's oh so nice to go travelling, but it's so much nicer to come home!"

In the Parable of the Prodigal Son, the younger son learned this the hard way. He saw an opportunity for exploring the world, leaving behind a humdrum life. He wanted the excitement of strange lands, new people and new experiences. He never expected the loneliness and hardship he suffered. He saw only the greener grass on the other side of the fence. His was the impetuosity of youth. When he came to his senses and returned home, he did not expect to be greeted and welcomed back into the family so warmly.

During this month of September many people will be returning home or to work or school after their summer holidays, and others

will be stepping out into new environments - new jobs, different schools. Clubs and groups restart with newfound energy and enthusiasm. There is a feeling of anticipation and expectation that only a break can generate. Whatever lies ahead for each of us, I pray that we have all had rest and relaxation and feel refreshed; and that we experience a warm welcome into a routine, whether old or new.

For our church family, September is a busy month: Heritage Days, St Matthew's Day, the Parish Fun Day and Back to Church Sunday - all of which require organisation. What will be our response to these events, especially to Back to Church Sunday? Will we seek out those who, for whatever reason, have not been to church for some time? Will we welcome them as the father in the parable welcomed back his son? I truly hope so. For many people, just coming through the door of the church is as hard for them as was the son's walk back into his father's camp. It is up to us to make them feel at home and at ease, to show them the love of



Janet a Reader

our Heavenly Father.

May God's blessing rest on us all as, with Him by our side, we take

the events of September in our stride and spread the wonder and beauty of his love wherever He leads us.

What's News?

Home is Where the prayer is

Starting in September, our home groups will be spending six weeks on *Praying with the Psalms*, looking at how the psalms can help us to pray and to deal with various situations in life. If you don't normally attend a home group, come along to some or all of the six sessions. Speak to Mike Taylor or watch out for details in church or on the website.

The Wednesday home groups will be starting on 4th September and the Tuesday group on 17th.

Introducing... Lauren Abercrombie

I was born in December and come to St Matthew's with my mummy and daddy. I like to ride my bike and my favourite toy is Hungry Frogs/Horse. I also like to watch *Jessie* on TV. I don't like to tidy up my bedroom. My favourite food is chocolate cake.

When I grow up, I want to be an Ice Skating Dancer. My favourite holiday ever was when we went to Wales. My dream competition prize is a 100 teddies. If I could live anywhere, I would live in Paris. I would love to visit Africa. My favourite story is *101 Dalmations*. If I could ask God a question it would be, *Could I earn a lot of chocolate?*



Goodbye, Piano Man

The 25th of August was Charles Stowman's last Sunday as our regular organist and choir master. Charles has been playing the organ somewhere since he was 19 - self taught on an old harmonium! He has given up now because of loss of hearing.

Charles has been at St Matthew's for twelve years. His final Sunday service was marked by a brief speech of thanks from the Revd Peter Jennings. The congregation gave Charles a standing ovation.

Shining a Light on Torch Trust - the Christian

organisation with a vision for people with sight loss



Torch Trust has been working with blind and partially sighted people for 53 years. Based in Leicestershire, the organisation has an amazing history and an international reach.

Providing accessible Christian literature - in Braille, giant print and audio formats - has always been a significant part of what Torch does. Seven different magazines for blind and partially sighted adults and children are produced for readers in 100 countries. Bibles, Bible study materials, devotional publications and Christian books are provided in the range of formats, for sale or for free distribution. Torch runs the largest Christian lending library of accessible books in Europe. Through a free postal service, people with sight loss can access over 3,500 titles, with 100 - plus new titles being added every year.

Though the technology has moved on, the work of Torch remains true to its original vision, says Torch CEO Dr Gordon Temple.

The aim of Torch Trust is to enable people with sight loss to discover Christian faith and lead fulfilling Christian lives. The gospel is inclusive. Jesus was inclusive - and went out of his way to include blind people, and those with other disabilities.

All the services Torch offers are open to people of any faith or none. To know more, email info@torchtrust.org or visit the website www.torchtrust.org. The quarterly magazine is also available at the back of church.

A Year of Toddle Time

Last September, with much prayer, and some trepidation, we opened the doors of the church to strangers for *Toddle Time*. This July we held a teddy bears' picnic in glorious sunshine with friends. We did this by transforming the back of the church into a safe play space for young children, with areas for toy kitchens, train sets and craft; not forgetting a special area for babies.

A typical morning begins with free play and crafts while parent and carers enjoy a brew and a



natter, this is followed by healthy snack time, treasure chest and song time.

Each week, 25 to 30 babies and toddlers attend, bringing with them their mums, dads and childminders. This is an excellent way to connect with our local community.



If you have a Friday morning free once a fortnight

or once a month we would encourage you to spend it with us. Building Lego or preschool crafts an advantage but definitely not a necessity.

Money, Money, Money

THE
MONEY
COURSE

Suitable for
church
members

and non-church members alike. Wednesday lunchtimes, food included. More details and a chance to sign up to follow.

Team Talk

The spot where the ministries update us with their news.

Prayer ~ there was a positive reaction to the availability of Prayer at the summer fair; we have a new member to our team; we are still looking for someone to do the world *Prayer Map* for us; and we are looking to increase the healing Prayer Team. If we can get a few interested people then we could arrange for training. **Di Bebb**

Pastoral Team ~ Pam R has devised Pastoral Team *Thank You Stickers* to award to folk in the congregation who have shared in our ministry. Also cards to hand out to encourage people to do what we mentioned last month: *Seeing - Supporting - Sharing*. Be aware of who might be absent from church for any reason (*Seeing*). Take time to call or visit (*Supporting*). Let Julie J know you have been in touch (*Sharing*). **Julie J**

Communications ~ the notice boards have been refreshed. Take a look if it has been a while. **Linda Cosgriff**

Social & Community ~ we have spent a few weeks planning, organising, delivering and reviewing the Summer Fair. I was delighted with the new people who came on board to help and the feedback has been fantastic! It was a lovely day and we raised a whopping £1,500 (even if we did clash with the Stockport Carnival!). Special thanks go to Naomi and Steph for all the work behind the scenes.

During the summer, we worked with the Children and Young People's team to plan the swimming pool parties and the day trip to Rhyl, which completely sold out. A great day was had by everyone.

Next up are the Heritage Days and Fun Day in September - we have put sheets in church for people to sign up. We need **lots of help** to make these events successes so please do volunteer. I want to share my great sense of excitement and enthusiasm for the relationships and reputation we are building as a church in this community. We should be very pleased at the "buzz" we are generating! **Pam Robinson**

Discipleship ~ as previously mentioned, Home Groups start up again in September with a new theme. The Fun Day will be a good chance to publicise the Money Course. Depending on how it goes, we will decide whether to follow it with a full Alpha course or something different. **Mike Taylor**

Children & Young People

Having just completed Holiday Club, the growing team of helpers are still *aglow* with all things space related. We met a total of 30 youngsters over the week, which was great - most attending every day, about 2/3's of these were what I would call non-church children. Outreach at its best! We were unable to run the older group, due to lack of bookings, but we are still keen to try again next year (NEXT YEAR!).

Some of our Sunday club kids helped out very willingly and very effectively, at the summer fair. Thoughts and prayers for the teen breakfast club are needed as attendance is dwindling. We have asked some of the older members of Sunday club to help out on a Sunday morning - tapping into as yet unknown talent!

Space Academy

The **Holiday Club** theme this year was *Space Academy*, linked (tenuously) to the story of Daniel and his friends. The theme tune was a fabulously catchy number that we all lost sleep over!



We created a space capsule where we learned some memory verses - the children

amazing us with their ability to remember information.

We made things to help us remember the various Bible stories that David told: notebooks covered in space and star stickers; foam hands; lion pen tops. Our games this year were mostly outside - moon rocks sent hurtling, flying saucers sent zooming, and much more.

We also enjoyed some very barmy drama - no-one fully following the story, but loving the brilliant acting, anyway - Mike Taylor as a baddie was a sight to behold!

Pleasingly, numbers were up this year, tipping 30. It was great to see familiar faces and meet some new ones from all across the parish. Our team has been strong again and has grown in number with new faces and younger faces (hoorah!) - very encouraging.

We were unable to bring holiday club to older children this year as we had hoped, but we are determined not to be put off, and will try again next year. Please pray for us as we 'tackle' the need to keep our teens interested in God.

We haven't decided on next year's theme but, if this article inspires you, speak to one of the team... and come join in the fun!



What's on in September

Sunday 1st

10:30 Whole Parish Worship

Communion with Healing Prayer

Lead and Preach: David

Tuesday 3rd

13:30 Socially Yours in church

Wednesday 4th

10:00 Holy Communion

19:45 Home Groups

Friday 6th

09:30 Toddle Time

19:00 Choir Practice

Saturday 7th

08:30 Prayer Breakfast

10:00 Saturday Café

10:00 Hard Labour

tidying our church and grounds

Sunday 8th

Magazine Articles Due

09:30 Holy Communion ~ David

11:15 Baptism Service ~ Julie

*The Venerable Ian Bishop
will preach at both services*

Monday 9th

13:00 Stockport Sling Meet

Tuesday 10th

13:30 Socially Yours in church

19:30 PCC in St. Matt's Vicarage

Wednesday 11th

10:00 Holy Communion

19:45 Home Group

Thursday 12th

13:00 Heritage Open Day

See website for details

19:30 Mothers' Union

in St. Matt's Vicarage

Friday 13th

09:30 Toddle Time

13:00 Heritage Open Day

See website for details

19:00 Choir Practice

Saturday 14th

11:00 St. Matthew's Fun Day
part of the Heritage Weekend

See website for details

Sunday 15th

200 Club - subs due

10:30 Whole Parish Worship
Signed Service

Celebrating our community
Lead: David & Lucy ~ Preach: David
followed by a bring and share lunch

Tuesday 17th

08:30 Home Group

13:30 Socially Yours in church

Wednesday 18th

10:00 Holy Communion

19:45 Home Group

Friday 20th

09:30 Toddle Time

19:00 Choir Practice

Saturday 21st (St. Matthew's Day)

10:00 Saturday Café

Sunday 22nd

09:30 Holy Communion

Lead: Sue ~ Preach: Lucy

11:15 Holy Communion

Lead: David Brown ~ Preach: Lucy

Tuesday 24th

08:30 Home Group

13:30 Socially Yours in church

Wednesday 25th

10:00 Holy Communion

The Money Course begins.

Details to follow.

19:45 Home Group

Thursday 26th

19:30 Deanery Synod in church

Friday 27th

09:30 Toddle Time

19:00 Choir Practice

Saturday 28th

10:00 Saturday Café

Sunday 29th

Back to Church Sunday

09:30 Holy Communion

Lead: David & David B^r ~ Preach: Sue

11:15 All Age Holy Communion

Lead: Heather & Sue ~ Preach: Sue

August Funeral

William Crutchley & Evelyn Caulfield

August Baptism

Amelia-Leigh Cash,

Libby Sharples, Ella Sharples,

Ava-Rose Blacow, Theo Blacow

August Weddings

Lee Norris and Leanne Carmody,

Billy Bowden and Angie Gill,

Ashlee Havery and Nicola Perkins.

Details correct at going to press.

Check our website, Facebook,

Twitter for changes and info about

events in and around the parish.

Website: edgeleyandchaddleheath.org.uk/

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

Twitter: twitter.com/ParishEdgeleyCH