

St Matthew's News

The Parish of Edgeley and Cheadle Heath



February 2014
Issue 23



Sunday Service Times

Sunday 1st 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)

Image: franky242; FreeDigitalPhotos.net

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

www.edgeleyandcheadleheath.org.uk

Are you more prone to tears or a stiff upper lip? I've heard it said that people can be divided into two groups: those who cry at everything; and those who only cry over really serious things, like bereavement. I'm not sure that that's true, but I have to confess to being a bit of a crier.

A few Sundays ago, I was watching the Olympic finals of the Women's Snowboard Slopestyle. When Jenny Jones won her bronze medal I felt really happy for her. What an amazing achievement after years of training and competition! But as soon as the cameras cut to the scene of her being congratulated by her parents, I started to cry! Not copious tears, but there was an undeniable trickle down my cheek. Why? I've never met the woman. Before that Sunday I'd never even heard of the event she won her medal in. But there was something in the triumph over the elements, her amazing skill and determination, and the love of her family, which touched me unexpectedly.

As we approach Easter, one of the passages from Matthew's gospel which also touches me deeply is Jesus talking to the crowd in chapter 23. The only

time that we read *Jesus wept*, is over the death of his friend, Lazarus. There is no mention of tears in chapter 23, but I can't help thinking

there would have been, even if Jesus was keeping them in. He's anguishing over the people whom he loves and has come to save, and who are completely blind to who he is and all he has to offer them.

³⁷ *'O Jerusalem... how I have longed to gather your children together... but you were not willing.'* I think if I'd been part of the crowd that day I might have cried. I might have picked up on some of Jesus' depth of feeling and passion for his nation. I hope I would. And I hope I would have been moved to act as a result.

We don't need to go around crying over everything and everyone who touches our hearts. *The last thing this country needs at the moment is more water!* What it does need, what our community needs, is people who are touched unexpectedly by others and are willing to act on their behalf.



Lucy Brewster

Team Talk

Social & Community:

As usual we have been busy! We had a team meeting and mapped out our plans for the year - an annual calendar has now been produced and will be regularly updated. Events will be promoted on the notice sheet and through the usual channels.

We are delighted to be welcoming Greater Manchester Police to our Saturday Cafe! See the article elsewhere in the magazine. Our new monthly community group sessions start on 8th March with *Healthy Stockport*. The sessions will be known as **@SaturdayCafe** (congratulations to David Farrow for the new name). Social news includes the recent pub quiz and a forthcoming curry lunch - watch the notice sheet for details.

Children & Young People:

Dates have been set in conjunction with Stockport Baptist Church for our *Youth on the Edge* activities. As in years past, these include: holiday clubs, pool parties, a day out and a light party.

A team day out is in the process of being arranged for March, to reflect on our children's work. Karen Bailey attended the 'Mission is a Verb' evening run by SU/CIST... definitely food for thought re: engaging our children with mission. Numbers on a Sunday continue to fluctuate with up to 15 on a 'good' day. Please remember to pick up a pink prayer card from the front, and pray for the team's work.

Pastoral: The Team has noted a growing frailty amongst the older members of our congregation, resulting in the need for more follow up calls and visits. Whilst recognising our brief is to all ages, the limits of time and easy mobility for the current team members mean in practise that time available for home visits is extremely limited.

Adding just one more member to the team would enable us to be more effective in the ongoing care for our thankfully growing, but far-flung church membership. Could you be that person?

Communications: Linda is back from her break and indebted to Pam and Arthur for stepping in to cover the work in her absence. Arthur has agreed to continue updating the website on a weekly basis. Followers on Twitter are now at 525. We have only 61 followers on Facebook: increasing that number is the team's primary goal this year. Expect to be harangued if you are on Facebook and NOT following us! Remember, our Facebook page has the most up-to-date information about what's happening in the parish. You will also find Bible and inspirational quotes, photos and other news.

Finally, we were grateful to receive three display stands, donated by **Hayley Lankey** and all at **Forget Me Not Cards and Gifts** on **Castle Street**. It means we no longer have a messy table of papers at the back of church!



Brew with a Bobby @Saturday Cafe

We are delighted that our local police team want to hold regular "surgeries" at our Saturday Cafe! The first session was held in February. Many more are planned. Full details are on our website and on posters in church.

This is another way we can bless our community, by providing an opportunity for local people to meet with support groups to find help, guidance and advice.



Watch out also for our new monthly information sessions. Come along on Saturday 8th March to meet with **Healthy Stockport**, who will be on hand to give good advice about healthy choices and answer your questions on how to give up smoking, and so on. We need a few extra friendly faces to welcome people and brew up! See Pam Robinson for details.

Introducing... the Revd Julie J

I was born and raised in Lincoln. Having attended a Methodist Chapel as a child, I came to adult faith following the Baptism of my younger son, when I realized I had not developed that Sunday School faith and needed to understand what I was to teach my sons - Gareth and Edward, now aged 41 and 39. I trained for Lay Ministry in the mid-1980^s and later for Ordained Local Ministry - being ordained in Lincoln Cathedral in October 1998. The person who had the greatest influence on the direction that my life has taken since my divorce in 1981 was my Vicar at that time.

The hardest decision I ever made was to move to Stockport; but I did, in February 2007, to be close to my grandchildren, Connor and Lauren. I have been licensed as Assistant Priest to this Parish since then.

I like watching an eclectic assortment of programmes - I enjoyed *The Cousins' War* as retold in *The White Queen*; and the surreal *Top of the Lake*. I love *Mad Men*, *The Sopranos*, *Game of Thrones* and *Deadwood* - and for a lighter smile, old

episodes of *Lovejoy*. I hate soaps and reality shows. I have just finished reading - and re-reading a series of fantasy novels by Robin Hobb; most recently, *Blood of Dragons*. I also enjoy the books of Conn Iggulden - the bloodthirsty retelling of the rise to fame of the great Mongol Khans; and also Conn's equally gory series about the Roman Empire. To relax I like to listen to the music of the 1960^s - mostly Americans like Neil Sedaka, Gene Pitney, Roy Orbison and The Everly Brothers. I would love to visit Monaco for the Formula 1 Grand Prix - it would be my dream competition prize.

When I was a child I wanted to marry and have a family - I achieved part of that, at least. I am happiest when simply being Mum or Grandma. My favourite subjects at school were Biology and History because I found it easy (then) to 'learn and churn' facts and thus pass exams. My favourite toy was my teddy with a wonky arm, a squished nose and missing eye - so loved that



he was finally only held together by the blue trousers and yellow top that I knitted for him as a teenager.

I would like to be remembered as someone who brought a smile to others' faces.

Writing Our Faith

From organising your day with "to do" lists, jotting down your shopping needs or scribbling in a diary, writing is a vital part of daily life. But have you considered using writing as a way of drawing closer to God? If you would like some ideas on how to get started, look no further than *Writing Our Faith*, a wonderful new book published by SPCK and written by Julia McGuinness.



My favourite Bible passage is 2 Corinthians 4 - where we are promised that no matter how battered we may feel in this life, God will bear us up and that his promises are eternal.

This highly practical book helps you begin to use writing in a wide variety of creative ways, using words to help you become more open to the guidance of the Holy Spirit. And for two congregation members, Linda Cosgriff and Pam Robinson, this is also a very personal journey. They attended Julia's workshop when she was preparing material for the book; and also contributed their own stories, which are published in these pages (look out for Linda's poem on the back cover).

The book is available on Amazon and in Christian book shops. Happy writing!

Tiny Things

Feed hungry people for free: visit www.thehungersite.com. Click once a day to provide a bowl of food for a hungry person. It's completely free - just click on the button once a day!

What's on this month

Fairtrade Fortnight runs
from 21st February to 9th March

Saturday 1st March

8:30^{am} Prayer Breakfast
10^{am} Saturday Café

Sunday 2nd March

10:30^{am} Whole Parish Worship
Lead: David ~ Preach: Heather
Signed service
with Prayer for Healing

Monday 3rd March

Stockport Sling Meet
& Library in church

Tuesday, 4th March

8:30^{am} Home Group
1:30^{pm} Socially Yours
7:30^{pm} PCC at the vicarage

Ash Wednesday 5th March
Services with ashing

10^{am} Holy Communion
7:30^{pm} Holy Communion

Friday 7th March

9:30^{am} Toddle Time @ St Matt's
7^{pm} Choir Practice in church

Saturday 8th March

10^{am} healthystockport
@SaturdayCafé

Sunday 9th March

9:30^{am} Holy Communion
Lead: Sue ~ Preach: David

11:15^{am} Baptism Service

Lead: Sue ~ Preach: David

1^{pm} & 1:45^{pm} Baptism Services

Tuesday 11th March

8:30^{am} Lent Group
1:30^{pm} Socially Yours

Wednesday 12th March

10^{am} Holy Communion
11:15^{am} Lent Group
7:30^{pm} Lent Group

Magazine Articles Due

Thursday 13th March

7:30^{pm} Mother's Union
7:30^{pm} Deanery Synod

Friday 14th March

9:30^{am} Toddle Time @ St Matt's
7^{pm} Choir Practice in church

Saturday 15th March

10^{am} Saturday Café

Sunday 16th March

9:30^{am} Holy Communion
Lead: David B^f & David ~
Preach: Julie

11:15^{am} Holy Communion

Lead: David ~ Preach: Julie

200 Club – Subs Due

Tuesday 18th March

8:30^{am} Lent Group
1:30^{pm} Socially Yours

Wednesday 19th March

10^{am} Holy Communion
11:15^{am} Lent Group
7:30^{pm} Lent Group

Friday 21st March

9:30^{am} Toddle Time @ St Matt's
7^{pm} Choir Practice in church

Saturday 22nd March

10^{am} Saturday Café

Sunday 23rd March

9:30^{am} Holy Communion
Lead: Peter ~ Preach: David

11:15^{am} Morning Worship

Lead: Heather ~ Preach: David

Tuesday 25th March

8:30^{am} Lent Group
1:30^{pm} Socially Yours

Wednesday 26th March

10^{am} Holy Communion
11:15^{am} Lent Group
7:30^{pm} Lent Group

Thursday 27th March

1:30^{pm} Twins and Multiples
Support Group in church

Friday 28th February

9:30^{am} Toddle Time @ St Matt's
1^{pm} Easter Unwrapped
7^{pm} Choir Practice in church

Saturday 29th March

10^{am} Saturday Café in church
11^{am} Table Top Sale in church

Sunday 30th March

9:30^{am} Teen Breakfast
at the Vicarage

9:30^{am} Holy Communion

Lead: David ~ Preach: David B^f

11:15^{am} All Age Communion
Signed Service

Lead: David ~ Preach: Sue

Looking ahead

Saturday 5th April

8:30^{am} Prayer Breakfast
10^{am} Saturday Café

Sunday 6th April

10:30^{am} Whole Parish Worship
Lead: Sue ~ Preach: David

Sunday 13th April

3^{pm} Christians Together
@ Morrisons

February Funeral

Nan Turner

February Baptism

Bartholomew Woods