

St Matthew's News

The Parish of Edgeley and Cheadle Heath



July 2015
Issue 38

Sunday Service Times

Sunday 5th June

10:30^{am} Whole Parish Worship

Sunday 26th June

11:15^{am} All Age Signed Service

All Other Sundays

9:30^{am} Formal Service

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

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How Easy is it to Pray?

About 20 years ago, on a Cursillo weekend, I heard a talk on piety. The speaker said that as he got older he found that prayer got more difficult. I couldn't relate to that idea - then, but as I've got older, what he said is making more and more sense.

It isn't the saying of the prayers that is the problem, but rather the concentration I need to keep open the essential lines of communication with God. There is a quote from Hamlet that expresses what I mean: *My words fly up my thoughts remain below; words without thought never to heaven go.* (Act 3, Scene 3) A choir master introduced this to me when I was a teenager and, as I have aged, it has come to mean so much to me.

I have difficulty during private prayer time, but find it most difficult when using prayers familiar to me such as the Prayer of Preparation, the Prayer of Humble Access, amongst others, from the Communion Service, and of course the Lord's Prayer. I find my mind wanders as my mouth forms and utters the familiar words. If you have the same problem I hope the following, which has helped me greatly, will be of help to you.

A couple of years ago Julie J lead a Quiet Time during a meeting of the Mothers' Union when she introduced the **5 Ps of prayer: Purpose, Prepare, Place, Posture and Presence.**

Purpose: Is there a reason for the prayer? Clarify it.

Prepare: Set the time aside to spend time with God.

Place: Find a quiet place where there will be no interruptions. Have something significant to praying e.g. candle, Bible, cross.

Posture: Get into a position in which you are comfortable and so less likely to fidget.

Presence: Remember that you are in God's presence; ask the Holy Spirit to come into your heart and help you with your prayer.

In most of my time of private prayer this works for me. Then, during services, I don't always rely on my memory but try to read the prayers we all say as if I was reading a book, with all the expression that needs. I find this helps me focus on what the prayer is about.

May the Holy Spirit lead you as you pray in Jesus' name. Amen

Janet Critchley



One Week on Facebook

Thanks to people sharing, liking and commenting on our posts and photos in the final week of June, we had over 2,000 engagements with people across Facebook. If you have not yet liked us, you're missing out!

www.facebook.com/ParishEdgeleyCheadleHeath

Prayer 24/7

This is the second event of this kind that I have been to. Both were held at Stockport Baptist Church, Edgeley.

As the name suggests, it is 24 hours of prayer, shared by quite a lot of people from many different Churches, but in different ways. There is singing, addresses, presentations, testimonies and, of course, shared prayer. There are breaks in between so that people can grab a coffee and a bite to eat. You can come and go as you please.

The most recent Prayer 24/7 was held at the beginning of June. David was invited to hold a Communion Service on the Friday evening, and then the event ran through to Saturday evening. We went over on Saturday morning as part of our Prayer Breakfast, instead of holding the breakfast at St. Matthews.

Healing Ministry

We are a small team offering Healing Ministry every 1st Sunday of the Month at our Whole Parish Worship. It is a joy and a privilege to be involved in this.

We sort of bumbled into it: we discussed it at our Prayer Ministry Meeting, thought it was a good idea, and the next thing WE were the ones being trained! Ask any one of us about it and I'm sure the answer will be the same - we love it.

We heard about Prayer on the Streets of Manchester and Stockport; and were told about other movements that we had not heard of before. It was really encouraging to hear just how many young people are involved AND how many young people are part of the Church of God.

One amazing thing happened to me whilst I was there: I received Prophecy, a message from the Lord. I was stunned at what was being said to me by someone whom I had only just met, but all of it meant something to me. I just sat and listened, trying to take it all in; and when he had finished I felt elated. It was just amazing and I know it stirred feelings in others too.

Why not try the next Prayer 24/7? You can stay ½ an hour or go the whole way; but however long, it is well worth it. **Di Bebb**

However, being such a small team, it is difficult to keep the rota going, so we are looking to augment our team. We have one person so far who wishes to join us - anyone else fancy trying it? The training will be spread over three evenings (one evening per week), for about an hour per evening. The third week will consist of practicing the technique of praying on each other. We pray in pairs, so you will not be alone at any time.

Why not come along to the training evenings - you will need to complete

all three - to see what it is all about, and decide from there if you want to help us to continue to provide this special and much needed part of our Ministry at St. Matthews?

There is also a course being run by Graham Dow over at the Baptist Church in July. The information is on



Following the exciting *Welly Walk* we reported on a while back, we were delighted to be asked to go into St. Matthew's School to talk about prayer to their nursery and reception class.



David, Heather and Pam were warmly welcomed by the children, parents

and teachers and we had an exciting time as we sang songs together, read stories, made thank you prayers and played with a parachute and bubbles.



the notice board for anyone who is interested.

The date of our in-house training sessions will be announced in church when we have set them in the diary.

We hope to see you then!

Di & the Prayer Team

We also surprised the school with a cheque for £250, so they can buy books that will help the children learn more about God. This is money you helped to raise through our Smartie Challenge during Lent.



We hope this is the first of many "pop up" events, helping us to build strong relationships with our local schools and to share the joy of Jesus with a new generation. **Pam Robinson**

Smartie Challenge



It is always thrilling to surprise people with unexpected gifts! Thanks to your generosity during our Smartie Challenge, we were able to surprise Robert Twigg, representing the Stockport Refugee Group, with a cheque for £250.

Robert was delighted with the gift and sends his thanks to all involved. Robert said, *This gift will help us organise a day trip for the refugee families and will help to put a huge smile on the faces of the children.*

Hotting Up!



Like any family, here at St Matthew's we love to worship together, pray together and have fun together. It was

wonderful to share a curry lunch at the Chilli Massalla restaurant on Castle Street recently, where we were served beautiful food whilst we chatted and enjoyed each other's company.

We arrange this lunch twice a year so if you haven't joined us yet, please watch out for the next lunch before the end of the year. **Pam Robinson**



Our Summer Fair will be held on Saturday 18th July, 12 - 3^{pm}, and it will be here sooner than you think! Please bring your donations of prizes, such as toiletries, chocolate, alcohol, toys, bric-a-brac, books, DVDs, CDs and, nearer the time, cakes! We can't accept anything with a plug so please, no electricals.

All cake donations must be accompanied by a written list of ingredients, so that we can comply with new legislation. We also need as many people to help us before, during and after the event, so please do sign up in church now, or speak to Pam Robinson on how EVERYONE can play a part (remember, there are some jobs that can be done at home, sitting down!) *Thank you.*

The Tactile Tour

We had a wonderful time at our Tactile Tour! This multi-sensory tour encouraged people to explore our Grade II Victorian church through sight, sound, smell, touch and taste.

We were joined by our partners at Walthew House, the centre for the blind and deaf in Stockport. They brought along SIM glasses, which mimic sight loss conditions, to raise



awareness of the challenges faced every day by people who suffer such

difficulties. Max, the guide dog puppy, was a huge hit (and very well behaved!).

Children enjoyed splashing in the font and talking to Baby Jesus in the manger. We had visitors with sight loss who got to touch stained glass windows, flower displays, banners, wardens' staffs, and the chalice. Visitors heard the types of music we enjoy at St Matthew's, from full choirs to modern Christian rock, and had the chance to play some instruments.

Other features of the tour were a display of clergy



robes, murals of the Last Supper (engraved in brass), the cross, and a crown of thorns, anointing oil infused with myrrh, communion wine and wafers.



A real highlight was a model of the church, recently commissioned with local artist Sara La Crosswell, who turned her photographs of St Matthew's into a 3D ceramic model. This was invaluable in helping people with sight loss get a feeling for the shape of the church.



Paul, a visitor with full sight loss, said, *This has been a really interesting evening, a fascinating multi-sensory experience.*

Kay Kelly, manager of Walthew House, is delighted with the growing partnership with St Matthew's: *We are already working well together to*

provide a monthly signed service for our friends in the deaf community, so it is wonderful to be offering this type of event to people with sight loss.

Father David said, *It has been a thoroughly enjoyable evening and it has been wonderful to have this opportunity to welcome members of our community who are often quite isolated.*

Pam Robinson

Photos used with permission

Easter Egg Festival



We love working with other churches to share the gospel and to raise awareness of all that we are doing here at St Matthew's. We had a wonderful opportunity recently to join the Easter Egg Festival at St Thomas' Church.

We were one of over twenty displays from local churches, schools and community groups. With thanks to Linda's husband, Paul, for the amazing enormous egg, our display generated a lot of interest from visitors.

APCM

On Sunday 19th April we held our Annual Parochial Church Meeting, after the service. The congregation are always encouraged to stay to read and hear about the year's events; and to vote members into various positions.

Before the meeting, a report is compiled of all the activities from the previous year - it is always a wonderful exercise to take stock and reflect on what we do. Suffice it to say, the report gets longer each year as we get involved with more activities and groups!

At the meeting, there is the formal 'business' of voting in churchwardens, new PCC members, deanery representatives and our welcomers. We also hear about the accounts of the year. There is always an opportunity to ask questions and pass on our appreciation to members of the congregation and clergy. This year was once again well attended, with six new PCC members being voted in.

If you didn't receive a report, please ask me for a copy.

Karen Bailey

Afternoon Fun

Friends of St Matthew's School are holding a fun afternoon on Friday 3rd July, 3:15 - 5^{pm}. Please go along and show your support.



What's on this Month

All events (except Home Groups) in church unless otherwise stated

Weekly

Mondays

6:30^{pm} Brigade

Tuesdays

8:30^{am} Home Group

1:30^{pm} Socially Yours

Wednesdays

10^{am} Holy Communion

7:45^{am} Home Group

Fridays

9:30^{am} Toddle Time

7:30^{pm} Choir Practice

Saturdays

10^{am} Saturday Café

Other Events

Wednesday, 1st

7^{pm} Signing Session in the Vicarage

Friday, 3rd

3:15^{pm} St Matthew's School Fun Day

Saturday, 4th

8:30^{am} Prayer Breakfast

Sunday, 5th

10:30^{am} Whole Parish Worship
with Healing Prayer

Lead: David ~ Preach: Julie

11:45^{am} Welcomers Session

Tuesday, 7th

7^{pm} Sticky Faith

Thursday, 9th

7:30^{pm} Mothers' Union: Sue Mayo (Taizé)

Saturday, 11th

10^{am} Saturday Café

with Police Surgery and Legal Surgery
and **Comfortable With Computers**

June Funeral ~ Margaret Bryant

Sunday, 12th

9:30^{am} Holy Communion

11:15^{am} Baptism Service

1 & 1:45^{pm} Baptism Services

Wednesday, 15th

7^{pm} Signing Session in the Vicarage

Friday, 17th

2^{pm} Wedding

Saturday, 18th

12^{pm} Summer Fair

Sunday, 19th

9:30^{am} Holy Communion

11:15^{am} Holy Communion

200 Club - Subs Due

Saturday, 25th

10^{am} Refugee & Asylum Seekers Drop-in

Sunday, 26th

9:30^{am} Holy Communion

11:15^{am} All Age Signed Service

Tuesday, 28th

6:30^{pm} PCC in the Vicarage

Thursday, 30th

10^{am} Emergency Services Day

on Castle Street

Looking Ahead

Saturday, 1st

8:30^{am} Prayer Breakfast

Sunday, 2nd

10:30^{am} Whole Parish Worship
with Healing Prayer

Tuesday, 4th to Friday 7th

Holiday Club at St John's

Flower Fund

In loving memory of
Mother, from Jean Proctor.

