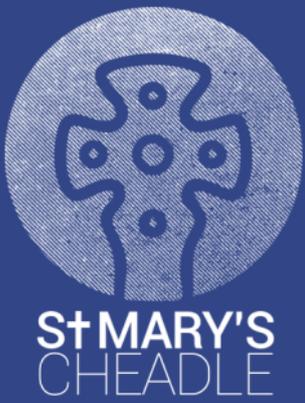


22nd November 2020



# In Touch

Christ The King

with Cheadle Parish Church

## Christmas Plan 2020



This year is obviously going to be very different Christmas. We have a few things we are planning but clearly everything is subject to change in line with government guidance.



The plan is that we will be delivering a Christmas Card in place of our usual Church and Community leaflet—we will need help with the delivery and will be in touch with usual volunteers, but please let us know if you can help. This will be early December

All services will be on line with, possibly a small congregation where allowed. For these services we are planning some remote recordings of carols and hymns—please contact Vera or Jon if

you would like to be involved.

If we are able to host limited numbers of people in church for some services including School Carol Services we will need people who can clean the church—dusting, hoovering and cleaning toilets. If you can offer help please let Liz or Jon know.

There will also be lots of resources coming out for our Children and Youth—watch this space !



## Women's Ministry

How connected are you? How connected do you want to be? As women we do tend to have networks and people we are in touch with, but it is still not easy in these strange times to keep in contact.

We also need to maintain our fellowship as well as our social interaction, so I am looking at ways in which women can meet together, either by phone, or zoom or walking with a friend, to be purposeful in encouraging one another in prayer, reading the bible and encouraging one another. If you are able, do join us for our women's virtual event on **Saturday 28th November at 9am. Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82266411916?pwd=aFExTldqZjhhTkZDNWpRdmdZeDFKZz09> Or [www.zoom.us](http://www.zoom.us) and use**

**Meeting ID: 822 6641 1916, Passcode: 886416**



### Questionnaire

We would also appreciate your feedback on how you are able to and how you would like to keep in touch. We have sent out a questionnaire on Churchsuite to all the women in both our churches. Do let us know what you are already doing and what additional support you would like so we can "consider how we may spur one another on towards love and good deeds" (Hebrews 10:25).

Printed versions of the questionnaire will be sent to people who received a printed noticesheet or just call Liz in the office and a copy will be printed and delivered to you. If you want to chat to me call the office and Liz can give you my phone number if you need it.

*Trish Wells, Women's Discipleship Worker*

## Sunday@6 Service

Here is the link for the Sunday@6 Service— which is at 6pm on Sunday <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KLGQSnjJ9WY>



The Big Questions topic this week is :

### What God's Word tells us about gender, sexuality and identity

'We've reached the last in our short series of Big Questions at 6pm, but the last question is a big one!

Our culture tells the story that we are free to be who we want to be, and define our own reality. As Christians, we know that the cultural story around us is false, but more than that, we have a far better story to tell.



This week, we'll be exploring what God's Word tells us about gender, sexuality and identity. What does it mean to be made in God's image? What are his intentions for our relationships? How do we best reflect the good news of the gospel in how we view ourselves and those we're closest to?

There will be games, prayers, scripture and discussion. We'd love you to join us online, whatever your views, to discover a bit more of the good news of God's good design for his people.

### See you on Sunday!

(You can find all the services so far in the '6pm' playlist on YouTube if you want to catch up).

## Online Giving

If you would like to make an online donation at any time to St Mary's you can use this QR code.



If you have any questions please contact [churchoffice@cheadle.org.uk](mailto:churchoffice@cheadle.org.uk) or call us on 0161 428 8050

## PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Please note that the Parish office is still operational but 'virtually' in staff homes. We will try to have telephones answered and emails replied between 9am–3pm. Messages and emails outside office hours will be answered the next working day. If your message is urgent please follow the instructions on the answerphone.



## Dial in to services

To listen to the service live on a Sunday morning at 10.30, please phone one of these numbers; **0203 481 5240 or 0131 460 1196 or 0203 051 2874 or 0203 4815237** You will then be asked to enter the Meeting ID number which is: **962 1869 3957, followed by the passcode : 621107.**



The call will be charged at your normal rate for a national call. If people are able to set up access from a mobile phone the following numbers, once programmed in will automatically connect you to the stream; **+442034815240,,96218693957#** Or **+441314601196,,96218693957#**

any help setting this up, please call *Jon Drayton* on the office number 0161 428 8050 or his mobile 07973 134815

**RECORDED** – To listen to a recording of the latest Sunday morning services from a phone line. Please dial **01615094143**. This is a local rate (Manchester) number.

## Festival Choir

Sadly the booked dates of 21st and 28th November will not now happen. We are hopeful that we can organise something else in December but please watch this space. If you were on the original sign up for the November dates you will be contacted as soon as we have another possible date for recording.



## Helping others this Christmas

The Handy Ladies are, as many will know, preparing Christmas Dinners to be taken out to over 150 people in and around Cheadle. We are collecting small items for 'goody' bags to go with their meals. If you have any toiletries, mens or ladies items that you could donate please drop them off either at Church on Saturday morning 10 -12 or contact the office to arrange collection.



If you have any small (A5) size Christmas gift bags they would also be useful.

We are also still collecting new children's toys, games, books that can be wrapped for St Francis house and a local primary school.

If you can help to deliver the meals on Christmas day please contact Anna on 07525372736

Thank you

## 12 Days of Giving Charity nomination



Our insurance company Ecclesiastical are offering a £1000 donation to 10 charities every day from **7th–22nd December**. All you have to do is click on this link <https://www.movementforgood.com/12days/>

And you can nominate St Mary's Parish Church, our charity number is 1134783 as your chosen charity. You can do this now.

If we did manage to get any of this funding this will help us greatly as funding and expenditure has been impacted by Covid. We could put it towards Christmas or tech in church, for example –costs that have increased because of Covid.

The more nominations we receive the higher the chance of being awarded some funding. **Thank you.**

## THE MAYOR of STOCKPORT'S ANNUAL PRAYER BREAKFAST (on line) THURSDAY 26<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2020 8.00am – 8.30am

The Mayor of Stockport, Cllr Dean Fitzpatrick, invites you to the annual Mayoral Prayer Breakfast. Our borough motto is Animo et Fide - Courage and Faith

Join with us as we are led by representatives from Local and Central Government leadership. This online event is free to attend and the numbers are unlimited, therefore please advertise widely; we'd love to encourage more guests from the wider Stockport community – please do spread the word and invite others!

There will be an opportunity to donate towards the Mayor's Charity, which this year is Beacon Counselling.

Here are the links for the meeting:

### Soul City Church

Youtube : <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCyp7u2aeybLqkUTEhrpEOog>

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

## Chelwood Foodbank

**Sainsburys on the High Street in Cheadle** are accepting donations, as are Chelwood themselves. The times the foodbank is open Tues & Weds 10-12noon and Thursday 12noon–2pm. **They are currently in need of all cleaning products, hair conditioner & cooking oil.**

**If you can't get there to drop off donations please call the office and we will collect them from you to drop off.**

If your personal financial circumstances have not yet been affected by CV-19, is this something you could support? You can make a financial donation here— <http://www.chelwoodfoodbankplus.org/donate/>



## Women's virtual event

Saturday Nov 28th  
@ 9–10am



Share encouragement and see each other's faces.

Put the date and time in your diary for a zoom event when women can share their favourite bible verses and join in some mindfulness colouring or painting.

Yes, I know zoom is not ideal and we are all fed up with it, but this will be a chance just to see each other and share what the Lord has been saying to us over this difficult time as we prepare for Advent and the coming of the Light of the World. PS if you cannot make it on the day, we will be sharing the verses as widely as possible

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82266411916?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82266411916?pwd=aFExTldqZjhhTkZDNWpRdmdZeDFkZz09)  
[pwd=aFExTldqZjhhTkZDNWpRdmdZeDFkZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82266411916?pwd=aFExTldqZjhhTkZDNWpRdmdZeDFkZz09)

Meeting ID: 822 6641 1916

Passcode: 886416

Many thanks

**Trish Wells, Women's Discipleship Worker**

## Prayer Triplets

One way of keeping connected in these strange times is through prayer: it keeps us connected with God as we talk to him and listen to him in his word. But it is not always easy to pray on our own. Do you have someone else you can pray with? This could be just one other person or maybe a prayer triplet. Do share your stories of how praying together has helped you.



If you have not done this in the past, but would like to, then think about who you could invite to pray with you - don't wait to be asked, but get on with it yourself.

If you would like to be involved in this prayer initiative, but don't quite know where to start, then get in touch with me at [trish.wells@cheadle.org.uk](mailto:trish.wells@cheadle.org.uk) or contact the church office who can pass on your details and put us in touch

**Trish Wells**



Two wooden Ikea high chairs are available from the Upper Room. If you would like one

please contact the office on 0161 428 8050—they are practically new, the same as the ones that are in the UR Café.

# PRAYER

The line – which is available 24 hours a day on **0800 804 8044** – has been set up particularly with those unable to join online church services during the period



## Prayer for the Day

The Diocese of Chester issue a 'Prayer for the Day' and you can get these sent to you automatically, just follow this link –

<https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer/todays-prayer>

## For The Bereaved

Please pray for everyone who is mourning the loss of a loved one especially at this difficult time of isolation.

## Also for your prayers ...

Rose Betts  
Sean Clegg  
Peter Fraser  
Tom Harper  
Steve Johnson  
Sheila Jones  
Aileen & Tom Latham - ongoing health issues  
Sean McCausland - ongoing care  
Alma Mealand—ongoing care  
Christine Mo—undergoing treatment  
Peggy Mountford - ongoing care  
Mary Robertson  
Andrew Smith - ongoing care  
Sylvia Tomlinson—ongoing health issues

## The Collect Christ The King

Eternal Father, whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven that he might rule over all things as Lord and King: keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit and in the bond of peace, and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

## PERSECUTED CHURCH: Jordan

Christians in Jordan are a small minority; of the 10.1 million people living there, Open Doors estimates that there are around 180,000 Christians, making up 1.8 per cent of the population. Jordan is a strongly Islamic society. Christians from Muslim backgrounds face the worst persecution as leaving Islam is seen as a source of shame to their families and communities. Christians from Muslim backgrounds often keep their faith a secret and meet together in underground churches. However, these churches are often monitored by the government. If discovered, they face pressure from their families and communities – they may be physically attacked, arrested or lose custody of their children. Conversion from Islam is not officially recognised. And yet, the small number of believers from Muslim backgrounds is growing.

Most Christians in Jordan are from Orthodox or Roman Catholic churches, and they have greater freedom but can still face discrimination, particularly at work. Churches involved in evangelism are monitored by the government and pressured to stop.

Although Rami (25) was from a nominal Christian family in Jordan, he considered himself to be an atheist when he joined the group. And he had a secret agenda, he admits. "I thought I would be able to convince the group of my own ideas, about rejecting God. That is why I joined... During praise time I praised and during prayer time I also seemed to be involved, but deep inside I wanted to convince them that there is no God.

"My act became more and more difficult to uphold, because when meeting with these people I felt a feeling I had never experienced so deeply before - joy. I just couldn't deny the love the group was showing me."

Gradually, Rami opened up his heart to God, and during one of the camps he made the decision to follow Jesus Christ. "When I made that decision, I felt a joy and peace I had never felt before. In my old life I experienced what worldly joy means, but now I know the meaning of biblical joy.

"Day by day, God is changing me into the image he wants me to be. He changes my character, he changes my attitude; even my family and parents notice this change in my life. The most important thing in my life is now to serve God."

# Is Jesus my King?

In recent weeks, we have been going through chapters 11-13 of Matthew's gospel, with its repeated emphasis on the fact that Jesus is God's powerful and compassionate king, and with the equally repeated challenge of asking each and every reader – is Jesus your king? But how do we know if he is or not? What does it mean to say that 'Jesus is my king' and mean it as more than just words?



Incidentally, I have been reading a book at the same time, that is partly a reflection on Paul's letters to Timothy. In it, I came across this paragraph: *'when Timothy was sent into Ephesus, it was to counter the effects of the Artemis/Diana religious sub-structure in the culture. We don't have to know exactly what it was he was dealing with – ultimately, he was dealing with religion that served the needs of people on their terms, their longings for completion, their hunger for meaning, their thirst for beauty and significance, and their impatience with a God who required anything of them'* (Eugene Peterson, "The Unnecessary Pastor").

It was a paragraph that got me thinking. It would be so easy for us 'Christians' to read that paragraph and immediately jump to pointing the finger at others, with some truth. In our country today, polling tells us that the majority of people still believe in God and heaven and all such things. But any sense of 'religion' that they have is all about what they want rather than what God wants. In which case, the problem is all too easily identified – they may believe in God but God is not their king; they are – and if God doesn't do what they want, they're not that interested. But how often do we fall into the same trap? How often, when things don't go the way we want them to go, or when God doesn't sort things out the way we want them sorted, is our natural response to doubt God – to wonder whether he cares at all, or whether he really is in control.

We may well have, over the years, have heard hundreds of sermons proclaiming that Jesus is God's powerful and compassionate king – sermons that seek to methodically and meticulously lay out the reasons why we can know this to be true and build our lives on that truth. And yet, at the first sign of trouble, the first instance of God not doing things the way we want, does all that teaching fall away and we start to wonder? In which case, you have to ask the question – is Jesus my king or am I? Who is the ultimate judge here? Who is needing to prove themselves to whom here?

In John's Gospel, we read these words of Jesus: 'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God. Trust also in me' (John 14:1). The question is, of course, through all that we read of him in the Gospels, all that he did and all that he said, including his death and resurrection, do we trust him? Do we trust him not just when things are going well but when life perplexes us? Do we trust him to know better than we do when he doesn't do what we want him to do? For, surely, ultimately, that's what it means to say 'Jesus is my king'.

**Stan Tomalin <><**

## St.Mary's On-Line

All live meetings via **WWW.ZOOM.US**

Soundbites & Mid-Week services via

**www.youtube.co.uk**

Links for services on our website—

**www.cheadle.org.uk**

**Sun 22nd Nov—10.30am** On-Line **St Mary's Cheadle Sunday worship** <https://cheadle.org.uk/youtube> or <https://cheadle.org.uk/facebook>

**Zoom Coffee after church every Sunday during Lockdown 2 -**

Meeting link—<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84854040589?pwd=cWN5bFJ5VTZZUzMzdzVRQVpOTG1EQTO9>

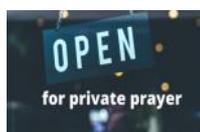
Or [www.zoom.us](http://www.zoom.us) - Meeting ID: 848 5404 0589, Passcode: 243624

**St Cuthbert's 10.30am** service can also be viewed from Youtube: search 'st cuthbert's cheadle'

**Sun 22nd November—6.00pm LIVE On-Line St Mary's Cheadle Youth Groups**—contact the [churchoffice@cheadle.org.uk](mailto:churchoffice@cheadle.org.uk) if you haven't had any information.

**Mon (Rob), Tues (Mike), Thurs (Ian) & Fri (Stan) Soundbites / Psalms** Daily Inspiration for each day —Link via our YouTube.co.uk and search 'st marys cheadle'

**Tues, Weds & Fri 8.30am On-Line Daily Prayers**—join us live On-Line from St Mary's Cheadle linked together via Zoom—id 786 070 1560



**Saturday 10.00am—12noon OPEN CHURCH** The church is open for private prayer. If you can help opening the church please contact Ian Chidlow.

**4th Tuesday each month—Open Doors** monthly prayer meeting. Please email Sue Southgate—[sue.southgate@uwclub.net](mailto:sue.southgate@uwclub.net) for details of the Zoom meeting or contact the church office .

Go to **www.cheadle.org.uk** for links to all these events and for more information—or please call the office

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CLERGY	Associate Minister	Stan Tomalin	491 6939	<a href="mailto:stan.tomalin@cheadle.org.uk">stan.tomalin@cheadle.org.uk</a>	
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	Women's Discipleship Worker	Trish Wells	428 8050	<a href="mailto:trish.wells@cheadle.org.uk">trish.wells@cheadle.org.uk</a>	