



**Cheadle**  
PARISH

# In Touch

## January 2024

### In the beginning...

To kick off 2024, Cheadle Parish will be travelling through the first 12 chapters of Genesis together. As the book that opens the Bible, Genesis sets the scene for all that is to come, and, as such, is such an important book to get to grips with. Can I encourage you to try to read those early chapters at some point over the next few days - get yourself into the story again, and prepare your heart to hear God speak through Genesis when we open it together.

If you want some help along the way, why not check out the Bible Project, who are always useful when it comes to understanding the different books of the Bible:

<https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/genesis-1-11/>



I hope you will be blessed in your reading, and excited to revisit the beginning of all things together!

- Ian Chidlow

### Hope Explored

Both St Mary's and St Cuthbert's will be running hope explored courses throughout January. The course begins at St Mary's on Tuesday 9th January and at St Cuthbert's on Wednesday 10th January, each running for three weeks. Do be praying for these courses and invite along anyone who you think might be interested.

### HOPE|EXPLORED

**A three-session series looking at the life, death and resurrection of Jesus**

Starting on:

**Tuesday 9th January**

**8 - 9.30pm**



Led by



**Matt & Alice Wells**

**Hope Explored** is an informal and relaxed three-week course. It's for anyone who wants to find hope, peace and purpose in life. It's run by ordinary Christian people local to you and is completely free. You don't need to know anything about the Bible, and you won't be asked to pray or sing. You can ask any question you like, or you can just sit and listen.

Whoever you are, whatever you're thinking, **Hope Explored** is a place for you to discover the hope of a future that is better than you could ever imagine.

For more information and to book:



**cheadle.org.uk/hope**

or call the Church Office - 0161 428 8050



### New Year New Start

How many of you have made New Year's resolutions at the beginning of this month? - I wonder how many of us have already broken some of our proposals already? This year I would like to suggest one proposal that we all get to grips in getting to know God better and what better way to do this is to study God's word - The Bible - There are many bible reading plans which can assist us to do this but all help us to understand God's plan for us - some are fairly basic and others can be highly complex - either way it will however encourage us and help us to experience a new depth of relationship with God.

Three that are recommended are:

**The Psalms-Ezekiel Bible Reading Plan**  
(available [here](#))



**The Bible Project Annual Reading Plan**  
(available [here](#))  
*for those wanting something more in depth*



**The Bible in a Year with Nicky and Pippa Gumbel**  
(available as an app [here](#))  
*comes with a reading plan and short thoughts about the readings each day*



If you know another plan which you value then do stick with it

To conclude what better verse to encourage us - "All scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness" - 2 Timothy 3:16

- Graham Lowcock



# !!CALLING ALL YEAR 6-9 PARENTS!!

A message about a Summer camp for your lovely children ages 11-14.

Quinta camp is a summer camp for children and we need to know if your children are keen to go this summer by 24th January as they have asked us to provide a list of any youth that would be keen to go to avoid disappointment.

They are also asking for a list of potential helpers for the camp

So here is what I'm asking:

Firstly, check out this link and let Amy know if you would like to put your child's name down for it

<https://www.soundholidays.org.uk/services/quinta-and-ashville/>



*Quinta camp is oversubscribed each year. We don't have a 'first come first served' system. We work together with churches who send members and leaders each year. Please also note that due to limited accommodation, each connected church will also be allocated a set number of places for members.*

Secondly, think about if you, or anyone you know, would be willing to go and help on this camp. The more leaders they have, the more youth can go! Ask around, you never know who might say yes!

- Amy Killingbeck

## The Cheadle Clean Team

Caring for the Community



## Community litter pick

Join us on Sunday  
14th January

11-12pm

meeting at the  
public noticeboard  
Massie St Cheadle.

Bin bags- Gloves- Litter Grabber  
provided but are limited, please bring  
your own if you have them.

## JUICE Puppets

JUICE Puppets is the puppet ministry based at St Mary's Church and has been going for more than 20 years.



You will have seen us at services at St Mary's Church and St. Cuthbert's Church, throughout the year but especially at Christmas and Easter. We have also always been an integral part of the Victorian Christmas Market from its outset.

As we start 2024 we are looking to recruit new members, both children (school year 7 and above) and adults, who would like to learn puppetry and support our ministry within the church and community in Cheadle.



If you would like to know more, please have a chat with Mark Tomlinson our Children's Outreach Worker or contact him with any questions or for more information at [mark.tomlinson@cheadle.org.uk](mailto:mark.tomlinson@cheadle.org.uk)

## Women's Ministry

Happy New Year! It is 2024 already – almost quarter of the the way through the 21st Century. How did that happen? Time can be a very elastic thing: sometimes it speeds by and at other times we count each second as though it an hour. Time is not like that for God. He is outside time. 2 Peter 3 verses 8 & 9 say this:

*8 But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. 9 The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.*

I am so encouraged that God is patient with us. He understands that we need time to become more like Jesus; time to learn the lessons we need to learn; time to proclaim to our friends and family who Jesus is. It is hard not to feel a bit beleaguered if we look around at the state of the world or look at the weather out of the window.

But we have so much to look forward to in 2024: George and Kath Crowder and their family will be joining us after Easter; the Upper Room Café will continue to reach out to our community; we will continue to praise and worship God in our services, our serving and our giving – both of time and money.

There is so much to hope for. There is still time to sign up for Hope Explored which is starting on Tuesday 9th January for 3 weekly sessions in the Upper Room. Invite your friends or come yourself. And if you can't wait until Tuesday, come to the 6.30 service on Sunday 7th January to hear what God is doing in Rio de Janeiro with Message Brazil and Daniel and Emily Eduardo. You won't feel despondent after you have heard Daniel speak – it is such an encouragement to hear what God is doing around his world.

God is in control and he is patient with us.

God Bless

Trish Wells

Women's discipleship worker



## Dates for January

**Saturday 6th - Hard of Hearing Support Group**, 11.30am in the Ashfield Room in the Upper Room

**Tuesday 9th - Hope Explored**, starts at St Mary's, 8pm in the Upper Room Cafe for three weeks

**Wednesday 10th - Hope Explored**, starts at St Cuthbert's for three weeks, 8pm

**Saturday 13th - Cheadle Board Room**, 9.30am - 9.30pm in the Upper Room

**Thursday 18th - Men's Breakfast**, 6.45am in the Upper Room Cafe

**Tuesday 23rd - Open Door Prayer Meeting**, 7.30pm at the Southgate's house

**Saturday 27th - Burns Night Supper and Ceilidh**, 6pm in the Upper Room, sign up [here](#)

## Dates for your diary:

Please take note and put these dates in your diary. The opportunity to book for this event and more information will be available soon.

### 'Race Across the World' Holiday Bible Club

For Primary school children from Reception to Year 6.

Beginning the week after Easter, we will be exploring the events after that happened after Easter 2000 years ago and how the good news about Jesus spread across the world.

- Easter Monday - 1st April 2024 - Holiday Bible Club setup for leaders and helpers.
- Tuesday 2nd April - Friday 5th April - Children's club from 10am until 12.30pm.

For more information or if you have any questions speak to Mark Tomlinson or email him at [mark.tomlinson@cheadle.org.uk](mailto:mark.tomlinson@cheadle.org.uk)



## Dates for February

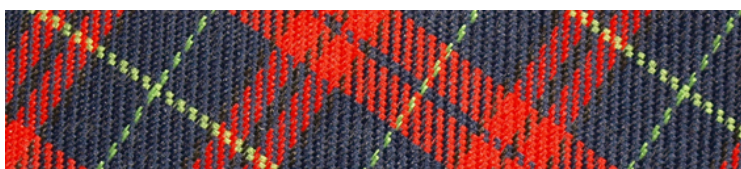
**Saturday 3rd - Hard of Hearing Support Group**

**Wednesday 7th - Monthly Prayer Meeting**

**Saturday 10th - Cheadle Board Room with Love Letter Tournament**

**Saturday 17th - Men's Breakfast at the Upper Room Cafe**

**Tuesday 27th - Open Doors Prayer Meeting**



*Saturday 27th January, 6pm*

# BURNS NIGHT

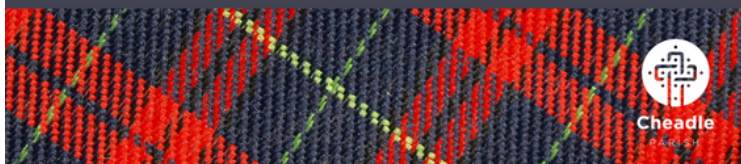
Supper and Ceilidh

Join us at the Upper Room for a traditional Burns supper of haggis, neeps and tatties followed by a ceilidh!

Sign up for tickets using the QR code below. Spaces for the supper are limited



6pm - Burns Supper - £5  
7.30pm - Ceilidh - Free!



## Mission Partners

Both our churches have been supporting The Message Trust over many years in both prayer and giving towards their normal projects and special projects like Festival Manchester. More recently Daniel Eduardo (who was part of "Brightline") and his wife have moved to Brazil to establish a new work there under the banner of Message Brasil which we helped with start-up costs. We have had the privilege of them visiting (St Cuthbert's on December 31st and St Mary's on January 7th and will have heard how God is opening many doors for the work to grow and establish itself.

They have asked us to pray with thanksgiving for how they have both settled into a new country and for how things have come together in establishing and growing the work. Emily has settled down into her new teaching post and is grasping the language enabling her to communicate with her contemporaries.

They also ask if we could pray for the establishment of a team of people who can join them in their project - a new person has just gone out from the UK after completing training with The Message in the UK. They are gradually building up connections now that they have official charitable status (a major blessing and achievement) and now need to make links with other local churches and schools which was not possible prior to this being granted. Pray too for health and safety as they move around the favelas sharing the Good News.



# The Worship of the Magi

In Matthew chapter 2 we have the well-known story of the visit of the magi to the baby Jesus, an event usually celebrated in the Christian calendar on January 6th each year. And there are many things we can take from the story: the symbolism of the gifts, as well as the whole issue of gentiles (non-Jews) being there at the birth of Jesus - something that flags up from the very beginning of the story the fact that Jesus had come not only to be a guide to his own people but as a light to the world.

But the thing that struck me afresh as I read it again was the attitude of the magi in all this.

Two words I want to mention here - firstly HUMILITY. How amazing that those astrologer priests would bring themselves to the feet of a newborn child to worship him. If the educated guesswork of the scholars are right, and the wise men really did come all the way from Persia, then they would have had to travel the best part of several hundred miles, under that sun, on the backs of camels, to do what they did. I mean, have you ever ridden on a camel's back? They must have been keen - let me tell you!

These men, who, certainly from the gifts that they brought, could be presumed to be incredibly wealthy men, came all that way, in those conditions - to worship a baby. If they had waited until Jesus was older; they could have come to him when he could have conferred his blessing upon them, or given them gifts in return, or words of great wisdom - you can see the point of that. But no, they came to worship a baby, to give him their gifts, and then they left, having done what they had come to do. Great humility.

But also, JOY - verse 9: "And so they left, and on their way they saw the same star they had seen in the east. When they saw it, how happy they were, what joy was theirs!" What a lovely phrase: "what joy was theirs".

They had come all that way, they had feared that they had lost the trail that would lead them to the child - and then, once again, they saw the star - and they were overjoyed, because they knew they would get the chance to worship as they wanted to.

How such humility, such joy often puts us to shame - how often do I come into the house of the Lord, and take for granted the chance to worship God with his people, my brothers and sisters in Christ.

Of course, such things also remind us of what God thinks is important, when we too often forget - remembering instead only what we think is important. So often we think our worship depends on the right sort of music being played, on a good sermon, the right clothes being worn or not as the case may be. We all have our particular bugbears, those things that are close to our hearts. And that's not to say that such things aren't important - because they are to us. But let us be reminded of what is most important to God in our worship - worship that is built on lives of worship, worship that is offered in humility and joy.

Of course, I'm sure that I'm not saying anything particularly new to us - but I think that it's good, nevertheless, for us all - myself included - to be reminded, at the beginning of this new year, of exactly what it is that God means when he speaks of "worship": what he hopes and expects: to give us something to mull over as we go out into this new year.

Let me end with some words from the prophet Micah:

"With what shall I come before the Lord and bow down before the exalted God? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousand rivers of oil?....He has shown you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God" (Micah 6:6-8).

**Stan Tomalin <><**

***Associate Minister***



## Contact Information

**GENERAL ENQUIRIES:** Church Office, The Upper Room, 11 Wilmslow Road, Cheadle, SK8 1DW  
churchoffice@cheadle.org.uk 0161 428 8050 (Open weekdays 9am-3pm)

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