



**Cheadle**  
PARISH

# In Touch

## January 2025

### Big Church Survey!

At the end of this month the Parochial Church Council (PCC) will be having a day together to review and renew a strategy for ministry in Cheadle Parish. We are grateful for talented people who give their time to serve on the PCC to help lead the church, but they need your help. They need to know all about our church families as they are now, which is why we are asking every member of St Mary's and St Cuthbert's to complete a short survey form. Please click the link below or collect a paper copy from the back of church or the church office.

[St Mary's](#)



[St Cuthbert's](#)



### Parish Podcast

We are trying out a podcast as a way to share news, information, teaching, interviews, stories and more. You can listen while you are driving to work, walking the dog or doing the ironing. In this first episode, Ian Gray chats to George and Ian about a vision for the parish. Please have a listen and let us know what you think.

Listen here: <https://cheadle-parish-podcast.captivate.fm/>

Or watch on our YouTube channel [here](#)



**Cheadle**  
PARISH

## Stories of Hope

**Tuesdays 10.45am**  
**in the Upper Room Café**

**Wednesdays 7.45pm at**  
**St Cuthbert's Church**

We will explore short stories of Jesus' encounters with people of his day, by using an easy way to look at and apply the Bible to our lives. All are welcome to come along



[cheadle.org.uk/hope](https://cheadle.org.uk/hope)

**Sign up here**



### Confirmation Service

**Sunday 19th January, 6pm, St Mary's Church**

Bishop Mark, the Bishop of Chester will be joining us for our evening service at St Mary's on Sunday 19th January at the earlier time of 6pm. This will be a confirmation service where 10 candidates from our congregation will be making this declaration of faith. Please do come along to support them if you are able and be praying for them as they prepare.

# Mission Slot - The Donohoes, Dublin

The Republic of Ireland is rapidly secularising and has the lowest proportion of evangelical Christians in the English speaking world (about 1%). Simon and Abigail Donohoe have a calling to take the gospel to the people of Ireland. For the past 7 years after leaving Cheadle they have been working in Swanlinbar, in a rural setting on the Irish border, but are now planning a new work in Cherrywood.

**The Vision:** Cherrywood is a rapidly developing community to the south of Dublin. When complete, it will have a population of more than 30,000 people, larger than most towns in Ireland. It will have shops, workplaces and new schools, but no churches of any denomination have been planned. Simon and Abigail are working with a small team and in partnership with Crosslinks and Irish Church Missions to plant, establish and grow a healthy local church that will reach many for Christ in that community and make and train new disciples. The family are still living and working in Swanlinbar (110 miles to the north) as they prepare for this project.

## Give Thanks:

- **The Lord's sustaining** during this hectic transition season
- **Opportunities** to speak at various churches and conferences
- **For a successful carol service** that was held in the open air in Cherrywood, for the local Christians who supported it and the five people who came from the community to follow up
- **Finances that have come in so far** – but see below for prayer point.

## Points for prayer:

- **Gathering a launch team**
- **Building Relationships** in Cherrywood to open doors
- **Developing partnerships** with people and churches in the surrounding area.
- **Housing and Support.** The big practical need is for a house for a family of 7 in Cherrywood. Dublin is very expensive! They need to raise three years pledged funding before they can be deployed by Crosslinks, this includes rent. They are around 20-25% of the way there.
- **Identifying suitable places to meet**
- **Irish Preachers Conference** 13th – 15th Jan. Simon is leading a preaching workshop on 2 Timothy at the Irish Preachers Conference as they seek to raise up a new generation of gospel workers in Ireland.
- **Being able to get “on the ground” in 2025.**

If you would like to receive prayer letters directly from Simon and Abigail and obtain a link to their monthly on-line prayer meetings, they can be requested through their page on the Crosslinks Website:

<https://www.crosslinks.org/mission-personnel/simon-and-abigail-donohoe/>



## The Prayer Corner

What happens in the prayer corner after a Sunday Service at St Mary's? Every time we meet on a Sunday you're invited to go to the prayer corner for individual prayer. Why? It's great to see praying between friends after a Service. Something may be on your mind. God may have spoken to you from His Word, or through our worship times, through the Holy Spirit. We can easily get into chatting and forget some of the meaning and closeness of God we just had.

We know the value of responding “in the moment” to God's offer for people to come to Him before its importance is lost - not always simply to find a neat answer or good advice but waiting on Him for fresh insight, following only what God might be doing in you or saying. There is always more than we ask, think or imagine! We remind people of His love for them, then praying for increased wisdom, faith, equipping, encouragement or for healing to happen; occasionally we share a scripture, a picture, word or impression and test that with you to see if it might be what God is wanting to say. This is all in confidence and with an open-mind.

*“I pray that He would unveil within you the unlimited riches of His glory and favour . . .” Eph 3:16 (TPT)*

- The Prayer Ministry Team

## 2024 Expenses

Please make sure that any 2024 expenses are uploaded on ExpensePlus or submitted to Jo Davids by Friday 24th January.

## Daniel and Emily Eduardo

We welcomed Daniel and Emily Eduardo to the 6.30 service at St Mary's on 5th January who work for Message Brazil. They shared a bit about how the schools work in Brazil has developed over the last 12



months and how they have started their first Eden Project at the favela Santa Marta in partnership with the church there.

If you would like to hear more about this exciting ministry, this is what Daniel says:

*Emily and I will be back in the UK and are hosting 'An Evening with Daniel and Emily' at the Message Trust on Monday 27 January 2025 at 19:00 where we will be updating in more detail what has been happening in Brazil. We would love to see you there!*

*Find out more and book your free ticket at [message.org.uk/event/daniel-and-emily](https://message.org.uk/event/daniel-and-emily)*



## St Mary's Sermon Series

As we start the new year, we begin two new series of sermons – although one is a return to a series we continued last year. Below is a flavour of what to expect.....



In the mornings, we are returning to Luke's gospel, picking up where we left off in the summer, by looking at chapters 18 and 19. Our aim is that, in these chapters we will find profound lessons on faith, humility, repentance, and the inclusive nature of God's kingdom. Key topics include:

**Persistence in Prayer:** The parable of the persistent widow teaches us the value of unwavering faith and reliance on God.

**Humility Before God:** The contrast between the Pharisee and the tax collector reminds us that God exalts the humble and resists the proud.

**Childlike Faith:** Jesus' blessing of children emphasises the importance of approaching God with trust and openness.

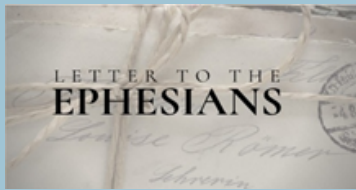
**The Challenge of Wealth:** The rich ruler's story warns against placing possessions above discipleship, emphasising the need to prioritise eternal values.

**God's Mercy and Inclusion:** Zacchaeus' transformation shows that no one is beyond the reach of God's grace, illustrating Jesus' mission to save the lost.

**Faithful Stewardship:** The parable of the ten minas encourages us to use God-given resources and opportunities responsibly.

**Christ's Authority and Sacrifice:** Jesus' foretelling of His death and His triumphal entry highlight His identity as the Messiah and His redemptive mission.

Overall, these chapters challenge us to align our lives with God's kingdom values, seek His mercy, and live faithfully in anticipation of His return



In the evenings we are studying the Apostle Paul's Letter to the Ephesians. For many reasons, Paul knew that the Ephesians would face many troubles in the future and so he seeks to encourage them by recounting God's wonderful grace in saving them. They were now members

of God's family built upon the foundation of the prophets and apostles with Christ as the chief cornerstone. It is also a letter full of prayer as Paul repeatedly prays that his readers will really know the reality of these wonderful truths in the midst of their daily lives.

Themes of love, peace, and reconciliation underpin the call to maintain unity in diversity. The letter encourages spiritual growth, ethical living, and strength against evil forces, urging believers to embrace the "armour of God." It emphasises the Church's role as Christ's body, demonstrating God's wisdom and grace to the world while calling believers to walk in love and holiness.

By studying Ephesians, our aim is that we would continue to grow in faith, maturity, and in understanding of our role in fulfilling God's purpose.

- Stan Tomalin

## Budget 2025

Please continue to pray about our budget for 2025 and for the longer term finances of the parish.

The PCC prayed about the budget and discussed it in depth at their last meeting. They believe that as a result of God's amazing goodness and generosity last year, it is right to set a deficit budget for this year. This will use up some of the reserves we have but will enable us to implement the aims of our Vision for 2025. We are truly blessed, and compared to many churches we have massive material wealth, please continue to pray for wisdom of those dealing with our finances and ask God what He is calling each of us to do to support our ministries.

The PCC have also drawn up an outline plan of the likely capital expenditure costs that will be required over the next 10 years on the churches, the Upper Room and our minister's houses. This will require significant expenditure, St Mary's needs a rewire and the central heating updating, and work has already commenced on planning for this! The PCC are likely to have access to some of the income from the lease that Tesco have for their space in the Upper Room building. However, the scale of the works and the likely need to carry out large parts of it urgently will require careful financial management and we will probably need loans to enable the work to proceed efficiently.

If you would like to know more about any of these matters, please speak to one of the clergy, Jo Davids or Jon Drayton



## St Cuthbert's Sermon Series

As we begin another new year, St Cuthbert's will be spending our mornings in Hebrews, looking at the perfection of Jesus Christ. The book of Hebrews screams, "Jesus is better!" He is better than anything or anyone who has come before. He is perfect. So we are encouraged to confidently hold on to him and stay faithful through our trials and temptations.

We have already seen (5th Jan) that Jesus is the Perfect Word – he is both God's messenger to us and the message itself.



In these last days, God has spoken to us through his Son, about his Son, to make us more like his Son. What a wonderful truth to start the New Year with! As we continue through Hebrews, we'll see that Jesus is also the perfect Saviour, Rest, Priest, Anchor, Mediator and Sacrifice. And so, when the world around us calls us away from Jesus and tempts us to live another way, we pray God will keep us close to his perfect Son, because he is everything we need.

- Ian Chidlow





**Scan Me  
to book!**



# Join us for a Burns Night Haggis Supper & Ceilidh! Saturday 25th January in the Upper Room, Cheadle

**Supper @ 6.00pm followed by Ceilidh @ 7.30pm**

**The meal will be haggis, neeps and tatties, with  
vegan/vegetarian and gluten free alternatives available.  
Please indicate dietary requirements when booking.**

**Cost of meal is £5. The Ceilidh is free to all.**

**Please scan the QR code to sign up on Churchsuite,  
indicating whether you're coming to the meal, the ceilidh,  
or both, or contact the parish office on 0161 428 8050,  
by Monday 20th January**

## Restored Lives Cheadle 2025

For all those who have experienced separation and divorce it is easy to wonder what the future is going to be like and whether things can ever get better.

The next Restored Lives Cheadle Course will begin on Thursday 30th January from 7pm until 9.30pm, and will be an opportunity for those booked on to meet with others who have gone through this experience personally, and learn how to recover from the breakdown of a serious relationship.

The eight-week course will offer support and teach skills which will help to give hope for the future.

There will be light refreshments throughout the evening.

If you know of anyone who would benefit from attending the course, please let them know the details, by taking a flyer from the Upper Room Café or church or directing them to our website where they can book a place.

The cost of £6 per week for attending, includes all eight sessions, refreshments and all course materials (We do not want this to be a barrier so if cost is an issue, or you have any other questions, please contact us as support may be available. All enquiries are treated confidentially)

To book a place on the course go to  
<https://stmarysheadle.churchsuite.com/events/ctg934ak>

For more information or to discuss the course further, contact Mark & Helen at [restoredlives@cheadle.org.uk](mailto:restoredlives@cheadle.org.uk)

**Restored Lives**

**Recovery from Divorce  
and Separation**

**“ THIS COURSE IS THE SINGLE MOST  
HELPFUL THING I'VE DONE. ”**

## Parish Events Group

We have a new group to help co-ordinate church events such as outreach events, children's events, social events, women's events and men's events. The main functions of this group are as follows:

- Point of contact for those running events
- Oversight of events calendar and resources
- Inclusion of event information in church newsletters and social media channels

More details for group leaders and events organisers to follow soon. Any queries, contact Maddy in the office

## Dates for January

**Saturday 4th - Hard of Hearing Support Group**, 11.30am in the Ashfield room, Upper Room

**Wednesday 8th - Monthly prayer meeting**, 8pm in the Upper Room

**Thursday 9th - Men's pub night**, 8pm

**Saturday 11th - Cheadle Board Room**, 9.30am in the Upper Room

**Tuesday 14th - Ladies Coffee and Cake evening**, 7pm in the Upper Room Cafe

**Thursday 16th - Prayer for our country and the world**, 7.30pm at the Southgate's house

**Friday 17th - The Forge** starts back, 7.30pm in the Upper Room

**Saturday 18th - In Stitches**, 9am at St Cuthbert's

**Sunday 19th - Confirmation Service**, 6pm at St Mary's with Bishop Mark

**Thursday 23rd - Men's breakfast**, 6.45am in the Upper Room Café

**Saturday 25th - Burns Night Supper and Ceilidh**, 6pm at The Upper Room

**Tuesday 28th - Open Doors Prayer meeting**, 7.30pm at the Southgate's house

**Thursday 30th - Restored Lives course** starts, weekly at 7pm in the Upper Room cafe

## Dates for February

**Saturday 1st - Ladies Breakfast**, 8.30am in the Upper Room Café

**Saturday 1st - Hard of Hearing Support Group**, 11.30am

**Wednesday 5th - Monthly Prayer Meeting**, 8pm in the Upper Room

**Saturday 8th - Cheadle Board Room**, with Love Letter Tournament, 9.30am in the Upper Room

**Thursday 13th - Men's pub night**, 8pm

**Saturday 15th - In Stitches**, 9am at St Cuthbert's

**Thursday 20th - Prayer for our country and the world**, 7.30pm at the Southgate's house

**Saturday 22nd - Men's Breakfast**, 8am in the Upper Room Café

**Tuesday 25th - Open Doors Prayer meeting**, 7.30pm at the Southgate's house

## Holiday Bible Club 2025

### 'Jonah - A BIG Tale'

Mon 14th to  
Thurs 17th April

Set up day:  
Sunday 13th April



## CPSS

Cheadle Parish PCC have passed a resolution to pay Parish Share to the Diocese of Chester through the Complementary Parish Share Scheme. This is in response to the Prayers of Love and Faith, which we consider to be a departure from the doctrine of the Church of England. Details of the scheme are available [here](#) or from the church office

## Parish Weekend Away 2025

Thank you to all those who have signed up! We will be in touch shortly with more information. Please do prayerfully consider joining us if you haven't already decided, we would love to have you with us.

Any queries contact  
[churchweekendaway@cheadle.org.uk](mailto:churchweekendaway@cheadle.org.uk)

## Parish Weekend Away Quinta Conference Centre 13th-15th June 2025



## Do you fancy a (working) holiday in Italy?

I have a connection with a church pastor Donato Di Lece. Donato's church is close to Lake Maggiore, one of the most beautiful Italian lakes. They have bought a building that they intend to make their church centre.

It was originally built as a supermarket, but the original developer went bust. Donato would love to welcome a working party from Cheadle to help progress the work to make the building useable for their church life.

Would you be interested in going out to Italy to help with this work? We're hoping to arrange a trip at the start of July this year. Donato's church would be hugely encouraged by support of this kind. There would also be the chance to visit the lake, the mountains and Milan while we're there, and Donato is a wonderful host.

If this is a way in which you would be interested in serving other Christians, please speak to me, Jon Drayton

[Jon.Drayton@cheadle.org.uk](mailto:Jon.Drayton@cheadle.org.uk) - 07973 134815 - 0161 428 8050

# Christmas Reflections

Having been asked to write some reflections on Christmas, I find that I only really have two things to say, and neither of them are particularly 'Christmassy':

- 1.The world is still in need of Jesus.
- 2.God is still drawing people to Jesus.

As for number 1, we know that this is true. Everybody needs Jesus, from the committed Christian to the bloke who thinks the Bible is a fairy-tale. We all need Christ. No surprises there. Our Christmas services and events were full of Christ, because he is our life. If we stop preaching and teaching about him, we've ceased to be faithful witnesses and we might as well pack up and go home.

Wonderfully, we were able to talk about Jesus and our need for him with a whole load of different people over the Christmas season. At Cuthbert's I saw lots of unfamiliar faces – people who hadn't been in years, or people who were totally new to church, coming in to 'try it out' or because they 'just felt led' to come and see. I'm sure St Mary's were blessed with the same thing.

Some of these people are right at the start of their journey of realising just how much they need Christ. It was a privilege to speak to them about him at a time of year when so many are still open to hearing the Christian message.

So that's number 1: The world is still in need of Jesus. Looking out over the faces in attendance over Christmas, and getting to know about people's lives and struggles, it was impossible not to be reminded of that.

But as for number 2, I think I sometimes forget this. Maybe you do too? The world needs Jesus, and my default attitude is to assume that I can fix this problem. I can preach, I can teach, I can speak about him, and if I do it well enough, people will come to know him and be saved. And so I exhaust myself because it's all on me!

What a silly attitude to have!

The world needs Jesus, but it is always God who draws people to his Son. Not me, and not you. Sure, God uses us in this fantastic ministry, but it is all done in his power and strength. I can no more convince someone into heaven than I can convince my dog to stop eating the kids' food off the floor. It just isn't going to happen.

It was wonderfully liberating to see God so clearly at work over Christmas, doing the thing we can't do: saving souls for eternity.

Yes, we worked hard. Yes, we put on great services and events. But praise God, that by the Holy Spirit amongst us, he was there in our midst, strengthening faith and opening hearts to the gospel. That's what really matters. And he will continue to do this work throughout 2025, and 2026 and beyond.

The world will always need Jesus, whether it's Christmas or not. But God will always be drawing people to his Son. He'll shoulder that particular burden, which leaves us free to delight in him and trust his promises. What an amazing truth to rest in as we work hard for him this year.

***Ian Chidlow***  
***Associate Minister (St Cuthbert's)***



## 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)

|                       |                 |               |                                |
|-----------------------|-----------------|---------------|--------------------------------|
| Rector                | George Crowder  | 0161 428 8050 | george.crowder@cheadle.org.uk  |
| Associate Minister    | Stan Tomalin    | 0161 491 6939 | stan.tomalin@cheadle.org.uk    |
| Associate (St Cuth's) | Ian Chidlow     | 07475 004360  | minister@stcuthberts.org       |
| C.O.W.                | Mark Tomlinson  | 07940 567046  | mark.tomlinson@cheadle.org.uk  |
| Youth Worker          | Amy Killingbeck | 07375 709477  | amy.killingbeck@cheadle.org.uk |
| Ministry Trainee      | Beth Pugh       | 0161 428 8050 | beth.pugh@cheadle.org.uk       |
| Operations            | Jon Drayton     | 07973 134815  | operations@cheadle.org.uk      |
| Finance               | Jo Davids       | 0161 912 5355 | jo.davids@cheadle.org.uk       |
| Administration        | Maddy Prescott  | 0161 428 8050 | maddy.prescott@cheadle.org.uk  |
| Upper Room Cafe       |                 | 0161 912 5352 | upperroomcafe@cheadle.org.uk   |