



Cheadle
PARISH

In Touch

February 2025

PCC Away Day Feedback

The PCC had an away day on Saturday 25th January. This was something George had been wanting to do to help us as a church discern what God is saying to us. The day was facilitated by Rachel Slough who is an expert in church management and Christian leadership. Many of us there found the day a huge encouragement, here are some of the responses from members of the PCC and others who attended the day:

"It was such an encouragement because we, as a parish are united in Jesus. Looking towards where God is calling us. It was a day of rest, reflection and prayer to God to ask where he wants us to go as a Parish for the sake and glory of Jesus' name"

"Interesting, informative and interactive exchanging of ideas, fortified by an excellent lunch."

"a time for us to meet together to spend time praying, sharing as leaders from both churches, to discern the leading of the Holy Spirit for the future vision to build God's kingdom in Cheadle."

"Because the PCC is made up of representatives from both St Cuthbert's and St Mary's we don't necessarily get to know each other at formal meetings; the Away Day enabled us to chat to lots of different people in a more relaxed setting."

"It was great to see our two church committees meeting together as a single parish council to pray and work to understand how best to meet the needs of our existing congregations and reach and serve the parish as a whole."

"It was encouraging to spend a large chunk of time in prayer in thinking about our church's vision and mission, as well as how we; pray, rest and grow as a church."

"It was also encouraging that during discussion and in looking at the feedback from the church survey, how varied and yet similar our thoughts were. It shows that as a church we all want to go the same direction, and we have many different and good ideas for how to follow that path."

"The sense of unity, mutual respect and appreciation of one another was wonderful. It was a time of stepping back and listening to each other."

"one word: Unity. I felt a great deal of consensus across the PCC, across both churches as we considered the questions and in the discussion."

'Filling the Gap' is nearly here . . .

'Filling the Gap' is now established as an important part of our Parish Community Support during primary school holidays, when we offer free meals for children throughout the week and a supported 'Children's Activity Time' between Tuesday & Thursday. Our next 'Filling the Gap' week will be during February half term, when free meals for children will be available throughout the week in the Upper Room Café. During the daily sessions in the Mornington Lounge there will be table top games, a craft area, table football, the children's slide and climbing frame and some puzzles to occupy the children. At 11.30pm & 1pm on each of the three mornings there will be a Story Time slot of about 20 minutes, which will include a 'Way In' thought or activity (to help the children to have a bridge into the main story), a 'Bible Story' about Jesus and a 'Song' delivered by JUICE Puppets.

Please pray for relationships with all those who come along and enjoy the fun, both children and adults and the long-term impact of 'Filling the Gap' in our community. Please also pray that those relationships built during the previous 'Children's Activity Times' will continue and grow. Please also continue to pray for the Café staff.

If you would like to get involved in volunteering for the 'Children's Activity Time' and haven't in any of the previous holidays, please have a word with either myself or Sarah Holmes.

- Mark Tomlinson (Children's Outreach Worker)

FILLING THE GAP

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY TIME

BIBLE STORIES

PUPPETS

CRAFTS

The Upper Room Café will be providing free meals to children every day throughout Stockport's School Holidays.

Storytime, Games & Craft activities 11am-2pm on Tuesday to Thursday throughout February half term

GAMES

TRANSFORMING LIVES TOGETHER

in conjunction with

THE UPPER ROOM CAFE

Cheadle Parish

Youth Weekend Away

Please pray for our Focus and Rooted members as they go away to Yorkshire Camps 14 - 16th February to have fellowship, learn from God's Word and to have lots of fun together! This is a really valuable time for our young people as they try to navigate being a follower of Jesus at this stage of their lives. Please also pray for the leaders taking them away and the incredible team at Yorkshire Camps as they accommodate us

- Amy Killingbeck



Christopher Poole in Rochdale

Hello Church family, I thought I would update you on the work here in Rochdale. For those of you who don't know me I'm employed as an Evangelist at Good News Community Church (GNCC), Rochdale and also help out at City Life Church (CLC), Manchester. These Churches are part of the Antioch Network of Churches (10 Church plants set up by CofE). The Pastor of GNCC is Ram Shrestha who is a Nepalese missionary. GNCC is small church with around 20 people. We are seeing new people coming to church and have our first new family with children who have joined us recently.

What Do I Do?

- For GNCC - I'm involved in Street Evangelism twice a week; lead Bible Studies and Sunday Services; work at our bookshop every Thursday.
- For CLC - I'm involved in their Saturday afternoon services; take English speaking class every week for people where English is not their first language.

Praise/Prayer:

- Praise for new family who have joined us at GNCC.
- Pray for more families with children to join, so we can develop a children's group.
- Praise for 6 people who gave their lives to Christ on one of the Street Evangelism days.
- Pray for wisdom in how we disciple new people who are new to faith.
- Praise for relationship building while doing street evangelism, especially with the college students who now know me.
- Pray for opportunities to witness, pray with people and have more meaningful conversations.
- Pray for God to give me a clear message to the churches for their Christian growth.
- Wisdom for Ram and I in directing the church to use their spiritual gifts appropriately.

I really appreciate your prayerful support. If you would like to message me I would love to hear from you: chrisj.poole22@gmail.com

God bless, Chris



Mission Partners - Dean and Paula Finnie

Paula and Dean Finnie have now been working in South Africa for some 20 years, always with minority, poor, groups. They have been long-term Mission Partners at St Cuthbert's and St Mary's have also supported them from time to time. Their main work is with The Gathering, a church they have founded and helped grow in Macassar, a township on the edges of Cape Town. The Gathering provides a reading training for local children, a weekly soup kitchen, as well as the usual church services. Their landlord has agreed to sell them the premises (and the rest of the block) and The Gathering remarkably have the money, but the landlord is stalling at the last moment.

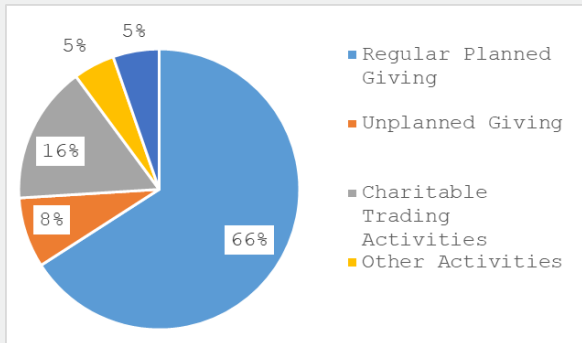
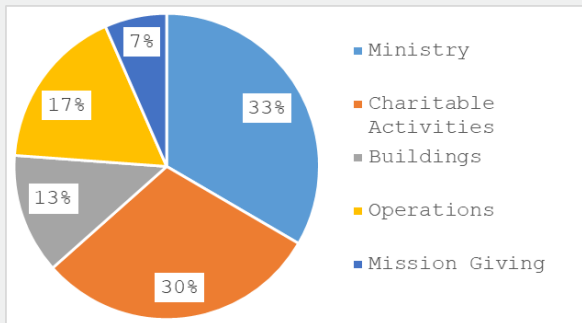


Paula and Dean also support HOPE home-based carers working in Chris Nissen, a poor nearby area, where elderly ladies walk around the township dispensing prayer, love and hope to those who are sick: this has to be seen to be appreciated. Paula and Dean supply them with resources for their ministry.

They have been growing leadership from within their fellowship, and several promising black leaders are ensuring the long-term future of this ministry.

They have two sons, Joel who is living in Cheadle Hulme and working at The Message, and Eli who is working his way through college in Kent.

Cheadle Parish Budget 2025



Giving is part of our fellowship as we abide in Christ together. Our unity in Christ secures our salvation and binds us together in fellowship with each other. Part of that fellowship is showing generosity as we share what God has given us individually to support the ministry and mission of our church.

Income

Based on previous years and with current giving, the PCC forecast that we will receive **£686k** as income this year

Expenditure

To fulfil what we believe God is calling us to do, the PCC plan to spend **£770k** this year. That means we are proposing a budget deficit for 2025 across the parish of **£83.8k**.

Parish reserves at the start of 2025 are **£182k**. This is thanks to generous givers and a large donation of £100,000 late last year. The PCC have agreed that we can use reserves to cover the deficit if necessary (Under Charity Commission guidance we should maintain reserves of £100k).

God has been very kind to us, and we trust he will provide all that we need to do what he has called us to do this year and in years to come.

Budget increases in 2025

Staff and trainee costs – **approx. £51k**

- £13,000 ministry trainees
- £3,000 changes to national insurance
- £17,000 pay rises
- £16,000 new roles
- £2,000 Training Courses

Cost increases – **approx. £26k**

- £6,300 Parish Share
- £7,000 Utilities
- £12,700 Ministries

Costs not in 2024 budget - **approx. £7.7k**

- £1,600 Weekend Away
- £2,000 Victorian Market
- £3,600 AV Equipment and maintenance
- £500 Clockify (staff time recording software)

10-year Maintenance Plan

This is a plan for the large costs associated with maintaining our buildings.

- Not part of our operating budget
- A tool to help the PCC make decisions about maintenance spending
- It is likely that the PCC will start receiving some income from the Upper Room Trust – this could be up to **£81,000/year**

This year:

- St Mary's church urgently needs rewiring - Likely to cost in excess of **£100,000**
- The Upper Room Café needs refurbishing - Likely to cost **£12,000** or more

As it stands, the PCC will look to borrow money which can be paid back with the income from the Upper Room Trust in future years.

Regular Giving

- We have 200 givers
 - Across St Mary's & St Cuthbert's
 - Individuals or families
- 80% of regular giving is given by 37% of our givers
- £35 is the average weekly amount given per giver
- Half of our regular giving is given by 29 givers

As you can probably see, an increase in our regular giving would be a huge blessing. If you wish to change your giving or start giving to the work of Cheadle Parish, please use one of the following options.

- 'My giving' page on My ChurchSuite
- 'Giving' page on church website
- Contact church office

Your Response?

Pray

- Pray for God to give us all we need to do what he wants us to do
- Pray for wisdom about how you respond in your giving

Rest

- Remember God is Lord, and we depend on him in everything
- Remember the hope we have in eternal life is secure in Jesus

Grow

- See that God is at work in us and give thanks for all he is doing
- Trust that God will grow his church and give us all we need

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

Tuesday 11th - Mission Partners Prayer Meeting, 8pm at the Parikh's house

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

Friday 14th - Sunday 16th - Youth Weekend Away at Yorkshire Camps

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

Tuesday 18th - Thursday 20th - Filling the Gap, Children's activity time, 11am-2pm in the Upper Room Cafe, Mornington Lounge

Wednesday 19th - The Big Read, 7.45pm 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 Cafe

Dates for March

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

Tuesday 4th - Open Doors Prayer meeting, 7.30pm at the Southgate's house

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

Friday 7th - World Day of Prayer Service, 12pm at St Cuthbert's Church

Saturday 8th - Cheadle Board Room, with market, 9.30am in the Upper Room

Tuesday 11th - Ladies Coffee and Cake evening, 7pm at the Upper Room Cafe

Tuesday 11th - Mission Partners Prayer Meeting, 8pm at the Parikh's house

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

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

Wednesday 19th - The Big Read, 7.45pm at St Cuthbert's

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

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

Thursday 27th - Men's Breakfast, 6.45am in the Upper Room Cafe

World Day of Prayer

This year's World Day of Prayer is Friday 7th March. The service this year has been prepared by the women of the Cook Islands under the heading "I made you wonderful." Every year this gives us the opportunity of joining with people from around the world to focus on prayer and learn more about women living in a specific area of our world. We join with people from a number of different churches in Cheadle and Gatley to pray and praise together.

This year the service is being hosted by St Cuthbert's and will be at 12 noon followed by a soup lunch. Please put the date in your diary and come along to join us.

PS - If any ladies would like to take part in the service, we are having a run-through on Friday 28th February also at 12 noon at St Cuthbert's - please come and serve in this way

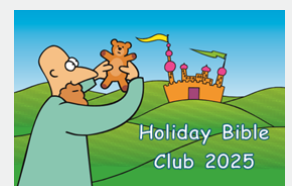
- Trish Wells

'Jonah - A BIG Tale'

Our Cheadle Parish Holiday Bible Club is fast approaching and this year we will be exploring the book of Jonah in the Old Testament. The dates are:

SETUP: Sunday 13th April

HBC: 10am to 12.30pm - Monday
14th to Thursday 17th April



Booking will be open in due course, but we are now putting together our team of leaders and helpers. There are loads of roles to be filled so if you would like to be involved, behind the scenes, in setup on the Sunday, or during the week, please email: holidaybibleclub@cheadle.org.uk or speak with me or Sarah Holmes.

- Mark Tomlinson (Children's Outreach Worker)

The Café Shop

Our shop in the Upper Room Café is regularly restocked with Christian books, gifts and cards so there's sure to be something for you!

Book of the month:

God's Big Picture by Vaughan Roberts, £8

"Understanding the big picture is probably the most helpful thing in understanding God's love and grace" George Crowder



Pray - Rest - Grow

As part of the PCC away day last week, I was asked to give a brief thumbnail sketch of what I was encouraged by at St Marys and how I thought we could improve. As I only had a short time, I couldn't say anywhere near everything I wanted to – but I did want to start by saying how much I love being a minister at St. Mary's. To be part of a congregation that takes God seriously, and takes his Word, his commands and his mission seriously and also takes being a church family seriously – this has always been a great joy to me. We don't always get everything right by any means – but to be part of this church family has always been a blessing to me.

But if there was one area I wanted to highlight in my brief talk, it was the issue of busy-ness. Ever since I came to St. Mary's, it has been a recurring theme of conversations with people – 'we're so busy'; 'I'm very tired'; 'I'm doing too much' etc etc. Of course, in many ways, it comes about precisely because we take God and his mission so seriously. I am reminded of the first line of the hymn 'Facing a task unfinished' – which could, in so many ways, be almost a motto for St. Mary's church. We see the great need for the gospel in our community and want to do all we can to help. But I wonder how often we divorce the first line of the hymn from the second line: 'Facing a task unfinished....that drives us to our knees'. I'm not saying that there is no prayer happening at St. Mary's – not at all. I am certain that we have many faithful pray-ers in our congregation. But how seriously do we take the need to come together in prayer for all we do – not just even regularly – but to saturate all we do in prayer? The question that has been on my mind recently is: how do we move from prayer as yet another thing we do (and so yet another burden) to living prayerfully – allowing prayer to infuse all we do – individually and as a church family. In the words of the vision – **how do we grow in our understanding of how to live prayerfully?** Let me leave that one with you.

My other thought on the day came from personal experience. Many of you will know that I needed to take 2 months off work a couple of years back – basically because I was burnt out. I had hit a wall and I felt that I had nothing else to give after 30 years of ministry. If you had asked me, I would have described ministry at the time as like constantly having to push a huge boulder uphill – and having had to do it for so long, I wasn't sure that I had the strength, energy or willpower to do it anymore. During my time off, the turning point came when I felt God simply saying to me: 'who ever said it was your boulder?' What I was being reminded of, I believe, was a truth that the Bible constantly speaks of, but is so easy for us to forget. This is the Lord's work. He changes people's hearts; He draws people into the kingdom; He is our saviour. It's his boulder not ours. He calls us to join him in that work not because he needs us but because he wants us to share in the wondrous work of speaking God and his love and his grace into people's hearts and lives. It is meant to be a blessing to us not a burden – because, at the end of the day, it's not our boulder. Or, to put it in the words of the vision – **how do we grow in our understanding of how to serve restfully** – to commit ourselves to God whole-heartedly but in a way that doesn't permanently exhaust us but instead constantly renews us in joy and peace? Let me leave that one with you.

So that was my personal reflection. I'm sure that you would want to add so much more – so did I! But may I humbly leave those thoughts with you to mull over as we continue to come together to seek the Lord's guidance as to the way forward for us as a church family.

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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Associate (St Cuth's)	Ian Chidlow	07475 004360	minister@stcuthberts.org
C.O.W.	Mark Tomlinson	07940 567046	mark.tomlinson@cheadle.org.uk
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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