



Cheadle
PARISH

In Touch

April 2026

Pray, Rest and Grow, *Together*

Our church vision has not been to set goals but to aspire to a way of life in Christ together. We intend our ministries and activities to enable and encourage prayer, rest and growth in Christ. Above all we want to seek God's leading, see him at work and glorify him.

House groups or home groups are of critical importance in our life together in Christ. Both of our church families are relatively large, and though that is a blessing for gathered worship, it is difficult to establish and sustain the closer relationships.

The New Testament calls us 'to consider one another in order to provoke love and good works' (Hebrews 10:24) and 'to carry one another's burdens' (Galatians 6:2). Small interactive groups do this more effectively than Sunday services.

Home groups are not simply about Bible study; they are about fellowship. They are more than a forum for learning from the scriptures, they provide the necessary relational space for praying, resting and growing together. Discipleship cannot be reduced to the acquisition of Bible knowledge, it is personal and relational, and thus requires building deep, open and vulnerable relationships with brothers and sisters in Christ.

Thus, every Christian disciple in a larger church should be part of a small fellowship group if possible. Every group, however, must maintain a strong connection with the whole church family. Otherwise, our unity in the truth of God's word under the oversight of the church leaders is compromised, and the New Testament has several warnings about that (e.g. Hebrews 13:17).

Pastoral care of a large church family is a challenge for one or two ministers. There are some ministries for people with specific needs or people who are in a particular age group. Small groups provide a pastoral network in which the leaders of each group can look out for the members and link up with the ministry team.

After Easter we are stopping house groups for 6 weeks in a similar way to Lent 2025 in order to set out a renewed vision for small group ministry in a large church family. All services in St Mary's and St Cuthbert's will follow the same theme.

3 rd May	Connecting the Bible to our lives
10 th May	Connecting to God in prayer
17 th May	Connecting to each other in the love of Christ
24 th May	Connecting with each other in times of need
31 st May	Connecting with each other in a safe space
7 th June	Connecting with non-Christian friends and family.



Throughout this series, we will also hold a meeting on Wednesday evenings from 8.00pm – 9.15pm, alternating between the Upper Room and St Cuthbert's. It will be a time for church members from St Mary's and St Cuthbert's to come together for reflection, practical application and prayer.

Our aim is to refresh our vision for small group ministry and to encourage the whole church family to take part. Hopefully this will encourage more people to join a house group, and we aim to set up some new groups and try out some new formats. It will take time to arrange this with house group leaders and hosts, so new members, new groups and new formats will not start until September.

George Crowder

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Wednesday 29th April at 7.30pm in the Upper Room

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) is essentially the AGM for the parish. It is the meeting where we elect our church wardens, PCC members and this year, our Deanery Synod reps. These are the people who are the trustees for the church and make decisions throughout the year. The APCM is also where reports are shared on finances, vision and strategy and where we celebrate what has been going on in the life of the church over the past year.

Everyone on the electoral roll is eligible to vote and we would encourage you to come along to have your say and hear more about what is going on in the life and ministry of the parish. There will also be an option to join the meeting virtually on teams. If you are not yet on the electoral roll (the legal membership list of the church), you can join by filling in the form online [here](#), or completing a paper copy in church. You will need to have submitted the form by Monday 13th April to be eligible to participate in the meeting. We are also looking for people to stand for election to the PCC and Deanery Synod. If you would be interested in getting involved in this way, please speak to one of our ministers or PCC members for more details.

Confirmation Service

6.30pm, Sunday 10th May, St Mary's

A confirmation service is for those who have been baptised as a baby and who now wish to declare their faith publicly. Some young people will be getting confirmed for this reason. It is a change from a faith that is dependent on parents to an independent adult faith and membership of the church.

It is also an opportunity for adults to re-affirm their faith, or declare a new-found faith even if they were baptised as infants. If they have not been baptised, they can be baptised in the same service.

This is a joyful and uplifting occasion for all the church family, so please come along and support everyone who is being confirmed.

If you are interested in exploring confirmation, please speak to one of the ministry team.

Our Church, Our Place



Through this survey, we are inviting everyone in our church family to prayerfully share their experience of St Mary's, how the building supports your worship, faith, and sense of belonging, and where it may present challenges. Your responses will help shape our plans for its restoration and renewal, ensuring that our church remains a welcoming, accessible place at the heart of worship and the community.



Something new for 2026!

Spring, Summer & Autumn cycle rides

Using quiet, flat Cheshire country lanes, each ride is approximately 25-30 miles (40-50km) in length.

Dates: Saturdays 18th April, 16th May, 13th June, 18th July, 12th September, 10th October

For more details, contact Jonathan Crossland:
jcrossland1@btinternet.com, 07518041420



Mission Partners

Pray for Simon, Abigail, Esther, Lydia, Caleb, Boaz and Elijah Donohoe as they continue developing relationships for the planting of a new church community on the Cherrywood Housing estate in the suburbs of Dublin.

They are giving thanks for:

- Small but growing Connect Group meeting weekly for Bible study and also having monthly prayer gathering both taking place in their home.
- Continued opportunities to get alongside neighbours,
- The Church Plant Steering Group which has been formed – this is a huge support for Simon
- The family are linked with Immanuel Church Dublin – there is some encouragement from members there to possibly come and serve in the church community in the future

They would like us to pray :

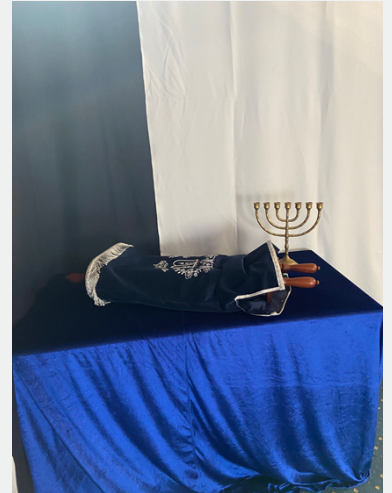
- That every person in Cherrywood might know one Christian to point them to Christ
- For the Connect Group and prayer gathering to grow and be established that they would become the core of a new church
- Preparations for Easter and summer outreach. Evangelistic Easter egg hunt & service and the development of a small team to help with evangelism in the Summer July 11-16
- As a family to make Christ their highest treasure and delight in Him more deeply day by day.
- Funds to come in to cover Church expenses €17,000 pa to cover venue rental, equipment, resources.
- Suitable cheaper housing for them and others who might be coming to be part of the church plant

The Donohoe family will be in Cheadle on the morning of Wednesday 29th April. They will be in the Upper Room Cafe between 9.30 and 11am if anyone would like to pop in and say hello



Easter Story Trail

For 10 days St Cuthberts was transformed into Jerusalem 2000 years ago to show the last few days of Jesus life. Over 300 children from our local schools, uniformed organisations and churches as well as many adults made the journey from the Upper Room, through the Garden of Gethsemane and Pilates court to the foot of the Cross and then into the empty tomb. Huge thanks to the Bible Encounter Trust Team and to everyone who helped assemble and dismantle. Please pray for everyone who got to hear the gospel message through this interactive retelling.



Palm Sunday in the Park

Rain, wind, freezing temperatures.....it must be another St Cuthbert's Event in Diamond Jubilee Park.

Our PALM SUNDAY IN THE PARK event kicked off at 11am with an open-air service led by Ian and with George reminding us what a privilege it is to tell people about Jesus the King.

Following the service there was much fun to be had with a BBQ, egg hunt, face painting, outdoor games, a petting zoo and the very popular bubble man.

At 1pm Michael J Tinker took us all on an Intergalactic Road Trip explaining the gospel message with songs and puppets and despite the weather and leaking gazebos many of our community stayed, listened and joined in.

The weather may have been awful but we saw that the Cheadle community are just as eccentric as the St Cuthbert's family as they still came out to enjoy the fun, sample the cakes and refreshments and hear the Word of God. Please pray for all who attended, that God will work in their hearts and bring them to Him.



Finance Update

If you were asked to list the top five areas of expenditure in our parish what would be on your list?

We are a community for fellowship, spiritual growth, and ministry to those in need, but we also operate as a non-profit organisation with significant operational demands, managing the budget and keeping the lights on, whilst carrying out our mission of serving others. Our budgeted expenditure for 2026 is £764,000.

The People

Our largest expense is staff, accounting for 65% of our budget. Cheadle Parish PCC believes that people are its greatest asset and takes its responsibility to value and develop employees seriously.

- **Clergy and Ministers:** Parish share, housing costs, and expenses for those leading the congregation.
- **Support Staff:** Office staff, children & youth workers, cleaners, and other ministry staff who keep daily operations running.

The Place

Maintaining physical spaces for worship and ministry, accounts for 15% of our expenditure.

- **Utilities:** Heat, electricity, and water,
- **Maintenance:** Routine repairs, regular maintenance, and long-term capital improvements.
- **Insurance:** Property and liability coverage to protect the building and the people inside it.

The Purpose – the wider community

Where our funds are used to help those outside the immediate congregation. We spend 14% of our resources on outreach and blessing others.

- **Local Community:** Life events. Community ministry and outreach activities
- **Missions:** Supporting missionaries and organisations abroad or in the UK.

The Purpose – our church community

Expenditure on the activities that happen during the week to disciple and care for our people is 4% of our resources.

- **Children & Youth:** Curriculum materials, training, and supplies for children's and youth ministries.
- **Worship:** Music, sound equipment, licensing fees, and resources for services.
- **Events:** Holiday clubs, Bible studies, and weekends away.
- **Resources:** Bible reading notes, books, cards, and gifts.

The Practical

Running any organisation requires behind-the-scenes investment in 2%

- **Technology:** Software for accounting and payroll, website hosting, and digital giving platforms. IT Support
- **Office Expenses:** Telephones, printing, postage, and basic office supplies.
- **Governance Costs:** Fulfilling our legal requirements.

Jo Davids (PCC Treasurer)

Eco Church

Sustainability isn't a one-time effort; it's a continuous journey. Small actions can lead to significant impact. Each month we will share A Rocha UK's easy-to-implement tips, so that everyone can contribute, regardless of lifestyle or schedule.

Celebrate new life this Easter and have a go at growing something!

April is the perfect time to try to grow something edible or, if you are a seasoned gardener, to encourage someone else to try. Salad leaves or herbs are a great place to start and will reduce reliance on convenient supermarket salad bags.

For indoor space, try 'micro-greens' (vegetable leaves harvested soon after they open). **For greenhouses,** try sowing salad leaf seed mixes. **For outdoors,** beetroot, lettuce, onion and pea plants are frost-resistant so can all be planted outside in April.

As you sow, thank God for the opportunity to grow food, and pray for those communities that are facing food shortages and famine.

PCC Update

The PCC met last month on 23rd March. The main items on the agenda were finances, APCM, training and strategy.

We received the year end finance report, which has gone to the independent examiner and will be shared with the congregation later this month. A report was received from the strategy group with their recommendations from consultations over the last year. The key areas we are looking to focus on are prayerfulness, organic discipleship, building intergenerational relationships and supporting newcomers. A training fund is being set up to support training for ministry in other churches. Plans for the APCM were also discussed.

Maddy Prescott (PCC Secretary)

Stories of Hope

We are restarting our groups on the 15th and 16th April, with an evening group on Wednesdays at 7.45pm and a group for women on a Thursday morning at 9.45am. Both groups meet in the Upper Room. These groups are a relaxed, open discussion about what happened when Jesus met people and what it's like to meet Him today. We also aim to provide ongoing help in getting to grips with the essentials of living out the Christian faith covering most things from what God is like, growing in our relationship with Him, and learning how we can share what we're learning with our friends.

If you know someone who may be interested in exploring further in a space to bring questions, please get in touch via the office. Details of what to expect can be found here <https://cheadle.org.uk/hope/>

The Stories of Hope Team

CAFE NEWS

APRIL 2026



Cheadle's Church & Community Cafe



Come and enjoy an evening with award winning crime fiction writer, Kate Ellis. Discover how her Christian faith influences her writing, from plot development to character creation. A great evening for book groups and lovers of reading.



Thursday 7.30 - 9pm
21st May 2026

Welcome Drink & Mini Flat Breads Included

Bloody Mary - Tomato, Parmesan Shavings, Tabasco & Celery
Murderous Mediterranean Vegetable & Hummus
Fearful Feta, Beetroot & Rocket
Gluten free & Vegan options available

£10

Sign up in the cafe or follow the QR code



The Upper Room Cafe
Back Massie Street, Cheadle SK8 1DW
Just off Massie Street West Car Park, above Tesco



SAFE PLACE



The Cafe is registered as a Safe Place. Anyone in Stockport can use us to access help and support that they may need. We can refer people to other services that can help them further. We offer a warm welcome and hospitality to those who are homeless or having a hard time, those with mental health or other struggles. Our pay it forward scheme helps us to feed those in need.

In April...

3rd - 6th - Cafe Closed
11th - Cheadle Boardroom

Further ahead...

May 11th - 16th Agatha Christie Afternoon Tea
May 21st - An Evening with Kate Ellis, Crime Writer
May 23rd - Pink Day for Prevent Breast Cancer

Volunteer Voice



Jean

'I have been working at the cafe for years and its the best thing I've ever done!'

Dates for April

Wednesday 1st, Thursday 2nd - 'Jesus the Game Changer'
Holiday Bible Club, 10am-12.30pm in the Upper Room

Wednesday 1st - Monthly Prayer meeting, 8pm in the Upper Room Cafe

Thursday 2nd - Maundy Thursday Holy Communion, 7.30pm at St Cuthbert's Church, with a light meal

Friday 3rd - An Hour at the Cross service, 11am at St Mary's and St Cuthbert's

Saturday 4th - Hard of Hearing Support Group, 11am in the Upper Room

Sunday 5th - Easter Sunday All Age service, 10am at St Mary's and 10.30am at St Cuthbert's

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

Tuesday 14th - Mission Partners Prayer Meeting, 8pm at The Parikhs' house

Wednesday 15th - The Big Read, 7.30pm at St Cuthbert's

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

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

Sunday 19th - Newcomers' Lunch, at St Cuthbert's

Monday 20th - Dohnavur fellowship meeting, 7.30pm in the Upper Room, more details below

Monday 20th - PCC meeting, 8pm at the Upper Room

Sunday 26th - Hospitality Sunday, sign up on churchsuite [here](#) to get involved, deadline Thursday 16th April

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

Wednesday 29th - APCM, 7.30pm in the Upper Room

Dates for May

Saturday 2nd - Hard of Hearing Support Group, 11am in the Upper Room

Wednesday 6th - Monthly Prayer Meeting, 8pm in the Upper Room

Saturday 9th - Cheadle Board Room, 9.30am in the Upper Room

Monday 11th - PCC meeting, 8pm in the Upper Room

Tuesday 12th - Mission Partners Prayer Meeting, 8pm at Trish Wells' house

Thursday 14th - Mental Health Forum workshop, 10am - 3.45pm at Foxhill

Saturday 16th - In Stitches, 9am at St Cuthbert's

Wednesday 20th - The Big Read, 7.45pm at St Cuthbert's

Thursday 21st - Prayer for our country and the world, 7.30pm at the Southgate's house

Thursday 21st - An Evening with Kate Ellis, 7.30pm in the Upper Room Cafe

Saturday 23rd - Pink Day, 11am-3pm in the Upper Room Cafe

Tuesday 26th - Open Doors Prayer meeting, 7.30pm at the Southgate's house

The Dohnavur Fellowship

All the church family are warmly invited to the Bulkeley Room in the Upper Room on Monday 20th April at 7.30pm to hear about the Life and Legacy of Amy Carmichael.

The Dohnavur Fellowship was founded by Amy 125 years ago. In celebration of this anniversary we welcome the CEO Jerry, and his Vacha who will share an encouraging presentation about the ongoing work and witness of this loving Christian Community.'

Please contact Ellen Batten if you would like any further information.

Mental Health Forum Workshop

Thursday May 14th at Foxhill Retreat House, Frodsham 10am-3.45pm

This year's conference will focus on the mental health of elderly people and their carers, it includes lunch and is free.

Speak to Tricia Berry for more details



SATURDAY 23RD MAY

PINK DAY

In support of Prevent Breast Cancer

THE UPPER ROOM CAFE

11AM-3PM

prevent breast cancer

THE UPPER ROOM CAFE
ABOVE TESCO, NEXT TO MASSIE STREET WEST
CAR PARK, CHEADLE SK9 1DW

The Big Picture

We are a large and active church with many people, ministries and activities. At any given moment, there is so much going on. Each of us is naturally most familiar with the part of church life that we are directly involved in, be it a service, group or event. The variety in our church family means we cover many different areas in lots of different ministries. But at the same time, this can make it easy to lose sight of how all these ministries fit together. It is important to be reminded of the bigger picture that we are all part of.

One of the aspects I love about my job as parish administrator is that I get to see a wider view of our parish. Being involved in many different areas of church life I can more easily get a sense of how things connect. Yet this is also a challenge, trying to bring everything together and help us as a church to keep moving in the same direction. Part of my role is to help others to see this big picture and help our ministries work together as a whole.

Over the last year, we have been developing our parish vision: to pray, rest and grow, abiding in Christ. Our aim is for this to be central to all we do as a church. It is not about adding more into already busy lives, but about shaping what we already do. The vision helps us to step back and reflect, seeing how our activities and ministries draw us into abiding in Christ.

We want to be prayerful about everything, seeking God's will in all that we do. As we see how God is working in and through us, it impacts the choices we make. We notice where things overlap, where we can work more closely together or where we can adapt to better serve what God is doing in our parish. It is about growing in awareness and being willing to move where God is leading.

One of the practical ways we try to hold this wider view is through the events oversight group. We meet monthly to look at the activities going on in the parish. It is a time to reflect on how we can use these events in the most effective way, working together to encourage fellowship and outreach. Having this central oversight enables us to see how everything fits together and suggest ways we can simplify, collaborate or strengthen what we are doing. We want to ensure our time and energy is used well and that what we offer is a blessing and not overwhelming.

Alongside this, the parish strategy group has been considering how we live out our vision in an intentional and practical way. Over the last few months, we have taken time to review all our ministries, seeking feedback from each of the groups. From this we have been able to draw out key areas we want to focus on as a church such as encouraging a culture of prayer and building intergenerational relationships. Part of this is the plan to refresh our small groups as outlined on the front of this noticesheet, starting with our Pray Rest Grow Together series.

As we celebrate Easter, we are reminded that the picture is far greater than just us as a church. We see the ultimate 'big picture' that all of history points in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. Through everything, God is working out his plan of redemption and we get to be a part of that. Reflecting on this central truth should shape everything we do. As a church we are seeking to play our part in this story as we pray, rest and grow, abiding in Christ.

Maddy Prescott

Parish Administrator/Assistant to the Rector



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
Operations	Jon Drayton	07973 134815	operations@cheadle.org.uk
Finance	Jo Davids	0161 912 5355	jo.davids@cheadle.org.uk
Admin/Assist. to Rector	Maddy Prescott	0161 428 8050	maddy.prescott@cheadle.org.uk
Upper Room Cafe		0161 912 5352	upperroomcafe@cheadle.org.uk