



Cheadle
PARISH

In Touch

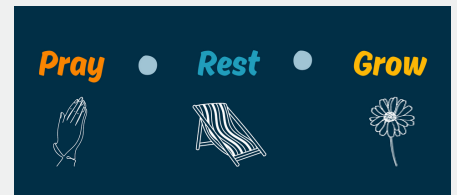
May 2025

APCM 2025

On Wednesday 30th May, 90 members of St Mary's and St Cuthbert's gathered in the Upper Room and online for our annual meeting. We elected our Church Wardens and PCC members and heard interviews about Filling the Gap; St Cuthbert's Old School Nursery (which turns 50 this year!); the planning of the Parish Weekend Away 13th-15th June 2025; pastoral care; a group of teenagers' journey to faith through the services in our parish; and individuals in various stages of further theological and pastoral training. George gave a brief summary of his first year in the parish and the next steps looking forwards to the coming year as we seek to continue to Pray, Rest and Grow in Christ together.

Members of PCC:

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| • Rob Navesey (Warden St Mary's) | • John Berry | • Andrew Pugh |
| • Helen Gray (Warden St Mary's) | • Tricia Berry | • Beth Pugh |
| • Ian Howard (Warden St Cuthbert's) | • Belinda Byers | • Winsome Richbell-Brown |
| • Kate Cookson (Warden St Cuthbert's) | • Fiona Goode | • Trish Wells |
| • Maddy Prescott (Secretary) | • Sarah Holmes | • Phil Wells |
| • Jo Davids (Treasurer) | • Nigel Hooper | |
| • George Crowder | • Marcus Killingbeck | |
| • Stan Tomalin | • Graham Lowcock | |
| • Ian Chidlow | • Ruth Ormiston | |



Parish Weekend Away



Plans for the Parish Weekend Away are well underway! If you have booked on, you should have received an email with a personalised payment link. Please complete this ASAP and before 16th May. Any problems or questions use the email below.

We still have a few rooms left available and can always welcome more day visitors, so if you're interested email churchweekendaway@cheadle.org.uk and if finance is an issue/barrier please do contact the church office.

We look forward to seeing you there!

50 years of Sizewell

2025 marks the fiftieth anniversary of a summer Christian camp in Sizewell Suffolk for 16-22 y/o which has been lead by people in Cheadle churches since it's foundation in 1975. Over five decades, thousands of young people from Cheadle have celebrated their faith and grown in their relationship with Jesus through this holiday, and the team of dedicated leaders. They've been joined by others from all over the country and across the world, with young people from France, Germany, Belgium and even Israel.

The camp was the dream of two church planters Tony and Dorothy Mason. They were approached by Covenanters to run a holiday for young Christians, and it has been run by people from Cheadle ever since. Many who come to serve as leaders had such life changing encounters with God there, that they wanted to join the team, so future young people would have the opportunity to experience the awesomeness of God themselves.



Jonah - 'A BIG Tale' Holiday Bible Club 2025

This year's Holiday Bible Club (HBC) focused on the story of Jonah and was 'A Very BIG Tale'.

Finishing on Maundy Thursday, we had an amazing week, full of energy & fun, creativity & learning. The children learnt so much about Jonah's story but more importantly about God and especially His Love, Compassion, Forgiveness and Saving Power.

We saw more than 45 different children throughout the week, most of whom came on all four days, with more than 30% not from St. Mary's. It was a fantastic time of having fun, teaching the Bible, especially about God, and building relationships.

We had an incredible team in many different roles, both with the children and in the background and it is one of the few events we do which is cross generational and involving more than 40 people in total.

There have been well over 40 members of our church who have given of their time this week and although 'Thank You' seems so inadequate to reflect how much Sarah & I feel about everyone who has contributed, we would like to say 'THANK YOU' again and again.

Without the team of leaders and helpers, servers, builders and prayers, we wouldn't be able to do such an incredible event reaching so many children.

We have received so many encouragements. Here are just a few . . .



'My crew really enjoyed helping and one of my children told me she'd particularly enjoyed getting to know adults she didn't know before.'

'It was really good for my child to serve independently and he really enjoyed it. On two of the days he helped, he cycled down early by himself to be there in time to set up and hear the briefing. I was also really impressed with the way the games/sports were led.'

'We were a bit anxious about how our son would get on as it was his first time, but he loved it and felt really settled. He was also able to explain what he'd been learning to us each day. Looking back, it has also made us reflect on the important part that Holiday Bible Clubs played in my own faith journey and so I'm excited that my son has experience the same.'

'One leader said that, as a first-time group leader, she couldn't believe how much she missed it during the two days she wasn't there and was really encouraged by how much her granddaughter was able to tell her in detail about the things she had missed each day, when she called her in the evenings.'

And so to NEXT YEAR

Mark Tomlinson - Children's Outreach Worker

Dementia Friends Information Session

Saturday 31st May 2025

Here in Cheadle, we would like to become more Dementia Friendly, and we are running a Dementia Friends Information Session to help us with this work. The session will be delivered by Wendy Luxon, a volunteer Dementia Friends Ambassador with the Alzheimer's Society, who presents sessions to groups within the area, particularly in churches.

Dementia Friends is about learning more about dementia and the small ways we can all help those living with this disease, and their carers. From telling friends about the Dementia Friends programme to visiting someone you know living with dementia, every action counts.

The two-hour Session will take place at **St Cuthbert's Church at 10.30 until 12.30**. The first part will be learning more about Dementia, followed by a time to consider specifically how churches can be supportive and where we can share ideas about our own church. There will be a break and refreshments between the two sessions.



VE Day Anniversary

“On the 8th May 1945 bells rang out across Britain as the nation took to the streets in celebration of Victory in Europe Day. Eighty years later we celebrate this momentous occasion by inviting you to recreate that moment at 6:30pm local time...”. This is from the Central Council of Church Bellringers website, and there are similar reminders of this significant anniversary in many other publications and notices currently. On Thursday, May 8th this year, the bells of St Mary’s Cheadle will be rung in thanksgiving for the coming of peace exactly 80 years before.

We know that church bells were not rung much during the war years, with a nationwide ban on ringing in place for most of the period 1940 to 1943. Once the ban was lifted, ringers were probably in short supply, away serving in the forces etc, and almost certainly out of practice, so when I read that piece about the bells ringing out across Britain on VE Day in 1945, I wondered whether St Mary’s bells were among those being rung on that day. The problem was, how to find out?

First, check whether a peal was rung to mark this very special occasion. To bellringers, a “peal” has a specific meaning, describing continuous ringing of 5,000 or more different changes from memory, typically taking about 3 hours on bells like ours. There have been 25 successful peals at St Mary’s in about 275 years, so was one of those rung in May 1945, perhaps?

To be recognised as a “peal”, such performances must be published in that famous weekly publication for bellringers, the Ringing World (or Bell News for peals to 1911). While wartime restrictions limited the number of pages the Ringing World could print, the rule still applied, and those very few peals rung during the war years are printed there. For St Mary’s Cheadle the record shows a peal rung in March 1938, with the next one not until December 1950. We can be sure that no peal was rung in Cheadle on VE Day in 1945.

This doesn’t mean that the bells weren’t rung on VE Day in 1945, though. If not a peal, perhaps there was some general ringing, possibly before a service? Today, general ringing for special occasions can be centrally documented online and is easily searchable, but there’s nothing comparable to that from the 1940s, sadly.

However, there is evidence that the bells of St Mary’s were rung in celebration on May 8th, 1945. The British Newspaper Archive holds a copy of the Alderley and Wilmslow Advertiser for May 11th, 1945, and the column headed “Cheadle’s Rejoicing” (“Victory Bells”) begins:

“The bells of Cheadle Parish Church emphasised the religious side of the day and on all the churches was a notice bidding the people attend a thanksgiving service at 7-30 p.m. that night”.

There are no more details about the ringing, so we don’t know who rang that day or what they rang. However, it is possible for us to imagine what it would have been like to ring St Mary’s bells on May 8th 1945 compared to today.

With six of the bells dated 1749 and two added in 1881, the bells in 1945 were the same as now, and from outside would have sounded the same. There was a major overhaul around 1937 and the bells were rehung in the steel frame in which they still hang today. From this we can assume that the bells and fittings would have been in good condition in 1945, so entirely practical to ring them.



The big difference for the bellringers would be that the bells were rung from ground level, as the ringing platform wasn’t installed until the mid-1990. The bell-ropes were therefore even longer than they are now and would have been made entirely of hemp (possibly rather stretchy...), making the bells physically more difficult to ring.

When I first rang at Cheadle in the 1980s, the bells were still rung from ground level; I recall a good ring of bells which were a bit tricky to handle from a relatively gloomy space, constrained by the font in the middle of the circle of ropes and cupboards full of choir robes around the outside. Probably much as it had been in 1945, then, and completely different from the bright, open, well-lit space we enjoy when ringing the bells today.

So when we ring St Mary’s bells at 6:30pm on Thursday, May 8th, it will be in thanksgiving for the peace which came to Europe 80 years ago and in gratitude for the sacrifices made by so many to achieve that peace. Doubtless we will also be thinking and praying for the peace which is so desperately needed in a number of places in the world today.

The names of those who ring, and a summary of what we ring, will be entered into the Bellboard online facility and subsequently printed in The Ringing World; perhaps someone will else will use that information to write another article 20 years from now.

Trevor Marchbank (Tower Captain, St Mary’s Cheadle)



Hospitality Sunday

During this season of Lent we have been exploring the themes of Pray, Rest, Grow and we have been reminded of the importance of Sabbath rest, that it's a gift to receive, not a rule to follow; "remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy." (Exodus 20:8)

One way to practice Sabbath rest is to spend time and share hospitality with friends and family, including our church family.

What is Hospitality Sunday?

This will be a day set aside to share and receive hospitality from each other. This of course doesn't prevent us from meeting with church family at other times! It is an opportunity to get to know each other better and share a meal together.

Who is it for?

Everyone – whether you would like to invite others to your home for a meal or if you'd like to be invited out for a meal.

Maybe you don't have the space to invite others, you fancy a week off cooking, or you'd like to have others round but don't know who to invite.

How does it work?

Sign up on Church Suite or contact the parish office.

If you can offer hospitality – how many people can you accommodate?

If you would like to be invited for a meal – do you have any dietary needs or will you need any help with transport?

If you are hosting you will be contacted the week before with names of guests and their contact details, so you can arrange times and venue.

Is it going to be hard work?

Sabbath rest is about sharing fellowship together – not about the food we eat. It's not about providing 'haute cuisine' or a 5-course meal, it's spending time with each other, developing relationships and resting in God's love.

If you are hosting – just prepare a bit more food than you normally would or put the slow cooker on before the morning service. If we focus on the food and presentation, we are missing the point!

When is Hospitality Sunday?

The 2nd Sunday of each month.

We hope this will become a regular part of our church life and help facilitate church family getting together socially.

You can sign up whenever you want (you don't have to join in every month) and of course this doesn't stop you meeting together at other times!

[Sign Up Here!](#)



Ladies Walk and Pub Lunch Saturday 17th May 2025

Meeting at 11am outside The Ship Styal (Altrincham Rd, Styal, Wilmslow SK9 4JE) for a walk round Styal Woods, followed by lunch/coffee at the pub at 12.30pm

Join for either or both parts

Sign up to let us know if you are coming!



Community Breakfast

Invite your friends, family and neighbours to share breakfast together

9.30AM - 12PM
SATURDAY 31ST MAY
SATURDAY 21ST JUNE
SATURDAY 26TH JULY

Cooked breakfast £9
Continental Breakfast £7
Includes breakfast tea and filter coffee

Full cafe menu available also

BOTANICAL Afternoon Tea

To celebrate Chelsea Flower Show enjoy Afternoon Tea in our Church and Community Cafe

Egg and Watercress Sandwich
Sliced Beef & Horseradish Sandwich
Houmous and Red Pepper Wrap
Cheddar Cheese & Caramelised Onion Tartlet
Scone, Butter, Blackcurrant Jam & Cream
Lemon & Poppy Seed Cake
Raspberry and Coconut Slice
Fruits of the Forest Crumble
Served with a Glass of Rose Lemonade

£12.50 per person

Monday 19th - Saturday 24th May
11am - 2pm

To book please sign up following the QR Code or contact the Cafe at upperroomcafe@cheadle.org.uk

FAMILY FUN Fiesta

Saturday 28th June
11am - 3pm

MUSIC FOOD DRINKS
CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES DANCING

THE UPPER ROOM CAFE
BACK MASSIE STREET, ABOVE TESCO'S

Dates for May

Saturday 3rd - Hard of Hearing Support Group, 11am, in the Ashfield Room of The Upper Room

Thursday 8th - Men's Pub Night, 8pm

Saturday 10th - Cheadle Board Room, 9.30am in the Upper Room

Sunday 11th - Hospitality Sunday

Tuesday 13th - Mission Partners Prayer Meeting, 8pm at the Parikh's house

Thursday 15th - Prayer for our country and the world, 7.30pm at the Southgate's house

Saturday 17th - In Stitches, 9am at St Cuthbert's

Saturday 17th - Ladies Walk and Pub, 11am

Wednesday 21st - The Big Read, 7.45pm at St Cuthbert's

Thursday 22nd - Men's Breakfast, 6.45am in the Upper Room Café

Sunday 25th - All-age Family service, 10am, at St Mary's

Tuesday 27th - Open Doors Prayer meeting, 7.30pm at the Southgate's house

Saturday 31st - Dementia Friends Information Session, 10.30am at St Cuthbert's

Dates for June

Wednesday 4th - Monthly Prayer Meeting, 8pm in the Upper Room

Saturday 7th - Hard of Hearing Support Group, 11am, in the Ashfield Room of The Upper Room

Sunday 8th - Hospitality Sunday

Tuesday 10th - Mission Partners Prayer Meeting, 8pm at the Parikh's house

Thursday 12th - Men's Pub Night, 8pm

Friday 13th-Sunday 15th - Cheadle Parish Church Weekend Away

Saturday 14th - Cheadle Board Room, 9.30am in the Upper Room

Wednesday 18th - The Big Read, 7.45pm at St Cuthbert's

Thursday 19th - Prayer for our country and the world, 7.30pm at the Southgate's house

Saturday 21st - Men's Breakfast, 8am in the Upper Room Café

Saturday 21st - In Stitches, 9am at St Cuthbert's

Tuesday 24th - Open Doors Prayer meeting, 7.30pm at the Southgate's house

Saturday 28th - Ladies Breakfast, 8.30am in the Upper Room Café

Saturday 28th - Fiesta event, in the Upper Room Café

Communications Lead Vacancy at Crosslinks

This is an exciting opportunity to join a growing cross-cultural mission society that serves local churches across the UK and Ireland, helping them to fulfil the Great Commission. Working within the Mission Partnerships team, leading our social media consultants and liaising with an external Christian creative agency, this role looks to continue to increase the quality and quantity of Crosslinks' communications.

This full-time role includes a generous financial package, 25 days of annual leave (plus bank holidays and Christmas stand down), and a 20% pension contribution. The role is based from the new Crosslinks central London office or from home.

The closing date for receipt of applications is 5pm on Monday 19 May 2025.

Interviews will commence the week beginning Monday 26 May 2025.

Please find a full job description [here](#).

Please email Rupert Shelley, Director of Mission Partnerships, for an application form at rshelley@crosslinks.org.



Mission Partners

Give thanks that the relocation of the offices of GFA World to Peterborough is now completed – the team have all settled well and they have just appointed a new staff member from that area. Give thanks too that both JP and his family and Natasha have found good churches to be part of. There is a good network of churches in the city and all have been keen to welcome GFA to share in the work they do.

Pray for Paul and Grace Robinson as they help the OMF team as they move their headquarters from Sevenoaks to Manchester over the summer. Suitable premises have been identified in the city centre. Pray that all those staff moving North will soon find housing and churches to settle into. Pray for those staff who will not be making the move to work out new opportunities where they can serve in.



Practicing Hospitality

During an evening service at St Mary's, as I often do, I posed an open question for responses from the congregation. To introduce the topic of growing in Christ, I asked, "when have you experienced someone showing you the character of Jesus?" A lot of hands went up, and church members shared their stories about the key moments in their Christian lives and faith journeys. Whilst their individual narratives were all different, their encounters with the character of Jesus in other people were remarkably consistent and specific. Patience, kindness and hospitality were the qualities that broke through, that connected with them and helped them to grow in faith.

We might think that being a good disciple of Jesus means extending our Bible knowledge and being more courageous in evangelism. But when we reflect on what has genuinely moved us to respond in faith and love, or what truly encourages us in our lives as disciples of Christ, Christian hospitality very often features. Kindness has a powerful effect, not as a self-gratifying good work, but as a Christ-channeling fruit of the Spirit.

In Romans 12, Paul urges Christians to be devoted to one another in love, and "Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer." He continues in v.13.

Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice Hospitality.

It is a fundamental Christian "rule of life" - a regular practice, a pattern, a routine, a spiritual discipline that draws us closer to God. I think it connects beautifully with our vision for our church to abide in Christ together with the three core rhythms of praying, resting and growing in him.

Throughout the recent Lent series, I have been inspired by conversations with members of St Cuthberts and St Mary's who have a real passion and heart for hospitality. One such conversation has led to designating the second Sunday of every month as 'Hospitality Sunday', when we encourage and enable church members to share meals together as hosts or guests. I hope this strengthens the bonds of love between us and helps everyone in the church family feel included and united in the fellowship of Christ. I also believe it will help us grow as disciples.

There is also a lot of momentum around our parish weekend away in June. We will share a whole weekend together as a whole parish, not only learning together, but eating together and having fun together.

Christian hospitality connects with Jesus by connecting us with each other in the most positive and uplifting context, reflecting his kindness and receiving his grace. It helps us grow together, but it also helps us rest together - the main event is our fellowship in Jesus. It should also lead us naturally to pray together - if we, as disciples of the Lord Jesus, come together and talk about our lives, why wouldn't we then join in prayer about whatever comes up?

It is also the best possible advert for the gospel. When people from outside our church family are welcomed into the oasis of Christian hospitality, they get to experience not only the testimonies of Jesus's disciples but the warmth of Jesus's love.

Thus I encourage everyone in Cheadle Parish to practice and receive Christian hospitality, for in doing so I believe we will find many blessings.

Rev George Crowder
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
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
Admin/Assist. to Rector	Maddy Prescott	0161 428 8050	maddy.prescott@cheadle.org.uk
Upper Room Cafe		0161 912 5352	upperroomcafe@cheadle.org.uk