



**Cheadle**  
PARISH

# In Touch

## May 2026

### PCC 2026/27

Thank you to all those who came along to our APCM at the end of April. We spent time reflecting on the last year and praying together, as well as electing our church wardens, new PCC members and Deanery Synod representatives. Your Cheadle Parish PCC for 2026/27 is as follows:

**Church wardens:**

- Rob Navesey
- Helen Gray

**Deputy Wardens (St Cuthbert's):**

- Kate Cookson
- Ruth Ormiston

**Clergy:**

- George Crowder
- Stan Tomalin
- Ian Chidlow

**Elected PCC members:**

- Belinda Byers
- Nigel Hooper
- Andrew Pugh
- Beth Pugh
- Marcus Killingbeck
- Winsome Richbell-Brown
- Sarah Holmes
- Adam Carvalho
- Jo Davids

**Deanery Synod representatives:**

- Jon Drayton
- Jo Davids
- Maddy Prescott
- Trish Wells
- Phil Wells
- Andy Poole
- Graham Lowcock (ex-officio)
- Fiona Goode (ex-officio)
- Ruth Ormiston (ex-officio)

*Maddy Prescott (PCC Secretary)*

### Pray, Rest & 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.

For 6 weeks, beginning on 3<sup>rd</sup> May, we will be stopping house groups 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, and there will be a midweek session with a prayer focus. Our aim is to refresh our vision for small group ministry and to encourage the whole church family to take part.

There is a paper booklet available to pick up in church with an outline of the series and discussion questions for the midweek sessions which will be on Wednesdays at 8pm, alternating between the Upper Room and St Cuthbert's. You can also follow along on Jovo, where we will be sharing more details each week as well as video testimonies from some of the congregation.

**Pray**



**Rest**



**Grow**



ABIDING IN CHRIST

### Opening St Mary's Church Building

On Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April, St Mary's church hosted 'In Conversation: Martin Edwards & Kate Ellis on Agatha Christie', organised by Cheadle Civic Society. This event welcomed over 200 members of our local community and beyond into our church building. This was a great event and we hope to be able to host more events like this in the future.



St Mary's church building is now open during the day Monday to Saturday. Why not pop in if you are in Cheadle village.

We pray that through this we will be able to witness Christ to those who visit and be a strong presence within our local community.

## Joe Hadfield's Licensing



Many of you will remember Joe Hadfield from his all-too-brief stint with us in Cheadle. Since moving on from us, he has been serving as Curate at St Mark's New Ferry, and on the 28th of April was licensed as Associate Minister at St Michael's Pensby.

It was a joyful service, with a packed-out church building and some very loud singing! +Mark licensed Joe and commissioned him to "preach the word..." (2 Tim. 4) It was great to catch up with Joe and family (Beth, Lydia, Emily and Tilly) and pray for them as they begin this new season of ministry. Please do keep praying for the family as they settle in.

*Ian Chidlow*

## Men's Breakfast

**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May, 8am at  
Ladybridge Sports club**

Join us for breakfast and fellowship at Ladybridge sports centre  
The cost is £8.50, sign up on churchsuite [here](#)



## Growing in Faith Through the New Testament Training Course

The recent New Testament Bible Course at St. Mary's has been warmly received by those who took part, with participants describing it as both engaging and spiritually encouraging.

Throughout the course, participants explored how the books of the New Testament fit together as one continuous story. Many shared that the course gave them greater confidence in reading the Bible and helped them better understand the message of Scripture as a whole.

One of the most appreciated aspects of the course was the variety of teaching methods. Sessions included teaching, group discussion, visual materials, and video resources, including the widely appreciated Bible Project videos. These helped bring the big picture of the New Testament to life and supported understanding for visual learners.

Participants also valued the clear and approachable teaching style, which helped simplify complex ideas and encouraged open discussion. Printed handouts were another highlight, allowing participants to revise material and work at their own pace between sessions.

Perhaps most encouraging was the personal impact shared by many participants. Several reported renewed enthusiasm for reading the Bible, increased discipline in personal study, and greater confidence in understanding Scripture. For some, the course provided a meaningful reminder of the Bible's overall story and strengthened their faith journey.

While feedback was overwhelmingly positive, a few participants suggested that slightly more time for discussion or an additional session could make the experience even better.

Overall, the New Testament course has proven to be a valuable opportunity for learning, reflection, and spiritual growth. It has encouraged many to deepen their understanding of God's Word and to continue exploring Scripture with renewed confidence and enthusiasm.

*Mark Tomlinson*

## Spring, Summer & Autumn cycle rides

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

**Dates:** Saturdays 16<sup>th</sup> May, 13<sup>th</sup> June, 18<sup>th</sup> July, 12<sup>th</sup> September, 10<sup>th</sup> October, 7<sup>th</sup> November



For more details, contact Jonathan Crossland:  
[jcrossland1@btinternet.com](mailto:jcrossland1@btinternet.com), 07518041420

## Coming in the Summer Term:



GET THE RIGHT TOOLS TO UNDERSTAND GOD'S WORD  
AND SEE IT COME ALIVE IN YOUR EVERYDAY LIFE.



**INTERACTIVE**  
Learn together  
in a fun and  
engaging way.



**PRACTICAL**  
Simple tools  
you can use  
every day.



**INSIGHTFUL**  
Discover fresh  
perspectives and  
deeper meaning.



**APPLY**  
See how God's Word  
makes a difference  
in real life.

THREE DATES – ONE TRANSFORMATIVE JOURNEY



THURSDAY  
11<sup>TH</sup>  
JUNE

THURSDAY  
25<sup>TH</sup>  
JUNE

THURSDAY  
2<sup>ND</sup>  
JULY

7.15 PM –  
9.15 PM

*All are welcome – whether you're new to the Bible or  
have been reading it for years!*



UNDERSTAND IT BETTER. *Love it deeper.* LIVE IT OUT.  
THE RIGHT TOOLS. A WHOLE NEW PERSPECTIVE. LIFE-CHANGING APPLICATION.



**Cheadle**  
PARISH

Here is the link to book:

<https://stmarysheadle.churchsuite.com/events/gcnudsbs>

## Finance Update

### What is Parish Share

In 2026 we will pay £223,812 to Chester Diocese for our Parish Share.

This is the amount of money that we are asked to contribute to pay for mission and ministry, including clergy stipends and their housing. The Parish Share is calculated using a formula which considers whether our clergy are full time or part time and where our parish is situated socioeconomically using the 2021 census information. It also takes into account our shared responsibility to support parishes in areas of deprivation. There's more information about how this is calculated in the Parish Share section of the Chester Diocese website.

Parish Share ensures that every parish, regardless of its individual wealth, is resourced for mission and ministry. That's what Parish Share is all about: every church gives, and every church receives, so that together we can transform lives and communities; together in Christ, sharing hope.

### Giving

Each month we will be sharing views on giving from different people and different perspectives.

For me giving is more than financial, it's about generosity, it's about considering God's provision, and how to use my time, talents, and resources to bless others. Through the gifts he has given me, God has provided me with opportunities to serve Him and others. Everything is God's - I am passing on and using what He has given me.

## Reflection on Giving

*As Jesus looked up, he saw the rich putting their gifts into the temple treasury. He also saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins. "Truly I tell you," he said, "this poor widow has put in more than all the others. All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on." - Luke 21*

God is not so much interested in how much we give, as how much we keep back for ourselves. Right from the beginning of the Bible, we can see that giving is about the attitude of our heart, rather than the physical thing / amount given. Abel gives of the best of his flock, while Cain seems to give whatever he has to hand (Gen. 4:1-7). God is pleased with Abel, because his heart is to give back to the Lord who has provided him with everything in the first place. Jesus confirms that giving is about our hearts in the passage above. Wanting to give to God's work reflects a heart that has, at least in part, understood God's love and grace and provision towards us first. It is also about faith in the leadership God has given to the local church - we might think the money would be better spent elsewhere, and it's not wrong to hold our leaders accountable, but the responsibility to spend our giving wisely rests on our leaders - ours is simply to give because the Lord is generous to us.

*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.

Support pollinators. Nothing says Spring like the buzz of a bee! But these precious pollinators are declining due to habitat loss, climate change and agricultural intensification. Wednesday 20 May is World Bee Day, so look around to see how you can improve habitats for bees and other pollinators.

Read more about bees, butterflies and habitats that support them in our Target 25 resources at <http://arocha.org.uk/what-we-do/target-25> Sow a pollinator-friendly seed mix, make or buy a bee hotel, let some wild flowers grow in your garden, and don't use pesticides. Pray that our pollinator populations will increase.

For more about World Bee Day visit: <http://awarenessdays.com/awareness-days-calendar/world-bee-day/>



An evening with

## Kate Ellis

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



## Ladies Walk and Lunch

Ladies, our next event is just around the corner! Come and join us for a springtime walk and/or a pub lunch! The date is Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May, we will be meeting at The Boars Head in Higher Poynton at 11am and walking into Lyme Park and then returning to the Boars Head for lunch/ coffee. If you would like to come, please sign up on Churchsuite [here](#). A table has been booked for 12.30 at the Boars Head so feel free to just come to eat rather than walk if you prefer. We are asking that you ring the pub ahead of the day to please preorder food.

*Jude Wheatley*

# CAFE NEWS

MAY 2026



## Cheadle's Church & Community Cafe

**SATURDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> MAY**

**PINK DAY**

Pink Themed Menu  
Pink Characters  
Charity Info Stall  
Pink Cake Sale

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

### In May...

2nd - Stop and Rest  
9th - Cheadle Boardroom  
19th - Visiting Angels  
11th- 16th Agatha Christie  
Afternoon Tea

May 21st - An Evening with  
Kate Ellis, Crime Writer  
May 23rd - Pink Day for  
Prevent Breast Cancer

### Further ahead...

15th - 20th June - Football  
World Cup Week

### DEMENTIA DROP-IN



Every Monday, 11am -1pm, Dementia Drop-In meet in the cafe to support those with dementia and their families and carers. We work with Pure Innovation to create a safe and welcoming space for those affected to meet together to chat, play games, do crosswords and quizzes and enjoy seasonal events. They offer peer support and signposting to other services in Stockport.

**AGATHA CHRISTIE**  
11<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> May  
11-2pm

Death on the Nile Salmon and Dill finger Sandwich  
Utterly Innocent Egg and Cress finger Sandwich  
Country House Cheddar and Onion Quiche  
The Colonel's Pork and Mustard Sausage Roll  
Murder on the Orient Spring Roll

Miss Marple's Mysterious  
Fruit Scones  
Deadly Blackcurrant Jam  
Cyanide Clotted Cream

Tea or Filter Coffee

**Afternoon Tea**

The Case of the Missing Battenberg Cake  
Murderous Lemon Drizzle  
Death by Chocolate Eclair  
Hercules Poirot Blackberry Fizz

£15  
Gluten Free and Vegan options available  
To book call into the cafe, email or follow the QR code

upperroomcafe@cheadle.org.uk

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

## Volunteer Voice



### Charlotte & Nick

'It's fun doing all the jobs and we like serving the tables.'

**Cheadle College  
Supported Internships**

## Dates for May

**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> - Hard of Hearing Support Group**, 11am in the Upper Room

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> - Cheadle Board Room**, 9.30am in the Upper Room

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> - PCC meeting**, 8pm in the Upper Room

**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> - Mission Partners Prayer Meeting**, 8pm at Trish Wells' house

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> - Mental Health Forum workshop**, 10am - 3.45pm at Foxhill

**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> - Men's Breakfast**, 8am at Ladybridge Sport Club

**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> - In Stitches**, 9am at St Cuthbert's

**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> - Ladies Walk and Lunch**, 11am meeting at The Boar's Head, Poynton

**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> - The Big Read**, 7.45pm at St Cuthbert's

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> - Prayer for our country and the world**, 7.30pm at the Southgate's house

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> - An Evening with Kate Ellis**, 7.30pm in the Upper Room Cafe

**Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> - Pink Day**, 11am-3pm in the Upper Room Cafe

**Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> - Open Doors Prayer meeting**, 7.30pm at the Southgate's house

## Dates for June

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> - Hard of Hearing Support Group**, 11am in the Upper Room

**Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> - Mission Partners Prayer Meeting**, 8pm at Trish Wells' house

**Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> - Bible Handling Course** starts, 7.15pm in the Upper Room

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> - Cheadle Board Room**, 9.30am in the Upper Room

**Monday 15<sup>th</sup> - PCC meeting**, 8pm at the Upper Room

**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> - The Big Read**, 7.30pm at St Cuthbert's

**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> - Prayer for our country and the world**, 7.30pm at the Southgate's house

**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> - In Stitches**, 9am at St Cuthbert's

**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> - Cheadle Parish Quiz Night**, 7.30pm in the Upper Room

**Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> - Open Doors Prayer meeting**, 7.30pm at the Southgate's house

**Friday 26<sup>th</sup> - Wedding of Will Ashworth and Sarah Benford**, 1pm at St Mary's Church

## Mental Health Workshop

**Thursday May 14<sup>th</sup> at Foxhill Retreat House, 10am-3.45pm**

This year's conference will be focused on the mental health of older people and the wellbeing of those who care for them. It will be led by Paul Crowther, the Churches Co-ordinator at Embracing Age. The day is free and lunch is provided

If you would like to attend, follow the link [here](#) to book on Eventbrite.

Speak to Tricia Berry if you would like more details



## Clive Luty



Clive Luty joined St Mary's in 1990 and was a regular member of Church, attending house group and also organising the senior citizens luncheon club on a Friday with his friend Phil Chadwick. Several years ago he moved to live in southern Ireland and sadly he died on the 8th of April.



**GATHERING. PRAYING. CRYING OUT. TOGETHER.**

**THURSDAY 7 MAY 2026, 7:30PM**

**NEW LOCATION**

THE LIGHTHOUSE CHURCH,  
12 CENTENARY PARK,  
CORONET WAY,  
SALFORD,  
M50 1RE

**FREE ADMISSION**

# Suffering Wisely and Well

About 4 years ago, I read Eric Ortlund's book "Suffering Wisely and Well: The Grief of Job and the Grace of God." The 'problem' of suffering seems to be one of the biggest obstacles to faith of our current time. If God exists, why is there suffering? Or the more personal: If God exists, why am I suffering? And as a Christian, how do I get through this?

As Christians, we know that the world is a broken place. We understand that sin and death are in the world because of human rebellion against God (Genesis 3:17-19), and things are dislocated – nothing quite works as it should. Creation is groaning, waiting for the return of Jesus (Romans 8:19-23). And one day, God will make everything new, and suffering will be a thing of the past (Revelation 21:1-5).

But there is a big difference between understanding these things intellectually and being able to experience suffering personally whilst still proclaiming that God is good, all the time. We may know the theology, but how do we respond when tragedy strikes, especially if we don't understand why?

Who is God, in those moments? Where is God, in those moments?

Ortlund's book is an encouragement to walk through suffering with both honesty and hope. Honesty about our pain and confusion (the Bible never tells us to minimise our suffering) and yet hope in the face of it, because of who God is and what God has done.

In one of the most helpful parts of the book, we're taken through Job's conversation with his friends, pointing out a lot of what we **SHOULDN'T** say in the face of suffering. Job's friends try to understand his suffering and put it into their own neat theological boxes, but the truth is that they don't have a clue what's going on, and they end up making things worse. Job's friends are at their most useful when they simply sit with him in silence. A lesson for those of us who like to jump in and fix people's problems!

Thankfully, Job also has a divine Friend, who joins Job on the ash heap, listens to the cries of his broken heart, lets Job pour out his anger and his hurt, and then gives him real, solid hope. Towards the end of the book, God appears to answer Job, and we discover that "The one person who most clearly sees what is wrong with the world is the one person who promises he will not let it stay this way forever."

This is immensely comforting. God understands the brokenness of the world far more deeply than Job does, and yet he promises that it will not last forever. God **WILL** bring an end to evil and suffering. It's this promise, rather than a direct answer to his questions, that enables Job to worship in his trial.

If you've not read "Suffering Wisely and Well" yet, I'd fully recommend it. Get yourself a copy and lift your eyes to the Lord, whether you're going through the valley yourself, or need to be a support to a friend. You'll not be disappointed.



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



## Mission Partners - Ed and Kathy Burrows

This month we focus on Ed & Kathy Burrows who have recently been adopted as full mission partners for St Mary's. Ed is a fully qualified pilot who trained with the RAF and has recently added to his skills and become a pilot with Mission Aviation Fellowship based in Liberia in West Africa. Kathy is assisting in the work providing admin support for the base as well as some other pastoral support to local workers.

They will be visiting us at the end of the month and Ed will be sharing a slot at the 6.30 service and the Focus group afterwards. We also hope to arrange another informal event where more people can be involved. Please pray for their Safety both on land and in the air (for Ed) as flying conditions both climatic and technical. Pray for a good sabbatical and help Ed to make good contacts with other churches who might be able to support them in their work.

## Contact Information

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

|                         |                 |               |                                                                                    |
|-------------------------|-----------------|---------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Rector                  | George Crowder  | 0161 428 8050 | <a href="mailto:george.crowder@cheadle.org.uk">george.crowder@cheadle.org.uk</a>   |
| Associate Minister      | Stan Tomalin    | 0161 964 0854 | <a href="mailto:stan.tomalin@cheadle.org.uk">stan.tomalin@cheadle.org.uk</a>       |
| Associate (St Cuth's)   | Ian Chidlow     | 07475 004360  | <a href="mailto:minister@stcuthberts.org">minister@stcuthberts.org</a>             |
| C.O.W.                  | Mark Tomlinson  | 07940 567046  | <a href="mailto:mark.tomlinson@cheadle.org.uk">mark.tomlinson@cheadle.org.uk</a>   |
| Youth Worker            | Amy Killingbeck | 07375 709477  | <a href="mailto:amy.killingbeck@cheadle.org.uk">amy.killingbeck@cheadle.org.uk</a> |
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| Admin/Assist. to Rector | Maddy Prescott  | 0161 428 8050 | <a href="mailto:maddy.prescott@cheadle.org.uk">maddy.prescott@cheadle.org.uk</a>   |
| Upper Room Cafe         |                 | 0161 912 5352 | <a href="mailto:upperroomcafe@cheadle.org.uk">upperroomcafe@cheadle.org.uk</a>     |