



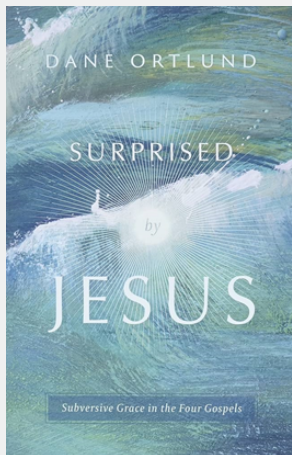
Cheadle
PARISH

In Touch

July 2024

Summer Reading Scheme

The Summer Reading Scheme is back with a couple of great books at amazing prices – so why not pick one up to read over the summer (or why not both of them?!) Each book is only £1



When God-in-the-flesh showed up twenty centuries ago in Palestine, the religious PhDs rejected him and the prostitutes and social outcasts flocked to him. Why? Because the open welcome of divine grace that Jesus offers, open to anyone who would simply leave their moral resume at home, is not predictable. It is not safe. It is subversive...

In this book, Dane Ortlund reflects on this subversive grace as it uniquely emerges in each of the four Gospel accounts. In each Gospel, the message and mission of Jesus is deeply surprising:

- * In Matthew, we see the surprise of disobedient obedience.
- * In Mark, we see the surprise of the king dealt with as a criminal.
- * In Luke, we see the surprise of the insiders becoming outsiders and the outsiders becoming insiders.
- * In John, we see the surprise of the Creator of the universe becoming one of his own creatures.

Such surprises confound our law-marinated hearts. But the good news that Jesus won with his own blood will not be tamed. This good news is defiant. This book exists to exult in this good news and the scandalous mercy Jesus loves to pour out on needy sinners—on people like you and me.

When it comes to devotional life, we can struggle to get started for all kinds of different reasons. We may have heard that a regular devotional time is important, but we don't know where to begin. Perhaps we feel so busy that we can't possibly add yet another thing to our 'to-do list'. Or maybe Bible study time feels more like a strain on the brain rather than fuel for the soul, and we wonder if it's worth keeping going. In *Time Well Spent*, Colin Webster takes on these concerns, tackling them head-on. This short book will not be a magic wand that sets you up with a great devotional life, but it will show you what a devotional involves, how to set aside common distractions, and why our time with God really is time well spent.

Let this book spur you on with gentle encouragement and practical advice and fuel your desire to set aside time with God.

Contains helpful studies to guide you through common Quiet Time elements.



- Stan Tomalin

Have you ever considered full time Christian ministry?

Cheadle Parish Church are looking for a ministry trainee for a one year placement. This exciting opportunity will involve working in many different aspects of parish ministry alongside our staff and volunteer teams. It will give you time to consider what area of ministry God may be calling you to, to study His Word and work alongside others in full time Christian work.

If you believe God may be calling you in this direction and want to discuss it with one of the ministers, please speak to George, Stan or Ian. For more details and an application form, visit the [website](https://www.cheadle.org.uk) or contact the parish office; churchoffice@cheadle.org.uk, 0161 428 8050. Applications for this year's placement close Monday 15th July at midday.

Save the Date!

Cheadle Parish Church Weekend Away
13th - 15th June 2025
Quinta Christian Conference Centre



St Mary's 'Filling the Gap - Children's Activity Time' - August 2024

Many of you will be aware of the impact of our Filling the Gap (FtG) initiative since it began in August 2023. The Upper Room Café together with Transforming Lives Together, have provided free meals to children throughout August & the Stockport School half term holidays, entitling any parents or grandparents who bring children into the Upper Room café to receive a free meal for the children they bring.

During the summer holiday and October & February half terms, we have supported the café staff with a 'Children's Activity Time' on a Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday morning, between 11am and 2pm. During this time we have provided table top activities, a daily craft and Table Football, in the Mornington Lounge, enabling children to have loads of focused fun, as we've supervised the area, and our team of helpers have been able to chat and build relationships with parents and grandparents. At 11.30am and 1pm, a Bible presentation is delivered, including a story and songs from JUICE Puppets.

If you haven't already been asked and would like to help by committing to three hours on any Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday, from 11am until 2pm, through August, please could you contact the office or email me - mark.tomlinson@cheadle.org.uk or Sarah Holmes - holmes_sarah@hotmail.com with the days and dates you could do. Oh and you get a free toastie or soup from the café too, on the days you are helping.

We have already seen that this, now established initiative is having a big impact, as we look for ways to serve our community in practical ways.

This coming summer we are also looking to develop our initiative further, by introducing three 'FtG Sunday Specials' beginning on Sunday 11th August, in the morning, when we can invite families to join us in church for the first 15 minutes and then head to the Upper Room for a shortened time of Bible Focused fun, similar to the Children's Activity Time in the week.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to speak or email me.

Below are a number of praise and prayer items for us as a church as we prepare for the summer.

Praise God for:

- the number of children we have seen at FtG since last August
- the relationships we have built with a number of adults - parents, grandparents and carers
- the team of helpers who have helped to deliver this initiative so far

Pray for:

- a continued impact in our community this summer
- The establishing of the 'New Sunday Specials'
- Parents, Grandparents & Carers to continue to use the Upper Room Café
- The training of team members, in developing their involvement and roles, during the 'Children's Activity Time'

Thank you for your prayers and encouragement.

Mark Tomlinson
Children's Outreach Worker



It feels like God has great plans for the Upper Room Café....

The Upper Room Café Management Group are delighted that Becki Bell and Beci Boyd have agreed to take on the role of joint café manager on a trial basis for the rest of this year. This comes at a time when the ministry of the café seems to be growing in its interaction with the wider local community. There are also 2 new members on the permanent staff team;



Hector Molina is the new chef in the Upper Room kitchen. Hector has much previous experience in catering, including working at the Message's Mess Café. He has lots of exiting ideas

for new menu items, some of which we have already been able to try.

Sonya Dai has joined the team as a Shift Supervisor. Sonya is studying practical theology at Nazarene college, and will be working in the café part time around her studies.



Why not pop into the café, Say hello to the team and try some of the delicious food and drinks on offer?

It's open Monday to Saturday, 9am to 3pm (the kitchen closes at 2pm) It's a great place to bring friends and family and meet members of our local community.



- Jon Drayton

Summer Camps

Do be praying for our young people and their leaders who will be taking part in Christian summer camps this year

Quinta Venture

28th July - 2nd August
Ages 11-14

The Vibe

28th July - 3rd August
Ages 14-18

Sizewell

3rd - 10th August
Ages 16-22



Finance matters July 2024

The budget for the whole Parish this year is running close to that planned. After giving it serious thought and prayer, the PCC did set a deficit budget of £32,000 for this year, believing that God will provide the financial means for the ministry work it plans to do. This means that unless the income is higher than expected, the PCC will use some of its reserves by the end of 2024.

In addition to the budget figure set at the start of the year, the PCC has agreed to fund Amy (our Youth Worker) on a senior level training course as part of the plan to train her to the level of Youth Minister. Amy will start the course in September, please pray for her as she takes on this work. It's very clear that our youth work has flourished since Amy undertook her year as a Ministry Trainee here in Cheadle, and then took up her role as Youth Worker.

George has been keen for the PCC to start a Ministry Trainee scheme, partly to help fill some of the time Amy will need for her studies, partly because he believes passionately that as a wealthy church we must support the wider church by helping train future candidates for full time Christian ministry. The PCC have agreed that the post of Ministry trainee can be advertised, this will be a 12 month post. For more information, please speak to George or the Parish Office.

Paul Johnson's hard work volunteering in the Parish Office has raised significant funds towards the initial maintenance works that are required on St Mary's church following the last Quinquennial inspection. The initial phase of this work will be starting soon. The architect has just been appointed for St Cuthbert's next Quinquennial. C of E churches have to be inspected every 5 years by an architect to ascertain what repair and maintenance work they require to keep them in good order. We are blessed to have a grade 1 listed building that in the architect's opinion is 'in better condition than average'. However, there are major refurbishment works needed in the near future, re-wiring, replacement of the heating plant, repairs to the external stone work, etc. In light of this, the PCC have appointed a working group to look at a realistic 10 year plan for undertaking these projects and to explore means of funding them. Please pray for guidance and wisdom for those involved in this planning.

If you would like more information about how to give your time, talents or financially to the work of the church here in Cheadle, please speak to one of the ministers or the Parish Office.

A Reflection for a St. Mary's BCP Service

Why Did Jesus Come?

Genesis 3:1-4 and 1 John 3:7-10

Sadly, most people now would not know how to answer such a question; even worse, they couldn't care that they couldn't! Christians may answer it in different ways, some just quoting a bible text, others maybe in words of their own to which they add their own personal testimony; *"I know whom I have believed ----"*, (2 Timothy 1:12)

We should see immediately that the wording of the question implies that Jesus was somewhere else before He was here! We know from our bibles that, as the "Son of God", He was from eternity in heaven with His "Father". In John's gospel He is described as the creative "Word" who became "flesh" for us (John ch1)

See then from our bibles how He himself referred to His coming into the world. He took an Old Testament title, "Son of Man" to himself and said **"the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many"** (Matthew 20:28). Similarly, He said **"the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost"**. (Luke 19:10).

Both of those texts will be well known to regular churchgoers; many sermons will certainly have been preached on them! Both are challenging.

The Mathew text came from the time when the disciples were too concerned about their own status, not at all about any life of service. The Luke text were the words of Jesus after a man testified to how much Jesus had changed his life, words which stress that we are all lost without Him.

Look however at a third text which is not so well known. In the first letter of the Apostle John we are taught to take sin seriously in our lives.

We cannot say that we have no sin (1 John 1:8), but if we have

turned to Christ and found new life in Him, then there is something about our changed nature to cause us not to want to continue to sin. When inevitably we fail we are said to be doing the devil's work, and that's where we find our third but vital text; **"The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work"**. (1 John 3:8b)

The work of the devil is, most of all, to tempt us to sin, to disregard the commandments of God and reject God's claim on our lives. He particularly delights to sow doubts in our minds; do we not see this in the Genesis account of creation, "Did God really say? (Genesis 3:1).

The devil has to do, not with the guilt of sin, but with actual acts of sinning, preying on our weaknesses. How important then to see the example of Jesus when He was tempted in the wilderness. Three times, as recorded in the gospels of Matthew and Luke, his resistance followed reference to scripture.

The devil may also prey upon any tendencies to "give up" when things seem too much for us, maybe even highlighting our weaknesses. Think then of some words we often sing in a popular hymn; *"When Satan tempts me to despair, and tells me of the guilt within, upwards I look and see Him there, who made an end to all my sin."*

The tragedy is that the devil is able to rejoice now in his greatest victory, simply to have so many people, even some Christians, believe that he doesn't exist! Let us not be so easily deceived. **"Our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world, and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms."** (Ephesians 6:12)

- Stuart Poole

Dates for July

Wednesday 3rd - Monthly Prayer Meeting, 8pm in the Upper Room

Saturday 6th - Parish Social Day, 2pm Walk in Poynton, 5pm Meal at the Upper Room, 7pm Ceilidh

Saturday 13th - Cheadle Board Room, 9.30am in the Upper Room

Thursday 18th - Men's breakfast, 6.45am in the Upper Room Café

Thursday 18th - Prayer for our country and the world, 7.30pm at the Southgate's house

Thursday 18th - St Cuthbert's Men's Drinks, 8pm

Saturday 20th - In Stitches, 9am at St Cuthbert's

Tuesday 23rd - Open Doors Prayer meeting 7.30pm at the Southgate's house

Wednesday 24th - 18-30s Social Night, 7.30pm at Brezo Lounge

Friday 26th - Wedding of Joshua Tomalin and Francesca Fisher, 1pm at St Mary's Church

Dates for August

Wednesday 7th - Monthly Prayer Meeting, 8pm in the Upper Room

Saturday 10th - Hard of Hearing Support Group, 11.30am in the Upper Room, Ashfield Room

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

Thursday 15th - St Cuthbert's Men's Drinks, 8pm

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

Good news!

Joshua Tomalin and Francesca Fisher are getting married on Friday 26th July. The service will begin at 1pm. All are very welcome to come to the service and to stay behind to enjoy refreshments and cake with the bride and groom in the church after.



To Let



UNFURNISHED THREE bedrooms Semi

Detached available to let!

AVAILABLE Late August /Early September.

£1,550 per month

1 Reception | Conservatory | 1 Bath | EPC

GRADE D | COUNCIL TAX BAND C

Garage. Off Street Parking. Close to Cheadle Village

Contact mobile is 07515477764

Quiet Day - Tuesday 17th September

Stan is leading a quiet day at Foxhill, the diocesan retreat centre, in September. The theme for the day is: 'God gives a new perspective: if you lack wisdom, ask God....' when we will be pondering what it looks like to seek God in the dark times and, particularly, seeing what we've can learn from Elijah's encounter with God as told in 1 Kings chapter 19.

As the description 'quiet day' implies - it will be quiet and reflective! There will be times of prayerful spoken worship, some talks from me but mostly plenty of space to think and pray and ponder. Foxhill is surrounded by lovely countryside (it is situated just outside Frodsham - about a 30-minute drive) and so, weather-permitting, there will be the chance to walk and pray.

The day begins at 10am (refreshments served from 9.30) and ends at 3.30pm. The cost of the day is £27, which includes lunch and refreshments.

You can book by either contacting Foxhill directly on 01928 733777;

or by booking online at:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/encounter-day-tickets-858789501517?aff=erellivmlt>



Mission Slot - Mission Aviation Fellowship

Many of you will know Phil and Kathryn Burrows who are regular members of the congregation - less well known is their son Ed who with his wife are undergoing training to work with the Mission Aviation Fellowship. Ed was formerly a pilot with the RAF and after prayerful consideration and much thought offered himself as a pilot with MAF where he and the family will be based in Liberia. They have just completed some cross cultural training at All Nations College in Ware and will now need some familiarisation training with MAF after which Ed will travel to Uganda and the USA to gain more experience in MAF methods and

finally confirmation of his suitability to fly MAF aircraft. During this time the family will be based in Leeds.

Please pray for the next six months that things will progress well for Ed and that Kathy and the children will settle well into unfamiliar surroundings quickly.

News and prayer letters are available from the Mission table in the Brereton Chapel.



Celebrating What God Has Done

What will you be celebrating this summer? It may be the party you voted for are elected into government. It may be that the England football team finally get into the groove and go all the way in the Euros. It may be a medal haul in the Olympics for team GB. It may be that all the hard work paid off and your exam results are everything you were hoping for.

Leading up to each bright moment of celebration is often a tortuous narrative of toil and trepidation. We are haunted by distrust of politicians of every stripe. We are pained by frustration watching our national team play our national game. We are nervous for athletes who have trained for 4 years for an effort that lasts a few seconds. We are filled with anxiety about whether the answers we scribed under pressure will pass an examiners scrutiny.

Yet even when that moment comes, the moment we have been waiting for, hoping for or even living for, even if it is everything we have dreamed it would be, it will come and it will pass. We will look back on it for longer than we looked forward to it. It may even fade and seem less significant than it did before it happened.

Anticipation and fulfilment are essential human experiences. God made us to look forward to glory. In the moments of joy we experience in our earthly lives we get a glimpse of the pure joy that God intends for us and designed us to long for. As Paul says in 1 Corinthians 13:12, "we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror, but then we shall see face to face." We can celebrate our most uplifting experiences in the present knowing that they are a foretaste of our eternal hope.

Whatever we might celebrate as our own achievements are in fact God's blessings, and we must acknowledge that he is the giver of our natural gifts and opportunities. When we rejoice over our successes, we must give the glory to God and we will find more joy in doing so.

When our eyes are opened more specifically to the power of the gospel, the movement of the Holy Spirit and abundance of God's grace in the present, however, we experience a deeper and more lasting joy. We find something we can celebrate that is truly fulfilling. It will not fade, it will grow. God's kingdom is unstoppable.

We can celebrate what God has done for the very reason that God has done it and not us. There is no danger of falling into pride and self-satisfaction. There is no inevitable slide into corruption or looming cloud of failure. We need not be cynical, we need not be tentative, we not remind ourselves of our own futility, for God is faithful and he keeps his promises.

I think we have many special reasons to celebrate what God has done and is continuing to do this summer. It was an extraordinary privilege to gather for the baptism of Ellie, Kevin and Vincent on the last Sunday in June. As we clapped and cheered and then sang praise to the Lord it was truly joyful. It is amazing to see more and more people joining us, seemingly blown in by the wind of the Holy Spirit, especially younger people in our evening service. And I have found it inspiring to hear the testimonies of older people who have seen God at work through their whole lives bearing fruit that has lasted as they have served in our church. All glory to God for the wonder of his grace.

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
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