



Cheadle
PARISH

In Touch

December 2024

THE UPPER ROOM CAFÉ
RECTORY GARDENS THE HIGH STREET
ST MARY'S CHURCH
TRINITY CHURCH CHEADLE GREEN

**VICTORIAN
CHRISTMAS
MARKET**

FIRST SATURDAY
IN
DECEMBER

11AM
- 4PM

Funded by UK Government
GREATER MANCHESTER
DOING THINGS DIFFERENTLY

Ambitious Stockport,
creating opportunities
for everyone

STOCKPORT
METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

Cheadle
PARISH

Christmas Markets

Saturday 7th December, 11am - 4pm

We're delighted to be re-launching our Christmas Market this year! We know this is something that is much loved in our local community and a great event for all ages.

Thank you to everyone who has signed up to help with the Christmas Markets. We would encourage all our volunteers to dress up in Victorian costume. If you would like to borrow clothes you can come and visit our Victorian wardrobe in the Upper Room, Ashfield room:

Wednesday 4th: 7-8pm,

Thursday 5th: 6-7pm,

Friday 6th: 11am-1pm,

Saturday 7th: 9-11am

Christmas

In Cheadle Parish

Sunday 15/12

5pm - Blue Christmas - St C

6:30pm - Youth - led Christmas service - St M

Find out more on
our websites:

St Mary's Church



Saturday 21/12

3pm - Nativity and Carols in Jubilee Park

Sunday 22/12

10am - Nativity Service - St M

10:30am - Nativity Service - St C

6pm & 8pm - Carols by Candlelight - St M

6:30pm - Carols by Candlelight - St C

Christmas Eve - Tuesday - 24/12

3pm & 5pm - Christingle - St M

4pm - Christingle - St C

8pm - Communion Service - St M

11:30pm - Midnight Communion - St C

St Cuthbert's Church



Christmas Day - Wednesday - 25/12

10am - Christmas Day Worship - St M

10:30am - Christmas Day Worship - St C



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Sharing Good News

Many will have seen the new CSB bibles in St Mary's which were very kindly donated by the family of the late Betty Hampson – you may be wondering what happened to the old red NIV bibles? – they were passed on St Stephen's church in Prenton near Birkenhead who were delighted to receive them – they previously had very few copies of the same bible in their pews and this provision now enables many more of their congregation to have sight of God's word – Matt the vicar writes:

"When I got here there were pew bibles, but not a great version. I managed to source some of the same NIVs you have just replaced, but not enough for all the seats. Having your old stock is a huge help, and it is great to know that as we ask people week by week to grab a bible and give out the page, there's less of an excuse for anyone to miss out on delving into God's word together – I've repeatedly prayed here, from Isaiah 55, that like the rain which waters the ground, God's word would not return empty."

Thanks be to God we have been able to share Good News with the people of Prenton



Primary Focus

Mark Tomlinson's Primary Focus Prayer letter is now available.

If you don't normally get it and would like to go on the mailing list, please speak with Mark or contact him at mark@primaryfocus.org.uk

Tracy's retirement

Tracy, one of our caretaker/cleaners in the Upper Room is retiring at the end of the year. It is with great sadness that we see Tracy go as she has been a wonderful and key part of the team that keeps everything running smoothly in the Upper Room.

We will still be seeing Tracy around though, as while she is stopping her role as an employee of the PCC, she isn't planning to leave church. Please keep her in your prayers at this time of change in her life. We're having coffee and cake in the café to say thank you and farewell to Tracy on Monday 16th December at 10.30am in the café, please join us if you can.



If you would like to contribute to the church's farewell gift to Tracy, please follow this link or scan the QR code. <https://givealittle.co/c/1Q0b5wOMx4EV3HsFG9W8UU>



Parish Weekend Away 2025



Join us for a parish-wide weekend away at Quinta 13th-15th June 2025!

For more information and to secure your place follow the link below:

<https://stmaryscheadle.churchsuite.com/events/usizf2dl>



To guarantee a place, please sign up by Christmas. Any questions, contact churchweekendaway@cheadle.org.uk

Carol Singing

There are lots of opportunities for carol singing this Christmas! We would love you to join us for the markets on the 7th Dec, for the 3 day Pub Carol Crawl, visiting 12 pubs, over the 13-15th Dec, and for the care home carol services at Abney Court and Cheadle Manor. Please do sign up via the links below so we know how many to expect:

[Christmas markets](#) - 7th December, 11am-4pm

[Pub Carol Crawl](#) - 13th-15th December, 8-11pm

[Abney Court](#) - 18th December, 6.30pm

[Cheadle Manor](#) - 20th December, 2pm

All are welcome, any questions email Ian Chidlow on minister@stcuthberts.org



Stories of Hope

We will be running Stories of Hope (looking at encounters with Jesus in the gospels) again in January, and plan to include some encouraging testimony from the last term in a podcast.

Over this next month we would love you to talk to your friends and family about what Jesus means to you at this time of year, and pray that someone will be interested enough to want to know more. Then come along with them for a few weeks to the group! Our vision is not only to provide a safe place for those looking into Jesus and those who have recently met Him, but a resource for you to equip yourself to confidently share stories about who He is and how to encounter Him today. Holy Spirit turns up each time we do that. We look forward to every Wednesday evening in St. Cuthbert's foyer. Please pray for us, and may God bless your seasonal faith sharing!

Dave and Iris Challis

**Join us for a Burns Night
Haggis Supper & Ceilidh!**
Saturday 25th January
in the Upper Room, Cheadle

Supper @ 6.00pm followed by Ceilidh @ 7.30pm

The meal will be haggis, neeps and tatties, with vegan/vegetarian and gluten free alternatives. Cost of meal to be confirmed. The Ceilidh is free to all comers.

**Save the date and look out for details
of how to secure your place in the
near future.**



The Upper Room Cafe

What a privilege it is to work in the Upper Room and witness the effect of the ministry of The Upper Room Cafe. To see God at work in so many ways in our community every day of the week is really exciting. The café team do an amazing job of bringing our local community into the building and into contact with the Christian Gospel. The whole enterprise is run by our co-managers, Becki Bell (whose been part of the team for over 7 years) and Beci Boyd (who's been working in the cafe for nearly 2 years). They are ably assisted by Hector our wonderful chef (who never seems to get flustered and is always kind with our wonderful volunteers) and Sonya the shift supervisor (who is always welcoming and generous). These permanent members of staff oversee an excellent team of zero hours employees and the incredible volunteers. The work done by the Upper Room Café Management Group over the last few years has been pivotal in getting the café to where it is today.

I've seen the ministry grow continually since I started in my role (nearly 7 years now!) and the footfall continues to increase. The impact on members of the community is immeasurable and Becki and Beci's vital role in creating this wonderful Christian haven is wildly different from that of running a regular coffee shop.

The café is the face of the church each weekday and is many people's first impression, not just of Cheadle Parish Church, but the wider Christian church. The culture of welcome and witnessing God's love to whoever comes into the café runs through everything in the café thanks to our managers. The logistics of the Upper Room, it not being on the same site as the church buildings in the parish (which are generally not open much during the week), coupled with the fact that the Parish office is as far as possible from the building's entrance, means the managers are the people who welcome everyone coming into our building. They may be here to meet with the clergy and office staff or bringing deliveries. The café team (mainly the manager on the day) direct people to where they need to be and contact those they've come to visit.



We have streamlined our ordering of everything we need for the life of the church. This is particularly true in relation to hospitality and refreshments, whether for Sunday services, groups that meet during the week, tuck for the youth groups, etc. This makes sense and saves time and money. The managers and chef make sure all these needs are supplied, so that as a church we can always be hospitable providing a cup of tea or coffee, milk, sugar, biscuits etc. Having all orders come into the building in this way also allows us to keep track of food allergen issues and ensures we meet legal requirements for food safety. The kitchen holds a level 5 food safety rating, which the managers are responsible for maintaining along with providing hospitality support for other ministries.

A large part of the café staff's responsibilities is working with the many amazing volunteers who serve here. This has become an even larger part of the managers role, as over the past year our links with Pure Innovations and The Growth Company have flourished (both these organisations work to get people into, or back into work). A cafe would not normally work with as many people with mental health issues, those who struggle to be in employment, young people with various learning needs, but it's not a normal café! The training, encouragement and equipping, loving and caring of these people on the fringes of society is really powerful witness to Gods love for them and has become a bigger part of cafe ministry.

They in turn bring such life and vibrancy into the cafe and many skills. The fact that most volunteer once or twice a week means we are able to build up relationships with them and get to know them. It takes a significant amount of time to support and train these new volunteers. We have had 4 people recently who have gained employment after working with us for a while, building them up and showing them people care for them. It meets a very practical need.

Then there are the customers, without whom, none of this would happen. The café staff, including those on the café ministry team, strive not only to offer great hospitality and service, but to share Jesus with them too. The managers always have an eye on how the café can love people and nourish them with the gospel as well as serve good food and drink. We have a fabulous team doing something very different from that of a regular cafe. ***It is far more a ministry whilst running a cafe than running a cafe with a bit of evangelism on the side.*** Please hold them in your prayers, and if you want to get practically involved whether it's serving food and drink or getting alongside people, please contact upperroomcafe@cheadle.org.uk or speak to one of the office team.

Jon Drayton, Operations Manager, Cheadle Parish PCC

Christmas Story Trail

The Christmas Story Trail staged by Bible Encounter Trust is happening again this time back at St George's in Poynton. Primary school groups will be visiting during the day, but there are some evening sessions which are open to the community.

Please pray for all the children who will be visiting and if you would like to attend their the evening sessions, you can sign up here: <https://www.poyntonparishchurch.org/christmas-story-trail>



Restored Lives Cheadle 2025

For all those who have experienced separation and divorce it is easy to wonder what the future is going to be like and whether things can ever get better.

The next Restored Lives Cheadle Course will begin on Thursday 30th January from 7pm until 9.30pm, and will be an opportunity for those booked on to meet with others who have gone through this experience personally, and learn how to recover from the breakdown of a serious relationship.

The eight-week course will offer support and teach skills which will help to give hope for the future.

There will be light refreshments throughout the evening.

If you know of anyone who would benefit from attending the course, please let them know the details, by taking a flyer from the Upper Room Café or church or directing them to our website where they can book a place.

The cost of £6 per week for attending, includes all eight sessions, refreshments and all course materials

(We do not want this to be a barrier so if cost is an issue, or you have any other questions, please contact us as support may be available. All enquiries are treated confidentially)

To book a place on the course go to

<https://stmarysheadle.churchsuite.com/events/ctq934ak>

For more information or to discuss the course further, contact Mark & Helen at restoredlives@headle.org.uk

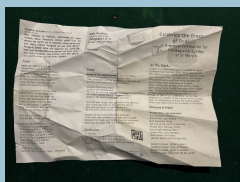
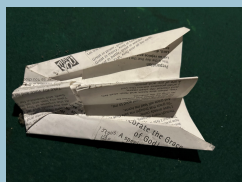


Cast your eyes to the heavens

If while in church you gaze up to the heavens, you may notice the beautiful ceiling is better illuminated than it has been of late.

For a while now, none of the lights in the clerestory (top) windows on the North side of the building (left when looking toward the front of church from the Tower room) have been working. Also some of the clerestory lights on the South side were also inoperative.

We have started the process of getting the church rewired, which is going to be a big and expensive task, however, it is likely to be the middle of next year before this work starts. Thanks to the brave and generously provided skills of Colin Bradley we have been able to get these lights working again as an interim measure. Do look at the ceiling and admire its beauty.



We also found some lost property on one of the window sills. If it was yours and you want to reclaim it please speak to Jon Drayton 😊



Vacancy for a Volunteer Debt Coach with CAP

All Hallows Church, in partnership with Fords Lane Church are seeking to appoint a volunteer debt coach to work alongside the Debt Centre Manager as part of the Stockport Christians Against Poverty Debt Centre. The debt coach will be a volunteer role for 8 hours per week (one full day or two half days), focused on supporting individuals and families in the Stockport area who have contacted CAP for debt help. The debt coach will undertake home visits, gather paperwork and communicate advice prepared by CAP's debt advisors. The coach will also be responsible for working alongside the team of volunteer befrienders who currently support the work in Stockport Debt Centre.

We are looking for someone who is passionate about supporting those in need and who has a heart for sharing their Christian faith with others. There is a genuine occupational requirement for the successful candidate to be a committed Christian. If you would like to chat about what's involved and to find out more, please talk to Rosemary Allen on 07423 353215

For more information please contact: rosemaryallen@capuk.org or Rev Paul Cumming on allhallows.cheadle@gmail.com

The role requires a commitment to 50 hours of training (remote learning) from CAP between Spring training and applicants (if shortlisted and recommended locally) would need to attend a Selection Day and interview with CAP (Northwest location). The role would require an enhanced DBS Disclosure Closing date for applications is Sunday 8th December. Please send in a CV, and covering letter to allhallows.cheadle@gmail.com

Note: there will be a need to complete a CAP application form and return this to CAP



Dates for December

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

Saturday 7th - Victorian Christmas Markets, 11am-4pm

Friday 13th - Carols in the Cafe, 11.30am

Friday 13th-Sunday 15th - Pub Carol Crawl

Saturday 14th

- **In Stitches**, 9am at St Cuthbert's
- **Cheadle Board Room**, 9.30am
- **Starters and Followers Christmas party**, 11am-1pm at the Upper Room
- **St Cuthbert's Ladies Meal**, 7pm at St Cuthbert's

Sunday 15th

- **Blue Christmas**, 5pm at St Cuthbert's
- **Youth Led Christmas service**, 6.30pm at St Marys

Tuesday 17th - Carols in the Cafe, 11.30am

Wednesday 18th - The Big Read, 7.30pm at St Cuthbert's

Thursday 19th

- **BCP Carols and Communion service**, 2.30pm, St Marys
- **Prayer for our country and the world**, 7.30pm at the Southgate's house
- **St Cuthbert's Men's Drinks**, 8pm

Saturday 21st - Nativity and Carols in the Park, 3pm at Jubilee park

Sunday 22nd

- **Family Nativity Service**, 10am at St Mary's, 10.30am at St Cuthbert's
- **Carols by Candlelight**, 6pm and 8pm at St Mary's, 6.30pm at St Cuthbert's

Tuesday 24th

- **Christingle**, 3pm and 5pm at St Mary's, 4pm at St Cuthbert's
- **Christmas Eve Communion**, 8pm at St Marys, 11.30pm at St Cuthbert's

Wednesday 25th - All-age Christmas Celebration, 10am at St Mary's, 10.30am at St Cuthbert's

Sunday 29th - No evening service at St Marys

Dates for January

Thursday 9th - Men's pub night, 8pm

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

Tuesday 14th - Ladies Coffee and Cake evening, 7pm in the Upper Room Cafe

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

Sunday 19th - Confirmation Service, 6.30pm at St Mary's with Bishop Mark

Thursday 23rd - Men's breakfast, 6.45am in the Upper Room Café

Saturday 25th - Burns Night Supper and Ceilidh, 6pm at The Upper Room



Restored Lives

Recovery from Divorce and Separation



The Restored Lives Course Cheadle will begin on:
Thursday 30th January 2025 for 7 sessions, followed by a 'Celebration' on **Thursday 3rd April 2025**, at The **Upper Room Cafe in Cheadle**.

Sessions will begin at 7.00pm and ends at 9.30pm. Refreshments are served throughout the evening.

Contact us: restoredlives@cheadle.org.uk
 OR book direct at: <https://stmarysheadle.churchsuite.com/events/bws9pfzj>
 or telephone us on: 07940567046



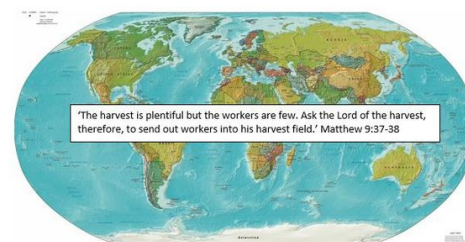
“ THIS COURSE IS THE SINGLE MOST HELPFUL THING I'VE DONE. ”

Mission Slot

Please remember to pray this Christmastime for our Mission Partners and Associates both here in the UK and worldwide – some will be far away from their families and friends – pray that God will be their continued support in the year to come:

Rick and Alanna Creighton and family working in Nigeria, Adam and Nomfi Tomalin in South Africa, Ian and Simea Meldrum

and Daniel and Emily Eduardo in Brazil, Andras and Hajnalka Zambo in Hungary, Simon and Abigail Donahoe in Ireland, Julie Fraser and her work with Bible Encounter Trust, Nick and Gill Hall and their work with Kairos Media Trust, Andy Hawthorne and the Message Trust both in the UK and worldwide, The team at Christians in Schools Trust, Mark Tomlinson with Primary Focus, Paul and Grace Robinson with OMF UK, Natasha Fraser and J P Dao with GFA World, Rob and Sarah Munro and the Ebbsfleet Diocese and Josias and Danielle de Souza at St Francis church in Luton.



Are you a scrooge or a Santa?

I confess that I am a scrooge about packaging. Why do so many products have to be encased in an impenetrable shell of plastic, cardboard and wires? But what do we do when we get them home? We wrap them in even more packaging! I would like to take a bag of tools to the shop with me, and after paying for the items, remove the packaging there and then and throw it on the floor. Imagine if everyone did that. Do you think they would get the message?

Christmas itself has been packaged up so much that it feels like we have to work hard to get to the stunning gift that God has given to us in Jesus Christ. But there is an even bigger problem when we unwrap all the packaging and the gift in middle is not Jesus. It's something else – like being nice to each other for a whole day, or seeing people you don't normally see, or the look on the kids' faces when they get their presents.

Have you ever been delivered a massive box from Amazon, and when you open it up, the thing inside is really tiny? But imagine there was nothing at all in the middle of the packaging, and that no-one seemed to notice, or care because they liked the packaging so much. How many people are celebrating the packaging rather than the gift? The decorations, the parties and the presents. But they are missing the stunning gift of Christmas, which is Jesus Christ.

It is the greatest story ever – there is no story like this story. But maybe, because it seems so familiar, we don't know it as well as we think. I wonder what Caesar Augustus thought about the Jews who wanted to be free from the Roman Empire. I wonder what went through Joseph's mind when Mary, his intended, told him she was pregnant by the Holy Spirit. I wonder what went through old Simeon's mind when he held in his arms the one God had promised through all the prophets. I wonder what went through king Herod's mind when a caravan of wise men rocked up looking for a new king.

Caesar Augustus decided to record all the people in the Empire, to assert his power and collect taxes. An exercise of power, maybe, but a greater power was at work. Joseph was going to quietly give Mary the elbow, but then an angel intervened. He said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." Because of the Census, they went to Bethlehem – Jesus would be born in the town of David. Simeon was beside himself with joy when Jesus was presented to him at the temple, aged just 8 days old. He sang a song of praise to God. "Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all people." Herod didn't want a rival king, so he gave the order to murder every baby boy in the land – one of the most heinous atrocities in all history. Joseph and Mary escaped to Egypt, which like so many details in this story, was a fulfilment of a prophetic prediction, this time by Hosea.

Could there be more drama? Could there be more at stake? Nothing or no-one has had such a big impact on history as the birth of Christ. Take the time to think again about this story, and think again about this birth.

Scrooge or Santa then? St Nicholas, the original Santa Claus, was a Jesus superfan. He was on the Council of Nicea, and he is famed for punching someone for saying Jesus wasn't the Son of God.
So be a Santa but maybe hold back on the punching!

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 Trainees	Beth Pugh	0161 428 8050	beth.pugh@cheadle.org.uk
	Joseph Woolley	0161 428 8050	joe.woolley@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