



Cheadle
PARISH

In Touch

December 2025



Cheadle Victorian Christmas Market

We're delighted to be running our Christmas Market again 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. 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 3rd: 7-8pm,

Thursday 4th and Friday 5th: 9am-3pm,

Saturday 6th: 9-11am

Festival Choir

The festival choir will once again be singing at the Carols by Candlelight services at St Mary's on Sunday 21st December, 6pm & 8pm.

Choir rehearsals will be on 8th and 15th December at 7.30-9.30pm in the church. Everyone is welcome to join, there are no auditions! For more information, speak to Vera Macleod



Blue Christmas

Sunday 7th December, 5pm at St Cuthbert's Church

St Cuthbert's Church invites you to a short Carol Service with a difference.

In the recent past, many people have suffered the loss of a loved one, or loss of health or job, and do not feel like celebrating Christmas in the joyful way they may have done in the past.

Our "Blue Christmas" service will be quieter and more reflective, giving time to remember loved ones and happier times, lighting candles, praying and listening to comforting words and music.

For more information, please contact Tricia Berry on 0161 485 3250 or Ruth Ormiston on 0161 282 2824



Christmas in Cheadle Parish

St Mary's Church,
The High Street,
Cheadle, SK8 1PX
www.cheadle.org.uk

St Cuthbert's Church,
Cuthbert Road,
Cheadle, SK8 2DT
www.stcuthberts.org



Sunday, 7 December 2025

- 5pm Blue Christmas @ St Cuthbert's

Sunday, 14 December 2025

- 3pm Tree of Light service @ St Mary's
- 4:30pm All In service @ St Cuthbert's
- 6:30pm Youth-led service @ St Mary's

Thursday, 18 December 2025

- 2:30pm Carols & Communion @ St Mary's

Saturday, 20 December 2025

- 3pm Nativity in the Park @ Jubilee Park

Sunday, 21 December 2025

- 10am All-Age Nativity service @ St Mary's
- 10:30am Nativity service @ St Cuthbert's
- 6pm & 8pm Carols by Candlelight @ St Mary's
- 6:30pm Carols service @ St Cuthbert's

Christmas Eve, 24 December 2025

- 3pm & 5pm Christingle @ St Mary's
- 4pm Christingle @ St Cuthbert's
- 8pm Communion service @ St Mary's
- 11:15pm Midnight Communion @ St Cuthbert's

Christmas Day, 25 December 2025

- 10am Christmas Day service @ St Mary's
- 10:30am Christmas Day service @ St Cuthbert's



Glad Tidings Christmas Desserts

The Upper Room
Thursday 4th December - 7pm



Come along to share favourite Christmas desserts and recipes. There will be hot drinks, non-alcoholic mulled wine and a short talk.

Talk by Lesley Ashworth: Ordinary Hospitality

We'll be looking at what the Bible has to say about hospitality: what it is, what stops us doing it and how to make it easy!

£5 per person



Bookings can be made via churchsuite or speak to Jude Wheatley or contact the church office 0161 428 8050
Please pay at the time of signing up



Christmas Cards

There are Christmas cards with a picture of Cheadle Parish church 100 years ago being sold in aid of the persecuted church - 'Open Doors UK & Ireland'.

Happy to deliver cards required to local addresses. £10 for 20 cards pictured below.

Please see Sue Southgate for orders.



Pub Carol Crawl

Join us as we carol sing in 10 pubs in Cheadle over three nights this Christmas. Come along on 12th to 14th Dec starting at the following pubs:

- Friday 12th: The Crown, 6.45pm
- Saturday 13th: The Red Lion, 6.45pm
- Sunday 14th: The George and Dragon, 6.45pm

If you have any queries, contact Jonathan Crossland on 07518041420 or by email at jcrossland1@btinternet.com



Christmas Wreath Making

With 4 weeks till Christmas over 40 people met in the Upper Room Cafe on Thursday 27th November in the afternoon and evening to make Christmas wreaths. As we celebrated the creativity that God the creator gave us every single wreath was different and beautiful. We thought about how a wreath is a circle, a symbol of eternity and we used evergreens, both pointing to the everlasting life and hope we can have through Jesus. Traditionally wreaths were often made of holly representing the crown of thorns Jesus wore on the cross, with the red berries reminding us of the blood he shed. The Romans used wreaths as a symbol of victory, we believe that Jesus has the victory over death. Christmas wreaths are hung as a welcome to our homes over the festive period, Jesus welcomes all to come and meet with Him. All those who attended mostly from our local community were invited to come to church over Christmas and to attend the Christmas market. Please pray that those who came will be challenged to think about the real meaning of Christmas and why Jesus came to earth.



- Beci Boyd



All In Christmas Celebration

This year we're trying something new for Christmas at St Cuthbert's.

"All In" is our new accessible service, specifically put together for those of all ages who engage with church in a different way to the usual Sunday morning style, for whatever reason.

There will be crafts, interactive worship, videos, singing, prayers and a chance to think about finding our hope in Jesus together.

Come and join in as much or as little as you're able. There will be space to sit quietly if needed, and the worship and Bible story will be signed. We hope this is a place you'll be able to come and be yourself and engage with the great hope that Jesus brings in your own way.



Please do join us from 4:30pm Sunday 14th December for craft, or from 5pm for the more structured worship. It would be wonderful to share in the joy of Christmas with you.

Ian Chidlow and Beth Pugh

Project Sanctuary

For over 500 St Mary's has stood as a beacon of faith and fellowship in Cheadle, in fellowship with St Cuthbert's for 140 years – places where generations have worshipped, celebrated, and found comfort and hope. Our two churches are more than just buildings; they are the heart of our spiritual and community life, as well as allowing us to reach out to our local community. However, to ensure our churches continue to serve future generations, we must undertake essential renewal work to ensure they remain usable. Current systems are coming to the end of their useful life and may soon fail if nothing is done, leaving us without heat, light, or power, rendering the churches unusable. Which means that:

- St. Mary's requires modern electrics and lighting for safety and sustainability,
- both churches need a new heating system to keep our spaces warm
- and ground works are needed at St Mary's for heat pumps and solar panels on the roof to embrace renewable energy and being wise stewards of our resources in years to come.

But these improvements are not just practical. Our vision for this work is to ensure that, for years to come, our church buildings remain a welcoming place of light and warmth where faith, heritage and community meet. Guided by our vision to Pray, Rest and Grow in Christ, our aim is to ensure our churches become even more of a place of worship and fellowship at the heart of the village, a light that reflects God's glory to all. The full cost of renewal will be in the region of £400-500,000, which is a significant amount of money – but we also believe that nothing is impossible for our God. Support is being sought through grants, partnerships and local fundraising – but as a church family, we have the most vital part of play. Whether through prayer, volunteering, or financial gifts and loans, every contribution will help keep our churches at the centre of village life for generations to come.

More information of the work involved and the costings, as well as details of how to give and get involved will be shared with you in the New Year. However, for now, first and foremost, can we please ask you to pray and thoughtfully consider how you might be able to help. Thank you for your faith, your generosity, and your love for St Mary's and St Cuthbert's.

With gratitude and hope, PCC Finance Group



Restored Lives Cheadle 2026

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 Tuesday 13th January from 7pm until 9.30pm, in the Moseley Hall 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 of sandwiches and cake 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 and 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/f0w5ckfu> For more information or to discuss the course further, contact Mark & Helen at restoredlives@cheadle.org.uk



Stories of Hope

Our groups for enquirers and those growing in faith restart again in mid-January and will run until the end of March 2026. One group has been looking at people who encountered Jesus, and two groups considering What is the Church? There are around 3 times the number doing so 18 months ago and we welcomed a lot of new people this term. There's a great buzz in the Upper Room as we all meet!

It's said "The only evidence of life is growth" we are excited about the growth in understanding, faith, and awareness of God more than numbers. We closed the term with some disciple-making training in how to tell our faith stories clearly and it was so good to go through ways of sharing our story in two minutes, and a really simple illustration of the gospel. Our vision is for more than a Bible study, it's multiplication, because that's the Great Commission. There's a great partnership with Open Church, from where we have seen new enquirers come this term. We rely on every member of the congregation to play their part in praying, sharing with not-yet-Christians, welcoming new people and in encouraging the team – you can all help, and the harvest is plentiful!

Praise God for what He has done and will do. We start again with fresh themes on Wednesday 14th January at 7.45pm in the Upper Room.

For 6 weeks starting on Thursday 8th January, there is an additional opportunity to come to Stories of Hope. This is a short series for women of all ages between 10 & 11 am in the Bulkeley Room (2nd floor) of the Upper Room. There is no need to book – just turn up on the day. Tea and coffee will be provided. We can also provide and simple activities for a small number of children. If you are coming with a child/children, it would be helpful to know so we can have everything ready – but if you decide on the morning – just turn up. For further information, contact the church office in the first instance: churchoffice@cheadle.org.uk

Dave & Iris Challis and the Stories of Hope Team

Dates for December

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

Thursday 4th - Glad Tidings Ladies Christmas event, 7pm in the Upper Room

Saturday 6th - Victorian Christmas Market, 11am-4pm

Tuesday 9th - Mission Partners Prayer Meeting, 8pm at Trish Wells' house

Thursday 11th - Men's pub night, 8pm

Saturday 13th

- **In Stitches**, 9am at St Cuthbert's
- **Cheadle Board Room**, 9.30am in the Upper Room
- **Starters and Followers Christmas Party**, 10.30am
- **St Cuthbert's Ladies Meal**, 7pm at St Cuthbert's

Thursday 18th

- **Abney Court care home carols**, 6.30pm
- **Prayer for our country and the world**, 7.30pm at the Southgate's house

Friday 19th - Cheadle Manor Carol Service, 2pm

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

Sunday 28th - NO EVENING SERVICE at St Mary's

See front page for details of Christmas Services

Dates for January

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

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

Tuesday 13th - Mission Partners Prayer Meeting, 8pm

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

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

Saturday 24th - Burns Night Supper and Ceilidh

Monday 26th - PCC meeting, 8pm at the Upper Room

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

Saturday 31st - Ladies Breakfast

Sound Holidays

Exciting news - Opportunities to register for Sound Holidays in 2026 are open.

Go to www.soundholidays.org.uk for more details

Age 8-11's -The Buzz

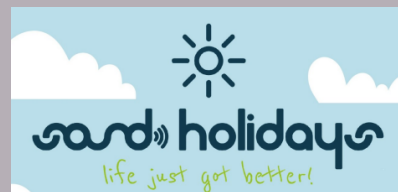
Dates: Tuesday 26th May to Friday 29th May 2026

Venue: Quinta or Dallam

Register interest [here](#)

Age 11-14's

Details are just being finalised, we will be in contact soon but please check the website for updates.



Age 14-18's - The Vibe

Dates: Sunday 26 July - Saturday 1 August 2026

Venue: Lancaster Grammar School.

Register interest [here](#)

Sermon Archive

You may have noticed that the number of St Mary's sermons available to listen to on the website has increased. If not, why not take a look at this amazing resource of Christian teaching? Hedge Smith has been working away digitising sermons from antiquity, some of them on cassette tape! Paul Johnson then uploads them to the [website](#).

So far recordings that go back to 2007 have been uploaded and themed, but can be searched by date also.

A big thanks to those making this possible.

- Jon Drayton

Mission Partners

As Christmas approaches please pray for all our Mission links - some individuals are far away from their loved ones others less so - Do pray for each person/organisation as they share the "Good News" that Jesus the Saviour is alive.

Pray for Rick & Alanna Creighton, Dean & Paula Finnie, Adam & Nomfi Tomalin Ed & Kathy Burrows all working in Africa, Ian & Simea Meldrum and Daniel & Emily Eduardo working in Brazil, Natasha and JP supporting projects in both Africa and Asia, Nick & Gill connecting with peoples across Central Asia, Paul & Grace Robinson also supporting Christians in the Far East, Andras & Hajnalka Zambo in Hungary and Simon & Abigail Donohoe in Ireland - Please remember those too who are working within the UK - Mark Tomlinson, Julie Fraser and Bible Encounter Trust, the team at Christians In Schools Trust and Andy Hawthorne and everyone at the Message Trust. Remember too Bethan, Reuben and Chris supporting Christian organisations here in the north of the UK.



Jesus vs AI

As temperatures drop and days shorten, and as the load we carry seemingly weighs heavier each day, the festive season breaks out in colourful lights and familiar melodies. It evokes a sense of anticipation that lifts the spirits, but what exactly are we looking for?

Whether it is disillusionment with the state of the world, or a desire for something beyond this world, many people have been finding their way to church in recent times. Christmas is a very good time to do that - and I am praying that many more come this month.

Over this last year, I have had some amazing conversations with people who have started to come to church for the first time in their lives, at least willingly. Some are genuinely searching for meaning. Many have already learned something of the message of the gospel online or started reading the Bible for themselves.

Previously, when talking to people about the Christian faith, the questions were about credibility or evidence. Now, every newcomer I meet just want to know more about Jesus and about what the Bible teaches.

I believe that this is an extraordinary move of the Holy Spirit. And the reason that I am convinced of this is because people are coming to church to seek God. They are coming to be among his people, because our relationship with God is not simply vertical; it is not simply an individual relationship with God. Neither is it simply about knowing and believing truth, it is about relational expression of that truth in a loving fellowship.

You can find out anything you want in seconds by asking questions through an AI platform. No longer do we have to trawl through webpage after webpage looking for answers. AI can access and assimilate massive amounts of data and provide a simple, concise summary. So you can get all the answers you might want about Christianity and the Bible. It's not always accurate, but it's impressive.

If you can access the accumulated knowledge of most of the world through AI, what more do we need? Or, to put it another way, why do we long for something more?

That brings us to the message of Christmas.

What Jesus brought to the world wasn't the best generative interpretation of training data, but the very presence of God. He isn't the summation of what is in the world but the genius behind it.

AI gets things wrong - it relies on what humans have created. Jesus is perfect - he is the creator. The word that was in the beginning with God (John 1:1) became flesh and dwelt among us (John 1:14)

The mind of the world can be accessed through an AI platform, but in Jesus, the mind behind the universe came in human form.

Those who believe in Jesus become one with him through the unity of the Holy Spirit; the church is the body of Christ. We come together to meet with him in each other.

In him and through each other, we find what we are looking for.

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