

## St. Matt's Midweek Update – 17<sup>th</sup> September 2020



It's 6 months, almost to the day, since we were told we would need to stop meeting together as church. Looking back at all the emails from that week, it was such a fast moving situation and even when we were told to stop holding services, we didn't know that within a week we would be in complete lock-down and unable to access the church building at all.

It's good to look back and reflect on all that has happened, and process where we have come from and where we are going. I am amazed at how far we have come with live streaming our services, and just yesterday I was talking to someone who hardly ever came to church but now watches every Sunday and will hopefully do Alpha. God has been working through this time and will carry on working as we move forward into the unknown again.

We are heading into an autumn / winter where lots of people are expecting cases to rise, and we feel that we, as the church, need to be keeping to the guidelines that are set out. It's frustrating, especially when lots of things felt like they were getting back to normal, but we must look after ourselves and others, and it is with this at the forefront of our minds that all our plans are made (or cancelled!) at the moment.

A couple of verses from Psalm 23 for the week ahead:

"The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.  
He makes me lie down in green pastures,  
He leads me beside quiet waters,  
He refreshes my soul.  
He guides me along the right paths for His name's sake.  
Even though I walk through the darkest valley,  
I will fear no evil, for You are with me;  
Your rod and your staff, they comfort me."

### Notices

**Sunday** - this Sunday we will be in church and online at 10am. We will be having communion at the end of the service in church, so do bear with us as we introduce something else into the service and work out the best way to do it!

We also now need to be sticking to the new law that says that social gatherings of more than 6 people are not allowed. So, after church, we will need to leave the building and move away much more quickly so that there are not lots of people gathering in the garden. Chris will give more instructions on Sunday to those in church.

**Macmillan coffee morning** - having spoken to the Diocese, and with the rule of 6 in place, we won't be able to hold anything for Macmillan in the church grounds as a church. Rosemary and some of her team would still like to try and raise some money for Macmillan, so they will be selling cakes from their driveways in Newlands Road next Friday morning (25th September). We will let you know of any other locations of cake sales as Rosemary works out how it will work!

**Revive** - our next Revive meeting for women is on Monday 28th September at 8pm on zoom. We will be hearing from 3 women about their journey over the last 6 months and will also have time to worship and pray together.

**Mission Prayer Meeting** - this will be on Tuesday 22nd September at 2pm on zoom. It's a chance to hear updates from our mission partners and to pray for them. Please let me know if you'd like to join, and I'll send you the zoom link.

**Photos for our next family service** - our next family service is on 4th October, and we will be getting a couple of slideshows together. One will be anyone who has had a birthday in September.

As it's our Harvest service, we would also like photos of anything (plant wise!) you have grown this year - it could be the thing you are most proud of, the biggest vegetable, something you have grown for the first time. Please email your photos into the office, or WhatsApp them to me.

**Alpha** - Alpha will be starting in a couple of weeks on Tuesday evenings on zoom. Do invite anyone you know to join or sign up yourself if you would like to do the course. All the details and sign up are here <https://stmatts.churchsuite.co.uk/events/hpmk9gjl>

I think that's all for now - sorry it's so long today!

Have a good week and be in touch if you need any support.