

St. Matt's Midweek Update – 20th May 2022



How is your week going?

I wonder if you look around you sometimes and feel overwhelmed by the amount of need there is? I know I do. In the news, in our community, even in our church and in our families. Sometimes it can feel like there are too many people who need help, or the needs are too big for us to deal with.

But rather than becoming despondent and doing nothing, let's be inspired by the story of the starfish...

One day a man was walking along the beach when he noticed a boy picking something up and gently throwing it into the ocean. Approaching the boy, he asked, "What are you doing?" The youth replied, "Throwing starfish back into the ocean. The surf is up and the tide is going out. If I don't throw them back, they'll die."

"Son," the man said, "don't you realize there are miles and miles of beach and hundreds of starfish? You can't make a difference!"

After listening politely, the boy bent down, picked up another starfish, and threw it back into the surf. Then, smiling at the man, he said..." I made a difference for that one."

There are lots of slightly different versions of that story, but the message is the same. We can't help everyone, but the one or two people we can help will feel supported and loved. And if we all try and give our time and support to a couple of people, then we will make a difference to them, and collectively we can make a huge difference in our communities.

You *can* make a difference!

Notices



This Sunday...

This Sunday at our 10am service we will be looking at our first circle in the Growing in Circles series, and Linde will be speaking to us.

There will be groups for all our children and youth - they will start in church and go out after the first song.

Anyone in secondary school will be in the youth office with Natalie and Mary. Primary school aged children will be going up to the Bethel Hall for lots of fun and games. And the church centre will be set up with toys for any parents with preschool children, with the service playing on the TV in there.



Seven this Sunday...

We will also be having our 7pm service this Sunday, for anyone who would like to come along. Seven is a relaxed cafe-style service, with more worship.

Jubilee Family Service...

Can you help with any of the following for our Jubilee service on 5th June?

- making jubilee cupcakes for the service
- red, white and blue bunting
- remnants of red, white or blue fabric
- nice teapots (to have flowers in on tables)
- flowers / foliage to go in the teapots
- royal dressing up clothes for children - things like capes, crowns, knights helmets, princess dresses

If you can provide or let us borrow any of these things, **please can you let me know this weekend** if possible, so we know what we still need to get hold of? Thank you!



Embark 21 - Adults Emotional and Mental Wellbeing...

Embark 21 starts a new Green 'n' Gro project, on Wednesday 25th May 11am-1pm (and fortnightly thereafter) at Gallards Almshouses, corner of Yew Tree Road / London Road, Southborough, TN4 0NB. Involves very light gardening and planting of seeds, flowers & herbs. New members always welcome and great way to make new friends.

If any church members have any used shears, hand trowels, shovels or spare garden pots, they would be much appreciated.

Contact Jill Mon-Fri on 07841 375949 or send message via our free contact form on the website www.embark21.co.uk

All our midweek groups will be running next week as usual, but then they will stop for a week over half term (30th May - 3rd June).

Have a good weekend, and we hope to see you at one of our services,