

St. Matt's Midweek Update – 27th January 2023



How has your week been? I don't know about you, but I find this time of year really hard. January goes on forever, it's dark and cold and I feel tired and worn down.

I really didn't know what to write this morning, but I know that there are lots of us who are feeling far from God, or doubting where He is in all the mess and trouble we see around us, or just not feeling the enthusiasm for our faith which we once felt.

I've been trying to get back to reading the Lectio365 app daily readings, and this morning I read the one from yesterday. It was about Jesus appearing to his disciples on the mountain after he had been raised from the dead and giving them the commission to go and make disciples of all nations. But there was one verse that really struck me from the passage, which I hadn't noticed before.

Matthew 28:17 says, "When they saw him (Jesus), they worshipped him; but some doubted."

That verse really jumped out at me. The disciples had followed Jesus for 3 years and learnt from him, they had watched him die, and now they had seen him alive again. They were probably feeling all sorts of emotions and may well have been worn out by it all. Even after all that time with Jesus, some of them had doubts, but they still did a couple of things which I think we can take for ourselves. They still showed up on the mountain to see Jesus, and they still worshipped him.

You may be in a place where you can't even think about doing those things, but I really believe that God just wants us to show up. Sometimes all we can do is to say "God I need you" or "God where are you in all this" or even "I can't do this any more God", but that is enough. In reaching out to Him in the smallest of ways, we are showing up.

I also think that there is something powerful in worship, even when we feel far away from God or when we are doubting whether He is there. It's another way of showing up. We don't have to feel anything amazing or hear from God through it, but by worshiping we are acknowledging God and who He is.

The other encouragement I got from the passage, was that Jesus didn't just commission those disciples who were on fire for him, he commissioned all eleven, even the ones who were doubting. God loves all of us, whatever place we are in right now. He can use us whatever place we are in, and he will never give up on us.

"And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Matthew 28:20.

Notices



This Sunday...

This Sunday we just have our 10am service, and we are carrying on our series 'Walking with Jesus'.

We will have groups for children and youth this week, so we look forward to seeing you.

Next Sunday is the first Sunday of the month, so we will have our 8am communion service as well as a family service at 10am.



Knitting Hub is on tomorrow morning (Saturday 28th Jan) in the church centre, from 10.30am - 12pm. It is open to anyone, whether you can knit or not!

All our normal groups are meeting this week during the week - see our calendar for more details <https://www.stmattschurch.org.uk/whats-on/>



Men's get-together - Saturday 4th February

Kevin and Graham are arranging a get-together for a Brewery tour at Cellar Head Brewing Company in Flimwell and would like to invite the men of the church to join them. cellarheadbrewing.com
Cost £15 for the tour which includes beer tasting. Indian food truck (VW camper van!) will be turning up for those of you wanting to purchase something to eat.

We are meeting there at 12 noon for a pre-tour beer then our tour will start at 1.15pm.
To confirm your booking on to the tour please contact the church office on office@stmattschurch.org.uk

Volunteering

Just a reminder, if you are still thinking about serving at church, that these are the areas where we could still use some help...

- Deeper on Mondays 3.30pm - 5pm for school years 3-6 - at least one more person once a month
- Baby and Toddler group on Thursdays 9.30am - 11am - 1 more person would be helpful
- Sound and visual teams during the 10am services could both use at least one more person on each team. Full training will be given.

Please do be in contact with Chris or I in the church office if you need any help during the week and don't forget our warm space and community larder are running every week if you would like to make use of them.