

St. Matt's Midweek Update – 21st April 2023

How has your week been? Are you back into the routine of term time?

This week I was planning the children's session for Sunday, and it is about Thomas needing to see Jesus and his scars before he could truly believe He had risen from the dead.

Thomas was hearing other people saying that Jesus was alive and that they had seen him. For some reason he wasn't with the disciples when Jesus first appeared to them, and so he did what we all probably do sometimes, and said he needed to see Jesus to believe. He needed some proof!

Jesus then was very gracious and appeared to the disciples again when Thomas was there, so that Thomas could see Him with his own eyes and believe. Jesus may have appeared to Thomas with all the other disciples there as well, so that Thomas had other people to back up what he was seeing. If he was on his own, he may have convinced himself he was just making it up or 'seeing things'!!

I don't know about you, but I often feel a bit like Thomas - I tell God I just need to see something to be sure He is there, or to convince me that He is real. It is very hard to believe in something we can't see.

But, the amazing thing is, there is so much 'proof' around that Jesus is real and is alive and with us today. Mark set out some great arguments for the resurrection on Easter day (you can listen to his talk on You Tube if you missed it). We only have to look at nature, and at the human body and brain to see what God has created. We can see God through people around us showing love and kindness every day. We may be lucky enough to have seen miracles or angels, but if not we can hear the stories of others and read them in the Bible.

It takes faith, but the last thing Jesus said to Thomas once He had appeared to him was...

"Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

Notices



We will be finishing our Walking with Jesus series over the next couple of weeks.

This Sunday we have our normal 10am service, with groups for children and young people.

We also have our 7pm service, which is a bit more relaxed, cafe style, with more worship.

Next Sunday we just have our 10am service. There will be groups for children and youth, but it will be a short service and we will all have to leave quickly at the end, as it is then Dan and Angeli's wedding at 1.30pm. Everyone is welcome to come to the church service and stay for cream tea afterwards.



Knitting hub is on tomorrow morning in the church centre, 10.30am - 12pm. All are welcome.



The next walking hub is happening in a couple of weeks. Instead of holding it on the Saturday, which is the day of the King's coronation, the next walk will be on Monday 8th May, which is a bank holiday. We will meet at 9.30am at the entrance to St Johns Park in Beltring Road (TN4 9UA). We will then go to Hurst Wood to (hopefully) see the bluebells and then finish up at one of the local cafes in St Johns Road. All welcome plus dogs!



The Warm space we have been running over the winter is now evolving into **St. Matt's Community Hub!**

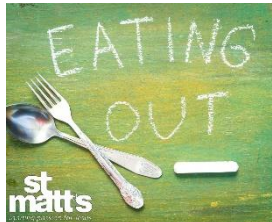
The hub will be open on Wednesdays between 11am and 3pm, for anyone who wants to drop in or stay for the whole time. There will be drinks available, as well as light lunches (things like toasties, beans on toast, etc).

Jill will be running her art activities every Wednesday in the hub, Jane will sometimes have knitting available, and there will be board games as well.

Donations will be welcome for drinks and lunches - whatever people can afford.

APCM - Our annual church meeting will be happening on Monday 15th May, 8pm in church. Everyone is welcome to come to the meeting, but you need to be on the electoral roll to vote or stand for any elected roles.

At this meeting we elect members to the PCC, which is the group of people who are trustees of the church and who help make decisions about how church is run. We welcome any nominations to stand for the PCC, and these are then voted on at the APCM. If you would like to nominate yourself or someone else, please let myself or Chris know in the next couple of weeks.



We are going to have another **"Eating Out at St. Matt's"** meal on Friday 19th May in church.

We know that people's finances are as tight as ever, so this is a chance to eat out for a small cost, and enjoy time with family and friends and delicious home cooked food!

We will get more details out soon, with a sign up link as well.



We will be holding a **Revive breakfast for women** on Saturday 10th June at church, 8.30am - 10.30am.

We haven't had a breakfast for a while, so put this one in your diaries and come and hear Isobel Broadie speak to us. We will have breakfast,

worship, a talk and time for prayer and ministry.

Job opportunity - Someone in our church congregation is looking for some paid help for themselves at home, in the garden, and shopping/banking. It will be a paid job on a temporary basis.

Monday or Wednesday mornings are best. The person must be mobile, reliable, good at keeping in touch (WhatsApp) and be able to read well.

If you are interested in this, please contact me so I can pass your details on.

I think that's all for now!

Have a good weekend and do be in touch if you need any help or support.

St. Matthew's Church Office High Brooms Road Tunbridge Wells Kent TN4 9BW

01892 618108 office@stmattschurch.org.uk www.stmattschurch.org.uk

Registered charity number 1185772