

## St. Matt's Midweek Update – 12<sup>th</sup> May 2023

I hope you have had a good week.

This week I have been touched by small acts of kindness from people - things like a little bunch of flowers on my desk, messages from friends who are regularly checking in with me, a meal cooked for Zara and I, and offers of help if it is needed.

And often these have been from people who are going through their own tough situations at the moment.

It reminded me that the Bible tells us so many times to love one another.

John 13:34-35 says "A new command I give you: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know you are my disciples, if you love one another."

Loving one another as God has loved us means loving everyone around us, not just those who we like or get along with. Jesus often associated with the outcasts and the 'unlovable'. He also told us to love our enemies!

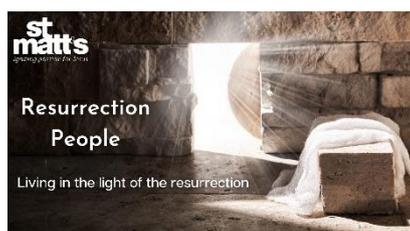
It means loving people as they are, with all their struggles and mess. It means loving people on a daily basis, even when we don't feel like loving them. Because that is how people will see God through us.

Other verses in the Bible that talk about loving each other talk about kindness, forgiveness, freedom, humility, love covering a multitude of sin, love in action, truth, service. There are so many ways that love can be shown and expressed.

The other thing about the verse from John above is that loving one another is a command that Jesus gave. It isn't something we only have to do when we have some spare time, or something that only some of us need to do. It's not that just some of us need to be great at loving others, and some of us can just receive all the acts of love. We are all commanded to love one another.

I don't think that means we should forget our own needs and only ever think about others. I'm also not suggesting that we have the capacity to love everyone all the time. But I think we can learn to live a life of love - to show love in everything we do, by being kind and humble, by seeing others and what they are going through, by giving and sharing. But also to love ourselves at the same time.

### Notices



**This Sunday** we are going to be starting a new sermon series in our morning services, called Resurrection People. We will be looking at the book of Acts, and how we can live in the light of the resurrection.

We have got groups for our children and youth this Sunday, and the church centre is back in use for parents with preschool children.

We also have the **5pm service** this Sunday, which is more traditional. Come from 4.30pm for tea and cake, and then the service starts at 5pm.

## Eating Out at St. Matt's - CANCELLED



I'm afraid we have decided to cancel the Eating Out meal next Friday at church.

With a week to go, we have only got a handful of people signed up - we know that St. Matt's is quite last minute with signing up for things, but with something like this we need to be able to plan and buy food. It also feels like those involved in making the event happen now have a lot on their plates, so we don't want to overload people.

We're sorry for having to cancel - we will try to reschedule something later in the year.

## APCM - our annual church meeting is on Monday 15th May at 8pm in church.

The documents for the meeting are now on the website, including our annual report (with accounts), so do have a look before the meeting if you

can <https://www.stmattschurch.org.uk/2023/04/apcm-2023/>

There are some paper copies of the documents at the back of church this Sunday for those who can't access them electronically.

This meeting is open to anyone who would like to come, so do join us if you are able to.

If you are on the PCC, or voted onto the PCC on Monday, we will have a short meeting straight after the APCM.

Rosemary and her team will be holding their next **coffee morning on Tuesday 16th May** in the church centre, 10.30am - 12pm. There will be drinks and cakes, and also a raffle, books and bric-a-brac stalls. Any money raised will go to the ToCH Hall. Everyone is welcome.



### From Chris and Carole...

We really wanted to thank everyone for all their help with Dan and Angeli's wedding 2 weeks ago - doesn't time fly!

We are so grateful to everyone who contributed to make the day go so smoothly. To those who made scones and helped make the church reception go well. Many of their friends had never experienced a cream tea before and they were amazed by it. Thank

you to everyone who set up and cleared up after the service; such unseen work, but so important. To those who decorated and cleaned the church and made it look so pretty - the flowers looked amazing!

To the people directing traffic so they could get to the right place at the right time!

To the musicians and technicians who made the service sound so good and enabled us to celebrate and worship together - I will never forget the sung 'amen'.

For everyone's kindness and patience as we had the service on a Sunday.

It was such a joy to us to see so many of you there. I was reminded as I saw people the impact each one of you has had on both our children's lives - the baby sitting / childcare, friendship, mentoring, work experience, opportunities to develop and grow, your love and kindness - it was summed up for us in that service. Our church has definitely raised 2 children!

We thank and cherish you all. Chris and Carole.

## Future dates for your diary...

Knitting hub - Saturday 27th May 10.30am - 12pm in the church centre

Walking hub - Saturday 3rd June in the morning

Prayer meeting - Monday 5th June 8pm in the church centre

Revive breakfast - Saturday 10th June 8.30am - 10.30am

YFC Unite evening for youth - Friday 16th June 6pm - 8pm at TW Christian Fellowship



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matt's**  
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to nominate us  
for £1,000!



**Can you nominate us for a chance to win £1000?** All you have to do is click [Movement for Good](#) and fill in your details. The church details will be there already. Thank you!

## Job opportunity

KCC is looking for a school crossing patrol person for St. Matthew's School, for 7.5 hours a week in term time. Have a look here for more

information <https://recruitmenthub.solutions/members/modules/job/detail.php?record=7877>

## Unlock Walk photos

If you would like to see some photos from the Unlock sponsored walk that a few church members did recently, please have a look on the noticeboard in the church centre. Thanks to Pat Sexton for taking and printing them!

If you need any help or support, please do get in touch with us in the church office.  
Have a good weekend.