

## St. Matt's Midweek Update – 19<sup>th</sup> May 2023



I hope you have had a good week and have managed to enjoy some of the sun and warmth.

In the church calendar, yesterday was Ascension Day, when we reflect on Jesus being taken up into heaven.

The disciples had been on quite a journey by this point - spending 3 years with Jesus in his ministry, learning from him and being his apprentices. Then seeing him being arrested and killed, and feeling the grief, disappointment and all sorts of other emotions that went along with that. Knowing they had let him down and denied him and living with that guilt must have been really hard.

But then suddenly Jesus was there again, and the disciples were being given a glimmer of hope that what he had talked about might have been true. Maybe he was the Son of God, the Messiah! I imagine they felt reassured and safe, knowing that Jesus was back with them again. Only to then find that he was leaving them again to go up to heaven. What a rollercoaster ride they had been on!

Can you imagine watching Jesus being taken up into heaven? If anything is going to confirm to you that Jesus is God, then I think that would! But at the same time the disciples must have felt like Jesus was abandoning them again.

But Jesus had been trying to prepare the disciples for this time while he was still with them. He promised that the Holy Spirit would be with them once he was gone, to teach them and to remind them of everything Jesus had said to them (John 14). And that same Holy Spirit is living in us today, to guide us, teach us, to help us to pray, and to enable us to do the things that Jesus did while he was on earth.

As we journey through Acts this term in our morning services, we will see what the Holy Spirit enabled the disciples to do. And with that same Holy Spirit living in us too, we will be reminded of what God can do through us as resurrection people. Exciting!

## Notices



**This Sunday** we just have our 10am service, and we will be having communion.

There will be groups for our children and young people and the church centre will be available for parents with preschool aged children.

**Monthly prayer meetings** - we will be starting monthly prayer meetings in June. They will be on the 1st Monday of the month, at 8pm in the church centre, for anyone who would like to come along and pray for our world and for our church.

The first meeting is on **Monday 5th June**. We have had to move the July one, due to dates of other meetings, so the July prayer meeting will be on 17th July.





Our next Revive breakfast for women is on Saturday 10th June, 8.30am - 10.30am. Isobel Broadie is going to be speaking to us - 'Taste and see that the Lord is good.' We will have breakfast, some worship, a talk and some time for prayer and ministry at the end. If you are thinking of coming to this breakfast, please could you sign up using this link <https://stmatts.churchsuite.com/events/hiu8seeq> It will just help us to get an idea of numbers to cater for and any dietary requirements.



**Knitting Hub** is on next Saturday (27th May) at 10.30am - 12pm in the church centre.

**Walking Hub** will be on the following Saturday (3rd June) - time and location to be confirmed.

**St. Matt's Community Hub** is now open every Wednesday 11am - 3pm for anyone who would like somewhere to connect with others, have activities to do (art, board games, knitting) and have a light lunch.



The community larder is open every Friday 9.30am - 10.45am for low-cost food or for somewhere to have a drink and cake. Do pop in and support the team running the larder, and don't forget that you can leave donations of food at the back of church, at the Bethel Hall on Thursday or Friday mornings, or in their crate at Lidl TW.

## APCM and PCC

Thank you to everyone who came to our annual meeting on Monday.

The annual report for the church is still on our website or at the back of church if you would like to read it.

Following the APCM, our PCC (the group of people who oversee and manage the running of the church) is made up of:

Chris Wicks (vicar), David Johnson and Brian Hobden (church wardens), myself as secretary, Kate Whitehead (treasurer), Mary Wilson (Deanery Synod rep), Graham Church, Julia Church, Mike Southwick, Suzanne Owen, Matt Taylor, Ian Wilson and Phil Grainger.

We also have a Leadership Team who focus more on worship and ministry within St. Matt's. This is made up of Chris and Carole Wicks, Katy Coles, Dedo Rampe, Ali Granger, David Johnson, Brian Hobden and myself.

If there is anything you would like to know about how church runs or if you have any questions, please do come and speak to any of us. And please do pray for everyone involved in the leadership of the church.

We hope you have a good weekend and that you can join us on Sunday.