

## St. Matt's Midweek Update – 26<sup>th</sup> January 2024

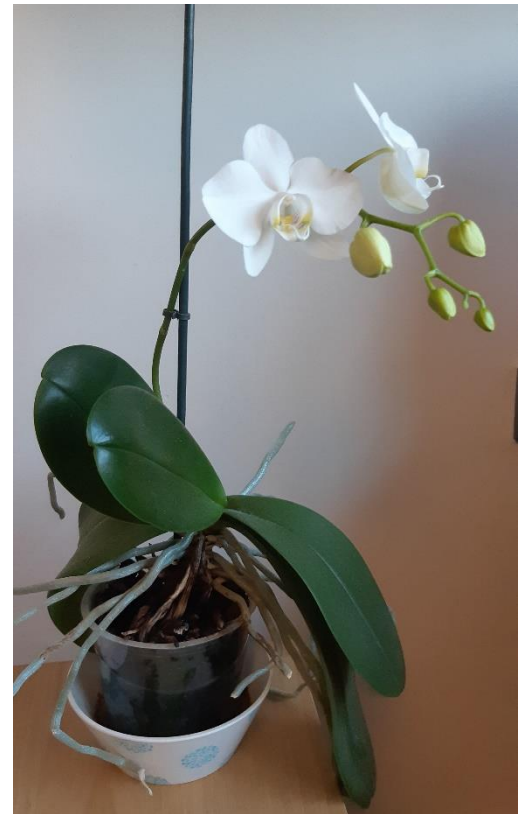
I hope your week has been ok.

This morning as I sat eating my breakfast, my orchid caught my eye. It has two lovely flowers on it and several more waiting to open. And I remembered that several months ago I had thought that it was dead, because it didn't even have a stem that looked like it was alive!!

I have had this plant for quite a few years now, and most summers I look at it and think it has had it, and that there is no way it will produce any more stems or flowers. And then, miraculously, a green shoot appears, and it slowly turns into a stem with buds on.

I then got to work this morning and opened the plan for the children's group for this Sunday so I could print it out, and it is about Jesus healing Jairus' daughter. You will remember in the story that Jairus is going to get Jesus because his daughter is ill, but before Jesus can go with him, he is told that his daughter has died.

When Jesus gets to the girl (and note that he still goes with Jairus) he says to all those around her, "Why all this confusion? Why are you crying? The child is not dead—she is only sleeping!" (Mark 5:39)



The thing that I feel God is saying to us today is that, even if things in our lives or in our church or in our communities look dead, actually they may only be sleeping, and God can bring them back to life and to fullness in His time. It is too easy to lose hope in things because they are not going the way we want them to or because they don't look like they used to.

Just like my orchid, and just like Jairus' daughter, we see things from our narrow human perspective and assume that there is no hope and no new life to be found. But Jesus does not see things from man's perspective; he sees them from God's perspective, and he can work miracles in the most ordinary places. He can bring the dead back to life, and he can be working in the deepest darkest places that we don't see. We just need to trust and have hope, and I pray that you would be able to do that today.

## Notices

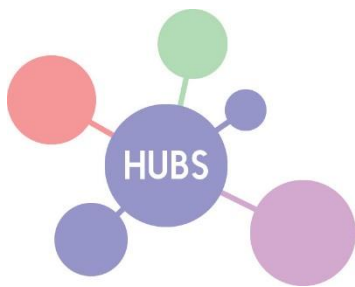


**This Sunday** we have two services...

**10am** - Mark will be speaking to us in our "A new beginning" series, and the Bible passage is John 1:10-14. There will be groups for our children and young people during the service.

**7pm** - our monthly cafe style service with more worship. This Sunday there will be communion at this service. Everyone is welcome.

**The following Sunday** (4th Feb) we have our 8am communion service and then our 10am family service, as it is the first Sunday of the month.



**There are two hubs running over the next week...**

**Knitting hub** is on tomorrow morning (Saturday 27th Jan) from 10.30am - 12pm in the church centre.

**Sewing Bee hub** is on next Friday (2nd Feb) from 7.30pm at Ruth's house.

Everyone is welcome to go along to either hub. They are great ways to get to know more people while doing something you enjoy. Let me know if you would like details of where the sewing hub is.



**The St. Matt's Community Hub** is open every Wednesday for anyone who would like to come along.

**Volunteers needed** - are you free on a Wednesday and could help in the hub, serving drinks, making lunch and chatting to people? You don't have to help every week - once a month or every other week is fine. If you are interested in being part of the hub team, please contact Chris ([chris@stmattschurch.org.uk](mailto:chris@stmattschurch.org.uk)) or Lynn Goreham.

**YFC inter-church quiz** - Youth For Christ are running an inter-church quiz on Saturday 24th February to raise money for the work they do in Tunbridge Wells. It is £15 per person including hot food. Teams need to be 8 people.

It would be great to have a St. Matt's team (or 2!) if we can, as our youth group wouldn't run without Berti. If you would like to be part of a team, let me know and we can see how many people we have.

<b>SAVE</b>	<b>INTER-CHURCH QUIZ</b>
24 FEBRUARY 2024 <i>Christ Church, Tunbridge Wells.</i>	<b>THE</b>
<b>DATE</b>	<i>Teams of 8 £15 a ticket hot food provided</i>

Tunbridge Wells  
YOUTH  
FOR CHRIST

That's all for this week. Please be in touch if you need any help or support at the moment.