

St. Matt's Midweek Update – 3rd May 2024



How has your week been?

This morning I listened to the Lectio 365 app and it was about the Holy Spirit being like fire. The passage was from Acts, where Peter is preaching to the people in Jerusalem. The disciples have all been filled with the Holy Spirit in the upper room, and they are emboldened to tell everyone about Jesus.

Peter quotes from the book of Joel in the Old Testament:

"And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people.

Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions." Joel 2:28.

It got me thinking, how easy it is to go through life just accepting the mundane and the normal, and forgetting the enormity of what God has for us and wants for us. God left us his Holy Spirit and he wants us to be tuned into Him and seeing the outworking of that.

But so often it feels like we are going through the motions of church and life, and not seeing those things that we know the Holy Spirit can do through us - prophecies, dreams, healing, speaking words of knowledge to people, praying over people, getting pictures.

Earlier in that Joel passage, it talks about returning to God, for he is a gracious and compassionate God. I wonder if we need to shake ourselves up now and again, and not just settle for the mundane, but turn back to God and ask Him to fill us again with that fire, and to use us through His Holy Spirit like He used those first disciples.

The yielding prayer in Lectio 365 says this:

"Lord, I yield to the burning, cleansing, empowering fire of Your Spirit today. Come Holy Spirit, let Your fire burn in me."

Will you pray that prayer today, and be expectant for what God can do in your life?

Notices



This Sunday we have services at 8am and 10am.

Our 8am service is short communion service from the Book of Common Prayer.

Our 10am service is a family service, and we will be continuing our Encounters with Jesus series with Mike speaking to us about the encounter by the lake, from John 21:1-14.

The following Sunday (12th May) we have services at 10am and 5pm.



The next walking hub is this Monday (6th May bank holiday) at 10am.

Children & dogs are welcome (with adults!) plus any friends, neighbours or visiting family.

We will meet/park in Birchwood Avenue, Southborough, for a walk through Birch Wood, lake and across open fields back to Southborough Common.

The walk is a little steep in places, & please wear suitable footwear and bring water. When we finish the walk the Southborough May Day Festival will be on at Southborough Cricket ground for those wishing to have even more fun and/or get refreshments.

Directions: Take London Road through Southborough towards Tonbridge, past the cricket ground and Hand & Sceptre, and then turn left into Birchwood Avenue and keep left until you reach no 11 Birchwood Avenue TN4 0UD, which is near where we will meet. There is plenty of free parking.



Just a reminder we have a **children's team meeting** next Friday (10th May) for anyone who volunteers with our children's groups in the week or on Sundays. 7.30pm in the church centre.



Our **Annual Church Meeting is coming up on Monday 13th May at 8pm** in church.

Everyone is welcome to come and hear updates about the year that has just gone, our finances, and to elect church wardens and PCC members. We have vacancies on the PCC and also on Deanery Synod, so if you are interested in any of these roles, please speak to Chris before the APCM.

All the documents for the APCM (annual report, accounts, minutes from last year, agenda) are on our website, with a link from the home page <https://www.stmattschurch.org.uk/> If you would like a pack printed because you can't access it online, please let me know.



The next **town-wide Unite youth event** run by YFC (for school years 6-13) is on Friday 17th May, 5.30pm - 8pm at TW Christian Fellowship. There will be workshops, food, football, faith, console games and tuck shop.

To book, go to www.madapps.uk/twyouth4christ/

Life & Soul trustees wanted

Life & Soul is a local Christian charity working with children and young people to improve mental health, self-esteem, confidence and resilience. They work in almost all the primary and secondary schools in Tunbridge Wells.

This is an exciting time to be part of the charity as God is providing resources that will enable them to expand what they do and provide essential help for even more young people each year, reducing the number who go on to develop more serious mental health conditions.

Life & Soul are currently looking for new trustees. Your role would be to ensure the vision and ethos of the charity are maintained, hold the leadership to account and ensure financial probity. This is mainly carried out through attendance at four meetings a year and offering prayer support. If you are interested visit their website www.lifeandsoul.org.uk or email Sarah Finch, CEO (sarahf@lifeandsoul.org.uk) for an informal chat.

If you need any help or support, please be in touch with Chris or I in the church office. We hope you have a good bank holiday weekend!