

St. Matt's Midweek Update – 15th May 2026



I hope you have had a good week.

Yesterday was Ascension Day in the church calendar - the day to remember Jesus being taken up into heaven after he had risen from the dead.

Ascension Day is 40 days after Easter, and Jesus spent 40 days on earth after He had been raised from the dead, appearing to the disciples and preparing them for spreading the gospel and for Him not being there with them.

On the day Jesus went back up to heaven, He promises the disciples that they will receive power from the Holy Spirit, and we know that the first day of Pentecost happens a few days later when the disciples are all filled with the Holy Spirit.

Jesus gave the disciples the Holy Spirit so that they could be His witnesses, and so that they could speak and perform miracles in His name and in His power.

And we have that same gift today.

But do we live our lives as if we have the power of the Holy Spirit in us?

The same Holy Spirit who helped create the earth, the same power that raised Jesus from the dead, the same Holy Spirit who gave the disciples the words to say.

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Acts 1:8

"...for it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you."

Matthew 10:20

Maybe we need to trust the Holy Spirit more, to step out in boldness knowing it is His power and His words that we have within us.

Notices



This Sunday (17th May) we just have our 10am service.

This will be a communion service and Anthony is coming to speak and lead communion for us. He will be speaking about Joanna, from Luke 8:1-3 and Romans 16:1-7.

We will have groups for our children this Sunday, but **please note that the youth will be staying in the service.** We would have been stretching our volunteers too thin to try and cover this Sunday.

Next Sunday (24th May) we also just have our 10am service.

Liz will be carrying on our Women in the Bible series and speaking about Elizabeth.

We will have groups for our children and youth.



There are quite a few extra things happening this week:

Leadership Team meeting - Monday 18th May

Mission Prayer meeting - Wednesday 20th May 3.30pm at Mary's house

Children's team meeting - Thursday 21st May 7.30pm (for anyone who volunteers in our children's groups)

Knitting Hub - Saturday 23rd May 10am - 12pm in the church centre

Spare bread from the Larder

The Community Larder have been getting lots of lovely bread recently from M&S, and they are putting lots of left over loaves outside the Bethel Hall on a Friday when the Larder has finished. If you are passing, please do take whatever you can use! It stays out until about 4pm and then will just be thrown away if it's not taken.



The Larder team also wanted to remind everyone that you don't have to be coming to get food to come to the Larder on a Friday. They have a thriving cafe area and lots of lovely home-made cakes, so feel free to pop in for a drink and cake and a chat any time they are open.

Rob's Licensing Service

As you know, Rob's Installation service will be on **Tuesday 16th June at 7.30pm in church**. We would love to see as many of you there as possible to formally welcome Rob as our vicar.

We will need a little bit of help for that service. Could you help with any of the following?

Welcoming on the door at the service

Serving drinks and cakes after the service

Making home-made cakes for the service

If you can help with any of these things, please can you let me know?

Getting to know Rob and Alice

Rob and Alice and the children are really looking forward to starting with us and getting to know us all, and they wanted to put in a couple of events early on to have time to chat to lots of people. So please put the following dates in your diaries!

Sunday 21st June - Bring and Share Lunch - this is Rob's first service with us and we wanted to make more time after church for Rob and Alice to meet everyone. We are aware it is Father's Day, but the following week doesn't work for the family. So we hope you can arrange your plans around staying for lunch at church if possible!

Saturday 11th July - open house BBQ lunch and afternoon at the Vicarage - Rob and Alice will be opening their garden to us all for the afternoon with a BBQ. We'll confirm timings nearer the time, but it will be most of the afternoon and you can come for as long as you are able to.

Clothing Donations for Crowborough Camp

If you want to bring in any men's clothes for the asylum seekers at Crowborough Camp, please can you bring them into church by the end of May, and then I will arrange for them to be collected.

Items currently needed:

Men's casual clothing in good condition (jeans, tracksuit bottoms, t-shirts, jumpers)

Men's shoes and coats

Please note:

They are not accepting smart clothing at this time

Underwear, socks, and pyjamas must be new and in unopened packs

CfTW Joint Prayer Gathering - You are invited to join with Christians from across Tunbridge Wells for worship, praise and prayer on Sunday 24th May, 6pm at New Life Church, TW.

Job Opportunity

St. Stephen's Church in Tonbridge are currently recruiting for a Christian Pre-School Manager.

You can find all the information here <https://ststephens.org.uk/vacancies/>

If you need any help or support at the moment, please do be in touch with me in the office. Looking forward to seeing you on Sunday!