

St. Matt's Midweek Update – 10th May 2024



I hope you have been enjoying the sun this week!

We are thinking of all those young people starting GCSE exams this week, and those starting A-levels next week. We are praying for peace and calm, and for parents and carers to have wisdom to help them through this time.

Yesterday was Ascension Day in the Church of England, which falls 40 days after Easter. Jesus spent 40 days appearing to his disciples after his resurrection, before he was taken up to heaven at his ascension. In some ways, this could have felt like the end of the story for the disciples and Jesus' followers. They thought everything had ended when Jesus died on the cross, but then they have had 40 days of seeing him again and believing that he has risen from the dead. So to then see him disappear again up into the sky could have felt like another disappointment to them.

But whatever they felt, Jesus' ascension was the complete opposite - it was the beginning of a whole new chapter! Before Jesus was taken into heaven, he promised that the Holy Spirit would come on them, and that they would have the power to take the good news of Jesus to their city, to their region, to their enemies even, and to the ends of the earth.

And we are part of that mission too! What an opportunity and what an honour! The church that the disciples started 2000 years ago is still going strong, and we are that church. We can experience the same Holy Spirit, and we can share the good news of Jesus just like the disciples did.

Who can you share Jesus with this week? Maybe your colleagues, your family, your friends. Maybe a word of encouragement to a young person sitting exams, to show them that they are cared for and supported. Maybe an act of kindness to someone who doesn't know Jesus.

'Jesus said to them, "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." After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.' (Acts 1:8-9)

Notices



This Sunday we have services at 10am and 5pm.

In our 10am service we will be continuing our Encounters with Jesus series with Mark speaking to us about Peter's encounter with Jesus from John 21:15-25.

There will be groups for our children and young people during the service.

Our 5pm service is more traditional, and tea and cake is served from 4.30pm. Everyone is welcome.

The following Sunday (19th May) we have our 10am morning service, with groups for children and youth.



Our Annual Church Meeting is coming up this 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.

All the documents for the APCM (annual report, accounts, minutes from last year, agenda) are on our website <https://www.stmattschurch.org.uk/2024/04/apcm-2024/> I will leave a couple of printed packs at the back of church this Sunday for anyone who would like them.

Could you volunteer at Ignite on Tuesday evenings (6pm - 7.30pm with dinner)?



Ignite is our youth group for young people in secondary school. We get about 20 young people each week, mainly 11-14 year olds. They have lots of time to play games and do activities like the Xbox, table tennis, arts and crafts, football, pool, etc. They also eat dinner together and have tuck shop.

We really need to grow our volunteer team for Ignite in order to be able to keep running Ignite. We are very blessed to have Berti from YFC running the group, but we need at least another 2 volunteers each week to make the group safe.

If you would be interested in joining the team, please speak to Chris or myself. Thank you!



Please park considerately

Parking - This is just a reminder to please park sensibly and be considerate of our neighbours when you come to church on Sunday mornings. I have had a complaint from a neighbour about cars parked badly at the end of Gordon Road, on double yellow lines and blocking the view for turning in and out.

So just a reminder to NOT park in Gordon Road when you come to church if you are able to walk, but if you are parking in Gordon Road, not to park on the double yellows at the end please and to respect those who live in an already tight road. Thank you!



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/



TW Youth For Christ run a youth centre which is open on weekdays after school for young people to drop into. They need more volunteers for Fridays especially, so if anyone would like to help out at the Youth Centre on Fridays, 3.15 to 5pm, they would value your help. Have a look here for more information <https://tunbridgewells.yfc.co.uk/vacancy/volunteer-with-tunbridge-wells-youth-for-christ/> or talk to Richard Foot who volunteers.

Unlock walk - if you have any sponsor money for the Unlock walk, please can you give it to Liz asap so that she can get it all sent off in one go? Thank you!

Job opportunities - the Diocese of Rochester has a couple of job vacancies at the moment. An executive assistant to the Diocesan Secretary (one year maternity cover) and a Mental Health First Aid Advocate for 8 hours a week. Have a look here for all the information <https://www.rochester.anglican.org/xdb/vacancies>

That's all for now.

We hope to see you at one of our services on Sunday.