

# St. Matt's Midweek Update – 17<sup>th</sup> May 2024



How has your week been?

This Sunday is Pentecost in the church calendar, when we thank God for giving us His Holy Spirit, as He did to the first disciples over 2000 years ago.

The Lectio 365 app has been looking at the Holy Spirit all this week, and it's helped me to think about how the Spirit is present in our lives and in our world.

The Holy Spirit is first seen in the Bible in Genesis, in the story of creation. The Spirit is described as hovering over the waters, in a world that is dark and formless. It gives the sense of a bird hovering over the expanse of the waters, ready to breathe form and creation into it.

This made me think of the countless places in the world today that are dark and empty, desolate and chaotic. Places like Gaza, Ukraine and Sudan, places like Kenya where flood waters are destroying communities, places that we don't even know about. But the Spirit of God is there, hovering over them, seeing it all and waiting to bring new life and order to the chaos.

And then we see the Holy Spirit again at the baptism of Jesus, hovering over Him and resting on Him like a dove, speaking of the promise of a Messiah that had been given hundreds of years earlier. The Holy Spirit on Jesus was the start of his ministry, the awakening of His spiritual power. And we have that same Holy Spirit in us and on us today, giving us the same power and new life as Jesus had and that was present at the creation of the world.

How amazing, that the same Spirit is concerned about the expanse of the world, but also comes to live in each one of us!

"If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you."

Romans 8:11

## Notices

### Announcement from Chris and Carole

Many of you will have heard Chris and Carole's announcement last Sunday or at the APCM that they are going to be retiring next Easter and leaving St. Matt's after 32 years here.

We recorded this part of the APCM, so that you can watch it and hear a bit more of an explanation of what will happen once Chris has retired as our vicar.

You can watch the video here [https://youtu.be/8sydyEK4\\_w0](https://youtu.be/8sydyEK4_w0)



**This Sunday** we have our 10am service with groups for children and young people.

We will be looking at the Holy Spirit, and the Bible passage is Acts 1:1-11.

**Next Sunday** (26th May) we have our 10am service and our cafe style service at 7pm.

### Midweek groups and activities...

All our groups are running as normal this coming week, but then the week after is half term, so Deeper, Ignite and Toddler Group will have a break for a week.

However, the Community Hub on Wednesdays and the Community Larder on Fridays keep going all through half term.

## 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!

### Other dates coming up...

**Knitting Hub** - Saturday 25th May 10.30am - 12pm in the church centre

**Walking Hub** - Saturday 1st June - time and place to be announced

**Prayer meeting** - Monday 3rd June 8pm in the church centre

**Church BBQ lunch** - Sunday 7th July - save the date! We will be having a BBQ in the Vicarage garden after church with our mission partners Sam and Abby Baguma from MAF in Uganda.



The next **town-wide Unite youth event** run by YFC (for school years 6-13) is **today** (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/](http://www.madapps.uk/twyouth4christ/)

Have a lovely weekend and we hope to see you on Sunday.  
Let us know if you need any help or support at any time.