

**ST MATTHEW'S PARISH CHURCH REDHILL**  
**NEWSLETTER FOR SUNDAY 6th September 2020**  
**A CHANGED FORMAT IN CHANGING TIMES**



St Matthew's  
Redhill

*Fr. Andrew writes...*

Dear friends

Now that we are saying our daily Morning Prayers in the main body of the church, I am in a position to gaze up at the beautiful south window, just above the entrance to the Lady Chapel. It depicts scenes from the life of four of Jesus's leading disciples, namely Peter, James, John and Paul.

There is so much to see and reflect upon, I think this window is going to occupy me prayerfully for some time to come.

In the part of the window depicted here we see Peter receiving an unexpected blessing. He is on his knees as Jesus commissions him to "feed my sheep". He had let Jesus down badly by denying that he ever knew Him and yet Jesus chooses Peter now as the rock on which His church will be built. He must have been startled and amazed that such trust was being placed in someone like Him, with a track record of failure and impulsive reactions.

In the panel to the right of that we have the Mother of James and John nagging away in the ear of Jesus, asking that her two sons be accorded places of rank in the Lord's emerging kingdom. "Grant that these Sons of mine be seated one at your right hand and one on your left" she cries. And Jesus denies her request and withholds his blessing.

Peter knew he deserved nothing from Jesus and was deeply blessed.

The Mother of James and John thought her boys had earned special preference and she was to be disappointed.



As we ask God's blessing on the beginning of each new day, let us not expect him to bless us in the way we would expect and prefer, but rather be ready for a surprising level of trust and commission for which we might feel totally unready and ill equipped.

Kneeling before Jesus in prayer, we open ourselves up to him and his direction for us, we cannot always prescribe the way he will respond.

Fr. Andrew

## DIARY FOR THE WEEK

**TODAY 6 SEPTEMBER TRINITY 13** – services at 8am , 9.30am and 11am – our new curate Judith is preaching at the latter two services and we welcome her to her first public service at St Matthew’s

**MESSY CHURCH ON ZOOM** – is this afternoon at 4pm – we hope everyone who wishes to attend will have received the usual invitation

**MONDAY, WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY** – Foodbank is open 12noon – 2pm

**TUESDAY 8 SEPTEMBER** – the PCC meets via zoom at 8pm

**NEXT SUNDAY 13 SEPTEMBER – TRINITY 14** services at 8am, 9.30am and 11am

More people are expressing a wish to return to services at church and it becomes more important than ever to let us know which service you would like to join. Please contact [julia.elfred@gmail.com](mailto:julia.elfred@gmail.com) . Once you have let us know your preference once, you don’t need to “rebook” – just come along when you can

We continue to offer “on line” services each Sunday morning and would be grateful for any feedback on the style and format of these so that we can do our best for those who tune in.

**ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING** will be held on Wednesday 23rd September at 8pm at St Matthew's School - nearer the date we will be asking people to let us know if they intend coming along - as numbers will be limited . We have 5 places available on the PCC and 5 places available for Deanery Synod representatives. Please have a word with Fr Andrew if you would like to stand.

We are pleased to be holding this meeting at St Matthew’s School – but so that we can retain social distancing – we are limited to 30 people attending and we need to know in advance that you are coming. So please let Louise Hill know [louise.cedarcornr@btinternet.com](mailto:louise.cedarcornr@btinternet.com)

**FOODBANK** continues to be in heavy demand and donations are dropping. Any help you can give is greatly appreciated- for the latest needs see the dedicated website at <https://www.redhillfoodbank.org.uk/shopping-list>

**Fr Mick** will be publishing the next series of his Bible Blogs commencing this Sunday, 6th September. <https://frmickelfred.wordpress.com/>

If you don’t have access to online resources, the church has set up this free phone resource. You will need to listen to the whole of the introduction before making your choice of what to listen to.



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