

ST MATTHEW'S PARISH CHURCH REDHILL

NEWSLETTER FOR SUNDAY 2nd MAY 2021

A CHANGED FORMAT IN CHANGING TIMES



Julie writes...

Dear Friends,

In their front garden my parents have a grape vine. Bought a few years ago as a fledgling bush of one stick with about two leaves on it. As it was planted no one was sure if it would even grow. However, with a bit of love and nurture over a number of years it has grown into a strong and extremely fruitful plant. I like to watch it as it changes and grows throughout the year. During winter it is bare of everything and is pruned down hard to the main vine. You can't imagine how it would ever grow back.

However, with spring fresh shoots start appearing from the main vine forming branches and vibrant fresh green leaves. Then gradually through the summer little green clusters of grapes start to grow from the branches slowly getting bigger. Then all of a sudden you look and they have changed to that distinctive purple blush colour. Then as summer finishes the leaves turn all the beautiful shades of Autumn before falling off and you know that the process is about to start again. It seems to me that the one thing that remains constant through all the changes is the one gnarled and twisted main vine which stands up straight ready to bear and nourish the load.

In John 15. Jesus says "I am the vine and you are the branches. If you remain in me, you will bear much fruit." What a wonderful image that is Jesus being that constant vine in our lives. Giving us spiritual nourishment and helping us grow. A Life lived in the presence of God - Father, Son and Holy Spirit means that we bear all sorts of fruit that we never thought imaginable. We change, grow and turn in directions we would never envisage for ourselves.

Maybe this week is the time to take a few minutes for yourself and think about how God is working in your lives. How is your branch growing? Are you being called in a different direction? Or maybe you would just like to take comfort in the fact that if you remain in the presence of the Lord, he will remain with you nurture you and help you grow.

God Bless

Julie

THIS WEEK AT ST MATTHEW'S

Sunday Services continue - at 8am 9.30am and 11am

(if you have previously registered to attend one of these services - just come along as before but if you are coming for the first time please contact juliae@stmatthews-redhill.org.uk)

READINGS SUNDAY 2ND MAY EASTER 5 -

Acts 8. 26 - to the end, John 15. 1 - 8

READINGS 9TH MAY EASTER 6 -

Acts 10. 44 - to the end, John 15. 9 - 17

MONDAY - SATURDAY 8.30am Morning Prayer

WEDNESDAY 5TH MAY 10 AM HOLY COMMUNION

On line services continue to be available each Sunday from 8am. There is both a Parish Communion Service and a Small Steps reflection for our younger members.

FOODBANK OPEN MON/WEDS/FRI 12NOON - 2PM

OUR ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING will now take place on Tuesday 25 May at 8pm - hopefully in church. There are 4 places available for new PCC members and forms and signing on lists are available. Just ask Fr Andrew or one of the wardens.

THY KINGDOM COME - nine days of prayer from Ascension to Pentecost. (13-23 May)

This year there will be prayer resources for you to use personally. "Everyday Faith - Hidden Church" is a booklet focussing on the persecuted church and those who have to practice their faith in secret. - "Prayers in the workplace" give daily prayers relating to the jobs we do and the places we work.

You may like to choose a focus for yourself. Copies of each resource will be available in due course.

ASCENSION DAY - THURSDAY 13 MAY - a service of Holy Communion will be held at 8pm on that evening. No need to register in advance.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK – 10-16 MAY 2021

The Covid pandemic, coupled with the ongoing climate crisis, is making life even harder for those living in poorer countries. More than ever, your help is vital.

For the Sundays at each end of Christian aid Week, gift envelopes will be placed in the pews in church. Please give what you can, adding Gift Aid where possible, and leave your donation in the bowl by the entrance. Alternatively, you can give on-line following this link <http://bit.ly/ChristianAid2021>. Thank you

PASTORAL CARE AND PASTORAL SUPPORT - if you need any help at all please do contact any member of the Staff Team - we are always ready to do what we can to help.

EXPLORING THE SCRIPTURES

Fr Mick's Bible Blog "Exploring the Scriptures" can be found here: [Exploring the Scriptures](#)

DONATE TO THE LIFE OF ST. MATTHEW'S

If you would like to donate to the work and mission of St Matthew's you can donate online using [this link](#).

OUR SERVICES CONTINUE TO BE BROADCAST ONLINE... Sunday morning service of Holy Communion is at 8am on Facebook (@StMattsRedhill) and on our Youtube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC5tKjHIsZ-7wHLKqIshISA>). The Small Steps reflections is also available and the video is published at the same time, on the same platforms and is thoroughly recommended viewing!

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.

