

ST MATTHEW'S PARISH CHURCH REDHILL

NEWSLETTER FOR SUNDAY 25TH APRIL 2021

A CHANGED FORMAT IN CHANGING TIMES



Anne writes....

Dear Friends,

A very summer-like spring has suddenly descended upon us... Which in terms of British weather, probably means that it'll be snowing in the not-too-distant future!

I remember when we moved into our cottage in Bradwell that the one thing my Dad wanted to complete his country idyll was a greenhouse!

This didn't happen right away, and we spent many a year with seedlings on the kitchen window sill, or in the little summer house in the garden, until he could plant them out into the vegetable plot.

He did eventually get that greenhouse... and that netted him three 'man caves' in the garden... the said greenhouse, the shed or the garage for a change of scene! Being quite nifty with electrics all three were fitted with power and light to complete his retreats! He'd disappear for hours on end tinkering in shed or garage or tending to his plants in the greenhouse.

My Dad found great contentment in his garden, growing flowers, especially for my sister's summer wedding, and food for the table. When the hurricane of 1984 came along and smashed many of the glass panes, he was devastated and immediately got onto getting new ones and fixing them in place!

I do take after him a bit, digging around in the earth (hence an archaeology degree!) and watching new growth appear from the soil.

I've just purchased my own greenhouse.... not your traditional glass and steel one like Dad's, but a small pop up one. I've got plans for Basil and Tomatoes and to raise some cuttings from plants that I have inherited from Dad's garden and then Mum's. Hopefully, they will grow, and I can hand them onto my children, linking the generations through new growth.

Gardening gets mentioned throughout the bible, in the gospels Mary mistakes the risen Christ for a Gardener, and Jesus tells a parable of a gardener who pleads for the sparing of a barren fig tree. I like the idea of Jesus as a gardener, tending the world and our environment through us, and as a shepherd of our souls, nurturing and protecting us, finding us when we are lost.

*May God who clothes the lilies and feeds the birds of the sky,
Who leads the lambs to pasture and the deer to water,
Who multiplied loaves and fishes and changed water into wine,
Lead us, feed us, multiply us,
And change us to reflect the glory of our Creator through all eternity.*

Trevor Lloyd

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)

MONDAY - SATURDAY 8.30am Morning Prayer

WEDNESDAY 28TH 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.

NEXT SUNDAY - 2nd MAY - our Messy Church Service takes place at 4pm but this service is now fully subscribed. If you are not on the email list to receive invitations to this - please let Fr Andrew know.

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.

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/UC5tKJiHIsZ-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.

