

# St Matthew's Church, Netley Marsh. Part of the Totton Team Ministry



Loving God and Serving our Local Community in the Name of Jesus.  
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## May 2019 Newsletter

### SUNDAY SERVICES

#### Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May Easter 3

8.00am Holy Communion  
11.00am Holy Communion  
NT Acts 9: 1-6  
Gospel John 21:1-19

#### Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May Easter 4

8.00am Holy Communion  
NT Acts 9: 36-end  
Gospel John 10: 22-30  
11.00am Morning Worship  
12.45pm Holy Baptism  
1.45pm Holy Baptism

#### Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May Easter 5

8.00am Holy Communion  
11.00am Family Communion with  
Soul Kids  
NT Acts 11: 1-18  
Gospel John 13: 31-35

#### Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> May Easter 6

8.00am Holy Communion  
11.00am Holy Communion with Baptism  
NT Acts 16: 9-15  
Gospel John 14: 23-29

### MIDWEEK SERVICES

#### Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May

9.15am School Worship

#### Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> May

2.00pm Holy Matrimony

#### Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May

9.30am Tuesday Toast & Prayers

#### Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> May

9.30am Tuesday Toast & Prayers

#### Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> May

9.30am Tuesday Toast & Prayers  
Holy Communion at:  
1.30pm at Tending Rest Home  
2.00pm at Woodlands Ridge Nursing Home  
2.30pm at Woodlands House Rest Home

#### Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> May

1.30pm Holy Matrimony

#### Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> May

NO TUESDAY TOAST & PRAYERS

## **From John our Team Vicar:**

Many times, I hear people remark, 'I just can't take it in'. In a whole variety of contexts this remark is made – in times of unbridled joy and in times of heart-breaking anguish. When something happens which changes everything – we need time to work out just what is going to change and how this change impacts my ordinary day to day life.

These occasions don't happen every day – sometimes 'out of the blue' they arrive and irrevocably alter the landscape of our lives. It might be a new addition to the family, an unforeseen opportunity at work, a loss of a loved one, or the news of an illness... whatever it is... time is required to gauge the truth and implications.

So, it is not surprising the Easter season lasts 40 days, 50 days if you run it through to Pentecost. Yet in our culture Easter is a week-end of chocolate egg overdrive! I love the chocolate eggs, but the implications of Easter go far beyond the feelings of guilt (and pleasure) in the consumption of all the Easter goodies on offer! Easter is the ultimate event which changes the landscape – this is why we are given a generous portion of time to begin to make sense of it, see the impact in our ordinary day to day lives, and to feel the surge of energy this connection with the resurrection life makes in us.

The appearances of the resurrected Jesus are intimate, fleeting and powerful beyond words. He expressly tells Mary on the first Easter morning not to cling on to him. In this encounter it was the recognition which was integral to the experience. The gardener (for that is who Mary thought he was) recognised Mary by saying her name. This recognition of Mary I imagine went straight to her heart – here was somebody who knew her and loved her. She then just knew – this was not the gardener but Jesus! No wonder she ran to tell the disciples the news.

The calling of a name can be a beautiful yet simple expression of recognition. 'I know you...' and the name is said. When we baptize or christen in church, we name the person – the name is a statement of who they are, it carries a meaning beyond the phonetics.

The Christian community is privileged to believe Jesus walks with us – the dead man who was buried walks with us (as in the resurrection story of the walk to Emmaus). He walks with us and eats with us. Not only that, but he knows us, he recognises us – who we really are. When Christians pray it is this we look to hear and sense. As we bow our heads to pray the 'Our Father...' we consciously direct our attention to this divine recognition.

And then we are invited to recognise Jesus – in the bread and the wine, in the ordinary day to day stuff of life, to recognise and to name him 'My Lord and my God' – the recognition of Thomas. When we hear the rustle of the leaves in the trees, when the sea waves break on the seashore, when a friend or a stranger, smiles and connects with us – 'it is the Lord', we echo Mary. By not clinging to the recognition we receive it as a gift – and we walk on with our heads and hearts alert to the next recognition. 40 days to walk this journey changes everything, the landscape, no matter how disfigured, is re-arranged, re-configured in ways we will never have anticipated.

Have a blessed and happy Easter – really and truly!

### **Please remember in your prayers during the month...**

- For all those who are sick, anxious and have asked for our prayers (please see prayer list in church)
- For John, our Team Vicar, in his schools' ministry across the two parishes in which he ministers
- Please pray for peacemakers in the Holy Land, especially those rebuilding homes and escorting children to school because of ongoing violence and intimidation against Palestinians in the West Bank. Pray that Zoughbi Zoughbi's family may be reunited soon in Bethlehem.
- For all those who have died recently and those whose anniversary of death occurs this month: Frank Eldridge(4<sup>th</sup>), Iris Shorter(5<sup>th</sup>), Edith Parrington(10<sup>th</sup>), Margaret Wright(12<sup>th</sup>), Doreen Cross(22<sup>nd</sup>), Alan Smith (23<sup>rd</sup>), Olive Rogers(27<sup>th</sup>), Winnie Quirk (31<sup>st</sup>). Rest eternal grant unto them O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon them. AMEN.

**Communion at Home:** if you are unwell and you can't get to church or if you know of someone who is housebound and who would really appreciate to receive Communion at home or to have a pastoral visit then please contact John, Marina, Angela or Iris.

**Giving Regularly:** to help support the day to day life of St. Matthew's Church – we are inviting our church community to set up a **regular form of weekly or monthly financial giving** (either through a regular standing order, or using the Parish Giving Scheme or through the weekly envelopes). We require an extra £2K in our budget to meet the costs of financing church ministry here for 2019. Our many funerals and weddings provide a significant income for the church but this figure is variable from year to year (and with the publicity regarding our church floor forthcoming works this will undoubtedly have an impact on the number of weddings booked in this period). If we have an extra 30 new people to give regularly to St. Matthew's £5/month we would increase our income by £2K. So, pick up one of the green leaflets, and decide which method of giving suits you best – as little as £5/month really does make a difference. **Thank you!**

**The Parish Giving Scheme** please send your completed Parish Giving Scheme forms in to the address as directed as soon as possible- this scheme will be a significant benefit to us in making the collection of giving easier and more efficient. For any questions please see either of the churchwardens Malcolm or Mel, David our treasurer, or John.

**Supporting the Church Hall ministry as a Minute Secretary** We are blessed to have three bases for our ministry to the community – the church building and churchyard for services from christenings to weddings to burials – we have the school building with education for your young ones, and we have the church hall with a wide, varied community provision for all the generations. **If you would like to support our church hall ministry, we do need one or two extra people (especially a Minute Secretary)** who would be willing to serve on the Hall Committee which meets 6 times in the year. The Hall Committee oversees the operation of the Hall and the upkeep of the building. If you are interested please speak to either John, David Rigby or one of our churchwardens – Malcolm or Mel.

## **Church and Community Events**

**Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> April      The Annual Parish Church Meeting** for the Totton Team Churches takes place at St. Anne's Church, Calmore, 7.30pm. The Rev'd Chris Steed will be chairing this meeting.

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May      Craft 2 Craft Fabric Tulip workshop**  
We are delighted to offer a second date for the Fabric Tulip workshop after popular demand! Join us, 2-4pm, at Tools for Self Reliance to learn how to make a fabric tulip. Booking is essential, attend please email [info@tfsr.org](mailto:info@tfsr.org) or call 02380 869697 to book your place as soon as possible. The workshop is £10 and will include all materials, tea cake and tuition.

**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May      Middle East Matters**  
The Middle East Matters group meeting will be on May 13th when we will be travelling to Sarum College for an evening with two activists from the Holy Land. Jeff Halper is a well known Jewish Academic, speaker, and founder of the Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions (ICAHD). When I visited the ICAHD offices in West Jerusalem in 2011 we were taken out to see a house rebuild and to spend time with the folks who lived there and to hear their story of having the house demolished by Israeli soldiers 4 times previously. The patience, resilience and faithfulness of such folks – evidenced in this case by their working together – is inspiring. The second speaker is from the Hebron Defence Committee – Hebron was the most troubled place we visited on the West Bank. Here we visited the tombs of the Patriarchs but there is on-going persecution of the residents by the settler community there and Christian Peacemaker Teams have to escort the Palestinian children to school. Heart breaking!  
If you would like to join us please let Fran know. Cars will be leaving the church car park at 6.30 p.m.

You may recall that years ago we collected at Christmas for the Wi`am Conflict Resolution Centre in Bethlehem. Their director, Zhourgi Zoughbi - whom I have visited in Bethlehem and heard speak in the UK a number of times – is an amazing Christian man who always says, “my enemy is me, friend in waiting”. He has an American born wife and they have boys and family life in Bethlehem together. Recently she went to visit her American relations and last week flew back to Ben Gurion airport but was refused entry because she is married to a Palestinian. This is an anxious time for the family and there is no prospect of resolution in the current climate so she is stuck in the US separated from her family and home life in Bethlehem.

The group are hoping to go to the House of Lords at the end month, for a visit to the Chamber then tea with Baroness Caroline Cox founder of Humanitarian Aid and Relief Trust (HART) – the charity we supported through our Christmas collections. We hope to share our concerns with her and will report back to you on our time together.

**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May      Team Social**  
The Team Social Group outing in this month will be on Wednesday 15th May, meeting at the Lavender Farm between 2-4pm. Please find your own tables – securing larger ones if possible as we cannot reserve there for groups. Hoping for a warm day, it should be lovely.

## **Open the Book @ Netley Marsh CEC Infants**

The Open the Book Team (members mainly from St. Mary's Church Copythorne and Cadnam Methodist Church) will be rehearsing the new presentation on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May and at Bartley CEC Junior School Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May at 2.30pm, and then at Copythorne Infants (9.45am) and Netley Marsh Infants (11.00am) on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May - we use music, mime, simple props – and we have great fun in putting together the presentation. We all really enjoy the rehearsing and the performing – as the children are such an enthusiastic audience (they really participate in the story). We are having some great feedback from the children and staff at all three schools - if you are interested about being involved with this – please speak to John or Ros if you would like to join the Open the Book Team.

## **Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May      Craft 2 Craft Tote Bag 3-part workshop**

Come along and learn various quilting and patchwork techniques whilst you make your own tote bag in Craft 2 Craft's special three part workshop held on Thursday 16 May, 6 and 20 June, 2-4pm. Held at Tools for Self Reliance in Netley Marsh, Ringwood Road, SO40 7GY.

Normally £10 for each workshop, the cost of all three is only £25 if you pay for them all at time of booking. Includes all tuition, refreshments, homemade cake and free parking. Please bring the fabric with you that you'd like to use. Booking is essential, please call us on 02380 869697 or email [info@tfsr.org](mailto:info@tfsr.org) to secure your place. We look forward to seeing you there!

**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May      Coffee morning** A coffee morning will be held in the church on Saturday May 18th. There will be cakes, bric-a-brac, raffle, refreshments and a plant stall. We would appreciate cakes, good bric-a-brac, raffle prizes etc. Help is also required. There will be an opportunity to support Christian Aid. This is for church funds so please support us! For more information please see either Deana or Ros.

**Monday 20th May      Grave Talk 11am-1pm** at The Vicarage, Cooks Lane, Calmore.

I will be leading a GRAVE TALK session. This is open to people of all faiths and doubts and will consist of chatting informally around issues concerned with death, dying and funerals. We seldom talk about death and there will be plenty of opportunity to ask questions and air your thoughts. It won't be morbid! Sally Marchant

**Holy Communion services at our Rest/Nursing Homes** : every month (this month on Tuesday 21st May) John leads simple services of Holy Communion – using the Reserved Sacrament from our Sunday worship – at the three Rest/Nursing homes in our district. The homes services take place in are Tendring, Woodlands Ridge and Woodlands House. If you would like to join John in these services you will be more than welcome! Each month the sacrament is given to 25-30 people in these homes – this is a really important part of our ministry and one which is much appreciated. Do speak to John if you are interested in joining him.

## **Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> June                      Pentecost Celebration**

There will be a Churches Together gathering at St. Matthew's Netley Marsh on Sunday 9 June at 6.30pm to celebrate the gift of God's Holy Spirit. This will be a time of joy and thanksgiving as we together give thanks and praise for the Spirit.

## **Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> June                      Carnival & Fete**

There is a list of Stalls run by the Church at last year's Carnival and Fete. If you are able to run the same stall this year on Saturday June 23rd please put a tick in the 2019 column. If not please speak to either Malcolm or Angela Bonning. Also, if you have any good Bric-a-Brac and / or Toiletries, please leave at the back of the Church during the week commencing Sunday the 16th of June.

There is a poster at the back of this newsletter. Please display it, if you are able.

Many thanks, Malcolm Bonning

## **13<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> June                      'M-Spa' – Meditation made simple!**

These popular sessions are led by John. The sessions are very practical and active – maybe very different from what you might expect! Below are the next scheduled sessions (all the sessions take place in Netley Marsh CEC Infant School). Booking is essential as the numbers continue to increase – if the session is fully booked a waiting list is then in operation...

The next two sessions – 2 May and 16 May 8.00-9.15pm are both fully booked – do get in touch with John if you would like to book in for one of the June sessions (13 & 27 June). If you would like to book contact John on [johnreeve6@aol.com](mailto:johnreeve6@aol.com) or 023 80663267.

## **Church and Community News**

### **Tuesday Toast & Prayers**

This is an informal gathering of worship, songs and plenty of toast, marmalades, jams and coffee and tea. Everybody is really welcome! Tuesday Toast takes place every Tuesday in school term time starting at 9.30am in church.

**St. Matthew's Pastoral** If you would like to join the Team which comprises of John, Angela, Iris and Marina – in the provision for home visits – do speak to one of the Team

### **New Developments in the Totton Team & the Lyndhurst Deanery**

There is nothing to report re these developments except to confirm the church communities are looking positively to see where there can be a helpful sharing of resources across parish boundaries to reduce pressure on individuals. This would only be in the context of where this doesn't impact negatively quality of ministry. It was stated at the Consultation day in the deanery that there were no plans to reduce clergy numbers in the area.

## **Helping in Netley Marsh C.E.C. Infant School**

We have three volunteer helpers from our church community going into our Infant School – this is hugely appreciated by the school and a lovely sign of our engagement with the school. If you would like to help in the school (hearing children read, helping with crafts, being an extra pair of hands) please speak to John.

## **Appointment of new Executive Head Teacher for the Oaks Federation**

An appointment has been made to fill this vacancy. The new appointment will begin in September 2019.

## **Bartley Junior School Meditation sessions.**

John leads these early morning sessions at Bartley Junior School – there is an open session on Monday morning and then a session where the children sign up in order to attend on a Wednesday morning. These sessions are regularly attracting 20-30 children before the school day starts.

## **DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER**

Thursday 17th May. Please send items to Jane Scholfield.

email: [wjscholfield@hotmail.com](mailto:wjscholfield@hotmail.com)      voicemail: 02380 292083.

