



St Matthew's Newsletter – Autumn 2022



⁸ Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever.' Hebrews 13:8

Whatever you make of the last 5 years or so, one thing we can all agree on is the relentlessness of the arrival of significant events; Brexit, Covid, Ukraine War, Energy crisis, death of the Queen. No sooner has one storm seemingly passed, along comes the next causing a breathlessness about the present.

Two thoughts spring to mind from this. The voice of God is found in every season, however with the winds of change blowing, he is perhaps raising his voice as he calls out to us. Certainly, throughout history it is in hardship that God's call to repentance becomes easier to heed.

Storms provoke a strong reaction and so our response, as the church of Christ, should be to cleave more fully to Him. There are endless pictures given us in the Bible to encourage us to do this. He is a rock, a refuge, a fortress, a high tower. There are also endless reminders of his changelessness, not least in our verse above. As we face the latest storm to reach our shores, the loss of our dear Queen Elizabeth, let us keep on planting our feet into the Way of Christ who is 'the same yesterday, and today and forever.'

Dates for your Diary

Sunday October 9
**10 Year Anniversary
Sunday and Lunch**

Sunday November
13
**Remembrance
Sunday followed by
sherry and nibbles.**

Sunday 18
December, 6pm
**Lessons and Carols
Service**

St Matthew's News

- On **Sunday 9 October** we will hold a special service to mark Will and the family's ten years at St Matthew's. We will also be thanking Mary for her 60+ years as our Treasurer. The service will be followed by a bring and share lunch.
- **Admin / Bookkeeping help** – we are on the hunt for the right person to take on some part time (paid) admin and bookkeeping functions within the church. If you know of anyone who might be suitable please have a word with Will / Liz or another member of the PCC.

Will Writes

Thank you to the many who have asked how my sabbatical was. In a word, terrific! The opportunity to take a step back after 10 years here (I know I can't believe it either) was precious indeed. For all of my 13 years of ordained life I have simply pressed on without the luxury of time to think and pray things through.

What were some of the themes that emerged?

We love Bayswater and St Matthew's and what we (i.e. all of us) are doing here is deeply precious with the many extraordinary people (my dear wife being one!). I did not visit other churches to fortify what we are doing at St Matthew's, yet, and rather incidentally, I have emerged more convinced than ever of our mission and ministry here.

The Christian faith in the UK (and I am thinking mainly of the Church of England) is in a depressed state, not least since the ravages of Covid. Again, I did not set out to find this out, but it certainly emerged as I travelled about.

We must, with laser beam focus, look *out* on those who do not (yet) worship with us and so also *up* asking God to bring them into his glorious Kingdom. This is one of our main reasons for existing and is particularly urgent at the present time.

And, what better example to follow than the constant, daily commitment of Her late Majesty as she lived out her Christian calling, exercising quiet determined faith, which always looked outwards. Likewise, let us keep 'fighting the good fight' of self-denying love of God and neighbour.

*With love **and** gratitude, Will, Liz, Thomas and Olivia*

Glorify

Pauline Hudson-Evans writes -

'For some months now I have been tuning in to **Glorify**, a Christian Daily Worship app designed to help people to connect with God every day. It's not trying to replace church, instead I am finding it a great supplement to our Sunday worship, a daily touch point, which Will has invited me to share with you.

Without doubt, Glorify has enabled me to get into good and regular worship habits and has truly strengthened my relationship with God. I now start every morning with:

- A daily Bible passage prefaced by the context in which it was written;
- A daily Devotional, based on the Bible passage, describing how we can bring its teaching into our life;
- A daily Reflection offering a guided meditation and the opportunity to reflect on the theme of the Bible passage;
- Prayer

Glorify was set up a couple of years ago by two young UK-based Christians and they now have more than 2m 'subscribers' (it's free!) around the world

I can recommend this app to seasoned Christians who want to reconnect or revitalise their relationship with God, as well as those who are just starting to explore Christianity and want to find out more. Young people who have grown up with apps will, I am sure, find Glorify very accessible and appealing. It also has a great Kids' section!

A fellow PCC member also recommends **Pray As You Go**, another daily prayer and contemplation app based on Ignatian spirituality that helps you to encounter God wherever you are. You can also access it via the Jesuits' website at www.pray-as-you-go.org



Bible Hour

One Hour to plug-in on
Wednesday's at 8pm.
Intimidation be banished

- No need to say
anything, just listen in.

*'Perfect for going
deeper'*

Healing Service Sunday September 25th and November 27th at 10.30am

Jesus calls us to seek healing
in Him. We will offer a
healing service roughly every
other month where specific
prayer for healing will be
offered. Open to all (Would
any you know appreciate an
invitation?)



It is this simplicity of the
Christmas story that
makes it so universally
appealing: simple
happenings that formed the
starting point of the life of
Jesus — a man whose
teachings have been
handed down from
generation to generation,
and have been the bedrock
of my faith. His birth
marked a new beginning.
As the carol says, "The
hopes and fears of all the
years are met in thee
tonight."

Her Majesty
Queen Elizabeth II
Christmas 2021

