

A Message from Matt



Hi Everybody,

I always thought that August was supposed to be a quieter time for clergy.....

What a time we've all had! I'm so glad that I decided to close down some of the regular things that we do during the week, such as lifegroup/prayer meetings etc, I'm sure you've all still managed to get together and I hope that you've all continued to pray.

Our series on Stewardship set us all up well as a church moving forward together and our series on Baptism helped us to see the various ways that people come to that place of deciding to either have a child baptised or to be baptised themselves. It was the most wonderful family celebration as we welcomed a little lamb amongst our flock and of course, the little girl who stole the show by herding our sheep away from their pen, never mind one lost sheep....we had over twenty to gather up!

And, of course, fresh in our memories are the 5 young people who made that decision for themselves to be baptised in the river, what a beautiful day and what amazing testimonies they shared, we're so proud of them all and give thanks to Jesus who has guided them to that place. They shivered their way through 'My Lighthouse' and absolutely 'bossed it' (sorry I believe that's a Yoof term). Huge thanks and recognition to the B@9 and Refuge Teams who have encouraged these youngsters and 'Made Jesus Known'.

The impromptu evening in the Rectory Garden saw the shed bar, fondly known as 'The Vicar's Tipple' open for the first time and boy it was busy, with 35 of you turning up on the hottest day of the summer for drinks and nibbles, what a lovely time we all had!

Summer isn't summer without a Church Village Fete and our fundraising day proved to be a huge success, with many people coming along during the day for coffee-n-cake and light lunches, to browse our stalls in the marquee and buy even more cake, then of course the 95 people who joined us for Cheese and Wine and danced the night away to the grooves of 'Rockley Sounds', what a fab night we had! A huge thank you to you all for pulling together to make all this happen. I will of course share with you how much was raised once all the figures are collated.

As I always remind people, our ancient building is a place that has shared in the joys of many, a place where people have wrestled with God, a place that has captured the tears and prayers and held people tightly for almost 10 centuries and once again the people who inhabit it came together to give thanks for the life of one of our loved ones, we did this together in a way that honoured a life well lived with Jesus at his side, we came together as church but recognised the love and grief of a family who courageously shared their loss, their space with us.

We now look towards the Autumn and a new series entitled 'Joseph: Lessons in Life'.

In the meantime, I hope we can all keep enjoying some sunny weather,

Summer Blessings,