

other throughout Lent and Holy Week, have thought about our faith, about our prayer, and about who Jesus is.

During Lent we are all encouraged to spend time listening to Jesus – in prayer and through reading the Scriptures, listening for his voice and drawing nearer to him, so that we may once again hear the transforming message he brings to us of love, hope, joy and strength in our Christian life journey.

And after this journey, after Lent, comes the clearest revelation of Jesus. He breaks the bread at his friends' table and is straight away recognised by them as their risen Lord. Every time we gather to celebrate the Eucharist we too bless and break the bread, and the risen Christ comes among us in that bread and wine to feed us for our journey of faith in him. The Eucharist – the meal of God's Kingdom – is a celebration of Christ's victory over sin and death. Every Sunday is the Day of Resurrection.

Every time we celebrate the Eucharist we rejoice that Jesus has broken the chains of death and opened the gates of heaven. This is our Easter joy. May this joy may be yours not only on Easter Day but throughout the Easter season and beyond, as together we will say:

Alleluia! Christ is risen. He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

With every blessing  
Kate

## **St Matthew's Church, Stretford**

### **April 2019 Diary Dates**

#### **Sunday 7th April - The Fifth Sunday of Lent**

Greater Manchester Marathon

8am Holy Communion

**from 9.00am** - we meet in the Hall (Hart Room) for worship and bacon butties to cheer on the runners

#### **Sunday 14th April - Palm Sunday - Holy Week begins**

8am Holy Communion

10am Deaf/hearing Eucharist

#### **Monday 15th, Tuesday 16th, Wednesday 17th April**

7pm Holy Week Service

#### **Thursday 18th April - Maundy Thursday**

7.30pm Agape in Choir Vestry

#### **Friday 19th - Good Friday**

10am Good Friday Service

2pm Good Friday Children's Service

#### **Sunday 21st April - Easter Day**

6.30am Dawn Service

8am Holy Communion

10am Easter Day Eucharist

#### **Sunday 28th April - The Second Sunday of Easter**

8am Holy Communion

10am Parish Eucharist (BSL)

followed by APCM and bring and share lunch

Letter for April 2019

**Sunday 5th May - The Third Sunday of Easter**

8am Holy Communion

10am Parish Eucharist

6.30pm Evening Service

**Every Tuesday Ecumenical Prayers**

9.45am in St Matthew's Choir Vestry

**Every Wednesday** 10am Midweek Eucharist at St Matthew's followed by coffee in the Hall

**Tuesday 2nd April:** 1.30pm School Easter Production in Church

**Wednesday 3rd and 10th April:** 7.30pm Lent course in Hall

**Thursday 4th April:** 7.30pm Worship Planning Meeting in Chapman Room

**Friday 5th April:** Young people's group meets in Hall

**Sunday 28th April:** 12noon APCM in Hall followed by Bring and Share lunch.

**Wednesday 1st May:** 7.30pm Deanery Synod at St Clement's Church

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Dear Friends

One of people's favourite Easter stories is The Walk to Emmaus (Luke 24: 13ff). In this passage two of Jesus' disciples are walking to Emmaus from Jerusalem. Suddenly they are joined by Jesus, but, thinking he is dead, they do not recognise him. They talk about the events of the past few days in Jerusalem: of Jesus' death on the cross and of his supposed rising to life again, which they have heard of from some of their friends. The stranger listens and walks with them, helping them to understand the prophecies concerning Jesus' death.

Then, as evening falls, they share a meal, and as the stranger blesses and breaks the bread, so the disciples recognise him to be the risen Christ, and immediately – filled with the joy of the resurrection – they go running back to Jerusalem to tell the other disciples - running back into the world to proclaim this Good News.

Lent and Holy Week, in many ways, could be regarded as our journey to Emmaus; a time of walking with Jesus, seeking to know him more fully and living in his love more deeply. During Lent we are encouraged to ask questions about our faith, just like those first disciples obviously did as they walked. Those of us who have been reading 'Eavesdropping' by Henry Martin, and who have met each