

St. Matt's Midweek Update – 14th June 2024



I hope your week has been ok.

This Sunday is Father's Day (quick reminder to run to the shops if you've forgotten!!). Whether your earthly father has been present or absent, a good role model or not so good, loving or strict, the amazing news is that we all have the same perfect heavenly Father.

Romans 8:14-16 says,

"For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, 'Abba, Father.' The Spirit himself testifies with our Spirit that we are God's children."

And this Father loves each of us the same - unconditionally, completely, without us needing to do anything to earn that love. He is a compassionate and gracious Father. He is slow to anger. He is faithful to us and his love for us abounds. He sings over us and delights in us. He forgives us and heals us and makes Him more like His Son Jesus day by day. He is righteous and He is just and He welcomes us into eternity with Him.

So this Father's Day, whether it is good or sad, whether you are celebrating with anyone or not, please remember that we have a Father in heaven who loves us beyond imagination. Let's celebrate that and be secure in that love.

Notices



This Sunday we just have our 10am service. It will be a fairly normal morning service, with communion and groups for our children and young people. There will be something nice for the dads / men in church on Sunday morning!

Chris will be speaking from Revelation 1:9-20, continuing our series on Encounters with Jesus.

Next Sunday (23rd June), we have two services, at 10am and 7pm.

At 10am, Brian will be speaking to us about John the Baptist's encounter with Jesus from Matthew 3:13-17 and we will have groups for children and young people.

At 7pm Chris will be speaking about Bartimaeus' encounter with Jesus from Mark 10:46-52.



Church BBQ lunch - on Sunday 7th July we will be having a BBQ in the Vicarage garden after church with our mission partners Sam and Abby Baguma from MAF in Uganda.

It would be helpful to have an idea of numbers for this, for ordering food (it is only 3 weeks away!), so please either sign up on the sheet at the back of church, or use this link to sign up if you are planning to come <https://stmatts.churchsuite.com/events/rsqpadfr>

We will provide meat (or vegetarian / vegan alternatives), rolls and soft drinks. If each person or family coming could bring a salad or a pudding, then there will be plenty to go around!

We are suggesting a donation of £2.50 per person to cover food, but please just pay what you can manage, especially if you are a larger family!

Dates for your diary this week:

Mission prayer meeting - Wednesday 19th June 3.30pm at Mary's house and on Zoom.

Knitting Hub - Saturday 22nd June 10.30am in the church centre.

Churches for Tunbridge Wells (CfTW) General Election Hustings will take place on Thursday 27 June, 7.45pm at St James' Church. This will be an opportunity to question and hear responses from the prospective Parliamentary Candidates for Tunbridge Wells, who have all been invited. Everyone is welcome to attend, and all are welcome to submit potential questions. Please send questions to cllyallen@aol.com by Sunday 16 June. They will endeavour to choose a wide range of questions on a variety of issues, so we hear a breadth of views on matters concerning local and national issues.

Please also pray for this Hustings to provide more 'light' than 'heat' as candidates respond to questions.

Does anyone have a room to rent?

A church member is looking for a room to rent for a few months. If anyone can help, please contact Chris on chris@stmattschurch.org.uk.

New Wine is happening on 25th - 30th July this summer in Shepton Mallet, and they really **need more team members to help in the younger children's groups**, Pebbles and Gems. They specifically need team members who are over 18 years old and willing and excited to serve the youngest delegates. No previous experience is required, as full training will be given both pre-site and on-site. Each team member will have a camping space, full access to the festival when not on duty, 3 meals per day and access to the exclusive Team Lounge, all for a small admin fee of £30. Have a look here for more information <https://www.new-wine.org/events/newwine24/teams-2024/>



The next YFC Unite youth event is today (Friday 14th June) 5.30pm - 8pm at TW Christian Fellowship. It's for anyone in years 6-13. It's a 1st anniversary celebration with workshops, food, football, faith, console games and tuck shop. To book, go to www.madapps.uk/twyouth4christ/

I am on annual leave next week so there probably won't be a newsletter next week.

For any help, support or queries, please contact Chris on chris@stmattschurch.org.uk