

St. Matt's Midweek Update – 12th July 2024



How are you? It's been another busy week for me - I'm doing the talk this Sunday in church, so I feel like I've spent a fair bit of time on that!

We've got two Sundays left in our Encounters with Jesus series. This Sunday I'll be talking about the woman at the well, and then next Sunday we will hear about Zacchaeus from Matt.

In John 4, Jesus talks to the woman at the well about worshipping in God in spirit and in truth. It's a tricky part to understand, but I like the way The Message Bible puts it across:
²³⁻²⁴ "It's who you are and the way you live that count before God. Your worship must engage your spirit in the pursuit of truth. That's the kind of people the Father is out looking for: those who are simply and honestly *themselves* before him in their worship. God is sheer being itself—Spirit. Those who worship him must do it out of their very being, their spirits, their true selves, in adoration."

We don't have to try and be anything we're not or do anything we are uncomfortable with when we worship God. God wants us to worship him from our spirit to his, from our souls. There's no comparisons needed, no reason to not feel good enough or not holy enough. It's about knowing who God is and worshiping him because of that in whatever way you want.

If you want to read the whole story of Jesus' encounter with the woman at the well before Sunday, it's in John 4:1-26.

Notices



This Sunday we have two services - our morning service at 10am and our more traditional service at 5pm. We will have groups for our children and youth in the morning, and our Bible reading is John 4:1-26.

Next Sunday we just have our 10am service with groups for children and youth.

Dates for your diaries:

Tuesday 16th July - Ignite boating in Dunorlan Park

Wednesday 17th July - last community hub for this term 11am - 3pm

Wednesday 17th July - mission prayer meeting 3.30pm at Mary's house and on Zoom

Services over the summer

Over the summer holidays we will have all-age services every Sunday morning to give all our youth and children's volunteers a break. We will be basing our talks on sports and the Olympics. These services will start on Sunday 28th July and will run through all of August. Some of us from St. Matt's are at New Wine from 25th July to 30th July.

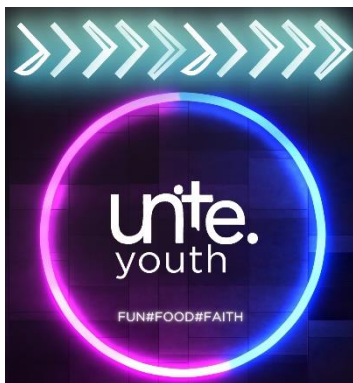
Summer BBQ - having been beaten by the weather for our BBQ last week, we are planning another BBQ at Chris and Carole's house during the summer for anyone who would like to come.

It will be on **Friday 16th August in the evening** - 6.30pm - 9pm.

We will have the same arrangement as last time - we will provide meat (or alternative), rolls and soft drinks. Please bring a salad or pudding if you can.

We will get a sign-up sheet out in the next couple of weeks to help us cater for the right numbers and dietary requirements.





The next town-wide youth event run by YFC is tomorrow (Saturday 13th July) and it is Unite in the Wild. It is for anyone in school years 6-13.

It will be held at Temple Grove Academy in Sherwood and runs all day from 10am - 6.30pm. The cost is £15 per person, but you can let YFC know when you book if this is a problem.

There will be bush craft, sports, activities, Laser Tag, faith, basketball, BBQ and S'mores, and a football tournament.

For more information and booking go to www.madapps.uk/twyouth4christ/

YFC are also running a camp at Adamswell in the summer. It's from 20th - 22nd August, for anyone in school years 6-13. The cost is £60 per person, but we can help with that as a church if your young person would like to go and the cost is a problem.

There will be quad bikes, faith talks, outdoor activities, bush craft, BBQ, bonfire and more!

For more information and booking go to www.madapps.uk/twyouth4christ/



URGENTLY NEED MENTORS & TRUSTEES

Life & Soul is a local Christian charity working with children and young people to improve mental health, self-esteem, confidence and resilience. They work in many of the primary and secondary schools in Tunbridge Wells.

This is an exciting time to be part of the charity as God is providing resources that will enable them to expand what they do and provide essential help for even more young people each year. To do this they need more mentors and trustees.

If you think this might be you, please find out more by visiting their website www.lifeandsoul.org.uk or email Sarah Finch, CEO (sarahf@lifeandsoul.org.uk) for an informal chat. They would love to hear from anyone who has a heart for improving the lives of children and young people.

Have a great weekend and we hope to see you on Sunday at one of our services. Do be in touch if you need any help or support.