

St. Matt's Midweek Update – 5th July 2024



How has your week been?

Mine has been busy and I'm afraid I haven't had a lot of inspiration for this email today!

But one thing that I think is really important to remember this week is our responsibility to pray for our leaders.

"I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people - for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Saviour, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth." 1 Timothy 2:1-3.

You can't have escaped the fact that we have had a general election this week! Whatever your political views and whoever you voted for, we have democratically elected a new government and a new MP for Tunbridge Wells, and we should be praying for them as they take office and start to make changes. It is a huge responsibility to be in public life, and we know that God can use people for good and to bring justice and compassion to others.

The other thing that is happening this weekend is that the Church of England's General Synod are meeting, and they will be discussing some very important and controversial issues around prayers and blessings for same-sex couples. So let's be praying for these meetings as well, for bridges to be built rather than walls going up, and for understanding and compromise rather than widening divisions.

And lastly, let's keep praying for Chris and Carole, as they plan for retirement next year and as they finish well after so long here at St. Matt's.

Notices



This Sunday is the first Sunday in July, so we have the 8am communion service from the Book of Common Prayer, and then our family service at 10am.

Our mission partners from MAF Uganda (Sam, Abby, Rachel and Rebecca Baguma) will be with us for the family service and will be sharing with us about their work and life in Uganda.

Next Sunday (14th July) we have our 10am morning service with groups for children and youth, and then our more traditional 5pm service, with tea and cake from 4.30pm.



After the family service this Sunday we will be having our church BBQ in Chris and Carole's garden (72 Powdermill Lane).

A few notes if you are coming to the BBQ...

- If you weren't sure whether to make a salad or pudding, we currently have more puddings, so we could do with some more salads please.

- **We have a few people with nut allergies, so please can we say NO NUTS in any salads or puddings. Thank you.**

- 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! We will have the card machine available if you haven't got cash.

- Bring a chair or a picnic rug if you can - Chris and Carole have some but probably not enough for everyone!

- If you haven't signed up and are planning to come, please let me know today. Thanks.

And please pray that the rain stays away!!



The next Walking Hub is tomorrow, meeting at 10am at Sevenoaks Wildlife Reserve, Bradbourne Vale Road, Sevenoaks, TN13 3DH (just off the A25, take the Riverhead exit from the A21). Website www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk

There are a number of walks round beautiful lakes and an opportunity to see all different types of wild birds - definitely worth bringing a camera as there are several hides which allow you to

watch all the different birds on the lakes. This is a flat walk with paths and beautiful scenery. There is a car parking charge of £3.50 which is for the whole day and there is also a cafe, children's play area and picnic area.

Please note that on this occasion dogs are NOT allowed.



This week will be the last week for all our midweek children and youth groups meeting in church before the summer holidays...

Deeper last session on Monday 8th July

Toddler group last session on Thursday 11th July

Ignite will meet in church this week on 9th July and will then have their last session at Dunorlan Park on Tuesday 16th July. Don't forget to sign up for this if you are in year 6 - 13 and would like to

come <https://stmatts.churchsuite.com/events/ds2xmse2>



Other dates for your diaries...

The Community Hub is open this week and the following week (10th and 17th July) and will then break over the summer holidays.

The Community Larder is open every Friday all through the summer holidays.

Knitting Hub is meeting on Monday 8th July 7.30pm in the church centre.

Mission Prayer Meeting is on Wednesday 17th July 3.30pm at Mary's house and on Zoom.

POSSIBLE FUTURE ST MATT'S MINDFULNESS GROUP

Having chatted to Chris recently, Jill Grainger would like to assess whether there would be sufficient interest in her starting up a Christian adults' mindfulness group. The format would include and evolve around a biblical verse, and mindfulness and relaxation exercises, approximately 40-50 minute group sessions.

If this would be of any interest to you, please initially contact Hannah in the church office to register your interest together with your name, contact details and preference of either daytime or evening sessions or catch Jill in church or on a Wednesday at the Community Hub. Please let us know your interest by **Sunday 17th July**.



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.

That's all for now. Have a good weekend and hope to see you Sunday.

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