

# St. Matt's Midweek Update – 30<sup>th</sup> August 2024



I hope you are well and that you have had a good summer. As we are heading into a new term next week, our weekly newsletters are back!

Whether you are guided by school terms or not, going into September feels like a new season for all of us. After a quieter summer, the autumn gets busier again and we will start to feel the change of the seasons.

Here at church we have been planning for this term - there is lots happening and it feels like it is going to be a busy term, especially with Christmas at the end of it! (Yes, we have already started thinking about Christmas!!).

Thinking ahead to the busy-ness reminded me of the theme of our morning sessions at New Wine - 'come away with me'. The talks were all about the times Jesus retreated to pray and spend time with God. Sometimes he was interrupted and had to deal with crowds following him or disciples stranded on a lake in a storm, but he still intentionally made time and space to seek out God and be refreshed by Him.

One thing that struck me as I looked back over my notes that I made during the talks, was that more often than not, Jesus went up a mountain to pray. Maybe that's because he knew he could find peace and solitude up a mountain. But you also get a really good view from high up. You can see the bigger picture; you get a new perspective. It's so important for us to follow Jesus' example and to make time in our busy lives to get away with God and pray and hear from Him. It can help to take us out of the complications and details of our problems and worries and give us a bigger perspective - God's perspective.

I don't know about you, but walking up mountains is not my idea of fun! It is hard work. And so is being intentional about making time to spend with God. Something will always get in the way if we let it. It can feel like a hard slog at times. But just like being up a mountain, the view from the top makes it all worthwhile!

## Notices



### This Sunday we have two services...

**8am** Book of Common Prayer communion service

**10am** family service - this is our last family service of the summer holidays.

We will be looking at teams and some of the different things happening in church this term. Our Bible reading will be Mark 3:13-19.

**Next Sunday** we also have two services - our 10am morning service with groups for children and young people starting back up again, and our more traditional 5pm service.



Rosemary and her team are holding a **coffee morning** on Tuesday 3rd September in church from 10.30am - 12pm. Everyone is welcome. There will be cakes and books for sale, as well as a tombola and raffle.



**Walking Hub** is happening on Saturday 7th September, and this month the walk will be in Matfield. The meeting point is The Green in Matfield (TN12 7JT).

This is a fairly flat walk around beautiful country and orchards which will take around 1 hour. Some paths and some grass areas so please wear suitable footwear on the day.

There are public toilets nearby and a butcher's shop which sells cold drinks, ice cream & sorbets or bring your own refreshments as, weather permitting, we can sit by the pretty duck pond afterwards. Adults, children and dogs all welcome.

Directions: From the A21 turn left towards Paddock Wood into Maidstone Road and follow through into Matfield passing the Green. Just before Hammonds butchers' shop on the left, turn left into The Green, follow the narrow road to the top and park under the trees by the cricket pitch. If you are approaching from the opposite direction turn right just after The Star pub, Matfield. Please contact Hannah in the church office if you need a lift or any more information.

All our **midweek groups and activities** will be starting up again in the week beginning 9th September, except for Deeper, which will start a week later due to volunteer numbers.



Ignite - secondary school young people - Tuesday 10th Sept 6pm - 7.30pm

Community Hub - everyone welcome - Wednesday 11th Sept 11am - 3pm

Toddler Group - babies and preschool children and their parents / carers - Thursday 12th Sept 9.30am - 11.30am

Deeper - children in school years 3-6 - Monday 16th Sept 3.30pm - 5pm

The Community Larder is on every Friday in the Bethel Hall from 9.30am - 10.45am



Some other **dates to put in your diary** for the next couple of months...

Welcome and hospitality team thank you evening - Friday 4th October 7.30pm

Harvest bring and share lunch - Sunday 6th October after church

Worship and tech team thank you evening - Friday 11th October 7.30pm

Quiz night - Friday 15th November in the evening

Christmas Craft Event (for women) - Friday 6th December 7.30pm

### **Boxes and junk needed!!**

Do you have any small cardboard boxes, tubes, etc that could be used for junk modelling at toddler group? Preferably small boxes like smartie tubes, raisin boxes, egg boxes, small rice boxes, etc. Not things as big as cereal boxes please.

Also, do you have any cardboard boxes that are about A4 size on the base - we need cardboard boxes for giving some books to Book Aid.

If you have any of these, please bring them into church in the next couple of weeks. Thanks!



Every year, Friends of Kent Churches run their **Ride and Stride event**, where people can do a sponsored walk or cycle around local churches. The money raised helps to maintain church buildings in Kent.

This year's Ride and Stride is on Saturday 14th September.

By cycling, walking or running around Kent churches, you can raise money to be divided equally between the Friends of Kent Churches and the church or chapel of your choice.

If you would like to join in this year, let me know and I can give you a sponsor form and all the details. You can also have a look at their website <https://www.kentrideandstride.co.uk/>



### **Unite Town-wide Youth Event - Friday 13th September 2024.**

Friday evening fun for young people in school years 6-13 with games and consoles, football and pizza, craft and chat as well as faith and worship. Doors open at 5.30pm with the main event starting at 6pm. Suggested donation of £2 on the door to cover the food costs. (cash or card). At Tunbridge Wells Christian Fellowship, Hanover Road, Tunbridge Wells. You can join the fun by booking your place via <https://www.madapps.uk/twyouth4christ/>



# Meet the risk-takers of the persecuted church

Join us for a unique and uplifting time with John from Yemen. He'll share how his faith went viral and brought persecution – and why he can't stop telling others about Jesus.

**STANDING STRONG**

21ST SEPTEMBER · 10AM-3PM

CHRIST CHURCH TUNBRIDGE WELLS

Book today at: [opendoorsuk.org/standingstrong](https://opendoorsuk.org/standingstrong)



## We Are **HIRING**

World Day of Prayer, a registered charity, are looking to appoint an Assistant Administrator for 25 hours a week to start as soon as possible. We are based in Tunbridge Wells, Kent. The role will include general office duties along with co-ordinating events, bookings, order processing and data entry. GCSE Maths and English at grade C is essential. It is desirable for the applicant to have experience of bookkeeping and/or financial systems. The applicant must also have excellent communication skills.

### APPLY NOW

World Day of Prayer is a women-led, global, ecumenical movement of Christian women and employees are expected to have empathy with the ethos of the Movement.

For more information and an application form, please telephone or email the office on 01892 541411 or [office@wwdp.org.uk](mailto:office@wwdp.org.uk).

Website: [www.wwdp.org.uk](http://www.wwdp.org.uk)



That's all for now! Please do be in touch with myself and Chris in the office if you need any help or support. We hope to see you on Sunday.

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