

St. Matt's Midweek Update – 13th September 2024



I hope you have had a good week and settled back into routine and normality!

I don't know about you, but I really don't like being cold! And this week it feels like the temperature has suddenly dropped about 10 degrees. But the one thing that makes the cold easier to bear is when the sun is out and it is a bright day. I walked to work this morning and it was really nice to feel the sun and to see everything in the sunlight, even if it was a bit chilly!

It reminded me that Jesus says he is the light of the world, but also that we are called to be lights in the world as well. Often our world can feel very dark and gloomy and yet there is a light that shines into that darkness.

John 8:12 says, "When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

The light of life is the hope and the knowledge that there is more than just this life, that we can live as loved children of God but that we can also spend eternity with Him. That is the light that Jesus shines into the darkness. A light of freedom, forgiveness, love, compassion, adoption and mercy.

And yet we are not just called to stand in the spotlight of Jesus' light and absorb it all ourselves. We are called to reflect and share that light with the rest of the world.

Matthew 5:14-16 - "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

We can all share the light of Jesus in our lives, through the things we do, the way we serve others, through our words and our attitude, and just by living differently to the way society says we should live.

So let's shine bright today, and enjoy the sun while it is here!!

Notices



This Sunday we have our 10am service with groups for our children and young people. We are looking at the first of our values as a church this week (the Word), and Suzanne will be speaking to us. The Bible reading is 2 Timothy 3:14 - 4:5. We will also be sharing communion together during the service.

Next Sunday we have our 10am service and also our monthly 7pm service, which is smaller and more relaxed, with more worship.



Deeper (our group for children in school years 3-6) is starting this Monday in church, 3.30pm to 5pm.

We are really in need of growing the volunteer team for Deeper. It is a really fun group! The children amuse themselves with lots of games and activities through the session, and we have time round the table having toast and squash and hearing a short thought for the day.

We know it is an awkward time for a lot of people, but if you are able to volunteer at Deeper, or would like to come and see what a session is like, please do let me know.



Our **harvest family service** is on Sunday 6th October, and we will be having a **bring and share lunch** after the service. It is really helpful to have an idea of numbers and what people might be bringing, so please can you sign up if you are planning to come to the lunch? You can sign up here <https://stmatts.churchsuite.com/events/benn0o5o> or on the sheet at the back of church.

Just a reminder of some **dates to put in your diary** for the next couple of months...



- Mission prayer meeting** - Wednesday 18th Sept 3.30pm at Mary's house
- Welcome and hospitality team meeting and thank you** - Friday 4th October 7.30pm
- Harvest bring and share lunch** - Sunday 6th October after church
- Worship and tech team meeting and thank you** - Friday 11th October 7.30pm
- Quiz night** - Friday 15th November in the evening
- Christmas Craft Event (for women)** - Friday 6th December 7.30pm

Parents, check your emails!

If you have children or young people who come to any of our groups or activities, you will have been sent an email from ChurchSuite asking for you to check the details we hold for them and to consent to us keeping them.

Please can you check your junk folder if you haven't seen this email, and respond to it promptly by clicking on the button in the email. Thank you!



TW Youth For Christ Sponsored Marathon!

TW YFC are walking a marathon on Saturday 28th September to raise money for the work they do with the young people of our town.

They support local schools, churches and young people through many different projects including Unite Youth and the after-school drop-in at The Youth Centre.

This work does not come for free! The team are aiming to raise £6,000 by walking 26 miles around all the churches and schools they work in.

We will let you know what time they aim to be at St. Matt's on 28th September so that some of us can gather at church to pray for the team as they walk past!

If you would like to sponsor the team please go to <https://tunbridgewells.yfc.co.uk/walk-2024/>



Let your creativity become part of your prayer and draw closer to God on their **Prayer through Painting week at Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre**. Join them in their spacious and fully equipped Art Room for a creative week of art inspired by the Holy Spirit and under the prayerful guidance of artist, Jill Hartman.

30th September - 4th October: £540 en-suite room / £500 non ensuite room.

Book by calling 01424 830204

or <https://www.crowhursthealing.org.uk/retreat.php?retreat=841>

That's all for now. Have a lovely weekend!