

St. Matt's Midweek Update – 20th September 2024



Life feels busy at the moment! There seems to be a lot of extra life admin to do right now – things for Zara for school, appointments, paperwork etc. and it all fills up my brain too much!!

And then to top it off, I got a crazy energy bill on my account at the end of last week, for almost £2000!!!

At first, I panicked! Then I realised that they had rebilled me for stuff from the end of 2023. So I went onto Live Chat to try and sort it out, and they seemed to be saying that it was correct and to do with a new system. Not helpful.

So I ended up spending a fair bit of time working out what the bills meant, and I realised I would need to phone them to try and sort it all out. I was fairly sure that it was a mistake, but it was still causing me anxiety as I've had a lot of problems with my account over the years and it felt like we might have to go back over all the old problems to work out what had gone wrong.

I didn't have the time during their phone hours to call them until Wednesday, and I felt sure I was going to have to work really hard to convince them that this was a mistake. So on Wednesday morning I prayed, asking God to give me someone who would understand the situation and who would be able to see what the issue was really easily. I don't know why I didn't just pray for the bill to go away, but it felt right to pray for the right person to answer the phone.

And guess what! The lady who I spoke to was so lovely, so understanding of the anxiety and stress this could cause, and almost immediately saw the mistake and was able to put it right. Not my experience of call centre people in the past at my energy company!!

Afterwards, I realised that God had specifically answered my prayer. He had enabled that person to be lovely and caring, but also to be able to help easily and quickly to sort out the problem.

God asks us to pray in all things and in all circumstances. It is easy to shoot up prayers when we are in trouble, or to pray vague prayers that we hope will be answered. But if we pray specifically, we can see when God has answered, and we then need to remember to go back to God and thank Him for what He has done for us.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 says, "Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

Notices



This Sunday we have two services...

10am morning service with groups for our children and young people. This week Chris will be speaking about our value of Spirit from John 14:15-27.

7pm service – this is a more relaxed café style service and this week we will be sharing communion together, as well as having a longer time of worship, soaking and testimonies.

Next Sunday we just have our normal 10am service, and we are looking at our value of worship.

Daily reading apps

Last week in her talk, Suzanne told us about some apps to help with daily Bible reading. Here are a few suggestions...



Anglican daily prayer; this includes morning, evening and night prayer. It follows the lectionary and has Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer to listen to.



Lectio 365 - From Pete Greig's 24/7 Prayer. Morning and evening prayer.



Reimagining the examen; the examen is an Ignatian practice of reviewing the day with God.



Pray as you go; morning prayer with music and reflection. The app also has resources for prayer walks and other themes of life.

If you know of any other good apps, do let us know or post on Discipleship, so everyone can have a look if they want to.

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.

As it is harvest, we will be collecting food for the community larder and also any financial offerings will go to Tearfund. We will tell you more about that next Sunday.



Knitting hub is on tomorrow morning in the church centre, 10.30am - 12pm for anyone who would like to join in.

School forms

It's that time of year when those of you with children in year 6 start thinking about applying for secondary school places. If you are putting Bennett or St. Greg's down as one of your choices, you also have to submit their own forms, which a vicar needs to sign.

If you would like Chris to sign any forms for you, please can you let me know asap, so that we can get a meeting in the diary in plenty of time. Chris likes to meet with you to discuss what you are putting on the form as well as signing it, and the criteria are different for each school. We have to follow the guidelines that we are given by the school in terms of the categories and levels of attendance at church.

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/>

We hope you have a good weekend and we'll see you on Sunday.