

St. Matt's Midweek Update – 27th September 2024



I hope you have had a good week.

As you know, we are looking at the vision and values of our church in our sermons this term. I thought it would be helpful to just give you an overview of what all those values are as we keep going with our series this Sunday.

Our vision statement as a church is "Igniting passion for Jesus". We want to grow in our love for Jesus and we want to help other people discover him for themselves.

The values of St. Matt's are the things that are really important to us and that make us who we are as a church.

There are six values on our website, and these haven't changed from when they were first agreed on. We are then adding two more values to those, which we believe characterise who we are as a church in this season. These values are:

- **The Word** (the Bible as the living, inspired word of God)
- **The Holy Spirit** (the person of the Trinity who lives within every person who puts their trust in Jesus)
- **Worship** (glorifying God in how we live our lives as well as what we do when we meet together)
- **The cross** (the greatest expression of God's love for us is the death of His Son Jesus Christ on the cross)
- **Love** (love lies at the heart of God, that he first loved us, and our response to that love should be expressed in love for God and love for each other)
- **Presence** (Jesus lives in us and what we do as a church needs to flow out of God's activity amongst us)
- **Welcome** (we have always tried to be a welcoming church, and we have been on a journey recently discovering that we want to be a truly inclusive church to everyone)
- **Teams** (one of the strengths of St. Matt's are our volunteers, and we see the value of working in teams and building relationships in those teams)

We hope it is helpful for us to reaffirm who we are as a church in this way, and we pray that it would help to strengthen and empower us as we move forward into a period of transition together.

Notices



Chris and Carole would like to thank everyone for their kindness and for the messages of support we have received as Chris approaches his surgery this week. We both feel very loved and supported by our church family.



This Sunday we have our 10am morning service. Ali is going to be speaking to us about our value of worship and the Bible passage is Romans 12:1-2. We will have groups for our children and young people.

Next Sunday is the first Sunday of October, so we will have our 8am communion service (Rev. Dave Green from St. Luke's is going to take this for us) and we also have our Harvest family service at 10am.



At our **harvest service** on 6th October, we will be collecting food for the community larder and also any financial offerings will go to Tearfund.

These are the things that the larder are in need of at the moment:

- Tins of anything - sweetcorn, baked beans, tomatoes, potatoes, kidney beans, chickpeas, peas...
- Tinned tuna
- Pasta, spaghetti, rice
- Tea, coffee, squash
- Cereal

We will also be having a **bring and share lunch** after the harvest 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.



Dates for your diary:

- Welcome team meeting and thank you - Friday 4th October, 7.30pm in the church centre
- Worship and tech team meeting and thank you - Friday 11th October 7.30pm in the church centre
- NO prayer meeting in October, due to Chris being on leave
- Mission prayer meeting - Wednesday 16th October, 3.30pm at Mary's house and on Teams

Quiz night - Friday 15th November

Christmas Craft Event for women - Friday 6th December

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 around Chris' sick leave. 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.

Life & Soul would love to invite you to their upcoming fundraising event, a **Cheese and Wine Tasting evening**. It is on the 24th October at the Old Auction House near the Pantiles. Doors open at 7pm for a 7.30pm start. Tickets are £15 and you will have a chance to enjoy 4 delicious cheeses alongside wines from the same regions as the cheese. There will also be a cash bar and a silent auction; it is bound to be a fantastic night. Your support will help us continue to reach more children and young people with their mental health. Tickets can be bought from <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/events/landing/67922?embed>.

We hope you have a good weekend.