

St. Matt's Midweek Update – 6th September 2024



I hope that you have had a good week, and that the start of term has been okay for you and your family if that applies.

This week I have seen the worst and the best in people. I have seen that in the worst of circumstances, we also see the best in people.

And not just this week, but throughout my adult life, I can tell you that the hardest times and the most tragic and sad circumstances also show us how good and amazing we can be as humans. People pull together and support each other. When bad things happen, communities rally around each other and raise money for those in need. We saw that in the riots earlier this summer.

And that's one of those strange paradoxes of the world we live in - that the worst and the best are often seen together. That even though God doesn't cause the worst, he can make sure the best also happens through it.

I was listening to some music earlier in the week, and the song "His glory and my good" came up <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d5nUTO4m9oA>

It reminded me once again that God can work in any situation for His glory and for our good. That is the hope we can hold onto, but it is also the hope that we can share with other people. And often the time we most need to hear that is when something has shaken our world.

So hold onto that this week, and share it with someone else who needs to hear it if you can.

Notices



Walking Hub CANCELLED

Unfortunately, Phil and Jill have decided to cancel tomorrow's walking hub due to the amount of rain we have had and also road closures around the route they had planned.

They will start the walking hub again in the spring of 2025.



Our monthly prayer meeting is on Monday (9th Sept) at 8pm in the youth room in church (sorry this wasn't in the notices last week). Mary is leading the meeting for us and everyone is welcome to come and pray together for an hour.

Knitting Hub is also happening on Monday in the church centre, from 7.30pm till 9pm - everyone is welcome.

Sewing Bee Hub is on tonight at Ruth's house from 7.30pm.

This Sunday we have two services...



10am morning service - we will be starting a new series for our autumn term looking at our vision and values as a church. This Sunday Mary will be sharing with us about our church vision statement (Igniting Passion for Jesus) and the Bible reading is John 4:27-42.

Our groups for children and young people during the service are starting back up again this Sunday.

5pm service - we then have our more traditional service at 5pm, with tea and cake served from 4.30pm.

All our **midweek groups and activities** will be starting up again this coming week, except for Deeper, which will start a week later due to volunteer numbers.



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

Community Hub - everyone welcome - Wednesday 11th Sept 11am - 3pm in the church centre

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

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

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



If you were in church last Sunday, you will have heard lots of interviews about some of the groups we run in church - the ones that could do with **growing their volunteer teams** the most. The teams we highlighted were:

Deeper - our children's group on Mondays from 3.30pm - 5pm. At the moment we have a waiting list because we haven't got enough volunteers for the number of children who want to come along!

Ignite - our youth group on Tuesdays from 6pm - 7.30pm.

Community Hub - our drop in hub open to anyone on Wednesdays from 11am - 3pm. The team make drinks and lunches and chat to those who come along.

Welcome team for Sunday mornings - welcoming people on the door for our 10am Sunday services.

We also talked about our Sunday children's group, but we have had some responses for that, so thank you.

If you are able to join any of these teams, generally helping once a month, please do let me know. And if you want to watch the service from last week to hear about the teams, here it is <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=St-bjnuysom>

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 this week 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!

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/>



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I hope you have a good weekend and we see you at one of our services on Sunday.