

St. Matt's Midweek Update – 4th October 2024



How are you?

I have just started reading a book called "Gentle and Lowly" by Dane Ortlund. I got it at New Wine several years ago, but I've only just got round to reading it!!

I've only read about 3 chapters, but already it is making me think and speaking to me. It is about the heart of Jesus and what He is really like.

Did you know that in the four Gospels, there's only one place where Jesus tells us what his own heart is like? We see what He is like through his actions and through his reactions to people, but there is only one place where He tells us...

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, **for I am gentle and humble in heart**, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

It feels like a busy time of year for lots of people. When I speak to people at the moment I get the sense that people are feeling worn out, with a lot of burdens and responsibilities. If that's you, then Jesus is telling you that He is there for you. He knows and He sees and he comes with gentle love and wants to give you rest.

His heart isn't one of disappointment or pity, of discipline or frustration, it's one of love and gentleness and humility. And all you need to do is to come to Him.

So maybe in your busy day, just ask Him to be with you. Shoot up a prayer about the most important thing for you today. Put some worship music on as you go about your routines. Come to Him, and He will give you rest.

Notices

This Sunday we have our 8am Book of Common Prayer 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, with lunch afterwards (see below).



Next Sunday our 10am service will have groups for children and youth, and Mark will be speaking to us about our value of the cross.

We also have our more traditional 5pm service with communion, with tea and cake from 4.30pm.



This Sunday at 10am is our **harvest service and bring and share lunch!** We will be sitting round tables for the service, with lots of fun activities and Gill will be speaking to us.

We will be collecting food for the community larder and 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, etc. Tinned tuna. Pasta, spaghetti, rice. Tea, coffee, squash. Cereal.

Don't worry if you haven't signed up for the **bring and share lunch**

You can either sign up here <https://stmatts.churchsuite.com/events/benn0o5o> or just come along on Sunday.

IMPORTANT - if you are bringing home made food to the lunch, please can you put a list of ingredients with it (especially nuts) as we have people with allergies.



Come and join us for a fun evening of quizzing, on **Friday 15th November 7.30pm in church.**

Mark will be our quiz master again and I'm sure there will be some new and exciting rounds this year! This is a great event to bring friends along to.

Tickets are £5 per person and the quiz is for anyone aged 14+.

Tables of up to 8 people.

We will provide soft drinks - feel free to bring any snacks and other drinks for your table. Any proceeds from the night will go to St. Matt's Community Larder.

You can buy your tickets here <https://stmatts.churchsuite.com/events/f0plhxgs> or email me at office@stmattschurch.org.uk

Dates for your diary this week:



Welcome team meeting and thank you - Friday 4th October, 7.30pm in the church centre

Sewing Bee Hub - Friday 4th October 7.30pm at Ruth's house

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

Knitting Hub - Monday 14th October 7.30pm in the church centre

Mission prayer meeting - Wednesday 16th October, 3.30pm at Mary's house and on Teams

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.

Working party in October half term

David Johnson would like to get a working party together in October half term, to do some high level cleaning and some general tidying. If anyone can be available the week of 28th October, please speak to David in the first instance to let him know when you are free.

Baby loss support service

Saying Goodbye, (part of the Mariposa Trust) are coming to Kent in October with a very special Baby loss remembrance and support service (part of a UK and Ireland chain of events). On the 12th October at 11.30am, in Canterbury Cathedral, we will be hosting one of our Saying Goodbye Services

The service is for anyone who has either personally lost a baby at any stage of pregnancy, at birth, or in early years, or who has been affected by family members' or friends' loss. Whether the loss was recent or 80 years ago, everyone is welcome to attend. We have also extended the services, and gladly welcome anyone who is grieving the fact that they haven't had children. This may be due to circumstance, infertility, or for other reasons - but all are welcome. Babies and children are also invited to come with their families, as the Saying Goodbye service is truly a family event for all. www.sayinggoodbye.org

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