

## St. Matt's Summer News

I hope you are managing to get some time to rest and be with family and friends this summer. This will be the last midweek email for a few weeks, as there is not so much happening over August, so this one covers all of August.

Today I wanted to just leave you with a verse about peace and rest, but then I remembered the Lectio 365 Sabbath prayer. So I want to pray this over you and your families for the summer, and I would ask that you pray it over the church staff and leadership as well.

"May this day (*and this summer time*) bring Sabbath rest to my heart and my home.

May God's image in me be restored, and my imagination in God be re-storied.

May the gravity of material things be lightened, and the relativity of time slow down.

May I know the grace to embrace my own finite smallness in the arms of God's infinite greatness.

May God's Word feed me and His Spirit lead me into the week and into the life to come."

(Pete Greig, Sabbath Blessing).

## Notices



Chris and Carole are having two BBQs in their garden over August, for anyone who would like to come. They would love to have the chance to spend some time with you and to chat and share food. They will provide meat, rolls and drinks, for a donation of £2.50 per person. If you can bring a salad or pudding to share, that would be great.

We do need you to sign up for these BBQs if you would like to come, so that we can cater for the right numbers and dietary requirements.

**The first BBQ is this Friday 6th August at 7pm.** Please sign up here if you would like to come <https://stmatts.churchsuite.co.uk/events/zljgfrx4> - **we need to know by Thursday** lunchtime please.

**The second BBQ will be on Friday 20th August at 7pm,** and we will need sign ups for that by Wednesday 18th August. You can sign up for the second BBQ

here <https://stmatts.churchsuite.co.uk/events/xdgbyuv0>

You can bring your donation with you on the day, but don't let that be a reason not to come. We want to see you, not your money!



If you've had a **birthday in July**, and would like your photo in our birthday slideshow, please email it to me by this Thursday evening, so Brian can put the slideshow together for Sunday. Thanks!



**Sundays over August** will all be family services following our Olympics theme! We've got archery, sailing, running and hurdles to look forward to! The services will continue in church and online, and on the 22<sup>nd</sup> August we'll have our first baptism during the service since pre-Covid.

Our next 8am communion service will be on 5th September.



Having had to cancel our **church picnic** for the last 2 weeks due to the unpredictable summer weather, we have another one planned for Sunday 5th September. It will be at 12pm in Grosvenor and Hilbert Park - we'll remind you again nearer the time!



We are very excited that we are able to try again with **recruiting a Youth Minister** for St. Matt's. We are very pleased to be partnering with High Hopes, so that we can offer a full time role split between the two organisations. Please look out for the advert coming out and share it as much as you can on social media. And please pray that we can find the right person for this joint role.

**Testimonies** - we haven't had many testimonies in church recently, but we love to hear stories of what God is doing in our lives. If you have a testimony, maybe something has come out of the New Wine online sessions, and you would like to share it in church, please do let myself or Chris know.

**Staff leave** - Lois is now off for most of August. I will be on leave the week of 9th August and the week of 23rd August. Chris and Carole are around for August but will be going on study leave from Monday 6th September through to the 8th November. While Chris is on study leave, Carole will also be stepping back from all church involvement, so they can both have a complete break. If you want to get in touch with any of us, please email in the first instance, or ring the church office, and then the answer phone or out of office emails will tell you who to contact instead!

We hope you have a lovely summer. We'd love to see you in church if you feel comfortable to join us, or at one of the BBQs.

Do be in touch if you need any help or support.