

St. Matt's Midweek Update – 2nd September 2021

How has your summer been? Can you believe it's September already?!

For a lot of us, September means a new school year, a new season in our routines, and it still feels like we are living with a degree of uncertainty in terms of what the next few weeks and months will hold.

Let's keep our children, young people, school / nursery staff and parents in our prayers over the next few days as the school term starts. I pray for protection, for peace and for renewed energy for all those embarking on a new term, and especially those starting new schools and jobs.

Let's also keep church life in our prayers. It feels like this will be a new season for church, as more people start to come back into the building and as we restart activities. Again, let's pray for safety and wisdom in all that we do.

Notices

This Sunday - it's the first Sunday of the month this Sunday, so we will have our 8am communion service in church, as well as our 10am family service in church and online.

The way we have been doing church over the summer will continue as we go into the autumn - wearing face masks as you enter church and move around, being able to sing, using hand sanitiser, keeping a one way system, and socialising outside as much as possible. Please help us by staying at home if you feel ill or if you know you have been in contact with someone with Covid. Thank-you.

Church picnic - we will also be having our church picnic this Sunday, from 12pm in Grosvenor and Hilbert Park. Bring your own lunch and something to sit on - it should be a great chance to reconnect with others as we start a new term. Here is a map of where we will be meeting...



Study leave - Chris and Carole will be starting study leave on Monday 6th September and Chris will be back in church on Monday 8th November. During this time they will both be stopping anything to do with church, so that they can have a complete break. Any communication relating to church needs to come through the church office please - 01892 618108 or office@stmattschurch.org.uk.

Revive walks - Revive will be holding a morning of walks on Saturday 11th September for any women who would like to join us. We will meet at Penshurst Place car park at 10am, and there will be some different length walks to join in with. Have a look at this link for more details and to sign up <https://stmatts.churchsuite.co.uk/events/jiuptbm7>

Friday worship and prayer - Katie and Steve would like to restart the worship and prayer sessions as we go into the autumn, and there are various options of how and when to do this (including meeting physically). They are going to start with a zoom session on Friday 10th September at 8pm, to have discussions about the best way to move forward with this. If you have been a regular at the Friday evening sessions, or if you would like to be part of them moving forward, do try and come to the first zoom session so that the best way forward can be agreed on.

Children and youth - we will be restarting our children and youth work in a couple of weeks. We are hoping to restart Sunday groups on 12th September, with midweek groups starting the week after that.

After some discussion and looking at the spread of children across the ages and the volunteers we have, we have decided to keep year 6's in children's work at the moment. So Deeper and Bright will be years 3-6 and Ignite and Encounter will be years 7-13. We know this may be a disappointment to those starting year 6 who were hoping to move up, but we don't have the volunteers to split youth into two groups, so having year 6's with year 12 and 13's feels like too much of an age difference. We will obviously keep this under review through the year and as we appoint a youth minister.

Matt's Monkeys will restart on Thursday 16th Sept, 9.30am - 11am in church. Please click on this link for more information or to book in <https://stmatts.churchsuite.co.uk/events/zlw7buv3>

Ignite (for school years 7-13) will be on Tuesday evenings in church, starting on Tuesday 14th Sept. We are very blessed to have Berti from Youth For Christ helping us with Ignite this term, while we are still without a youth minister.

Deeper (for school years 3-6) will start again in church on Monday 20th Sept, 3.30pm - 5pm. We still need more volunteers to be able to keep all our children and youth groups running, both on Sundays and midweek. We could also do with a couple of people on Thursday mornings to make drinks and be on the door at Matt's Monkeys. If you could help with any of this, please let me know. Thanks!

Thank-you to everyone who has offered to help on any teams in church. I will be sending out rotas over the next few days with more information about what your role entails. If you would still like to volunteer for anything, please let me know in the office.

I think that's all for now. We hope to see you soon!