

St. Matt's Midweek Update – 24th June 2022



I hope your week has gone well.

These last few weeks of the summer term feel like they are so busy for so many people. This week I was reminded of my favourite Bible verse - it's good to bring these well-known verses to mind sometimes, especially when we are busy or stressed, and just hold onto them for reassurance of God's love for us.

My favourite verse is in Zephaniah chapter 3 and it's verse 17. Zephaniah is speaking to the people of Israel, but God says the same over us as well. "The Lord your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing."

I love that mix of a strong protective God who will save us, but also a gentle encouraging God who delights in us and sings over us.

What is your favourite verse in the Bible? If you are reading this on the Facebook Discipleship page, why not post it in the comments so we can encourage each other this week?

Notices

This Sunday we have our 10am service and 7pm services...

10am - Dedo is going to be speaking to us as we carry on through our series 'Growing in Circles'. So far, we have looked at being disciples of Jesus, and our intimacy with Him leading to affirmation, then that affirmation from God leading to knowing our identity as God's children, and that identity leading to a sense of authority in God using us. This week Dedo will be speaking about that authority leading to destiny.

We will have groups for all our children and youth this Sunday, and the church centre will be set out with toys for preschool children to use with their parents if needed.

Seven - our 7pm service is an informal cafe-style service, with lots of worship and a short talk. This week they are going to be sharing communion together. Everyone is welcome.

This week all our usual groups are running, as well as some hubs...

Deeper, Ignite and Matt's Monkeys toddler group are all running as usual.

Knitting Hub is on Saturday 25th June, 10.30am - 12pm in the church centre.

Sewing Bee Hub is on Friday 1st July, 7.30pm at Ruth's house.

And the community larder is open every Friday at the Bethel Hall, 9.30am - 10.45am.

Next Sunday (3rd July)...

We have our 10am family service next Sunday, and then we will be going to Grosvenor and Hilbert Park for a picnic together. Everyone is welcome to the picnic, whether you have been in church, watching online, or just having a lie-in!! Bring your own lunch and something to sit on. We will meet on the lower football pitch from about 12pm.

We are also collecting food donations for Nourish Foodbank next Sunday, so please bring in anything you can, and then we will take it to Nourish in the week afterwards.

We also have our monthly 8am communion service on 3rd July - a short service from the Book of Common Prayer. Everyone is welcome to come along.

Volunteers...

Just a reminder that we would love to build some of our volunteer teams even more, probably to start in September now. Do have a think and a pray about whether you could help in any of these roles...

- creche, so that parents can have some Sundays in church without distractions!
- youth on Sundays - parents are on the rota for this, and this isn't ideal for teenagers, so some non-parent helpers would be great!
- Ignite on Tuesdays (6pm - 7.30pm) - we have enough volunteers to do the actual youth work, but we could still do with some help cooking food and being in the kitchen to serve and clear up, so the other volunteers can spend time with the young people.
- sound and visuals for church on Sunday mornings - full training will be given.

Testimonies...

We love sharing testimonies of what God has done in our lives here at St. Matt's, and it is such an encouragement. We are aware that some people may not want to share things in a service that is online or may have too much to say to fit it into the testimony slot.

You can share testimonies and encouragement on the Facebook Discipleship group, which is a closed group. If you would like to join this, let me know and I will add you.

We can also send testimonies round in this weekly email, which again only goes to church members.

If you would like me to include a testimony by email, do send it in to me.

I think that's all for now!

Have a lovely weekend, and we hope to see you on Sunday.