

St. Matt's Midweek Update – 15th July 2022



I hope you have had a good week.

We are nearly at the end of our series "Growing in Circles", which we have been looking at this term. If you have missed any of the services or talks, you can find them all on our [YouTube channel](#)

Last Sunday, Matt was talking about destiny leading to obedience, and about how it is better to do something small than not to do anything. He talked about having the courage to take a small step when we hear the Holy Spirit whispering to us or prompting us. We don't need to wait for a big sign from God, telling us what to do, or to hear God shouting to us in an audible voice.

We just need to do the small things as we feel led. We might not even be sure if it's God leading us to do something or say something, but it's still worth doing it anyway! We don't know what effect our words or actions will have on someone else's life.

So this weekend, maybe we could all try to be a bit more in tune with God, to listen for those small prompts and whispers, and be bold enough to act on them. We just need to do something!

Notices



This Sunday...

This Sunday is the last in our Growing in Circles series and Mark will be speaking to us.

Chris and Carole will be back in church with us, so we look forward to hearing from them too.

We have groups for our children and youth this Sunday.

Summer holidays

All our midweek groups for children and youth have now finished for the term and will restart again in September.



Over the summer holidays, all our morning services are family services, starting from 24th July. A huge thank-you to The Spinnaker Trust, who Mike works for, for letting us use some of their material for our summer services. We will be going Above and Beyond, as we look at how following Jesus and taking on his values can help us to be our best self.



New mission link and church BBQ...

On Sunday 7th August, we will be welcoming our new mission link family, who work for MAF in Uganda and East Africa. Sam, Abby, Rachel and Rebecca Baguma will be with us for the service and will be sharing about their lives and work in Uganda. (Abby is my sister!).

We will then have a BBQ after church in Chris and Carole's garden, so that people can have a bit more time to chat to the Bagumas and get to know them a bit more.

More information about contributing food or money for the BBQ to follow!





Mission Prayer Meeting...

We have several mission links as a church, who we support financially and in prayer. The reason we are taking on the Bagumas as a new link is because Pat Blanchard (CMS in Peru) has now retired. Our other mission links are Ruth Radley at Birmingham Children's Hospital, the Geita Diocese in Tanzania, Life & Soul here in Tunbridge Wells, and The Sozo Foundation in South Africa. We also support Tearfund.

Once a month, we have a mission prayer meeting to pray for all our mission links, and to hear any updates. The next meeting is this Wednesday 20th July 3.30pm, at Mary's house and on Zoom. Everyone is welcome to join in.

The logo for Tearfund, featuring the word "tearfund" in white lowercase letters on a blue rectangular background, which is itself on a larger yellow rectangular background.

An update from Tearfund...

I got an email update from Tearfund this morning which I thought it would be good to share.

"People across East Africa are facing starvation. More than 18 million are going hungry every day. Lives have been lost, and more are at risk if we don't act now."

Another rainy season has failed, and the region is experiencing the worst drought in 40 years. Crops can no longer grow in the parched ground. People are being forced to rely on expensive food imports, but the conflict in Ukraine has led to prices skyrocketing. The price of basic food supplies, such as cooking oil and flour, has doubled in the last few months.

Tearfund's local church partners are on the ground in Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda, distributing food and cash grants to thousands of people at risk. But resources are stretched like never before, and the crisis is growing day by day."

To find out more about this crisis (which doesn't hit our news unfortunately), including things to pray for and ways to donate money if you would like to, have a look here [Tearfund East Africa crisis](#)

New Wine Online...

New Wine United is a Christian festival / conference that some of us are going to next week. If you aren't going this year, the main morning and evening gatherings will be online, so you don't have to miss out (and you don't have to camp!!).

There is a cost (£40 per household) - have a look here for all the information [New Wine Online](#)



That's all for now. Have a lovely weekend!