

St. Matt's Midweek Update – 18th August 2022



How has your week been?

It was so nice to see the rain yesterday, and to know that our scorched plants and grass were getting some much needed respite!

It reminded me of something God said to me at New Wine, about needing to nurture the seed God has put in us.

The few weeks since New Wine have been a bit crazy - I had Covid, then back to work but with my sister and family still here from Uganda, so we were trying to spend some time with them, and then needing to spend more time with my parents this last couple of weeks.

So it feels like those things God said to me at New Wine have been in danger of getting lost, or forgotten. One of the things God showed me was that we need to nurture what He has put in us. Just like plants need sun, rain and soil, we too need to be giving our relationship with God the right things to grow.

The thing that I know I have neglected and that I resolved to start again, is reading the Bible regularly. So I am going to get out my Cover to Cover book and try and read the Bible in a year (or however long it takes!). But I also know that if I just tell myself that I will do it, without telling anyone else, then I am likely to get distracted and give up early on!! So I am telling all of you, to give me the incentive to actually do it!! You can ask me how I am getting on when you see me.

But the other important thing is that I am not doing this because I feel I have to, or because I am trying to earn points with God. I'm doing it because I have a longing to hear God's voice, to open myself up to what He wants to do in my life, and this is one way I can do this.

"Your word is a lamp for my feet, and a light on my path." Psalm 119:105

Maybe you want to join me in setting yourself a new challenge or habit to help your relationship with God. Tell someone about it, so that we can all encourage each other and spur each other on.

Notices

This Sunday we have our 10am family service with Robyn's baptism. We are looking forward to celebrating with Kim and Paul and their family and friends.

Can you help? We don't have anyone to do coffee this Sunday (21st August) - please let me know if you can help.

William's service of thanksgiving

There will be a small family funeral service for William Harper next week, and then there will be a service of thanksgiving and celebration of William's life in St. Matt's Church on **Tuesday 4th October at 2pm**, which you are all invited to. Following the Service, all are welcome to join the family for refreshments 4-6pm at Crowborough Rugby Football Club, Green Lane, Steel Cross, Crowborough, East Sussex, TN6 2XB.

Please keep Dee, Angharad and Georgina in your prayers as they make the arrangements for these services and for the funeral on Monday.

Giles and Elaine's wedding

Giles and Elaine are getting married on **Saturday 24th September at 1pm** at St. Matt's Church. You are welcome to join them for the service and for cake and refreshments in the church afterwards. Parking will be available in St. Matt's School car park on Powdermill Lane.

Church walk - save the date

There will be a walk for anyone who would like to join, on **Saturday 17th September** in the morning. More details to follow but put the date in your diary!

Do you want to join a team in September?

We are trying to get rotas sorted out for September, and there are a few teams where we would love to have a few more volunteers! Lois is still signed off by her GP, so we are not yet sure when she will be coming back to work.

- Sunday mornings - creche and children's groups
- Deeper - Monday afternoons 3.30pm - 5pm for children in school years 3-6
- Ignite - Tuesday evenings 6pm - 7.30pm for youth - we could really do with some help in the kitchen, rather than with the young people, either cooking something simple or warming up food that has already been cooked, then helping to serve and clear up after the meal has been eaten.
- Toddler group - Thursday mornings 9.30am - 11am - either to chat to the parents / carers, or to be in the kitchen serving drinks

Please let me know if you could help with any of these, as we may need to get a DBS check done before you can start helping.

Annual Ride and Stride for Kent Churches

This sponsored bike and walk around local churches will take place on Saturday 10th September. Last year the event raised £130,000. Half of the money came back to the sponsored churches for church maintenance and the other half went for the upkeep for maintenance of Kent churches in need.

If you would like to take part in this 'Ride + Stride' around our local churches please see Gordon Blanchard for a 'Ride + Stride' form.

If you would like to support this local charity please look for anyone with the yellow 'Ride + Stride' form.



The staff and trustees are walking a marathon to raise funds for our work in The Youth Centre, mentoring in local schools, prayer space provision and Unite events for the local churches.

10th September 2022

Aylesford Priory to The Youth Centre

26 (ish) miles!

See Karen Cox to sponsor the team or go to

<https://www.stewardship.org.uk/pages/twyfcwalk>



Do you enjoy baking? Could you bake for us?



We love to be able to offer the young people home made cake when they come into The Youth Centre after school.

We are looking for people who are willing to bake cakes and bring them in for the young people.

Regular baking or occasional gifts are welcome – we have a freezer to store cakes until we need them.

Contact Karen Cox on centredirector@tunbridgewells.yfc.co.uk for more information

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