

## St. Matt's Midweek Update – 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2022



It's September! For many of us that marks the start of a new term, a new school year, a new season. It's a time of settling back into routine and getting back to normal after the summer.

When I was thinking about children and school staff going back to school this week, the above verse in Philippians came to mind.

In The Message version it says, "Whatever I have, wherever I am, I can make it through anything in the One who makes me who I am."

Let's pray today for all those starting new schools, those anxious about new classes and teachers, and for the staff getting to know new children and helping them settle in.

But I think this verse speaks to all of us at the moment, whether we are starting new things, carrying on with our same routine, worrying about what lies ahead this winter. God is with us and we can trust in Him to help us through whatever situation we are in. Draw your strength from Him and take your worries to Him.

But let's not stop there - the next part of the verse is just as important...

"I don't mean that your help didn't mean a lot to me - it did. It was a beautiful thing that you came alongside me in my troubles."

God is with us through everything, but we need support from each other as well. Let's look out for each other, pray for opportunities to build relationships and have conversations. This morning I bumped into someone whose children are starting secondary school today, and I hope that our brief conversation went some way to support her and gave her the opportunity to share her worries. If you are anxious or worried or weighed down, talk to someone. Let's come alongside each other in our troubles.

### Notices



#### Can you help??

As I said above, all our children and youth groups will start up again soon (from Sunday 11th September). **Deeper is our group for children in years 3-6 on Monday afternoons, and at the moment we don't have enough volunteers to start it back up again.** We get between 15-20 children most weeks, with about half from church and half from the community.

Are you free on Mondays from 3.30pm - 5pm to help in Deeper once a month? You can play games with the children, or if you prefer you could be in the kitchen making toast and serving tuck shop.

Even if you were only able to help in the short term, we would really appreciate it, especially if you already have a DBS check! Please let me know if you can help.

#### Church walk...

We will be holding a walk for anyone who would like to join in, on **Saturday 17th**

**September**, meeting at 9.30am. Phil and Jill Grainger will be leading the walk, which will start in Hildenborough, head across to Haysden Park where there are toilets and a cafe, and then back to Hildenborough. The walk is approximately 45 mins each way and is flat - suitable for all.



The meeting place is Hilden Park Road, Hildenborough. As you leave Tonbridge on the Hildenborough Road (passing the Oast Theatre and Premier Inn) turn left

just before the BP/M&S garage. This is Hilden Park Road. Continue along to the corner of Stacey Road. Parking is free from number 39 Hilden Park Road (postcode is TN11 9BN). We will wait there for folk to arrive and park. If you need more information, let me know and I will give you Phil and Jill's phone number.

### **Dates for your diary coming up...**

Sunday 4th Sept - 8am communion and 10am family service  
Saturday 10th Sept - sponsored ride and stride  
Sunday 11th Sept - 10am service with children and youth groups and 5pm service  
Monday 12th Sept - all midweek groups start back this week  
Monday 12th Sept - Knitting Hub 7.30pm in the church centre  
Saturday 17th Sept - church walk  
Wednesday 21st Sept - Mission Prayer Meeting 3.30pm Mary's house  
Saturday 24th Sept - Giles and Elaine's wedding 1pm in church  
Tuesday 27th Sept - Macmillan Coffee Morning 10.30-1 in church  
Saturday 1st Oct - Knitting Hub 10.30am in church centre  
Sunday 2nd Oct - Harvest family service and bring and share lunch  
Tuesday 4th Oct - William Harper's service of thanksgiving 2pm in church



There will be a **Macmillan Coffee Morning** on Tuesday 27th September 10.30am - 1pm in the Church and Church Centre. Stalls will include cakes, gifts and toiletries, raffle and tombola. Any contributions would be gratefully received. Please contact Rosemary if you can help or have any donations.

### **Creative team getting ready for harvest...**

We have a small creative team now in church, who decorate the church for key times during the year. They are starting to plan for harvest in a month's time. If you would like to join the team, either just for harvest or for more events after that, please let Hannah know. They will be meeting on Monday 5th September in the evening to start planning.

### **Annual Ride and Stride for Kent Churches**

This sponsored bike and walk around local churches will take place on Saturday 10th September. 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.

### **Community larder cost increase**

As you know, costs for everyone have gone up recently, and the costs the larder team are facing to run the larder have gone up, as well as the amount of food they can access for free going down. They are therefore asking those who use the larder to increase their donation for a bag of food to £3 if they possibly can from September.

Please also support the larder with donations of food if you can at this increasingly difficult time. Thank you.

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