

St. Matt's Midweek Update – 14th October 2022



How has your week been?

This week I read the very well-known verse again, "Be still and know that I am God." Psalm 46:10

Isn't it strange how you can read or hear a verse hundreds of times, but then just one time it strikes a fresh chord or speaks to you in a different way.

When I read this verse this week, it was the 'be still' bit that got me thinking.

I think I am pretty good at knowing God is God, and trusting that He is always there, wanting the best for me. But I think I, and probably we as a wider society, are not very good any more at being still.

There is something about just being, without any distractions like phones or TV or people needing us, which gives our minds and our thoughts the freedom to focus on God and to listen to Him. But there is so much in our lives that we fill all the spaces with, all the silence with. Being still is something we have to be intentional about - we need to make the time and space to just be. I used to listen to podcasts when I was walking to work, but then I realised that even that was filling all my thoughts with noise. So now I try and walk with no distractions and try and intentionally focus my thoughts on God. Easier said than done sometimes!

Maybe being still is something we can try this week - finding a short amount of time where you can just be, no noise, distractions, people, just space to let God speak into our lives.

Notices

This Sunday we have our morning service at 10am, with groups for both primary school children and youth running.

Next week is the last week before half term, so all our midweek groups for children and young people will be running but will then stop for a week during half term (24th - 28th Oct).

Our next **Mission Prayer Meeting** is on this Wednesday 19th October 3.30pm at Mary's house or on Zoom. You are welcome to come and hear updates from our mission partners and have time to pray for them.

Creating a warm space

You may have heard warm spaces or warm hubs being talked about on the news recently. It is another way of providing support for people in these uncertain economic times by opening up public spaces so people in local communities can have somewhere warm to go.

St. Matt's would like to get involved in this scheme and are hoping to open the church centre on Wednesdays from 10 am to 4pm from early November. We hope to offer a warm place where people can get tea or coffee and hopefully a soup lunch.

To open St. Matt's in this way, we will need to create a team to make teas and coffees and chat to those who attend. Is this something you might be interested in getting involved in?

It need not be every week or the whole day; enough people offering a morning or an afternoon a month would make it possible. It would also be great to know of anyone who might be willing to make soup once a month for the warm space.

At the moment we have no idea what the take up might be, but we feel this is a practical way we can serve our local community and help those most in need.

If you can help or would like to know more please speak to Chris.

Eating Out at St. Matt's!

We are aware that people are struggling to have enough money to go out for meals or to meet up with friends so much at the moment, so we are going to be holding a **supper in church on Friday 11th November**. It's an opportunity to meet up together, invite friends to come with you, and eat amazing home cooked food (thanks Dedo!) for a very small cost (£2.50 per person or £5 for a family).

There will be a sign-up link so we know how many to cater for, but save the date, and invite friends to come and join you if you would like to!

Community Larder - help needed and Christmas Fair...

The community larder team could do with some more **help with supermarket collections** on Thursday evenings, from Tesco Pembury and the Co-op. It would be once a month. Please let Liz, Jan or myself know if you could help with this.

Christmas Fair - the larder team will be having a Christmas Fair on Saturday 19th November 10am - 12pm in the Bethel Hall to raise funds for the larder. They'll have a bottle tombola, amongst other things, so if you have any bottles of anything to donate, please leave them at the back of church.

School forms

Do you have a child in year 6 at school? Chris is happy to sign your forms for Bennett or St. Greg's, so please contact him this week to book in a time to come and see him (chris@stmattschurch.org.uk) as you only have 2 weeks left to get them back to the schools!

We hope you have a good weekend.