

St. Matt's Midweek Update – 24th February 2023



We're nearly at the end of February, and I'm hopeful that spring might be on the way. There are definitely daffodils waiting to open as soon as some warmer weather comes along.

This week at church we have been having a spring clean - maybe a spring sort out and tidy rather than clean, but it has been great! At certain times during the week, areas of church have looked a complete mess with stuff everywhere as we have emptied out cupboards and the loft! But we have then started sorting, throwing out, giving away and reordering and those areas are now looking much tidier and less cluttered.

It has been a lot of hard work and it is not yet finished, but it has felt good and now we have started we will keep going on the areas that haven't yet been tackled (like our office!!).

It got me thinking that we need to do the same kind of thing with our hearts and our lives sometimes. Over the years, clutter builds up in our lives in the form of pain, trauma, bad habits, learnt behaviours, guilt, shame - the list could go on. We can just leave it all alone and carry on, but then at some point, usually when we are having a hard time, these things spill out and cause problems. The cupboard finally overflows, or you can't get to the things that you need to use.

So maybe this Lent is a good time to have a think about clearing out our lives and our hearts, asking God to show us what needs dealing with. There are lots of ways to deal with these things - you might be able to meet up with a friend to talk through some things, house groups and pods may be places to talk about and pray through things, you can ask us to pray for you at church on a Sunday, or you may feel you need professional help to deal with some of the things you have had to deal with. I have had counselling several times in my adult life, and I have found it so helpful in recognising why I feel or react to things in the way I do, and to see what areas of my life might need some change to happen.

Will you pray Psalm 139:23-24 with me?

"Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts.
See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."

Notices



This Sunday...

We have our 10am service and 7pm services this Sunday.

In the morning, we will be continuing our series 'Walking with Jesus' and Chris will be speaking to us. There will be groups for children and youth during the service.

The 7pm service is a smaller, more relaxed service, with more worship.



Walking Hub starting up...

Phil and Jill Grainger are going to be starting a walking hub on the first Saturday of every month during the spring / summer months. This is for anyone who likes walking with others, and you don't have to join in every time.

The first walk will be next Saturday 4th March, meeting at St. Pauls Church, Langton Rd, Rusthall, Tunbridge Wells, TN4 8XD. There is free parking, and they will meet outside St. Pauls entrance @ 9.30am.

The walk will be part of Rusthall common, then along Neville Park and down to Blue Diamond Garden Centre Café & toilets, then back to St. Pauls.

If anyone has any questions or needs a lift to Rusthall, you can contact Jill and Phil through the church office.



Knitting Hub...

Is on tomorrow (Saturday 25th Feb) from 10.30am - 12pm in the church centre for anyone who would like to knit and chat with others.

All our youth and children's groups start back up this week after a 2 week break.



Deeper - Monday 3.30 - 5pm for children in school years 3-6.

Ignite - Tuesday 6pm - 7.30pm for anyone in secondary school.

Baby and Toddler group - Thursday 9.30am - 11am for parents / carers and pre-schoolers.



Warm space is still on every Wednesday 10am - 4pm, and the community larder is open every Friday 9.30am - 10.45am.

Thank you from Rosemary...

The coffee and pancake morning that Rosemary and her team ran this week raised £441.90 for the Turkey and Syria Earthquake fund, so thank you to everyone who came and donated so generously.



Prayer meetings coming up...

Tuesday 7th March - townwide prayer at St Philip's Church at 8pm. All are very welcome.

Tuesday 14th March - St. Matt's Lent prayer meeting at 8pm. Location tbc.

Tuesday 28th March - St. Matt's Lent prayer meeting at 8pm. Location tbc.

Friday 3rd March - World day of Prayer at St James Church at 10.30am and the focus this year is on Taiwan. Everyone is welcome.



Street Pastor Information and Celebration Evening

There is a Street Pastor evening on **Saturday 4th March**, for a chance to hear from Street Pastor Founder, Les Isaac, and to hear of latest developments regarding our Street & School Pastor Ministry. It's in the Crabbe Hall at Christ Church, TW at 7.30pm. All are very welcome.

Youth For Christ Inter Church Quiz - don't forget to speak to Richard Foot or myself if you would like to make up a team for this quiz night on Saturday 18 March, 7pm. The cost is £15 per person and teams are made up of 8 people. The event takes place at TW Christ Church.

Kevin, Alex and Johnson will be doing their sponsored runs in Tanzania this weekend, so don't forget to sponsor them if you are able to. All the information is on their Just Giving pages...

https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/kevin-barnes14?utm_source=whatsapp

https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/kevin-barnes15?utm_source=whatsapp

Have a good weekend, and we hope to see you at one of our services this Sunday.

St. Matthew's Church Office High Brooms Road Tunbridge Wells Kent TN4 9BW

01892 618108 office@stmattschurch.org.uk www.stmattschurch.org.uk

Registered charity number 1185772