

St. Matt's Midweek Update – 17th March 2023

I hope you have had a good week.

This week something happened that warmed my heart but also made me realise that we have to take the opportunities that God gives us to talk about Him. I am generally a reserved person, and I really struggle to talk about God to people outside of church.

But this week when I was at the choir I go to, the leader said we were going to learn a new warm up song. She started to read out the lyrics, so people could write them down or memorise them, and it was this...

'Better is one day in your courts,
better is one day in your house,
better is one day in your courts,
than thousands elsewhere.'

You might recognise this, either from the worship song or straight from the Bible (Psalm 84:10)! I commented to the person next to me that we sing this in church (although all the parts we then started learning are not what we sing in church!!).

But then a few others around me were saying that the lyrics made no sense and so I was able to explain that it was about God and about being in His presence.

It also felt lovely to be singing a song about God in a soul choir!

I don't know what impression the few words I spoke to them about God would have made, but I just hope that understanding the lyrics and singing about God might have some deep impact on their souls. That a small seed would have been sown. Worship music can be really powerful, so I pray God would use that as we sing this song over the next few weeks.

And that's all we can do, but also what we must do - take those opportunities to sow small seeds, to let people know that God is real, that being in His presence is amazing, and that He loves them.

Notices



This Sunday is Mothering Sunday, and we have a family service at 10am to celebrate all the amazing mums and mother-figures in our lives. We've got flowers to give out and there will be things for the children to do during the service.

Next Sunday we have our 10am service, with groups for children and young people, and also our 7pm service.



Our **Lent prayer meetings** are finally starting this week (sorry about all the delays!).

Join us this Tuesday (21st March) at 8pm at Chris and Carole's house to pray, and then again on Tuesday 28th March.

We also have our **mission prayer meeting** this week, on Wednesday 22nd March at 3.30pm, to pray for all our mission partners. This is at Mary's house and on Zoom. Let me know if you need more details about joining.



Hubs coming up...

Knitting Hub is next on Saturday 25th March, 10.30am - 12pm in the church centre.

The next Walking Hub is on Saturday 1st April - time and location to be confirmed.



Children's and youth groups

There are just 2 weeks left of this term, so all our groups will have their last sessions for the term in the week of 27th March.

Deeper and toddler group will be having Easter parties that week. If you have a child in years 3-6 at school who would like to come to the Deeper party but doesn't normally come to Deeper, they are very welcome to come, but please let me know in advance so we can cater for them.

The youth will be going bowling on Tuesday 28th March for their last session. Parents should have had an email about this with a link to sign up.



The community larder and the warm space will be open every week running up to Easter. Due to our service in church on Good Friday, the community larder will be open on Saturday 8th April instead of Friday 7th.

Electoral roll

Just a reminder that our annual church meeting (APCM) is coming up in May, and that means it's a good chance to join the electoral roll if you are not already on it. The electoral roll is like a membership of the church - it's a Church of England thing and it allows you to vote in meetings and to stand for roles like PCC or church warden.

If you would like to be on the electoral roll, please let me know and I can give you a form to fill in. The electoral roll will close just after Easter up to the APCM, so if you would like to join, please get your form to me before Easter.

I hope you have a lovely weekend.