

St. Matt's Midweek Update – 23rd June 2023

How are you?

This week I have been reminded that we can worship God in all we do, and in the everyday routines of our lives.

It's not always easy to spend time with God as much as we would like to, especially finding the time and space to stop everything else and have a 'quiet time'.

That's not to say we shouldn't try, but I also don't think we should feel bad if it doesn't happen for whatever reason.

But that doesn't mean we can't find ways to worship God each day.

I love worship music, and I don't listen to it enough, but this week we have been playing some worship music to mum, and I put some on in the office when I was on my own. It really lifted my spirits and made me feel at peace. Music touches our souls, and worship music is a great way of refocusing on God and giving Him the praise He deserves.

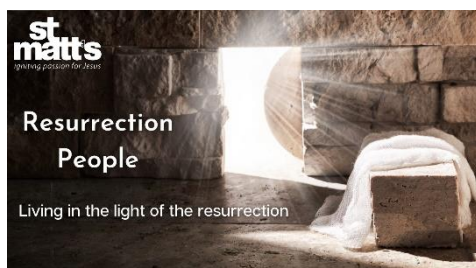
There are lots of other ways we can worship God as well in our everyday lives. Using times when we are outside in nature anyway to focus on God and be grateful for all He has given us, maybe when you are walking to work or walking the dog.

We can use everyday things to remind us to pray for people, maybe as we pass someone's house or at certain times in the day. Using times when we are doing another mundane task but we can focus on God, like washing up or having a shower!

It is also good to hang onto Bible verses and keep them with us for a day or a week at a time, like Mark talked about on Sunday. Have a Bible verse on your desk, or in your wallet, or on the fridge, so that you see it regularly and can let it sink into your heart.

There is a little book I used to have, called 'Practicing the Presence of God' by Brother Lawrence. I used to have a copy, but I think I lent it to someone! It is worth a read if you can get hold of a copy - it's all about learning how to get closer to God in everything we do, even in the mundane and the ordinary, worshipping God in all we do.

Notices



This Sunday we have two services, at 10am and 7pm.

Dedo will be speaking to us in the morning as we continue through our series on being Resurrection People.

There will be a group for children on Sunday morning during the service, but I'm afraid there **won't be anything for the youth**, as Natalie and other leaders are away or busy with birthdays! The young people are welcome to just stay in the service with the adults.

We also have our 7pm service this Sunday, which is more relaxed with a longer time of worship and a short talk. Richard will be speaking at Seven.

Next Sunday is the first Sunday in July, so we will have our monthly 8am communion service, as well as our family service at 10am.



Knitting Hub is on tomorrow morning in the church centre from 10.30am - 12pm for anyone who would like to knit with others or learn to knit.

Walking Hub is on Saturday 1st July - this month they will be walking from Hildenborough through to Haysden Country Park, where there is a cafe and toilets. The walk is about 45 minutes each way and is flat. They will meet at Hilden Park Road (TN11 9BN) at 9.30am. Head out of Tonbridge into Hildenborough (passing the Oast Theatre and Premier Inn), then turn left just before the BP garage. This is Hilden Park Road. Continue along to the corner of Stacey Road and park anywhere around there. Meeting near number 39 Hilden Park Road.



If you need a lift or any more help with directions, please contact the office for Phil and Jill's phone numbers.

Prayer meetings



The next **mission prayer meeting** is on Wednesday 28th June, 3.30pm - 4.30pm at Mary's house. Everyone is welcome to hear updates about our mission partners and to pray for them.

The next **church prayer meeting** is on Monday 17th July, 8pm in the church centre (this has moved from the first Monday of the month due to other meetings). Everyone is welcome to join in some worship and prayer.

St. Philip's Church have their monthly town-wide prayer meeting on Tuesday 4th July at 8pm - a time of praise, worship and intercession for our town.



Antonia is sourcing **old loyalty cards or any plastic credit card size card** to spread paint with for an arts event with 450 local children in July - if you have any spare or know of a way to access a lot of old cards without ordering brand new plastic blanks (she'd rather recycle!), please leave them in the box at the back of church. Thank you!

The Life of Christ - open air passion play at Wintershall runs daily from 27 June to 1 July (although 27th is sold out).

The greatest story of all time is movingly recreated with authentic detail, outstanding quality sound and music. The Life of Christ is a passion play not to be missed. It is both educational and entertaining, amusing and serious.

Watch as hundreds of actors bring the story of Jesus to life in an open-air epic production set in stunning Surrey countryside.

Young and old from all walks of life will be mesmerised as the story unfolds across three captivating acts from 10am to 3.30pm.

The retelling of this evocative story against the peaceful backdrop of the Wintershall grounds has a profound effect on visitors.

The tickets are £25 for adults and £15 for children; their family ticket (2 adults & 2 children) is £65. Full details are at <https://www.wintershall.org.uk/life-christ-6>



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FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT JASON.MABBUTT@CROSSLIGHTADVICE.ORG

Crosslight Debt Advice is hosting another Student Money Course at TWBC on 8 July, at 18:00 hrs.

The course is aimed at Students planning to go to University or further education. The course is led by University Students who have firsthand knowledge of life at Uni and will offer their tips and advice to help with the next chapter in their education.

We are aware, the way to a student's heart is via their stomach and will be offering a light pizza meal along with soft drinks.

This is the third course to be run and has always been well received. We have been blessed with great student presenters and encourage two-way dialogue throughout the course. We really look forward to welcoming all students and parents if they chose to come along.

Should you have any queries please don't hesitate to get in touch via email at -

Jason.Mabbutt@crosslightadvice.org

Have a good weekend, and please be in touch via the church office if you need any help or support.