

St. Matt's Midweek Update – 23rd February 2024



How has your week been? If you have children at school or work in education, I hope you had a good half term break.

If you were in church last Sunday morning, you will know that we are looking at Psalms in our services during Lent. The speakers are choosing their favourite Psalms to preach on.

Last Sunday Mark spoke about Psalm 1. It talks about us being like trees planted by streams of water, if we keep our eyes fixed on Him and spend time reading His word and walking with Him. It's such a beautiful picture - a lush green tree with fruit on its branches and its roots reaching into the stream of water.

The Psalms were written hundreds of years before Jesus' time on earth, and yet He shares the same message in several different ways in his teachings. In John 15, Jesus talks about being the vine, and we are the branches who need to remain in him. We need to stay connected to God to bear the fruit He wants us to bear.

Earlier in John, Jesus also talks about being the bread of life and those who believe in Him never going hungry or thirsty because He sustains us and gives our souls what they need.

The message is that we need to stay connected to God, to spend time with Him, to put Him first and to worship Him with our whole lives. We are already connected to Him as Christians - we don't lose that - but sometimes we need to turn back to Him or strengthen the bond we have with Him because other things get in the way. Maybe this Lent is a good time to try and do that.

"(He) whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night, ... is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither - whatever they do prospers." Psalm 1: 2-3

Notices



This Sunday we have two services in church:

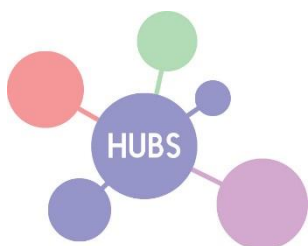
10am service - Chris will be speaking on Psalm 3. There will be groups for our youth and children.

7pm service - this is a smaller, relaxed service with more worship. Suzanne will be speaking on Psalm 42.

We are changing things around a bit in March because of Mothering Sunday, so...

3rd March will be a normal 10am service with groups for our children and youth. We will also have our 8am communion service.

10th March will be a Mothering Sunday family service at 10am, with us all in church together. There will also be our monthly 5pm service on 10th March.



There are a couple of hubs happening this week...

Knitting hub is on tomorrow (Saturday) morning 10.30am - 12pm in the church centre.

Sewing Bee hub is happening next Friday (1st March), 7.30pm at Ruth's house.

Just an advance notice that **walking hub** will be returning from the beginning of April, so put 6th April in your diary if you'd like to join their first walk!





The **St. Matt's Community Hub** is open every Wednesday for anyone who would like to come along.
Could you help at the hub? - are you free on a Wednesday and could help in the hub, serving drinks, making lunch and chatting to people? You don't have to help every week - once a month or every other week is fine. If you are interested in being part of the hub team, please contact Chris (chris@stmattschurch.org.uk) or Lynn Goreham.



Life & Soul (one of our mission partners) are having a **quiz night** on Saturday 9th March, 7pm – 10.30pm at Christ Church Tunbridge Wells. Teams of 8, £17.50 per person including fish and chips. Entry is by tickets only so please sign up here: <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/events/landing/54009?> Bookings close at 11pm on Wednesday 6th March!

If you need any help or support, please be in touch with Chris and I in the church office. We hope you have a good weekend, and we'll see you on Sunday.