

St. Matt's Midweek Update – 15th March 2024



How has your week been?

I love that Carole spoke about Psalm 139 last Sunday. As I've said before, that is my favourite Psalm too!

There is so much in it...

About how intricate and amazing our bodies are;

About how God is always with us and has been from the moment of our conception;

About how God's thoughts and ways are so much greater than ours;

About how God knows our thoughts and our words and everything in our hearts, and He still loves us.

There are so many situations in life where we don't know what God is doing, and we wish He would take all the bad things in the world away.

But seeing how other people react to difficult situations is such an encouragement to me, and reminds me that even though we don't always know what God is doing, we can trust in all those promises He gives us.

Being a Christian doesn't mean that pain and illness and tough situations won't happen to us, but it does mean that we can know that God will work through those situations for good and will be looking after us all the way.

Faith is about being able to hold on to those promises through the tough times and the good times. To know that, even when we don't understand what is going on, God is still hemming us in and seeing our every thought and searching us out in the darkness.

And faith is also hanging onto the hope we have that this life is not all there is. One day, we will be with Jesus in heaven, and that is our ultimate hope and His biggest promise to us.

Notices



Easter is in two weeks' time, and these are our Easter services...

Maundy Thursday (28th March) 8pm Tenebrae service - this is a reflective communion service focusing on Jesus' last hours before the cross.

Good Friday (29th March) 10am family service.

Easter Sunday (31st March) 10am Easter family celebration with communion and baptisms.

We are having several full immersion baptisms on Easter Sunday, which is very exciting!

I will put our Easter advert on our church Facebook page

(<https://www.facebook.com/stmatthewshighbrooms>) and our church Instagram page

(<https://www.instagram.com/stmatthewshighbrooms/>) today, so please share from there if you can.

We reach hundreds more people when the post is shared, and it's an easy way to invite friends and family along.

We also have our Easter flyers in church now, so do take some on Sunday to give out to family, friends and neighbours.



This Sunday, we just have our 10am service, with groups for children and youth. We will be looking at Psalm 121 and Brian will be speaking to us.

Next Sunday (24th March) is Palm Sunday, we have 10am and 7pm services. We will have groups for children and young people in the morning.



Our next **mission prayer meeting** is on Wednesday 20th March, 3.30pm - 4.30pm at Mary's house and on Zoom. It's a great way to catch up with how our mission partners are doing and to pray for them.



Rosemary and her team are holding an **Easter tea** on Tuesday 26th March in the church centre, 2pm - 3.30pm. Please let Rosemary know if you would like to come along.

Chris and Carole are also having **tea and hot cross buns** at their house for anyone who is retired on Friday 5th April 2pm - 3.30pm. There are invitations at the back of church if you haven't had yours yet.



Hubs coming up...

Knitting Hub - Saturday 23rd March 10.30am in the church centre

Sewing Bee Hub - Friday 5th April 7.30pm at Ruth's house

Walking Hub - Saturday 6th April in the morning

Groups and activities over the next few weeks...

Both the community hub and toddler group just have one more week of meeting before breaking up for Easter (they won't be meeting on 27th and 28th March as we have the school in for their Easter service and then it's Maundy Thursday).

Deeper and Ignite have got two more weeks of sessions left till Easter.

The community larder is still open every week, but instead of being open on Good Friday, it will be open on Saturday 30th March instead.



The next **town-wide Unite youth event** is on today, 5.30pm - 8pm at TW Christian Fellowship. There will be workshops, food, football, faith, console games, surprises and tuck shop! This is for anyone in school years 6-13.

Gardener needed...

A local charity is looking for a gardener/groundsman to look after the gardens of this 26 flat complex. Main duties will be mowing and scarifying lawns, weeding, hedge trimming, keeping grounds tidy. Knowledge of different plants an advantage. Flexible hours.

If you are interested, please contact Phil on 07483 326849.

If you need any help or support, please be in touch with Chris and I in the church office. Have a lovely weekend, and we hope to see you on Sunday.