

St. Matt's Midweek Update – 12th April 2024



I hope you have had a really good Easter and enjoyed the holidays if you have had any.

It was so amazing to see so many people in church on Easter Sunday, and to be part of the baptisms of Daisy, Joseph, Matthew, Clare and Ashley. There is something so special about seeing people take that next step and publicly declare that they are following Jesus and committing their lives to Him.

Baptism is a way of showing that we are leaving our old life behind, dying to the wrong and sin in our lives, and being washed clean by Jesus, becoming a new creation.

When Jesus was baptised, He came up out of the water and God spoke words to Him which he also wants to speak to each one of us...

"As soon as Jesus was baptised, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."" (Matthew 3:16-17)

I pray that those who got baptised on Easter Sunday will know and feel that same affirmation from God that Jesus got – that they are loved and that God values them.

And I also pray the same for those of us who have been Christians for a while, who got baptised a long time ago, that we would feel a fresh sense of those words from God over us this week. We are God's children and we are enough – God loves us and is pleased with us.

Notices



This Sunday we have two services, at 10am and 5pm.

We have started a new series in our 10am services, looking at Encounters with Jesus. Chris will be speaking to us this Sunday about Cleopas, from Luke 24:13-35. There will be groups for our children and youth during the service.

Richard is speaking at the 5pm service, and it will be a communion service.

Next Sunday we just have our 10am service.

All our midweek groups are starting back this week.

Deeper for school years 3-6 – Mondays 3.30pm – 5pm

Ignite for school years 7-13 – Tuesdays 6pm – 7.30pm

Community Hub – Wednesdays 11am – 3pm

Baby and Toddler Group – Thursdays 9.30am – 11.15am

Community Larder – Fridays 9.30am – 10.45am



Our monthly **Mission prayer meeting** is also happening this week, on Wednesday 17th April at 3,30pm at Mary's house and on Zoom. Everyone is welcome to join to hear updates on our mission partners and to pray for them.

Annual Church Meeting and Electoral Roll

It's the time of year when we have our annual church meeting and update our electoral roll.

Our annual church meeting will be on **Monday 13th May at 8pm** in church and everyone is welcome to come and hear updates about the year that has just gone, our finances, and to elect church wardens and PCC members.

Electoral roll - We are now in the period before our annual church meeting (APCM) when the electoral roll is revised, adding on any new members and taking off those who are no longer eligible to be 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 on 25th April until after the APCM, so if you would like to join, please get your form to me before then.

Unlock sponsored walk – Saturday 27th April

In the past, St Matts has had walkers every year doing this sponsored walk around various parts of London, visiting all manner of churches which are linked with Unlock.

Unlock is a charity founded in 1972 which aims to encourage and support Christians in all manner of city environments and churches, training, resourcing and employing some workers.

The sponsored walk is in its 41st year and usually raises £20-30K, which is the bulk of the charity's annual income. They do an amazing amount with such a relatively small amount of money.

The walk this year is round Kensington, Hammersmith, Chelsea, and Fulham, passing Wormwood Scrubs, White City, the Notting Hill carnival area, as well as Grenfell Tower.

The walk consists of visiting 7 churches, all of different types...some big cathedral type buildings and others run down old buildings ..., and of different denominations. All of them will be able to share the work they are doing in their local community. It's usually totally fascinating seeing the amazing work brave, determined, small faith communities are doing.

The walk takes up most of the day. We usually meet at High Brooms station and go together, with a picnic, or you could drive to the start otherwise. Ideally you need to try to get some sponsors. It is a hugely worthwhile cause and a great experience as well.

Please see Liz if you would like to join her and others on the walk this year.



The poster features a background of a brick wall with a purple and blue color scheme. At the top left is the 'unite. youth' logo. At the top right is the 'Tunbridge Wells YOUTH FOR CHRIST' logo. The main title 'UNITE FAMILY FUN EVENT' is in large, bold, white letters. Below this, the activities 'TASKMASTER CHALLENGES | RAFFLE | QUIZ | ART & CRAFT' are listed. The date 'SATURDAY 13TH APRIL' is in yellow, followed by the time '5.00- 7pm: Doors Open: 4.30 pm' and the location 'At Tunbridge Wells Christian Fellowship Church TN1 1EY'. Ticket information includes 'Max 8 people per table', 'Age 18+: £8, Age 5-17: £4, Under 5: FREE', and 'Family ticket (2 adults, 3 children): £25'. It also states 'TEA, COFFEE & CAKE (TOAST FOR CHILDREN) PROVIDED. BRING YOUR OWN NIBBLES'. At the bottom, it says 'To book visit twcf.org/twyfctun' and includes a QR code and the 'twcf church' logo.

unite.
youth

Tunbridge Wells
YOUTH
FOR CHRIST

UNITE

FAMILY FUN EVENT

**TASKMASTER CHALLENGES |
RAFFLE | QUIZ | ART & CRAFT**

SATURDAY 13TH APRIL
5.00- 7pm: Doors Open: 4.30 pm
At Tunbridge Wells Christian Fellowship
Church TN1 1EY

Max 8 people per table
Age 18+: £8, Age 5-17: £4, Under 5: FREE
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**TEA, COFFEE & CAKE (TOAST FOR CHILDREN)
PROVIDED. BRING YOUR OWN NIBBLES**

To book visit twcf.org/twyfctun

 twcf church



Sign up!

@crosswayscommunity.org.uk/reboot

REBOOT
STEPS FOR SUCCESS



Presents:

PARENT SUPPORT GROUP

JOIN US AS WE TAKE TIME TO LISTEN,
SUPPORT AND REBOOT!

Tunbridge Wells on Wednesdays 1.30-3pm

In Person Group: 17 Apr - 22 May for parents of Yrs 7-13

A Groups for Parents/Carers of Teens

This is the group for you if you
are...

- Alarmed at your yp's behaviour
- Unsure how to help them further
- Feeling alone in trying to help your yp
- Have been waiting for a CAMHS appointment
- Interested in meeting other parents/carers in similar circumstances

SET UP FOR PARENTS WITH
CHILDREN & TEENS FACING
MENTAL HEALTH CHALLENGES

To register your interest please log on to
crosswayscommunity.org.uk/reboot
or, email: sara.barker@crosswayscommunity.org.uk

A CROSSWAYS COMMUNITY PROJECT



We hope you have a good weekend and a good start to the new school term next week.