

# St. Matt's Midweek Update – 26<sup>th</sup> April 2024



I hope you have had a good week.

Sorry for the lack of newsletter last week - I caught the virus that is going round at the moment and it wiped me out for the weekend!

Today I thought I would look up the verse of the day on the Bible app I use, and it's a good one!  
Proverbs 3:5-6...

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;  
in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight."

This is a very well known verse, but also a great chapter to read in full. It's good to be reminded that we don't need to try and work things out for ourselves or try to solve every problem we have with our own limited understanding. God wants us to trust Him, and sometimes that means just surrendering to the knowledge that He knows best and has a much bigger plan that we can see or imagine. That is part of trust - letting God take control even when we don't know what His path for us will be.

But what we do know, because this Proverb tells us, is that trusting in God and seeking His ways will bring us peace and prosperity, will bring us favour with God, will take us on the straight paths, will keep us safe and will bring blessing to ourselves and those around us.

That sounds like the kind of life I want, so today let's surrender our lives and our bodies back to God and remember that He knows best for us and He wants the best for our lives.

## Notices



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

We will be continuing our Encounters with Jesus series at both services, with Chris speaking at 10am about Thomas (John 21:24-31) and Suzanne speaking at 7pm about the woman with the issue of blood (Luke 8:43-48).

There will be groups for our children and young people at the 10am service.

**The following Sunday (5th May)** is the first Sunday of the month, so we have our 8am communion service and we also have a family service at 10am.



**Our Annual Church Meeting is coming up on Monday 13th May at 8pm** in church.

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.

We have vacancies on the PCC and also on Deanery Synod, so if you are interested in any of these roles, please speak to Chris before the APCM.

All the documents for the APCM (annual report, accounts, minutes from last year, agenda) will be on our website later today, with a link from the home page <https://www.stmattschurch.org.uk/> If you would like a pack printed because you can't access it online, please let me know.

## Other dates for this week:

Knitting Hub is cancelled tomorrow (27th April).

Sewing Bee Hub is on Friday 3rd May at 7.30pm at Ruth's house.

There is no toddler group this week (2nd May) as the church will be a polling station for the day.



The next **walking hub** is on **Bank Holiday Monday (6th May) at 10am.**

Children & dogs are welcome (with adults!) plus any friends, neighbours or visiting family.

We will meet/park in Birchwood Avenue, Southborough, for a walk through Birch Wood, lake and across open fields back to Southborough Common. The walk is a little steep in places, & please wear suitable footwear and bring water. When we finish the walk the Southborough May Day Festival will be on at Southborough Cricket ground for those wishing to have even more fun and/or get refreshments.

Directions: Take London Road through Southborough towards Tonbridge, past the cricket ground and Hand & Sceptre, and then turn left into Birchwood Avenue and keep left until you reach no 11 Birchwood Avenue TN4 0UD, which is near where we will meet. There is plenty of free parking.



**New Wine** is a summer festival for churches that some of us from St. Matt's are going to this summer in Shepton Mallet. It is great to gather with thousands of other Christians and spend time with God and with each other. There are groups for the children and young people, and they always have an amazing time! There are still some camping tickets and team tickets left, but they are running out, so if you are thinking of coming with us, you might want to book soon!

The dates are 25th - 30th July, and you can find all the information here <https://www.new-wine.org/events/newwine24/> You can also now buy day tickets and offsite tickets.

### **Life & Soul trustees wanted**

Life & Soul is a local Christian charity working with children and young people to improve mental health, self-esteem, confidence and resilience. They work in almost all the primary and secondary schools in Tunbridge Wells.

This is an exciting time to be part of the charity as God is providing resources that will enable them to expand what they do and provide essential help for even more young people each year, reducing the number who go on to develop more serious mental health conditions.

Life & Soul are currently looking for new trustees. Your role would be to ensure the vision and ethos of the charity are maintained, hold the leadership to account and ensure financial probity. This is mainly carried out through attendance at four meetings a year and offering prayer support. If you are interested visit their website [www.lifeandsoul.org.uk](http://www.lifeandsoul.org.uk) or email Sarah Finch, CEO ([sarahf@lifeandsoul.org.uk](mailto:sarahf@lifeandsoul.org.uk)) for an informal chat.

That's all for now. If you need any help or support, please contact Chris and I in the church office. We hope to see you at one of our services this Sunday.  
Love and prayers,