

St. Matt's Midweek Update – 25th October 2024



I hope you have had a good week.

This morning I thought I would just leave you with Psalm 139. It's one of my favourites, and there is so much in there. Why don't you keep coming back to it over the next week, and ask God to speak to you each time you read it...

*You have searched me, Lord, and you know me.
You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar.
You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways.
Before a word is on my tongue, you, Lord, know it completely.
You hem me in behind and before, and you lay your hand upon me.
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain.*

*Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?
If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.
If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea,
even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast.
If I say, 'Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me',
even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day,
for darkness is as light to you.*

*For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb.
I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful,
I know that full well.
My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place,
when I was woven together in the depths of the earth.
Your eyes saw my unformed body;
all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.
How precious to me are your thoughts, God! How vast is the sum of them!
Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand –
when I awake, I am still with you.*

*If only you, God, would slay the wicked! Away from me, you who are bloodthirsty!
They speak of you with evil intent; your adversaries misuse your name.
Do I not hate those who hate you, Lord, and abhor those who are in rebellion against you?
I have nothing but hatred for them; I count them my enemies.
Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts.
See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.*

Notices

Hannah leave - I am going to be on leave next week as it's half term. Chris will be around, and will be checking emails and answering phone calls, so please contact him if you need anything. I will be back in the office on Monday 4th November.



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

In the morning, we will be carrying on looking at our values as a church and Carole will be talking about God's presence (Matthew 1:18-25)). We will have groups for our children and young people.

Seven is a more relaxed cafe-style service, and Suzanne will be speaking.

Next Sunday (3rd November) we also have two services - 8am Book of Common Prayer communion service and 10am family service with everyone in church together.

Join the audio-visual team...

During our Sunday morning services, we have one or two people on the computer at the back of church, running the live stream and putting up song words and slides through the service. This team is very small and needs to grow to keep it sustainable. If you can find your way round the basics on a computer then you can do this role - all training will be given and you won't be left on your own!

If you are interested in joining the team, please speak to me or to Brian, or go and have a look at what happens during a service. Thanks.

Half term

This coming week is half term for most schools, so most of our midweek groups and activities will be having a break.

The only things happening next week are the community hub on Wednesday and the Community Larder on Friday.

Everything will be back up and running the following week (week beginning 4th November) except for Deeper, which is not happening on 4th November. Deeper will start up again on 11th November.

Ignite on Tuesday 5th November will be fireworks in the vicarage garden.



Come and join us for a fun evening of quizzing, on **Friday 15th November 7.30pm in church.**

This is just 3 weeks away now, and we haven't sold many tickets, so if you are thinking of coming, please get your tickets soon, or let me know you are getting a team together.

Tickets are £5 per person and the quiz is for anyone aged 14+.

Tables of up to 8 people.

We will provide soft drinks - feel free to bring any snacks and other drinks for your table. Any proceeds from the night will go to St. Matt's Community Larder.

You can buy your tickets here <https://stmatts.churchsuite.com/events/f0plhxgs> or email me at office@stmattschurch.org.uk



Every year, we hold a **memorial service** in the afternoon of Remembrance Sunday.

This year the service is on Sunday 10th November at 5pm.

This service is a quiet, reflective service for anyone who has been bereaved, whether recently or longer ago.

There are some flyers at the back of church, so please do invite anyone you think would find this service helpful.



Our **Christmas Event** for ladies is back!

We are excited to be having a craft evening for women this year, so come and make some Christmas crafts & decorations, with mulled wine and Christmas nibbles throughout the evening. It's on Friday 6th December 7.30pm - 9.45pm.

This is a great event to bring friends to and have a girly Christmas night out!

Tickets are £12 per person - which includes refreshments and anything you make.

This event is for women aged 14 and over.

You can buy your tickets here <https://stmatts.churchsuite.com/events/add1rshq> or email me on office@stmattschurch.org.uk



Tunbridge Wells Deanery Synod is opening up its next meeting to anyone who is interested in an evening '**Exploring Science & Faith**' on **Wednesday 20th November**, 7.30-9.45pm at Christ Church, Tunbridge Wells. Please go to <http://cctw.org.uk/upcomingevents> for more information and to book into this event.

SCHOOLS WORKER

High Hopes



JOB OPPORTUNITY

£14p/h : 15h/w

Contact highhopes@childrensworkshop.org.uk
for details and application pack.

Application deadline: **Mon 11th Nov**

There is a genuine occupational requirement for the post-holder to be a practising Christian
Final appointment will be subject to enhanced DBS check

That's all for now. There won't be a newsletter next week as I'm off.
Have a lovely week, especially if you are off for half term.

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