

## St. Matt's Midweek Update – 25<sup>th</sup> April 2025



I hope you have had a good week.

It was so lovely to see so many of you in church over the Easter weekend, and to be able to baptise Zara, Kim, Anna and Michael last Sunday. What a special time!

As you can imagine, this week has been very busy, and for lots of us it will feel very surreal as we head towards Chris and Carole's leaving service on Sunday - none more than for Chris and Carole themselves!

As we all head into a new chapter, I feel like God has been reminding me that He goes before us and makes the way for us.

Deuteronomy 31:8 says,  
"The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you;  
he will never leave you nor forsake you.  
Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged."

Jeremiah 29:11 says,  
"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord,  
plans to prosper you and not to harm you,  
plans to give you hope and a future."

And Psalm 139:5 says,  
"You hem me in behind and before, and you lay your hand upon me."

So as we say our goodbyes this weekend, let's remember that God has got good plans for us and is with us every step of the way.

We know that God has made a place and a future for Chris and Carole in Dorset and we also know that as St. Matt's carries on without them, that God has good plans and a future for us here too.

### Notices



#### **As you know, this Sunday we are saying goodbye to Chris and Carole.**

The service will be at 10am as usual, and we will all be in church together.

We are expecting a lot of people so be prepared to stay in your seats for the whole service, especially if you have children! We will be giving out booklets and pens so they have something to do during the service.

We will be serving drinks from the back of church before and after the service and through lunch.

After the service we will ask everyone to go outside for a short time while we sort the church out, and then there will be plenty of time to chat, eat food and say goodbye!

**Parking for Sunday** - St. Matt's School have kindly said we can use their car park this Sunday for church, as there will be so many people coming. So if you are able, please use the school car park and walk down to church.

Please **DO NOT** try and park in Gordon Road! If you are disabled and need to park near church, please be aware that you may not be the only one and be considerate to the residents already parked there. Thank you!



### **Next Sunday is the first Sunday in May.**

We will have our **8am Book of Common Prayer communion** service, which Richard Arding will be leading.

At our **10am service, we will be having our annual meeting.** This will feel like a service, not a meeting, don't worry! We will spend some time looking back and celebrating all we do as a church, and also looking forward as we

start our time without a vicar. This is NOT a family service - children and young people will go out to groups.

**PCC nominations** - At our annual meeting we elect PCC members (these are the trustees of the charity who deal with governance of the church). If you are interested in joining the PCC, please let Brian or myself know this weekend, so that we know what we are planning for at the APCM.

### **Midweek groups**

Deeper is back on Monday for anyone in school years 3-6. If you have children in year 2 who would like to come to Deeper, do let me know as they can start coming from May half term.

Ignite, Community Hub and the Community Larder are all running as usual next week.

However, Toddler Group is not on next week, as the church will be a polling station for the local elections on Thursday 1st May.

### **Could you join the Deeper team or the welcome team?**

At the moment, we could really do with someone to join the Deeper team. Deeper is for those in school years 3-6 on Mondays from 3.30pm - 5pm. It's a fun group, but at the moment I help a couple of times a month to make up numbers, and I could do with reducing that if possible as we head into the interregnum. Please let me know if you would like to join the team.

We could also do with one more person welcoming on the door on Sunday mornings. As Mark will be getting more involved in leading services during the interregnum, it would be helpful if someone could fill his welcome slot once a month. Let me know if you'd like to do this.

### **Wedding invitation**

Sophie Burtonshaw is getting married to Nathan in church on Friday 2nd May at 12.30pm.

They would like to invite anyone at St. Matt's who knows them to come to the ceremony in church.

### **Unlock Walk sponsor money**

Thank you so much all the stalwart walkers who walked the Unlock Walk a couple of weeks ago. We normally send all the sponsorship forms and donations together, and they then get attributed to St Matts. Please can you give your forms and money to Liz by the end of April, if you wish to be included in the group collection (cash, cheque or online). Thanks.

### **CPAS Falcon Camp leaders**

Sue Shrubbs (from Christ Church in Southborough) runs a CPAS Falcon holiday for children who are 8-11 years old and who need a break from everyday life. It's an action packed week of activities with Christian teaching.

She has a full camp of members but needs 2 more leaders (over the age of 18) - either 2 males or 2 females or a married couple (because of the room configuration).

It's August 2nd (Saturday afternoon) to set up & the children come Sunday morning until the morning of Saturday August 9th - it all takes place at Carroty Wood Centre North Tonbridge, so if local there could be a possibility of sleeping at home! If anyone is interested, I can put you in touch with Sue.

Do be in touch with me in the office if you need any help or support at the moment, or if you have any questions!

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