

## St. Matt's Midweek Update – 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2025



It's Friday - hooray! I know not all of us plan our lives around school terms, but we do tend to in church, and I love the feeling of getting to half term, especially as we're going away next week!

Whether next week is different for you or not, I pray a week of rest and refreshment for all of us. It feels like lots of people are stretched thin at the moment and worn out, so I really hope we can all find some time this week to be refreshed by God and rest in him.

This week I have been planning my talk for Sunday, and the focus is on the presence of God with us. It's something that we can take for granted, but God's presence is with us all the time. It's that steadfast, trustworthy presence that we can put our hope in and which helps us through the ups and downs of life.

Psalm 139:7-10 says;  
"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."

I was listening to some worship music earlier this week and a song came on which I haven't heard for a while. It is called "Everlasting Arms" by Lou Fellingham. It reminds us that God's love for us and His presence with us never runs out, never gives up.

This may be for you this week...  
"When we have exhausted our store of endurance  
When our strength has failed and the day is half done  
When we've reached the end of our earthly resources  
The Father's full giving is only begun  
The Father's full giving is only begun  
So lean hard  
Lean hard  
Lean on the everlasting arms  
Lean hard  
Lean hard  
Lean on the everlasting arms  
Lean on the everlasting arms"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XvNfjLmlvIl>

## Notices



**This Sunday (25th May)** we have our 10am service and I will be speaking on the next part of Joseph's story. The Bible passage is Genesis 39:1-23. We will have groups for our children and youth this week.

**Next Sunday (1st June)** is our family service at 10am, and we also have our 8am communion service.  
The Bible passage for our family service is Genesis 40:1-23.

### What's happening this week:

This week is half term, so most groups are having a break. However, the following things are still happening:

Knitting Hub - Saturday 24th May 10.30am - 12pm in the church centre

Community Hub - Wednesday 28th May 11am - 2pm in the church centre

Community Larder - Friday 9.30am - 10.45am at the Bethel Hall

There is no Deeper on 2nd June, as it is an inset day for some local primary schools.



Earlier this week I sent out an email invitation to fill in a **short survey** with your views about St. Matt's Church. We would love to get some more responses so please do go back to the original email and click on the link. I will send out a reminder later today and there will be some paper forms at the back of church if that is easier for you. Thank you!

### Let's get together to pray!



As we are in this time of change and looking to the future for our church, we really want to be giving everything to God and spend some time praying together. We want to ask God to stir something new in us and to prepare us for where we are heading as a church, as well as committing our future to Him.

We have two dates in the diary for the next couple of months and we would love you to join us in prayer.

**Wednesday 11th June 8pm to 9pm** - probably on Zoom but we will confirm this

**Sunday 13th July 8.30am to 9.30am** in the church centre, with some breakfast!

### Save the date - church BBQ and activities at Adamswell - Sunday 6th July



This year we won't be able to use the vicarage garden for a church BBQ, so we are planning to have a BBQ lunch and afternoon of activities at Adamswell in Langton Green. There is lots of space, and Brian will make some of the scout activities available for us to use. There is also the potential for an afternoon walk if someone would like to lead that for anyone interested. We will have more information coming soon, but save the date!

### Save the date - Chris and Carole Open House!

Another date to put in your diary! Chris and Carole are having an open house at their new house in Dorset on Saturday 30th August.

Please save the date for now, and there will be more details to follow.

### Job Opportunity

Emerge Advocacy are a mental health charity working with young people attending A&E for mental health issues. They are advertising for a Youth Support Worker for TW and Maidstone Hospitals. Please let me know if you would like the information about this.

I am on leave this coming week, Monday to Saturday. You can ring the office number and leave a voicemail and Brian will pick it up, or you can email [wardens@stmattschurch.org.uk](mailto:wardens@stmattschurch.org.uk) if you need anything during the week.

Have a lovely bank holiday weekend and hope to see you on Sunday.

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