

## St. Matt's Midweek Update – 29<sup>th</sup> August 2025



As we head into the new school term next week (or maybe it has started this week for you!), one of the verses I read this week stuck with me.

Deuteronomy 31:6 says, "For the Lord your God goes with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you."

I think that's a great verse to hang onto as we step into a new term. Maybe you can give it to your children and young people to remind them that God is with as they go back to school or start a new school.

The context of this verse is about Moses handing leadership to Joshua, and reminding the Israelites that God will go before them into the land He has promised them, and will be with them all the way.

It feels a very appropriate reminder for us as a church as we are looking for a new leader, but also for all of us as we move from one season to another. Whether you are going into a new term at school or in your job, whether you are going into the unknown in your personal life, or whether you are just carrying on as you are - we don't know what the next chapter will look like, but we know God goes before us and with us and will never leave us. And that means we can trust Him for our future.

### Notices

#### Advert for a new vicar

Our advert for a new vicar has gone live today, and will be open for 4 weeks.

You can see the advert and our parish profile on our

website <https://www.stmattschurch.org.uk/2025/08/vicar-vacancy/>

It is also running in the Church Times, on CPAS website and on the national CofE vacancies page.

Please do keep praying as the advert is live, for the right people to see it and apply.



**We want to keep praying together as a church** as we head into a new term and go through the appointment process, so these are the dates of our prayer meetings for the next few months:

Wednesday 10th September 8pm - 9pm in the church centre

Thursday 16th October 8pm - 9pm in the church centre

Sunday 16th November 8.30am - 9.30am in the church centre with simple breakfast



**This Sunday** (31st August) we have our 10am family service, with Mike speaking to us about Jesus saying "I am the gate". The Bible passage is John 10:1-10.

**Next Sunday** (7th September) is the first Sunday of the month, so we have our 8am Book of Common Prayer communion service, and our 10am family service.

**Autumn coffee morning** - Rosemary and her team are holding their next coffee morning on Tuesday 16th September 10.30am - 12pm in the church centre.

There will be cakes, toiletries and gifts for sale, as well as a raffle, with proceeds going to Crosslight Debt Advice.



## Midweek groups

All our midweek groups and activities will start back week beginning 8th September.

Just a reminder of what those are:

**Deeper** (for school years 3-6) – Mondays 3.30pm – 5pm in church

**Ignite** (for school years 7-11) – Tuesdays 6pm – 7.30pm in church

**Community Hub** – Wednesdays 11am – 2pm in the church centre - all welcome

**Baby & Toddler Group** (for preschool children and their parents / carers) – Thursdays 9.30am – 11.30am in church

**Community Larder** – Fridays 9.30am – 10.45am in The Bethel Hall



## TW Youth For Christ sponsored walk

Tomorrow, the YFC team are walking 26 miles to raise funds for Tunbridge Wells Youth for Christ.

They will start at Herstmonceux Castle, then walk to Battle Abbey, medieval Winchelsea, and end in historic Rye following the 1066 country walk.

This fundraising is vital to ensure that they can support young people. This year they have met over 700 unique young people at their events and given away over 30,000 pieces of toast outside The Youth Centre.

For more information and to sponsor the team, go to <https://tunbridgewells.yfc.co.uk/walk-2025/>

All the money raised will be used to fund their work in schools, the youth centre and with churches in order to see young people's lives changed by Jesus.



**Churches for Tunbridge Wells** are excited to be joining together at the [Gatehouse](#) in the Market Square, Tunbridge Wells, from 1st – 7th September to pray for our town.

Please click the link below to sign up for a 30 minute booking (or longer!) in the prayer room <https://signup.24-7prayer.com/signup/13713d/>

There will also be prayer gatherings at the following times each day:

**6.30-7.00am** - Early Morning Prayer (Tuesday - Saturday)

**9.00-9.30am** - Traditional Morning Prayer (Monday - Saturday)

**19.00-20.00** - Evening Worship & Prayer (Monday - Saturday)

**Sunday 7 September - Prayer and Worship at Bennett Memorial School - 18.00-19.30** - Join us on the 7th of September as we finish the week together with an evening of worship and prayer at Bennett School.

**Open Prayer** - Explore the different spaces, from interactive prayer stations to the creative and reflective areas at the Gatehouse, Market Square; 5.00-6.30am, 7.00-9.00am, 9.30am - 19.00, 20.00-23.00 each day.



## Can you nominate us to win £1000?

Please could you nominate St. Matt's Church so we have a chance to win £1000? You just go to this link <https://movementforgood.com/> and put in our charity number 1185772. Thank you!

## Job opportunities

I am aware of a few job openings at the moment...

Rock UK are looking for a Bookings Administrator at Carrotty Wood

Pembury Library are looking for a part-time Customer Service Assistant.

Let me know if you would like the details for either of these.

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Registered charity number 1185772