

St. Matt's Midweek Update – 10th October 2025



I hope you have had a good week.

I was thinking yesterday about how often we strive to be in control or to find answers to situations. We learn that being in control and being able to fix things gives us security and helps us to feel safe. So we spend all our time and energy trying to find answers and make plans to make things right.

But there are some situations and circumstances in our lives where we can't be in control and where we can't fix things. Where life happens to us and around us and there is nothing we can do about it.

And what about God in all our control? God wants us to trust Him, but trusting him fully means surrendering control and knowing that He will work things out for good. It means not trying to fix things but actually being intentionally still and patient.

In thinking about all this, I then got a random email into my inbox this morning that gives a great example of this. It talks about a father throwing a small child into the air and catching them, and the lack of control that child has when they are in the air. And yet the child loves it – because she trusts her father to catch her and because she knows she is safe even though she is not in control.

With God, the letting go of control and the trusting means freedom and security. But it also means we have to open ourselves up and take down the walls we build to protect ourselves, in order to give God that control. The writer of the email goes on to say that this is the paradox of trust: the more you release, the more secure you become.

And as we let ourselves be still and hand over the reins to God, we can rest in the peace of knowing that we are in His hands.

"And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:7

What do you need to trust God with today? What do you need to stop trying to fix or plan for and just hand it over to God and allow Him to work?

Notices



This Sunday (12th October) we have our 10am service with groups for our children and young people. Matt will be speaking about "Hallowed be Your name" and the Bible passage is Matthew 6:5-13.

We also have our 5pm service this Sunday with communion, and Richard will be leading this.

Next Sunday (19th October) we just have our 10am service and we will be sharing communion together. There will be groups for our children and young people.

Update on the appointment process

As I explained in an email earlier this week, we haven't had any suitable candidates applying to be our new vicar this time round, so we will need to put the advert out again, and we will discuss with CPAS (our Patrons) and the Diocese when the best time for this is.

Thank you for all your prayers during this time. We believe that the right person is out there for us and we need to trust God and keep praying for this. We are not unusual as a church in not getting many applications first time round, so please don't be too disappointed!



Our next prayer meeting is this week - Thursday 16th October 8pm - 9pm in the church centre.

As we keep praying about finding our next vicar, as well as all the other things going on in our world and in our church, please do come and join us!

We also have a prayer breakfast coming up on Sunday 16th November 8.30am - 9.30am in the church centre.

Come and join us for a fun night of quizzing!



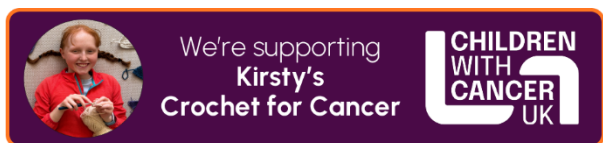
We are holding a quiz night on **Friday 14th November, 7.30pm - 10pm in church.**

Gather your friends, family, neighbours, colleagues and make up a team to come and join in! You can enter as a team of up to 8 people, and the quiz is for anyone aged 14+.

There is something for everyone so don't worry if you are not into serious quizzes! This one will be fun and accessible for us all.

Tickets will be £5 per person. We will provide some soft drinks so bring any other drinks you would like and some snacks for the evening.

I will put the link for tickets into next week's email, so save the date and start getting your team together!



Kirsty is an 11-year-old girl from Tunbridge Wells who is undergoing 70 weeks of chemotherapy for a brain tumour. She is a keen crochet fan and is making 70 bunting triangles, one for each week, to raise money for Children with Cancer UK. She has a target of £70,000 and has reached £62,000. If you feel able to help her towards her target and beyond, please consider making a donation at <https://www.justgiving.com/page/kirstyw>

There are some of Kirsty's leaflets at the back of the church centre if you would like to read more.

Lastly, some of you who have been at St. Matt's for a long time may remember Muriel Pargeter, who was Deaconess at Christ Church in Southborough about 40 years ago. Muriel sadly passed away this week. If anyone would like details of her funeral, please let me know and I can find out from Sue at Christ Church.

I hope you have a lovely weekend.