

St. Matt's Midweek Update – 17th July 2026



I hope you've had a good week.

This week, the fruit of the spirit has come up a couple of times in different ways, and one of the things I read made me think about this a bit differently.

When we think about the fruit of the spirit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control), we might think that we're quite good at some of these, but others don't come so easily to us, so we leave those to other people!

I don't know if you've seen posts on Facebook from St. Faithful's Havenot - it's a fictional church but they talk really well about the difficult issues Christians face. They posted this week about the fruit of the spirit, and this bit really stood out to me:

Judith said, "For accuracy, we should note that these are not separate gifts allocated to different people. They are one fruit, one life."

"Thank you," said Tim. "Exactly. We cannot say, 'I specialise in faithfulness, but gentleness is not my department.'"

The fruit of the Spirit is what we become when we are living in step with the Holy Spirit. And all of these characteristics will grow as we grow in our relationship with God. It may be that some of these develop quicker in us than others, but there is no picking and choosing to be done. Paul doesn't say that some of us have kindness and some of us have patience. If we are living in the Spirit then all these characteristics will be the fruit that grows in our lives.

The other thing I noticed when I opened up Galatians 5 to have a look at the passage, was that the whole chapter is about freedom in Christ. The fruit of the Spirit aren't things we have to struggle with or make happen by ourselves, but fruit that grows naturally when we are living in the freedom that loving God brings.

"Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit." Galatians 5:25

Notices



This Sunday (19th July) we just have our 10am service with communion.

Rob will be carrying on our Marks of Mission series at 10am, talking about transformation from James 2:12-26. There will be groups for our children and youth during the service.

Next Sunday (26th July) we also just have our 10am service, with groups for children and young people.

Then all the Sundays in August will be summer family services and we will be looking at some of the Psalms.



Would you like to join the welcome team or the coffee team?

We would love one more person to join the welcome team, to welcome people on the door one Sunday a month. We will also have a space for another person to join the coffee team once a month from September. If you would like to join these teams, or to know more about what this would entail, please let me know.



Some dates for your diary over the next couple of weeks, and things to keep in your prayers...

Mon 20th July - St. Matt's School Year 6 Leavers' Service in Church

Mon 20th July - PCC Meeting

Sat 25th July - Knitting Hub 10am - 12pm in the church centre

28th July - 2nd August - New Wine Festival, which some of our church family will be going to

NEW - St. Matthew's High Brooms Pre-School after school club

NEW AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

3-11 YRS

SCHOOL COLLECTIONS from St Matthew's School and St John's School

TILL 6 PM

LIGHT TEA PROVIDED

QUALIFIED STAFF

FUN!

MONDAY - THURSDAY

FROM SEPT 2026

St Matthew's Church Hall, High Brooms Road, TN4 9DA

ENQUIRIES clubhbschoolsout@gmail.com 07768518191

VACANCY at PETLEY & DEAKIN ALMSHOUSE CHARITY, TONBRIDGE

ACCOMMODATION: one person flat, with bedroom, sitting room, kitchen and bathroom, in central Tonbridge. Single occupancy only.

ELIGIBILITY: applicants must be able to live independently, be 'poor', of good character and be living in the ancient parish of Tonbridge (which includes Hildenborough, Tonbridge, Southborough and parts of Tunbridge Wells) at the time of their application.

CONTACT: please contact Mrs Emily Case, Warden either by telephone to 07480 591947 or by email on wardenpetleyanddeakin@gmail.com for an application form and financial questionnaire.

Closing date for applications: 14th August 2026.

If you need any help or support, please be in touch with Rob or I.

We hope to see you on Sunday!

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