

St. Matt's Midweek Update – 4th September 2026



I hope you have had a good week, especially if that involved going back to school in any way!

The start of a new school year is a good time to look forward and maybe make some changes to our routines or how we look after ourselves. It's a good time to try and embed new habits into our daily lives, whether that be to do with exercise, sleep, family time or time to spend with God.

It's a great thing to do, and anything we can do that means we are spending more time with God and growing our relationship with God is really helpful. But it is also easy to aim really big and then quickly be disappointed that we don't manage to find the time, or keep the habit going.

Something I read this week was really helpful in reminding me that we don't have to try and be something that we are not, or try and live up to unrealistic expectations when it comes to spending time with God.

In his book 'Practicing the Way', John Mark Comer says this about starting new habits as disciples of Jesus:

"Jesus has never met anyone anywhere other than where they actually *are*."

We don't need to try and be better or get everything in our lives sorted before we can spend time with Jesus - He wants to meet us where we are and with whatever we have to give Him.

So however you are coming to this new term - excited, anxious, worn out, refreshed, grieving, lonely - just come to God as you are and let Him meet you there.

And if you need any support with whatever you are going through at the moment, please reach out to Rob or to me - we would love to meet you where you are and walk with you as well.

Notices



This Sunday (6th September) we have two services, at 8am and 10am.

Our 8am service is a Book of Common Prayer communion service.

At 10am, we have our family service to kick off September, and we will be starting a new sermon series called 'Keys to the Kingdom'. This week Rob will be talking about Love.

Next Sunday (13th September) we also have two services, at 10am and 5pm.

Our 10am service will have groups for our children and youth, and Dedo will be speaking.

Our 5pm service is more traditional and Trevor will be leading and speaking for us. Tea and cake is available from 4.30pm.

Last call for baptism!

We are planning to have baptisms in a service in the next couple of months, and we have a few people interested. If you would like to be baptised, please let me or Rob know this weekend, so that we can finalise the details and have time to do some preparation with people beforehand.



Rosemary and her team are running a **coffee morning for Macmillan on Tuesday 8th September, from 10.30am - 12pm** in the church centre.

Everyone is welcome - there will be cakes, toiletries and gifts for sale, as well as a raffle.

Come and join us for a fun night of quizzing on Friday 25th September, 7.30pm - 10pm. There'll be something for everyone!

You can enter as a team (maximum 8 people please) or as an individual and we will add you to a team (the quiz is for anyone aged 14+).

We will provide soft drinks - feel free to bring any drinks of your own choice and snacks for the evening.

Tickets are £5 per person and you can buy your ticket

here <https://stmatts.churchsuite.com/events/uivz25yo> or find me after church to book your place.



Next week, Christians across Tunbridge Wells are joining the **24-7 Global Week of Prayer**, to "encounter the holiness of God, and as one Church to be sent to our town and the ends of the earth."

The Gatehouse (1 Market Square, Royal Victoria Place) will be open from 6.30am until 10pm each day with prayer stations and other prayer activities. Anyone can pop in. If you are able to commit to a time to pray then please book your slot at <https://signup.24-7prayer.com/signup/52a8d9>

There will also be the following prayer gatherings each day:

- 6.30-7am Early Morning Prayer
- 9am-9.30 Traditional Morning Prayer
- 7pm-8pm Evening Worship and Prayer

Rob will be leading the evening prayer slot (7-8pm) on Tuesday 8th Sept, focusing on church unity, so do join him there if you can.

The week will conclude on Sunday 13th Sept with a joint celebration of prayer and worship at Bennett School at 6pm.

All our midweek groups for children and youth are starting up this week.

Deeper - Mondays 3.30pm - 5pm for children in school years 3-6

Ignite - Tuesdays 6pm - 7.30pm for young people in school years 7-11

Toddler Group - Thursdays 9.30am - 11.30am for parents / carers with their preschool children (aged 0-4)



I will be sending out **consent emails from ChurchSuite** next week, for all children and young people on our database, so please look out for these. We must have updated details and your consent for any children and young people coming to our groups, so it is really important that you action this email - thank you.



The **Community Hub** volunteers met over the summer to review the hub, and we have decided that **the hub will NOT reopen this term.**

Numbers had dropped off last term, and the volunteer team was quite small, so the decision was made to close the hub.

Watch this space, as we are considering what to do instead on Wednesdays. More details will follow in a few weeks.

The **Community Larder** continues to be open every Friday, 9.30am - 10.45am, for anyone who needs cheap food.

They also have a cafe space with drinks and cakes, so please do let people know about this, especially with the community hub closing.





Do you love craft? Could you run a table at our Christmas Craft Event this year?

Every year we run an evening for ladies with Christmas crafts to make. We have different people running tables with a craft they have planned. We really need more people to run tables if we are going to be able to go ahead with this event, so if this is something that you would like to do, please let me know or come and talk to me to find out more.

The date we are looking at for this is Friday 4th December in the evening.



The annual Ride and Stride event, run by Friends of Kent Churches, is happening on **Saturday 12th September 10am - 6pm.**

You can cycle or walk around as many Kent churches as you like, getting sponsored for your efforts. Sponsorship money raised will be divided equally between Friends of Kent Churches and the church of your choice.

If anyone is interested in taking part in this event, I have sponsor forms and all the details you need to take part.

The logo for Growing Hope Tunbridge Wells. It features the words 'GROWING HOPE' in a large, white, sans-serif font, with a small green leaf icon above the 'O' in 'HOPE'. Below this, 'Tunbridge Wells' is written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font.

**7:30PM
TUESDAY
22ND SEPTEMBER**

THE WELLS CHURCH
HANOVER ROAD, TUNBRIDGE WELLS

Be part of something that brings hope!

Come and hear how Growing Hope Tunbridge Wells will support local children with additional needs and their families.

Hear the vision, meet the team, and explore how you can make a difference.

For more details or to book in please scan the QR code.

A square QR code that, when scanned, likely leads to more information about the event.

INFO EVENING

growinghope.org.uk/tunbridge-wells

registered charity number: 1216634

Growing Hope for children with additional needs

Growing Hope is a new Christian charity aimed at supporting local children with additional needs and their families in Tunbridge Wells.

They will be hosting a special event at the Wells Church on 22nd September at 7.30pm to provide an opportunity to hear the vision, meet the team, and explore how local churches and local Christians might be involved. They are also currently looking for a Trustee, a Clinic Volunteer, a Fundraiser, admin support and more.

There are some flyers at the back of church about the info evening.

Thanks for reading this far!

See you on Sunday at one of our services.