

St. Matt's News – 25th September 2026



I hope you have had a good week.

At the moment on the Lectio 365 app, they have been focusing on praying people in the Old Testament.

This week we have looked at Joshua, praying for help and victory in battle, Gideon, putting God to the test as he doubts what God has told him, and Hannah, praying in anguish and grief for a child and then in gratitude when her prayer is answered.

It's a great reminder that there is no one right way to pray.

Prayer is an open, honest, intimate conversation with our heavenly Father, and so it will be different for all of us, and different in various seasons of our lives.

We may be coming to God in desperation, or in grief or disappointment at the moment. We may be praying the same prayer we have been praying for years, patiently waiting for the answer. Or we may be in a season where we are thanking God for answers to prayer. Or more likely, some of each of these things mixed together.

Prayer is you being real with God, in whatever situation you are in right now.

Philippians 4 has some great verses about prayer.

"Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: rejoice!

Let your gentleness be evident to all.

The Lord is near.

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

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

Notices



This Sunday (27th September) we just have our 10am service.

There will be groups for children and youth, and Suzanne will be speaking in our Keys to the Kingdom series, about Forgiveness. The Bible passage is Matthew 18:21-35.

Next Sunday (4th October) will be our October family service, which is Harvest.



Any financial donations on this Sunday will go to Tearfund, and we will also be collecting food items for our Community Larder. Here are the items they currently need:

Pasta and pasta sauces
Cereal

Any tins - sweetcorn, tomatoes, beans (baked or kidney), soup, potatoes, chickpeas, tuna, tinned fruit or custard etc
Tea bags

You can bring these in on Sunday 4th, or drop them in during the week if you won't be there on the Sunday.



Knitting Hub is on tomorrow morning (Saturday 26th Sept) in the church centre, from 10am - 12pm. Everyone is welcome.

Love Joy Peace course



On Sunday evenings during October, Rob will be leading a five-week course on Christian spirituality called Love Joy Peace. The course equips us to develop the spiritual fruits of the Christian life - love, joy, peace and more - through prayer, reflection and guided meditation.

Booking is free, but we ask those who want to sign up to commit to attending at least four out of the five sessions. The sessions will be in church from Sunday 4th October to Sunday 1st November from 7:15pm for a 7:30pm start until 9pm.

You can sign up to the course here <https://stmatts.churchsuite.com/events/bg9uf1v3> or let Rob or I know that you would like to join.

Youth For Christ Inter Church Quiz

It's quizzing season, and there is another quiz coming up on 17th October, for churches in Tunbridge Wells.

It would be great to get a St. Matt's team together to join this YFC quiz, especially as they are supporting us with Ignite still.

If you are interested in being part of a team for this quiz, let me know.



New Wine Festival - Early bird pricing

Next summer, some of our church family will be going to New Wine Festival in Somerset. It's a week of camping, worshipping, spending time together and with God, and having lots of fun! The early bird price finishes on 30th September, so if you want to get tickets as cheap as you can, then have a look here <https://new-wine.org/events/festival27/festivaltickets/>

Please do be in touch with Rob or I if you need any help or support at the moment. We hope to see you on Sunday morning at church.