

St. Matt's Midweek Update – 10th December 2020



How are you doing?

I pray that you are managing to make time for stopping and reflecting in this advent period. If you haven't been using any advent materials so far, you might just want to read through one of the gospels in the run up to Christmas.

One thing I realised as I typed the subject line of this email, was that week 40 will fall on Christmas Eve (if I carry on sending these out on Thursdays!). It feels like there must be some significance that we can draw from having been in this pandemic for 40 weeks, the length of a pregnancy, and Christmas coming on the 40th week. My brain can't quite work out what that is, but if anyone has any thoughts, let me know!!

For now, I'll leave you with one of my favourite verses about Mary, from Luke 1...

"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

I just love Mary's quiet acceptance of all that the angel said. She strikes me as a calm, content young lady, and I think that peace and acceptance can only come from God.

Today I pray that calm and contentment for all of us - we can't change a lot of what is going on around us at the moment, but we can change our attitude towards it all and trust in the God who loves us and wants the best for us.

Notices



This Sunday, our 10am service will be in church and online.

This will be our last service in church until 27th December, except for an 8am communion on Christmas Day.



All our Christmas services this year will be online only. With such a limited amount of people able to fit into church, and with no singing allowed, we decided online was the way forward! It will be different, but it's going to be amazing!

Carols and Nativity - Sunday 20th December at 6pm
(there will be no morning service on 20th December)

Christingle - Christmas Eve at 4pm

8am communion in church - Christmas Day

Christmas morning around the tree - Christmas Day at 10am

All our services will be broadcast on our [Facebook page](#) and our [You Tube channel](#) (except the 8am communion).

If you would like to join in with making a Christingle at home on Christmas Eve (we will do this as part of the online service), here is the list of things you will need to have ready...

Christingle

Christmas Eve 4pm online

To make your own Christingle at home,
you will need...

- An orange
- A candle (any candle will be fine)
- 4 cocktail sticks
- Some sweets, raisins, etc
- A small piece of foil to go under the candle
- A strip of red ribbon, red paper, string, etc
- Some tack or tape to fix the ribbon on





Our Christmas offering this year will be going to Tearfund. They are doing amazing work around the world, helping people out of poverty by training them with new skills and by empowering communities to help each other. You can donate using the church's bank details (please put Christmas offering as the reference). You can also donate using the button on our website, and choosing the Christmas Tearfund Appeal fund. Here is the link <https://stmatts.churchsuite.co.uk/donate/>

Photos

Finally, we would love a photo of you and your household around your Christmas tree as soon as possible, so we can put a slideshow together and make a Christmas countdown. You could hold a sign saying happy Christmas, or even make a 5 sec video saying happy Christmas! Please email these to me as soon as you can.

We look forward to seeing some of you at the quiz tomorrow - we have 25 households signed up and it looks like it will be great fun! You should have had an email with the zoom link if you have signed up. Let me know if not. Also let me know by this afternoon if you still want to join in.

Let us know if you need any help or support.
Have a good week and stay safe!