

St. Matt's Midweek Update – 17th December 2020

It's a week until Christmas Eve, and I've been listening to some carols to get me in the Christmas mood!

This morning's advent reading was about Bethlehem being an insignificant town, and yet being the chosen place for the birth of the most significant person of all time. It reminded me of the carol O Little Town of Bethlehem, and the last line of the first verse which says "The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight."

We may be feeling as insignificant as Bethlehem today, maybe feeling forgotten or lonely or just a bit weary and without God. But however we are feeling, we are each chosen by God to have Jesus living in us, the most significant person of all time. And that same Jesus living in us, is the one who we can bring all our hopes and fears to. It's been a year of fears for many of us, and yet it feels like there is hope, a tiny glimmer of hope. So let's bring this to Jesus this Christmas, and trust all our hopes and fears to Him.

Notices

Christmas Services



All the Christmas services on the above flyer will be online only, starting with our Carols and Nativity this Sunday at 6pm.

We have had a sneak peek at some of the carol pieces and readings, and they are amazing. The nativity is also going to be spectacular, so spread the word and invite friends and family to watch the services too!

Please note, there will be no 10am service this Sunday, just the Carols and Nativity at 6pm.

The easiest way to watch the services (especially if you are not very technical or are not on Facebook) is to follow this link to our You Tube channel www.youtube.com/c/stmatts You will then be on the home page of our channel. Under where it says St. Matt's, with a picture of the church, it says home. When any of our online services are about to start, they will appear under the word home. You can then click on the picture and it will make the video bigger for you.

You can also watch our services on our Facebook page www.facebook.com/stmatthewshighbrooms

For those of you who would like to be in church some time over Christmas, we also have two in church only services.

8am on Christmas morning will be a short communion service

Sunday 27th December at 10am will be in church only, to give the tech team a week off! This will be a more reflective, quieter Christmas service.

Christmas photos

As you know, we are making a St. Matt's family Christmas slideshow for Christmas Day, of as many of us as possible with our Christmas trees / decorations. We would also like to use these photos for a Christmas countdown to play before our Christmas services.

Please could you send me your photos by the end of today if possible, as Brian needs the countdown tomorrow! We have some, but we need more!

All photos sent in will be included on Christmas Day as well, even if they miss the deadline for the countdown, so please get snapping and sending!

Christmas offering



Our Christmas offering this year will go to Tearfund, who do amazing work to help communities out of poverty.

You can donate using the church bank details, if you already have them. You can also give using the Donate button on the front page of our website, and choosing the Christmas Tearfund Appeal from the drop down list, or follow this link <https://stmatts.churchsuite.co.uk/donate/fund/ope5413e>

Please note that any donations made through the website incur a small charge, which you can choose to cover yourself or not.

Friday Worship and Prayer Zoom

This is on tomorrow, for the last time before Christmas. Everyone is welcome to join us for an hour of connecting with others and with God. To get the zoom link, please email office@stmattschurch.org.uk

Community Larder

The community larder is open tomorrow as usual, 10.30am to 12.15pm.

For the following two weeks, as Christmas Day and New Year's Day are on Fridays, the larder will open on Thursdays.

Christmas Eve (24th December) 12.30pm - 1.30m

New Year's Eve (31st December) 12.30pm - 1.30pm

The larder will then be back to normal on Friday 8th January.

Thank-you so much to Liz and Jan and all the volunteers who have worked so hard to get this project up and running - you are all amazing!

That's all the notices for now!

If you need any help or support with anything, please do be in touch with Chris or myself. Whether you need help with shopping, financial support, emotional support or anything else, please do ask. What are we here for as a church family, if not to help and support each other when we need it.

Have a good weekend and stay safe!