

St. Matt's Midweek Update – 4th February 2021



How is your week going?

I've been really encouraged this week and want to celebrate some of the things that have been happening at St. Matt's recently (virtually!).

I haven't made the Friday worship and prayer zooms this year yet, but I know they are a really spiritually refreshing place to be. Thank you to Katie and Steve for running these.

Revive was great on Monday night - we had well over 30 women connecting and worshipping and praying together.

Our community larder is still going strong, with between 60-70 people coming in each week to get food. Thank-you so much to Liz, Jan, Izzie and all the volunteers who make this happen every week.

Our kids and youth zooms this term are growing in numbers and they are having a brilliant time playing games, building relationships, and growing with God in the process (and making swiss rolls!). Thank-you to Lois and all those leading the kids and youth zooms alongside her for your commitment to all our children.

Everything we are doing as a church at the moment is trying to enable our relationships with each other and with God to grow, so that we can support each other as we journey.

I was listening to Captain Sir Tom Moore on the news last night talking about how they got through the war, and he said it was because they were all comrades and they all kept each other going.

And he reflected that that is how we will get through this time, by getting through it together.

Hebrews 10:23-24 says:

"Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on towards love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together.... but encouraging one another."

Notices



This is a final call for **January birthday photos!** If you had a birthday in January and haven't yet sent me your photo to go in our slideshow on Sunday, then today is the last day! You can email me your photo at office@stmattschurch.org.uk



This Sunday is our family service and lots of our young people are involved this Sunday. We don't do a youth video or send out children's materials on family service Sundays, as the aim is that the service will be engaging for all ages!

This Sunday you will need a few things to be able to join in during the service - a couple of strips of paper, a pen, some sticky tape, and a plastic or non-breakable cup or beaker. Intriguing!! Our services will continue to be online only for February, until we see what the government decides about lock-down easing. Thank-you for your support in this.



Prayer for the nation - You may have seen a letter by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York last week, calling for Christians across our nation to set aside some time each evening to pray. Having passed the grim milestone of 100,000 deaths in the UK from Covid-19, we need to be praying now more than ever.

If you would like more information and some prayers to guide you, have a look here <https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/prayer-nation>



Lent starts in a couple of weeks, so next week we will be sharing some ideas for Lent resources with you, both for use at home for yourself and your family, and for house groups. We're also going to try and come up with some sort of pancake challenge, so watch this space! If you would like to have a paper copy of any Lent resources that we share for personal use, rather than using emails or an app, please let me know so that I can order some in time.



And finally, do tell us if you need support with anything. We're in this together! You can email me on office@stmattschurch.org.uk or Chris on chris@stmattschurch.org.uk or you can call Chris on 07734 217796.

Have a good weekend and stay safe.