

St. Matt's Midweek Update – 18th March 2021



How are you this week?

As you'll see from the subject line, this is week 52 of our weekly emails. A year ago, almost to the day, we wrote to you saying that public worship was being suspended and we would be going online. We had our first online service with a few people leading in church, and then the following week we were in full lock-down and we were broadcasting from homes.

I know lots of people have been involved over the year, but this seems like a good time to thank those who have enabled us to keep worshipping together through this last year.

Thank-you to Brian who rescued us straight away and got things working, and has been improving the system almost every week it seems! Thank-you to Lij who has learnt how to run the online services, has faithfully helped Brian over the year, and has been thrown in at the deep end a couple of times on his own and yet swam like a pro! Thank-you to Ian and Graham for being there every week to make sure we can hear what is being broadcast and who have been part of all the set up and improvements over the year.

Thank-you to all the worship leaders who have mastered new software and spent hours recording worship so that we could enjoy it on a Sunday.

Thank-you to Chris, Carole and Katy, who have been there every Sunday, looking presentable and awake, while the rest of us roll out of bed (or not even that) to watch church at home!

Thank-you to Lois for working tirelessly to produce videos for our children and our family services.

And to all of you who have appeared on screen in some way over the year, or who have just turned up week after week to be part of St. Matt's - THANK YOU!!

As we look back, it's important to recognise what has been hard, and what is still a struggle, but also to see how God has worked through it all as well.

This last couple of days I have been doing the New Wine Leadership Conference online, and it has been great to stop, to worship, to hear great speakers, and to realise that we are all in this together. But also to hear how more people than ever are accessing church and are seeking God. How the church has stepped up in their local communities to meet the needs that have arisen. How we have found new ways to support each other and communicate with each other. And that whatever happens, God is still God.

One song which was sung was quite an old one, but it really stuck with me and reminded me that we worship and serve a God who is so much greater than we can even imagine. It's called King of Kings, Majesty by Jarrod Cooper, and the chorus says this:

"Your Majesty, I can but bow
I lay my all before You now
In royal robes I don't deserve
I live to serve Your Majesty"

So this week I pray that we would all be able to see the majesty of God in our lives, and to know that He is our King, our Saviour, our Deliverer, and also our friend.

If you want to go and listen to it on You Tube, here's the link https://youtu.be/_s2bCbu4WkU

Notices



Update on Sunday services - now that children are back at school, cases are much lower in this area, and the building work at church is about to finish, we will be welcoming you back into church for Sunday services if you would like to come from 28th March (Palm Sunday).

We will be going back to where we were before Christmas, with services still online, and those in church needing to stay 2m apart in household groups, wear masks and not sing.

This Sunday we will just be online, on [You Tube](#) and [Facebook](#).



Easter services - we are really looking forward to our Easter services this year, as we look forward with hope for what is to come. In case every day is a blur, Easter Sunday is 4th April!
Maundy Thursday 8pm - in church only
Good Friday 10am - online and in church
Easter Sunday 10am - online and in church

Please book for Easter Sunday in church - due to the fact that more people may want to come to church on Easter Sunday, we have got a booking system in place. We may not reach our capacity, but we would rather know in advance.

You can book your seat here, for you and your household:

<https://stmatts.churchsuite.co.uk/events/pxli5aob>

If you know of anyone who would like to come but can't book online, please do it for them, or let me know. We will announce in the service on Sunday that those who don't get this email can phone and let us know.



Revive Women's Walks - these local walks will be taking place on Saturday 10th April in the morning, in line with relevant Covid19 restrictions. You can find all the information about the walks and sign up here <https://stmatts.churchsuite.co.uk/events/wuhjifbn>



March birthday photos - for those of you with birthdays in March, please send in a photo of you when your birthday comes round, with your cake or presents! I'm not sure when we'll show these yet - it may be the Sunday after Easter.



Help to move scaffold tower - we currently have our scaffold tower up in church to wire up cameras, etc, but it will need to be moved up to the Bethel Hall before church reopens, to do some work up there. We could do with a few people to help carry all the pieces from church to the Bethel on Saturday 27th March, meeting at church at 9am. If you are able to help with this, please let myself or Chris know. Thanks.

Support available - please do let us know if you need support with anything. You can contact any of the staff team if you need help.

Have a good weekend.