

St. Matt's Midweek Update – 25th March 2021

How is your week going?

It feels like there has been a lot of looking back this week and reflecting on both the good and the pain of the last year. It's good to reflect, but it can be tiring and draining, so let's look after ourselves as we do this.

Last night I had a dream - I sometimes remember my dreams, but I almost never wake up feeling like God is trying to speak to me through them. But this morning I had a sense of what I had dreamed, and it was about having gone through a traumatic situation with a few people, and then comforting someone else even though I was also in pain and upset. I felt God was saying to me that we can comfort each other through this - we don't have to be sorted ourselves to comfort someone else. We can grieve our losses together.

I then listened to the Lectio 365 app for today after breakfast, and it was all about comfort! The passage it was focused on was 2 Corinthians 1:3-4...

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God."

Apparently the word comfort comes from the Latin word meaning 'with strength and support'. It's not just a gentle, soft bit of encouragement, it's support that helps us persevere and get through our tough times.

Do you need to ask God for some comfort today? Or do you need to reach out to others for help and support? Who do you know who needs comfort right now, that you could reach out to?

I pray today that you would look to God for your comfort and look around to see who you can give comfort to.

Notices



Church re-opening this Sunday - this Sunday we are re-starting our hybrid services, with some people in church and some watching online at home. Please bear with us as we move forward once again - whenever changes are made there is the possibility of glitches and a bit of trial and error to get things right!

If you are coming into church, please remember the following things:

- we are required by law to wear a face mask in the building unless you are exempt. We are asking for face masks, not visors please, as the definition of a face mask is that they fit securely round the sides of your face and over your nose and mouth. Visors are designed to prevent anything splashing in your eyes - they don't stop your breath from entering the air like masks do. If you are exempt from wearing a mask, then a visor is definitely better than nothing.
- please only sit and interact with your household / bubble
- the congregation are still not allowed to sing
- if you are coming with children, please bring anything they need to keep them occupied in their seats, as we can't yet share toys or paper / pens. Your children will need to stay in their seats with you for the whole service.



Easter services - all our Easter services are now on our website, and the advert is on our Facebook page, so please do share this if you can. The only service we are asking you to book in for to come into church is Easter Sunday, as this may be busier than the others. You can book by clicking on this link <https://stmatts.churchsuite.co.uk/events/pxli5aob>

Maundy Thursday - 8pm, just in church

Good Friday - 10am, online and in church

Easter Sunday - 10am, online and in church



Worship and Prayer on Zoom - this Friday is our worship and prayer evening on Zoom at 8pm. It's a great time to stop and connect with God, and to pray with each other. Everyone is welcome. If you would like the zoom link for the evening, please email office@stmattschurch.org.uk



Revive Women's Walks - Revive are organising some small group walks on Saturday 10th April in the morning. We will be able to meet up in groups of 6 outside by then, so we hope to provide the opportunity for women to connect and support each other.

You can find more information and the sign up form here <https://stmatts.churchsuite.co.uk/events/wuhjifbn>



Help delivering Easter Eggs please - we've got eggs for all our children and youth and would appreciate some help delivering these towards the middle and end of next week. It can be done on Good Friday / Easter Saturday if that works for you. If we can get a few people to help, we can share them out in small areas, so it's not too time consuming. Please let me know this week if you can help. Thank you!



March birthday photos - if you have a birthday in March and would like your photo in our slideshow (probably the Sunday after Easter), please email me your photo by Maundy Thursday (after that I'm on leave and won't see it!!). Thanks!

Lastly, please do be in touch if you need any help or support at any time. We are here for you when you need us.