

St. Matt's Midweek Update – 1st April 2021

Happy Easter!

I can't believe it is now April and Easter is this weekend!

It feels like only yesterday that we were getting all excited about our Christmas services, but then hearing that we wouldn't be able to meet up with our families and heading into lock-down again for several months. It's been such a roller-coaster this last year, and I'm not sure the ride is over yet!

But as we come to the Easter weekend, and as we remember all that Jesus has done for us, I've been reminded that this life is not all there is. It is easy to approach Easter thinking about what Jesus did for *me*, and thinking about how that affects me *now*, but it is much harder to look at the enormity and the eternal nature of all that took place on that first Easter weekend. When Jesus said in the garden "Yet not my will but yours be done", he is recognising that God's plan and purpose was much greater than even himself. When Jesus died on the cross, and when he was raised to life 3 days later, he was defeating death, he was saving mankind, past, present and future. He was making a way for us to live with him forever, for there to be a new heaven and a new earth.

This life is not all there is - there is so much more than this pain and grief and suffering that we are going through now, and Easter gives us the hope to believe that, to hold on, to live for eternity, not just for now. What a hope we have to share!

Let's share in this prayer today from Lectio 365...

"Jesus, as I remember your Last Supper, give me eyes to perceive you in the shadows of my circumstance, grace to receive your mercies, and faith to believe in Your perfect plan for my life. Carry me, Lord, through the darkness of these difficult days to the life and light to come."

Notices



Easter services - we hope you will join us either in church or online for our Easter services, and please do share our Facebook post and invite your friends!

Tonight there is a Tenebrae service just in church at 8pm. This is a quiet, reflective communion service. Brian is going to try and record it and put it online afterwards, but we are not 100% sure if it will work!

Good Friday - 10am in church and online for family worship

Easter Sunday - 10am in church and online, for a family celebration with communion

If you are planning to come to church on Easter Sunday and haven't yet booked, please do so here <https://stmatts.churchsuite.co.uk/events/pxli5aob>

Craft items needed for Good Friday and Easter Sunday...

For the Good Friday service you will need:

- An A4 sheet of paper
- a pen
- some scissors

For the Easter Sunday service you will need:

- Hand print with fingers spread out in yellow (either on yellow paper / card or coloured in yellow)
- Two strips of black paper
- Two oval shaped pieces (optional to help portray empty tomb)
- A piece of white paper
- A pen (optional)
- glue (optional)

If you are coming to church for either of these services and would like to join in these crafts, please bring all your own materials with you.



Revive Women's Walks - on Saturday 10th April, we are organising some walks for women in groups of 6. Please have a look here for all the details and to sign up <https://stmatts.churchsuite.co.uk/events/wuhjifbnl>
If you would like to come on one of the walks, please sign up by the end of this week, so that we can organise groups and let you know exact details of your walk. Thanks!

March birthday photos - today is the deadline for March birthday photos, so please send me your photo today if you have had a birthday in March and would like to be included in our slideshow!



Volunteering opportunity - Imago (a social action charity working across Kent, Medway, East Sussex and London) are looking for some volunteers to help in the Imago Charity Shop, Monson Road, Tunbridge Wells from the end of April. The charity shop is very friendly and there are a variety of jobs that need to be done either in the front of the shop or out the back. Volunteers are very supported by staff members. Shifts are generally from 9am-1pm and 1pm-5pm, but they can be flexible to suit volunteers' availability. Opening days are Monday – Saturday and volunteers can work as little or as often as they like. If you are interested, contact Sally Simms on 07719249643 or sally.simms@imago.community

Finally, Lois and I are on leave next week, so please contact Chris if you need anything (chris@stmattschurch.org.uk).

Have a lovely Easter weekend, and we look forward to 'seeing' you at some of our services!