

St. Matt's Midweek Update – 21st October 2021

How are you?

If you've got children or work in a school setting, I imagine you are counting down the days until the end of the week. We pray that you all have a restful half term.

This Sunday and for the next few weeks, we are taking a break from our series through the book of James, but we will come back to it soon to finish the book.

Last week Anthony Hammill spoke to us about faith in action and reminded us that we need to have both faith and deeds. Our good deeds flow out of our faith in God.

The verse that stuck out to me from last week is this one:

"But someone will say, 'You have faith; I have deeds.' Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds." James 2: 18

This Sunday we will be hearing from Ruth Radley, who is one of our mission links through CMS. Ruth works in Birmingham Children's Hospital on the chaplaincy team, and she will be speaking to us and telling us all about her work in the hospital.

Our mission links are the people and charities we support as a church, through the tithe we give each year and through our prayers and encouragement. Our other mission links are Pat Blanchard in Peru, Life & Soul here in Tunbridge Wells, The Sozo Foundation in South Africa, Tearfund, and Geita Diocese in Tanzania.

Notices



This Sunday we are in church and online as usual at 10am. We hope that you can join us as we hear from Ruth Radley.

There won't be any groups for children or youth this Sunday, but we feel that the service will be accessible for all ages. Youth Alpha is having a break this Sunday as some of the leaders are away, and we are still building up volunteer teams for our children's groups, so can't manage to run them this week.

Lois will provide some bits for the children to do in the service, sitting with their parents / carers, and the church centre will be set up with toys for anyone with preschool children.

Don't forget that drinks are served up to 10am, and then after the service, so come early enough to get a drink if you'd like one, and please do bring your own travel cup if you can!



Quiz night - are you getting your team together for the quiz night? It's going to be a lot of fun (nothing too taxing!) with fish and chips halfway through the quiz. You can sign up as a team or an individual to be put with a team, and it's £10 per person. Friday 19th November at 7.30pm.

For all the details and to sign up, click here <https://stmatts.churchsuite.co.uk/events/pursbfsi>



Ladies, have you got your tickets for the **Christmas Wreath Making evening** yet? Join us for one of the two sessions on Friday 26th November to make your own wreath and start to feel Christmassy!

All the detail and tickets are here <https://stmatts.churchsuite.co.uk/events/cj5npfst>
Please sign up early to help us with planning. (Photo by Milada Vigerova on Unsplash)



Community Larder Christmas Fayre - the community larder are holding a fundraising coffee Christmas Fayre on Saturday November 13th, (which is the larder's first birthday), at the Bethel Hall 10am - 12 noon. We will be serving coffee and cakes and holding a raffle and tombola and hopefully selling some Christmas items and nearly new children's clothes.

With all the current shortages, like everyone else, the larder needs extra funds to cover food and running costs, and it is needed more than ever.

We also want to take the opportunity of welcoming the community and the church family into the Bethel on a non-larder day.

If you have any spare gifts suitable for a tombola, Christmas items, or as new children's clothes you could donate, please let Jan or Liz know. We will have a box at the back of church if you want to drop them off there.

Most of all, please put it in your diary and see if you can pop in on the day . We would love to welcome all our church and community friends.



October birthday photos - now we're more than halfway through October, please do send in your birthday photos if you would like to be in our birthday slideshow in a few weeks time. Email your photos to office@stmattschurch.org.uk

Climate change team - a few Sundays ago I talked about wanting to get a team together to look at how we, as a church, can become more environmentally friendly, and ultimately be carbon neutral in what we do. There are loads of resources out there to help with this, so if you would be interested in looking at any of this and coming up with some ideas, please do let me know.

Staff leave over half term - Lois and I are both taking some leave next week, so unless you have an urgent issue, you may not get an answer until after half term! I will be off Monday - Wednesday, and Lois will be off most of the week. If you have an emergency, call the office and there will be a phone number for one of the wardens on the answerphone.

That also means that if you still need a Bennett or St. Greg's form signed, you need to contact me by tomorrow!!

Have a good weekend.