

St. Matt's Midweek Update – 28th October 2021



I hope you are enjoying half term if you have children at home or if you work in a school or nursery setting. I pray you manage to get some rest and refreshment this week.

Just a reminder that the clocks go back on Saturday night - we get an extra hour in bed so there is no excuse for being late for church!

This Sunday Antonia is going to be speaking to us about mental health - a really relevant topic to all of us, whether we are struggling at the moment or doing well. It's something we need to keep talking about and supporting each other in.

It was so good to hear from Ruth Radley last Sunday, and to be encouraged and inspired by all that the multi-faith chaplaincy team are doing in Birmingham Women's and Children's Hospital. What a privilege to walk with people through their hardest times in life.

One thing that stayed with me from what Ruth said, was that we don't have to have all the answers when we are with people going through tough times. We just need to be there to listen and cry with them. We all need the freedom to express our true emotions to God when we are struggling, and having someone there to just listen and allow us to be angry or broken or upset is such a comfort.

2 Corinthians 1: 3-4 says...

"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."

Notices

Children and youth this Sunday

- This Sunday Lois will be running a light party during the service for primary school age children in the church hall (the one opposite Marinos). So that they have enough time for all their fun and games, please take your children straight to the hall before church starts, from 9.45am. The children will be brought back to church at the end.

If you haven't already signed you children up for this, please let me know by tomorrow that they are coming, so that Lois can make sure she has enough helpers and food!!

- The church centre will have toys in as usual for any parents with preschool children, with the service on the TV in there.

- We are not yet sure if Youth Alpha will be running this Sunday, due to illness. I will let parents and youth know by Saturday what is happening.

Working party this Saturday

There will be a working party from 9am this Saturday, to weed and clear down the side of church and do a few other jobs around the church and halls. If you are able to come along and help, it would be much appreciated! Thanks.

Hubs

- **Table tennis** is back up and running in church, and St. Matt's takes part in an inter-church league in Tunbridge Wells. If you would like to be part of one of our teams, please speak to David Johnson about joining in.

- **Sewing Bee Hub** is on Friday 5th November 7.30pm at Ruth Dearlove's house. They meet once a month to share patterns, projects and ideas. Please let me know if you would like to join.

- **Knitting Hub** is next meeting on Monday 8th November 7.30pm in the church centre. If you would like to learn to knit, or to join in some knitting projects for charities, then Jane would love to see you at knitting hub!

Community Larder Christmas Fayre

The community larder are holding a fundraising 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.

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.

Quiz Night

It's almost November, which means our quiz night is only 3 weeks away! Click on this link to have a look at all the details and to buy tickets <https://stmatts.churchsuite.co.uk/events/pursbfsi> £10 per person includes fish and chips, and any surplus funds will go to buying some new equipment for our youth.

Revive Wreath Making

We would also love to see all you women at our wreath making evening! This is open to any women who would like to come, and is a great evening to invite friends and family to.

For all the information and to buy your tickets, click here <https://stmatts.churchsuite.co.uk/events/cj5npfst>

We will make sure both the quiz night and the wreath making evening are run in a Covid-secure way.

October birthday photos

Please send in your birthday photos if you have had a birthday in October and you would like to be in our birthday slideshow next Sunday. Email your photos to office@stmattschurch.org.uk by Thursday 4th November.

Have a good weekend, and don't forget to put your clocks back!!