

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

How is your week going?

It's so easy at this time of year to get stressed and overwhelmed with everything that needs to be done and trying to live up to the expectations we set ourselves. As we start advent next week, let's try to remember to be kind to ourselves, and pace ourselves, as we head towards one of the most important seasons for Christians around the world.

It was so good to have our young people in church with us last week, and Ali shared some really challenging things from James 3 about how we communicate with other people.

Ali shared this picture - this can be applied not just to speaking but also to what we write, type, post on social media, etc. I found it really helpful and hope you do too!

Before you speak:

THINK

T = Is it True?

H = Is it Helpful?

I = Is it Inspiring?

N = Is it Necessary?

K = Is it Kind?

James 1:19 says, "everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry..." Help us Lord, to encourage each other with our words and to hear from you as we meet other people today.

Notices



This Sunday we will be continuing our series on James in our 10am service, and Mark will be speaking to us.

There won't be any groups for our primary school age children this week, so they will stay in church with their parents.

The church centre will be set up for any parents with preschool children who would like to use it, and our young people will be meeting at the Powney's house for Youth Alpha.

Testimonies - if you have a testimony or story you would like to share in church, of how God has been working in your life, please let myself or Chris know.

Advent - this Sunday is Advent Sunday, which means we will be lighting our first advent candle in the service. There are lots of resources around that you can use through advent, to focus on Jesus and to reflect each day. Here are a few that you might want to use...

- The Church of England has email reflections you can sign up to and an app you can use <https://www.churchofengland.org/our-faith/what-we-believe/advent-and-christmas/heart-christmas-our-2021-advent-and-christmas>
 - Tearfund have got daily advent devotional emails called "Christmas in your global neighbourhood." <https://www.tearfund.org/campaigns/advent>
 - MAF (Mission Aviation Fellowship, who my sister and family work for) have got a great online family advent calendar <https://gb.mafadvent.org/holding/>
- I'm sure there are also many more resources out there. You may even have one of our old St. Matt's advent devotionals at home that you could re-use this year.

Christmas publicity - over the next couple of weeks we will be sharing our Christmas publicity, for you to share and use to invite people to our services, so keep an eye out for that!



Birthday photos - have you had a birthday in November and would like your photo in the birthday slideshow next week? Please email your photo to me by next Thursday, thanks!



There are a couple of hubs happening this week and next week...
Knitting Hub is on this Saturday morning, 10.30am - 12pm in the church centre. Come along if you enjoy knitting or would like to learn!
Sewing Bee Hub is happening next Friday (3rd December) at 7.30pm at Ruth's house, for anyone who enjoys sewing and wants to share ideas and projects.

That's all for now!
Please do be in touch if you need any help or support at the moment.

Have a good weekend.