

St. Matt's Midweek Update – 2nd December 2021

Welcome to December and advent!

Have you started following any Advent devotionals this week? Or maybe you are carrying on with something you have been doing for a while that follows into advent.

The Lectio 365 app is going through the gospel of Luke this week.

The Church of England has various reflections and a family advent calendar

(<https://www.churchofengland.org/our-faith/what-we-believe/advent-and-christmas/family-activities-advent-calendar>).

Advent is such a great time to make an effort to daily connect with God, if we have got out of the habit, or have never had that routine. It's a time of waiting and looking forward to celebrating Jesus' birth at Christmas.

Today my prayer for us all is from Lectio 365...

"Lord, in this busy season please help me to be still. I am opening my ears now to hear You, quietly preparing my heart for the wonder of Your coming at Christmas." Amen.

Notices



This Sunday is our advent family service, and Mike will be sharing with us. All the children will stay in the service with us. However, the youth will still be meeting at the Powney's house for Youth Alpha, as they have a few more sessions to finish!

Worship and Prayer evenings - Steve and Katie will be leading two worship and prayer evenings over the next two weeks.

- Tomorrow evening 8pm - 9pm will be a Zoom session for anyone who would like to join online. Please email office@stmattschurch.org.uk for the zoom link.

- Next Friday (10th December) 8pm - 9pm will be an in person meeting at the Powney's house, again for anyone who would like to come along.



Our **Christmas** publicity is now here (thanks so much to Nick for the design!) so we will be sharing it with you over the next week or so. We will get our Facebook ad out next week, so please share that when you see it. There will be postcards if you would like to give a few out to friends and family, and all the information is on our website <https://www.stmattschurch.org.uk/2021/11/christmas-at-st-matts-2/>

We are asking people to book for our most popular services (Carol service and Christingle services), as we will be limiting the capacity for these to stay safe. We will have two Christingle services, to spread the numbers out!

To book for the carol service on 19th December 7pm, click [here](#)

To book for the 3.30pm Christingle service on Christmas Eve, click [here](#)

To book for the 5pm Christingle service on Christmas Eve, click [here](#)

If you are inviting anyone along, the easiest way for them to book is to go to our website, and click on the Christmas picture.

Christmas cards for mission partners - every year we make cards for our mission partners, both locally and around the world, and we would love you all to sign them as we send our love to those we support.

The cards will be in church this Sunday to sign (in a hygienic way!), but if you won't be in church and would like to put a message in the cards, please email a short message to Mary and she will print them out and stick them in.

The cards will be to Ruth Radley, Pat Blanchard, Life & Soul, Samuel in Tanzania, and Sozo in South Africa.



There are a couple of **hubs** coming up...

Sewing Bee Hub - tomorrow evening 7.30pm - 9pm at Ruth's house

Knitting Hub - Monday 13th December 7.30pm - 9pm in the church centre



Please nominate us... Ecclesiastical Insurance are giving away 120 lots of £1000 to charities over December, and we would love a chance to win! The more nominations we get, the more likely we are to get £1000, and the church could really use that!

To nominate us, just click on the link below, then click the orange 'Nominate a charity now' button and enter your details (our charity number will already be there)

<https://movementforgood.com/12days/index.php?cn=1185772&ct=church>

Thank-you!

That's a lot of information! Thanks for getting to the end!

As always, if you need any help and support, please be in touch with us.

And don't forget that the amazing community larder is happening in the Bethel Hall every Friday morning for anyone who needs a bit of help with food, or who wants to save some of the food that would otherwise go to waste.

Have a good weekend!

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