

## St. Matt's Midweek Update – 9<sup>th</sup> December 2021

How are you in this week of changes and new restrictions being brought in?

In this time that already feels busy and can be stressful, and with the added anxiety of Covid cases going up again, it's really hard to find time to stop and listen to God and to feel his Holy Spirit working in us.

Last week, I was picking Zara up from school and I saw a young person I knew standing on their own. That wasn't unusual. Zara got in the car and I was about to drive off when I really felt like I should ask if they were alright. It turns out they needed to meet someone, but they had not found them and their phone was dead, so they didn't really know what to do.

I was able to help and we found the other person after some phone calls, but it really reminded me that God prompts us all the time - but do we listen or obey?

I was also reminded that God can put us in the right place at the right time - I would usually not have been able to park where I did, but that day I could. God can orchestrate our lives to enable us to help others, but we need to be open to hearing and obeying that nudge from him.

God, in all the busy-ness of this Christmas time, would you help us to stay open to you, close to you, and in tune with you. Amen.

### Notices



**Christmas services** - we are really looking forward to all our Christmas services this year. We hope you can join us, either in person or online, and please do share the publicity with your friends and family and invite people along.

**Just a reminder that you need to book to come to the carol service and the Christingle services.** It's really easy, just click on the links below and fill in your details...

Carol service - <https://stmatts.churchsuite.co.uk/events/d1kfygnc>

(If you are in the choir for the carol service, you don't need to book as you won't be taking up a chair in the main church).

Christingle 3.30pm - <https://stmatts.churchsuite.co.uk/events/nyc52cq8>

Christingle 5pm - <https://stmatts.churchsuite.co.uk/events/2omvjkl>

**Mask wearing in church** - as I'm sure you will have seen, the government are now bringing in Plan B of Covid restrictions to help slow the spread of the new variant. One of the parts of Plan B is compulsory mask wearing in most indoor settings, and that includes places of worship.

**So, from tomorrow, face masks will need to be worn all the time we are in the church building for worship and other activities.**

The Church of England will be bringing out some more details on this today, but if you are coming to church this Sunday and for the foreseeable future, please wear your mask for the whole time (unless you are medically exempt).

There are a couple of other things we can do to try and keep us all safe over Christmas as we come to church:

- stay at home if you feel unwell or if someone in your house has Covid

- take a lateral flow test before you come to something at church and only still attend if it is negative

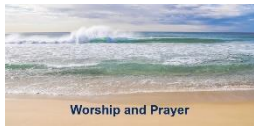
- keep on sanitising our hands regularly

Thank-you for helping us to keep everyone safe as we head towards Christmas!



**This Sunday** we are finishing our series on James in church. The service will be both in church and online as usual.

There will be groups for our children during the service, and the youth will be meeting in the youth office in church for Youth Alpha. The church centre will be set up as usual with toys for parents with preschool children.



The next **worship and prayer evening** is tomorrow at 8pm at the Powney's house. Everyone is welcome to join an hour of spending time with God.

Please do be in touch if you need any help or support at the moment.

I hope you have a good weekend.