

# St. Matt's Midweek Update – 11<sup>th</sup> February 2022



How are you this week?

If you're a parent or work in education, you've made it to half term - well done! It's been another tricky term for all of you working in schools and education settings. We really appreciate all you do for our children and young people, so thank you.

One thing I have found that has really helped me this week is the encouragement and support I have got from other people. Nothing huge or planned, just a word of encouragement, an acknowledgment that situations are really tough, a hug, someone making sure I am looking after myself as well as others. Sometimes we feel more able to give that encouragement, but actually we can always be a support to someone else, whatever we are going through ourselves. Sometimes our own tough times can be a real help to someone else going through a similar thing.

1 Thessalonians 5:11 says, "... encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing."

Who can you encourage today? Maybe just the next person you meet or talk to, or maybe you need to intentionally reach out to someone.

When I was thinking about this the other day, a song popped into my head - Just Be Held by Casting Crowns. Maybe this is what you need to hear today...

[https://youtu.be/tIZitK6\\_IMQ](https://youtu.be/tIZitK6_IMQ)

## Notices

### This Sunday

Our 10am service is in church and online as usual this Sunday, and we will be continuing our series in Ephesians.

There will be groups for our primary school aged children, but NO YOUTH this Sunday as Natalie is away. The church centre will be set up with toys for parents with preschool children.

We also have our 5pm service this Sunday (in church only), which is a more traditional service with hymns and liturgy. Refreshments will be served from 4.30pm and everyone is welcome. This service will be held once a month, on the second Sunday of the month.



### Mission Prayer Meeting

The next prayer meeting is on Wednesday 16th February at 3.30pm for anyone who would like to hear updates about our mission partners and pray for them. The meeting will be in person at Mary's house but also on Zoom, so please let me know if you would like any more details for joining.



The Community Larder is open every Friday between 9.30am - 10.45am for those who need help with food costs. The demand for the larder is rising as the cost of living goes up, and the amount of food that is being given from supermarkets and Fareshare is going down.

Could you help by donating some food? You can bring it to church on Sundays and we will take it up to the hall.

**At the moment the larder needs tins of soup, baked beans, tinned tomatoes, jam.**

**Hygiene - shower gel, toothpaste, shampoo, period products.**



Our next Revive event for women will be walks in Penshurst on Saturday 26th March.

We will meet at 9.30am in the Penshurst Place carpark and can offer different length walks if needed. We can also have a coffee afterwards at the cafe.

Please can you sign up if you would like to come, so we have an idea of numbers and lengths of walks to plan? You can sign up here <https://stmatts.churchsuite.com/events/8c1fk1db>



We have a variety of requests for help this week...

- We would still love to have a few more volunteers to help out with our youth on Sunday mornings. If you think this could be you, please let me know!
- Does anyone know of any 2 bedroomed houses to rent in the area, or is anyone getting rid of or selling a car very cheap? Again, please let me know, for a family known to us.
- Are there any gardeners or green fingered people out there who could assist Sandra's dad with his garden on a regular basis? He would be willing to pay for the service.

Have a good weekend.