

St. Matt's Midweek Update – 18th February 2022



I hope you are staying safe and well this windy Friday!

This week Chris has written our thought for the day...

This Sunday we will be looking at the second of Paul's prayers in Ephesians. This time he prays for two things – power and love, and in his prayer, both are intrinsically linked. Unlike worldly models of power which are frequently about self-aggrandisement and sensationalism, for Paul power is not about self, it's about the ability to love others.

"I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know that love that surpasses knowledge."

For Paul, power is not to fulfil personal ego but to be able to know God's love. Likewise in our society love can also be misunderstood – we all want to be loved (I would say we have a God given need to be loved). But the media frequently paints an idealised picture of what this might mean. For Paul love begins and ends with Christ – he does want us to know that we are loved but for him the gold standard of love is not a gooey feeling or a valentine's card or a box of chocolates or even red roses but Christ's love. And that is ultimately about personal sacrifice; of giving all for those we love and not looking for anything in return.

Notices



This Sunday we are in church and online for our 10am service, continuing our series on Ephesians. We will have communion as part of the service.

Children - there will be no groups for children this Sunday due to leaders being off with family members with Covid. Lois has provided some activity

packs, so if you are coming to church with children, there will be things for them to do while they are in church with you.

The church centre will have some toys in and the service on the TV, so parents can take their preschool children out if needed.

Youth - the youth will be meeting at church in the youth office this Sunday for their second to last session of youth Alpha. Breakfast will be provided!



There will be no Deeper this Monday - it will restart on Monday 28th Feb for children in school years 3-6.

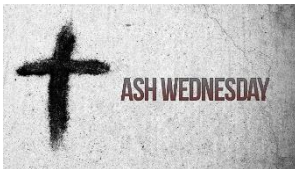
Ignite is on this Tuesday for young people in secondary school. It runs from 6pm - 7.30pm in church, and dinner is provided.



The next knitting hub is on Saturday 26th February 10.30am - 12pm in the church centre, for anyone who would like to come along.



Coffee morning on Shrove Tuesday in church - come along and have pancakes, or coffee and cake, and browse various stalls on Tuesday 1st March 10.30am - 12pm. There will be books and cards to buy, as well as cakes and groceries and bric-a-brac.



Ash Wednesday service - there will be a service in church on Ash Wednesday at 8pm. This will be a quiet reflective service to mark the start of Lent.

Don't forget that you can bring donations of food into church for the community larder if you would like to. Items currently needed are tins of soup, baked beans, tinned tomatoes, jam, shower gel, toothpaste, shampoo and period products.

Lastly, a hostel in town has a job vacancy for a full time housing management worker, £19,000 per year. The client group is 18 - 30 male and female and children up to the age of 3. If you would like to know more, please email office@stmattschurch.org.uk

Please be in touch with us in the church office if you need any help or support.
Have a good weekend.