

St. Matt's Midweek Update – 25th February 2022



I'm sure that, like me, you have been watching the news in horror this week as Russia has invaded Ukraine. It is heart-breaking to see the fear and confusion as ordinary people like you and me are faced with bombs and bloodshed.

It is so hard to know what to pray, but using the Psalms is a good place to start. Dedo has had Psalm 46 on her heart this week, and we can pray that for the people of Ukraine... God would you be their fortress and their help, would you be exalted in the nations of Ukraine and Russia.

Sometimes it is easier to pray for individual people, rather than a whole country. There are countless Ukrainians living here in the UK who will be scared for their families back home. Let's pray for them. You could also think of the people in Ukraine who would be just like you, and focus your prayers on them.

And let's not forget to pray for the people of Russia, many of whom don't agree with this war, and for Putin himself, that God would break through to him and change his course of action.

And don't forget that the church will be open between 12pm and 1pm today if you would like to come and pray with others.

Notices

This Sunday we just have our 10am service, in church and online. There will be groups for primary school age children and for youth. They will all start off in church and then go out during the first song.

Just a reminder about what we are doing in church now regarding Covid...

You don't have to wear face masks at all in the building, but please do continue to wear one if you would like to.

The side aisle of church is more spaced out, and you can take cards asking people not to sit next to you if you would prefer more space.

Hand sanitiser is still available to use as you enter the building.

The one thing we would still ask is that you don't come to church if you are unwell or if you or someone in your house has Covid.

Coffee morning - Rosemary and her team are holding a coffee morning in church on Tuesday 1st March 10.30am - 12pm for anyone who would like to come along. There will be pancakes on offer, as well as stalls selling cakes and groceries, books, cards and bric-a-brac.

Ash Wednesday - Wednesday 2nd March is Ash Wednesday, the start of Lent. We will have a quiet, reflective service in church at 8pm in the evening. Everyone is welcome.

Lent resources - as Lent starts on Wednesday, you may want to use some daily reflections to focus on during Lent. There are a couple that I am aware of...

The Church of England's Lent resources are called Embracing Justice. Some of our house groups will be following the theme through Lent. There are also daily reflection booklets that you can buy here <https://www.chpublishing.co.uk/features/live-lent> both for adults and children. The #LiveLent app has also been updated for this year. Click on the links to download them...

[#LiveLent app on Apple](#)

[#LiveLent app on Android](#)

Tearfund also have some Lent resources available - have a look here <https://www.tearfund.org/campaigns/lent-devotional-churches>

Revive walks - Ladies, don't forget you can now sign up to join us for a walk on Saturday 26th March, 9.30am starting at Penshurst Place car park. We will walk in groups, and then come back to the cafe for a drink afterwards.

Sign up here <https://stmatts.churchsuite.com/events/8c1fk1db>

Community Larder - The need at the larder is increasing while food they are receiving is decreasing, so if you feel able to donate any food, you can leave it at the back of church, or take it to the Bethel Hall on a Thursday or Friday morning.

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. Please let me know if you can help.

Have a good weekend.