

St. Matt's Midweek Update – 4th February 2022



How has your week been?

I've been thinking this week about how hard it is to do those things which are good for us in the long term but are difficult in the short term. Things like saving money or eating healthily, doing exercise or looking after our mental health.

I don't know about you, but I have never been very good at planning too far ahead for my own life. I guess since my marriage went wrong and I realised plans can be shattered in an instant. And for me, Covid has just made that even worse. No-one has wanted to or has been able to plan too far ahead over the last two years, as we just haven't known what the next week or month will bring. It's made it very easy for me to retreat into my own space and not invest in my social life or my own wellbeing.

But we do need to be able to look ahead into the future to look after ourselves and get the most out of life. We need to see where we want to be in order to make the changes to get there. And those changes can be tough, and can take us out of our comfort zone, but we'll thank ourselves in the long run.

It's the same in our Christian life, isn't it? God doesn't promise us an easy life in the short term, but we know that by investing in our relationship with Him and walking daily with Jesus, we will be able to live life in all its fullness. And of course, the ultimate goal is to be with Him in heaven.

2 Corinthians 4:17-18 says:

"For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So, we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal."

Notices

This Sunday is our monthly family service at 10am, where we all worship together in church. There will be no groups for children or youth this Sunday, but the church centre will be set up with toys for parents with preschool children to use if they want to. The service will also be online as well, on Facebook and You Tube.

This Sunday we also have our 8am communion service - this is a short service using the Common Book of Prayer, and all are welcome.

Next Sunday we will be restarting our 5pm service, once a month on the second Sunday of the month. There will be refreshments served from 4.30pm. This service is more traditional than our morning service, with hymns on the organ and liturgy. Again, everyone is welcome to come along to this service.

Covid safety measures - as we said last week, the PCC have discussed the way forward for Covid measures. Therefore, from this Sunday, this is what to expect when you come to church...

- face masks will no longer be required at any time in the building. However, if you would like to still wear a face mask, please feel free to do so.
- the side aisle of the church (on the right as you come in the main doors) will be kept more spaced out than the main body of the church (although this is also still fairly well spaced out), so if you would like more space, you can use this side. If you are not worried so much about having space, please leave this area for those who would like to use it.
- Please also make use of the cards asking people to leave a space next to you if you would like to.

- The church building is well ventilated naturally, but we will start opening more doors again during services once the weather allows.
- If you have someone in your house with Covid, or you feel ill yourself before church, please stay at home and join us online. People in all our groups that use the church have been really good about this, and we really appreciate it.
- The last thing you could do is to do a lateral flow test before you come to church on a Sunday morning, and only come if it is negative. There is still a lot of Covid around, especially in schools, so this is a good way to pick up any positives before mixing with others!

Hubs coming up...

Sewing Bee Hub is on tonight, 7.30pm at Ruth's house. Let me know if you would like more details.

The next knitting hub is on Monday 14th Feb, 7.30pm in the church centre.

Revive walks - Revive are planning another morning of walks later in March. The date will be Saturday 26th March 9.30am at Penshurst Place. We can get a drink afterwards at the cafe. I'll get the sign-up link sorted out and include that next week.

Giving Point - there are now several ways you can give to support the running of the church if you would like to. You can now give by card or payment app on our new card machine. You can give cash or cheque at the giving point in church. You can also set up a standing order from you bank account if you would like to give regularly - please let me know if you would like details.

We hope you all have a good weekend.

Let us know if you need any help or support.