

St. Matt's Midweek Update – 11th March 2022



How are you?

I hope you have had a good week - mine's been a bit weird, as I've been working from home for some of it while Zara had Covid.

It made me realise again how much I value the support of working with other people and the chance to talk about things and ask questions as they come up when we are in the office together. Communication is so important, isn't it? That continual sharing of ideas and plans and having others to work through problems with really helps me to be effective in my job.

That's how our communication with God should be as well. Knowing He is always there and taking things to Him, asking Him questions, thanking Him, letting Him encourage us.

It is easy to just get on with life, and to get weary of praying about things that don't seem to be answered, and to try to work problems out on our own. But how much better is life when we share the load with God, and have an ongoing, two-way conversation with Him?

Have you talked to God yet today?

Ephesians 6:18 says...

"And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for the Lord's people."

With that in mind, let's keep on lifting the people of Ukraine to God today. Let's not get weary of praying for the situation, however worn down we feel by all the news we are seeing and reading.

Notices



Giving to Ukraine

If you would like to give money to help those in Ukraine and fleeing from Ukraine, we recommend you give to the Disasters Emergency Committee. The DEC is a group of charities (including Tearfund, who we support as a church) who are established and can get the support where it needs to go. The government is also doubling donations to the DEC up to a certain amount, so your donation could go even further. <https://donation.dec.org.uk/ukraine-humanitarian-appeal>
We have also been asked by Nick Cheesman to share a link to the charity he works for, World In Need. They have a team on the ground in Poland and are raising money to help there www.worldinneed.org.uk/appeals/ukrainian-refugee-support/



Walks for Women

Our next Revive Women's event is a morning of walks and coffee on Saturday 26th March. We will meet at 9.30am in Penshurst Place car park, go for a walk (differing lengths available) and then have a drink at the cafe.

It is helpful to know how many people are coming and which walks to offer, so please can you sign up by Monday 21st March if you would like to come <https://stmatts.churchsuite.com/events/8cifk1db>



This Sunday...

We have our **10am service** this Sunday, both in church and online, with groups for children and youth. We will be carrying on our series through Ephesians.

This Sunday is also our **5pm service** for anyone who would like to come along. It is a more traditional service, with tea and cake served from 4.30pm.

This week...

Knitting Hub on Monday 7.30pm in the church centre.

Mission prayer meeting on Tuesday 3.30pm at Mary's house and on Zoom.

Safeguarding training - if you volunteer at St. Matt's, you may have got an email this week about safeguarding training that we need to do. It is 3 years since we did the initial round of training, both online and in church. The training needs refreshing every 3 years, and we also have quite a lot of new volunteers who won't have done any training yet.

The training is set by the Church of England and is a requirement, so please can you make sure you do the modules I have asked you to do as soon as possible?

If you have any problems with it, or would like to come and use a computer in the church office to do the training on so I can help get it set up, please do let me know. Thank you.

Please do be in touch if you need any help or support this week.

Have a good weekend.