

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

I hope you have had a good week.

It is very hard at the moment not to be thinking about our planet, and the climate change which is affecting it massively.

COP27 is happening at the moment in Egypt, where world leaders gather to try to tackle the climate crisis which is facing us.

The UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres opened the conference by saying that our planet is on "the highway to climate hell with our foot still on the accelerator... We are in the fight of our lives - and we are losing."

It's a sobering topic, and it is a lot to get our heads around. But the effects of climate change are so clear, and they are happening mostly to the poorer nations of the world who haven't got the resources to cope with it. This year alone there have been devastating floods, heatwaves, droughts and more.

Climate change, and the focus of COP27 this year, is a lot about justice. It's about having a world where everyone is valued and looked after, where each country acts in the best interests for the whole planet, not just for themselves.

One of my favourite verses in the Bible is Micah 6:8...

"And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."

As Christians we are called to fight for justice and to act justly in all we do. But what can we do about climate change when it feels like it needs governments and big companies to make the scale of change that is needed?

Tearfund has a great page with lots of ideas and resources <https://www.tearfund.org/campaigns/climate-campaign>

There are things we can do as individuals, like eating less meat, buying and throwing away less, driving and flying less.

We can join with others in petitioning the government and joining peaceful protests - there is a march for climate justice tomorrow in cities and towns across the UK. All the information is on the Tearfund page, and they will be joining other faith organisations in London as part of the march.

We can give to charities and organisations who are doing the work to tackle climate change.

And we can pray, for our world, for ourselves, for our leaders and for change. Again, Tearfund has prayers to help in this.

Notices

Remembrance and Memorial Service this Sunday



Our 10am service this week will be a Remembrance day service, with the act of Remembrance and national anthem at 11am to remember those who have died in serving our country.

We will have groups for our children and young people during this service.

Then at 5pm, we will be holding our annual memorial service, which is for anyone who would like to come to remember and give thanks for loved ones they have lost over the years.

Both services are for anyone who would like to attend.

Community Larder Christmas Event



The community larder's Christmas Event is next weekend, on Saturday 19th November. 10am - 12pm in the Bethel Hall to raise funds for the larder. There will be a bottle tombola, cake and book sale, lucky dip, raffle and refreshments. Please do come along and support this on the day.

Any last-minute donations of bottles for the tombola, or any donations of cakes nearer the time would be most welcome. Also, if you can help on the day, please contact Jan and Liz on larder@stmattschurch.org.uk

Revive Wreath Making

Get your tickets for our wreath making evening soon, to avoid disappointment, as it's only 2 weeks away!

It will be on Friday 25th November 7.30pm - 9.30pm in church, for women aged 14+.

The cost is £15 per person, with lots of mulled wine and Christmas snacks to keep you going while you create! We will provide everything you need to make your wreath.

It's a really lovely sociable and creative evening, so do book your tickets soon (book by Friday 18th November please).

You can book your tickets using this link <https://stmatts.churchsuite.com/events/uoth32hu> (you have to pay when you book your ticket, using a debit or credit card. If this is a problem, please talk to Hannah in the office).



If you are able to help collect any greenery / foliage in the day or so before the wreath making, please can you let me know. Anything you collect will need to be brought into church during the day on Thursday 24th November, or on the morning of Friday 25th.



New Wine have found a venue for next summer!

It's going to be at the Kent Event Centre in Maidstone, so nice and close for us. New Wine is a great week of teaching, worship, fun and making friends. We usually go for week A as a church, which is Wednesday 26 - Sunday 30 July 2023.

Crosslight Money Course

Crosslight are offering their free money course at Tunbridge Wells Baptist Church on Saturday 26th November from 9.30 to 1.00 (with refreshments).

The free Money Course is about how to manage money as well as follow up budget coaching to help people set up their own budgets and manage them. The course is not aimed at people in debt. The target is anyone who is now struggling to manage their money in the increasingly harsh economic situation we find ourselves in.

Anyone can sign up for the course, just go to themoneycourse.org/join or call 020 7590 8278.

Have a good weekend, and we hope to see you at one of our services.