

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

How has your week been? Isn't it good to see the sun today after a week of rain!

Do you ever have those days where your plan for the day gets constantly interrupted by people or situations, and you feel like you don't get anything done that you need to? I know I do! Working in the church office some days can feel like a constant stream of people coming in and out and the phone ringing. As an organised, planned person, that feels hard to deal with sometimes!

It is very easy to get frustrated by this, or to feel like those kinds of days have been unproductive. But what if we see those interruptions as opportunities? Each of those people who walk into our lives for a few minutes unexpectedly are an opportunity for us to share God's love and compassion. Not necessarily by telling them about God, but by sharing Jesus in our actions, our attitude, our willingness to give our time. I think we would be amazed to know how much those everyday interactions can touch or encourage the other person, but we don't necessarily see that.

Jesus was interrupted lots of times during his ministry. One of those times was when the woman touched his cloak when he was on his way to Jairus' daughter. Jesus stopped and he healed the woman, at the same time trusting Jairus' daughter to God. By giving the woman his time and compassion, he was showing that every person who he came into contact with was valuable to him.

Lord, help us today to ask for opportunities, and to show your love and compassion to those who cross our path. Amen.

Notices



This Sunday

8am communion service - a small service in church from the Book of Common Prayer, with communion and short talk.

10am family service - this Sunday is the first Sunday of the month, so it's our family service, where we all stay in church together. The service will also be streamed online as usual.

Remembrance and Memorial Service

Sunday 13th November is Remembrance Sunday, and we will be having two services on that day.

Our 10am service will be a Remembrance day service, with a time of silence and the 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.

To heat, or not to heat...



As you know, costs are going up for everything, and especially for energy. As a church, we don't have the benefit of any kind of cap or government help at the moment, and costs are likely to rise a lot for us over the coming months, in the context of our giving having gone down over the last few years. We hope to give a fuller financial picture to you later this month, once the PCC have met.

But for now, we are looking at ways to save money, especially on energy. Normally we would have put heating on in church by now, but it feels like we can manage not to have it on for Sundays and for some of the midweek groups for a bit longer to help save some money.

What that does mean is that **you might want to think about adding a few more layers of clothing before you come to church!** I'm already wearing 2 long sleeved layers to work in the church office!!

We don't want church to be freezing, so we will be keeping the temperature and the heating under review, but we are going to be a lot more careful about putting the heating on for the time being. We hope you understand the situation we are in.

Dates for this week:

Sewing Bee Hub - tonight 7.30pm at Ruth's house

Working party to do some maintenance jobs in church - Saturday 5th Nov (tomorrow!) 8.30am - 1pm - anyone welcome to come and help out

Knitting Hub - Monday 7th Nov 7.30pm in the church centre

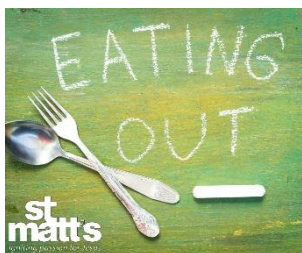
Eating Out at St. Matt's...

Our **supper in church is next Friday, a week today!** It's an opportunity to meet up together, invite friends to come with you, and eat amazing home cooked food (thanks Dedo!) for a very small cost (£2.50 per person or £5 for a family).

That means we need to know numbers by the end of this weekend, so if you would like to come and you haven't already signed up in church or online, please sign up

now! <https://stmatts.churchsuite.com/events/pxxcmjm6>

Come along from 6pm, with food ready at about 6.30pm. Bring your own drinks.



Community Larder Christmas Event...

The community larder's Christmas Event is only two weeks away, 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.

If you can donate bottles (full), jars (empty), or new and nearly new books please contact Liz or Jan. They would also love more offers to make cakes and savouries.

Items can be left at the back of church or bring to the Bethel on Thursday or Friday mornings or drop off on Liz's doorstep. Thanks!



Revive Wreath Making...



Revive for Women are bringing back their wreath making evening this year, and we can't wait to see what amazing creations you'll make this time!

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

The cost will be £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 to avoid disappointment, as numbers will be limited by space and materials (book by 14th 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.

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.

If you need any help or support during the week, please do be in touch with us in the church office. Have a good weekend.