

St. Matt's Midweek Update – 15th December 2022

I hope you have managed to stay safe and warm this week in all the snow and ice we have had.

We are almost at our Christmas services, and we are really looking forward to seeing you there and celebrating the birth of Jesus with you.

You will hopefully have seen our publicity for our Christmas services, with the strapline 'Jesus. Light in the darkness.' We really want to remind people this year that in the midst of all the darkness in our world, Jesus shines His light and gives us hope.

In John 8:12, Jesus says "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.

Jesus brings light and hope into the darkness of our world, and we can share that with those around us.

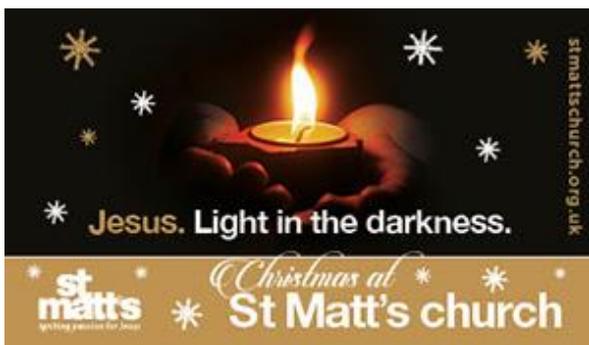
Last Sunday, Chris finished his talk with an interesting thought.

He said, "In the darkness, Jesus brings light. He doesn't banish the darkness; He shines light into the darkness."

Until Jesus comes again into our world, we will have to live with the darkness around us. But the light that Jesus shines into the darkness can make all the difference in our lives and in the lives of those around us.

Who can you share Jesus' light with this Christmas?

Notices



Please keep inviting people along to our Christmas services, and share the Facebook posts and flyers in church. I might even manage to get it on Instagram today!!

We've got Nativity this Sunday at 10am, and our carol service in the evening at 7pm.

Can you help?

We could do with a little bit of help for some of our Christmas services.

Can you help by serving drinks and mince pies after the carol service this Sunday evening?

Can you help Lois to get the Christingle bags filled next Thursday morning?

If you can help with either of those things, please let me know as soon as you can. Thanks!

The logo for Tearfund, featuring the word "tearfund" in white lowercase letters inside a blue rounded rectangle.

• Christmas Appeal •

This Christmas, all our offerings will go to the amazing work that Tearfund does around the world. We know times are hard for everyone, so don't feel any pressure to give if you can't.

There are a few ways you can give, anytime between now and Christmas...

- there will be a change jar with the joint Christmas card in church, for any small change
- you can give cash or cheques using a gift aid envelope (at the giving point in church)
- you can give online using this link <https://stmatts.churchsuite.com/donate/fund/zpipud0e>
- you can do a bank transfer, making sure you put the reference 'Tearfund Christmas'
- there will also be some flyers in church with a QR code on, which will take you to the online giving page
- any donations given on the card machine in church during our Christmas services will also go to Tearfund.

And don't forget to sign the joint Christmas card in church, and then donate what you would have spent on cards to Tearfund!

Our warm space will be open as usual next Wednesday 21st December from 10am - 4pm. It will then be closed on 28th December, but will start up again on 4th January 2023!

St. Matt's Warm Space

Wednesdays 10am - 4pm
in St. Matt's Church Centre



The community larder will stay open every Friday through Christmas and New Year. A huge thank you to all the volunteers for keeping this running 52 weeks a year.

We hope you have a lovely weekend and can come to one of the services this Sunday.