

## St. Matt's Midweek Update – 9<sup>th</sup> December 2022

How is your week going? I hope you are managing to stay warm.

This morning I read something about serving. It was the passage in Acts 6:1-4, where the disciples receive a complaint that some of the widows are being overlooked and are not receiving food. The disciples chose seven men to take on this responsibility.

The thing in this passage that is good to notice, is that the same word for service is used for those looking after the widows and for those preaching and praying (diakonia), and both groups of people needed to have the same qualities - being full of the Spirit and wisdom.

Luke is telling us that all types of serving are equal when we are serving God. There aren't more important types of service - everything works together in serving God and caring for each other.

This is one of the strengths of our church, I think. Lots of people playing their part in serving in lots of different roles, and all working together to glorify God and share His love.

St. Matt's wouldn't run without volunteers, so this is a good chance to say **THANK-YOU** to all of you who contribute in any way to all the things we do as a church.

Thank you to everyone who makes our Sunday services happen (10am, 5pm and Seven), from those up front to PA and AV, welcome and coffee, and wardens.

Thank you to all of you who volunteer with our children and young people, both on Sundays and midweek, and to our Safeguarding Officer.

Thank you to the community larder team, and now the warm space volunteers.

Thank you to those who clean the church and do maintenance and look after the garden.

Thank you to hub leaders and house group leaders, and to our pastoral care team.

Thank you to our mission committee and our treasurer.

Thank you to those who make food for various events, and who pray for things that are happening.

We appreciate so much all the time and energy you give to serving in these ways, so thank you!!

### Notices



**This Sunday we have our 10am service and our 5pm service.**

At the morning service, we will be having a talk from Becky Ingamells from Tearfund, about Finding God in justice. Our Christmas offerings this year will go to Tearfund (more about that further down!) so we will hear about their current work as well.

We will have groups for our children this Sunday - they will be doing a bit of practice for the nativity service next week. However there won't be anything for youth I'm afraid.



Our **Christmas services** start next week, with nativity at 10am on the 18th December, and the carol service in the evening at 7pm.

Do invite friends and family along - there are flyers in church and a post on our Facebook page which you can share.

**This Christmas, all our offerings will go to Tearfund**, to help their work around the world. We know times are tough for everyone, so please give what you can, but don't feel bad if you can't. We will have a joint Christmas card in church which anyone can sign, and then donate what you would have spent on cards to Tearfund.

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

- there will be a change jar with the joint Christmas card, 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

### **St. Matt's Warm Space**

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

Our warm space will be open again this Wednesday, but for a shorter amount of time, as we have the school in church in the afternoon for their carol service.

**The opening times for this Wednesday 14th December are 10am - 1pm.**

### **Dates for this week**

There are lots of things happening in church this week...

Monday 12th December - 3.30pm Deeper Christmas party (last session of the term)

Monday 12th December - 6pm choir rehearsal for the carol service

Monday 12th December - 7.30pm knitting hub in the church centre

Tuesday 13th December - Christmas lunch for elderly (Rosemary and team)

Tuesday 13th December - Ignite ice skating trip (last session of the term)

Wednesday 14th December - 10am - 1pm warm space (please note shorter time)

Wednesday 14th December - 2pm and 7pm school Christmas service

Friday 16th December - 2pm tea and mince pies at Chris and Carole's house for retired / older people!

### **Podcasts**

As you may know, the talks from our Sunday morning services are now being turned into podcasts, so you can listen to them more easily as stand alone talks. You can find these and the first part of these midweek emails on Spotify, by searching St Matts Church, High Brooms under podcasts, or by clicking here <https://open.spotify.com/show/5g2HmIY0RQEYWSW3i2e2o6>

Have a good weekend.