

St. Matt's Midweek Update – 10th February 2023

This week feels like it's been another week of awful, sad news, doesn't it?

My heart is broken when I hear about Nicola Bulley still being missing, or when I read about the family at Epsom College whose lives were taken overnight. And then to hear of the devastation following the earthquakes in Turkey and Syria, it feels too much to bear.

It can make us want to turn off the news, because we don't know what we can do or even how to pray.

Pete Greig, of 24-7 Prayer and Lectio 365, put this on his social media this week...

"So how (really) do I [#prayforTurkey](#) and [#PrayforSyria](#)? With shocking news of devastation and death, it's natural to feel helpless - wanting to pray but not knowing how. It may be helpful to focus my prayers on 4x "P's" -

(1) PEOPLE affected -

Comfort for those suddenly grieving the tragic loss of loved ones, those who've lost homes, those injured and scared.

(2) PEACEMAKERS -

Resilience and resource for NGO's, frontline workers, medics, search and rescue teams etc.

(3) POLITICIANS -

Wisdom to co-operate & communicate well, making good and speedy decisions for those worst afflicted.

(4) PASTORS -

Strength as they process their own trauma whilst also seeking to bind up broken hearts, caring for the poor, arranging funerals, and preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ."

I hope this helps you to focus your prayers, as we seek to bring our world before God, who cares so much for all those who are hurting right now.

If you would like to give towards the relief effort in Turkey and Syria, we would recommend giving to the Disasters Emergency Committee Appeal, or to Tearfund directly. Any money given will then go to charities and relief agencies who are already on the ground, working with those affected.

DEC Appeal page [click here](#).

Tearfund giving page [click here](#).

Notices



This Sunday...

we will be continuing our Walking with Jesus series in our 10am service and Suzanne will be speaking to us. There will also be groups for children and youth.

We also have our **5pm service this Sunday**, which is a more traditional service with liturgy and hymns on the organ and communion this week. Come at 4.30pm for tea and cake before the service if you would like to.

Next Sunday we just have our 10am service, with groups for children and youth.

Midweek groups

All of our midweek groups for children and youth are now on a two week break as we have half term and then have a week of tidying and sorting out in church!

So Deeper, Ignite and Toddler group will restart in the week beginning 27th February.

The community larder and the warm space will still be open every Friday and Wednesday respectively.

Other dates for your diary coming up...

Knitting Hub - Monday 13th Feb, 7.30pm - 9pm in the church centre

Mission Prayer Meeting - Wednesday 15th Feb, 3.30 - 4.30pm at Mary's house and on Zoom

Ash Wednesday service - Wednesday 22nd Feb, 8pm in church

Lent prayer meetings

As I said in last week's email, we are going to have a couple of evening prayer meetings in Lent, for anyone who would like to join us, with the plan to then carry these on regularly after Easter.

The dates for these are Tuesday 14th March and Tuesday 28th March at 8pm.

Staff leave

I will be on leave next week, and Chris will mainly be working from home, so if you need anything during the week, please contact Chris on his mobile or by email...

chris@stmattschurch.org.uk or 07734217796

Electoral roll

It's that time of year when we start thinking about our annual church meeting (APCM) and that means it's a good chance to join the electoral roll if you are not already on it. The electoral roll is like a membership of the church - it's a Church of England thing and it allows you to vote in meetings and to stand for roles like PCC or church warden.

If you would like to be on the electoral roll, please let me know and I can give you a form to fill in.

A message from Kevin...

Hello, I will be running the Kilimanjaro half marathon on 26th Feb to raise money for a charity called Hope Home Trust. They are a very small UK charity providing financial support to an orphanage in Tanzania, East Africa that provides a home and education for their children. Tanzania is very close to my heart and this will be a personal achievement given this is my first half marathon.

Alex, Johnson and their cousin Rami are also taking part in a Fun Run at the same time, raising money for a separate charity, The Foundation for Tomorrow - another charity that funds education in Tanzania and was founded by a American volunteer who volunteered in the same way I did back in 2006.

Thank-you for reading and I appreciate your support in whatever capacity you are able to (prayer, financial or encouragement).

Kevin's Just Giving page [is here](#)

Alex and Johnson's Just Giving page [is here](#)

Desk to give away



Lastly, we have a desk at church which we are willing to give away if anyone would like it. If you can manage to give a small donation to church for it, that would be great.

The desk is 160cm wide, 80 cm deep and 72cm high, with 2 drawers. It will need to be collected in the week of 20th February.



We hope you have a good half term, and we'll see you on Sunday.