

St. Matt's Midweek Update – 17th November 2023

How has your week been?

It feels like there is so much going on in the world at the moment, and there are so many voices in our lives trying to get our attention. Many of these aren't helpful or even truthful.

We've got politicians telling us what they think we want to hear, what they think will win them votes, seemingly with no regard for anything else at the moment.

Then there's the media who will hype things up and just tell us one angle of something to get people listening and reading, but without telling the whole story.

Social media very cleverly (and scarily) feeds into whatever you look at, narrowing your feed to just one point of view.

And it can all feel very overwhelming and like we are completely helpless to change anything.

So what do we do and who do we turn to in this noisy all-consuming world?

It may sound too simple, but the best thing we can do is to look to Jesus, and focus on Him.

That's not to say that we bury our heads in the sand and ignore the world around us, but if we seek out Jesus and focus on Him, then we can see what is going on in the world through His eyes and with His compassion. Sometimes all we can do is to focus on Him and hope and pray.

There are lots of verses in the Bible about keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus and seeking Him first.

Psalm 16:8 says,

"I keep my eyes always on the Lord. With Him at my right hand, I will not be shaken."

Sometimes we need to turn off the other voices in our lives and reconnect with God, so that we can know who we are and who He is in this broken world. We need to be able to hear His voice above the others, and to do that we have to turn to Him.

Have a listen to this lovely song... <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Ka7bVQmbnk>

Notices



This Sunday is our 10am service in church and online and there will be groups for our children and youth. We are carrying on our series about the disciples. Liz will be speaking to us about Thomas and the **Bible reading is John 20:24-31**.

The following Sunday (26th November), we have our 10am service and also our monthly 7pm service, which is more relaxed and cafe style.

Ladies film night - Come along to our ladies' film night with a Christmassy feel on Friday 24th November 7.30pm in the church centre. We'll be watching 'Last Christmas' and there will be drinks and snacks provided.

If you are thinking of coming, please can you let Gill or myself know so that we have an idea of numbers? Thanks.

This event is for women aged 15+.



St Matt's Community *Larder* Christmas Fair

The **community larder** team are having a **Christmas Fair** on Saturday 2nd December, 10am - 12.30pm in the Bethel Hall and they need your help to make it a success!

They need:

bottles and chocolate items for the two tombolas

Christmas type food for hampers for the raffle (e.g. nuts, preserves, chutney etc....)

Homemade cakes for the super popular cake stall.

If you can help, please leave any items at the back of church and/or speak to Liz, Jan or Chrissy about cake making.....

And do go along and support the team on the day!



Christmas Carol service (17th December) - Don't forget to let Suzy know if you would like to join the choir for the carol service this year. She'll be announcing rehearsal dates this Sunday.

And also let Chris Horseman know if you would like to play the hand bells at this service.

The first practice for the hand bells is going to be in church immediately after the morning service this Sunday, 19th November.

A few dates coming up:

Knitting Hub is on Saturday 25th November 10.30am in the church centre.

Sewing Bee Hub is on Friday 1st December 7.30pm at Ruth's house.

Our next monthly prayer meeting is on Monday 4th December 8pm in the church centre.

Unite town-wide youth event

The next Unite youth event run by YFC is on this evening 6pm - 8pm at TW Christian Fellowship.

Book at uniteyouth.eventbrite.co.uk

If you need any help or support during the week, please be in touch with Chris or I in the church office.

Have a good weekend.