

St. Matt's Midweek Update – 1st December 2023

I hope you are managing to keep warm at the moment.

Don't forget that our community hub is open every Wednesday in the church centre if you would like somewhere warm and friendly to come along to during the week (11am - 3pm).

Today is the 1st of December and I can't quite believe we are here already! I thought I would share with you some advent resources I have found, as advent is a great season to take some time each day and focus on the true meaning of Christmas.

Church of England advent calendar - the Church of England have an online advent calendar that has a short reflection each day and something you can do. You can find it [here](#).

The app **Lectio 365** will be running an advent series from 4th December. Download the app or find all the information [here](#).

Mission Aviation Fellowship, who are one of our mission partners, have an online advent calendar for children and families. You can register for it [here](#).

Lastly, we have some booklets here that we produced quite a few years ago of **Advent to Epiphany daily reflections**. If you are happy to ignore the fact that the days aren't right with the dates (i.e. it's Monday 1st rather than Friday 1st!) and that the short prayers might be out of date and not relevant now, you are welcome to take a booklet on Sunday and use the reflections in them.

If you have any other good advent resources to share, please let me know!

Notices



Please go along to the **community larder Christmas fair tomorrow** and support the team in raising funds!

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas! The church is now mostly decorated, and we have our Christmas publicity ready to go. Please do invite friends, family, neighbours, work colleagues, etc to come to some of our services over Christmas. We will have flyers out on Sunday which you can take to give away, and we will get our advert onto Facebook next week for you to share. Our website also has all the information on it.





Rehearsals for the Carol Service

Rehearsals for the choir for the carol service started this week, and the next rehearsals are on:

Wednesday 6th December 6pm in church

Tuesday 12th December 6pm in church

The next rehearsal for the hand bells for the carol service is this Sunday after the morning service.



This Sunday we have two services...

10am is our advent family service, and Gill will be speaking to us about advent hope. The **Bible reading is Mark 13:24-37** and we will be lighting our first advent candle.

We also have our **8am communion service**, which is a traditional Book of Common Prayer service in church.

Next Sunday we have a normal service at 10am with groups for children and youth, and then our 5pm service in the afternoon.

Our next monthly **prayer meeting** is on Monday 4th December at 8pm in the church centre. Everyone is welcome to come and pray for our world, our church and our community.



Dates for your diary...

All of our midweek groups and activities are running this week, but then they start finishing for the Christmas holidays, so here are the dates you need to know!

Deeper - last one on Monday 4th December for Christmas party (the school are in church the Monday after for their Christmas carol service)

Ignite - last one in church this week (5th December) and then ice skating on 12th December (which young people must have signed up for already)

Community Hub - last session on Wednesday 13th December

Toddler group - last session on Thursday 14th December, which will be their Christmas party.

Knitting Hub will be on Monday 11th December, but will be at Jane's house as the school will be in church for their evening performance.

Rosemary and her team are holding a **Christmas afternoon tea** on Tuesday 12th December from 2pm - 3.30pm in church. She has given out invitations to those who usually come along to her events, but if you are thinking of going, please let Rosemary know.



Hearing children read - St. Matthew's school are looking for people who might be willing to visit the school on a regular basis to hear children read. No teaching skills are needed, you just need to be a good listener and willing to encourage young people with their reading. This would be a great way both to help children in our community and also to further cement relations between the church and our church school.

Please speak to Chris if you think you might be able to help.

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