

St. Matt's Midweek Update – 2nd February 2024



How are you?

We've made it into February at last, and as this Sunday is the first one of the month, we will be having our family service. We're going to be looking at Jesus being presented at the temple when he was 40 days old (so still quite a small baby!).

Today (2nd February) is actually the day when the Feast of the Presentation of Jesus Christ, or Candlemas as it is sometimes known, is celebrated in the church, as today is 40 days after Christmas.

You can read the story in Luke 2, and we will hear more about it on Sunday, but when Jesus was brought to the temple, there were two people there who straight away recognised this tiny baby for who he actually was. Simeon and Anna were old and wise, and were also both full of the Holy Spirit and in tune with God. They both saw the baby Jesus as the one who would redeem Israel and bring light to the Gentiles, the one they had all been waiting for.

It's great to be reminded of the enormity of the reason Jesus came to earth. It's easy through the Christmas story to just celebrate Jesus as a baby, meek and mild. But as we approach Lent and then Easter, let's remember that even as a baby, Jesus was the one who had been prophesied about hundreds of years before. He was the one who was going to bring peace and restoration, and ultimately bring humankind back into a relationship with God by overcoming death. He is the one who takes all our sin on himself, so that we can be forgiven, restored, and free.

Anna and Simeon recognised that as soon as they saw the tiny baby brought into the temple. And I pray that we would be able to see Jesus for who He is and what He has done for us today. To see the work he is doing in our lives, and to be able to say, like Job, "I know that my redeemer lives!" (Job 19:25).

Maybe this evening, you could light a candle to mark Candlemas, and to remind yourself that God is your redeemer and your saviour.

Notices



This Sunday we have our **10am family service**, where we are all in church together. The Bible reading for this Sunday is Luke 2:22-40. We also have our monthly **8am communion service**, which is a short service from the Book of Common Prayer.

The following Sunday (11th February), we have our normal 10am service with groups for children and youth, and also our more traditional 5pm service, with tea and cake from 4.30pm.

Do join us for our **monthly prayer meeting** this Monday (5th February) at 8pm in the church centre. It's a chance to focus on God and bring the needs of the world and our community to Him together.



Sewing Bee Hub is on tonight, 7.30pm at Ruth's house for anyone who would like to share sewing projects and be creative!

Rosemary and her team are running their next **coffee morning** on Tuesday 13th February 10.30am - 12pm. There will be all the usual refreshments and raffle, plus some pancakes as it's Shrove Tuesday!



The next Unite town-wide youth event run by YFC is on Friday 9th February 5.30pm - 8pm at Tunbridge Wells Christian Fellowship. There will be workshops, food, football, faith, console games, surprises and tuck shop!

High Hopes, the charity which Mike Harrowing runs, is having a **jumble sale** to raise funds, on Saturday 17th February 2-4pm at Christ Church URC in Tonbridge.

Mike is looking for volunteers, donations and shoppers on the day!

If you can help or have things to donate, email admin@childrensworkshop.org.uk



Lastly, don't forget to let me know if you are interested in being part of a team for the **Youth For Christ inter-church quiz**. It's on Saturday 24th February to raise money for the work they do in Tunbridge Wells. It is £15 per person including hot food. It would be great to have a St. Matt's team if we can.

Have a lovely weekend and do be in touch if you need any help or support this week.