

# St. Matt's Midweek Update – 18<sup>th</sup> October 2024



How has your week been?

It feels like there is a lot of pain and suffering around at the moment – people going through loss and illness and difficult situations.

And yet it amazes me that, if we look for it, there is still hope and light to be found in those situations. It doesn't mean those times or places are any less hard, but we can find glimpses of light in the midst of the pain.

I think as humans we are resilient and hopeful by nature, but as Christians we have even more reason to be that way. We know that we have the hope of eternal life, that we have the Holy Spirit living in us, and that Jesus has been through as much suffering as we are going through.

Life will still throw us all the pain and heartache and stress, because we are all humans living in a fallen world, but as Christians we have more resources to be able to cope with it and to be able to see the positives amongst the tough times.

It's been a year this week since my mum died. When I look back, I realise just how hard last year was, but I can also see God's hand and his blessing. And I know that having God with me and his Holy Spirit looking after me was how I got through it. He can give us what we don't know we need, and he can show us those glimpses of hope that we need.

In John 14:27, Jesus says, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."

## Notices



### **This Sunday we just have our morning service at 10am.**

We will be carrying on looking at our values as a church and Liz will be talking about love (1 John 4:7-21). We will have groups for our children and young people.

**Next Sunday** we have two services - 10am morning service with groups for children and young people, and 7pm service, which is cafe style with more worship.

### **Join the audio-visual team...**

During our Sunday morning services, we have one or two people on the computer at the back of church, running the live stream and putting up song words and slides through the service.

This team is very small and needs to grow to keep it sustainable. If you can find your way round the basics on a computer then you can do this role - all training will be given and you won't be left on your own!

If you are interested in joining the team, please speak to me or to Brian, or go and have a look at what happens during a service. Thanks.



Every year, we hold a **memorial service** in the afternoon of Remembrance Sunday.

This year the service is on Sunday 10th November at 5pm.

This service is a quiet, reflective service for anyone who has been bereaved, whether recently or longer ago.

I'll put some flyers at the back of church, so please do invite anyone you think would find this service helpful.



Come and join us for a fun evening of quizzing, on **Friday 15th November 7.30pm in church.**

Mark will be our quiz master again and I'm sure there will be some new and exciting rounds this year! This is a great event to bring friends along to.

Tickets are £5 per person and the quiz is for anyone aged 14+. Tables of up to 8 people.

We will provide soft drinks - feel free to bring any snacks and other drinks for your table. Any proceeds from the night will go to St. Matt's Community Larder.

You can buy your tickets here <https://stmatts.churchsuite.com/events/f0plhxgs> or email me at [office@stmattschurch.org.uk](mailto:office@stmattschurch.org.uk)



Our **Christmas Event** for ladies is back!

We are excited to be having a craft evening for women this year, so come and make some Christmas crafts & decorations, with mulled wine and Christmas nibbles throughout the evening.

This is a great event to bring friends to and have a girly Christmas night out!

Tickets are £12 per person - which includes refreshments and anything you make.

This event is for women aged 14 and over.

You can buy your tickets here <https://stmatts.churchsuite.com/events/add1rshq> or scan the QR code on the posters around church. Let me know if you need any help with buying tickets.

### Parent Support Drop-in

Crossways are starting a parent support drop-in for any parent who is currently providing mental health support for their young person.

It starts on Wednesday 23rd October and is on every Wednesday through to December. 12pm - 1.30pm at the The Kitchen Table, 19 Camden Road.

Contact [sara.barker@crosswayscommunity.org.uk](mailto:sara.barker@crosswayscommunity.org.uk) for more information.



Tunbridge Wells Deanery Synod is opening up its next meeting to anyone who is interested in an evening **'Exploring Science & Faith'** on **Wednesday 20th November, 7.30-9.45pm** at Christ Church, Tunbridge Wells. Please

go to <http://cctw.org.uk/upcomingevents> for more information and to book into this event.