

St. Matt's Midweek Update – 30th April 2025



I hope you are having a good week and can enjoy the sunshine!

I'm doing the newsletter a bit early this week, as Friday is going to be busy.

I just want to say a massive thank you to everyone who made Sunday's leaving service for Chris and Carole happen. It was such an amazing day, and it couldn't have run as smoothly as it did without so many people being involved.

Many of you were on rotas for Sunday already, but then others stepped in to help with the increased numbers - on the door, serving coffee, tidying up and stacking chairs inbetween the service and lunch, tidying up at the end.

We saw the best of St. Matt's on Sunday and I'm so grateful to all of you for giving Chris and Carole that as their goodbye.

There's a few people I want to say specific thank yous to, as I was able to delegate things to them and know they were being taken care of!

Thank you to Julia and Mary for organising, buying and co-ordinating all the food and drink. It was amazing and worked really well.

Thank you to Kate for collecting all the photos and messages and then putting the photo book and slideshow together. That took a lot of hours of work!

Thank you to Jen for painting the two pictures of the church for Chris and Carole - they were amazing!

Thank you to Dee for making the special cake - Chris and Carole took it home to share with family.

Thank you to Brian and Ian for all their support with moving furniture amongst other things - there has been a lot of that recently!!

Thank you to Katy for leading the service with me and to Rich for speaking.

One of the strengths of our church is that everyone mucks in and shares the load, and that really showed on Sunday. You are all so appreciated!

Message from Chris and Carole

Dear church family,

Carole and I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your amazing generosity. We have loved sharing our lives with you over the last 32 years and can't believe that this season is coming to an end.

We still find it hard to imagine that we will not be sharing our lives with you in the future on a day-to-day basis, but we do really hope that we will be able to keep in contact with you all. We value greatly the time we spent at St. Matthew's. It was the biggest privilege of our lives. We are completely overwhelmed by your kindness as we've come to our retirement, both the generous gifts, but also the amazing send off that you all gave us on Sunday. It was truly a very precious day and will stay in our hearts forever. So just a very, very big thank you to all of you, but particularly to those who organised it and made it possible.

If any of you are in the Bournemouth area, we would love to see you in the future. Do be in touch and let us know if you are down this way.

Our new email address is chrisandcarolewicks@gmail.com.

Notices



This Sunday is the first Sunday in May.

We will have our **8am Book of Common Prayer communion service**, which Richard Arding will be leading.

At our **10am service, we will be having our annual meeting**. This will feel like a service, not a meeting, don't worry! We will spend some time looking back and celebrating all we do as a church, and also looking forward as we start our time without a vicar.

This is **NOT** a family service - children and young people will go out to groups.

All the documents for the APCM are on the website for you to look at before Sunday.

<https://www.stmattschurch.org.uk/2025/04/apcm-2025/>

There is the Trustees Annual Report for the year 2024 including the accounts, and the minutes from last year's APCM.

Next Sunday (11th May) we have our 10am service with groups for children and youth and also our 5pm service, which Trevor will be leading for us.

Midweek groups - polling station and bank holiday Monday

There are a few changes over the next week, due to polling and bank holiday!

Toddler Group can't meet in church tomorrow, but they will be meeting at Grosvenor Park in the play area by the cafe at 9.30am.

There is no Deeper on Monday 5th May as it's a bank holiday.

Everything else is running as usual.



The next Unite Youth is on Friday 9th May.

Unite Youth is a monthly event for young people (school years 6-13) from church youth groups in the area, The Youth Centre and their friends. This is a great opportunity for young people of many ages to get together on a Friday evening and socialise with their friends, take part in craft, games, sung worship and of course, eat lots of pizza!

Doors open at 5.30pm and the main event starts at 6pm. Parents to collect at 8pm.

At The Wells Church, Hanover Road, Tunbridge Wells.

You can join the fun by booking your place

via <https://www.madapps.uk/twyouth4christ/>

Community Wellbeing Day

Life & Soul are part of this event on the 13th May, hosted by Mental Health Resource and The Counselling Centre.

There will be lots of amazing charities present who you can chat to, there are also guest speakers and workshops throughout the day too. Life & Soul are running one of the workshops.

More information here <https://www.mentalhealthresource.org.uk/Event/community-wellbeing-day>

Please do be in touch with me in the office if you need any help or support.

My usual working hours are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, 9am - 3.30pm.

My email address is office@stmattschurch.org.uk and the office phone number is 01892 618108.