

# St. Matt's Midweek Update – 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2025



I hope you have had a good week.

I'm struggling with what to write this morning. My heart is heavy with the news of the attack at the Synagogue in Manchester yesterday. Yet another targeted attack on people just trying to live their lives peacefully. Yet another example of the division and hatred that seems to be seeping into our country at the moment.

No-one should have to be afraid to go to a place of worship - but they are. Security guards and fences shouldn't need to be a standard thing for certain religious groups - but they are, even in this democratic and free nation of ours.

So how do we pray when we are feeling overwhelmed by it all?  
Sometimes we just have to tell God that, and let our hearts connect with His heart, which is also breaking for our world.

Let's pray for those families and communities affected by yesterday's tragedy. For safety, for peace, for comfort, for unity.

We can pray for our leaders. Let's pray for leaders to be raised up who can sow seeds of love, not division. And let's pray for all those in leadership in our country right now, that they would stop spreading fear and division, and would instead deal with the issues that are actually affecting people. That their hearts would be filled with compassion and humility.

And we can each be a beacon of love and unity ourselves. In our everyday interactions, let's show that everyone is important and welcomed, and try to speak up when we see injustice around us.

"And what does the Lord require of you?  
To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."  
Micah 6:8

## Notices

### **This Sunday (5th October) is our harvest service.**

This will be a family service, and we are welcoming Will from Tearfund to share about their work during our service. Any money collected during the service will go to Tearfund, and we will also be collecting food items for our community larder.

The larder currently needs:

Pasta

Cereal

Teabags

Tins - sweetcorn, baked beans, kidney beans, chickpeas, fruit, tuna etc

Please bring your donations along on Sunday and we will have somewhere to collect them all before the service.



We are also having a **bring and share lunch** after the harvest service.

We would love you to stay for lunch if you can - it is a great chance to have more time to chat and get to know people. We will have some time between the service and lunch if you need to go and get food to share.

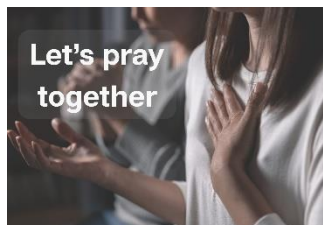
If you haven't signed up and are planning on coming, please sign up here <https://stmatts.churchsuite.com/events/cxfk2tlx>

Anyone can stay for the lunch, so don't worry if you need to make a decision about it on Sunday!

**IMPORTANT** - if you are bringing home cooked food or food without a packet, please provide a list of ingredients or at least allergens (dairy, egg, gluten, nuts, soya) with your food. Thank you!

**We also have our 8am communion service this Sunday**, which is a smaller quieter service.

**Next Sunday** (12th October) we have our 10am service with groups for our children and young people, and then our 5pm service with communion.



**We want to keep praying together as a church** so these are the dates of our prayer meetings coming up:

**Thursday 16th October 8pm - 9pm** in the church centre

**Sunday 16th November 8.30am - 9.30am** in the church centre with simple breakfast

Please do come and join in our corporate prayer if you can.

### Save the date!

A couple of dates to get in your diaries...

Quiz night - Friday 14th November in the evening

Women's Christmas Craft Evening - Friday 5th December



The next **Unite town-wide youth event** is next Friday (10th October) for anyone in school years 6-13. Scan the QR code on the poster for more details.

Please do be in touch if you need any help or support. We have a pastoral care team, so we are able to support those who need it.

We really hope you can join us on Sunday for our service and lunch!  
Have a good weekend.