

St. Matt's Midweek Update – 14th November 2025



How's your week been?

I don't know about you, but I find it too easy at this time of year to feel weighed down by too much going on, and a bit down because it feels like it is dark all the time and cold and wet!

But this week I was reminded that we need to find those small moments of joy and restoration and thank God for them. Those things will be different for all of us, but at a time when life is busy and stressful, let's make room for the things that bring us rest and peace and joy.

On Wednesday I went for a long walk with my dad and my sister's dog. The weather was glorious and the autumn colours were amazing! We bumped into Dedo and lovely Jethro, who were also enjoying the sunshine! There were plenty of other things I could or should have been doing that day but having that time outside in the sunshine refreshed me for the rest of the week.

The next day, the verse of the day on my Bible app was this:

"Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: rejoice!"

Philippians 4:4

Thanking God and looking for things to rejoice in helps to reset our perspective and put God back in His place of Lord in our lives.

It may not be easy to rejoice always, but this week let's look for the things that we can thank God for and rejoice in. The things that bring us joy. God is always worthy of our praise, and He is always deserving of our rejoicing.

Notices



This Sunday (16th November) we just have our main 10am service. This week we are sharing communion together and Anthony will be speaking to us about the next line in the Lord's Prayer - 'forgive us our sins'. The Bible passage is Luke 15:11-32.

We will have groups for our children and young people during the service.

Next Sunday (23rd November) we also have our main 10am service.

Liz will be speaking and we will have groups for children and young people.

Update on the appointment process for a new vicar

Following the decision not to shortlist after the first advertisement, Brian and Mary have been in discussion with CPAS and the Archdeacon regarding the next steps.

The advert for our next vicar is now live on the CPAS, Diocesan and our own website, with the printed advert appearing in the Church Times throughout December. The closing date for applications is the 1st Feb.

It's a large window for applications, but this allows for the timing of Curates being given permission to apply for Vicar posts and for the busy Christmas period.

Interviews are expected in early March, so please keep praying!



Our next prayer meeting is this **Sunday 16th November**

8.30am - 9.30am in the church centre, over a simple breakfast.

Please come and join us if you can.

We also have another evening prayer meeting in the diary

- **Wednesday 10th December** at 8pm in the church centre.

Let's keep covering everything we are doing as a church now, and our future as a church in prayer.

Dates for your diary

A couple of other dates coming up:

Mission Prayer Meeting - Wed 19th November 3.30pm - 4.30pm at Mary's house

Knitting Hub - Sat 22nd November 10am in the church centre



Community Larder Christmas Fair - Saturday 29th November 10.30am - 12.30pm.

Please do support the larder team by coming along to this on the day.

They would also like donations of bottles and chocolate for the tombolas, and good quality items that can be sold as gifts. Please bring these items into church and leave them in the larder box at the back.

Home made cakes would also be appreciated, so please let Liz know if you can bake anything.

Our Christmas Craft Event for ladies is back this year!

Friday 5th December 7.30pm - 9.45pm.

Come and make some Christmas crafts and decorations, with mulled wine and Christmas nibbles to enjoy as well!

This is another great event to bring friends to and it's a lovely start to the Christmas season.

Tickets are £12 per person (ladies aged 14+) and you can buy them here <https://stmatts.churchsuite.com/events/jxkedsv3>



Men's Night - Friday 5th December, from 6.30pm until it gets too cold in Kevin's woodland garden.

Kevin is opening up his garden to create a bit of festive joy and socialising while others are at the craft event in church. The plan is to have some mulled wine, sausages and burgers on the fire, and the urn will be on for those who prefer a tea / coffee. Bring a beer or two if you'd like to.

Bring wellies / walking boots and dress for the weather!

Kevin might ask for a very small donation, less than £5 to cover costs.

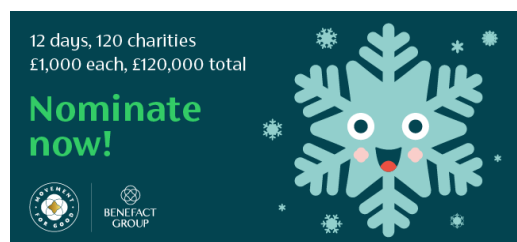
Please sign up using this link so we have an idea of numbers <https://stmatts.churchsuite.com/events/8pugdbii>

Can you nominate us to win £1000?

12 Days of Giving is the festive final phase of the Benefact Group Movement for Good. In December, they'll be giving 120 charities £1,000 each over 12 days.

The first draw takes place on **December 1st** and the last on **December 16th** with 10 charities drawn every weekday.

Please could you nominate St. Matt's Church, so we have a chance to win £1000? You just go to this link <https://movementforgood.com/> and put in our charity number 1185772. Thank you!



Christmas Jumper Swap at Southborough Library

Get festive and go green! Selected Kent Libraries are hosting Christmas Jumper Swaps to help you find something pre-loved to re-love, just in time for Christmas Jumper Day on Thursday 11th December. Drop off your clean, gently used Christmas jumpers at Southborough Library between 10th November to 13th December. Then come back on 17th November to 15th December to pick out a jumper to wear with pride. Whether it's sparkly, silly or snug, it's a fun way to refresh your wardrobe and reduce waste.

VINTAGE & COLLECTABLES
Roadshow

WE ARE COMING TO A VENUE NEAR YOU.

ONE DAY ONLY
FRIDAY 21ST NOVEMBER
12.00PM - 3.00PM
ST MATTHEW'S CHURCH
HIGH BROOMS ROAD
TUNBRIDGE WELLS
TN4 9BW



NO FEES. NO COMMISSIONS.
WE SIMPLY PAY CASH FOR YOUR ITEMS!

Contact us on 0800 4714751 or via WhatsApp on 07575 049555
or email hello@vintageandcollectables.co.uk
www.vintageandcollectables.co.uk

That's all for now! Well done for reading to the end!

Please do be in touch with me in the office if you need any help or support at the moment.
We look forward to seeing you tonight at the quiz, or on Sunday for our service.

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Registered charity number 1185772