

St. Matt's Midweek Update – 21st November 2025



I hope you have had a good week and are managing to keep warm!

When I came back from New Wine this year, I told myself I was going to try and read the Bible in a year. I found a plan on my Bible app and got started, and amazingly I am still on track!

However, I am only up to 1 Samuel at the moment and I find the Old Testament quite hard work at times!

There are a lot of rules and regulations for the Israelites, there's quite a lot of description of the temple, and lists of who is in the tribes of Israel. Then there is a lot of attacking other nations to gain the land God promised them. And there are so many examples of the Israelites getting things wrong, turning away from God, not trusting in Him and going their own way.

But what you see time and time again in the Old Testament, is God forgiving the people and showing them grace when they get it wrong and make the same mistakes. He doesn't give up on them and He tries to teach them and discipline them as they turn back to Him each time.

We can sometimes struggle to understand parts of the Old Testament, or to work out how the God of the Old Testament is the same God of the New Testament.

But if we look carefully, we see that God doesn't change. The God of the Old Testament is "ready to forgive, gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love..." Nehemiah 9:17

And in The New Testament we see Jesus, God in human form, showing that love, grace, forgiveness and mercy to people through His life, and ultimately through His death.

So however many times we mess up and go our own way, however much we try to have control over our lives instead of letting God lead us, we can trust in the fact that God will never give up on us, and will always be there when we turn back to Him. That is the hope we have in Jesus.

Notices



This Sunday (23rd November) we just have our main 10am service. We are almost at the end of our Lord's Prayer series and this week Liz will be speaking to us about forgiving others. The Bible passage is Matthew 18:21-25. We will have groups for our children and young people during the service.

Next Sunday (30th November) we also have our main 10am service. Mark will be finishing off our series and we will have groups for children and young people.

St Matt's Community Larder Christmas Fair

Saturday 29th November

10.30am - 12.30pm
at the Bethel Hall

Raffle, tombolas, pavement BBQ,
gift and cake stalls, refreshments,
live music and more...

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 in two weeks!

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>



Dates for your diary

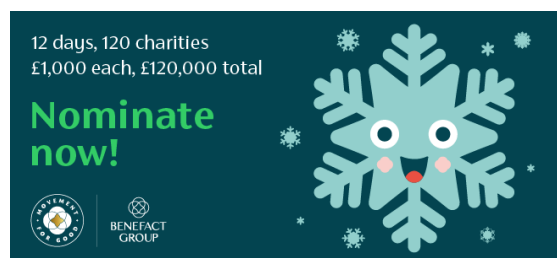
A couple of other dates coming up:

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

PCC Meeting - Mon 24th November in the church centre

Prayer meeting - Wed 10th December 8pm in the church centre

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.