

St. Matt's Midweek Update – 7th November 2025



As we approach Remembrance Sunday this weekend, it is a good chance to stop and reflect, as we remember those who have died fighting for our country, as we give thanks for those we have personally lost across the years, and as we grieve the state of our world today.

As we reflect on those who gave their lives as a sacrifice for the rest of us, we are reminded us that there is good in the world, and the poppy especially gives us a sense of hope for the future.

The symbol of the poppy came from World War 1. Battle fields which were once beautiful landscapes were turned into muddy, barren places where nothing could grow or survive. But then thousands of poppies appeared, showing resilience and hope among the devastation.

It is a reminder that there is good and beauty in the world and that nature and humanity are resilient and will be restored.

And it is also a reminder that as Christians, we believe there will be a time when there is no more war or death or pain.

"Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth....

He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

Revelation 21:1, 4

Notices



This Sunday (9th November) is Remembrance Sunday.

Our 10am service in the morning will finish with an act of Remembrance at 11am. We will have groups for our children and young people, and Brian will be speaking to us from Mark 1:14-20.

We also have our **memorial service at 5pm** for anyone who has been bereaved. Please feel free to invite people to come to this quiet reflective service. Jane T will be speaking and there will be a chance for people to light a candle for their loved ones.



Memorial service

at
**St. Matthew's
Church
High Brooms**

**You are invited to join us for our
memorial service**

on Sunday 9th November at 5pm

Tea and coffee will be available from 4.30pm
This service is for those who have been bereaved.

It provides an opportunity to remember
and give thanks for those whom we love
but who are no longer with us.

**Please feel free to invite any friends and family who might
find this service helpful. We welcome anyone who has lost a
loved one, whether recently or many years ago.**

Please RSVP to St. Matthew's Church Office
on 01892 618108 or office@stmattschurch.org.uk

St. Matthew's Church Office, High Brooms Road, Tunbridge
Wells, Kent, TN4 9BW www.stmattschurch.org.uk





Come and join us for a fun night of quizzing!

Our quiz night is a week today, on **Friday 14th November, 7.30pm - 10pm in church.**

We now have potentially 5 teams, but we'd love one or two more to make it even more fun!!

If you are planning to come and haven't bought your ticket yet online, please can you do that this weekend, so we know more definite numbers, thanks!

Tickets are £5 per person with proceeds going to Tearfund. We will provide some soft drinks so bring any other drinks you would like and some snacks for the evening.

You can buy your tickets here <https://stmatts.churchsuite.com/events/osgcitdd>

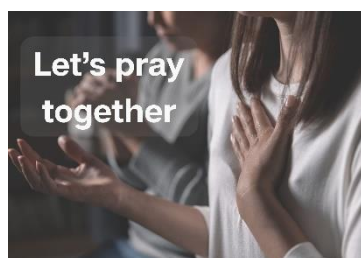
Update on the appointment process for a new vicar

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 will appear on the CPAS, Diocesan and our own website from next week, 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 on **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.

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.

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...



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>



As you know, St. Matt's Church joined the Inclusive Church Network earlier this year, to show that we welcome everyone, and want our church to be a place where all people can worship God freely.

Last month, The House of Bishops of The Church of England made a series of key decisions on the future direction of the Living in Love and Faith process, which explores questions of relationships, sexuality and marriage. These decisions are detailed here <https://www.churchofengland.org/media/press-releases/update-living-love-and-faith-october-2025> and basically mean no further progress can be made without formal synodical and legislative processes being completed.

Inclusive Church have produced an Open Letter for people to sign in response to this recent news, calling for the full inclusion, affirmation and involvement of LGBTQ+ people in the Church of England. Brian and I have both individually signed this letter.

If you would like to read it and think about signing it, you can find it here <https://www.inclusive-church.org/llf-open-letter/>

Diocese of Rochester
called together

The Tunbridge Wells
Deanery Synod
invites you to a

PUBLIC MEETING

An evening with the Bible Society,
hearing about their Quiet Revival
Report and Gen Z, and reflecting
upon local experiences.

 **WEDNESDAY**
12 November 2025 7.30pm
Doors open at 7pm

Christ Church, High Street,
Tunbridge Wells, TN1 1UT



[Register here](#)

The **Tunbridge Wells Deanery Synod** would like to invite members of all churches to come and hear from the **Bible Society** about their report on the **Quiet Revival in Gen Z**.

This meeting is on Wednesday 12th November at 7.30pm at Christ Church TW.

If you would like to go along to this, please register here <http://bit.ly/4hnEDVJ>

Mary and Kevin are our Deanery Synod reps, so please do ask them more about this if you are interested in going along.

Please do let me know if you need any help or support.
We hope to see you at one of our services this Sunday.