

St. Matt's Midweek Update – 16th January 2026



I hope you have had a good week.

This week I read a poem on Facebook that was about looking back and not just seeing how far we've come, but seeing who we've become because of what we have been through.

The new year is a good time to look back and reflect on how far we have come.

Can you believe it's been nearly 9 months since Chris and Carole retired from St. Matt's?! When I look back over that time, I am so grateful to God that He has carried us this far. He has provided people to support us and help us in our interregnum. As a church family we have all pulled together to keep all our ministries going. But most of all I am so grateful that this time hasn't changed who we are as a church. We miss Chris and Carole, but we are still St. Matt's even without them. We are still a church family who is real and genuine, who love Jesus and love each other, who want to reach out into our community and who also want to welcome people in and share our faith.

We do so much as a church, and we put so much time and energy into everything that we do, and I know that people are tired and hanging onto the hope that we will get a new vicar soon.

But I just wanted to remind us that our strength comes from Jesus. However much we hope and trust that a new vicar will bring new energy and vision, we will still be St. Matt's. A church that is built on Jesus, that does all we do because we love Jesus. And we need to be a church that draws our strength from Jesus and makes time and space to rest in Jesus.

So even in this period of keeping things going, feeling worn out, and hoping that we can make an appointment soon, let's make sure we are still staying connected and abiding in the one who gives us all we need.

"Do you not know?
Have you not heard?
The Lord is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.
He will not grow tired or weary,
and his understanding no one can fathom.
²⁹ He gives strength to the weary
and increases the power of the weak.
³⁰ Even youths grow tired and weary,
and young men stumble and fall;
³¹ but those who hope in the Lord
will renew their strength.
They will soar on wings like eagles;
they will run and not grow weary,
they will walk and not be faint." (Isaiah 40:28-31)

Notices



This Sunday (18th January) we have our 10am service with communion, and Anthony will be coming to speak and lead communion for us. We will have groups for our children and young people. Anthony will be speaking on the Parable of the wedding banquet, from Matthew 22:1-14.

Next Sunday (25th January) we just have our 10am service, and Matt will be speaking to us about the Parable of the talents.



Prayer meetings

Our next prayer meeting is next week - Wednesday 21st January 8pm in the church centre.

We really hope you can join us as we keep praying for the appointment process, as well as wider world issues and our church and community.

We have also put Thursday 26th February 8pm in the church centre in the diary as well to pray together.

Mary also runs **Mission Prayer Meetings** once a month to pray for our mission partners specifically. The next one is on Wednesday 21st January at 3.30pm at Mary's house. (We know there are two prayer meetings on the same day, but we couldn't find any other evening in January that would work!!).



Knitting Hub is on next Saturday (24th January) 10am - 12pm in the church centre. Everyone is welcome, regardless of skill or experience of knitting!

Joint Prayer Gathering - Sunday 18th January 6pm at Christ Church TW.

You are invited to join together with Christians from across the town to pray for our town and nation. Come and share together as we lift our voices in worship, praise and prayer.

unite. youth
#FUN #FOOD #FAITH
 @ The Wells Church, Hanover Rd, TN1 1EY
 5:30-8pm School years 6 - 13
 Suggested donation £3 on the door
Winter 2026
Cracking the code!
 Friday January 23rd, February 13th
 and March 13th 2026
 Guest speaker plus football, food, music,
 dancing, craft, games, consoles
 Deeper workshops and friends!
 Follow our social media for speaker information
 and photos after the event @twyfc
 Tunbridge Wells
**YOUTH
 FOR CHRIST**
 @twyfc
 Bookings and info
 scan QR code or
 www.madapps.uk/twyouth4
 christ/

The next **Unite town-wide youth event** is next Friday 23rd January at The Wells Church (above Tesco in town). This is for anyone in school years 6-13. More information and sign up [here](https://www.madapps.uk/twyouth4christ/).

Bed for free

Single 3' bed available free of charge, wooden frame with headboard and a mattress that goes with the bed. All in good condition, if anyone would like them, from non-smoking household. Let me know if you would like this and I can put you in touch with Ruth.