

# St. Matt's Midweek Update – 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2026



I hope you have had a good week.

This morning I read an analogy about a sailing ship going through a storm. The bigger the storm or the stronger the wind, the more likely the ship is to capsize. But the thing that will help to stop the boat from capsizing is to have more weight below the waterline, so that the boat is heavy enough and strong enough to cope with the force on the sails.

Following on from what I wrote last week, what a great reminder that it is our personal, hidden, internal journey with God that helps to keep us strong. We need to have weight beneath the surface (take that as you will!), and strong foundations so that we can weather the storms of life. We may come to church on a Sunday, volunteer for things, sing worship songs, but unless we have our own personal deep relationship with God, the risk is that the storms of life will capsize us and knock us off track.

And that relationship takes time and effort and commitment. We have to want it for ourselves, and we have to make it a priority in our lives. We can encourage each other in our journeys, and church is a great place to do that, but we also need to be building our own faith and our own relationship in those times and places where no-one else sees.

We are looking at the parables of Jesus at the moment in our morning services - we have looked at the Wise and Foolish builders, which teaches us about building on strong foundations, and we will look at the parable of the Sower, which reminds us that our faith needs to go much deeper than just hearing the words of God.

Let's make sure as a church and as individuals, we are nurturing our relationship with God and that we are making time to listen and seek God, and to stay connected to him.

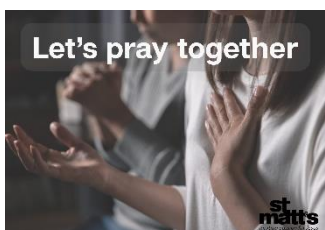
"Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High  
will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.  
I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress,  
my God in whom I trust."  
Psalm 91:1-2

## Notices



**This Sunday** (25th January) we just have our 10am service, and Matt will be speaking to us about the Parable of the Talents, from Luke 19:11-27. We will have groups for our children and young people during the service.

**Next Sunday** (1st February) is the first Sunday of the month, so we will have our 8am communion service with Richard and then a family service at 10am, with Brian speaking to us about the Lost Sheep.



### Prayer meetings

Thank you so much to those of you who braved the weather on Wednesday night to come and pray in church, and for those of you who were praying at home.

We really hope you can join us for our next prayer meeting, on **Thursday 26th February 8pm** in the church centre. Hopefully it won't feel quite so cold and dark by then!



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

**The next Unite town-wide youth event** is today at 5.30pm at The Wells Church (above Tesco in town). This is for anyone in school years 6-13. More information and sign up [here](#).

### **Cleaner retiring**

Our church centre cleaner, Sue, is retiring at the end of this month. Sue has been working for us for about 13 years and has been a great colleague. Most of you will not have met Sue, as she cleans when the church is not in use, but we wish Sue all the best in her retirement and hope she has a well earned rest!

We will be saying goodbye to Sue next Friday - if anyone knows Sue and would like to come along to say goodbye, please let me know.

We have decided to use a cleaning company once Sue has retired, to clean the whole building once a week, and they will be starting in February.

Other volunteers have been doing some cleaning of the main church area on a weekly basis over the years, with Norman and Sue doing this more recently, so a big thank you to them as well for all their unseen work.



### **Egg boxes for the Larder please!**

Do you have any empty egg boxes that the larder could have? They are desperate for boxes that hold 6 eggs. Please give any you have to Jan or Liz, or leave them at the back of church. Thanks!

**Berti and Lynsey in Albania are 3 weeks into their walking challenge to raise funds for their work.** It's a walkathon that everyone can get involved with, aiming to collectively walk the distance from the UK to Albania. Click on this link for more information or to donate <https://gofund.me/5e8a58b26>

### **Cat sitting and babysitting offer**

Dana is offering to cat sit or babysit for anyone in our church family.

The cat sitting is for a suggested donation of your choice, and babysitting is £15 per hour.

Dana is DBS checked, has 10 years childcare experience and is currently studying for a level 2 childcare qualification.

She is available Friday and Saturday evenings or can be daytime.

If you would like Dana's contact details, please let me know and I will put you in touch with her.

### **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.

If you need any help or support at the moment, please do be in touch.  
I hope you have a lovely weekend, and see you on Sunday.