

St. Matt's Midweek Update – 2nd January 2026

Happy New Year!! I hope you had a good Christmas and have had a peaceful new year so far.



As we start a new year full of hope and expectation, let's keep on praying for our church and for what God has for us this year. Our advert for a new vicar is out until the end of the month, so we pray that the right people will see it and apply.

But let's also pray that we will move forward together as a church family, even as we are waiting and hoping, asking God to fill us and use us in High Brooms.

Here's a prayer for the New Year from the Church of England:

God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
whose years never fail
and whose mercies are new each returning day:
let the radiance of your Spirit renew our lives,
warming our hearts and giving light to our minds;
that we may pass the coming year
in joyful obedience and firm faith;
through him who is the beginning and the end,
your Son, Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

Notices



This Sunday (4th January) is the first Sunday of the month, so we have our 8am communion service as well as our 10am family service. Gill will be speaking at the family service about the wise and foolish builders, as we start a short series on the Parables of Jesus, running up to Lent. The Bible passage is Matthew 7:24-27.

Next Sunday (11th January) we have our 10am morning service with groups for our children and young people.

We also have our more traditional 5pm service, with tea and cake from 4.30pm.

Midweek groups and activities

Schools are starting back on Monday, and some of our groups will be starting next week.

Ignite and Toddler Group will both start back up next week.

Ignite - Tuesday 6th January 6pm - 7.30pm for anyone in school years 7-11.

Toddler Group - Thursday 8th January 9.30am - 11.30am for preschool babies and children and their parents / carers.

Deeper won't be starting next week, but will start up the week after on Monday 12th January. This is because we are short of leaders as Jane has broken her arm.

The Community Hub also won't be starting back this week, as we need to meet with the volunteer team to see whether we can keep running the hub. Jill and Phil have been running the hub every week but have moved house out of the area so have had to stop. A big thank you to Jill and Phil for all their time and commitment to the hub. Please pray for the right decisions to be made as we look at whether we can carry on running the hub going forwards.



Would you like to volunteer in 2026, and join one of our church teams?

There are a couple of teams where we would love to have more members.

Deeper - as I said above, we are short of leaders at Deeper on Monday afternoons, and would love another one or two people to help with this, even if it's just in the short term while Jane recovers from her broken arm! Deeper is for children aged 7-10 (in school years 3-6) and is on Mondays from 3.30pm - 5pm.

Coffee team - our Sunday morning coffee team would also love another couple of members to help once a month with serving drinks before and after the service. If you would like to join either of these teams, or one of our other ministries in church, please do come and chat to me or drop me an email. Thanks.

New Home Group in the New Year

Dee Harper is starting a new Home Group in January 2026. Date to be decided.

It will meet fortnightly initially, at Dee's home in Pembury, on a Wednesday evening at 7.45pm for an 8pm start.

Please contact Hannah in the church office if you would be interested in joining this group.

Berti and Lynsey in Albania are launching a 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. Have a look at the poster or go to this link for more information or to donate <https://gofund.me/5e8a58b26>



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.

"How wonderful and pleasant it is when brothers and sisters live together in harmony!" Psalms 133.1

Have a lovely weekend and see you on Sunday!