

St. Matt's Midweek Update – 30th January 2026



I hope you have had a good week.

This morning we said goodbye to our church centre cleaner, Sue Green, who is retiring after working for us for 13 years. Sue has been a really loyal, committed employee, and I'll miss chatting with her on a Monday and Friday morning!

It got me thinking about all the unseen jobs and volunteering that happen around church, week in and week out, that most of us don't even realise are happening.

Norman and Sue have been hoovering and cleaning the main body of the church faithfully every week for many years; Darren looks after the garden and keeps it looking lovely; Julia and Paul are here every week running toddler group; the larder team has many people doing supermarket pick ups during the week and setting up on Thursday mornings; the pastoral care team are visiting and looking out for people who need support; there are people who come and help set out chairs every week and input the registers into ChurchSuite and deal with safeguarding behind the scenes. I've probably missed people and it's not an exhaustive list, but the point is that so many people do so much for our church and our community in an unseen and un-noticed way, because that is what they feel called to do and that is where they can contribute to the running of the church.

God asks us all to serve our church, not so that we can be noticed and applauded, but because we are serving Him.

"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving." Colossians 3:23-24

There are so many people in St. Matt's serving faithfully and humbly, whether that is unseen and behind the scenes or whether that is in a more up front role. We are grateful for each and every one of you, and we are all working together to bring the good news of Jesus to our community in High Brooms.

Whatever role we are serving in, let's do it with all our hearts because we are serving God and doing it for Him.

Notices



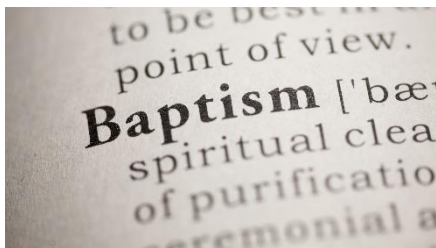
This Sunday (1st February) is the first Sunday of the month, so we have our 8am communion service with Richard and then a family service at 10am, with Brian speaking about the Lost Sheep from Matthew 18:12-14.

Next Sunday (8th February) we have our 10am service with groups for our children and young people and Dedo will be speaking to us. We also have our more traditional service at 5pm.



Life & Soul Christmas Offering

We just wanted to say a big thank you to everyone who gave to our Christmas offering for Life & Soul. We raised about £2,500 for the amazing work they do in our local schools.



Easter Sunday baptisms

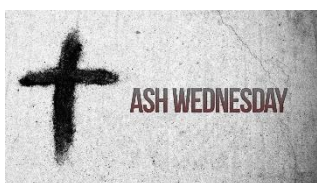
We are really pleased that we are able to offer full immersion baptisms this Easter Sunday if anyone would like to be baptised. Maybe you weren't baptised as a baby, or maybe you have become a Christian more recently and haven't taken that step yet. Please come and talk to me soon if you or your young people are interested in being baptised this Easter.



Coffee morning with pancakes

Rosemary and her team are holding their next coffee morning on Tuesday 17th February, from 10.30am - 12pm in church. It is Shrove Tuesday so there will be pancakes as well!

There will also be cakes and books for sale, a bric-a-brac stall and a raffle. Any money raised will go to Brains Matter, a local charity supporting those affected by brain injury.



Ash Wednesday service

Lent starts on Wednesday 18th February, and we will have an Ash Wednesday service at 8pm in church and online. This is a quiet reflective service with communion, to start the season of Lent together.

New house group

Dee is still interested in starting up a new house group, but has not had much take up for an evening one. She is happy to run a daytime group instead, if people are interested in this. It could also meet in the church centre if this is easier for people than getting to Pembury.

If you would like to join a house group which would be on a weekday morning, please do let me or Dee know.



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!

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.

Please let me know if you would like Dana's contact information.

Please do be in touch with me if you need any help or support at the moment.

I hope you have a lovely weekend and we'll see you on Sunday.