

St. Matt's Midweek Update – 27th February 2026



I hope you have had a good week and enjoyed the day or two of sunshine while it lasted!!

We are in the season of Lent at the moment, and it is a good time to reflect and think about changes in our lives that might bring us closer to God - whether that is giving something up or focusing on building a new spiritual discipline or habit into our lives.

At the moment, my Bible reading is taking me through Isaiah. It's easy to read the words and think that none of it applies to us, as we are living in very different times and are living under the grace of Jesus.

But in my reading yesterday Isaiah was warning about worshipping other gods, and describing how silly it is when people make gods out of wood and out of metals like gold and silver. He asks why you would cut down a tree and use half of the wood to make a fire to cook on, and then fashion a god out of the other half to worship and expect it to make your life better (Isaiah 44:19).

We might also think that is very silly, and we would never do anything like that, and yet we all fall into the trap of worshipping man made things and putting them first in our lives over God. We might not be worshipping a block of wood or gold, but we do worship money and chase it over other things. We do spend more time on social media than we do reading our Bible. We place success and comfort and security over the will of God in our lives.

So let's not be too quick to dismiss the Old Testament and the warnings that God's people are given there. Yes, we live in different times and we live in the grace of Jesus, but we are just as human as the Israelites were and we are just as likely to fall into the same traps as they did, even if they look different in our modern world.

No other god can match up to the Lord, and nothing else will give us the fulfilled life that God wants for us. So let's take time this Lent to think about what we are serving, what has priority in our lives, and to turn back to God if we need to.

"This is what the Lord says - Israel's King and Redeemer, the Lord Almighty: I am the first and I am the last; apart from me there is no God." (Isaiah 44:6)

Notices



This Sunday (1st March) we have two services.

8am Book of Common Prayer communion service.

10am family service with Mike speaking to us about Jesus clearing the temple (Matthew 21:1-17).

Next Sunday (8th March) we also have two services.

Our 10am service will have groups for our children and young people. Mark will be continuing our Lent series about Jesus' journey to the cross, and he will be speaking about the Last Supper, from Matthew 26:17-35.

Our 5pm service is more traditional, with hymns on the organ and more liturgy, and tea and cake is served from 4.30pm.

Thank you from Rosemary

Rosemary would like to say a big thank you to anyone who helped at the Shrove Tuesday coffee morning, and to those who came along and supported it. They raised £316 for Brains Matter.





Sunday 15th March is Mothering Sunday, and we will be having a family service to celebrate our mothers and those who care for us like mothers.

Can you help?

Our flowers for Mothering Sunday need picking up from a nursery near Paddock Wood on Friday 13th March and we're hoping someone can volunteer to do this. They would need to be picked up in the morning and brought to church. You would need a big enough car for the trays of 80 plants to fit into. Please let me know if you can help. Thank you!

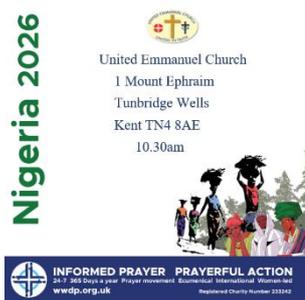
Electoral Roll

It's that time of year again when we update our electoral roll ready for our annual meeting (APCM) in April. The electoral roll is like a membership of the church - it's a Church of England thing and being on the electoral roll of St. Matt's Church is a way of saying that this is your church and you are invested in it. It also allows you to vote at the APCM and to stand for roles like PCC or church warden.

Last year we had to do a whole new electoral roll, so if you signed a form last year, you are still on it and you don't need to sign up again. If you're not sure, check the list of names in the porch. If you would like to join the electoral roll, there are some paper forms at the back of church, or you can use this online form <https://stmatts.churchsuite.com/-/forms/gpuczft> You have 3 weeks to join the electoral roll in time for the APCM this year. If you have any questions, please do ask.

Berti and Lynsey in Albania are almost at the end of their walking challenge to raise funds for their work, and they've almost reached Albania!

They are leaving the Go Fund Me page open for a few more weeks, so please do donate to their work if you can here <https://gofund.me/5e8a58b26>



World Day of Prayer

United Emmanuel Church Tunbridge Wells are hosting the World Day Of Prayer service on **Friday 6th March at 10.30am**. The Service has been prepared this year by an ecumenical group of Christian women from Nigeria, and is open to all.

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

Please do be in touch if you need any help or support at the moment. I hope you have a good weekend.