

St. Matt's Midweek Update – 6th February 2026



I hope you have had a good week and are not getting too wet in all this rain!

Since New Wine last year, I have been doing a Bible in a Year reading plan, in chronological order. This week I reached the halfway point in days, which is a real achievement!

I have made it all the way through the kings of the two split kingdoms, to a king called Hezekiah. Most of the kings who followed David and Solomon were unfaithful to God. They didn't follow the festivals and sacrifices that He had given to them. They made false idols and worshipped gods from the surrounding nations. They went their own way and God gave them over to their enemies because of it.

But then Hezekiah became King, and the Bible says "He did what was right in the eyes of the Lord, just as his father David had done."

Now we know that David wasn't perfect, but he did follow everything the Lord asked of him concerning Israel worshipping Him and the temple.

Once Hezekiah was king, he repaired and restored the temple and the Levites purified it ready for worship and sacrifices. They offered sacrifices to God to repent of all their sins, and they worshipped God and dedicated themselves to Him again. Hezekiah then called all the people of Israel to return to the Lord. In 2 Chronicles 30 he says, "...the Lord is gracious and compassionate. He will not turn his face from you if you return to him."

Reading about all the kings and the people of Israel, and the number of times they got things wrong and turned their backs on God, you could think that they had blown all their chances. Why should God bother with a people who have turned away from Him so many times over so many years?

But then we are reminded that God is the God of second chances. He is the God of forgiveness. Nothing the Israelites did was too much for God to forgive, as long as they repented and turned back to Him.

And it's the same for us today. We all have our modern-day idols, false gods and Asherah poles. Things we worship, things that take our focus and our time away from God, things we prioritise and rely on over God. Phones, money, work, houses, social media, TV - the list goes on. But God is the same God of forgiveness and compassion and second chances.

Maybe this is a reminder as we approach Lent that we need to turn away from some of these things and turn back to God. Maybe we need to put God back at the centre of our lives and give Him the worship that He deserves. It is never too late, and we can never be too far away from Him. "He will not turn his face from you if you return to him."

Notices



This Sunday (8th February) we have our 10am service with groups for our children and young people and Dedo will be speaking to us about the Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard (Matthew 20:1-16).

We also have our more traditional service at 5pm, with communion.

Next Sunday (15th February) our 10am service will be a communion service, with Richard speaking to us about the Parable of the Sower. We will have groups for our children and young people during the service.



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

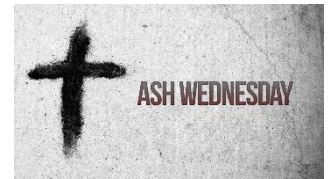


Rosemary and her team are holding their next coffee morning on Tuesday 17th February, from 10.30am - 12pm in church. It is Shrove Tuesday so there will be pancakes as well!

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.



Prayer Meetings

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!

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.

Thank you from Norman and Sue

Dear Church family,

Thank you so much for the flowers and wine for our retirement from cleaning the church.

The flowers are absolutely beautiful and have filled our house with scents. It was so very kind of you. We were sorry that we weren't at church to receive them and thanks Hannah for delivering them.

Can you help?

We are really praying that we will have interviews next month for our new vicar, so we will be showing potential candidates around the church and parish.

There are a couple of small jobs that need doing to tidy things up, and we are hoping that a couple of people could take a job each and help us by doing it when it suits you before the end of February.

The jobs we have at the moment are:

Weeding the entrances and steps into church on the Gordon Road side

Painting the skirting board in the office toilet

If you are able to do one of these jobs in the next couple of weeks and have the tools to do it (apart from the paint), please let me know. Thanks!



#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

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 Bookings and info

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life & soul INVITE YOU TO THEIR

QUIZ NIGHT

£8 PER ADULT

 £5 FOR STUDENTS

SATURDAY

28TH FEBRUARY 2026

CHRIST CHURCH, HIGH STREET, TN1 1UT

Doors open at 7pm for a 7.30pm start

Desserts, drinks and other snacks

 available for a donation, tea and

 coffee free.

BOOKING LINK -

WWW.TRYBOOKING.COM/UK/FVXH



That's all for now!

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

See you on Sunday!

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