

# St. Matt's Midweek Update – 6<sup>th</sup> March 2026



I hope you have had a good week.

Last Sunday in our service, Mike talked about Jesus clearing the temple in Jerusalem, and he got us thinking about how we worship and the things in our church that Jesus would be pleased with, or maybe not be so pleased with.

But Mike also talked about something I think we often forget - Jesus was a Jew and so he would have been part of all the Jewish customs and traditions of the time. He would have gone up to the temple in Jerusalem once a year. We presume he would have participated in the rituals that defined his faith, including making sacrifices. He would have celebrated the Jewish festivals like Passover.

All of this makes his teaching about new ways of approaching God and genuine worship even more poignant. He wasn't saying these things as an outsider, but as one of them for the people he was talking to. When Jesus cleared the temple he wasn't just angry about the house of God being used for the wrong reasons, but he was teaching about genuine and heartfelt worship, rather than ritualistic and hollow practices.

And of course all this was leading up to the ultimate sacrifice of himself on the cross, so that we can freely approach God and personally relate to him, without any laws or rituals standing in the way. As we continue our series on Jesus' journey to the cross this Sunday, we will see what that sacrifice means for us, and what our response to that should be.

"Jesus replied '...a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem...

Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks."

John 4:21&23

## Notices



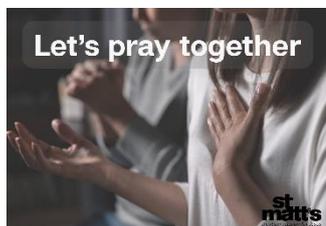
This Sunday (8th March) we have two services.

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.

Next Sunday (15th March) is Mothering Sunday

Our 10am service will be a family service to celebrate our mothers and those who care for us like mothers. I will be speaking and we will have something to give to all the women in our congregation.



### Prayer Meetings

We have put in a date for the next prayer meeting, on **Monday 16th March at 8pm** in the church centre.

This is quite soon, as we had pencilled in a different date but have had to move it, so get it in your diaries!! We would love you to join us to pray for all the things going on in the world and in our church.

## Electoral Roll

Just a reminder that 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 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.

If you signed a form last year, then you are already on the roll.

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/gpuczzft>

If you have any questions, please do ask.



### **A couple of other things coming up in the next couple of weeks:**

Mission Prayer Meeting - Wednesday 18th March 3.30pm at Mary's house

Knitting Hub - Saturday 28th March 10am in the church centre

## Easter at St. Matt's Church

Can you believe, Easter is only 4 weeks away, so here is an overview of our Easter services:



**Maundy Thursday** (2nd April) - Tenebrae service led by Jane Edwards - 8pm in church and online

**Good Friday** Family Service (3rd April) - 10am in church and online

**Easter Sunday 8am** communion (5th April) - 8am communion service led by Richard Arding in church

**Easter Sunday Family Celebration** - 10am in church and online, with talk and communion led by Sheila Perkins

We will get some publicity out next week for you to share with friends and family.



**Unlock Walk** - Every year some of our congregation take part in the Unlock Walk in London, to raise money for urban churches.

The walk this year is on Saturday 18th April and will be around the areas of Kilburn and Hampstead. If you are interested in joining the walk, please talk to Liz.

## Life & Soul job opportunities

Life & Soul are recruiting for two roles within their primary school project, Life Without Limits.

Primary School Project Team Leader - to lead their primary school work with year 5&6 pupils, helping them build confidence, self-esteem and emotional wellbeing. 8.5hrs per week, term time only.

Primary School Project Team Member - to join the team delivering small-group courses in primary schools. 2 afternoons a week, term time only.

Contact Sarah Finch for more information [sarahf@lifeandsoul.org.uk](mailto:sarahf@lifeandsoul.org.uk)



Do get in touch if you need any help or support during the week.

Have a lovely weekend and we look forward to seeing you on Sunday.

St. Matthew's Church Office High Brooms Road Tunbridge Wells Kent TN4 9BW

01892 618108 [office@stmattschurch.org.uk](mailto:office@stmattschurch.org.uk) [www.stmattschurch.org.uk](http://www.stmattschurch.org.uk)

Registered charity number 1185772