

St. Matt's Midweek Update – 24th April 2026



I hope you've been enjoying the sunshine this week!

For the rest of the Sundays between now and when Rob starts as our new vicar, we are going to be doing a sermon series on 'Women in the Bible'.

Women often get overlooked in the Bible and in our preaching as churches. I think this is mainly because of the patriarchal context that the Bible was written about and in, and not because God values women any differently to men.

In fact, when you start looking at women in the Bible, you see that they held all the same roles and leadership positions that men did; they are just less written about.

Miriam was a prophetess and a worship leader.

Deborah was a judge and prophetess and led Israel when they had no king.

Esther became Queen of Persia and risked her life to save the Jews from genocide.

Priscilla was a teacher and church planter with her husband.

Lydia was a business woman who hosted Paul in her home when he was a missionary.

Anna was a prophetess who, as a widow, spent her time in the temple, fasting and praying.

Phoebe was a deacon in the early church.

Junia was listed among the apostles in the early church.

And there are many other women who were peacemakers, showed courage and risk in helping others, opened their homes and gave money to help the early church and who were disciples of Jesus along with the men we read about.

Although we won't get to cover many women in the next couple of months, I'm really excited that we are getting to see what these inspiring women can teach us about God and about following Him.

Notices



This Sunday (26th April) we just have our 10am service.

Suzanne is going to be starting our series on Women in the Bible, looking at Hagar from Genesis 16:1-13. We will have groups for our children and young people.

Next Sunday (3rd May) we have two services at 8am and 10am.

8am is our Book of Common Prayer communion service.

10am will be our family service and I will be speaking about Mary and Martha.

Updates from the Annual Meeting

Having had our APCM a couple of weeks ago, we just wanted to make sure everyone knows who was elected to roles at that meeting.

The PCC (Parochial Church Council) are the trustees of the charity of St. Matthew's Church.

David Johnson and Brian Hobden were re-elected as our church wardens and are on PCC.

Our PCC members are - Hannah Mwesigwa (secretary), Kate Whitehead (Treasurer), Graham Church, Julia Church, Kevin Barnes, Ian Wilson, Mike Southwick, Matt Taylor, Jane Richardson, Dave Seedhouse.

Our two Deanery Synod reps, who are also on PCC are - Mary Wilson and Kim Shilling.





Can you help the Larder on Wednesday evenings?

The Larder do a food pick up from M&S in North Farm on Wednesday evenings at 8.30pm and they could do with someone else to join this team. You would only need to be available once a month or to cover when others can't do it. You would be doing the pick up with someone else but would need a car as there is often enough food to need two cars.

Please could you let Jan or Liz know if you would be able to help with this (larder@stmattschurch.org.uk)

Our next prayer meeting is next week, on Thursday 30th April at 8pm in the church centre. There is so much to pray for in the world at the moment, as well as praying for Rob and his family as they prepare to start at St. Matt's. Do join us if you can.



Knitting Hub - tomorrow (25th April) 10am - 12pm in the church centre

Youth team meeting - Thursday 7th May 7.30pm (for anyone who volunteers with youth)

Children's team meeting - Thursday 21st May 7.30pm (for anyone who volunteers in our children's groups)

Rob's Licensing Service

This service to license and install Rob Byrne at St. Matthew's Church will take place on **Tuesday 16th June at 7.30pm in church.**

The service will be led by the Bishop of Rochester, Bishop Jonathan, and will officially make Rob our Vicar.

Part of the service is us as a congregation welcoming Rob and committing to supporting him in his ministry, so we would love to see as many of you there as possible. Get it in your diaries!

It is a more formal service than we are used to, so it probably isn't suitable for younger children.

We are expecting a full church as Rob will be inviting his friends and family, as well as people from his previous churches.



Every year, some of our congregation go to **New Wine Festival** in Somerset. This year New Wine is from 28th July - 2nd August.

It is a week of camping, friendship, worship, time with God, lots of fun, and much more!

If you want to find out more, come and talk to me or anyone who has been before.

You can book for this year at <https://www.festival.new-wine.org/>

Life & Soul Plant Sale - on **Saturday 2nd May between 10am-12pm**. Every plant bought will enable L&S to continue improving the mental health of young people in the local area. The sale will be out the front of Christ Church TW, or just inside the church if the weather is particularly bad. They would also appreciate any plant donations you may be able to give. If you're a keen gardener and are able to propagate any plants you have or have any spare plants lying around, or if you're not a keen gardener and are able to buy a plant for them to sell, please drop them off at the L&S office on **Friday 1st May between 10am-4pm** with any helpful information about the plant.

If you need any help or support at the moment, please be in touch with me in the office. I hope you have a lovely weekend - see you on Sunday!