

St. Matt's Midweek Update – 22nd May 2026



I hope you are looking forward to the bank holiday weekend / half term and the heat wave!!

It's been a short half term but it's been busy, and we are fast approaching welcoming Rob as our new vicar, and Alice, Phoebe and Jacob into our church family.

My Bible readings are currently focusing on the gospels, as I am reading the Bible in a year, and it has struck me that the disciples knew they were in a time of change when Jesus was with them, but they didn't really know where it would lead or what was going to happen in the future. They definitely didn't grasp the enormity of his death and resurrection before it happened.

This Sunday is Pentecost in the church calendar, when we find the disciples on their own after Jesus has gone into heaven, and waiting for the promised Holy Spirit. They were at the beginning of a new chapter in their lives and in their ministry, and they needed the Holy Spirit to equip them and empower them to do everything Jesus had commissioned them to do.

"When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them." Acts 2:1-4

So this Sunday and in the coming weeks, as we head towards a time of change in the life of our church and as we prepare for a new phase in our ministry in High Brooms, I pray that we would look to the Holy Spirit to equip us and empower us. And we pray the same for Rob as he prepares to become our vicar.

Notices



This Sunday (24th May) we just have our 10am service.

Liz will be continuing our Women in the Bible series and speaking about Elizabeth, from Luke 1: 5-25 and 39-66.

We will have groups for our children and youth.

Next Sunday (31st May) we also just have our 10am service, and it will be 5th Sunday Madness!

As it is a 5th Sunday and the end of half term, we are going to have a family service with a difference. We will have all the usual things in a family service, but we'll sit round tables together and have some activities on our tables, as well as some pastries to eat!

Half term next week

Next week is half term, so all our midweek groups will have a break, apart from the Community Larder which will be open as usual.

We are having the carpets in church cleaned next week, ready for Rob's installation service.

I will also be off for the first half of the week, so the office will be closed until Thursday.



Knitting Hub - Saturday 23rd May 10am - 12pm in the church centre

Bring and Share Lunch and Rob's first Sunday with us - Sunday 21st June

Open house BBQ lunch and afternoon at the Vicarage - Saturday 11th July - Rob and Alice will be opening their garden to us all for the afternoon with a BBQ.

Rob's Installation Service

We could still do with some more volunteers for Rob's service on **Tuesday 16th June at 7.30pm in church**. It's going to be a busy service and we want to make sure everyone is greeted at the door and is able to have refreshments afterwards.

Could you help with any of the following?

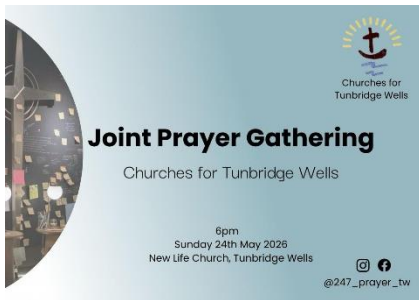
Welcoming on the door at the service

Serving drinks and cakes after the service

Making home-made cakes for the service

Manning the school car park before the service and directing people down to church

If you can help with any of these things, please can you let me know by the end of next week?



CfTW Joint Prayer Gathering - You are invited to join with Christians from across Tunbridge Wells for worship, praise and prayer on Sunday 24th May, 6pm at New Life Church, Tunbridge Wells.

Clothing Donations for Crowborough Camp

If you want to bring in any men's clothes for the asylum seekers at Crowborough Camp, please can you bring them into church by the end of May, and then I will arrange for them to be collected.

Items currently needed:

Men's casual clothing in good condition (jeans, tracksuit bottoms, t-shirts, jumpers)

Men's shoes and coats

Please note:

They are not accepting smart clothing at this time

Underwear, socks, and pyjamas must be new and in unopened packs

Job Opportunities

- **Life & Soul Primary School Project Team Member:** 2 afternoons a week, term time only. Join the team delivering small-group courses to year 5 & 6 pupils.

Email sarah@lifeandsoul.org.uk for more information.

- St. Stephen's Church in Tonbridge are currently recruiting for a **Christian Pre-School Manager**. You can find all the information here <https://ststephens.org.uk/vacancies/>

- **The Diocese of Rochester are advertising a couple of jobs:**

A Project Manager for their Cascade Wellbeing

Project <https://pathways.churchofengland.org/en/jobs/cascade-project-manager/3797>

A Warden for St Benedicts Centre in West

Malling <https://pathways.churchofengland.org/en/jobs/st-benedict-s-centre-warden/3799>

I think that's all for now.

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