

St. Matt's Midweek Update – 19th June 2026



I hope you have had a good week.

It's been a busy one here, but a really monumental week, as we welcomed Rob Byrne as our new vicar on Tuesday evening.

There is so much to look forward to as Rob, Alice, Phoebe and Jacob become part of our church family, and as Rob's ministry here starts to take shape.

But this week I just wanted to reflect on and be thankful for the way St. Matt's is a church that pulls together and where everyone gets involved.

The service on Tuesday was big and important, but so many of you were involved in making it happen and making everyone feel welcome, so thank you.

Church works when we all know what our gifts are and get involved accordingly, and that definitely happened this week.

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." – 1 Peter 4:10

So I just wanted to take this opportunity to thank you all for making the service and our welcome to Rob and Alice so brilliant this week!

From the band and Jean on the organ, to those of you who had a part in the actual service, reading or bringing symbolic items to Rob; from those of you manning the car park and directing people outside church, to those inside welcoming on the door; those of you who served drinks and cake after the service and who spent so much time clearing away at the end, the guys on PA and AV at the back, David as church warden, those of you who made cake, and of course the chair movers throughout the week. And to those of you who came to the service so that we could welcome Rob and Alice really well, thank you!

Notices



This Sunday (21st June) we have our 10am service and then a bring and share lunch afterwards. This is the Byrne family's first Sunday with us, as well as being Father's Day. The service will be a communion service, with groups for children and young people, and Rob will be speaking about the Prodigal Son, from Luke 15:11-32.

Next Sunday (28th June) we just have our 10am service, with groups for children and young people.

We're really looking forward to staying after church for a bring and share lunch this Sunday.

Thank you to everyone who has signed up to come. You can still sign up here <https://stmatts.churchsuite.com/events/s0sxvo9k> or just stay on Sunday and bring some food to share!



Rob and Alice will also be having an open house BBQ lunch and afternoon at the Vicarage on Saturday 11th July to have more time to get to know people, so do put this in your diaries.

Thanksgiving service for Helen Steven

There will be a Thanksgiving Service for the life of Helen Steven on Friday June 26th 2pm at St Philip's Church followed by tea there. Her family extend an invitation to anyone who would like to attend. You are welcome to wear any colour to remember Helen/Nen.

Note about parking - the family would like to keep the car park at St. Philip's for people coming from further away, so if you are local to TW, please can you park on the roads around the church, rather than in the car park.

Cakes - if anyone would like to make a tray bake cake for after the service, please let Mary know.

Funeral for Mike Southwick

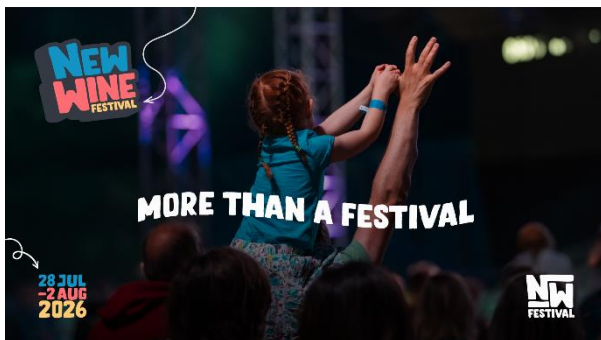
Mike's funeral will be on Friday 3rd July at 12.30pm in St. Matt's Church and then 1.45pm at TW Crematorium and everyone is welcome. The wake will be at The Royal Oak on Prospect Road in Tunbridge Wells, from about 3pm.

The family have said that Mike liked loud shirts, so if people could wear bright colours or blue for Chelsea, that would be amazing.

We may put on some refreshments in the church between the church service and the wake, for those who decide not to go to the crematorium, but we will let you know about that as we work out the details.



All our midweek groups are back up and running as usual next week. Also on next week is **Knitting Hub** - Saturday 27th June 10am - 12pm in the church centre



There is a group from St. Matt's going to **New Wine Festival** this summer (28th July - 2nd August). There are still tickets if you are interested in going, and you can also now get weekend tickets, off site tickets and day tickets. Have a look and book here <https://www.festival.new-wine.org/>

I hope you can join us on Sunday, either just for church or for the lunch as well. Have a lovely weekend.