

St. Matt's Midweek Update – 25th June 2026



I hope you are well and are coping in the heat this week.

This hot weather has made me think about looking after our world, and the effects of climate change on our planet.

Genesis 2:15 says, "The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it."

God asks us to look after our world, and to care for creation, and we haven't done a very good job of it!

Sometimes it is not until we feel the effects of something ourselves, that it really hits home. And yet other parts of the world have been much more severely affected by climate change for years already. Especially the poorer areas where people rely on the land and the climate for their livelihood.

Sometimes it feels like there is very little we can do as individuals to change the course that we are on. I have made small changes over the years to try and look after our planet more, and yet it feels like a drop in the ocean when big companies and nations aren't making the big changes needed.

But there are things we can do to try and help.

We can make the small changes ourselves, because the more of us that do that, the bigger effect they will have.

We can lobby our MP to make changes that will help the environment.

We can vote wisely and strategically in elections whenever we get the chance, for parties who put climate change at the heart of their agendas.

We can choose to buy from companies who care for the environment.

And we can pray.

Tearfund have some great resources on their website about climate change, and here is one of their prayers:

Lord God, you made the world and declared it was 'very good'. And yet, we have not treated the earth and our fellow humans with the care and respect they deserve. We are sorry and ask for your forgiveness.

Give us the courage to keep raising our voices about the climate emergency, which affects people living in poverty the worst. Help us to live in harmony with creation and heal our relationship with nature. Amen.

Notices



This Sunday (28th June) we just have our 10am service, with groups for children and young people. Rob will be starting a new sermon series called Marks of Mission, and this week the Bible passage is Luke 4:14-30.

Next Sunday (5th July) we have our monthly 8am communion service and our 10am family service.

Knitting Hub is on this Saturday from 10am - 12.30pm in the church centre, for anyone who likes knitting or who would like to learn!





Rob and Alice will be hosting a BBQ and open afternoon in their garden to get to know people more. This is on Saturday 11th July from 12.30pm onwards.

BBQ food will be available from 1ish till about 3.30pm.

Feel free to drop in any time and stay as long as you want.

Please can you sign up if you would like to come, so that we can cater for the right number of people and the right dietary requirements. You can sign up

here <https://stmatts.churchsuite.com/events/xuucsyph>

Sausages and burgers will be provided but if you would like any other meat, please bring your own. Some drinks will be provided but please bring a bottle if you can, either alcohol or soft!

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 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.

Rob's contact details

Now that Rob is starting to settle into his new role as our vicar, he is very happy to be contacted.

You can reach him in the following ways:

Phone - office 01892 618108

mobile 07843 031427

Email - rob@stmattschurch.org.uk

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Tickets available from **St. Paul's Church Office,**
or online at www.stpaulsrusthall.org.uk, via the
QR code below or on Eventbrite.

St. Paul's Church Rusthall
All services take place at the Parish Church unless stated otherwise.
St Paul's Parish Church: Langton Road, Rusthall, Tunbridge Wells TN4 8XD.
Office and Church Centre: Rusthall Road, Rusthall, Tunbridge Wells TN1 5RE.
Telephone: 01892 521447
Promoted by the
Tunbridge Wells
Diocese

Please do get in touch with Rob or I if you need any help or support at the moment. Stay safe in the heat and we hope to see you on Sunday.