

St. Matt's Midweek Update – 5th June 2026



How has your week been?

I know for many of us, the last few weeks have felt very heavy.

In case you haven't caught up with what's been happening, we have lost some dear people in the last two weeks.

Mary's mum, Helen, who many of us knew as she was part of St. Matt's for many years, died a couple of weeks ago.

Then last week we heard the shocking news that Mike Southwick, who was part of our church family, had died suddenly from what we now know was a heart attack.

I also heard of another sudden death this week, not related to church, but which affected a school community and adds to the grief and sadness I am already feeling.

So what do we do at times like this?

We can definitely comfort and support each other, but I also think we need to sit in our grief and allow ourselves to feel it and process it.

Jesus shows us this as he learns of Lazarus' death in John 11. When he gets to the town of Bethany and he sees Mary and Martha weeping, he doesn't jump to offering platitudes or even genuine hope. He doesn't raise Lazarus from the dead straight away - he weeps with them and spends time with them in their grief.

Even though we know that there is so much more than death, even though we know we have hope in Jesus, it is still ok to sit in our sadness and to know that Jesus is there weeping with us.

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted." Matthew 5:4

Let's keep all those families who are grieving in our prayers - Mary, Ian, Fiona, Sophie and the wider Wilson family, and also Teresa and Craig and Mike's wider family.

Notices

Funeral 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.



This Sunday (7th June) we have two services at 8am and 10am.

The service at 8am is our Book of Common Prayer communion service.

David Kitley will be taking this for us. It is a short traditional service.

Our 10am service this week is a family service, and we are looking forward to having Berti, Lynsey and Noah with us to tell us all about their work in Albania.

Next Sunday (14th June) we also have two services, at 10am and 5pm.

Our 10am service will have groups for children and young people, and we will be finishing off our Women in the Bible series with Rev. Jane Edwards coming to speak to us.

Our 5pm service is more traditional and will be a communion service, with Rev. Richard Arding leading and speaking.



Rob's Installation Service - 16th June 7.30pm

Thank you so much to everyone who has let me know how they can help at this service. I will email everyone next week confirming what you are helping with. Please do come along to this service if you can, and let's welcome Rob and Alice really well!

Bring and Share Lunch and Rob's first Sunday with us

Rob, Alice, Phoebe and Jacob's first Sunday with us is the 21st June. We will have a communion service at 10am, and then afterwards we are having a bring and share lunch to give Rob and Alice time to chat to people and start to get to know us and vice versa!

Please sign up if you are able to come to the lunch, to give us an idea of numbers and what food to expect - there is a sign-up sheet at the back of church or you can sign up

here <https://stmatts.churchsuite.com/events/s0sxvo9k>



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.

Clothing Donations for Crowborough Camp

I am in the process of arranging collection of the clothes people have brought in so far. If you want to bring in any men's clothes for the asylum seekers at Crowborough Camp, please can you **bring them into church this Sunday**. Thank you!

unite.
youth

#FUN #FOOD #FAITH

@ The Wells Church, Hanover Rd, TN1 1EY
5:30-8pm School years 6 - 13
Suggested donation £3 on the door

Summer 2026

One God
Father, Son and Holy Spirit

Friday May 8th and June 12th.

Guest speaker plus football, food, music, dancing, craft, games, consoles, drama, bible study and friends!

Follow our social media for speaker information and photos after the event @twyfc

Tunbridge Wells YOUTH FOR CHRIST @twyfc

Bookings and info scan QR code or www.madapps.uk/twyouth4christ/

The next **Unite town-wide youth event** run by YFC is **next Friday (12th June)**, 5.30pm - 8pm at The Wells Church in town. This is for anyone in school years 6-13 and some of our young people go along to it. You can sign up here [Unite sign up](#)

There is also a new **Youth Praise Night** happening at Tonbridge Baptist Church on **Sunday 14th June at 6pm**. This is being run by young people from a mix of churches across Tunbridge Wells and Tonbridge and is for youth (secondary school age to mid-twenties). Some of our older youth have been to events similar to this in the past and have really enjoyed them.

Righteous One who shed His blood
You proved to us the Father's love
Jesus Christ be lifted up
Holy holy

TONBRIDGE BAPTIST CHURCH SUNDAY 14TH JUNE

YOUTH PRAISE NIGHT

SCAN FOR MORE INFO

NO.1 KENT

YOUTH PRAISE NIGHTS



restore

Counselling, Training
& Related Services

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS SUPPORTING
EMOTIONAL WELLBEING IN OUR COMMUNITY

YOU ARE INVITED TO

Jazz

Afternoon Tea

WITH

The Maddie Martin Quartet



SATURDAY 13TH JUNE 2026



2.30PM



CHRIST CHURCH

High Street, Tunbridge Wells, TN1 1UT



TICKET PRICE

£20

per person



FAMILY TICKET

£60

(2 adults 2 children
or 1 adult 3 children)

BOOK NOW ON
EVENTBRITE

GET TICKETS

OR SEARCH
EVENTBRITE FOR
'JAZZ AFTERNOON TEA RESTORE'



SUPPORTING EMOTIONAL WELLBEING
AND MENTAL HEALTH IN OUR COMMUNITY



All proceeds support Restore Counselling Services
and the vital work we do in the community.

www.restorecounsellingservices.org.uk
Registered Charity No. 1164306

Jazz Afternoon Tea - Restore Counselling Services in Tunbridge Wells High Street is celebrating its 10th anniversary year by holding a live jazz quartet and afternoon tea at Christ Church on Saturday 13th June, which will also be a fundraiser for Restore.

You can buy tickets here <https://bit.ly/RestoreJazz>

Please do be in touch if you need any help or support at the moment.
I hope you have a good weekend, and we'll see you on Sunday.