

St. Matt's News – 23rd October 2026



I hope you can stay indoors today and not have to go out in the rain and wind!

Also, don't forget that the clocks go back this weekend, so we will gain an hour on Saturday night!

This week, one of the Lectio 365 devotionals was on Psalm 24. Verses 3-4 say this:

"Who may ascend the mountain of the Lord?

Who may stand in his holy place?

The one who has clean hands and a pure heart..."

This Psalm was written by David, before Jesus came to die for us.

In the Old Testament, people had to try to live holy lives to be able to approach God and to be set apart for him.

When David was writing this Psalm, he would have been writing it from the point of view of having to work hard to be holy and pure in order to live up to God's standards.

But then Jesus came, and he took away any need for us to have to try to live up to a standard or to try and be holy enough.

The Lectio devotion puts it like this:

"Before Jesus, a righteous life was the *requirement* for enjoying God's presence.

But in Jesus, a righteous life is the *result* of enjoying God's presence."

Because of Jesus, we no longer have to strive to have a relationship with God. He opened the way and made us righteous by dying for us.

But we should still want to live life in a way that pleases God, as He wants us live life to the full.

Our goal as Christians should be to become more like Jesus, and in doing that we will be living the life that is pleasing to God.

Notices



This Sunday (25th October) we just have our 10am service (*remember the clocks will have gone back on Saturday night!*).

There will be groups for our children and youth during the service. Rob will be finishing our Keys to the Kingdom series with Belonging, and the Bible passage is Galatians 3:23-29. Jen will also be renewing her baptism vows during the service.

Next Sunday (1st November) we have two services at 8am and 10am.

Our 8am service is our monthly Book of Common Prayer communion service.

At 10am we will be having our family service, with Rob speaking to us.

Midweek Communion Service

In November, Rob will be starting a **midweek communion service** on Wednesdays at 12 noon. This will be a short said service, and then there will be refreshments afterwards.

There are flyers at the back of church for this service, so do take some and give them to anyone you think may be interested.



Half term this week

As it is half term this week, some of our midweek groups are having a break.

However, Ignite is going to keep going this week as usual, as is the Community Larder.

Fireworks for Deeper and Ignite



Ignite & Deeper Fireworks
With hot dogs & sparklers

On Tuesday 3rd November, we will be holding a **joint fireworks event for Deeper and Ignite**, and any of our children and young people in school years 3-11 are welcome to come.

It will be on the field at St. Matthew's School, and we will use the entrance on Broke's Way.

Deeper aged children (years 3-6) can come from 5.30pm - 7pm.

Ignite aged young people (years 7-11) will come at the usual time of 6pm - 7.30pm.

We will have sparklers, hotdogs and fireworks!

We do need people to sign up for this event, so please sign your children and young people up using this link <https://stmatts.churchsuite.com/events/gadmt24x>



Memorial service
at
St. Matthew's
Church
High Brooms

Remembrance Sunday is on 8th November this year, and as well as having an act of Remembrance in our morning service, we will be holding our **memorial service in the afternoon at 5pm.**

The memorial service is for anyone who has been bereaved. It is an opportunity to remember and give thanks for those we have lost. Please feel free to invite any friends and family who might find this service helpful.

Tea and coffee will be available before the service from 4.30pm.



**Men's
social
evening**

Men's Social Evening - Friday 13th November 7.30pm in the church centre.

We'll provide dinner (pulled pork) - bring your own drinks.

Suggested donation of £5 per person, which you can pay on the night.

Please sign up if you would like to come to this, so we can cater for the right number of people. You can sign up here

<https://stmatts.churchsuite.com/events/grwxi8fm>



Music for the carol service!

We're starting to think about planning music for our Carol Service this year (on 20th December in the evening), and there are opportunities for you to get involved if you would like to.

Choir - Suzy will be putting a choir together to sing some pieces in the carol service and to lead the carols from the front. If you would like to be in the choir, rehearsals will be on Mondays at 6pm in church, from 9th November onwards. You can let Suzy know if you would like to be in the choir, or you can just turn up to the first rehearsal.

Handbells - Chris Horseman is also calling anyone who fancies ringing Christmas carols on handbells this festive season!

As well as the traditional 'slot' in the carol service, we also have the opportunity this year to ring carols in the Royal Victoria Place shopping centre on the afternoon of Sunday 20 December. This will be a great opportunity to bring some Christmas music to the shoppers of Tunbridge Wells, and also (hopefully) to raise some money for the Larder via public donations! It will also be an opportunity to build up a wider repertoire of Christmas music to ring on our set of 12 handbells. Whether you are now a seasoned handbell ringer, or whether you've never done it before and fancy having a go, we'd love to hear from you! All you really need is a good sense of rhythm. Anyone aged between 9 and 99 is welcome!

We'll be holding rehearsals nearer to Christmas, at dates and times to be agreed.

If you're interested, please let Chris Horseman or Hannah know.

Ladies Christmas Craft Event - Friday 4th December 7.30pm in church



Ladies, come and try your hand at making some Christmas crafts & decorations, with mulled wine and Christmas nibbles, and Christmas music playing throughout the evening.

It's a lovely start to the Christmas season, so get your friends together and come along!

There will be enough time to make 4 different crafts in the evening, and you can take home whatever you make.

Tickets are £12 per person - which includes refreshments and anything you make.

This event is for women aged 14 and over.

You can buy your tickets here <https://stmatts.churchsuite.com/events/8soagbsh>

St. Matt's School open mornings

**St Matthew's High Brooms
Primary School**

Fulfilling God-given potential

**Reception Admissions
September 2027**

The logo for St. Matthew's High Brooms Primary School, featuring a circular emblem with a cross and the school's name.

A photograph of a young boy smiling while swinging on a swing set.

A photograph of a young child sitting at a table, engaged in an activity with colorful materials.

Warm and welcoming
Caring pupils
Striving for academic
excellence for all
Varied enrichment

A photograph of a young girl smiling while climbing on a play structure.

A photograph of a group of children sitting on the ground in a wooded area, looking at something together.

A map showing the location of St. Matthew's High Brooms Primary School, with a red pin marking the school's position.

We look forward to meeting you

<https://st-matthews-school.org>

**Is your child due to
start school in
September 2027?**

**If so, come and meet
us at one of our
tours to find out
more about life at
St Matthew's:**

**Fri 16th October @
9.15am**

**Thurs 5th November
@ 9.15am**

**Thurs 19th November
@ 9.15am**

**Fri 4th December @
1.45pm**

To book your place:

01892528098

[Office@st-
matthews.kent.sch.uk](mailto:Office@st-matthews.kent.sch.uk)

Virtual Tour



Well done for getting to the end of a very long newsletter!

Please be in touch with Rob or I in the office if you need any support.