St. Matt's News – 6th November 2026

How are you?

It's Remembrance Sunday this weekend, and it gives us a chance to stop and reflect, both on those who have lost their lives fighting for our country, but also more personally, to think about our loved ones who have died, whether recently or longer ago.

I don't know about you, but my week has been very busy, with lots going on and lots to juggle. It feels like the busy period is already starting, and it won't finish until Christmas!

So even more reason to use this weekend to take some time to be still, to look back and reflect, to bring to mind those precious memories of loved ones who have died, and to give thanks for everything they meant to us.

Last Sunday Rob was talking about the Beatitudes, and how these are the things that mark us out as saints for Jesus.
Two of those Beatitudes are so relevant for us this weekend...
"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.
Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God."

Maybe you are mourning at the moment, and we pray you can come and find comfort with your church family as we spend time with Jesus in our services this weekend.
Or maybe you can think of situations in your life where you could help to bring peace. I pray God would give you strength as you take that step over the next few days.

Notices

Some sad news - a couple of people who used to come to St. Matt's have died over the last few weeks.
Clive Sewell's mum, Maureen, died a few weeks ago. Her funeral is on Thursday 12th November at 3.15pm at the crematorium, with a wake afterwards in the church centre. Please let Clive or Julie know if you are planning to go to the funeral.
Marjorie Everest has died peacefully at Rusthall Lodge care home at the age of 100. If you would like to know details of her funeral when we have them, please ask me or Rosemary.
Please keep both of these families in your prayers as they grieve and plan funerals over the next few weeks.



This Sunday (8th November) is Remembrance Sunday, and we have two services, at 10am and 5pm.
In the morning, our service will finish with an act of remembrance at 11am.
There will be groups for our children and youth during the service.
Rob will be speaking to us and the Bible passage is Mark 13:1-8.

Our 5pm service this Sunday is our Memorial Service.
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.



Next Sunday (15th November) we just have our 10am service.
As it is Safeguarding Sunday, Brian will be speaking to us about our security in God.
There will be groups for our children and youth during the service and we will share communion together.

Our new **midweek communion service** started this week. This is happening every Wednesday at midday in church.
This will be a short said service, and then there will be refreshments available 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



Our Men's Social Evening is happening next Friday!



Friday 13th November 7.30pm in the church centre.
We'll provide dinner (pulled pork) - bring your own drinks.
(If you are a vegetarian, or have any dietary requirements, please let us know so we can cater for everyone).
Suggested donation of £5 per person, which you can pay on the night.
Please sign up as soon as possible 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

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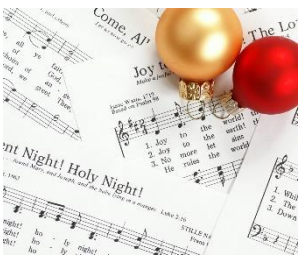


Ladies, come and try your hand at making some Christmas crafts & decorations, with mulled wine and Christmas nibbles, and Christmas music playing throughout the evening.
It's a lovely start to the Christmas season, so get your friends together and come along!
There will be enough time to make 4 different 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

The Community Larder Christmas Event is on Saturday 28th November 10.30am - 12.30pm at the Bethel Hall.
There will be a pavement BBQ, raffle, tombolas, bric a brac, cosmetic and cake stalls, refreshments, and live music.
Please do go along and support the larder team on the morning.
They also need your donations of any bottles and chocolate for the tombolas, and cakes for the cake stall. Please let Liz or Jan know if you can bake anything. You can bring donations in and leave them at the back of church on Sundays.

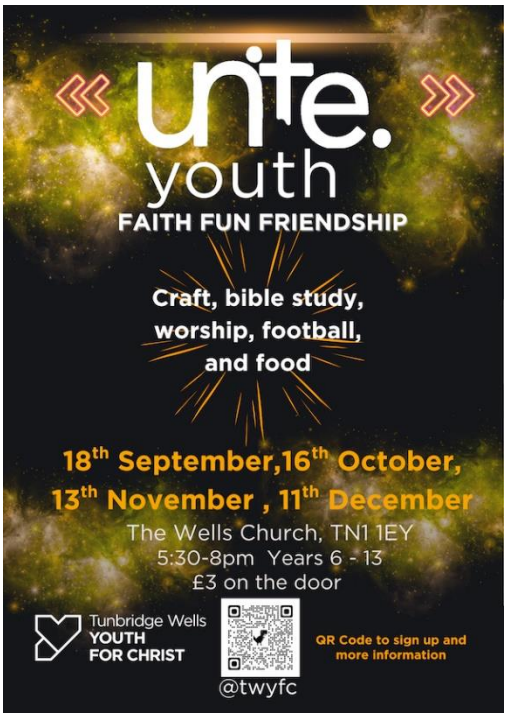


Music for the carol service!



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.



Unite Youth is happening next Friday, 13th November, 5.30pm - 8pm at The Wells Church. They will have their usual fun and games, food and craft as well as guests from Rock UK Carroty Wood who will share about their year out scheme. Lesley will be speaking on Prayer and young people will be welcome to join the worship team if they would like to. Please sign your young people here if they would like to go https://forms.gle/dFGQjiCixmfZuyLj9
They will also have some little Christmas gifts and Christmas Cookie bags on sale this month so young people might want to bring a little extra money along if they want to get something for their family or friends.
Any adults who volunteer with our own youth groups at St. Matt's are welcome to go along too, to support our young people!

The **Growing Hope Tunbridge Wells clinic** is officially opening this November, and will welcome and serve local children and young people with additional needs, and their families. Join them to celebrate the opening on **Wednesday 18th November at 7:30pm at The Wells Church, Tunbridge Wells**.
This opening may be of particular interest to church members who work in schools, GP surgeries, or healthcare settings, as they can help connect families in need with our services. We also warmly welcome anyone interested in volunteering or learning more about what we do.



Please do be in touch with Rob or myself in the office if you need any help or support.

We hope to see you on Sunday.