

St. Matt's Midweek Update – 11th February 2021



I hope you are managing to stay warm and safe this week!

I'm hearing of more and more people who are getting their first Covid vaccination, including my parents yesterday, which fills me with hope, even if things are still very unclear about how and when we can get out of lock-down and what the future holds.

It reminds me that the hope we have in Jesus is always there, but it isn't always clear how it might work itself out when we are in difficult situations.

That's the thing with hope - it's not an immediate answer to all our problems, but it's an assurance and a belief that things will get better, that someone has our back, that we are not alone in this world. Hope is the faith and trust that God is there, even when we can't see him or hear him. Hope is knowing that God is looking after us, even when we can't see a way out.

So today I pray Paul's prayer from Romans 5 over you:

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

Notices

There are a lot of notices this week, so do keep reading till the end...



We are online on Sunday at 10am for our service this week. You can join us on [Facebook](#) or [You Tube](#).



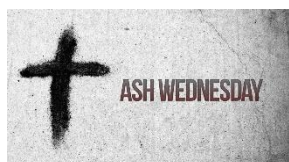
Lois will be sending out activities and a video for children this week as usual, and there will be a youth video on our You Tube channel on Sunday.



There won't be any kids or youth zoom groups for the next two weeks, due to staff leave, so all groups will start back the week of 1st March.

Ali will be in touch with those in Engage to confirm when you are meeting next.

This Friday is our next prayer and worship evening on Zoom. Join us at 8pm for an hour of spending time with God and each other. If you would like the Zoom link to join this meeting, please email office@stmattschurch.org.uk



Next Wednesday is the start of Lent - Ash Wednesday. We would normally have a service in church, to reflect and embark on the time of preparation for Easter. As we are not meeting in church at the moment, we are going to have a service on Zoom instead. It will a quiet, reflective service, with some worship and liturgy and a short talk from Suzanne. Please email chris@stmattschurch.org.uk for the Zoom link.

It is good to have some material for Lent that we can all be using together as a church, and this year we have decided to use the Church of England's LiveLent reflections. They have produced daily reflections which can be accessed via an app, by signing up for emails, or in a booklet. These include family activities, so they can be used as a family. It's a good way to have some focus during Lent, and there are also house group materials, so you may be looking at similar themes in your house group.

To download the app or sign up for the daily emails, follow this

link <https://www.churchofengland.org/our-faith/what-we-believe/lent-holy-week-and-easter/livelent-gods-story-our-story-our-lent>



Here is a PDF of just the family activities (which are also on the app)

<https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2021-02/LiveLent%20Family%20Reflections%202021.pdf>

I will be posting out booklets to some people who we think may not want to use the app or email. If you would like a booklet, please let me know and I'll add you to the list (office@stmattschurch.org.uk)



St. Matt's Community Larder are looking for a few more volunteers to do supermarket pickups. They have got a couple of new pickups to add their list, and these would be on a Wednesday or Thursday evening. If you are able to help pick up food on one of these evenings on a regular basis and take it to the Bethel Hall, please let Jan know on larder@stmattschurch.org.uk You may have offered to help back at the beginning and then not been needed - please let Jan know if you are still willing to help now.

And lastly, we are here to support you so do be in touch if you need help with anything. Lois and I are on leave next week, so please contact Chris in the first instance, on chris@stmattschurch.org.uk or 07734 217796.

Have a good weekend!