

St. Matt's Midweek Update – 13th December 2024



How are you?

As we head towards Christmas, and having had a very busy couple of weeks, I thought I would share with you a lovely reminder I got this week. I am part of a national Church Administrators Network, and they sent out a Christmas message by email this week.

Here what some of it said...

"So, we encourage you to take time this season to reflect on the profound truth that Christ came for YOU. In the midst of the busyness, make space to sit in the presence of the One who left the splendour of heaven to dwell among us. Allow yourself to be renewed by the wonder of His love and the peace that surpasses all understanding.

Remember, Jesus did not come to add more burdens to our shoulders; He came to carry them. His invitation in Matthew 11:28-29 is as true today as it was then: "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls."

This Christmas, may you find that rest. May you be reminded that you are not just servants of the church—you are beloved children of God." (Jules Morgan, Director, UK Church Administrators Network)

It doesn't matter what you do in your day to day life - many of us can feel stressed and overwhelmed at this time of year, so this message is for all of us.

Let's be reminded that God chose to come to earth as a baby for each one of us. For you. And that means that He is with us right now and He sees us right now. He sees our tiredness and our sadness and our worry. And he also sees our joy and our love and our faithfulness. So maybe today or this weekend, take a moment to just let that peace and rest fill your heart. Remind yourself that God is with you and that Jesus came to earth for you.

Notices

Christmas Services

Our Christmas services are next week!



Wednesday 18th December 8pm
Sunday 22nd December 10am
Sunday 22nd December 7pm
Christmas Eve 4pm
Christmas Eve 11.15pm
Christmas Day 10am

A Reflective Christmas
Christmas Nativity
Christmas Carols
Christingle Service
Midnight Communion
Family Christmas Celebration

There are plenty of Christmas flyers around in church, so please do take some and give them out to family, friends and neighbours.

Our Christmas services are also now on our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/stmatthewshighbrooms> and on our Instagram page <https://www.instagram.com/stmatthewshighbrooms/>

Please do share the posts from there - they reach so many more people when you share them on your feed.

We have decided not to live stream our nativity service or our Christingle service this year, due to the number of children involved. All our other services will be both in church and online.



This Sunday we just have our main 10am service, with groups for our children and youth.
 Dedo will be speaking to us about Advent Joy and the Bible reading is Luke 2:8-20.

Next Sunday morning is our nativity service - this will be similar to the last few years, where you can just turn up and put a costume on and get involved. We will have narrators telling the story and then everyone will come on stage at the right time to help act it all out.
 If you would like to be in the nativity, we suggest coming to church a bit early, so you can choose a costume and get ready.
 And feel free to invite friends to come and get involved as well!



There are some rehearsals this week for the carol service.
 The next choir rehearsal is on Thursday (19th Dec) at 6pm in church.
 If you are playing hand bells, then there's a rehearsal straight after church this Sunday in the church centre.

This year our Christmas giving is going to go to MAF Uganda.



Sam and Abby Baguma are our mission partners with MAF.
 MAF Uganda have developed a link with CURE Children's Hospital in Uganda to enable children in South Sudan with neurological conditions to have life saving surgery. It's mostly children with hydrocephalus. So any money we raise will go to flying children and their parents to the hospital in Uganda to have the surgery. The surgery is also heavily funded so everyone can access it. One flight for 10 children and their parents costs \$7500, so by giving £60 you could give one child and their parent the flight to get the surgery they need.

There are lots of ways to give. All money given during our Christmas services will go to MAF. You can scan the QR code on the flyer and give online (or use this link <https://stmatts.churchsuite.com/donate/fund/mk6sejem>).
 There is also a change jar at the back of church with the inside of our giant Christmas card, so do sign that for your church family and give the money you would have spent on cards.



Kenward Trust are a Christian drug and alcohol rehabilitation charity, who run a rehab for men and women in Yalding, Maidstone.

They have recently opened 83 Colebrook Road in High Brooms as a 14-bed project for stage 2 residents who will stay with them for approximately 3 months whilst they continue their recovery journey. All residents must be in recovery and are tested regularly to ensure that they are not using drugs and or alcohol. Residents can then move on to their stage 3 move on projects, before resettling independently within the community.

Being a Charity they have had to put a lot of resource into renovating the building so they would welcome support in kitting out the building. They are currently looking for:

- A coffee table for the lounge
- Comfy chair for hallway
- A radio for the kitchen/dinning room
- Modern pictures/paintings to hang in communal spaces
- Board Games
- Books
- Christmas presents

If you have an items you can either come to 83 Colebrook Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN4 9DP between 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday or email michael.bourne@kenwardtrust.org.uk



Interactive Christmas Nativity Trail

Saturday, 21st December, 3 - 4 pm

**Grosvenor and Hilbert Park
Starts at the cafe by the hub**

Open to everyone

There is a **Festive Nativity Trail** around the Hilbert Recreation Ground from **3-4pm on Saturday 21 December..** It is a walk with different parts of the Christmas story acted/told with (depending on weather) craft, games and knocking on the inn keepers door! Several Churches are working together to offer this to the local community. Meet at the HUB - next to the Tea Room to begin the Trail.

If you need any help or support, please get in touch with me through the church office. We hope to see you on Sunday.