

St. Matt's Midweek Update – 10th January 2025



I hope you are managing to keep warm at the moment.
Please do let us know if you are struggling and need help.

We are a full week into the new year now, and January often comes with resolutions, and good intentions to make changes and start new habits.

But then these can quickly turn into guilt and disappointment if we don't keep up with them. Or we can end up doing things in a legalistic way, rather than because it is doing us any good.

This week someone sent me a couple of quotes which they had received in a work wellbeing email...

"Every sunset is an opportunity to reset. Every sunrise is an opportunity to rise fresh."

"New Year's resolutions can be fuelled by unhelpful self-criticism. Accept who you are, be kind to yourself."

It's not wrong to set resolutions or to try to start good habits, especially in our relationship with God. I loved what Gill was saying on Sunday about being connected to God. We don't need anything extra to connect with God - we can do it directly. So forming rhythms and habits to help our connection with God is great, but we shouldn't feel bad or guilty if we forget for a few days, or if we aren't doing what we set out to do. And we don't need fancy plans and formulas, we just need to talk to Him and listen to Him.

As the quote above says, each day is a new day, so let's give ourselves some slack and know that God's mercies are new every morning.

"The faithful love of the Lord never ends!
His mercies never cease.
Great is His faithfulness;
His mercies begin afresh each morning."
Lamentations 3:22-23 (NLT)

Notices



This Sunday we have two services, at 10am and 5pm.

10am - we are starting a new sermon series on the armour of God, and the Bible passage is Ephesians 6:10-20. There will be groups for our children and young people during the service.

5pm - Trevor will be speaking about the baptism of Christ, and tea and cake is served from 4.30pm.

Next Sunday we just have our main 10am service, with groups for children and young people.

Midweek groups and activities

All our midweek groups are back to normal this week...

Deeper (for school years 3-6) - Mondays 3.30pm - 5pm in church

Ignite (for young people at secondary school) - Tuesdays 6pm - 7.30pm in church

Community Hub - Wednesdays 11am - 3pm in the church centre

Toddler Group - Thursdays 9.30am - 11.30am in church

Community Larder - Fridays 9.30am - 10.45am in the Bethel Hall



Eating out at St. Matt's

On Friday 7th February in the evening, the church will become a restaurant for anyone who wants to come for dinner! It's a chance to get together and have fun at this dark and depressing time of year, and to be able to go out for dinner for a very small cost. Bring friends and family along too!

Dedo will be cooking the main course, and there will be puddings as well. We're asking for a donation of £2.50 per person or £5 per family, but please feel free to pay what you can afford. You don't need to pay till the night, but please sign up soon so that we know how many people to cater for.

Sign up here <https://stmatts.churchsuite.com/events/ssl8xdti>

SOUTHBOROUGH AND HIGH BROOMS NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN (NDP)

Just over a year ago residents and businesses took part in a series of meetings to discuss and write down their views on the development of Southborough and High Brooms up to 2038. One of these meetings took place in our church.

These have formed the basis of the draft Neighbourhood Development Plan, which is now out for consultation up to the end of January 2025.

Greater detail on the plan will appear in an exhibition in the Main Hall of the Civic Centre on Friday 17th January 2pm to 7pm and on Saturday 18th January 10am to 2pm.

A printed copy of the whole Plan will also be available to view.

Members of the Plan's Steering Group will be present on these dates and would very much welcome residents' attendance and comments.

For those unable to attend, the Plan documents in full are available at www.shbndp.com

Comments can be sent by email to shbndp@gmail.com by 31st January.

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@ The Wells Church, Hanover Rd, TN1 1EY
5:30-8pm

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School Yrs 6-13
For more info and booking, scan QR
code or follow the link
www.madapps.uk/twyouth4christ/

Tunbridge Wells
YOUTH
FOR CHRIST

That's all for now. Please do be in touch with me in the office if you need anything. Chris will be back next week but will be easing back into work gently.

Have a lovely weekend and stay warm!

St. Matthew's Church Office High Brooms Road Tunbridge Wells Kent TN4 9BW

01892 618108 office@stmattschurch.org.uk www.stmattschurch.org.uk

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