

# St. Matt's Midweek Update – 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2025



Happy New Year!

Can you believe that we are in 2025?! I'm not sure I can.

The new year is a good time to look forward and to make plans, but also to look back and to see how far we have come.

This year is going to be a year of change and anticipation for us as a church. As we say goodbye to Chris and Carole there will be some looking back and being grateful for the years that have gone by and for all that God has done in and through St. Matt's with them leading us.

But there will also be a lot of looking forward, planning for the time when we are without a vicar, and wondering what will come next.

That could bring with it fear and anxiety, and a lot of uncertainty.

But I think we can instead choose to look ahead with expectation and excitement. God is with us as a church and is doing great things in our community through us, and we can be sure that He will still be with us as we move forward together as a church and see what comes next. Let's invite God into our year and into the uncertainty and step out with open hearts to see what He has for us.

And let's pray the same for Chris and Carole as they step into a year of unknowns as well. That they would be able to look forward with excitement and expectation for the next chapter of their lives.

My prayer for us all this year is Moses' words to God in Exodus 33:14-15.

God says to Moses "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest."

Then Moses said to him, "If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here."

I pray that we would all step into this year knowing that God's presence is with us, and with open hearts to let Him take us where He wants us to go.

There's a lovely old worship song that uses these words from Exodus - have a listen <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E-f2p33K1BE>

## Notices



**This Sunday** we just have our 10am family service, as it's the first Sunday in January. Gill will be speaking to us about getting the right connection, and we will also be hearing from Berti Frroku about Ignite and his family's future mission plans.

There won't be an 8am communion this Sunday, but this service will be back from February.

**Next Sunday** we are starting a new series in our 10am services about the armour of God. We also have our 5pm service next Sunday (12th January).



**Our Community Hub** is starting again next week, on Wednesday 8th January, from 11am - 3pm in the church centre.

Do come along for warmth, welcome and activities, as well as drinks and lunch, or let someone know who might be interested.

If you would like to volunteer at the hub, making drinks and lunches and chatting to people, please let me know.



**Our youth and children's groups are starting up over the next couple of weeks.**

Toddler group is the first group back on Thursday 9th January, 9.30am - 11.30am.

We will have groups for our youth and children on Sunday 12th January during the service.

Deeper will start on Monday 13th January, 3.30pm - 5pm.

Ignite will restart on Tuesday 14th January, 6pm - 7.30pm.



Sometimes a new year is a chance to rethink our routines and our time.

If you would like to start volunteering in any way at church, please do let me know. There are plenty of ways to serve at lots of different times.

### **Office hours**

I am now back in the office as normal.

My usual working hours are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 9am - about 3.30pm (I am off on Wednesdays).

Chris is hoping to be back to work in a week or so.

Have a lovely weekend, and we hope to see you on Sunday.