

# St. Matt's Midweek Update – 28<sup>th</sup> February 2025



I hope you have had a good week.

After what felt like an extremely long January, we are at the end of February already! Lent starts on Wednesday next week, so I thought it would be good to share a few resources with you.

It's that time of year when the spring flowers start to open up, with snowdrops already around and daffodils looking like they will be opening soon.

It amazes me every year that these plants can be lying dormant in the earth for the whole of winter, and then know when to start growing and to push their heads above the soil.

It always gives me a good reminder that we all have seasons in our lives, and in our walk with God. Just because something is not outwardly growing or blossoming, it doesn't mean that it's dead. There is work to be done under the soil, in the dormant seasons of our lives and God does that work behind the scenes, unseen in our hearts.

So take hope as you look around and see the first flowers of spring on this glorious sunny day! And maybe use this season of Lent to ask God what he is doing in your life, and to spend some time deepening your relationship with him.

There are probably loads of Lent resources around, but here are a few that I have come across that you might find useful...

- Living Hope resources from the Church of England - have a look on this page for all their resources <https://www.churchofengland.org/faith-life/what-we-believe/lent-holy-week-and-easter/living-hope-resources-lent-2025>

You can download their Everyday Faith app and find reflections there, or you can sign up to daily emails.

- Stewardship are running their 40acts campaign again this Lent, after a few years break. It's about doing Lent generously, and you can sign up for daily emails

here <https://www.stewardship.org.uk/40acts>

- Tearfund are offering weekly devotional emails through Lent, with reflections, stories and prayers. Sign up here <https://www.tearfund.org/campaigns/lent-devotional>

If you have any other good resources for Lent, do let me know or post them on our Facebook Discipleship group.

## Notices

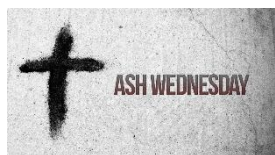


**This Sunday (2nd March) we have two services:**

**8am** Book of Common Prayer communion service

**10am** Family Service - Mike will be speaking to us about the sword of the spirit, the last one in our Armour of God series. Please bring a toy sword or lightsaber along to the service if you have one!

**Next Sunday (9th March) we also have two services, at 10am and 5pm.**



**This Wednesday (5th March) is Ash Wednesday**, so do come and join us at 8pm in church for a quiet communion service to start Lent.

**Coffee morning with pancakes** - Rosemary and her team will be having a coffee morning this Tuesday (4th March), 10.30am - 12pm in the church centre, with pancakes as it's Shrove Tuesday. There will be a raffle and a few other stalls, and proceeds will go to equipment for Kenward Trust.



## Defibrillator and CPR Awareness sessions

There are still a few spaces left for our CPR and defib training session next week, so do sign up if you would to come along.

The session will run on Thursday 6th March in church at 7pm.

Please sign up here <https://stmatts.churchsuite.com/events/nhbcmkz6>



Easter Sunday baptisms

We will be **baptising adults on Easter Sunday** this year, as we often do. This is the last call for anyone who would like to be baptised, as we need to make sure everyone is prepared. If you are interested in being baptised at Easter this year, then please speak to Chris or Hannah this week.

## Unlock Walk - Saturday 12th April 2025



Every year some of our congregation take part in this sponsored walk around areas of London, to raise money for and awareness of ministry in urban deprived areas. If you are interested in walking this year, please let Liz of myself know.

## Tunbridge Wells Youth for Christ are hiring!



Tunbridge Wells YOUTH FOR CHRIST

We Are Hiring

Outreach Lead – reaching out to the young people in our community who may not have a church connection yet, through our after school drop-in and leading and developing Unite Youth.

Schools Lead – increasing and strengthening our presence in local secondary schools.

Both roles have a genuine requirement to be a Christian.

Both roles are 3 days a week, term time only. Salary £12.50 - £14 per hour dependant on experience. (This could be one full time role for the right candidate.)

For more information contact Karen

on [centredirector@tunbridgewells.yfc.co.uk](mailto:centredirector@tunbridgewells.yfc.co.uk)

**YFC are holding an inter-church quiz** - if anyone from St. Matt's is interested in getting a team together, let me know. It would be great to support this with all the help we have had from them through Berti at Ignite.

<b>INTER-CHURCH QUIZ</b>	22 March 2025 Christ Church, High Street, Tunbridge Wells. Doors open at 6.30pm
Gather a team of upto 8 people from your church	£17.50 per person includes a hot meal
Book your team in by emailing Polly: <a href="mailto:pollyjjoyce@gmail.com">pollyjjoyce@gmail.com</a>	

## World Day of Prayer - Friday 7th March 10am at United Emmanuel Church

This year's theme is *I made you wonderful* and the material has been prepared by Christian women from the Cook Islands, based on the words of Psalm 139. This worship service invites us to recognise that God created each one of us with great attention and loving care. Everyone is welcome. For further information please contact Rev Helen on [revhelenurc@aol.co.uk](mailto:revhelenurc@aol.co.uk)

That's all for this week. We hope you have a lovely weekend.

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