

St. Matt's Midweek Update – 28th March 2025



I hope you are well.

This Sunday is Mothering Sunday - it's the day when we celebrate and think about our mothers and those in our lives who are like mothers to us.

We know that it can be a hard day for lots of people for many different reasons.

However, Mothering Sunday has its origins in Christians visiting their mother church once a year, which would also have been a time for family reunions as children working away would also have come home to join their families.

I wonder what you would call your 'mother' church - the place where you grew up in your faith? And can you think of those people who played an important part in helping your faith to grow and showing you Jesus?

I can think of key people from the church I grew up in and the youth group I went to who nurtured me in my faith and supported me as I worked out what it meant for me.

So maybe this Sunday, as well as celebrating our mothers, we can also celebrate those who have been 'mothers' to us on our faith journey and thank God for the churches we grew up in. And let's also try and be a church where we nurture and grow disciples of Jesus, a place where people can experience the love of God and learn what it is to live for Jesus.

'We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all God's people' (Colossians 1:3–4).

Notices



This Sunday we have our 10am Mothering Sunday family service, with Carole speaking to us from Romans 12:10-13. We will be celebrating all the women in our church!

Next Sunday is the first Sunday of the month, so we have our 8am communion service. We will be having a normal service at 10am with groups for children and young people. Chris will be speaking to us on 'Words that have shaped us'.

Midweek groups and activities

Next week is the last week of term before the Easter holidays.

Ignite and Community Hub have finished for the term already, so they won't be meeting next week. There is a thank you get together for Community Hub volunteers on Wednesday afternoon though.

Deeper is happening on Monday 31st March and Toddler Group is having its Easter party on Thursday 3rd April.

We also have the school in for their Easter service on Monday, so do pray that is meaningful to everyone who attends.



Easter opening of the Larder - just a reminder that the larder will be opening on Easter Saturday, instead of the Friday of that week. We will remind everyone nearer the time!



Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service	8pm
Good Friday Family Worship	10am
Easter Sunday Family Celebration	10am



Easter is only three weeks away, so we are starting to get our Easter publicity out. There are cards in church that you can take and give to friends and family to invite them to join us over Easter. Our advert will go out on Facebook and Instagram on Sunday, so do share from our pages if you can.

Our Easter services are:

Thursday 17th April 8pm - Maundy Thursday Tenebrae service - this is a quiet reflective service with communion
 Friday 18th April 10am - Good Friday Family Worship - a more subdued and reflective family service
 Sunday 20th April 10am - Easter Sunday Family Celebration - a joyful celebration with baptisms and communion

APCM and PCC nominations

Every year we have an annual church meeting, and this year it will be at the beginning of May (during the service on 4th May). At this meeting we elect PCC members (these are the trustees of the charity who deal with governance of the church). If you are interested in joining the PCC, please do come and talk to Brian or myself about it over the next few weeks. We can tell you what is involved.

Men's event - Saturday 5th April



Kevin would like to invite you to coffee and bacon sandwiches in his garden bright and early on Saturday 5th April. Similar to the beer and bangers event in December, we will be in the wooded garden and hopefully be surrounded by bird song as the sun rises while cooking sausages / bacon on the firepit and sipping fine coffee (well it might be instant!)

This will be an informal drop in gathering - approx. timings 7.30am to 10ish
 Please rsvp to get an idea of numbers. No need to bring anything just yourself!

Some town-wide Easter events...

- **Tunbridge Wells Choral Society** - Enjoy a beautiful selection of varied choral music to mark Palm Sunday, sung live by the Royal Tunbridge Wells Choral Society with professional musicians and soloists at the Assembly Hall Theatre in Tunbridge Wells on Sunday 13 April, at 3pm. Tickets are available from <https://rtwcs.org.uk/>. Prices range from £13 to £28 (inclusive of booking fee) with student and child tickets from £8 to £15.50. The concert lasts approximately 2 hours, including a 20-minute interval.
- **An Easter Meditation** - An evening of reflective music and readings will take place at the Salvation Army, Bayhall Road, Tunbridge Wells on Monday 14th April 7.30pm. The South London Fellowship Band and the Tunbridge Wells Songsters will lead this reflective time. All are very welcome to attend.
- **Good Friday Witness** - Come join Christians from across the town for the Good Friday Witness on Friday 18th April, 11.25-11.45am at the Millennium Clock.

We hope you have a lovely weekend and can join us on Sunday morning. Please do be in touch if you need any help or support.