

St. Matt's Midweek Update – 7th March 2025



I hope you have had a good week and have managed to get outside and enjoy the sunshine!

We are now a couple of days into Lent and I've been thinking about what people do to mark the season of Lent. Lent is a season of preparing for Easter, and focusing on growing closer to God and recognizing what Jesus did for us on the cross.

The traditional way to mark Lent is to give something up, as we remember and reflect on Jesus' 40 days of fasting and praying in the wilderness, and spend time ourselves preparing for Easter. Have you given anything up for Lent this year?

But more recently people have moved away from giving things up, or are more aware of not just giving something up for the sake of it, so some people try and take up a new habit, or set aside more time each day or each week to spend time with God and to read the Bible or pray. I am going to try and read through the gospel of Mark this Lent, as we've started looking at the book "Mark for Everyone" by Tom Wright in our pod.

Another popular idea in recent years has been the campaign by Stewardship to "Do Lent generously". The idea is that each day in Lent you do something generous for those around you, and Stewardship give ideas and challenges each day. Today's challenge is to be generous to one person local to you, with the idea that we can't solve all the problems around us, but we can help one person.

What could you do to show someone you care today?

We can all do Lent differently, but the important thing is that what we do keeps us focused on Jesus, and prepares us to do His ministry here on earth as we look towards Easter and ultimately to His second coming.

Notices

This Sunday (9th March) we have two services:



10am - there will be groups for our children and youth this Sunday. The children are going to be focusing on the events of Holy week over the next few weeks as we head towards Easter. The youth will be carrying on with Youth Alpha in their group this Sunday.

For the adults in church, we are starting a new Lent series called "Words that have shaped us", and I will be speaking about verses that have impacted my life from Zephaniah 3:16-17. We will be sharing communion together this Sunday morning.

5pm - our 5pm service is more traditional with liturgy and hymns on the organ. Jane will be speaking this Sunday about Jesus being tested.

Next Sunday (16th March) we just have our main service at 10am, with groups for children and youth.

I thought it would be helpful to give a bit of an **overview of services over the next couple of months**, because Mothering Sunday, Easter and the leaving service for Chris and Carole means we are changing things around a bit. So if it helps you to know what is happening...

Sunday 23rd March - normal 10am service with groups

Sunday 30th March - Mothering Sunday family service

Sunday 6th April - 8am communion and normal 10am service with groups

Sunday 13th April (Palm Sunday) - normal 10am service with groups and 5pm service with communion

Thursday 17th April - Maundy Thursday Tenebrae service at 8pm
 Friday 18th April - Good Friday family service at 10am
 Sunday 20th April - Easter Sunday Family service with communion at 10am
 Sunday 27th April - Chris and Carole's leaving service at 10am (all in church together, no groups)

Youth For Christ events coming up



unite.
youth

#FUN #FOOD #FAITH

WORKSHOPS / ACTIVITIES / FOOD /
 FOOTBALL / FAITH / CONSOLE GAMES /
 TUCK SHOP / GUEST SPEAKERS
 @ The Wells Church, Hanover Rd, TN1 1EY
 5:30-8pm

17 JAN	14 FEB	14 MAR
£2	£2	£2
HOPE	LOVE	FAITH

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

<h2>INTER-CHURCH QUIZ</h2>	<p>22 March 2025</p> <p><i>Christ Church, High Street, Tunbridge Wells. Doors open at 6.30pm</i></p>
<p>Gather a team of upto 8 people from your church</p>	<p>£17.50 per person includes a hot meal</p>
<p>Book your team in by emailing Polly: pollyjjoyce@gmail.com</p>	<p>Tunbridge Wells YOUTH FOR CHRIST</p>



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. I have sponsor forms in the office for anyone taking part.

Tunbridge Wells Youth for Christ 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

If you need any help or support during the week, please do get in touch with Chris or I through the office. Have a lovely weekend.