

InforMatt

November 2019



Welcome to **InforMatt**, the monthly news-sheet for St. Matthew's, Surbiton. If you would like to know more about upcoming events and church activities, please visit our website – www.stmatthewskt6.org or visit us on Sunday mornings at 9.15 or 11am .

Sssshhhh!

This coming month we will have lots of opportunity (and me especially) to be silent. In November which is pregnant with remembrance we start with our service of Remembering and Thanking on 3 November. This is a service for those families for whom we have taken funeral services over the year—over 30 this year.

Across the Deanery and for a variety of reasons, at St Matthew's we take by far and away the largest number of funerals. This funeral ministry which is exercised by William Allberry, Tony Geater, Carolyn Lucas and me provides us with important opportunities to connect with people who might not normally be familiar with church. It is a great way to reach out into the Parish and beyond and we consider it to be a privilege. Flowing from these connections recently have been a wedding in church, a baptism, people attending our Alpha course and occasional attendance at Sunday morning services too. But the event is not exclusive. If you would like to come along to remember someone—even someone who died many years ago - please do feel free to come along and join us.

The following weekend is, of course, Remembrance, when many across the whole nation stop for those precious 2 minutes to remember and give thanks for those who sacrificed all in defence of their country. I now have the privilege of leading the service of Remembrance at the Royal Star and Garter Home every year which is always a profoundly moving service—looking into the resolute faces of residents as they recall years gone by of heroism and victory but also of loss and pain. There is something about such silence, held communally, which is always powerful and sobering.

It unites us in a common desire to show respect and thanks and resolve not to tread the path of war again.

Seven Whole Days!

But what about being silent for Seven Whole Days? That's my own personal challenge as I go on retreat in North Wales at the end of the month. I am not sure whether I am going to like it, but quite sure that Simon (who will be left quietly at home) will!! The retreat centre offers 'a rural setting [which] provides a still and sacred place that is conducive to prayer.' But Seven Whole Days . . . ?!

The silence is not just about an absence of sound but should be an absence of distraction too, so no phone, no emails, no Netflix. With services and an interview with a retreat guide each day it sounds like quite a challenge but a huge opportunity too. I realise that I am hugely privileged to be able to undertake this time out and I would ask for your prayers that it is a fruitful time and not one of deafening empty silence. How to silence the questions and the concerns and the doubts and the busyness which so often fill my head and I am sure fill yours too. Not many of you will be able to take such a chunk of time away but perhaps all of us need to stop and reflect whether all that we do—whether in church life or elsewhere—has the effect of drowning out God's voice, his calling to each one of us. It reminds me of the calling of the small boy Samuel. In the quiet of the night he heard God calling him and was eventually encouraged by the priest Eli to respond. *'Speak Lord, for your servant is listening.'*

Are we ready not only to keep silence and listen but also to respond?



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St Matthew's along with St George's and St Paul's is part of the Tolworth Hook & Surbiton Team Ministry ('THis Team')

October

31 Thurs	10.00 am	SMArties Embroidery Group
	4.00 pm	Light Party - SOLD OUT
	7.00 pm	Choir practice
	8.00 pm	Delta House Group
	8.00 pm	Sigma House Group

November

1 Fri	12.30 pm	Soup Lunch - in Church - everyone welcome!
2 Sat	10.00 am	ThiS Team Walk - starting and finishing at The Pheasant pub, A25, Buckland, Reigate- all welcome. For more details look at the latest Notice Sheet on the website
	10.30 am	Paul and Sophie's wedding in Church

3 Sunday		All Saints'
	9.15 am	Holy Communion Service
	11.00 am	11 o'clock Service
	3.30 pm	Service for the residents at The Royal Star and Garter Home
	4.30 pm	Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving

4 Mon	9.45 am	Brunch Bunch
	8.00 pm	Inspire House Group
	8.00 pm	Finance Committee meeting
5 Tues	2.30 pm	Bereavement Journey course - by invitation. 4 of 6, in Church
	8.00 pm	Ruby House Group

6 Wed	8.00 pm	Beta House Group
7 Thurs	10.00 am	SMArties Embroidery Group
	1.00 pm	Funeral for Derek Todd (father of Harriet Pennington)
	7.00 pm	Choir practice
	8.00 pm	Delta House Group
	8.00 pm	Sigma House Group

8 Fri	10.00 am	St Matthew's Mum's Group meeting - Creche
	7.00 pm	Kingston Music Service Remembrance Concert, in church, all welcome.

10 Sunday		Remembrance Sunday
	9.15 am	Holy Communion Service
	10.55 am	Remembrance Service - please note that this service starts at 10.55am
	5.00 pm	Fuel Youth Group meeting - North Room

11 Mon	11.00 am	Remembrance Service for the residents at The Royal Star and Garter Home
	2.30 pm	Holy Communion for the residents of Milverton Care Home
	8.00 pm	Inspire House Group

12 Tues	2.30 pm	Holy Communion for the residents of Rosclare Care Home
	2.30 pm	Bereavement Journey course - by invitation. 5 of 6, in Church

13 Wed	8.00 pm	Beta House Group
14 Thurs	10.00 am	SMArties Embroidery Group
	10.15 am	Project Team meeting
	7.00 pm	Choir practice
	8.00 pm	Delta House Group
	8.00 pm	Sigma House Group

16 Sat	All day	A not-very-far-AwayDay Waiting list for tickets
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17 Sunday		Second Sunday before Advent
	9.15 am	Morning Prayer
	11.00 am	All Age Communion

18 Mon	9.45 am	Brunch Bunch
	10.30 am	Holy Communion for the residents of Bourne House
	8.00 pm	Inspire House Group
19 Tues	2.30 pm	Holy Communion for the residents of The Royal Star and Garter Home

	2.30 pm	Bereavement Journey course - by invitation. 6 of 6, in Church
	8.00 pm	PCC meeting - open meeting and all welcome.
20 Wed	2.00 pm	Chance to Chat - in church, all welcome
	8.00 pm	Beta House Group
21 Thurs	10.00 am	SMArties Embroidery Group
	1.30 pm	St Matthew's Mum's Group meeting - Creche
	7.00 pm	Choir practice
	8.00 pm	Delta House Group
	8.00 pm	Sigma House Group
23 Sat	12.00 pm	St Paul's Winter Fair - until 3.00pm
24 Sunday		Christ the King Sunday next before Advent
	9.15 am	Holy Communion Service
	11.00 am	11 o'clock Service
25 Mon	9.45 am	Brunch Bunch
	8.00 pm	Inspire House Group
27 Wed	8.00 pm	Beta House Group
28 Thurs	10.00 am	SMArties Embroidery Group
	8.00 pm	Open meeting for THiS Team PCCs and all congregation members, to hear our Diocesan Secretary Ruth Martin speak about the work of the Diocese and in particular the finances and contributions made from the Parish - all welcome.
	7.00 pm	Choir practice
	8.00 pm	Delta House Group
	8.00 pm	Sigma House Group
30 Sat	12.00 pm	St Matthew's School Christmas Fair - until 3.00pm

December

1 Sunday		First Sunday of Advent
	9.15 am	Holy Communion Service
	11.00 am	11 o'clock Service
	4.00 pm	Starlight Service for residents and families of RS&G in church

Future dates for your diary

Dec

Sun 1		<i>Christmas is coming!! Look out for additional services and time changes.</i>
Jan Sat 18	4.00 pm	Tabletop sale between the services - TBC The welcome return of Tom Bell - An fun afternoon of Laurel and Hardy films with live organ accompaniment More details to follow
	6.30 pm	Exciting new event - Childrens' Pyjama Party !! An evening of fun and games for all, followed by a never-done-before sleep-over in church for older children. Full details to follow

Available now!

Christmas Cards sold in aid of the Tower and Spire Appeal!

Available to buy before and after both

