



St Matthew's Newsletter – Autumn 2025



'Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy...but he [God] rested on the seventh day'

Exodus 20:8 & 11

The Ten Commandments are some of the most famous words in the Bible. We might see them as the basis of human flourishing, encapsulating, as they do the two great themes of the Bible; love God, love neighbour. Ten great principles for life, and yet perhaps one of the most neglected in the West, and certainly in Central London, is the fourth commandment; have a day off! I know, we are not helped in this by our 24/7 culture, nor the ever-increasing expectations for speed. Yet, we cannot shift all blame here. The trouble is within, and specifically we get addicted to the idea of progress (I know I do). Progress is good of course, but not at the expense of God. Six days of work and then one to enjoy it all; to rest our bodies, to engage with people and the world *without* progress. This is hard. Partly because once we start we just can't stop (I see too many in a constant whirl). Partly because there is *always* more to be done. Partly fear nags; if you stop you will 'lose', it will fail etc. I am the last to throw stones here, yet I do (mostly) take a day a week to stop working and instead do those life-giving things. And you? You won't do better than God and he took a day off. How might you put this into practice? It is God's command and so blessing to you, and an important part of human flourishing. A holy-day!

Dates for your Diary

**Sunday 7
December**

Christmas Lunch
after the Service

**Sunday 14
December, 6pm**
Lessons and
Carols Service

St Matthew's News

- **Blanche is Licensed** – after 3 years of study and training Blanche became an LLM (Locally Licensed Minister) on Tuesday 16 September. Blanche's deep faith and love for people is a great blessing to us at St Matthew's and we look forward to more of her ministry amongst us.
- **A new roof next door** – plans are afoot to put an elegant wooden roof on the office building next door. If you want to know more, speak to Will or search out the plans which are in the church.
- **CAP at St Matthew's** – CAP stands for 'Christians Against Poverty' and is a national organisation which works to help those crippled by debt. Along with other local churches, we have just started supporting Zac, a local CAP manager, who will work in this area. Zac will come to the foodbank regularly.
- **Net Zero** – there are various Westminster based initiatives that St Matthew's is signed up to. That's the good news. However, suffice to say, we are not that great at engagement, or put another way, we could 'do better'. If there is anyone with a passion for this area who would like to help us, please speak to Will, Tim or any of the PCC or Ministry Team.
- **Safeguarding Officer** – After many valiant years, Betty has stepped down as our Safeguarding Officer and we are therefore on the hunt for another. It should not be an onerous job and there is training and support. Please speak to Liz for further info.

Will Writes

Something is in the air, by which I mean there is more and more anecdotal evidence of a turn towards the Christian faith in the West. A recent study by the Bible Society found that Gen Alpha (young 20's) are increasingly rejecting the secularism of their parents and turning towards the Christian faith for a better way. At the same time it seems that there is a desire by a growing number of people for the nation to re-connect with its Christian roots; a desire for more explicitly Christian values to be championed, which is exactly what Gen Alpha seem to be seeking also. It is too early to speak of a Revival in my view, but not too early to speculate that something seems to be up.

And our reaction? Might I suggest that we be bolder and brighter in our faith. Invite people to church, speak of your faith at work or wherever you go and let's pray that the anecdotal would become the undeniable!

With Love Will, Liz, Thomas & Olivia

How to Support your Church

Here are a few thoughts on how you can do more to support the life of St Matthew's –

Giving Time – Central Londoners are, generally, money rich and time poor, such that giving your time to church represents at least as big a cost as your money. Simply coming regularly on a Sunday is hugely supportive (to us, and you!).

Giving Money – It costs £14,000 a year merely to insure St Matthew's, and c.£15,000 to heat the building. By the goodness of God we have the money we need. Not because we have some vast endowment fund, but because we endlessly let out our spaces (raising c.£100,000p.a.) and because of your generosity. Please know it is appreciated. And if you can give more, we won't struggle to use it well. We have plenty of vision!

Doing – could mean reading the lesson, helping with tea and coffee, volunteering for our foodbank. And we are looking for a treasurer and Safeguarding Officer – neither are onerous positions.

Sharing – yourself and your faith, by getting to know people, especially after the service, is a great way of supporting the church and her people.

Inviting – in a recent survey, a high percentage of younger people said they would come to church if only someone invited them. The threshold is higher than you think. Your hand over it can make all the difference!

Praying – this really isn't the soft touch option. Praying for the work of St Matthew's really does make a difference.

The Next Archbishop

What is going on, some are saying, (especially in light of the relative lighting speed of Pope Leo's appointment!) Well, the process is moving forwards. The CNC (Crown Nominations Committee) has been formed, which is charged with prayerfully considering who should take up the role next. We should know in the next 6 weeks or so, assuming they can reach a decision (not inevitable!). Whoever is nominated, please do pray for them (now as well as then). It is a mighty difficult job!

St Matt's Youth

Every Monday night in term time 5-7 teenagers meet at St Matthew's. They have a lot of fun, John, Luke and Yashua conjure up ever more crazy games. And then, of course, Pizza is often on the menu, with trips to local restaurants a regular fixture. With full bellies and beating hearts each evening also includes thinking about the Christian faith – this term they are making their way through the book of Ester. Through no social engineering whatever, the group is currently made up entirely of boys! We are praying for girls (brave ones!) and more boys too. It is a great way to spend 1 ½ hours on a Monday night.

Stonework Project

The church is looking radiant again! Though still some work to go on the doors, otherwise we are finished! Not one penny from Westminster Council, but God provided in other ways.

