



Welcome

Services online

Services – all available on the church YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCopwyXTvmHCMOUSKeJf6YQ>

or via the church website:

<https://st-matthias-church.org/about-us/covid-19-corona-virus/>

(or follow links from 'covid/coronavirus' or 'services' tabs on home page)

**Sunday
21 June**

9.30am Growzone/Messy Church Father's Day Special

10.30am Coffee on Zoom

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/73949588004?pwd=WHhZVkVMRnBIV1RXSmtLTWk2TVIEZz09>

Meeting ID: **739 4958 8004** Password: **Coffee**

11am Holy Communion (CW)

Bible reading for today: Philippians 1:12-28a & Matthew 9:35–10:8

Find it in your bible or at:

Philippians: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Philippians+1%3A12-28a++&version=NIVUK>

Matthew: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+9%3A35+%E2%80%93+10%3A8&version=NIVUK>

Next week

**Sunday
28 June**

9.30am Prayzone

10.30am Coffee on Zoom

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/73949588004?pwd=WHhZVkVMRnBIV1RXSmtLTWk2TVIEZz09>

Meeting ID: **739 4958 8004** Password: **Coffee**

11am Morning Worship

Collect

Father God
Whose mercy never fails:
Deepen our faithfulness to you
And to your living Word,
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Thanks today go to ...

Shop workers as non-essential shops begin to re-open 😊

Although the church building is closed you can still contact us:

Office: 01803 214175 admin@st-matthias-church.org

(Pere Snow is on Furlough Leave but the phone is still being answered)

Rector: John Beckett 01803 293119 **Asst Minister:** Paul Barton 07807 636470

Our new preaching series on Philippians

Paul would have a special sympathy for our Covid 19 lockdown since he was writing from a jail cell! You might think that would make this letter dark and sad but in fact Philippians is the most joyful and happy of all his letters. The word 'joy' occurs over 16 times and we are repeatedly encouraged to rejoice.

So, what will we learn from this letter which we can apply to our unusual times?

Firstly, we will find an encouragement to pray – and to pray with thanksgiving. Secondly, we will discover how God turns around a devastating difficult situation (being in prison) to being a wonderful opportunity for witness to the gospel. Thirdly, we will be inspired by Christ's example to be humble, patient and obedient when we are under pressure.

Maybe the most telling parallel with our situation is when Paul considers his own death. You see, a fear of death underlies much of our thinking since the pandemic began. But what does Paul make of this? He says "For me to live is Christ and to die is gain". In other words, Paul faces both life and death with confidence and assurance.

But is this letter all high-minded stuff? No, it is practical too! He tells us "I have learnt the secret of being content" (very useful in lockdown!) and "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (handy when faced with the challenge of unfamiliar technology!)

Finally, there is a great promise: "My God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus". Join us in this series of talks on Sundays! Andrew Green

For our prayers and praise this week

Sun	Jesus said: Let the children come to me and do not hinder them. Praise God for all the children who come to our church and pray that we will always give them a warm welcome and always point them to Jesus.
Mon	Thank God for the Alpha courses HTB are running so pray for the planned one at St. Matts in the Summer. Pray the right people will attend and will have their questions about the Christian journey answered.
Tues	Please pray for children, some going back to school some not. Pray that their education and mental health will not be affected by being locked down.
Wed	Pray for all we may know who are living in fear, anger or anxiety due to the pandemic. Pray that somehow they will find the peace of God which passes all understanding.
Thurs	Remember all in our fellowship who are ill or awaiting a procedure. Pray that God would give patience and ease the pain.
Fri	Pray for the Government as they try to sort things out in our country. Pray they will have wisdom and sensitivity in all they do and put in place.
Sat	Pray for John, Paul and the Churchwardens who lead us in the church. May God give them special wisdom, especially as they consider the best way of re-opening the church building for private prayer.
Sun	Pray for the suffering and oppressed Church. May they each know when to speak out and may God be glorified and His Kingdom extended here on earth.

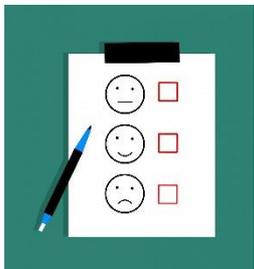
The church is opening again!

Though initially just for 'private prayer' on Saturdays (from 20th June) and Wednesdays 10am – 12.30pm.

We are still not allowed to have any services, nor can we offer any refreshments, but if it helps you to pray, do come along to church at these times.

Please work with us as we operate, like the shops, with various safe distance and hygiene measures. There will be a one-way system in place, and we need to use hand sanitiser on the way in and out. We are asking that people do not stay for longer than 15 minutes. (It is also important that you do not come to church if you are self-isolating, or are someone in the shielded group or looking after someone who is in that category).

The PCC meet again on 6th July, when we hope to be able to discuss what options are allowed to us for opening the church for some sort of services too. Please note that the Church Office remains closed, though email and phone messages are still being dealt with.



Other News

Survey Many thanks to everyone who completed the survey about online worship and use of the church as we emerge from lock-down.

We hope to share some results next week – so if you have not yet filled it in, please do...

However, here are a few reflections from the replies so far:

- 90% of people who responded are watching St Matthias' online services
- Most people have found them very valuable but we are also grateful for the constructive critique as well, especially about sound quality.
- We are also going to attempt to make the earlier parts of the 930am services in particular more 'child –friendly', and then move on to more 'adult' material as the service progresses. This is to encourage more families to watch together.

One or two particular questions can be answered though:

Music –many people have rightly praised our own musicians, but some would like us to use other YouTube or recorded music within our services as well – unfortunately this is simply not allowed under the current copyright rules if we then upload them whichever licence you get. It's fine to use them when in church, but we can usually only upload our own 'cover' versions of worship songs. We have been able to include a few other sources, but only where we have gained permission to do so.

Stewarding and your age: There are an encouraging number of people who have offered to help steward as and when we return to church, but some confusion about whether there is an upper age limit. For church ministers, the current guidance is that there is no longer any upper age limit, but it is up to individuals about the degree of shielding that one needs – it would make sense to apply the same criteria to anyone offering to steward. So, if in doubt, stay at home still.

Apology we did not include the 8am services in the survey – we are planning to record an 8am BCP service once a month, usually on week 2. We've only done two services so far.

Thanks from Compassion UK Last Christmas, St Matts supported a project by Compassion UK raising money for solar lamps for Togo, to enable children to study in the evenings. These lamps would also protect them and their families, by reducing their use of kerosene lamps, which emit dangerous fumes. Money saved from not having to purchase kerosene or torch batteries, would help families to afford other essential items.

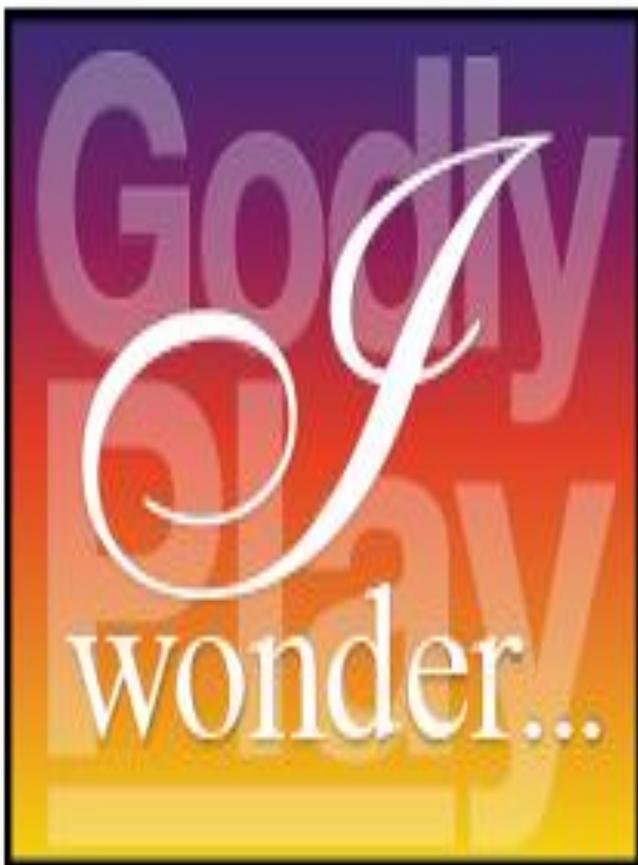
Compassion's target of 2,113 solar lamps has now been met! They send thanks for our part in helping them to enhance so many lives. For more info about Togo and Compassion's work there, go to: www.compassionuk.org/togo



Do you have a flat available for rent?

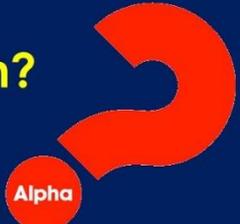
One of our church family, together with her young child, needs a 2 bedroom flat to rent as soon as possible. Could you help? Ideally with a bath and access to a garden would be a huge bonus! Walking distance to St Matthias. If you might be able to help please contact Paul on 07807636470 or revpaulbarton@gmail.com

Torquay Community Larder is still operating and in need of donations. Please contact Linda Townsend on 07790 640372 to make arrangements for collection. (As the church is closed donations cannot be left there.)



Questions about life? and about the Christian faith?

We hope to begin an **Alpha Course** over the summer, face to face or online!



Contact the Church Office if you'd like to find out more

admin@st-matthias-church.org

01803 214175

New

From The Godly Play Room
at St Matthias Church

Godly Play Lessons
starting Sunday 28th June
and then every two weeks

Old Testament Stories

So sit back and join the circle....Have fun as Lena brings these stories into your home – easily accessible via St Matthias church website and supported with parents' notes. *Each lesson will follow the format we use for Godly Play on Sundays in church which your child may be familiar with.* Free resource packs to support your children's learning will be available to go with each story.

Just email lenafearnley@googlemail.com to receive yours NOW in advance of the lesson!!