



Welcome to our Services

in church and online via our YouTube channel

<https://tinyurl.com/88s6x6fd>

or via the church website - follow links from 'online services and worship resources' on home page

Sun 12 Dec	8am Prayer Book Communion <i>in church</i>
	10am United Service https://youtu.be/ue8pM-Ru96E Activity sheet The Third Sunday in Advent <i>followed by coffee in the Hall</i>
	5.30-6.30pm 'Encounter' a youth-led gathering for all in church

Our readings today are:

Philippians 1: 3-11 <https://tinyurl.com/yckw6pf6>

Luke 3: 7-18 <https://tinyurl.com/yc86wcpf>

Collect

God for whom we watch and wait,
 you sent John the Baptist
 to prepare the way of your Son:
 give us courage to speak the truth,
 to hunger for justice,
 and to suffer for the cause of right,
 with Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Thanks go to:

David Wilkinson
 and the AV team



Next Week at St Matts

Mon 13 Dec	9.00am Morning Prayer on ZOOM – all welcome to join us – Meeting ID: 792 8948 0664 – Passcode: Pray
Tues 14 Dec	9.00am Morning Prayer on ZOOM – as above
	9.00 - 11.30am Toddlers in the church
	12.00 – 1.30pm Matt's Knits in the Hall
Wed 15 Dec	9.00am Holy Communion (Common Worship) in church
	11.15 Pre-School Christmas Service
	 2.00 - 3.30pm Alpha Course in church
	7:15-9:00pm St Matts Gospel Singers practice in the church

Thurs 16 Dec	6.45/7pm Carol singing in Brewery Park, Ellacombe
Fri 17 Dec	10-11.30am "Mummy & Me" in the church
	6.30pm Youth Group in the Hall
Sun 19 Dec	8am Prayer Book Communion in church
	10am United Family Communion in church and livestreamed followed by coffee in the Hall
	5.30pm Carol Service in church and livestreamed https://youtu.be/fueFD2J6P78

Latest News



Carol Singing on Thursday 16th December We will be joining singers from St Mary Magdalene to sing carols in Brewery Park Ellacombe. (Great outreach opportunity.) Meet at 6.45pm at bottom of Lower Ellacombe Church Rd and sing from 7-8pm, possibly mulled wine after. If able to join please let Andrew Stilliard know. acstilliard@gmail.com or 07729 362802.



Compassion Christmas Project Every year we choose a charity to support by donating the offerings from our Christmas services. This year we will be supporting Compassion's Christmas Mosquito Net Appeal. The aim is to provide children in Burkina Faso with mosquito nets and training. The cost is £15 per child and Compassion's target is to support 900 children this way. Donations can be made in church at the services or by BACS. Sort code 40 52 40. Account number 00017933. Please reference any donation as 'Compassion'.

Lilian Bosley is 100! We wish her a very Happy Birthday for the 10th December and many congratulations on reaching this amazing milestone!

Jill Matthews, a longtime member of St Matthias, has recently died. Her funeral will be at the crematorium on 14th December at 1.20pm.

Covid – 19 update

Dear Friends, we know it is frustrating, but as the earlier email this week explained, we are awaiting fresh guidance from the Diocese due next Monday 13th December before making any further changes to the booking policies for our Christmas services. However, in the light of the recent Government announcements to adopt 'Plan B' measures to help us be protected from Covid-19, it seems right that we pick up on the Prime Minister's advice and request that from this Sunday you take a "Lateral Flow Test" before coming to church please. These are really easy to do, are free, and readily available online and from pharmacies - and with the latest tests, you do not even need to swab your tonsils - just your nose!

It seems highly likely that face coverings will now become compulsory too. Other measures that we can take to reduce the risk of the virus spreading include not

coming to church if you feel unwell with any flu or cold symptoms, and consider not coming to church if you have not been vaccinated at all.

Thank you for helping us play our part in the wider community, and show kindness to one another in the church family. In Christ, John B

Other news and events



16 December @ 7.30pm Tearfund on-line Christmas concert with musicians from around the UK plus guests from Bangladesh. It's free and can be found at www.facebook.com/tearfund but you don't need to have a Facebook account, just click on the link.



Christians Together in Torquay are having a **Christmas market stall** on Saturday 11, 18 December, and then daily until 24th December. They are looking for people to help to man a stall and need two people at a time hopefully to cover either a morning, afternoon or all day! It is a wonderful opportunity to evangelise - people out there are longing to know more about our Christian faith but are often too timid to make that initial move. Last year we had nearly 600 conversations, and prayers on our Tree of Hope. To join in please contact Liz: barney@bettesworths.co.uk Do you think we could get a team together from St Matts to man a stall for a whole day? Let Pere know if you can.

Christmas services!

For some of our services, sadly, you'll need to book please...

If you'd like to book please visit stmatthiaschurch.eventbrite.co.uk

Please note that the Christmas Eve crib service is especially for families with children under 5 whilst the Christingle service is better suited for families with older children. Also, remember that the Carol, Christingle and Christmas Day services will all be live-streamed if you are not able to get tickets. We will publish YouTube links on our website and Facebook page nearer the time.



What happens if an event I want to attend is fully booked?

You can join a waiting list at stmatthiaschurch.eventbrite.co.uk. If we are able to release more tickets between now and the event, we will do so. If this happens, you will get an email from Eventbrite inviting you to confirm your booking within 2 days of the ticket(s) being released. If you don't confirm your booking within two days, the ticket(s) will be released to the next person on the waitlist. We will release tickets in the order that people have registered on the waitlist. Drop us an email at bookings@st-matthias-church.org and we'll do our best to help.



Christmas Wreaths in aid of Nikki Maxwell at Potters Village... lovely wreaths handmade by Lena (12inch with mixed winter foliage, berries etc) £20. Order now by contacting Lena on 295268.

Giving via blue envelopes We're really thankful to everyone who gives to the church, however much or little, and however often. Nevertheless, now that the nearest bank is in the centre of Paignton, and we are charged a fee by CAF for banking cash and cheques, giving via your bank account with the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) is an even greater help than ever to us. As you probably know, this method also takes away the considerable amount of extra work involved in claiming the gift aid, at no cost to us. So, if you feel you could consider moving over to the PGS then please either contact Tony, our Treasurer, (07984 001973) for more information or simply pick up one of the leaflets at the back of church and see how easy it is to sign up. Thank you very much.

Winter Fuel Allowance Each Christmas we try to give some food gift vouchers to people who we know would be grateful for a helping hand. In the past we have been able to do this as a few people have given the church their Winter Fuel Allowance. If you feel you can help in this way it would be much appreciated. Thank you.

Readings for today

Philippians 1: 3-11

I thank my God every time I remember you. ⁴In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy ⁵because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, ⁶being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

⁷It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart and, whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me. ⁸God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.

⁹And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, ¹⁰so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, ¹¹filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ – to the glory and praise of God.

Luke 3: 7-18

John said to the crowds coming out to be baptised by him, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath?' ⁸Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our father." For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. ⁹The axe has been laid to the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.'

¹⁰'What should we do then?' the crowd asked.

¹¹John answered, 'Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same.'

¹² Even tax collectors came to be baptised. ‘Teacher,’ they asked, ‘what should we do?’

¹³ ‘Don’t collect any more than you are required to,’ he told them.

¹⁴ Then some soldiers asked him, ‘And what should we do?’

He replied, ‘Don’t extort money and don’t accuse people falsely – be content with your pay.’

¹⁵ The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Messiah. ¹⁶ John answered them all, ‘I baptise you with water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.’ ¹⁸ And with many other words John exhorted the people and proclaimed the good news to them.

Prayer

Suggestions for our Praise and Prayers

Make way, make way, for Christ the King in splendour arrives; fling wide the gates and welcome Him into your lives.

Sun Pray that during all the hype before Christmas we may not forget to let Jesus the King of kings into our thinking, planning, praying and worshipping of Him, JESUS

Mon Pray for **Nicci Maxwell** our CMS Mission Partner and others who have gone into other parts of the World to make Jesus known. May they know peace and joy.

Tues Pray **for all who will find this time of year difficult for any reason**; for people in debt; without a home; or whose families are separated

Wed Please uphold **the sick and the bereaved**, and in dysfunctional relationships may feel the peace and joy of Jesus who came as the Prince of Peace.

Thurs Pray for governments worldwide for the right and appropriate balance between safeguarding and enabling **Christmas travel** – and for people whose plans have been disrupted. Pray in Jesus’ Name against the various variants of the virus.

Fri Pray for our clergy, churchwardens, and their families and spouses, having many responsibilities. Remember too, organisations which teach & enthuse people.

Sat As there may be some who cannot be accommodated because of the pandemic, pray that there may not be any bad feelings.

Sun Pray for all the extra services over Christmas and for all taking any part in their leadership. Pray for the Holy Spirit’s inspiration, and we may all see Jesus.

To contact the Church:

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