

Rejoice!

19 December 2021

www.st-matthias-church.org

Welcome on this Sunday before Christmas 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 19 Dec

8am Prayer Book Communion *in church*

10am United Family Communion *in church and livestreamed*

<https://youtu.be/Bos3abPdUdQ>

Activity sheet [Fourth Sunday of Advent Sheet](#)

Sorry but no coffee today

5.30pm Carol Service *in church and livestreamed*

<https://youtu.be/fueFD2J6P78>

Our readings today are:

Philippians 4: 4-9 <https://tinyurl.com/2p8ue8n8>

Luke 1: 39-55 <https://tinyurl.com/2p83mn5x>

Collect

Eternal God,
as Mary waited for the birth of your Son,
so we wait for his coming in glory;
bring us through the birth pangs of this present age
to see, with her, our great salvation
in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Thanks go to:



**Mark, Clare &
Lisa for cleaning**



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'.

Next Week at St Matts	
Mon 20 Dec	9.00am Morning Prayer on ZOOM – all welcome to join us – Meeting ID: 792 8948 0664 – Passcode: Pray
Tues 21 Dec	9.00am Morning Prayer on ZOOM – as above
	12-1.30pm Matt's Knits in the Hall
	3pm Gingerbread Nativity Celebration in church
Wed 22 Dec	9.00am Holy Communion (Common Worship) in church
	4pm Carols on the Piazza followed by mulled wine
Thurs 23 Dec	4pm Carols on the Piazza followed by mulled wine
Christmas Eve	3pm Crib Service in church
	5pm Christingle in church and livestreamed
	11pm Midnight Holy Communion in church
Christmas Day	8am Holy Communion in church
	10am Christmas Family Holy Communion in church and livestreamed
Sun 26 Dec	9am Holy Communion in church

Latest News Covid – the latest

With the rising risk of infection, especially with the Omicron variant, you may well prefer to stay at home and worship with us online, so do feel free to do that.

As we all know, wherever people meet there will always be a risk, and that increases with the number of people and the time in contact. But we have revised some of the ways our services run to manage the heightened risk.

- For the ticketed events, more places have been released so we have a maximum of around 100 seats – these services are also livestreamed... (if you decide to stay at home, please cancel your Eventbrite place so we know how many are coming).
- We're re-establishing a one way in and out for the church, so if you are able to, please use the main west glass doors to come in and leave via the linkway doors – sanitising hands in both directions!
- In addition to face coverings now being mandatory inside, we also request that you do a "Lateral Flow Test" before coming to church please. It is really easy to do, are free, and (usually!) readily available online and from pharmacies - and with the latest tests, you do not even need to swab your tonsils - just your nose!
- 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

Nicci Maxwell in Uganda - click on this link for Nicci's latest newsletter:

[nicci-maxwell-letter-14 December 2021](#)

Christmas Wreaths in aid of Nicci Maxwell at Potters Village... For sale (£20) in church this Sunday 19th December. Please see Lena.



 **Christians Together in Torquay** are having a **Christmas market stall** on Saturday 18 Dec, and then daily until 24th December. To help please contact Liz: barney@bettesworths.co.uk

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



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.

Prayer

Suggestions for our Praise and Prayers

O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord

Sun. As we sing carols today, may our praises be genuine and so bring joy to the Lord. At the same time there are restrictions on how we do things, so pray against coronavirus and the recent variant.

Mon. Pray for the Clergy, the staff team, the Wardens and PCC, as they struggle to know how to make St Matthias a responsible, safe and friendly church where Jesus is known and uplifted.

Tue. Please continue to pray for the homeless and those without resources to heat their homes properly, as winter temperatures increase hardships across the Bay. Pray too for all who are suffering, especially in the hospitality trade, for the pandemic. Pray for those suffering from the terrible tornadoes in America.

Wed. Please pray as Scripture instructs us, for our Queen, and Royal Family, the Prime Minister, Government and especially Kevin and Hazel Foster.

Thu. Pray for many families which are divided over Christmas by county and international borders; those in financial straights, those facing physical and psychological abuse and so fear Christmas and its message. Pray for some families affected recently by terrible acts of cruelty and murder.

Fri. Please pray for all the activities leading up to Christmas - for all who take time to lead and help in any way. Remember Nicci Maxwell in Uganda and all others who work for Christ around the world.

Sat. **“Rejoice, for to you is born this day a Saviour who is Christ the Lord”.**

Please remember all Church leaders nationally and internationally; our Bishops and Churches in Torbay. May there be harmony and love, so that the world will say, “Look how Christians love one another”.

Sun. Praise God for every family represented at St Matthias Church and pray that we will all grow closer as a family in Christ.

Readings for today

Philippians 4: 4-9 ⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! ⁵ Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸ Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. ⁹ Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

Luke 1: 39-55 ³⁹ At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, ⁴⁰ where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. ⁴² In a loud voice she exclaimed: 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! ⁴³ But why am I so favoured, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴ As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfil his promises to her!'

⁴⁶ And Mary said:

'My soul glorifies the Lord

⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,

⁴⁸ for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant.

From now on all generations will call me blessed,

⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me –

holy is his name.

⁵⁰ His mercy extends to those who fear him,

from generation to generation.

⁵¹ He has performed mighty deeds with

his arm;

he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.

⁵² He has brought down rulers from their thrones

but has lifted up the humble.

⁵³ He has filled the hungry with good things

but has sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful

⁵⁵ to Abraham and his descendants for ever,

just as he promised our ancestors.'

To contact the Church:

Office:	Pere Snow	01803 214175	admin@st-matthias-church.org
Rector:	John Beckett	01803 293119	jandrbeckett@outlook.com
Associate Minister:	Paul Barton	07807 636470	revpaulbarton@gmail.com
Curate:	Pete Norris	07926 833056	pete@st-matthias-church.org