



**Welcome**




**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> February**

[www.st-matthias-church.org](http://www.st-matthias-church.org)

**Welcome! Join us in church or online**

[www.youtube.com/@stmatthiaschurchtorquay6827/streams](http://www.youtube.com/@stmatthiaschurchtorquay6827/streams)

**The church is usually open on Wednesdays from 12-2pm to visit or for personal prayer**

<b>Sun 4 Feb</b> <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday</b> <b>before Lent</b> 	<b>8am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)</b>
	<b>9.30am Explore Together <i>with breakfast!</i></b>
	<b>10.30am Gather to Pray</b>
	<b>11am Holy Communion <i>followed by tea/coffee</i></b> <a href="http://tinyurl.com/537xt9k5">http://tinyurl.com/537xt9k5</a>
	<b>3pm Newcomers Tea</b>
<b>Mon 5 Feb</b>	<b>9-9.30am Morning Prayer <i>on zoom</i></b>
<b>Tues 6 Feb</b>	<b>9-9.30am Morning Prayer <i>on zoom</i></b>
	<b>9-11.30am Toddlers Group</b>
	<b>12-1.30pm St Matt's Knits – <i>knit and natter</i></b>
<b>Wed 7 Feb</b>	<b>9am Holy Communion</b>
	<b>9.40am Ukrainian support group</b>
	<b>12-2pm 'Welcome Space' <i>in the church</i></b>
	<b>7.15-9pm St Matt's Gospels Singers <i>practise in church</i></b>
<b>Fri 9 Feb</b>	<b>10-11.30am Mummy &amp; Me <i>followed by workshop 12-2pm</i></b>
	<b>6.30pm Youth Club – <i>going bowling!</i></b>
	<b>7pm Ukraine Charity Event – <i>St Matthews Chelston – see note</i></b>
<b>Sun 11 Feb</b>	<b>8am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)</b>
	<b>11am United Family Service <i>followed by tea/coffee</i></b>
<b>Wed 14 Feb</b> <b>Ash Wednesday</b>	<b>7pm Holy Communion (<i>no 9am service</i>)</b>

**Collect**

Almighty God,  
 give us reverence for all creation  
 and respect for every person,  
 that we may mirror your likeness  
 in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

**Thanks go to:**

Buildings &  
 Maintenance  
 Team



# Readings

## Romans 8: 14-39

<sup>14</sup> Those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. <sup>15</sup> The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, 'Abba, Father.' <sup>16</sup> The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. <sup>17</sup> Now if we are children, then we are heirs – heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

<sup>18</sup> I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. <sup>19</sup> For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. <sup>20</sup> For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope <sup>21</sup> that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.

<sup>22</sup> We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. <sup>23</sup> Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. <sup>24</sup> For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? <sup>25</sup> But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

<sup>26</sup> In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. <sup>27</sup> And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God.

<sup>28</sup> And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. <sup>29</sup> For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. <sup>30</sup> And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

<sup>31</sup> What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? <sup>32</sup> He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all – how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? <sup>33</sup> Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup> Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died – more than that, who was raised to life – is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. <sup>35</sup> Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? <sup>36</sup> As it is written:

'For your sake we face death all day long;  
we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.'

<sup>37</sup> No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup> For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, <sup>39</sup> neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

## Matthew 3: 13-17

<sup>13</sup> Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptised by John. <sup>14</sup> But John tried to deter him, saying, 'I need to be baptised by you, and do you come to me?'

<sup>15</sup> Jesus replied, 'Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfil all righteousness.' Then John consented.

<sup>16</sup> As soon as Jesus was baptised, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. <sup>17</sup> And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.'

## Dates for the diary

### 'Marking Lent'

This year's Lent course is an **exploration of Mark's Gospel** over 5 Tuesday evenings beginning **20<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30pm (7pm for refreshments)**.

*(Repeated on Wed mornings at 10am).*

On Maundy Thursday 28 March (from 7- 9pm), we'll listen to the whole of Mark's Gospel together followed by a short service of Holy Communion.

**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> Feb @ 7pm Musical Variety Evening** for Ukraine – St Matthews Church, Chelston – all proceeds to Ukraine.

See posters, or tickets on the door - adults £10.

**Message from the Friends of St Matthias:** We've now sold all available places for the New Year meal at Amici from 7pm (meal starts at 7.30) on **Tuesday**.

Many thanks to members and non-members for your support.

**Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> Feb:** MESSY CHURCH – make a note of the date!



## Israel and Gaza – need help understanding what is happening?

We have put together three resources to help us. Join in all that you can.

- 1. How to pray?** A recent talk at St. Andrew's Plymouth with the Dean of St. George's in Jerusalem offers some guidance. [Click here](#) to watch the recording on YouTube (*with some annoying ads in the middle!* 😞). Rev Richard Sewell is very happy for people to view the recording but please do not share it too widely.
- 2. 'A simple, basic & prayerful introduction to the roots of the conflict.'**  
A seminar at St. Matthias, just for the church family here at St Matthias.  
Details available on Sunday
- 3. "Thinking about Israel's claim to Israel and its biblical underpinnings"**  
by Dr Megan Warner **Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February 7pm on zoom**

Megan is Tutor in Old Testament and Biblical Hebrew at Northern College/Luther King Centre for Theology and Ministry and holds positions as Honorary Researcher at the Universities of Exeter and Manchester. To be sent the (free) zoom link, please complete the booking form on the Diocesan website here (the course is definitely open to all, and is listed towards the bottom of the form) <http://tinyurl.com/3cj6ap35>

## News

**Brenda Kendrew** We have heard that Brenda, who was a one-time member of St Matthias, died earlier this week. Please pray for her family and friends at this time.

**How green is your garden? Environmental concerns in gardening.**

Save the date: **27<sup>th</sup> April at 2pm.** To include talks on peat free compost, no dig gardening, what plants work well in a coastal environment, planting edibles and herbs, companion planting, wildlife in the garden, mental well-being, drought resistant plants, Torbay green spaces and similar. More to follow...

## Prayer Suggestions for our prayers and praise this week

**Monday** Pray that there will be a Christian response to the Rwanda bill as it is debated in the House of Lords.

**Tuesday** Pray for authorities in Nigeria to ward off the killing of Christian farmers and the abduction of girls.

**Wednesday** Pray for Christian teachers who have to teach issues of human sexuality.

**Thursday** Pray for the Gaza conflict: that the war will not escalate further and there will be a lasting cease-fire.

**Friday** Pray for Christian celebrities to be bold in their witness – like Jurgen Klopp!

**Saturday** Pray for AI researchers: There are warnings that the lines between humans and machines are being blurred.

**Sunday** Pray for the ministry today.

**Supporting our ministry at St Matthias:** you can give financially either through the Parish Giving Scheme <http://tinyurl.com/3pzu34sn> or by scanning this code.



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