



5 December 2021

www.st-matthias-church.org

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 5 Dec	8am Prayer Book Communion <i>in church</i>
	9.30am Breakfastzone <i>in church and livestreamed</i> https://youtu.be/U6RLPvosN7E Activity sheet – https://tinyurl.com/58dc77js
	11am Holy Communion <i>in church and livestreamed</i> <i>Followed by coffee in the Hall</i> https://youtu.be/cSYCO-Zbm6w
Our readings today are:	
Philippians 3: 12-21	https://tinyurl.com/3bmbxvfz
Luke 3: 1-6	https://tinyurl.com/2p8fraad

Collect

Almighty God,
purify our hearts and minds,
that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again
as judge and saviour
we may be ready to receive him,
who is our Lord and our God. **Amen**

**Thanks go to:
Our church and
centre cleaners**



Next Week at St Matts

Mon 6 Dec	9.00am Morning Prayer on ZOOM – all welcome to join us – <i>Meeting ID: 792 8948 0664 – Passcode: Pray</i>
Tues 7 Dec	9.00am Morning Prayer on ZOOM – as above
	12.00 – 1.30pm Matt's Knits <i>in the Hall</i>
Wed 8 Dec	9.00am Holy Communion (Common Worship) <i>in church</i>
	10.30 – 11.30am Church open (<i>for private prayer</i>)
	 2.00 - 3.30pm Alpha Course <i>in church</i>
	7:15-9:00pm St Matts Gospel Singers practice <i>in Pine Room</i>

Thurs 9 Dec	10.30 – 11.30am Church open <i>(for private prayer)</i>
Fri 10 Dec	10-11.30am “Mummy & Me” <i>in the church</i>
	6.30pm Youth Group <i>in the Hall</i>
Sun 12 Dec	8am Prayer Book Communion <i>in church</i>
	10am United Service <i>followed by coffee in the Hall</i>
	5.30-6.30pm ‘Encounter’ <i>a youth-led gathering for all in church</i>
NB 19 th Dec	8am & 11am United Family Communion & 5.30pm Carol Service

Latest News

Mulled wine! We would like to serve mulled wine at the end of the carol services on the piazza on Wed 22nd & Thurs 23rd Dec (4pm start). If anyone would like to help please could they contact the office. Thank you.

Masks work well – so we are asking everyone to wear them please.

Here’s the conclusion of researchers reporting in the British Medical Journal: *“Mask-wearing is the single most effective public health measure at tackling Covid, reducing incidence by 53%, the first global study of its kind shows...mask-wearing, social distancing and handwashing are all effective at curbing cases, with mask-wearing the most effective”*. We know it is difficult, please be kind and protect someone else. And also please may we kindly ask you to stay away if you have cold symptoms as that is how Covid usually presents now. Thank you so much.

Christmas!

‘At the Heart of Christmas’

Please pick up a leaflet today with details of our Christmas services beginning on 19 December with a carol service at 5.30pm.

Sadly, because of the rising COVID-19 cases in the UK and the rises in Europe, we are limiting the number of available tickets to the more popular Christmas events and services for the time being. We really want to stress that this is not our preferred way of doing things and we know that this will be a cause of frustration to some. However, we remain committed to making sure that everyone who attends is as safe as possible - especially those who are particularly vulnerable.



Where do I go to book tickets to Christmas events?

If you'd like to book in to some of our events, 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 our Facebook page nearer the time.

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

If an event that you would like to come to 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.

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.



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.



Christians Together in Torquay are having a **Christmas market stall** on Saturday 4, 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, prayers and prayers on our Tree of Hope. To join in please contact Liz: barney@bettesworths.co.uk

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.



Christmas Concerts in the church:

11 December @ 7pm South Devon Choir (Handel's Messiah)

www.southdevonchoir.org

Readings for today

Philippians 3: 12-21

¹² Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. ¹³ Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: forgetting what is behind and straining towards what is ahead, ¹⁴ I press on towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenwards in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵ All of us, then, who are mature should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you. ¹⁶ Only let us live up to what we have already attained.

¹⁷ Join together in following my example, brothers and sisters, and just as you have us as a model, keep your eyes on those who live as we do. ¹⁸ For, as I have often told you before and now tell you again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. ¹⁹ Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is set on earthly things. ²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Saviour from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

Luke 3: 1-6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar – when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and Traconitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene – ² during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³ He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁴ As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet:

‘A voice of one calling in the wilderness,

“Prepare the way for the Lord,

make straight paths for him.

⁵ Every valley shall be filled in,
every mountain and hill made low.

The crooked roads shall become straight,
the rough ways smooth.

⁶ And all people will see God's salvation.”

Prayer

Suggestions for our Praise and Prayers

Sun Pray for the **services** today and all who lead them. Pray about the future of our **9.30am services**, and for those who usually attend either now or in the past.

Mon Please pray for those who have recently been bereaved, had medical procedures, or are facing problems. Pray too for all who find Christmas a difficult time. **Pray that all these folk will feel the peace and joy only Jesus can give.**

Tue **We pray in Jesus Name against Covid 19 and the new Omicron variant.** Pray for safety and sensibility. Pray that our Church will be a safe place.

Wed 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 that we may all be aware of and able to help any needy neighbours.

Thur We continue to pray for **the release of anyone held in prison unjustly** including Nazinan Zaghani-Radcliffe in Iran, and that you would bless the work of agencies like Amnesty International.

Fri Please pray for **Ethiopian and neighbouring areas**, facing civil war, uprisings against the government and attempts at local independence, coupled unsurprisingly, with desperate widespread famine, displacement from homes and frequent risk of violence.

Sat Please pray for work being done by **all the charities** we as a church support.

Sun Continue to remember the **Clergy, Churchwardens and PCC along with the Diocesan Authorities** as they try to work out the safe way to run the Church of God.

To contact the Church:

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