



The Baptism of Jesus

Welcome!

Either in church or 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 9 January	8am Holy Communion (<i>Book of Common Prayer</i>) <i>in church</i>
	11am United Church Family Service <i>in church and livestreamed</i> https://youtu.be/dJXEAZUyc98 Activity Sheet: Baptism of Jesus

Our readings today are:

Luke 3: 15-18 & 21-22 <https://tinyurl.com/y9raunen>

Collect

Heavenly Father,
at the Jordan you revealed Jesus as your Son:
may we recognize him as our Lord
and know ourselves to be your beloved children:
through Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen**

Thanks go to:

**The NHS and
vaccination
programmes**



Tues 11 Jan	9.00 -11.30am Toddlers <i>in church</i>
	12-1.30pm Matts Knits <i>in the Hall</i>
Wed 12 Jan	9am Holy Communion (<i>Common Worship</i>) <i>in church</i>
	10.30-11.30am Church open for private prayer
Thurs 13 Jan	10.30-11.30am Church open for private prayer
Fri 14 Jan	10-11.30am Mummy & Me <i>in church</i>
Sun 16 Jan	8am Holy Communion (<i>Book of Common Prayer</i>)
	9.30am Zone Service <i>with Rev Nathan Kiyaga, Rural Dean</i>
	11am Holy Communion <i>with Rev Nathan Kiyaga, Rural Dean</i>
	5.30pm Prayer Meeting <i>in church</i>

Covid – the latest

With the continuing high risk of infection, especially with the Omicron variant, you may prefer to worship with us online, so do feel free to do that.

As we understand, wherever people meet there will always be a risk, and that risk increases with the number of people gathered and the time spent together.

In order to minimise those risks we continue to ask everyone to follow the steps we have put in place for the time being:

- To use the 'one way' system - using the main West Porch glass doors to come in and the linkway doors to leave.
- To continue to use the hand sanitizing stations.
- In addition to wearing a face covering, we would also like people to do a "Lateral Flow Test" before coming to church please. They are fairly easy to do and should be available from local chemists, although you have to order via the Government website <https://maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk/>. This is not a requirement, and we will not be asking if people have undertaken one!
- Please don't come 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.

News and events



New year, new challenges? What is God's call on your life? Read about how Sharon Hiley is exploring this for her life by following this link: [New Year, New Challenges?](#)

Our Christmas Appeal for Compassion has raised a wonderful £1000...thank you to everyone who has been able to support this.

Afghanistan Crisis Appeal The PCC has given £1000 of St. Matt's 'Mission Tithe' to the DEC Relief fund for Afghanistan - so thank you for giving to the church to enable us to do this.

Thank you... we were so pleased that our sale of wreaths has raised £185.00 towards Nicci Maxwell's work at Potters Village in Uganda, helping to care for sick mums and babies. Lena

Changes are a-foot

You will have noticed that there have been some changes taking place around our services, and not just for Christmas!

With the prolonged periods of lockdown together with the restrictions relating to the Coronavirus, we are continuing to explore how best we can serve God in our worship and reach out to those who do not yet know Jesus.

A number of us are meeting this month to consider how we can best use our resources in the next few months and will be updating you following that meeting.

Readings for Today

Luke 3: 15-18 & 21-22

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.

²¹ When all the people were being baptised, Jesus was baptised too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened ²² and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: 'You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.'

Prayer

Suggestions for our Praise and Prayer

Sun. At the beginning of this New Year let us recommit ourselves to God and His service. Let's pray that we as a Church may know God's will for the future, and that those who have left for Covid may come back and be part of the church family again. Pray that God's Holy Spirit will do a work of renewal amongst us.

Mon. Please pray for those in our fellowship who are ill; awaiting operations or procedures, those reaching the end of their lives, those recently bereaved. Pray that God will meet them in just the right place with healing and peace.

Tue. Afghanistan is facing starvation, especially amongst children. Pray for this country and others that they will have food to grow and to eat. Think of the NGOs which are searching for solutions to help both to meet immediate needs and the long-term provision of needs. Praise God that He meets "our" daily needs.

Wed. Pray for the suffering church in all the world. In the Middle East, India, China, South America and other places, where to name the name of Jesus or to worship Him is a dangerous thing. Pray that Christians will have the wisdom to know whether to keep silent or to speak out.

Thu. Pray in Jesus name against the Covid Pandemic and pray that we will soon be able to return to a more "normal" way of life both in Church and general society. Please pray for all who suffer as a result of Covid, perhaps especially in the hospitality trade.

Fri. Remember Her Majesty the Queen as she prepares soon to begin her Jubilee Celebrations. Thank God for her and her faith in God. Pray for her family that they may learn from her example.

Sat. Praise God for Dr Nicci Maxwell (CMS Mission Partner) in Uganda. Pray for hard work at Potters Village in Kisoro. Pray for all who work with the charities we support, especially the Church Pastoral Aid Society.

Sun. Praise God and pray for John Beckett our Rector, Ruth his wife as she studies for ordination; Paul Barton, Associate Minister and Tessa his wife; Pete Norris, Assistant Curate and his wife Rachel and their two little girls; Sylvia Barratt, Churchwarden, and Tony her husband; Paul Stannard, and Judi his wife and all others who help in the leadership of the church. Pray for them the Holy Spirit's wisdom and for strength in all they do.

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

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