

# At the heart of Christmas



Christmas Week

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

## Welcome!

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

<b>Christmas Eve</b>	<b>3pm Crib Service</b> <i>in church (booking required)</i> <b>5pm Christingle Service</b> <i>in church and live streamed (booking required)</i> <a href="https://youtu.be/7l3YRvTFhwo">https://youtu.be/7l3YRvTFhwo</a> <b>11pm 'Midnight' Holy Communion</b> <i>in church</i>
<b>Christmas Day</b>	<b>8am Holy Communion</b> <i>in church</i> <b>10am Christmas Family Holy Communion</b> <i>in church and live streamed (booking required)</i> <a href="https://youtu.be/x3ntYtUSdLQ">https://youtu.be/x3ntYtUSdLQ</a>
<b>Our readings for Christmas Day are:</b> John 1:1-14 <a href="http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=john+1%3A1-14&amp;version=NIVUK">www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=john+1%3A1-14&amp;version=NIVUK</a> Luke 2:8-20 <a href="http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=luke+2%3A8-20&amp;version=NIVUK">www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=luke+2%3A8-20&amp;version=NIVUK</a>	
<b>Sun 26 Dec</b>	<b>9am Holy Communion</b> <i>in church</i>

## Booking for Christmas services

If you need to amend your booking, please visit [stmatthiaschurch.eventbrite.co.uk](http://stmatthiaschurch.eventbrite.co.uk).

*Sadly, if you have not booked in already for those marked as 'booking required' above, there are no further spaces available. So please find a way of joining us online and contact the office if you would value technical help to do that.*

*Clearly, that isn't the message we want to give to people, but we have decided on a maximum safe number of people in church to give good distance and ventilation and need to keep to this in order to give everyone the best opportunity to keep safe.*

### Collect for Christmas Day

Lord Jesus Christ,  
your birth at Bethlehem  
draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth:  
accept our heartfelt praise  
as we worship you,  
our Saviour and our eternal God. **Amen**

Thanks go to:



The flower  
arrangers



**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

The church will close after the service on Sunday 26 December and will re-open on Sunday 2 January – as we go to press, as far as we know, services in the New Year will take place in person and the 11am at least will be live streamed. The Centre will close on Friday 24 December and re-open on Tuesday 4 January.

Sun 2 Jan	8am Holy Communion ( <i>Book of Common Prayer</i> ) in church (see above)
	9.30am Breakfastzone in church (see above)
	11am Holy Communion in church (see above) and livestreamed <a href="https://youtu.be/YEOTF9T62wM">https://youtu.be/YEOTF9T62wM</a>
	5.30pm Prayer Meeting on zoom <a href="https://us04web.zoom.us/j/71821500531?pwd=N05aMFZ1T0tpbkNFY1AyRjBsY29ldz09">https://us04web.zoom.us/j/71821500531?pwd=N05aMFZ1T0tpbkNFY1AyRjBsY29ldz09</a> Meeting ID: 718 2150 0531 Passcode: D3WkRc
Tues 4 Jan	9.00 -11.30am Toddlers in church
	12-1.30pm Matts Knits in the Hall
Wed 5 Jan	9am Holy Communion in church
	10.30-11.30am Church open for private prayer
Thurs 6 Jan	10.30-11.30am Church open for private prayer

## 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, sadly, we have now decided to stop taking any more bookings to keep a maximum of 100 seats – these services are also livestreamed.
- 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*

**Two simple Christmas prayers** from our Christmas Eve services you might use:

Lord, help us be like Mary  
Who answered when you asked.  
Help us learn to give and serve  
No matter what the task.  
Lord, help us be like Joseph  
A man both kind and just  
Help us listen when you speak  
And teach us how to trust.

## *Other news and events*

**AFGHANISTAN CRISIS APPEAL** The PCC have given £1000 of St. Matt's 'Mission Tithes' to the DEC Relief fund for Afghanistan – so thank you for giving to the church to enable us to do this.

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

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

## *Prayer*

### **Suggestions for our Praise and Prayers this Christmas**

The Bishops and other clerics have been struggling to know the best way for the church to go forward in these confusing times. We pray that all churches will get it right and know how many may **meet** together and what restrictions need to be made. We pray for the church worldwide thanking God for the freedom we have when so many churches are under persecution, especially in North Korea. Pray that this Christmas they may know freedom and peace.

Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Jesus said, "Let the children come to me and do not stop them". We remember many countries facing physical problems, not least among them the children dying of hunger and cold in Afghanistan. Pray for the aid agencies trying to help and that they will get the resources they need to help others.

Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Many people will be finding this Christmas difficult – those bereaved who will have a gap in their activities, those ill at home or in hospital, those facing broken

relationships or tensions, or in abusive situations, or far from home or in lock down in certain countries, those facing hardship due to the pandemic or other financial restraints, those struggling financially and unable to heat their homes, those who are homeless or who feel hopeless. May they find peace and joy at this time.

Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Praise God for the incredible work of her Majesty the Queen and her family during this bad year, and thank God for her great example. Pray for health and influence on the country. Pray for our Government that they may have real wisdom in the decisions they make day by day.

Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

**O COME LET US ADORE HIM, CHRIST THE LORD**

On this Christmas Day let us not forget whose birth we are celebrating, Jesus who will be the Saviour of the world. He is God with us at all times, and then went on to die to pay for our sin. Let us do what the carol says, "What can I give Him, give my heart"

Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

As we worship let us look forward and pray that we can live in love, joy, peace and safety.

Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

*May we wish you a very  
Merry Christmas  
and a  
Happy New Year*

**To contact the Church:**

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