



Sharing the Good News of Jesus



MARCH 2015

St Matthias Church, Torquay

The Parish of St. Matthias', St Mark and Holy Trinity, Torquay

Rector	Reverend John Beckett	
Assistant Clergy	Reverend Mike Blunsum Reverend Brian Gerry Reverend Paul Barton	
Readers	Mrs Norma Gerry Mrs Ruth Beckett	
Churchwardens	Mrs Sylvia Barratt Mr Phil Miles	
Organists	Mike Hackeson & Valerie Collison	
Youth Worker	Ruth Jones	
Pre-School Leader	Liz Sampson	01803 215068
Verger	To Be Appointed	
Church Administration		
Office Staff	David Wilkinson	PCC Secretary
	Tony Barratt	Church Treasurer
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Address	St Matthias' Church Centre, Babbacombe Road, Wellswood, Torquay TQ1 1HW	
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Sometimes I am amazed at how quickly time passes by. It is now six months since I was in front of Bishop Robert in Exeter Cathedral when he laid his hands on me as I began my term as a deacon, but it seems like only a few weeks. However sometimes time seems to drag as I wait for that promised parcel to arrive, checking my email for updates.

I would imagine two centuries ago Jesus' disciples might have experienced these two different ways that time passes by.

The whirlwind three years of Jesus' time of ministry as it climaxed in a pressure-cooker Jerusalem, with the noise and the crowds, the excitement and the passion. So much changed from the joy of Palm Sunday with the crowds cheering Jesus on, riding into Jerusalem to the horror of Good Friday as those same crowds bayed for His blood, His death.

There was the snail's pace of time from Passover on the Thursday to Easter Sunday. Did the minutes drag by as Pilate and Herod deliberated over how to deal with Jesus? Was the experience of a public lashing too long to bear?

Saturday - the day after the crucifixion.....I can imagine the disciples thinking that their world had caved in, the batteries had run out, their energy was sapped, while all they could do was wait and wait and wait until the Sabbath was at last over and they could go to tend to Jesus' body. How long each passing hour must have seemed.

Writing this in the season of Lent, I am fortunate that I know that after Good Friday came Easter Sunday. We are able to look beyond

the cross to the empty tomb. Those same disciples were shocked out of their socks as they found not the body of their dear friend, but a gaping, open tomb!

Did time speed up as the truth dawned on them? As they pieced together all the teaching they had heard the penny dropped: Jesus had risen from the dead! He was ALIVE!

The early church was able to share the fervour and excitement of the resurrection with all who would listen, and their excitement was contagious - in those first weeks after that first Easter Sunday the embryonic church blossomed and grew.

At St Matthias we seem to be growing as a church as well, and some of that is no doubt due to the excitement that others can see in us as we celebrate the life that Jesus gives when we know him personally.

In his gospel, the Apostle John recalls Jesus telling the disciples that he came so that they (and we) might experience life in all its fullness.

For this reason some of us will be wearing white and/or gold at church on Easter Sunday, because it is a day of great celebration - celebration that because Jesus has risen from the dead, we can enjoy a full life!

I hope you will be able to join us on Easter Day. For the early risers there is a traditional communion service at 8:00am. For others there is our informal BreakfastZone at 09:15 or an All Age communion at 10:30. I wish you all a Joyful Easter!

Paul Barton

Holy Week and Easter



Palm Sunday

8am Holy Communion
1030am Family Communion
with Prayers for healing

Maundy Thursday



Passover 6.30pm

'Bring and Share' Supper
for the whole church family

Enjoy a meal together, and
discover the roots of our
Holy Communion service
followed by a quiet devotional
time in the church if you wish
to 'watch and pray'



Good Friday

1030am Family Service

A 45 minute reminder of the
events of this solemn day for
all ages – with Hot Cross buns
and coffee

2pm – 3pm

'Last Hour at the Cross'

A reflective service with
periods of silence

Easter Day



8am Holy Communion (BCP)

930am Breakfastzone

1030am Family Communion

*Please come dressed in something
white or gold!*

Experience Easter for yourself!

The events surrounding the first Easter write one of the greatest stories ever told. What might it have been like to be there to see and hear the events for ourselves?

A team from the church have helped to prepare six interactive displays around the church for anyone to visit in the run up to Easter.

From Friday 27th March, most weekday mornings between 10 and 12.30, or after church services on Sundays, you will be welcome to come and journey around the church visiting the displays. You will follow some of the key events of Holy Week, the week leading up to Jesus' death on the cross. The final display takes you to the garden tomb on that first Easter morning.



Breakfastzone

A monthly sister service to Prayzone

The next service is on

Easter Sunday 5 April

9.30am – 10.10am in the Hall
with breakfast from 9.15am

Informal, all ages welcome,

great for families and children



ALISON BASTARD O.B.E.

3 February 1926 - 15 February 2015

I was grateful to Alison's family for suggesting that I might speak of her at the very special Service on 2nd March, and to John Beckett for so willingly allowing me that privilege.

Alison was one of the best Churchwardens I have ever known - so wise, loyal to the local congregation and helpful to all. Her inclusive approach to everyone enabled her to be a point of great unity. Likewise Guy before her, and both of them with such welcoming beaming smiles.

Alison's security and obvious stability as a much loved member of the community came I think partly from her very supportive upbringing on a farm at St. Tudy in North Cornwall where she loved the outdoor life, especially horse riding and tennis. Guy, who she married in 1948, was 15 years older - they were such a beacon of encouragement with their happy and hospitable home.

The other factor which helped to form Alison as a shining example to us all was her long term and unshakable trust in God as our Maker; and in the love of Jesus Christ and His death and resurrection for us. Alison's commitment to worship week by week, and daily prayer and witness were absolutely formative of her character.

A vast crowd of people came to give thanks for Alison on Monday, 2nd March, including a strikingly large percentage of men. Many organisations in the Bay were represented, not by a nominal person, but by large clusters of folk who clearly just wanted to be there. We sang strong hymns with a direct challenge, and Lynne, Paul and Kerry all gave clear and forthright readings. Sylvia Barratt led the intercessions and the Rev. John Beckett held the whole Service together with the special prayers of Commendation. Mike Hackeson (organ) and Barry Dunnage (trumpet) led the music along with a St. Matthias' choir.

We thought of Alison in her St. George's Road house for 59 years, her work for Relate; as a J.P; Chair of the Licencing Committee; Chair of the Magistrates Bench; helper for the homeless people's Centre; and as one of the Street Pastors. At 88, being out until 4 a.m. on a Saturday/Sunday was quite something! Such was Alison's desire to be involved with mission. (She and Guy joined a team we took to a large village in Somerset in 1983 and both played a vital part in sharing their faith there.)

At the Service I mentioned Alison's love of driving, of parties, of baking, and keeping in touch with student leaders to whom they had given accommodation, but I forgot to mention her love of football. (I hope Paul will forgive me!) Alison was a long term supporter of Torquay United.

Also, of course, the Cornish. Alison led the Torbay Cornish Association for several years and often went away to the social gatherings of Associations in other parts of the U.K. So it was fitting that Trelawny was played by Mike and Barry as the cortege left the church.

Then we all went to the Hall for pasties and saffron cake etc!

Peter Larkin

The Community comes to St Matthias

In the second of the series of articles from one of the regular church centre community groups, the Cornish Association have written about what they do and in particular have written about the involvement of Alison Bastard whose funeral took place at St Matthias on 2 March 2015.



TORBAY CORNISH ASSOCIATION

The Torbay Cornish Association was founded in the 1970s and Alison, from St. Tudy in North Cornwall, was a member for over 30 years, holding various offices. She will be sorely missed. Ena Hocking is our sole surviving founder member.

Like our sister associations throughout the country our membership consists of those who are connected with Cornwall through birth, marriage or descent. In those days when leaving the county to work elsewhere was something of an adventure, it was comforting to be welcomed by a group from 'home'. Now, communications being what they are, youngsters have no wish to join such an organisation.

So, with a small ageing membership, which includes some long-standing adoptees, we try to find people who are willing to give their time to give a presentation to a small group.

Readers are most welcome to attend our meetings. A love of Cornwall is the only criteria. There is no pressure to join up, but we would of course be delighted at an increase in membership even if as an adoptee!

We meet in the Mary Alexander Lounge at St Matthias Church Centre at 2.30pm on the last Thursday of each month with the exception of July, August and December. Payment at the door is £1.50 for tea and saffron cake. Do join us.

Contacts: Vera Long – Membership Secretary
01803 405941
Mary Watters – Secretary
01752 361880



Lent Quiet Morning

Feb 21st 2015

LIFE IN THE DESERT



A number of people attended the Lent quiet morning and were inspired to put pen to paper. Here are some poems from the day.....

Joan Mason-Martin

The sun through stained glass
Mary wears a blue robe
With gold and white
A lily in her hand
Her feet in the grass
Joseph is in red and green
The old man, the young girl
They both play their part
What will be, what has been.
We know the story so well
A far off land
A much painted scene
But the Babe they knew
Our Saviour comes to us
To strengthen and renew.

Julie Bouskill

You are.....

In my solitude, and in my silence,
You are, and I am,
In my loneliness, and in my being,
You are, and I am,
In my emptiness, and in my
fulfilment,
You are, and I am,
In my sorrow, and in my joy,
You are, and I am,
In my longing, and in my praising,
You are, and I am,
In my waking, and in my sleeping,
You are, and I am,
In my confusion, and in my peace,
You are, and I am,
In my worship, and in my wonder,
You are, and I am,
In my anger, and in my Joy,
You are, and I am,
In my weakness, and in my strength,
You are, and I am,
In my pain, and in my healing,
You are, and I am,
In my loving, and in my
thanksgiving,
You are, and I am,
In my life, Lord, now and always,
You are my beloved, and I am
yours.

In my waiting.....

In my waiting,
I welcome solitude, and I long to
hear you,
In my waiting,
You are working, and I praise you,
In my waiting,
I turn to you again, and I move
forward,
In my waiting,
There is no looking back, and no
comparisons,
In my waiting,
I am yours, and you are mine,
In my waiting,
Hear my prayer, and bring me
peace, Lord
In my waiting,
Take all the pieces, Lord, and
make me whole again,
In my waiting,
I thank you, and I worship you,
In my waiting,
I give you everything I am, and I
praise you for what I will become,
In my waiting,
There is no condemnation, only
love,
In my waiting,
I know I am forgiven, and I am a
child of God,
I thank you Lord,
That I feel your presence, and you
are there,
.....In my waiting.

Men's Breakfast February 2015



What a blessing Paul Huntington was to us all at The Palace Hotel on Valentines Day, our second Men's Breakfast of 2015. His testimony moved us all, even though several of us had heard it before. Paul also gave a very moving story of his relationship with

his mother, who at the time was suffering with Alzheimer's, a subject close to many of our hearts. We were delighted to have with us some visitors from other fellowships. Obviously, word had got around that breakfast at the Palace Hotel was something not to be missed!

To think that this humble gathering of chaps started with three men in January 2014, now we average 30 men.



As you can see from these photos, we were treated to an excellent breakfast and spoilt with table service from the Palace staff.

The April Breakfast will be at the Palace Hotel on 11 April with guest speaker

Nigel Williams from Anode. To book email Charlie Allansen on c.allansen@btinternet.com or see posters in church for more details.

TOADS at The Little Theatre



Lettice and Lovage

by Peter Shaffer

Directed by Jill Farrant

14th – 21st March 2015

7.30pm (not Sunday)

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Email : cecil@knockmore.eclipse.co.uk

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Come and join us at
St Matthias on:

Tuesday 17 March

Tuesday 21 April

Tuesday 19 May

Tuesday 16 June

from 3:15pm

WITH ONE VOICE 18 & 19 APRIL 2015

Peter Larkin writes.....

I wonder how many of the present St. Matthias' congregation realise that Geraldine Latty was one of 10 people who visited Nigeria in 1991 at Bishop Josiah's invitation to share and teach and LEARN all about vibrant and relevant worship. I was the Chaplain, David Meek did the admin, Josiah the inspiration.

Geraldine has since become a leading light in the bringing of uplifting and inspirational music to Christians all over the world.

Geraldine will be at St. Matthias' on 18 and 19 April for the Music in Worship days.

Please, please DO NOT MISS IT. She is a lovely person with a wonderful voice and will do such a lot for St Matthias.

For more information see the posters in church or speak with Mike Hackeson.

St Matthias Church, Torquay, TQ1 1HW

'With One Voice'

*A day for all churches to inspire, encourage and equip you
through practical training and teaching
in music for worship*

Saturday April 18th 2015
10am - 4pm

Geraldine Latty – singer, song-writer, gospel choir director

Carey Luce – music educator, multi-instrumentalist

Andrew Maries – church music and worship consultant

David Edwards – worship leader, director of Asaph Trust

Paul Reisbach – youth officer for Exeter Diocese

Workshops include:

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Music Group Ministry, Engaging Young People in Worship, Coming close to God,
Playing from the Songbook – using instruments effectively, Guitar skills*

For more details and online booking form see www.st-matthias-church.org

Email admin@st-matthias-church.org Tel: 01803 214175

Saturday April 18th 7.30pm St Matthias Church

Musical Celebration



with Geraldine and Carey www.geraldinelatty.com

*a dynamic evening of songs new, old, jazz, blues,
original, wrapped in story and uplifting in worship
with these talented and engaging performers*

**there will be a retiring offering to cover costs.*

Janyce Pringle, a well-known musician, was a much loved, member of St Matthias who sadly died a year ago.
This day is arranged to honour her memory and forward her vision and values in music and worship.

YOUTH UPDATE

The Young Peoples Service (YPS)



We launched the YPS back in October, and thought this would be a good opportunity to update you on what's been going on.

We get about 8 – 10 young people attending each month along with a similar number of adults, who are as involved as the young people. We look at a range of themes including: Mission, Risk and the Fruits of the Spirit.

The aim of the service is to create an environment where the young people have more space to explore God and faith together, through games, worship and discussion. We are trying to give them space to contribute ideas and take part in the service and are praying that God will use the space to develop the gifts that he has put in each of them.

We also like to try new things in worship. In the last service, we spent some time worshipping God by writing who God is to each of us on lining paper (photo included). There was such a special atmosphere created through this act, and the adults were blessed and surprised by what the young people were writing about God. It is lovely to see the same faith that I have, being demonstrated in these young people - to know that they actually know who God is, brings so much hope for the future.

Will you join us in praying for this service, especially on the 15th March when John and I will be talking about being filled with the Holy Spirit?

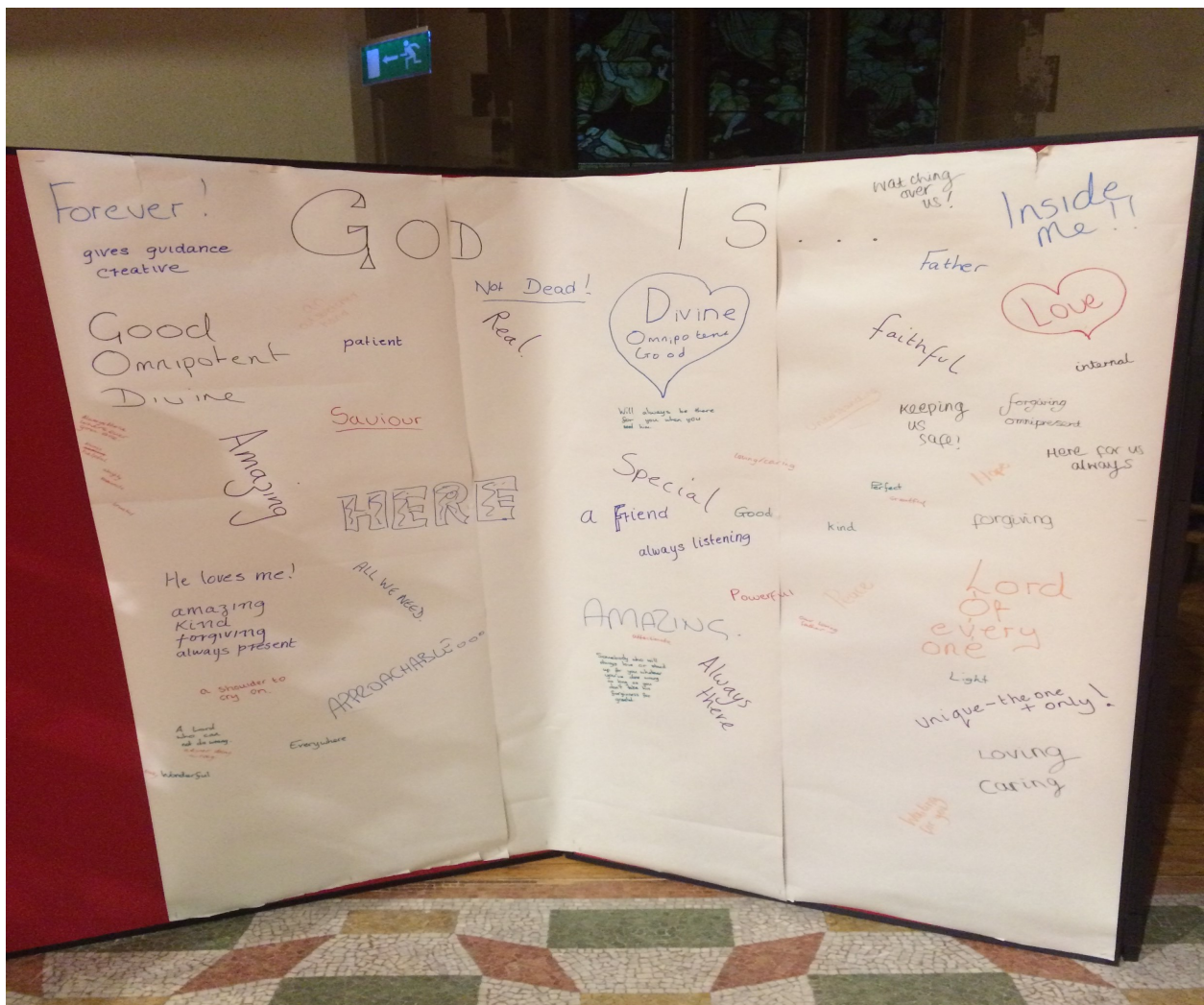
Also pray:

- That the young people continue to grow through this service
- That those of us leading will encourage and facilitate youth participation and leadership
- That our young people will be prompted to invite their friends along

Ruth

Ruth Jones

Youth Worker, St Matthias Church



**You are invited to our evening Youth
Service, at 6pm**

The next dates are:

15th March 2015

19th April 2015

17th May 2015

At:

**St Matthias Church,
Babbacombe Road,
Torquay,
TQ1 1HW**

**Come and join us to explore different aspects of the
Christian faith, as well as spending some time
worshipping God together. We'd love to see you
there!**

For more information contact: Ruth Jones,
ruth.stmatthias@gmail.com



St Matthias Church Pre-School

Around the world with the Pre-School Spring 2015

The Pre-School has been hard at work this term exploring different cultures and traditions as the children have participated in various *multicultural* activities. We celebrated Chinese New Year with dragon dancing and even practiced our Chinese writing skills!

This week we are finding out about Comic Relief and why we support the cause. Pre-school children are getting to know a little girl called Matilda who lives in Zambia, Africa and we have been tasting some of the different fruits which Matilda might eat.

Here are a few photos of what we have been up to!



Liz Sampson
Pre-School Leader





CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

10th – 16th MAY 2015

WANTED!

People to change the world (part time)

This year marks the 70th Anniversary of Christian Aid. Christian Aid Week can only happen because of the people who volunteer to carry out our door to door collections. So if you can spare a bit of time between the 10th and 16th May, why not use it to help poor communities throughout the World?

Please add your name to the list at the back of the church, or speak to John Hart (in church or 01803 297656).

THANK YOU ON BEHALF OF THE WORLD'S POOR

The Friends of St Matthias



Our next events are:

Fri 20 Mar	The Big Noise Chorus	7.30pm
Sat 23 May	Spring Chicken Fayre	10.30am - 2.30pm
Sun 24 May	AGM	12.30pm

We look forward to seeing you there!



THE BIG NOISE CHORUS

Spring Concert

'Thank You for The Music'

at St Matthias Church, Wellswood.

Friday 20th March - 7.30pm (doors open 7pm)

Tickets £8 for adults, £5 children 5-15, under 5s free.

Once again, the amazing Big Noise Chorus will be bringing their exciting sound to St Matthias Church in a new concert of songs to put a spring in your step and music in your heart.

Led by Colin Rea, Torquay's Big Noise Chorus began in September 2009 with only 25 singers and are now 140 strong with a long list of those waiting to join. The choir enjoys a relaxed approach to singing, full of warmth, laughter and heartfelt soul, with a commitment to the belief that anyone can sing regardless of experience or level of ability. Their concerts include a mix of pop, rock, soul and musical theatre and they perform in concerts throughout the year in Torbay and beyond. They have performed at Exeter Cathedral, the Devon County Show and on Radio Devon as well as at local festivals and events. So, throw out any preconceived ideas of what a choir should sound like and come and enjoy yourselves - Big Noise are a choir like no other!

Joined by the children of the Ilsham Academy Singers, this year's concert will be in support of your very own Friends of St Matthias, helping them to raise money for the improvements and repairs planned at the Church.

Details and tickets available on the BNC website -
www.bignoisechorus.co.uk and from the Church office.



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be still,
AND KNOW
THAT I AM
GOD
Psalms 46:10

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