



FEBRUARY 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

<http://www.stmatthiaspreschool.co.uk/>

Verger

To Be Appointed

Church Administration

David Wilkinson

PCC Secretary

Tony Barratt

Church Treasurer

Office Staff

Pere Snow:

Church Administrator & Centre Manager

pere.snow@st-matthias-church.org

Address:

St Matthias' Church Centre,
Babbacombe Road, Wellswood,
Torquay TQ1 1HW

Telephone:

01803 214175

General Email:

admin@st-matthias-church.org

Website:

www.st-matthias-church.org



We should have planted the plum trees by now...

...but apparently we still have a few weeks before it is too late. The aim is to plant them during the cold winter so that the roots go on developing in order to provide for better growth in the spring and fruit in the summer.

It can be a bit like that with our Christian lives. Strange as it may seem, it can be in the tough times that we grow most, and end up being more fruitful for God as a result.

Look at Jesus – as soon as he was baptised by his cousin John the Baptist, the Holy Spirit sent him out into the desert for 40 days where he did not eat a thing and was tempted by the Devil.

Lent is the period of 40 weekdays between Ash Wednesday and Easter when we remember Jesus and this tough time in his life, which served as essential preparation for his teaching and healing ministry to come.

For centuries, the church has used it as a time to have a more in-depth look at our faith and living, to develop our roots. We remember the value of silence and the benefit of learning self discipline, perhaps by abstaining from some luxury or comfort or even trying a short fast by missing the odd meal.

We see how Jesus used that time to concentrate on the Bible teaching in God's Word, and was able to use it to help resist the temptations brought before him. And if Jesus needed that help, how much more do we? (As Oscar Wilde once said, *"I can resist everything but temptation"*.)

So how might you use Lent this year? Give up some of your busyness and spend some time in silence before God each day? If you do not already do so, read a bit of the bible each day? (There are some suggested daily readings elsewhere in this magazine).

If you've never tried being quiet for any length of time why not give the Quiet Morning on Saturday 21st Feb a try?

And our Lent Course this year helps us reflect on our own journey of faith - as well as learning how we might share that experience more confidently with friends.



Whatever you do, may you go a bit deeper, develop your roots, that together we may be fruitful for God.

John Beckett

Develop your roots this Lent...

- **Ash Wednesday 18th Feb** Holy Communion 9am
- **'Quiet Morning'** 10- 12.30pm **Saturday 21st Feb.** In church - a good way to begin Lent, and a good way to explore silence if you have not tried it before. Do come and go as you are able throughout the morning.
- **Lent Course – 'Lost for Words'** – a course to equip us to feel more able to gently share our faith with neighbours and friends. Five Thursday evenings 7.30pm – 9.15pm from 27th Feb.
- **Lent Lunches** Wednesdays in the Hall from Feb 18th 12 – 1.30pm
- a tasty, frugal lunch to help Christian Aid.
- **Passover Meal** Maundy Thursday 6.30pm (time tbc)



*So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord,
continue to live your lives in him, **rooted and built up in him,**
strengthened in the faith as you were taught,
and overflowing with thankfulness. Colossians 2:6,7*

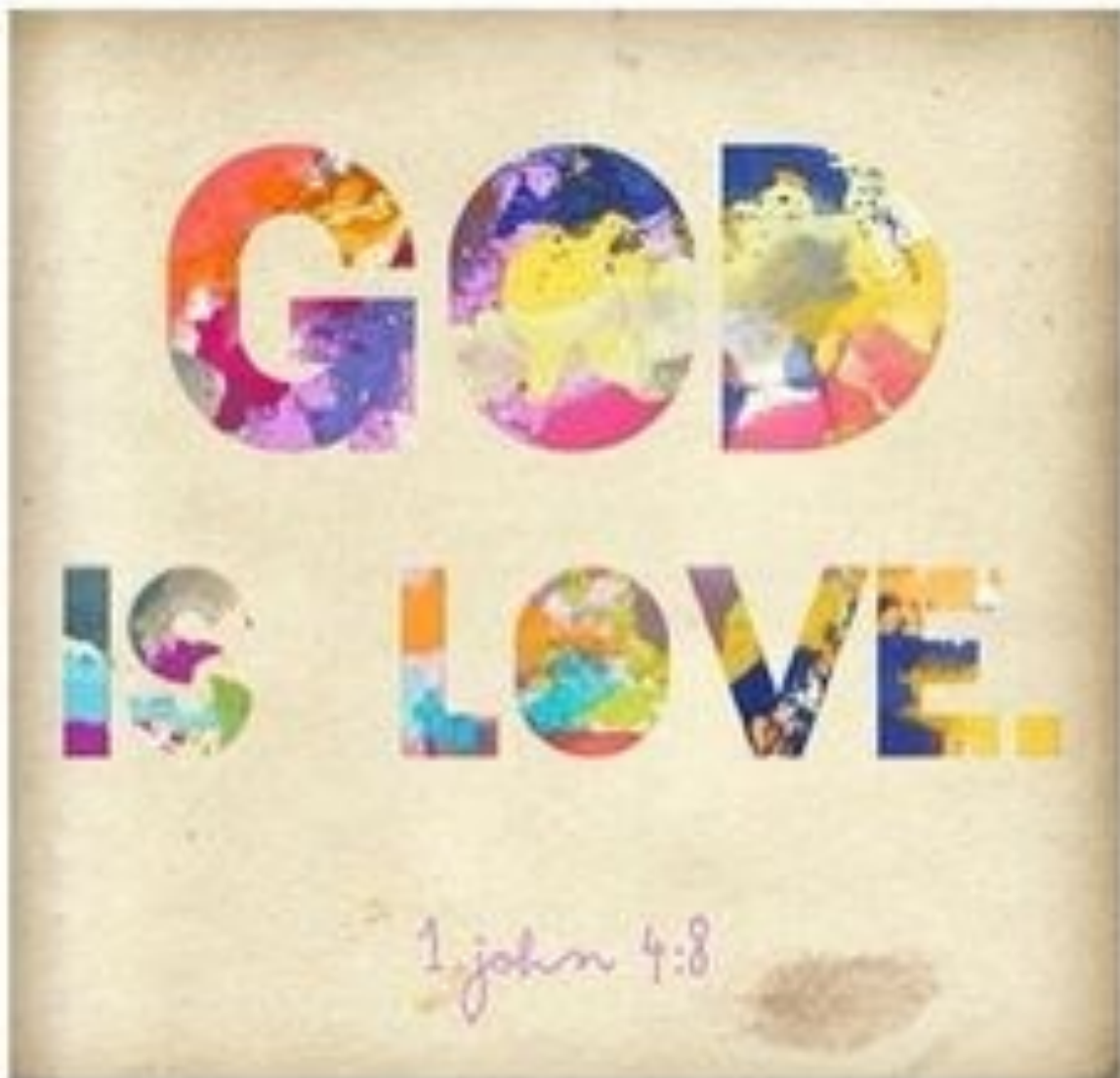
Breakfastzone

A monthly sister service to Prayzone
The next service is on Sunday 1 February

9.30am – 10.10am in the Hall

with breakfast from 9.15am

*Informal, all ages welcome,
great for families and children*





Journey to the Cross

See below for bible readings for the first week of Lent. For further readings see the website below or pick up a leaflet at the back of church:

You can also access a daily email with a bible reading for Lent from:

www.scriptureunion.org/journey%20to%20the%20cross

Week One: *His Saving Work Foretold*

☐ **Reading 1: Isaiah 52:13—53:12**

Reflect: What parallels do you see in this passage with Jesus' suffering and death?

☐ **Reading 2: Psalm 22:1-31**

Reflect: What can you learn from this psalm about dealing with terrible suffering?

☐ **Reading 3: Isaiah 9:2-7**

Reflect: Ponder the four names for the Messiah. What does each mean to your life? Why?

☐ **Reading 4: Job 19:23-27**

Reflect: How does Jesus' death and resurrection affect the way you feel about your death?

☐ **Reading 5: Micah 5:2-5**

Reflect: How does Micah's prophecy help you trust that Jesus is the promised Savior?

SCRIPTURE UNION'S BIBLE READING METHOD

- **PRAY** before you read, asking God to help you understand his Word.
- **READ** carefully the Bible passage, perhaps more than once.
- **REFLECT** on the Bible passage using the questions in this Guide.
- **APPLY** what God teaches you from his Word to your life.
- **PRAY** again asking God to help you live out his Word.



**New Year
New Challenge
Newsletter Jan 2015
Cecil Johnston**



Looking back, it's hard to believe that I have been here at Apoolo Na Angor (ANA) (pictured above) for just over six months, and whilst it has not always been a smooth journey, I remain encouraged by many of the achievements and developments within the different projects that ANA undertakes, and the improvements that are made to the livelihoods of the community ANA serves here in the Bukedea district of Eastern Uganda. Whilst my main involvement over recent months has mainly been with the community development programme; working with the Field Extension Officers (FEO's), the Skills Academy has had a very busy end of year in preparing for the December Graduation.

ANA Skills Academy Graduation 2014

35 trainees graduated following their Nov. examinations and were presented with their certificates by the local female Member of Parliament. The day was the highlight of ANA's year, with over 1,200 guests attending; family & friends of the trainees along with members of the Women's Groups that the FEOs work with.



To hear more from Cecil about what he has been doing in Uganda and to see lots of photos, please pick up a leaflet at the back of church.

The Community comes to St Matthias

What an amazing place this is!
Before I started working here I
attended church on a Sunday but I
admit I was pretty much unaware of



what went on in the church centre. And then I took up residence in the small office downstairs and my eyes were opened!

The centre is filled day after day with interest groups big and small offering a variety of activities to serve the local community. There are keep-fit classes - some gentle, some to make you puff, groups for the very young (parents and toddlers) and the not so young (TOFFS for the over fifties), a variety of U3A groups (University of the Third Age) from quizzes to singing and art history, recorded music, all things 'cornish' (The Cornish Society) and a huge choir of over a hundred. Every week they come and go serving the local people.

There is a club which only ever happens on a Thursday (The Thursday Club!), and one which only ever happens on the 25th of the month (but not on Christmas Day!), there are counsellors, MPs surgeries, business training courses etc etc etc. And, there are also the many activities which are run by the church itself – Alpha, Messy Church and more.

What a wonderful resource the church centre provides for the community.

In the first of a regular feature for the magazine, one of the hirers has been asked to write an article about the work they do. Devon in Sight are a local charity working for people with sight loss and have written the first article which you will find on the next page.

Look out for an article from another hirer in the next magazine.

If you wish to hire a room in the centre or would like to find out more about the activities already taking place, please call the church office on 01803 214175. Thank you.

Pere Snow
Centre Manager



Devon in Sight

Your local sight loss charity

Devon in Sight is a small independent charity providing practical help and advice to many of the 35,000 people in Devon and Torbay affected by sight loss. Our aim is to maximise people's independence, wellbeing and choice. We have a Resource Centre in Topsham where our Advisers provide information on common sight loss issues and help identify what support is needed. They also help people assess different pieces of equipment that will help them with day to day living such as lighting, magnifiers, talking clocks and watches, phones, tablet computers and kitchen equipment. Low Vision Assessment Clinics, Employment and Assistive Technology clinics take place at the Resource Centre.

We also offer 'Skills for Seeing' training to maximise the best use of any vision remaining for watching TV, reading and getting about, at our Topsham Centre and at Jasmyn House, Midvale Road, Paignton.

In Torbay we offer a Volunteer Visiting Service which has been running since 2008 to provide befriending and emotional support to people with sight loss. The service helps to improve people's quality of life, maintain independence and tackle social isolation. We now support over 100 individuals through a committed group of around 100 volunteers who annually put in over 6,400 hours of their own time to make the service the success that it is. Our volunteers are incredibly important to us and some are able to give a regular weekly commitment and others once a month, but either way all are equally valued. We also run regular meetings to provide training and support to our amazing Volunteer Visiting Service Volunteers and all our volunteers receive the Community Sighted Guiding training.

So being a volunteer with us is both rewarding and interesting and we are always on the lookout for new volunteers so if you feel you would like to find out more please contact:

Cherrie Crook, Volunteer Visiting Service Co-ordinator Torbay

Tel: 07972286061

Email: cherrie@devoninsight.org.uk

Or our main office at Devon in Sight, Station House, Holman Way, Topsham, Exeter, EX3 0EN, Tel: 01392 878800 Helpline: 01392 876666.

Men's Breakfast January 2015

It was pouring with rain and it was freezing cold, but it was the 10th January, which was the first men's breakfast of 2015.



We met at the café of Kent's Cavern. James, the manager, very kindly hosted us for our humble event, providing an excellent full English plus teas and coffee for a very reasonable cost.

We had our own private room, which although seemed a bit cold and hard, soon became warm with the laughter generated by the very amusing anecdotes provided by our guest speaker, Peter Larkin.

For those who do not know, Peter was the incumbent at St Matthias for about 17 years.

Supported by Molly, his wife, they made a significant contribution towards the life of St Matthias and community of Wellswood.



Peter shared how, in the 1950's, listening to a Billy Graham Crusade on the radio, God had reached through to him, making a big impact and changing the course of his life.

God is always in the business of changing lives, if we let him.

The next Breakfast is on Saturday 14th February at The Palace Hotel. Our Guest Speaker is Paul Huntington. (See poster for details.)

The next Men's Breakfast will be at
9:00am
on
Saturday 14th February.



at
The Palace Hotel
Full English, Tea, Coffee £7.00

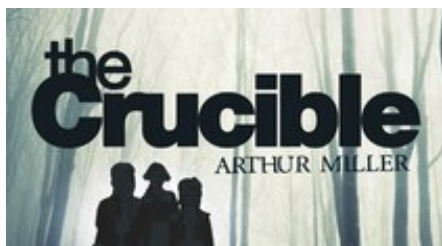
Our Guest speaker will be: Paul Huntington

Booking is essential!

To book your place, please register your
interest by contacting Charlie Allansen on
07917 005406 or email:

c.allansen@btinternet.com

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The Crucible

by Arthur Miller

Directed by Jill Pettigrew

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YOUTH UPDATE



What have we been up to?

- Some of us went to see the Christian Band Twelve24 at the end of November, a fun concert with over 500 young people from across Torquay
- The new Youth Club, in place of TenSing has launched, with a relaxed environment and lots of games! We meet fortnightly from 6:30 – 8pm, check with Ruth J for more info!
- Youth Alpha has recently started with 5 young people exploring the Christian Faith with Rev. John Beckett and Ruth Jones.
- The Youth Bank Water for Life appeal was a massive success. At the last count the church family had raised an amazing £1900 which will buy 38 water filters for the project. Thank you once again to all who donated and supported this great cause over Christmas. The Youth Bank are going to think up some more fund raising ideas soon, so look out for those.

If you would like to be part of the St Matthias Youth, or be involved in supporting their faith and development practically, relationally or spiritually, it would be great to chat with you. You can speak to me after church or email me: ruth.stmatthias@gmail.com

Ruth Jones
Youth Worker, St Matthias Church

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

The next dates are:

18th January 2015

15th February 2015

15th March 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**

The Friends of St Matthias



2014 was a busy year for the Friends of St Matthias. Apart from new lighting in the Church and the Hall, we were also able to fund the renewal of the Linkway roof. Add to that the work on the windows in the Church Centre and the radiator in the South Transept. And not to forget the new car park and access, as well as installation of a brand new loop hearing system to replace the previous 53 year old system.

The cost of all this was in excess of £36,000 – though we are able to recover some of that from the taxman.

We have more plans for the year ahead and are working with the PCC on these. Watch this space!

These projects have been completed with your help – all of you who have supported the Friends and their events over the years. If you have not joined please come and speak to us in the Hall on Sunday or contact Sheila Hart via the Church office. We would like all church members to join up. The cost is small, but by joining you will be showing practical support for the work of the Friends. You will also benefit from a reduction in the cost of some events.

If you have not had a look lately please visit our pages on the St Matthias website. Apart from details of planned future events you will see that we now have a gallery of photos of some of the many and varied events we have organised as well as a few of our completed projects. A few familiar faces - in less than familiar surroundings!

Our next events are:

Fri 13 Feb “All for Love” with Words4Voices

Fri 20 Mar The Big Noise Chorus

We look forward to seeing you there!

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THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

For I know the thoughts
THAT I THINK TOWARD YOU,
says the LORD, thoughts
OF PEACE AND NOT OF EVIL,
to give you a future
and a hope.

JEREMIAH 29.11

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A silhouette of a person standing on a dark, rocky cliff edge, with their arms raised high in a gesture of praise or triumph. The background is a clear, light blue sky. The entire image is framed by a white border.

IN THE DAY WHEN I CRIED OUT, YOU
ANSWERED ME, AND MADE ME BOLD
WITH **STRENGTH** IN MY SOUL.

PSALM 138:3

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