



Sharing the Good News of Jesus



Summer 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		
	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	



Good News! Everybody's Welcome!

Do you remember the 'Everybody Welcome' course that we ran a year ago now? The course generated fresh energy and commitment to make St Matthias' an even more welcoming place, seeking to model God's welcome to each person.

As a result we began the new Welcome Teams for our Sunday services. We've run two Alpha courses. We've tried to make families with younger children welcome and the new Breakfastzone service is part of that. And the good news is that God is enabling us to grow – we're growing fast!

This fact, coupled with the existing overcrowding of the Larkin Hall for Prayzone (which means that we really should be moving this service into the larger space of the church to allow it to continue to expand) helped the PCC to recognise that we need to make changes to the interior of the church.

We need the seating to be more flexible, more comfortable, and to have more desperately needed storage.

We also recognise that to improve the sound quality and visibility, we can only do this with more modern equipment.

The 'Everybody Welcome' course also enabled us to appreciate how 'dead' the exterior of the church doors look and there was a widespread consensus to explore how we might open up the west end doorways and glaze them, so that the church interior could be appreciated by passers-by and seen to be as alive as thank God, we are!

So, last autumn the PCC began to explore solutions for this "problem" of growth. Having seen some initial ideas provided last year through the kindness of two architects (Mike Burt among them), the PCC decided to commission a suitable architect to come up with some draft plans.

Two other events encouraged this to go ahead. Last year, the 'Friends of St Matthias' were given a very large donation to use on a major project in the church.



Secondly, the day that cheque was received, God spoke to me through the morning prayer readings about King Joash who insisted that the money that had been collected to repair the temple should be used immediately and not sat on for years....a reading that cropped up again only a few weeks later... (2 Kings 12 & 2 Chronicles 24).

So where have we got to?

After meeting with three architect firms, a PCC working party¹ was unanimously in favour of beginning work with Mr Alex Coppock, of 'Communion Architects'².

At present he is working on first draft plans to bring back to this working party at the end of June.

We hope that these draft ideas can be discussed with the church planning authorities in September (the 'Diocesan Advisory Committee' or 'DAC'). Until then we will not know whether any of these ideas are even possible. So, it's going to take some time before we can look at any details more widely as a church, as we will want to.

But clearly these are ambitious plans – which mean expensive plans!

¹Comprising Sylvia Barratt, Phil Miles, John Hart, Tim Dickinson, John Gingell, Paul Barton, John Beckett, Jan Miles, Tessa Barton

²<http://communionarchitects.com/>

Please keep praying for the church leadership, and about your own role, as we grow and seek to continue to grow - to make disciples, and so that together with the Lord we can transform communities here and abroad, and grow in depth of worship too.

Pray too for a love and generosity in the church family as we go on this journey of change, which is bound to challenge us in different ways.

Thank you for playing your part in making everybody welcome for Jesus!

Yours in Christ, John

Key ideas we are looking into:

- ♦ Redesign West End to improve accessibility, a more welcoming entrance, a larger space at the back of the church and provide storage, crèche area, & a small kitchenette.
- ♦ Replace existing seating to improve comfort & the layout of the church
- ♦ Upgrade audio-visual provision in the church
- ♦ Glass in Francis Chapel and upgrade lighting
- ♦ Consider how best to use the Chancel once again for smaller services

News from the Diocese



From The Bishop of Exeter
The Rt Revd Robert Atwell

The Bishop of Crediton

It was announced from Downing Street on 9 June that Canon Dame Sarah Mullally has been appointed as the next Bishop of Crediton. Prior to her ordination, Sarah had a distinguished career in nursing and became Chief Nursing Officer in England from 1999 to 2004. In this role she provided nursing and midwifery advice to the government, as well as professional leadership to 420,000 nurses and midwives. In recognition of her outstanding contribution she was awarded the DBE. Following her curacy, Sarah became Team Rector of Sutton in the Diocese of Southwark and Borough Dean, before taking up her current appointment as a Canon Residentiary in Salisbury. Sarah will bring to her new role the same mixture of compassion, integrity and professionalism that has characterised all her work. She is married to Eamonn and they have two children, Grace and Liam. Sarah will enrich the life of the church in Devon in all sorts of ways and I look forward to welcoming her to the Diocese. She is a person of wide sympathies with a deep love of Christ. She will be consecrated by the Archbishop in Canterbury Cathedral on the Feast of St Mary Magdalene, 22nd July.



The Community comes to St Matthias

The Church Centre is well used by a whole variety of community groups and provides a lovely setting for exercise classes, management meetings, many interest groups,



venues for wedding receptions to name but a few. In the third of the series of articles from one of the regular church centre community groups, the Torbay U3A have written about what they do.



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

TORBAY U3A

The U3A is a national registered charity that offers people who are no longer in full-time employment the opportunity to pursue their educational, physical, creative and social interests – and to make new friends. It is primarily a self-help organisation with learning at its heart. It is run by its members, for its members.

A number of Torbay U3A interest groups are regular users of St. Matthias' Church facilities, mostly on a monthly or fortnightly basis. The Quiz group, Music Appreciation, History of Art and Singing meet in one or other of the comfortable rooms and our recent New Members' Coffee morning was held in The Mary Alexander Lounge. (The latter event is a twice-yearly occurrence to welcome recently-joined members and to obtain feedback.)

We currently have over forty interest groups covering a wide range of topics including languages, history, arts and crafts, literature, music, writing, indoor and outdoor activities, dining out and coffee mornings as well as help with computers and digital photography. These groups meet in hired halls, members' homes or in the great outdoors, according to the size of the group.

There is a monthly general meeting with news of activities, a speaker and refreshments. The programme of talks include topics which may be informative, educational or entertaining – sometimes all three!

These meetings take place on the second Wednesday of the month at Central Church, Torquay, 2 for 2.15pm.

Also, we have a “Meet the U3A” session for anyone who may be interested in us and would like to find out more at The Coffee House, 13, Fore Street, St. Marychurch, TQ1 2PU, usually on the second Tuesday of the month, between 2.30 & 3.30pm (check dates below).

(7 July, 11 August, 8 September, 13 October, 10 November, 8 December)

For further information contact me:

Christine Snowden New Members’ Coordinator
01803 311047 or email christine.u3a@gmail.com

Or Peter Treadgold Membership Secretary
01803 313788 or email peter.treadgold.u3a@btinternet.com

Or visit our website www.torbayu3a.org.uk

Thank you.
Christine

John Stott’s Morning Trinitarian Prayer

Heavenly Father, I pray that I may live this day in your presence
and please you more and more.

Lord Jesus, I pray that this day I may take up my cross and follow
you.

Holy Spirit, I pray that this day you will fill me with yourself and
cause your fruit to ripen in my life:
love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,
gentleness and self-control.

Holy, blessed and glorious Trinity, three persons in one God,
have mercy upon me. Amen.

Holy Trinity Church – Memorial Hall

The Holy Trinity Memorial Hall is independently managed and currently used as a base for the Torbay Street Pastors, as a place of worship by the Zoe Bible Church and activity groups as diverse as dog training and line dancing. In recent years a new central heating system has been installed together with a fire alarm system and we have also carried out major structural repairs to the fabric of the building. The Hall is currently making a modest profit and this is likely to continue. We are in the process of applying for Charitable Incorporated Organisation status and when this is complete will be applying for grants to significantly improve the Hall.

Two of our long-standing committee members from St Matthias have retired through family and other commitments and we welcome new members to our Management Committee to replace those who have stood down. We wish to take the Hall forward to provide an improved facility in an area of social need.

If you feel you would like to express your Christian Faith in a practical way and join the Management Committee please contact the Chairman, Colin Small on 01803 296290 or our Treasurer, Roger Ede on 01803 873529 for more information.

Colin Small

Breakfastzone

A monthly sister service to Prayzone

The next service is on

Sunday 5 July

9.30am – 10.10am in the Hall

with breakfast from 9.15am

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



Come and join us at St Matthias
Church for craft, stories, fun, food
and fellowship:

Tuesday 21 July

from 3:15pm

What's on this summer at St Matthias

28 June at 10.30am

Confirmation Service with the Bishop of Exeter

12 July at 11am

Open air morning service on Ilsham Green followed by a BBQ

And in the autumn.....

Sunday 11 October

Harvest Lunch

Saturday 21 November

Coach trip to Cardiff



Have you joined



the (PGS) yet?

PARISHGIVINGScheme

Since starting this scheme towards the end of last year, more than 30 people have signed up for it and are now making their regular donations to St Matthias via direct debit. Although we are most grateful to all those church members who have changed over from their previous method of giving, this still only represents 40% of people who were giving via standing orders and less than 20% of envelope givers.

Several other churches throughout the diocese are now using the scheme and it provides many advantages over historic methods of giving:

- **Gift Aid administration carried out on our behalf at no cost to us (currently this causes us a considerable amount of work)**
- **Single payment (inc. Gift Aid) paid into our church current account every month, greatly simplifying our bank transactions**
- **Considerably improved cash flow**
- **Direct Debit provides greater flexibility (changes much easier to implement than with Standing Orders)**
- **More predictable income stream and easier budgeting if majority participate**

Please consider whether, if you already make regular donations to St Matthias, you could change over to the PGS by simply filling in a direct debit form, available from myself. Also, if you do not yet make a regular donation but would like to, then please ask for a form. Whether or not your donations are eligible for gift aid you can still join the scheme. There are leaflets explaining the main details at the back of church and, if you have any queries, I will be happy to discuss them with you.

We will only obtain the maximum benefit from the PGS if it becomes the preferred method of giving for the majority of people in our church so I would urge you to prayerfully consider becoming one of the growing number who now make donations in this way. By doing so you will be helping to provide a secure financial future for St Matthias which will, in turn, enable the continuation and expansion of its ministry, both locally and wider afield.

Tony Barratt
Hon Treasurer, St Matthias

Am I doing what God wants me to do?

.....some thoughts from Steve Vans-Colina

It was after various friends and family suggest I took the path to become a Reader that I decided that maybe they were correct, maybe God was showing me the path He wanted me to take through the words of others. But, since then, what has made me feel sure?

How do we really know we are doing what God wants? Personally I think that there is another side to this and we should also be bearing in mind that God wants us to be happy, He wants us to become what we want to be. That said I also believe that God has made each one of us for a specific purpose, and that we have the choice to ignore that purpose or to seek it.

Feeling sure we have chosen the correct purpose is not necessarily as hard as you may think, because when you find it, it will feel right, natural, comfortable and you will feel deep inside through the Holy Spirit that God is supporting you.

That is not to say it will be easy and at times you may feel like you have got it wrong but if it's what God wants for you He will support you and give you the conviction you need. You have to have faith and look up to God at all times.

The following was emailed to me and I feel it is so true:

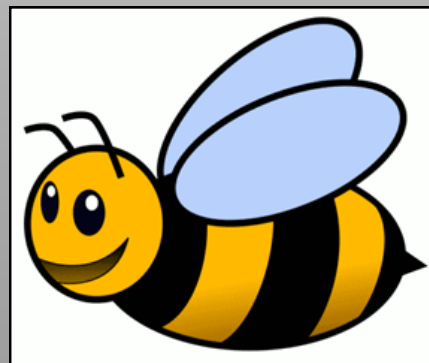
A bumblebee, if dropped into an open tumbler, will be there until it dies, unless it is taken out. It never sees the means of escape at the top, but persists in trying to find some way out through the sides near the bottom. It will seek a way where none exists, until it completely destroys itself. As people - in many ways, we are like the bumblebee. We struggle and feel frustrated, never realizing that all we have to do is look up!

That's the answer; the escape route and the solution to any problem.... just look up! Sorrow looks back, worry looks around, but faith looks up!

I have found the academic side of my Reader training very tough and even though I know I am not alone in that, I have found it very demoralizing and disheartening, and it has even made me question God, asking him why are you putting me through this? And then I remember that I should be looking up to God and seeking his support for if this was not what He wanted then I probably wouldn't even be scraping through. Furthermore, He makes me feel certain the path I have chosen is His wish by using the Holy Spirit to help me deliver sermons that can only have come from Him. So with God's help I will complete the course; learn from it and when it is finished, I will use it.

So going back to the question "How do we know what God wants us to do or become?" - just pray for His guidance and try what feels right, God will support you. And if it gets hard remember the bumblebee, look up to Him and trust that inner feeling that the Holy Spirit will give you.

Steve Vans-Colina



Men's Breakfast Update

What a wonderful privilege it was having the new MP for Torbay speak at the Men's Breakfast in May. I'm talking, of course, about our very own Kevin Foster. And how gracious it was for Kevin to accept the challenge of addressing us chaps, knowing the outcome of the election could have been so different. Having said that, Kevin concentrated his talk on his faith, family and his walk with God. A



committed Christian, Kevin shared his sense of privilege, being able to serve the people in his constituent as an elected member of government. Regardless of your political persuasion, I hope you will join

me in regularly praying for Kevin and the tough decisions he will have to make during his office.

The next Men's Breakfast will be on 11 July at the Palace Hotel - 8:45 for 9:00am start. Our speaker will be Rev Mark



Searle from St Mary Magdalene, Upton Parish. If you would like to attend please, please, please make sure you let Charlie know by emailing him at c.allansen@btinternet.com.

YOUTH UPDATE



Youth Bake Off

As many of you will have been aware, the youth bank decided to donate £800 from their account to the DEC appeal following the Nepalese earthquake. Not only does this demonstrate the compassion that these young people have for those in need, it also drained the account of all but the bare minimum needed to support their Compassion-sponsored child. The youth bank were asked about fundraising ideas and came up with the bake-off idea, a competition where a theme was set each week and every young person invited to bake an entry. We then found some selfless adult volunteers to be judges and choose winners each week. The entries were sold during the coffee to raise the much needed funds.

It was great fun, and wonderful to see the young people's baking talents coming out. It was also a time when the rest of the church were very generous. I don't have a final figure at time of writing but it will be announced soon along with the winner of the competition.

Thank you to all who supported this fundraising activity by buying the wonderful cakes and biscuits. A very big well done and thank you to all the entrants over the week and to their parents who helped and supported them.

Warberry School

As well as the work with the church young people I am becoming more involved at Warberry Primary School. I have recently started a lunch club that gives the children in year 5 and 6 the chance to find out a bit more about God and the Bible.

It's in the early stages but has a few children who are interested and coming each week.

We also requested to go into the school and run a transition session with the year 6 pupils to give them some time to think about the move from primary to secondary school. Gemma Drew, who coordinates the Open the Book work in Torbay and heads up the newly formed ICE Torbay, approached us with the idea of doing a prayer space themed around Transition as well. Together, Gemma and I went into Warberry school just after half term, and over 2 hours, had a great time with the year 6. The two year 6 classes were given the opportunity to spend 40 minutes in the prayer spaces and 40 minutes with me thinking about the Changes, Challenges and Choices that they would find on the move to secondary school. As part of this, each pupil was given a copy of a book by Scripture Union called "It's Your Move" as a gift from the church which contains lots of quizzes, advice and stories to help them further.

Ruth

Ruth Jones

Youth Worker, St Matthias Church

Update on my Studies - Ruth Jones

I wanted to take this opportunity to bring the church up to date with my studies in BA Applied Theology with Youth Ministry through Moorlands College and SWYM (combined as Moorlands South West).

I can't quite believe that I am nearly at the end of the first year of study. It's been a very intense and full on year but I have learnt so much and I'm getting back into the habit of studying and essay writing. The module titles that were displayed on the youth board now have more context for me. I have completed 6 modules, one more to go, 8 essays and 1 portfolio documenting my practical work, with one final essay to go due at the beginning of July.

I am so grateful for all the support that the church family of St Matthias gives me, both financially, allowing me to take this path, and practically, praying for me and generally keeping me going when it all feels a little tough. There have been some moments where I have really had to remind myself of why I am doing this, but it is making a visible difference to my youth work and overall church involvement.

I am always happy to talk about my studies as well as my youth work.

If anyone has any theology books they would be happy to loan to me or donate to SWYM can you come and speak to me please. SWYM are looking to expand their library for the degree students and appreciate all the gifts they get.

Thank you again,

Ruth

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

The next dates are:

21st June 2015

19th July 2015

No August Service

20th September 2015

At:

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

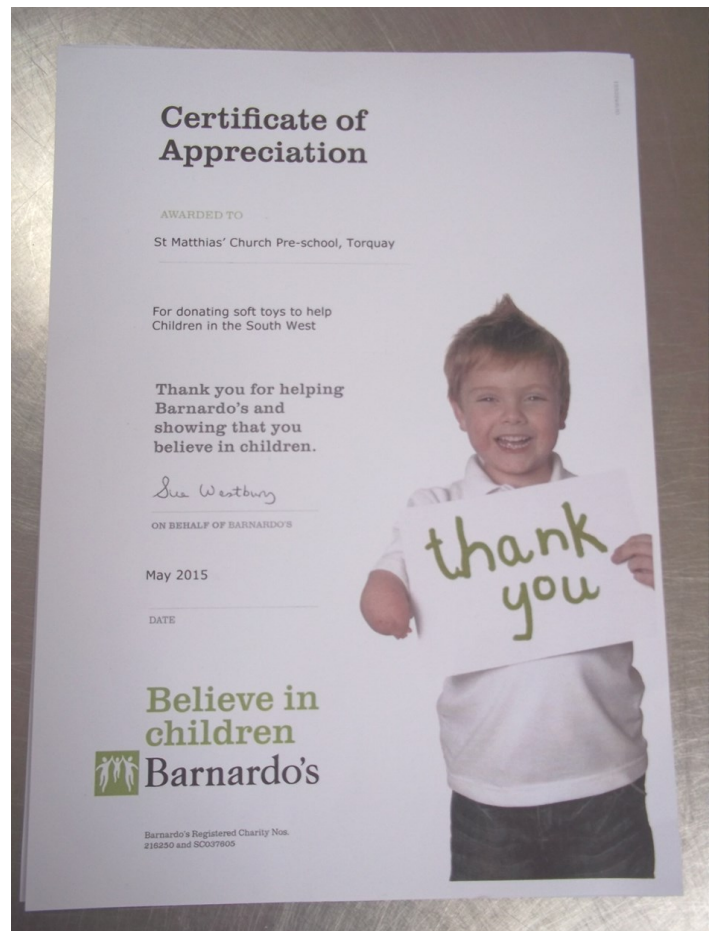
**Come and join us to explore different aspects of the
Christian faith, as well as spending some time
worshipping God together. We'd love to see you
there!**

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



St Matthias Church Pre-School Update from Liz Sampson Pre-School Leader

Pre School had a special visitor last half term from Sue Westbury, Community Fundraising Manager of the South West. She was impressed with the work we had done with the children to raise awareness and our teddy collection for children who are not as fortunate as us. She spoke to the children about Barnardos, the children they help and how our donations had helped them too.



St. Matthias' Summer Club

Holiday Club

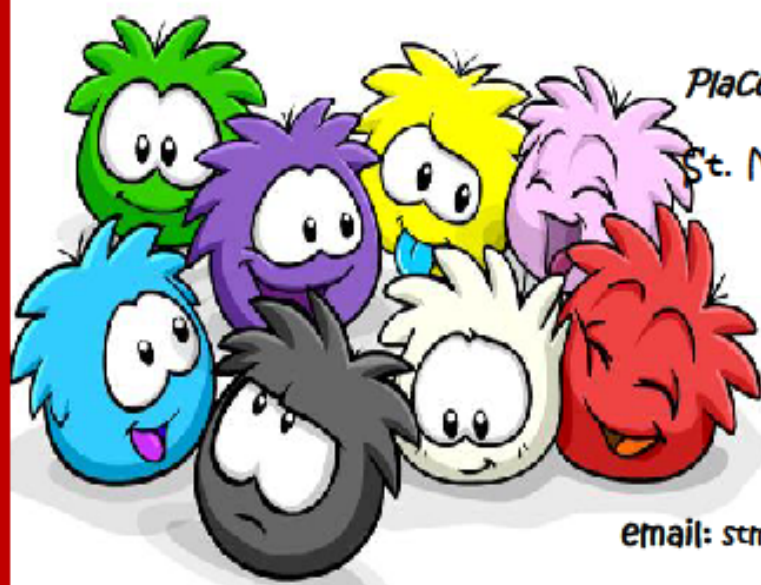
for children aged

3 – 11 years of age



Summer fun for Children to enjoy their holidays in a lovely stimulating environment.

All day sessions 8.45am – 3.15pm = £20



Places are limited so please book

St. Matthias Church Centre
Babbacombe Road
Torquay

01803 215068

(Please ask for Liz or Gary)

email: stmatthiaspreschool929@gmail.com

Week 1	Week 2	Week 3
28 – 30 July	4 – 6 August	11 – 13 August
Tuesday 28	Tuesday 4	Tuesday 11
Wednesday 29	Wednesday 5	Wednesday 12
Thursday 30	Thursday 6	Thursday 13

'With One Voice'

Held on Saturday April 18th

***A weekend of music in worship led by Geraldine Latty,
Carey Luce and Andrew Maries.***



After many weeks of planning, dozens of emails and posters sent to all the local churches in Torbay and District, our Music Weekend was taking shape and really beginning to look like a great musical occasion for us all. Numbers were a bit slow in coming which meant chasing and persuading church music lovers to commit themselves to what promised to be a very challenging and uplifting occasion.

The day eventually came and everyone met in the Peter Larkin Hall to be welcomed by our rector John Beckett. After which Geraldine, Carey and Andrew introduced themselves telling us a little of their background. We were then led into a 'Praise and Worship' time by Geraldine and Carey.

This singing was both unaccompanied and accompanied very ably by Carey on the keyboard and guitar. Geraldine taught us the parts and got everyone very quickly involved - some were experienced singers and others claimed not to be able to sing. This proved a definite challenge to Geraldine which she undertook and convinced them very quickly that they can in fact sing. It was then time for Andrew Maries to introduce himself. He is the Exeter Diocese Music Advisor and has the great privilege of spending time with many churches in the Diocese helping and encouraging them with various ways of leading worship.



Cont'd

After a break for lunch we divided into the groups that we had chosen to do when our booking was made.



These consisted of singing the Gospel with Geraldine in the church a session designed to learn how to sing by ear and following the leader's hands. Time was also spent learning how to 'warm up' the voice prior to singing and then using those skills to perform some new songs.

Carey's session with the instrumentalists was to encourage them to play outside their comfort level, stretching their imagination in Interpreting the Accompaniment.



Andrew led a group of singers through various styles of worshipping, especially how to best interpret some of the new music that is coming from the publishers in such abundance. Andrew also spoke about and illustrated how we could

choose and use music more effectively in our services. At the end of the sessions we all got together again for a closing worship time where the many facets of music that we had learned were put together and used effectively. Finally in the evening Geraldine and Carey gave a concert to over 60 people using a lot of their own compositions. The 'Volunteer Scratch Choir' from the afternoon were also given an opportunity to sing for the first time. The various styles of music gave us all a deeper understanding of the effectiveness of new music and encouragement to us all to be open to new music in our own services enabling the Holy Spirit to come and dwell among us.

On the Sunday morning those of our own congregation were given an extra chance to share in the joy of the music learnt on the Saturday workshops. The whole weekend was an extremely successful one and for me personally it took me into dimensions of musical accompaniment that I had not ventured into much before. A big thank you to all who made it all possible.
Mike Hackeson



A Sense of God

A sense of God was always there for Kathy Roberts, who has just been appointed as Dean of Women's Ministry for the diocese. She says: "As a small girl I had a sense of God calling me but I didn't really know what to do about it."

Kathy was born in Cape Town and later attended Sunday School in her local church. As a musician she enjoyed playing the organ in different churches and at the age of 13 had a tangible experience of God. She says: "I was listening to some music on the radio, possibly the Alleluia Chorus, and felt the presence of God in the room. It was unasked and unexpected and I committed myself to the Lord right then, without really knowing anything." Kathy then attended Scripture Union camps over the next few years which helped her to experience and learn more but it wasn't until she went to teacher training college, run by the Community of the Resurrection in Grahamstown, that she began to think more seriously about her calling.

Following ordination and a move to the UK with her husband Peter, she served her curacy in Crediton and is now Rector of the benefice of Black Torrington as well as taking on this new role, which will support women clergy.

As she begins, Kathy is talking to women in ministry about what will be helpful for them. There have been great steps forward for women in the church but there is still much to be done, she says. She adds: "There is still a lot of discrimination against women in the church in all sorts of ways."

Kathy, 64, describes her journey with God as being a lot more contemplative now than in her younger years and she experiences God through prayer, silence and reflection. And her motivation now she says is 'to know Christ and to make him known,' inspired by Paul's letter to the Philippians.

