



www.st-matthias-church.org

Sunday 29 November 2015

Advent Sunday

Welcome!

We are delighted to see you, especially if this is your first visit.

Please do join us for refreshments in the hall after the 10.30am service.

Today	
8am	Holy Communion (BCP)
10.30am	Advent Sunday Family Service
During the Week	
Tues	9am Morning Prayer
	9.30-11.30am Open House parents and toddlers - Lounge
Wed	9am Holy Communion followed by coffee in the Lounge
Thurs	10.30-11.30am Prayer Meeting in the Ark
	2.30pm Christmas Tea in the Hall (50+ tea)
	5.30pm Christmas Choir rehearsal in the church
Fri	6.30-8pm Youth Club in the Hall
Sunday 6 December	
8am	Holy Communion (BCP)
9.30am	Breakfastzone
10.30am	Holy Communion (CW)

To contact the church

Tel: 01803 214175 or www.st-matthias-church.org

Readings for Today

Malachi 3: 1-5

'I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come,' says the LORD Almighty.

² But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner's fire or a launderer's soap. ³ He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the LORD will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness, ⁴ and the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be acceptable to the LORD, as in days gone by, as in former years.

⁵ 'So I will come to put you on trial. I will be quick to testify against sorcerers, adulterers and perjurers, against those who defraud labourers of their wages, who oppress the widows and the fatherless, and deprive the foreigners among you of justice, but do not fear me,' says the LORD Almighty.

Matthew 25: 1-13

'At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. ² Five of them were foolish and five were wise. ³ The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. ⁴ The wise ones, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. ⁵ The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep.

⁶ 'At midnight the cry rang out: "Here's the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!" ⁷ 'Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. ⁸ The foolish ones said to the wise, "Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out."

⁹ "'No," they replied, "there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves."

¹⁰ 'But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut.

¹¹ 'Later the others also came. "Lord, Lord," they said, "open the door for us!"

¹² 'But he replied, "Truly I tell you, I don't know you."

¹³ 'Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.

Suggestions for your private prayer time

Today	Advent Family Service - especially for "Matts Cats" as they will be singing today. Pray for the 'Friends' Pre-Christmas Lunch.
Mon	Pray for peace, unity and love between the nations of the world.
Tues	Please pray for the school rehearsals for their Christmas activities.
Wed	Pray for all sick, suffering and housebound people in our Parish.
Thurs	Pray for the destitute & homeless in our town and for the Street Pastors. Pray for the 50+ Christmas Tea.
Fri	Pray for all clergy and church leaders with so many more activities and services to lead.
Sat	Pray for the Torbay Singers' Concert tonight.
Sun	Pray that during Advent we may prepare afresh to see Jesus the King.

What's On & News

Friends' Pre-Christmas lunch today at the Palace Hotel.

Christmas Hamper Appeal Please see the Anode clipboard by the pigeon holes at the back of church for hamper items requested and the red notice board display. Donations will also be shared with Factory Row and the Windmill Food Bank in Torquay. Thank you. Donations by 13 Dec please.

Volunteers party A thank you get-together for all the volunteers who help out on the many and various rotas in the church. **Thursday 10 Dec** 12-2pm in the Lounge. Please wear something red or green and bring a nibble!



Christmas Concerts See posters for concerts being held by Torbay Singers on 5 December, Big Noise on 12 December (both at St Matthias) and Rejoice at St Andrew's Church, Paignton also on 12 December.

Some tickets available in the office otherwise please see the posters.

Welcomers If you would like to help welcome visitors to the school Nativity and Christingle services and to the 'midnight' Christmas communion, please sign the sheet at the back of church. Thank you.



'50+' Christmas Tea and launch of 'Chat @ St Matts' Come and see what this is all about on 3 Dec at 2.30pm in the Hall. Tea, cakes,

entertainment and stalls. Please sign up at the back of church.



Alpha A new Alpha course will begin on 20 January. Please see Paul or John for more information.

Advent Calendars If you would like to make a donation towards the cost of the 'Real' Advent Calendars for the Pre-School, Toddler group and children of families who attend our services, please put in a blue envelope marked 'Calendars' with relevant information for gift aid if appropriate. Thank you.

CHRISTMAS CHOIR

Singers required for the candlelit service of carols and readings on Sunday 20 December at 6pm. Rehearsals will take place on 3 and 17 December at 5.30pm for approximately 1 hour. Please let me, Mike Hackeson know as soon as possible if you wish to join us for this great celebration! Thank you.

Christingle Volunteers needed for drama, stagehands, firecrew and for creating the Christingles (Wed 23 Dec am) – please contact Pere in the office.



Singing in the Care Homes If you would like to join a group of people to sing carols in the care homes on 14 and 16 December you would be most welcome! Please sign the list at the back of church.

Calling all coffee makers The new rotas starting next Sunday 6 December are in your pigeon holes. If a problem please try and change with someone on the rota. Thank you for all you do to provide this very welcome service.

Collect

Almighty God,
as your kingdom dawns,
turn us from the darkness of sin to the
light of holiness,
that we may be ready to meet you
in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen