



www.st-matthias-church.org

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Sunday 13 December 2015

Third Sunday of Advent

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	All Age Worship with Baptism
5.30pm	Monthly Prayer Meeting <i>in the Hall with cup of tea at 5pm</i>
During the Week	
Mon	1.45pm Warberry Academy Nativity
Tues	9am Morning Prayer
	9.30-11.30am Open House parents and toddlers <i>in the Lounge</i>
	1pm Funeral of Jeremy Butler
	3.15pm Messy Church
	7.30pm St Matt's Cats <i>in the church</i>
Wed	9am Holy Communion followed by coffee <i>in the Lounge</i>
	1.45pm Warberry Academy Nativity
Thurs	10.30am Prayer Meeting <i>in the Ark</i>
	2pm Ilsham Academy Christingle
	5.30pm Christmas choir rehearsal <i>in church</i>
Sunday 20 December	
8am	Holy Communion (BCP)
10.30am	Holy Communion
3pm	<i>Rehearsal for Christingle service</i>
6.00pm	Candlelit Lessons and Carol Service

Suggestions for your private prayer time	
Today	That while our church is open, people may come in & find peace in the business of life before Christmas
Mon	For all who sing carols or visit in our Care Homes they may be a blessing
Tues	For all who sing carols or visit in our Care Homes they may be a blessing
Wed	Our linked CMS mission partners, Amy & David Roche in the Lebanon, & for their family
Thurs	For all preparing services, parties etc. that they may be able to do them in an atmosphere of peace and joy
Fri	For our Government, Church Leaders and all who influence others
Sat	For all who find Christmas a sad or lonely time. May Jesus fill them
Sun	For our services today, especially our Carol Service

For Today's Service

Advent Wreath Prayer

Lord Jesus, light of the world,
 John told the people to prepare,
 for you were very near.
 As Christmas grows closer day by day,
 help us to be ready to welcome you now. **Amen**



A Collect for 3rd Sunday of Advent

God our healer,
 whose mercy is like a refining fire:
 touch us with your judgment,
 and confront us with your tenderness;
 that, being comforted by you,
 we may reach out to a troubled world,
 through Jesus Christ, Amen

Janet Morley

Readings

Philippians 4: 4-7 NIV

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! ⁵ Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Reading Luke 3:2-18 CEV

At that time God spoke to Zechariah's son John, who was living in the desert. ³So John went along the Jordan Valley, telling the people, "Turn back to God and be baptized! Then your sins will be forgiven."⁴ Isaiah the prophet wrote about John when he said,

"In the desert someone is shouting,
'Get the road ready for the Lord!
Make a straight path for him.

⁵Fill up every valley and level every mountain and hill.
Straighten the crooked paths and smooth out the rough roads.

⁶Then everyone will see the saving power of God.'"

⁷Crowds of people came out to be baptized, but John said to them, "You bunch of snakes! Who warned you to run from the coming judgment? ⁸Do something to show that you really have given up your sins. Don't start saying that you belong to Abraham's family. God can turn these stones into children for Abraham. ⁹An ax is ready to cut the trees down at their roots. Any tree that doesn't produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into a fire."

¹⁰The crowds asked John, "What should we do?"

¹¹John told them, "If you have two coats, give one to someone who doesn't have any. If you have food, share it with someone else."

¹²When tax collectors came to be baptized, they asked John, "Teacher, what should we do?"

¹³John told them, "Don't make people pay more than they owe."

¹⁴Some soldiers asked him, "And what about us? What do we have to do?" John told them, "Don't force people to pay money to make you leave them alone. Be satisfied with your pay."

¹⁵Everyone became excited and wondered, "Could John be the Messiah?"

¹⁶John said, "I am just baptizing with water. But someone more powerful is going to come, and I am not good enough even to untie his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. ¹⁷His threshing fork is in his hand, and he is ready to separate the wheat from the husks. He will store the wheat in his barn and burn the husks with a fire that never goes out."

¹⁸In many different ways John preached the good news to the people.

What's On & News

Christmas Hamper Appeal Please see the Anode information at the back of church on the red notice board. Donations will be shared with Factory Row and the Windmill Food Bank in Torquay. Thank you. Being collected at 10am 14 Dec.


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.



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

Christingle Volunteers needed for drama, stagehands, firecrew and for creating the Christingles (Wed 23 Dec 9.30am in the hall) – please sign up at the back of church if you would like to help.



 **Singing in the Care Homes** Monday 14th 3pm – 6pm starting at Woodrow, Asheldon Road, and Wednesday 16th 5pm – 8pm starting at Georgian House, Parkhill Road. Please sign the list at the back of church – you would not need to stay for the whole session.

Christmas Choir Singers required for the candlelit carols service Sunday 20 Dec at 6pm. Rehearsal 17 Dec at 5.30 630pm. Please let Mike Hackeson know asap

Friends of St Matthias events in the New Year. Wednesday 13th January Evening Meal at Amici Italian Restaurant, Torquay. Saturday 12th March Theatre Trip to see Entertaining Angels at TOADS Little Theatre Company.

Pilgrimage to Greece led by Fr Brian Tubbs. So far there are ten definite bookings, but urgently in need of a few more to make trip viable. If you might be interested please contact the office.

