



[www.st-matthias-church.org](http://www.st-matthias-church.org)

01803 214175

## Christmastide Notices

### 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 Sunday services.*

### Celebrate Christmas at St Matthias Church

<b>Sun 20 December</b>	8am	<b>Holy Communion</b>
	10.30am	<b>Holy Communion</b>
	6pm	<b>Carol Service</b> <i>Lessons and Carols</i> <i>followed by mulled wine and mince pies</i>
<b>Wed 23 December</b>	9am	<b>Holy Communion</b>
<b>Christmas Eve</b>	5pm	<b>Family Christingle Service</b>
	11.30pm	<b>Midnight Holy Communion</b>
<b>Christmas Day</b>	8am	<b>Holy Communion</b>
	10.30am	<b>Family Christmas Communion</b> <i>with carols around the Christmas tree</i>
<b>Sun 27 December</b>	8am	<b>Holy Communion</b>
	10.30am	<b>Morning Worship</b>
	10.30am	<b>Prayzone</b>
<b>Wed 30 December</b>	9am	<b>Holy Communion</b>
<b>Sun 3 January</b>	8am	<b>Holy Communion</b>
	9.30am	<b>Breakfastzone</b>
	10.30am	<b>Holy Communion</b>

## Advent Wreath Prayer

Lord Jesus, light of the world  
thank you for the faith of Mary, your mother,  
help us like her to prepare for your coming at Christmas  
and be ready to welcome you  
When you come again as King. **Amen**



## A Collect for Christmas Day

Lord Jesus Christ,  
your birth at Bethlehem  
draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth:  
accept our heartfelt praise,  
as we worship you,  
our Saviour and our eternal God. **Amen**

### Suggestions for your private prayer time

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<b>Today</b>	For the carol service and especially for visitors in church and for the choir.
<b>Mon</b>	For all taking part in leading the Christmas and New Year services and that they will have increased stamina to keep going.
<b>Tues</b>	Pray for all who are sick or housebound and who are missing loved ones and for the families who have funerals at this time.
<b>Wed</b>	For all who find Christmas a lonely or sad time. May Jesus be a real friend at this time.
<b>Thurs</b>	For the Christingle service and for the large crowd who will be there. Pray that they will see the light of Jesus.
<b>Christmas Day</b>	Praise God for his love as seen in Jesus that we might love and follow Him and worship Him in spirit and in truth.
<b>Sat</b>	For all children that they may appreciate all they have received.
<b>Sun</b>	For John and Ruth and family. May they find time to relax before the New Year catches up with them!

## Nativity

Incarnate Christ,  
be born in me this Christmas!

May my will be as Mary's,  
saying 'yes' to your ways;  
my mind as Joseph's,  
open to your unfolding revelation.

May my voice be as the angels',  
joyfully proclaiming Good News;  
my knees as the animals',  
quietly bent in adoration.

May my feet be as the shepherds',  
running eagerly to find you;  
my hands as the wise men's,  
offering up all that I have.

May my heart be as the manger,  
poor yet containing heaven's  
greatest treasure;  
my life as the stable,  
hallowed and expanded by your  
presence.

Incarnate Christ,  
be born again in me this  
Christmas! *Pat Bennett*



## The Alpha Course an evening course exploring the basics of the Christian faith beginning on Wed 20 January 2016

Alpha is a weekly course that  
looks at topics like:

*Who is Jesus? Why did he die?  
How should I pray? How and  
why should I read the bible?  
Does God heal today? ...*

Some people come along not  
sure they have any faith at all  
but would like to ask questions  
and find out more.

Others come for a brush up on  
the basics.

There is no charge for the  
course.

You're welcome to just come  
along to the first session and  
see what it is like, but please  
let us know that you plan to  
come.

We expect to run around 8  
sessions, 4 before half and 4  
after half term.

For more information please  
contact the office on  
01803 214175 or see John or  
Paul.

### **Contacting the Church**

*St Matthias Church Centre,  
Babbacombe Road, Torquay, TQ1 1HW,  
Tel: 01803 214175  
[www.st-matthias-church.org](http://www.st-matthias-church.org)*

# What's On & News

**New curate for 2016!** We're delighted that Stephen Yates will be our new full time curate from late summer. He and his wife Victoria and children Peter, Paul and Abigail, will be living in Redgate Close. They've been studying at Trinity College, Bristol, though prior to that lived in Paignton.

**Christmas Hamper Appeal** Thank you for your donations for our local foodbanks.

**Cecil Johnston and the Roches** See the back of church for an update from Cecil in Uganda and the Roches in Lebanon.

**Cumbria Flooding** We as a church at St Matthias have sent £500 to help people recover from the dreadful flooding.

**If anyone** knows the present address of the previous curate Philip Evans, please let Peter Larkin know. Thanks.

*Please note: The church will be open for services as per the list overleaf. The church office and centre will close on Thursday 24 December at 1pm and re-open on Monday 4 January at 9am.*

**Christmas Giving** Christian Aid partners in Nigeria are working hard to teach communities how to protect themselves from malaria. It costs just £3 to buy a long-lasting insecticide-treated net, and £33 to train a primary health worker in malaria prevention and treatment. Will you join us in giving a precious life-saving gift this Christmas? The cash collection from the Christmas Eve and 10.30am Christmas Day collections will be given to this project. Please use blue Gift Aid envelopes if you can. The good news is that every pound we raise will be matched by the UK Government.\* Thank you. \*Up to £5 million

## New Year Dates

Chat@St Matts	<b>7 January</b>	@ 2.30pm in the Hall
Men's Breakfast	<b>9 January</b>	Palace Hotel
St Matt's Cats	<b>13 January</b>	@ 7.30pm in church
Friends of St Matthias	<b>13 January</b>	Meal at Amici Italian
Church Family Lunch	<b>31 January</b>	at St Matthias!
Friends of St Matthias	<b>12 March</b>	Theatre trip TOADS