



## Welcome!

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

*Please do join us for refreshments at 10.30am today.*

Today	
8am	Holy Communion (BCP)
9.30am	Growzone
10.30am	<i>Coffee in the Hall</i> <span style="float: right;"><i>with 'Matts Knits' goods for sale</i></span>
11am	Holy Communion (CW)
3.30pm	Christingle planning meeting
5.30pm	'Route 66' – youth-led service
During the Week	
Mon	10am and 6pm Warberry Lessons and Carols
	5pm Carol Singing in the residential homes <span style="float: right;"><i>see poster for times etc</i></span>
Tues	9am Morning Prayer <span style="float: right;"><i>in church</i></span>
	9-11.30am Open House Parents and Toddlers <span style="float: right;"><i>in the Lounge</i></span>
	12.30pm Matt's Knits <span style="float: right;"><i>in the Lounge</i></span>
	3.15pm Christmas Messy Church
	6.45pm Matt's Cats <span style="float: right;"><i>in the church</i></span>
Wed	9am Holy Communion <span style="float: right;"><i>followed by coffee in the Lounge</i></span>
	6pm Ilsham Nativity
Thurs	10am Pre-School Nativity
	10.30am Prayer Meeting <span style="float: right;"><i>in the Ark</i></span>
	2pm Ilsham Christingle
	6pm Carol Singing at the Wellswood Christmas Street Party
Fri	5pm Carol Singing in the residential homes <span style="float: right;"><i>see poster for times etc</i></span>
23 December	
8am	Holy Communion (BCP)
9.30am	Prayzone
10.30am	<i>Coffee in the Hall</i>
11am	Morning Worship
11am	Christingle Making <span style="float: right;"><i>in the Hall</i></span>
5.30pm	Carol Service <span style="float: right;"><i>followed by mulled wine and mince pies</i></span>

## Readings

### Zephaniah 3: 14-end

<sup>14</sup> Sing, Daughter Zion;  
shout aloud, Israel!  
Be glad and rejoice with all your heart,  
Daughter Jerusalem!  
<sup>15</sup> The LORD has taken away your  
punishment,  
he has turned back your enemy.  
The LORD, the King of Israel, is with you;  
never again will you fear any harm.  
<sup>16</sup> On that day  
they will say to Jerusalem,  
'Do not fear, Zion;  
do not let your hands hang limp.  
<sup>17</sup> The LORD your God is with you,  
the Mighty Warrior who saves.  
He will take great delight in you;  
in his love he will no longer rebuke  
you, but will rejoice over you with  
singing.'

<sup>18</sup> 'I will remove from you  
all who mourn over the loss of your  
appointed festivals,  
which is a burden and reproach for  
you.  
<sup>19</sup> At that time I will deal  
with all who oppressed you.  
I will rescue the lame;  
I will gather the exiles.  
I will give them praise and honour  
in every land where they have  
suffered shame.  
<sup>20</sup> At that time I will gather you;  
at that time I will bring you home.  
I will give you honour and praise  
among all the peoples of the earth  
when I restore your fortunes  
before your very eyes,'  
says the LORD.

### Luke 3: 7-18

<sup>7</sup> John said to the crowds coming out to be baptised by him, 'You brood of vipers!  
Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath?' <sup>8</sup> Produce fruit in keeping with  
repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our  
father." For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for  
Abraham. <sup>9</sup> The axe has been laid to the root of the trees, and every tree that does  
not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.'  
<sup>10</sup> 'What should we do then?' the crowd asked. <sup>11</sup> John answered, 'Anyone who has  
two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should  
do the same.' <sup>12</sup> Even tax collectors came to be baptised. 'Teacher,' they asked,  
'what should we do?' <sup>13</sup> 'Don't collect any more than you are required to,' he told  
them. <sup>14</sup> Then some soldiers asked him, 'And what should we do?' He replied, 'Don't  
extort money and don't accuse people falsely – be content with your pay.'  
<sup>15</sup> The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John  
might possibly be the Messiah. <sup>16</sup> John answered them all, 'I baptise you with water.  
But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not  
worthy to untie. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup> His winnowing  
fork is in his hand to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn,

but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.’<sup>18</sup> And with many other words John exhorted the people and proclaimed the good news to them.

For our prayers and praise this week	
Sun	Pray for today’s services, especially <b>Route 66</b> , the Youth-led service
Mon	Pray for peace in our world. Pray against the governmental chaos in so many countries. Pray for our own Government.
Tues	Please remember all the aid agencies we support.
Wed	Pray for all the preparations for Christmas e.g. those who decorate the church, clean, make posters, welcome visitors, work the sound system, read the lessons, pray for each other and lead the services.
Thurs	Pray for the work being done for the homeless and needy in Torbay including the <b>Torbay Community Larder</b> as it helps needy folk and shows Christmas love.
Fri	In this cold weather, pray for all who are ill or are at risk; in hospital or in pain at home. May they know God’s healing and touch on their lives.
Sat	Pray that more may be given, even by non church people, to the work of the <b>Wellspring Project</b> in the Reordering of the church.
Sun	Praise God and pray for the <b>Staff Team</b> , may they know the joy and peace of Christmastide and not get bogged down with practical things.

## What’s on and news



- ❖ **23 Dec Mulled Wine** 😊 Would anyone be able to help to set up and serve mulled wine and mince pies after the carol service? It’s fun and hardly any washing up! Please see Sheila or Pere.
- ❖ **Cards for Compassion** Write your greetings to the church family on an angel or star (or your own card), make a donation to the youth bank to support our sponsored child, and use it to decorate our Christmas tree! (It’s the small tree on the table at the back of church.)
- ❖ **Thank you from Nicci Maxwell in Uganda** “It was so lovely to welcome Cecil Johnston to Potter’s Village this weekend! Thank you for all the warm greetings he brought from you all. A special thanks to all at Matt’s Knits for the wonderful gift of cardigans and hats for our babies! They will be hugely appreciated by families with children in our ward and special care unit this Christmas. The range of styles and sizes was brilliant! Thank you too for the chocolate....it will definitely keep me going over the Christmas period as the post has been so slow that I’m not expecting anything posted ‘for Christmas’ to arrive until February!! Wishing you all a happy and peaceful Christmas! Love Nicci”

- ❖ **Part time** cleaner required for the Pre-School 3.30-4.30pm Monday to Friday in term time. Please contact Liz for more information on 07812 941029.
- ❖ **SMARTIES** Pick up a tube today, enjoy the Smarties and return it full of pound coins for the Wellspring Project! (Sorry, we aim to only buy Fairtrade chocolate but we made a mistake with the Smartie tubes.)
- ❖ **Torquay Community Larder** are grateful for any donations of food so that they can continue their provision of much needed food parcels.
- ❖ **Minibus drivers** Would anyone like to help to provide lifts to church on Sunday mornings on a rota basis? You would need to be aged 30 to 75 and have a category D1 on your driving licence. For more information please see Andrew Stilliard or email [acstilliard@gmail.com](mailto:acstilliard@gmail.com).
- ❖ **Friends of St Matthias** Tickets now available for Nobody's Perfect, a comedy, at the Little Theatre on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> January. Cost £10 (£9 for members)

## Christmas



- **Christmas Giving** In addition to the £500 going to Tearfund's Yemen Project from our 'mission tithe' (10% of our regular giving income), we've also given £550 to the Christian Aid Indonesian Earthquake appeal. Our Christmas 'cash collection' will be going to Christian Aid to help women in Honduras, Malawi, Burkina Faso and Ethiopia use sustainable energy to stand against climate change and lift themselves out of poverty. Each pound given is matched with a further £4 from the EU. See the poster at the back of church. Thank you.
- **Would you be able to deliver a few Christmas leaflets** to the houses in your road (in the parish)? If so please pick up a pack from the back of church today.
- **Christmas Gift?** Illustrated *Faith, Family & Fun* Poetry Booklet produced by Merrilyn & Nina. ALL proceeds are to raise funds for the church reordering.
- **Christingle Making** 11am on 23 December in the Hall
- **Carol Singing around the Residential Homes on 17 & 21 Dec** – please sign up.
- **Wellswood Christmas Street Party on 20 December.** We will be having a stall and doing some carol singing (6pm). Could anyone help please to put up the gazebo? If so please see Steve Vans Colina.

**Collect**      God our healer,  
                   Whose mercy is like a refining fire:  
                   Touch us with your judgement,  
 And confront us with your tenderness;  
                   That, being comforted by you,  
 We may reach out to a troubled world,  
                   Through Jesus Christ. Amen.

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