



www.st-matthias-church.org

23 & 30 December 2018

Christmas Week

Welcome!

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

Please do join us for refreshments at 10.30am today.

Sunday 23 December – 4th Sunday of Advent

8am	Holy Communion (BCP)
9.30am	Prayzone
10.30am	<i>Coffee in the Hall</i>
11am	Morning Worship
11am	Christingle Making <i>in the Hall</i>
5.30pm	Carol Service <i>followed by mulled wine and mince pies</i>

Christmas Eve

5pm	Christingle Service
11pm	Midnight Holy Communion

Christmas Day

8am	Holy Communion
10am	Family Christmas Communion <i>with carols around the Christmas Tree</i>

The Church and Centre will be closed from 26 – 29 December

Sunday 30 December

8am	Holy Communion (BCP)
10.30am	<i>Coffee in the Hall</i>
11am	Family Holy Communion
12.30pm	Baptism of George Biden <i>followed by refreshments in the Hall to which all are welcome</i>

The Church and Centre will be closed on Monday 31 December and Tuesday 1 January and will re-open on Wednesday 2 January

Wed 2/1/19	9am Holy Communion followed by coffee in the Lounge
Thurs 3/1/19	2.30pm Chat @ St Matts in the Hall

Sunday 6 January

8am	Holy Communion (BCP)
9.30am	Breakfastzone
10.30am	<i>Coffee in the Hall</i>
11am	Holy Communion

For our prayers and praise this week

Sun	“Follow the Star” We pray for all the services today. Pray especially for the carol service that those who do not usually come to Church may feel the presence of Jesus and a warm welcome from the regular members.
Mon	Pray that God’s peace will infiltrate our war-torn world. Think of all the homeless, especially for those who sleep on the streets in the Torbay area.
Tues	Pray for all the children in our congregation and Parish.
Wed	Pray for the whole Staff Team and all who take on extra jobs this Christmastide. Remember Nicci Maxwell and Cecil Johnston both living and serving God in Uganda.
Thurs	Remember before God the worldwide Church and in the Anglican Church, remember Justin Welby, John Sentamu our Archbishops, our own Bishops, Archdeacons and all who serve in the wider church.
Fri	Please pray for all who are ill, housebound, and all who have been recently bereaved. Pray too for those who find Christmas a difficult time. Pray that they may know Emmanuel, God with us and be blessed by Him.
Sat	Pray for all in Care Homes, their staff and all who visit them.
Sun	Thank God for all He has done in our lives and our Church this last year and prepare us to know and serve Him better in 2019. Pray that we may be generous in giving to the Wellspring Project and to other projects in Church and our local Community.

A Christmas Prayer

Into our world

As into Mary’s womb

Come, Lord Jesus.

Into the forgotten places,

As into the stable...

Come, Lord Jesus.

Into the lives of the poor, bringing hope;

Into the lives of the powerful, bringing caution;

Into the lives of the weary, bringing rest;

Into the lives of the wise, bringing restlessness;

And into our lives and longings, whatever our estate...

Come, Lord Jesus.

This is the good news:

Christ is coming,

And blessed are those who wait on the Lord.

Therefore come quickly, Lord.

Collect

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

What's on and news



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.

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.

Friends of St Matthias Tickets now available for Nobody's Perfect, a comedy, at the Little Theatre on Saturday 12th January. Cost £10 (£9 for members)

Merrilyn and Nina wish to thank everyone who showed an interest in our booklet of poems entitled 'Poems of Faith, Family & Fun', and who, in taking a copy, made donations towards the re-ordering of St Matthias Church. We are pleased to announce that we have raised enough to buy a chair! Thank you so much!

Cecil's Christmas Letter News of Cecil Johnston and his work in Uganda – copies available at the back of church.

Baptism of George Biden - here at St Matthias on Sunday 30 Dec at 12:30. All welcome to the service and for cake and nibbles in the church hall afterwards.

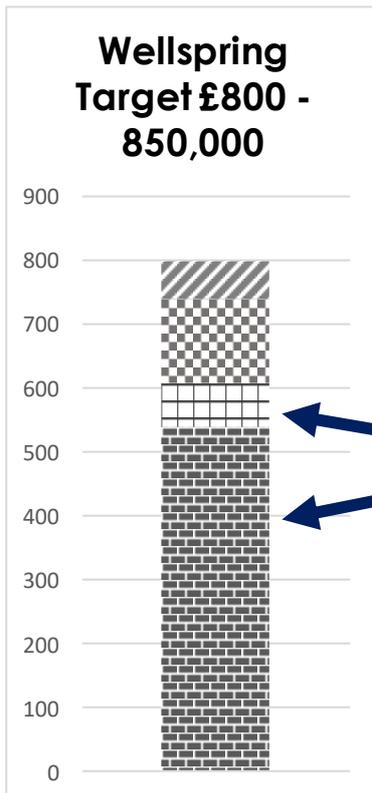


Thanks...to everyone who has cleaned and decorated the church for Christmas and to the team who will be helping to clear up afterwards. 😊

Contacting the Church Rector: John Beckett 01803 293119 Associate Minister: Paul Barton 07807 636470 Curate: Stephen Yates 01803 391435 Children & Youth Worker: Victoria Yates Office: Pere Snow 01803 214175 Blue Light Prayer Phone: 07579 030681

- **Christmas Giving** Our Christmas 'cash collection' will be taken at the Carol Service, Christingle service, Midnight Holy Communion and will be going to Christian Aid to help women in Honduras, Malawi, Burkina Faso and Ethiopia to 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.

Wellspring Update - thank you – a further £5000 has been given over the last 3 weeks!



We now have £540,000 available, leaving about £67,000 needed to complete Phase 1 that would allow us to start using the reordered nave.

The changes will enable us to keep growing and provide even more flexible space for us and the community to use.

£61,000 needed for Phase 3 (chapel/chancel)

£132,000 needed for Phase 2 (exterior)

£67,000 needed for Phase 1 (interior)

£540,000 Funds so far (Church/Friends)

Every little (or large) bit helps.

Please, however much you want to sow, please put any donations into the large barrel at the back of church – and if you can claim Gift Aid (remember that doesn't cost you any more but gives us an extra 25%!), please complete one of the

'Wellspring' Leaflets from the back of church – or you can pay money online to the Wellspring Project: Bank sort code: 40-52-40 A/C number 00017933

- ✓ Chairs are £164. We need 400 *Could you get 1, 10, or 100 of them?*
- ✓ Tables are £80. *We need 20 of them.*
- ✓ Fill up your Smarties tube *with pound coins?*
- ✓ Some people find they really do not need their Winter Fuel Allowance – *how about giving that away?*
- ✓ Have you savings *that could provide us with an interest free loan?*
- ✓ Have you savings *that God is prompting you to give to invest in St Matthias' building for the next generation?*

Thank you for your prayers & support; without you, none of this would be possible.