



**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday  
of Advent**

 **st  
matthias**

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## Welcome!

*We are delighted to see you, especially if this is your first visit.  
Please do join us for refreshments at 11am in church.*

**Sunday 15 December**

### **CELEBRATION WEEKEND**

11am	Church Family Communion <i>with children's groups</i>	<b>Church</b>
12.15pm	<i>Coffee in the Church Cafe</i>	<b>Church</b>
1pm	Church Family Celebration Lunch	<b>Hall</b>
6.30pm	Carol Service and dedication with Bishop Nick <i>followed by mulled wine and mince pies</i>	<b>Church</b>

#### **During the Week**

Mon	9.15am Alpha Course	<b>Ark</b>
	12.30pm Funeral of Mary Buckley	<b>Church</b>
	6pm Warberry Academy Carol Service	<b>Church</b>
Tues	10am Warberry Academy Carol Service	<b>Church</b>
	9 – 11.30am Open House Toddlers group	<b>Lounge</b>
	12.30pm Matts Knits	<b>Lounge</b>
	3.15pm Messy Church	
Wed	9.00am Holy Communion <i>followed by coffee</i>	<b>Church</b>
	6pm Ilsham Academy Carol Service	<b>Church</b>
Thurs	10am Pre-School Nativity	<b>Church</b>
	10.30-11.30am Prayer Meeting	<b>Ark</b>
	2.15pm Ilsham Academy Christingle Service	<b>Church</b>

#### **Sunday 22 December**

8am	Holy Communion (BCP)	<b>Church</b>
9.30am	Prayzone	
10.30am	<i>Coffee in the Hall</i>	<b>Hall</b>
11am	Holy Communion	<b>Church</b>
5.30pm	Prayer Meeting	<b>Church</b>

**We thank God today and we thank everyone who  
has made Wellspring possible**

## Readings

### **2 Chronicles 5: 13-14**

<sup>13</sup> The trumpeters and musicians joined in unison to give praise and thanks to the LORD. Accompanied by trumpets, cymbals and other instruments, the singers raised their voices in praise to the LORD and sang:

‘He is good; his love endures for ever.’

Then the temple of the LORD was filled with the cloud, <sup>14</sup> and the priests could not perform their service because of the cloud, for the glory of the LORD filled the temple of God.

### **1 Peter 2: 4-6, 9-10**

<sup>4</sup> As you come to him, the living Stone – rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him – <sup>5</sup> you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. <sup>6</sup> For in Scripture it says:

‘See, I lay a stone in Zion,  
a chosen and precious cornerstone,  
and the one who trusts in him  
will never be put to shame.’

<sup>9</sup> But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. <sup>10</sup> Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

### **Matthew 11: 2-11**

<sup>2</sup> When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, he sent his disciples <sup>3</sup> to ask him, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?’ <sup>4</sup> Jesus replied, ‘Go back and report to John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup> the blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. <sup>6</sup> Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me.’

<sup>7</sup> As John’s disciples were leaving, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: ‘What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swayed by the wind? <sup>8</sup> If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear fine clothes are in kings’ palaces. <sup>9</sup> Then what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup> This is the one about whom it is written:

“I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.”

<sup>11</sup> Truly I tell you, among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

### Collect

God for whom we watch and wait,  
 you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son:  
 give us courage to speak the truth,  
 to hunger for justice,  
 and to suffer for the cause of right,  
 with Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

### Alpha

*Start date:* 22 January @  
 7.30pm *Venue:* Me and  
 Mrs Jones (Ilsham Road)  
 Pick up a leaflet today or  
 speak with one of the  
 team



### For our prayers and praise this week

Sun	Praise God that we are <b>back in Church for our worship</b> . Praise the Lord for the beauty and lightness of the church. Pray for the <b>Celebrations this weekend</b> and that some in the community will not only come and see but feel welcomed to join in. Pray for the <b>Dedication and Carol Service under Bishop Nick's leadership</b> .
Mon	Praise the Lord for Pere, our Church Administrator for all she does in and out of the office, for her willingness to go beyond her remit.
Tues	Pray for all who are homeless or facing a difficult life, those countries with floods, drought or forest fires, those who have lost loved ones in the New Zealand volcanic eruption. May they know God's presence with them.
Wed	Thank God for those who help us in our community: in the NHS, police, firemen and women, post people, council operatives, and carers.
Thurs	Pray for all who are unwell, in pain or waiting for treatment. Those who are in divided situations or have strains at home or at work.
Fri	Pray that we may all have peace and joy as we prepare ourselves to welcome the <b>Son of God, the King of Kings</b> .
Sat	Remember the <b>Staff Team</b> . Pray too for their spouses and families who don't have them around all the time.
Sun	Pray for those who will be <b>Carol Singing</b> in the residential homes. Pray the residents' hearts will be cheered and turned to Jesus this Christmas.

## What's on and News

***The Yates' are on the move!*** Stephen has been appointed to be Team Rector in the Brixham Team Ministry from the end of March. Please pray for Stephen, Victoria, Peter, Paul and Abigail as they prepare for their move.

***Keeping the church open for visitors*** – our team of volunteers will be welcoming visitors to our wonderful new space and church café early in the new year when we will be open in the mornings from 10-12.30pm. We would also like to extend this welcome by extending the hours. Would you like to join our current team in this wonderful ministry? Please speak to Pere in the office if so.



Christmas Cards – for your cards to the whole congregation, a noticeboard will be available from 22 December.



Note: we have a new way into the church now ☺  
 West Porch – usual Sunday entrance  
 North Porch – disabled, pushchairs only



**Pigeon holes** – are now back in use ☺ 1<sup>st</sup> cupboard on the left as you enter from the Linkway.

**Winter Allowance** If you receive a winter allowance from the Government, you may wish to donate it to the Wellspring Project or Torquay Community Larder. Please complete a gift aid form if relevant.



  
**# Follow The Star**  
 Christmas Services  
 at  
**St Matthias Church**

Sun 15 <sup>th</sup>	11am	Family Holy Communion
	6:30pm	Re-opening Celebration & Carol Service
Tue 17 <sup>th</sup>	3:15pm	Christmas Messy Church
Sun 22 <sup>nd</sup>	8am	Traditional Communion
	9:30am	Prayzone
	11am	Holy Communion
Christmas Eve	5pm	Christingle Service ( <i>children and families</i> )
	11pm	Midnight Holy Communion
Christmas Day	8am	Traditional Communion
	10am	Family Christmas Communion
Sun 29 <sup>th</sup>	8am	Traditional Communion
	11am	Family Holy Communion

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