




Welcome and Happy Christmas!

*We are delighted to see you, especially if this is your first visit.
Please do join us for refreshments in the Hall.*

Sunday 22 December

8am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Church
9.30am	Prayzone	Church
10.30am	Coffee	Hall
11am	 Christingle making – all welcome	Hall
11am	Holy Communion	Church
5.30pm	Prayer Meeting	Church

Christmas Services

Christmas Eve	5pm Christingle Service	Church
	11pm Midnight Holy Communion	Church
Christmas Day	8am Holy Communion (BCP)	Church
	10am Family Christmas Communion	Church

Church and Centre closed Thursday 26th – Saturday 28th inclusive

Sunday 29 December

8am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Church
10.30am	Coffee	Hall
11am	Family Communion <i>with children's groups and prayers for healing</i>	Church

**Please note there will be no Communion on Wednesday 1 January
Church and Centre closed Mon 30th – Wed 1st incl. and will re-open on Thursday 2 January**

Contacting the Church

Office: Pere Snow 01803 214175 **Rector:** John Beckett 01803 293119
Asst Minister: Paul Barton 07807 636470 **Curate:** Stephen Yates 01803 391435
Children & Youth Worker: Victoria Yates stmattscandy@gmail.com
Blue Light Prayer: 07579 030681



Readings

22 December

Matthew 1: 18-end

¹⁸ This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: his mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

²⁰ But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.'

²² All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³ 'The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel' (which means 'God with us').

²⁴ When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. ²⁵ But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

Christmas Eve, Christmas Day

John 1: 1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning. ³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴ In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. ⁸ He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

⁹ The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognise him. ¹¹ He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹² Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God – ¹³ children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

29 December

Matthew 2: 13-end

¹³ When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. 'Get up,' he said, 'take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.'

¹⁴ So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, ¹⁵ where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: 'Out of Egypt I called my son.'

¹⁶ When Herod realised that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi. ¹⁷ Then what was said through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

¹⁸ 'A voice is heard in Ramah, weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because they are no more.'

¹⁹ After Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt ²⁰ and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who were trying to take the child's life are dead.'

²¹ So he got up, took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. ²² But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning in Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. Having been warned in a dream, he withdrew to the district of Galilee, ²³ and he went and lived in a town called Nazareth. So was fulfilled what was said through the prophets, that he would be called a Nazarene.

For our prayers and praise over Christmas

We thank God for the past year and for all that God has done amongst us, and how He has grown the Church with John's leadership. We thank God for John's vision for the Wellspring Project, for the new church and all who helped to bring about the changes and for the weekend of celebration.

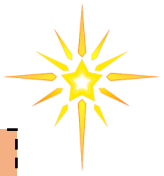
Pray for our new Government as it settles down into office, and pray for Kevin Foster who has new responsibilities.

Remember before God all who are ill in hospital or at home. The bereaved and sad, those facing pressures and tensions at home or at work.

Remember our Staff Team praying for good health and strength to lead and serve the Lord in all they do.

Pray for peace in our world, and for the leaders of the nations.

Pray that all peoples will be more aware of the deteriorating ecological situation in the world and do their part to stop its worsening.



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

Christmas Charity Collections Our cash collections from the Christingle and Midnight Holy Communion services will be shared between 'Compassion UK' to buy solar lamps for poor communities in Togo, and 'CAP (Christians against Poverty)' – an agency offering practical help and support with managing money, budgeting, saving etc. See noticeboard at back of church for more information.

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.



Wellspring Update

We're delighted to be back in the church again and isn't it wonderful?

Don't worry if you see things which still need finishing – we have deliberately asked the builders to pause for Christmas.

Celebration Weekend – Thank You!

A big thank you to everyone who helped to make the celebration weekend so special, to the preparation team, the stall holders and to everyone who took part. What a wonderful weekend it was!

Picture from Devon Live – see website for more information from the Celebration weekend.

<https://www.devonlive.com/news/devon-news/first-look-inside-popular-church-3642653>

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.