



Welcome

We are so sorry we won't be able to see you this Sunday for worship.

Please do try to watch either the Archbishop's service or the Exeter Cathedral service and join with brothers and sisters to worship God.

Mothing Sunday - 22nd March – National Day of Prayer

Church Open from 08:00 to 12:00 for private prayer

All activities during the week have been cancelled

Sunday 29th March (British Summer Time begins)

Church Open from 08:00 to 12:00 for private prayer

Thanks go to...

All those who are looking out for
their neighbours 😊

Coronavirus Update

- There are many regular updates on news services on radio, television, twitter, Facebook, newspapers.
- The Church of England and the Diocese of Exeter also have regular updates on their websites.
- Some simple service sheets are available
- As someone has pointed out on social media:
 - Church was never about the building – it is time for us to show the world the love of Jesus and the Gospel message of his Good News.

Readings

1 Samuel 1 from CEV, with a few phrases missed out, and a few added from NRSV, and a paraphrase comment at end from Children's bible

¹ Elkanah lived in Ramah, He had two wives, Hannah and Peninnah. Although Peninnah had children, Hannah did not have any. ³ Once a year Elkanah travelled from his hometown to Shiloh, where he worshiped the LORD All-Powerful and offered sacrifices. He loved Hannah very much, even though the LORD had kept her from having children of her own. ⁶ Peninnah liked to make Hannah feel miserable about not having any children, ⁷ especially when the family went to the house of the LORD each year. One day, Elkanah was there offering a sacrifice, when Hannah began crying and refused to eat.

⁸ So Elkanah asked, "Hannah, why are you crying? Why won't you eat? Why do you feel so bad? Don't I mean more to you than ten sons?"

⁹ When they had eaten the meal, Hannah got up and went to pray. Eli the old priest was sitting in his chair near the door to the place of worship. ¹⁰ Hannah was broken hearted and was crying as she prayed, ¹¹ "LORD All-Powerful, I am your servant, but I am so miserable! Please let me have a son. I will give him to you for as long as he lives, and his hair will never be cut." ¹²⁻¹³ Hannah prayed silently to the LORD for a long time. But her lips were moving, and Eli thought she was drunk. ¹⁴ "How long are you going to stay drunk?" he asked. "Stop your drinking!"

¹⁵⁻¹⁶ "Sir, please don't think I'm no good!" Hannah answered. "I'm not drunk, and I haven't been drinking. But I do feel miserable and terribly upset. I've been praying all this time, telling the LORD about my problems."

¹⁷ Eli replied, "You may go home now and stop worrying. I'm sure the God of Israel will answer your prayer."

¹⁸ "May your servant find favour in your eyes," Hannah said. Then she left, and after eating something, she felt much better.

¹⁹ Elkanah and his family got up early the next morning and worshiped the LORD. Then they went back home to Ramah.

Later the LORD blessed Elkanah and Hannah ²⁰ with a son. She named him Samuel because she had asked the LORD for him.

²¹ The next time Elkanah and his family went to offer their yearly sacrifice, Hannah stayed home, because she had told Elkanah, “Samuel and I won’t go until he’s old enough for me to stop nursing him. Then I’ll give him to the LORD, and he can stay there at Shiloh for the rest of his life.”

²³ “You know what’s best,” Elkanah said. “I’m sure the LORD will help you do what you have promised.”

²⁴⁻²⁵ When they did take Samuel to the LORD’s house, Hannah brought the little boy to Eli.

²⁶ “Sir,” Hannah said, “a few years ago I stood here beside you and asked the LORD ²⁷ to give me a child. Here he is! The LORD gave me just what I asked for. ²⁸ Now I am giving him to the LORD, and he will be the LORD’s servant for as long as he lives.”

And paraphrases from chapter 2:

God knew how hard it was for Hannah to part with her little son, and as time went by he gave her three more sons and two daughters to love and care for. Once a year, when they went to Shiloh, Hannah saw Samuel. She took him the new clothes she had made him. He was growing into a fine boy, and everyone loved him.

Luke 2: 33-35

³³ The child’s father and mother marvelled at what was said about him. ³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: ‘This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, ³⁵ so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.’

Collect

God of love,
passionate and strong,
tender and careful:
watch over us and hold us
all the days of our life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Personal Prayers

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your disciples,
'I am with you always'.

Be with me today, as I offer myself to you.
Hear my prayers for others and for myself,
and keep me in your care. Amen.

Christ be with me, Christ within me,
Christ behind me, Christ before me,
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,
Christ to comfort and restore me.
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,
Christ in hearts of all that love me,
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

from St Patrick's Breastplate

I am giving you worship with all my life,
I am giving you obedience with all my power,
I am giving you praise with all my strength,
I am giving you honour with all my speech.
I am giving you love with all my heart,
I am giving you affection with all my sense,
I am giving you my being with all my mind,
I am giving you my soul, O most high and holy God.
Praise to the Father,
Praise to the Son,
Praise to the Spirit,
The Three in One.

*adapted from Alexander Carmichael,
Carmina Gadelica (1900)*

Lord Jesus Christ,
Son of the living God,
have mercy on me, a sinner.

The Jesus Prayer

O God, the protector of all who trust in you,
without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy:
increase and multiply upon us your mercy;
that with you as our ruler and guide,
we may so pass through things temporal
that we lose not our hold on things eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Common Worship

Be with us, Lord, in all our prayers,
and direct our way toward the attainment of salvation,
that among the changes and chances of this mortal life,
we may always be defended by your gracious help,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Common Worship

O gracious and holy Father,
give us wisdom to perceive you,
diligence to seek you,
patience to wait for you,
eyes to behold you,
a heart to meditate upon you,
and a life to proclaim you,
through the power of the spirit
of Jesus Christ our Lord.

St Benedict

Before going to sleep

God our Father, by whose mercy
the world turns safely into darkness and returns again to light:
we place in your hands our unfinished tasks,
our unsolved problems, and our unfulfilled hopes,
knowing that only what you bless will prosper.
To your love and protection
we commit each other and all those we love,
knowing that you alone are our sure defender,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Church of South India

For our prayers and praise this week

Sun	Please pray for all the church leaders nationally. Pray for the Archbishops, Churches Together leaders, and other faith leaders, that all the actions they take may lead our churches forward in prayer and faith and unity.
Mon	We must pray for our own Church leaders, but especially our Rector John Beckett and our Church Wardens, Sylvia Barratt and Paul Stannard along with the PCC who will have major decisions to make in how to spiritually feed and guide our congregation.
Tues	Pray for those making provision for the elderly and vulnerable to help them to keep fit and to help them not to feel lonely and cut off from the world.
Wed	Remember before God all Staff in the NHS and teachers. May they be safe and able to help society adequately. Pray for children who are now at home. May they be enabled to be responsible.
Thurs	Pray for all in our Church family who are ill and those who have recently been bereaved. Pray for Jan and Phil Miles and their family as they mourn Mary Langley who died this week.
Fri	Pray for our Prime Minister, Ministers of State and all Members of Parliament, especially Kevin Foster our own MP and all who have responsible jobs to do.
Sat	Pray for all who are homeless, stateless, afraid for their future, who are in strained relationships at home or at work.
Sun	Pray for all our Staff team especially as they try to provide some sort of worship. <p style="text-align: center;"><u><i>“Pray without ceasing”</i></u></p>

News

Stephen’s licensing on Thursday 26 March has been cancelled.

He will be licenced by Bishop Nick and inducted by the Archdeacon at an occasion witnessed by the churchwardens, such that he will be able to begin his ministry on the 29th March. Please continue to pray for Stephen and Victoria as well as the community of Brixham.

ToWNS Celebration Breakfast Sat 28th March has been cancelled and a report on this season’s activities will be available in due course.

We are continuing to pursue the appointment of a **Children, Family and Youth Worker** to replace Victoria Yates, so please do continue to pray for this and – if you have not already done so – consider whether you are able to financially support this

essential ministry. We are exploring the ramifications of this with regard to the PCC meetings and the Annual Meeting. More on this when we have it!

Pre-School will be closed from Monday for 3 weeks. After Easter they may be open for children of key workers only – to be confirmed.

Open Church We are hoping to be able to keep the church open in the mornings from 10-12.30pm for those who wish to come in for a moment of private prayer and reflection. If there are any younger (and healthy) volunteers who could man the church for an hour or so, please email the office.

Office Opening Hours We will continue to answer the phone and emails but the office will just be open for essential services from 10am – 12pm Monday to Friday.

Please do make sure that those you know who are NOT using email or the internet are aware of what is (or is not) happening – copies of this notice sheet are available in the Church, or perhaps you could print it out for them.

Together at St. Matthias, we are here to:

- Worship God
- Make disciples
- Transform communities

And we will continue to do so, albeit in a different way.

Contacting the Church – we will still be available!

Office: Pere Snow 01803 214175

Rector: John Beckett 01803 293119

Asst Minister: Paul Barton 07807 636470

Blue Light Prayer: 07579 030681

Keeping a good Lent

Lent Courses

*The evening courses began so well, entitled ‘**Flourishing**’ and led by Andrew Green - a series of talks about being what God wants us to be.*

With modern technology we were able to record the first one and it has been uploaded onto the website.

Andrew has agreed to record the 3 following sessions, and the second one was published yesterday.

We plan to upload the next two on Wednesday 25th March and April 1st.

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*On Wednesday mornings we had arranged to tell some of the ‘**Great Bible Stories**’ Lyndsay read the story of Joseph on 11<sup>th</sup> and those present found it very worthwhile. You may want to sit with a cup of coffee (or tea) and read the stories out loud – Ruth, and Esther.*

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In Holy Week we had planned a reading of the whole of St Mark’s Gospel.

Again this is something you may wish to do at home

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### Lent Reading:

- *The book to accompany the Lent Talks is ‘**The me I want to be**’ by John Ortberg (a refreshing and engaging read!)*
- *Or you might try this: **Pope Francis’ Apostolic Exhortation on The Gospel of Joy** (aka Evangelii Gaudium). “A thoughtful, hopeful, wise and thorough overview of the Church’s and hence each Christian’s privilege and duty - to share the joy of knowing Christ Jesus with others. The book is fairly brief and it makes for both sobering and surprisingly encouraging reading. The Joy of the Gospel really is at the heart of this book - and it’s infectious”. Lindsay Glazebrook*
- You can order both from Choice Words Bookshop online or by phone.
- There is a range of second hand books available to borrow from the church library – on display on low cupboards in church