



The beautiful magnolia tree outside the church



**Contacting the church –
we are still available!
See end page for details.**



Welcome Sunday 29 March (British Summer Time begins – clocks go forward)

A note from the Rectory

Dear St. Matthias

What difficult times we are in! Fearful for some, lonely for many, disorientating for all of us. For the last two weeks, we've been trying to ensure that all of our more vulnerable church family have the practical support they need. With the phone calls we've been making, it's encouraging to hear how well the church has been offering mutual support to one another and to neighbours, and I hope and pray that will continue.

Yet, as a church community we feel something of the confusion that the Israelites felt when they were sent into exile, and were no longer able to worship as they usually did. As Psalm 137:4 puts it: *"How can we sing the songs of the LORD while in a foreign land?"*

And, while the book of Lamentations (also written about the exile) opens *"How deserted lies the city, once so full of people!"* the writer assures us:

²² *The LORD's unfailing love and mercy still continue,*

²³ *Fresh as the morning, as sure as the sunrise.*

²⁴ *The LORD is all I have, and so in him I put my hope.*

(Lamentations 3:22-24 GNB)

So we have to find new ways to pray to and worship our faithful God.

- As a service leading team, we've begun to upload services onto our own **St. Matthias YouTube channel** <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCopwyXTvmHCMOUSKeJJf6YQ>
- Lena Fearnley has begun to upload a series of **Godly Play bible stories** for children and families (though valuable for all of us).
- We have published a booklet of **Prayer Resources** (also available on our website) to encourage you to nurture your relationship with God – including some really good free daily prayer apps for your phone or tablet.

We're very grateful to Paul Barton for sending out such regular and helpful updates, and we anticipate these will continue once a week or so now. So, with this weekly notice sheet and the church webpages, we hope to keep us all connected still.

With my prayers for the whole church family and all who are struggling in different ways in these extraordinary times, in Christ, **John**

Services Today

Sunday 29 March

9.30am	<p>Godly Play story from Lena to watch as a family online:</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCopwyXTvmHCMOUSKeJf6YQ</p>
11am	<p>Our Sunday morning service will be available on our YouTube channel (and available after that too) at the following link. Also see below for the songs and for a link to the readings:</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCopwyXTvmHCMOUSKeJf6YQ</p> <p>It can also be accessed via the St. Matthias Church website:</p> <p>https://st-matthias-church.org/about-us/covid-19-corona-virus/</p>
7pm	<p>Light a candle in a window as a symbol of the light of Christ, as part of a national prayer initiative to pray for our government, healthcare workers, and all who are suffering from or working to combat the Coronavirus.</p>
Tues 31 March	<p>Final Lent course from Andrew Green on 'Flourishing – being who God wants us to be':</p> <p>https://st-matthias-church.org/media/</p>

Song

My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness
 I dare not trust the sweetest frame but wholly trust in Jesus' Name
*Christ alone, cornerstone,
 Weak made strong in the Saviour's love
 Through the storm He is Lord, Lord of all*

When darkness seems to hide His face
 I rest on His unchanging grace in every high and stormy gale
 My anchor holds within the veil (*rpt*)

When He shall come with trumpet sound
 Oh may I then in Him be found
 Dressed in His righteousness alone faultless stand before the throne

Song

Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul, worship His holy name
 Sing like never before, O my soul, I'll worship Your holy name

The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning
 It's time to sing Your song again
 Whatever may pass, and whatever lies before me
 Let me be singing when the evening comes. *Bless the Lord...*

You're rich in love, and You're slow to anger
 Your name is great, and Your heart is kind
 For all Your goodness I will keep on singing
 Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find. *Bless the Lord...*

And on that day when my strength is failing
 The end draws near and my time has come
 Still my soul will sing Your praise unending
 Ten thousand years and then forevermore. *Bless the Lord...*

Matt Redman

Bible Reading for today: John 11: 1-7 and 17-45

Find in your bible or link to
<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=john+11&version=NIVUK>

For our prayers and praise this week

Sun	Praise God for technology that enables us to have virtual and other sorts of services relayed to our homes. Please pray for all those preparing them, praying that Jesus will be uplifted.
Mon	Pray for the Royal Family as HRH Prince Charles has been found to have a positive Coronavirus diagnosis. Pray for his quick recovery and for all those who look after him.
Tues	Many in our Church family are not well with other problems, many have had operations and treatments delayed or cancelled. Pray they may have peace of mind and even healing.
Wed	Go on praying for the countries where there is division, suffering and homelessness and statelessness. Pray for countries where there are disasters of many kinds.
Thurs	Thank God for all who work in the NHS and may they have the wisdom in their treatment and the stamina needed.
Fri	Pray for all those who have been bereaved. May they know God's healing.
Sat	Praise God for the beautiful weather we have had in this past week and uplifting of people's spirits.
Sun	Pray that we will support one another in prayer, helping practically and showing love. Pray especially for John and Paul. As well as Paul and Sylvia, Church Wardens and Pere our Church Administrator.

Collect

Gracious Father, you gave up your Son
out of love for the world:
lead us to ponder the mysteries of his passion,
that we may know eternal peace
through the shredding of our Saviour's blood,
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Thanks go to...
The NHS 😊

News

Stephen was licensed earlier this week at the home of Bishop Mark Rylands (a retired Bishop living in Ashburton) and so is now formally Team Rector of Brixham Mission Community.

Sad news You may have heard that Mary Langley died about 10 days ago. Her funeral was held on Tuesday and because of the current situation and following Government advice, sadly only 12 of her close family were allowed to be there. Please pray for her family and friends and all who grieve for her.

The **Annual Church Meeting** has now been cancelled but we do still need to approve the accounts and have the annual report. We have been told that because we can't hold a meeting all officers and members will remain as they are until such time as we are able to hold a meeting, which must be before the end of October 2020.

Church and Church Centre Closed In line with Government instruction, the church building and centre are closed. However you can still contact the church in the usual ways - see box below for more details.

Torquay Community Larder is still operating and in need of donations. Please contact Linda Townsend on 07790 640372 to make arrangements for collection. (As the church is closed donations cannot be left there.)

Although the church building is currently closed you can still contact the Church as follows:

Office: Pere Snow 01803 214175

Rector: John Beckett 01803 293119

Asst Minister: Paul Barton 07807 636470

Children & Youth Worker and curate: currently vacant

Blue Light Prayer: 07579 030681

www.st-matthias-church.org

See the website to watch services on line, listen to the Lent course, link to prayer resources and to see updates on the current situation.