



Palm Sunday 5 April Welcome

Services Today	
9.30am	Breakfastzone with a Godly Play story from Lena to watch as a family online, and Ruth shows us 'how to make our own Palm cross... https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCopwyXTvmHCMOUSKeJJf6YQ
11am	Palm Sunday Worship - 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: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCopwyXTvmHCMOUSKeJJf6YQ It can also be accessed via the St. Matthias Church website: https://st-matthias-church.org/about-us/covid-19-corona-virus/
7pm	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.
Bible Reading for today: Matthew 21: 1-11 (Good News Translation) Find in your bible or link to https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+21%3A+1-11&version=GNT	

Next week is Holy Week	
Good Friday	10.30am All Age Service 2pm – 3pm Reflective services
Easter Day	11am Family Communion

Collect

True and humble king,
 hailed by the crowd as Messiah:
 grant us the faith to know you and love you,
 that we may be found beside you
 on the way of the cross,
 which is the path of glory. Amen

Thanks today to...

those still working in
 shops and essential
 services 😊

Although the church building is currently closed you can still contact the Church as follows:
Office: 01803 214175
Rector: John Beckett 01803 293119
Asst Minister: Paul Barton 07807 636470
Blue Light Prayer: 07579 030681
www.st-matthias-church.org to watch services on line, listen to the Lent course, link to prayer resources and to see updates on the current situation.

A note from the Rectory...

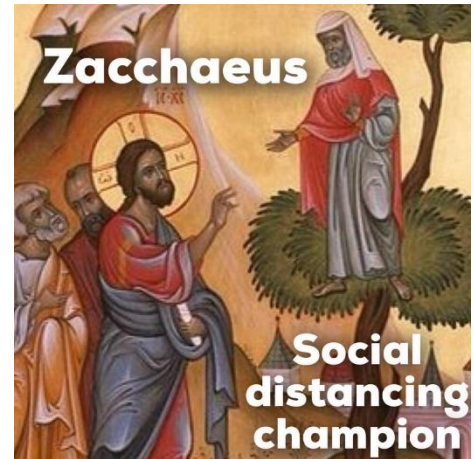
Two weeks into our lock-down, the situation remains grave, and particularly dangerous for our people continuing to serve in the NHS, care homes and shops, let alone those who are ill. So we continue to pray at home...and it's good to do this together too – Paul and I are meeting online with 'zoom' for Morning Prayer a couple of times a week and weekly with other clergy in the deanery – including with Stephen Yates!

I hope that house groups can do the same and that you find the online services and prayer resources of value. We continue to be grateful to Paul for the 'Covid19' updates and to all those volunteering to shop and care for church family and neighbours. It has also been good to see new ways people have found to meet, help and support one another – even Matt's Cats had a rehearsal online! Others encourage with humour – I hope you enjoy these two pictures forwarded to us 😊

With our prayers, John and Ruth



*A Social distance baptism?
and...*



For our prayers and praise this week	
Sun	In these unprecedented days we need to pray for those producing virtual services. We pray for services going out today, praying that they will really turn people's hearts and minds to Jesus.
Mon	Pray for all in our Church family who are unwell, recently bereaved, having relationship problems in their families or work.
Tues	Pray for our country with thousands of people affected by Coronavirus. For all confined to their homes. Pray that all in this situation will have peace and harmony with other members of their families. Pray that that may feel loved and comforted.
Wed	Many hundreds of thousands around the world have died from this virus. Pray for their families and friends that they may know the comfort of Jesus.
Thurs	Praise God for the thousands of those who have volunteered their help in many different ways; for local communities which are working so well together.
Fri	Pray for all who work in the NHS, all teachers, and all in the public sector. Pray for so many businesses facing hardship and many having to give up their livelihoods.
Sat	Pray that as a Church we may all pray for each other and keep in touch with one another - not only the Home Groups. Pray for those who are afraid and finding being isolated depressing or difficult.
Sun	Pray for our Rector John Beckett and Paul Barton on whose shoulders so much falls at the moment. May they have strength and peace in what they do. Pray for today's virtual services.

News

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.)

Lent Course This is still available on line - Andrew Green on 'Flourishing – being who God wants us to be' <https://st-matthias-church.org/media/>

Stephen was licensed last week and so is now formally Team Rector of Brixham Mission Community.

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.

A note from Tony, the Treasurer

LOSS OF INCOME FOR ST MATTHIAS DURING COVID-19 CRISIS

First of all I would like to sincerely thank all those who continue to give regularly each month via the Parish Giving Scheme or by Standing Orders. Your generosity is very much appreciated and will hopefully continue to provide a large proportion of our voluntary income during the Coronavirus crisis. Our thanks also go to those members of our congregation who give cash each Sunday as the offering plates come round.

Because the Church, Centre and Pre-School are now closed until further notice, our other sources of income are going to be severely impacted so there will be considerable pressure on our finances as there are still significant regular bills to pay, including our Common Fund payment of £8,272 per month and other essential items such as our buildings insurance, fire and intruder alarms etc. We are also committed to continuing our support of various mission and other charitable organisations via the Mission Action Group, thus providing help to others less fortunate than ourselves, which is even more critical during this time of crisis. This means that we are going to be even more reliant on voluntary income, one element of which is the Sunday offerings, either via cash donations in the collection plate or those who continue to give via the blue and yellow envelope schemes, which give us the benefit of claiming gift aid. Clearly none of these sources are now possible for the time being.

THIS IS A PLEA TO ALL THOSE WHO GIVE VIA ENVELOPES OR CASH TO PLEASE CONSIDER CHANGING OVER TO, PREFERABLY, THE PGS SCHEME OR, ALTERNATIVELY, BACS TRANSFER INTO OUR CHURCH BANK ACCOUNT VIA A STANDING ORDER.

If you would be prepared to change over to the PGS scheme, which has now become our preferred method, then all you need to do is to fill in and post off a Direct Debit form, which I can arrange to get to you on request (see my contact details below). Unfortunately it is not possible for banking regulatory reasons to set this up online or to scan and email forms; the completed and signed originals have to be sent in the post. Please be assured that the donation would remain totally under your control at all times and can be changed or cancelled at any time by making a simple phone call.

A second alternative is to set up a standing order to make a regular donation via BACS transfer from your bank, which can easily be done online. If you would prefer to do this then our bank details are as follows:

SORT CODE: 40 52 40
ACCOUNT: 00017933

If you need any help to set this up then please get in touch.

It is also recognised that the crisis may be causing financial hardship to some of our church community so please do not feel pressurised to respond to this request if you are personally affected in this way.

With grateful thanks in anticipation for your support.

Best wishes,

Tony Barratt

Hon Treasurer, St Matthias

Email: tony@ab-consulting.org

Tel: 07984 001973



Artwork by Georgina

Spring Harvest Home 13- 17th April

Spring Harvest at home. It is completely free and something for the whole family, commencing with The Big Start in the morning (all age celebration). Keep the week clear and enjoy. Hopefully, if you don't already come to SH, you may like to join us next year. *Tessa and Paul* <https://springharvest.org/spring-harvest-home/>

"Spring Harvest Home is a completely free online conference programme with content suitable for everyone in the family. Lined up for the week after Easter, we have some amazing material all built around the 2020 theme of ***"Unleashed – The Acts Church Today"***. Never has there been a more appropriate time for us to gather together as a community to worship, learn, laugh and pray together."