

Sunday 10 May 2020

Welcome

Services online

Services – all available on the church YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCopwyXTvmHCMOUSKeJf6YQ>

or via the church website:

<https://st-matthias-church.org/about-us/covid-19-corona-virus/>

(or follow links from 'covid/coronavirus' or 'services' tabs on home page)

Friday
8 May
VE75 Day

10am You may like to join the Exeter Diocesan Service via this link:

<https://exeter.anglican.org/resources/coronavirus-guidance/ve-day-2020/>

and there is some other resource material on other pages of these notices.

Sunday
10 May

Church Family Worship from 9.30am



This Sunday, we'll be joined by Emma Worrall, a speaker on behalf of 'Open Doors' as we look at Acts 7 and Stephen's courage and persecution. 'Open Doors' specifically help the persecuted church across the world, and are one of the main mission agencies we support at St Matthias.

Please take a look at the All Age Resources overleaf and links below:

<https://tinyurl.com/y82r8nza>

<https://www.opendoorsuk.org/act/letter/iran-hami/>

<https://tinyurl.com/y9vczx7j>

10.30am Join us for coffee at 10.30am every Sunday – on Zoom!

If you've not used Zoom before you will need to try to do this before Sunday - and either click on the link at the bottom of this text box and then download the small amount of software you need, or go to the main website:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/>

If you have used Zoom before, then either click on the link below and it should take you straight there; or go to your own zoom app, and 'join meeting' by using the blue link or 'Meeting ID' below. This will remain the same for the next three weeks at least, and you will not need a password. See you there!

Meeting ID: 711 6773 0270 or via this link:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/71167730270>

8pm Prayer Vigil Light a candle in a window as a symbol of the light of Christ, as part of a national prayer initiative to pray for all who are suffering from or working to combat the Coronavirus.

Bible Reading for today: The set reading for today is Acts 7: 55 – 60, which tells of the death of the courageous martyr, Stephen. You can find it in your bible or link to: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=acts+7%3A55-60&version=NIVUK>

It's very helpful to remember what led up to this, so here is a summary, based upon the Lion's Children's Bible accounts:

The Story of Stephen from the Book of Acts, Chapters 6 and 7

Jesus' followers, the apostles, were in Jerusalem telling everybody about Jesus, and lots of people chose to join them as his disciples. Everyone was made welcome and anyone in need was looked after. But it was difficult to be quite fair. Quarrels would break out, so much of their time was taken up with caring for everyone, and they didn't have enough time to preach and pray as Jesus had told them to do.

So they selected seven good men and put them in charge of sharing out the funds fairly, among the widows and those who were needy. One of the seven was an ordinary man called Stephen, and God used him to do extraordinary things. He was energetic and enthusiastic as well as being very good at arguing with the Jews about who Jesus was and explaining why he was the Messiah.

Unfortunately, he soon made enemies among those who hated Jesus. They made up lies about him and bribed others to tell lies about him as well and they brought him before the Jewish leaders. 'We heard him speaking against Moses and against God' they said.

As the charges were read out, Stephen faced his accusers bravely. His face was like an angel's - full of goodness and light. When it was Stephen's turn to speak he reminded them about the history of the Israelites. 'All down the ages, our nation has refused to listen to the leaders God has sent to them. In fact they were often picked on, bullied and even killed, even though they were sent by God. 'Now you, the Jewish leaders, have rejected and murdered God's most important messenger - his Son, Jesus.' At this, the Council members were furious. They shook their fists and shouted angrily at Stephen.

Open Door Activities for all ages



We have a quiz from Open Doors which you can find here – try this as a family (and don't peek at the answers!) <https://tinyurl.com/y82r8nza>

Have a look at Hami's story and write a letter to an Iranian child -

<https://www.opendoorsuk.org/act/letter/iran-hami/>

There are 8 colouring sheets here <https://tinyurl.com/y9vczx7j> – once you have done one (or more!) please send us a photograph of your best one at admin@st-matthias-church.org

Next week	
Sunday 17May	9.30am Growzone
	Coffee on Zoom @ 10.30am
	Meeting ID: 711 6773 0270 or via this link: https://us04web.zoom.us/j/71167730270
	11am Holy Communion

Collect

Risen Christ,
your wounds declare your love for the world
and the wonder of your risen life:
give us compassion and courage
to risk ourselves for those we serve,
to the glory of God the Father. Amen

Thanks today go to...

Those managing and
working in care homes



News



VE75

The Bank Holiday on Friday 8th May, and the weekend to follow had been intended to be a time of community celebrations. As the official VE75 webpage summarises:

“When VE Day dawns on 8th May 2020 it will be 75 years since the guns fell silent at the end of the war in Europe. Years of carnage and destruction had come to an end and millions of people took to the streets and pubs to celebrate peace, mourn their loved–ones and to hope for the future, but not forgetting those still in conflict until 15th August when it was announced that Japan had surrendered unconditionally to the Allies, effectively ending World War II.”

Of course, the Coronavirus lockdown has prevented all of these community gatherings, though we are still encouraged to join with any or all of these:

- 10am: *Bishop Nick & Diocesan Service of Reflection*
- 11am: *Two Minutes Silence & National Reflection*
- 3pm: *Nation’s Toast to the Heroes of WW2*
- 9pm: *Queen’s VE Day Speech*

The Church of England has also published a short service outline that you may like to use at home – although we will include prayers for the day in our own online service on Sunday morning.

A Liturgy for the 75th Anniversary of VE DAY

Heaviness may endure for a night:

But joy comes in the morning.

God has been our refuge and our strength:

A present help in time of trouble.

We have come together on this day to commemorate the 75th anniversary of Victory in Europe, when the sounds of war fell silent on this continent. We come together conscious of our need for God's forgiveness for the sin and the desire to dominate others that leads to conflict between people, and war between nations. And as we remember the many soldiers, sailors, and airmen who gave their lives restraining evil and opposing tyranny, so we also come in thanksgiving for the years of peace that the nations of Europe have enjoyed since the Second World War. We gather joyfully today, as those who gathered on that first Victory day, glad of each other's company, and grateful for the laughter and love that follows times of sadness and loss. But above all things, let us pray that God's will may be done on earth as it is in heaven.

2 Corinthians 5.16–21

¹⁶ So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. ¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: the old has gone, the new is here! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: ¹⁹ that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰ We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: be reconciled to God. ²¹ God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

The Collect *usually used on Remembrance Day*

God, our refuge and strength,
bring near the day when wars shall cease
and poverty and pain shall end,
that earth may know the peace of heaven
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

From the Act of Commitment for Peace

Lord God our Father,
we pledge ourselves to serve you and all humankind, in the cause of peace,
for the relief of want and suffering,
and for the praise of your name.

Guide us by your Spirit;
give us wisdom;
give us courage;
give us hope;
and keep us faithful now and always. Amen.

Other News

Here are some of the 'models of the church' – all joined together by the Holy Spirit, created last week following Pauline's instructions on Breakfastzone 😊 If you haven't made your own yet, have a look at last Sunday's Breakfastzone service on YouTube!



Book to read As we are currently celebrating the 75th anniversary of VE Day, you may be interested in reading a book written by David Scott **“The Funk Hole Myth - Torquay during World War II”**. This is a key book for those interested in Torquay's history and successfully challenges myths, both from the time and more recently, about our role between 1939 & 1945. For a copy, contact David at DScottTorq@aol.com

John and Ruth would like to thank everyone who has sent cards and messages of prayer and support to help them as they grieve for John's mother who died recently.

School foodbanks – you may find it helpful to know that the local Academy Primary schools have foodbank/food parcel access, as has St Cuthbert Mayne, and that their usual admin phones and email will take requests from parents in need.

Daily Hope – A new phone line resource from the Archbishop of Canterbury's office which comes highly recommended.

Trouble using Zoom?

John Gerard of St Matts has kindly offered to give tutorials about how to get the best out of Zoom –

or even just to get started on it...do just phone him on 07870154084.



A free phone line of hymns,
reflections and prayers

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.)

Annual Church Meeting With this meeting so delayed why not read the Annual Report and reports from the various church groups through now? We hope you will find it an encouraging and helpful read. Thank you. Click on the two links here:

[APCM report 2020](#)

[Group reports](#)

For our prayers and praise this week

Sun	Pray for the Church Family Service. Pray for those preparing, especially John and Paul, and that they may be suitable for all age groups. Pray that many will switch on to it.
Mon	Please remember all who have been bereaved of loved ones. In our church among others think of John Beckett and Paul Barton who have lost mother and cousin respectively.
Tues	Think of all homeless in Torbay, all who are suffering from Coronavirus and are suffering financially, some who have lost jobs. Pray especially for children who find it hard at home or not going to school where they meet their friends.
Wed	Pray for all our care homes. Thank God for all carers both in homes and in the community. Pray for organisations like the Community Larder and that people will support them well.
Thurs	Pray for all who are ill as well as those with the virus. Pray for those whose operations or procedures have been cancelled or delayed - may they have peace and patience.
Fri	Pray for the Staff Team and all who are keeping the church alive and thriving.
Sat	We thank God for and pray for all our church leaders, Archbishops, Bishops, Deans, Archdeacons and Incumbents, especially John and Paul.
Sun	Pray for her Majesty the Queen and the Royal Family in this extraordinary time, especially the Queen and Prince Phillip as they grow older.

Prayer Request from Brunel Manor - they have asked for prayer for their very serious financial situation – they will go into administration at the end of June unless they find more money.

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

Office: 01803 214175 admin@st-matthias-church.org www.st-matthias-church.org

(Pere Snow is on Furlough Leave but the phone is still being answered)

Rector: John Beckett 01803 293119 **Asst Minister:** Paul Barton 07807 636470

Blue Light Prayer: 07579 030681