



16 August 2020

www.st-matthias-church.org

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)

Sunday 16 August	9.30am Growzone online
	See below for a note about the Growzone craft activity 😊
	<i>10.30am Coffee on Zoom</i>
	https://us04web.zoom.us/j/73041356839?pwd=Y3B0TWNVdENjdlh5eTMrRmMvSWY1UT09
	Meeting ID: 730 4135 6839 Passcode: j8xeRR
	11am Holy Communion online
	11am Morning Worship in church
	(See note below ref phoning to book a place & wearing a face covering)
Bible readings for today: Genesis 45:1-12 & Luke 1:68-79 for online worship, and Psalm 85 & Matthew 15:21-28 in church	
Genesis: https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis+45%3A1-12+&version=NIVUK	
Luke: https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+1%3A68-79+&version=NIVUK	
Psalm: https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+85+&version=NIVUK	
Matthew: https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+15%3A21-28+&version=NIVUK	

Next week	
Sunday 23 August	9.30am Prayzone online
	<i>10.30am Coffee on Zoom</i>
	https://us04web.zoom.us/j/73041356839?pwd=Y3B0TWNVdENjdlh5eTMrRmMvSWY1UT09
	Meeting ID: 730 4135 6839 Passcode: j8xeRR
	11am Morning Worship online
	11am Morning Worship in church
	(See note below ref phoning to book a place & wearing a face covering)
	In the services today we have interviews with reps from the charity 'Worldshare', one of our mission partners.

Joseph's Coat Activity for Growzone

The materials needed include:

The colouring sheet – on the last 2 pages of this document (or follow the link below the YouTube video)

Some newspaper

Some coloured paper, or colourful magazine pages,

(or felt-tip colours and pencils)

Glue

Scissors

Collect

Lord of heaven and earth,
as Jesus taught his disciples to
be persistent in prayer,
give us patience and courage
never to lose hope,
but always to bring our prayers
before you;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

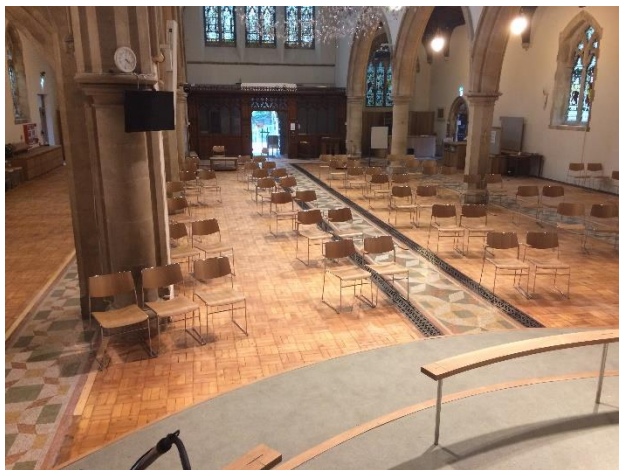
Amen

For our praise and prayers this week

Sun	Praise God that we can worship Him wherever we are. Praise Him, for those in the church family able to master the way to stream the services.
Mon	Pray for the people of Beirut, Lebanon, for the hundreds who have been bereaved and the thousands injured. May they all know the presence of God in their lives.
Tues	Remember all those trying to enter our country illegally. The seas are dangerous and the future uncertain for them.
Wed	Pray for all in our church family who are ill, in pain, nearing the end of their lives or living in danger. May they turn to the Lord as their Comforter and Healer.
Thurs	Pray against the power of the Covid 19, and for wisdom of the scientists looking for a solution. Pray for those bereaved by it and those afraid of it.
Fri	Pray for the plans being made to hold an Alpha Course, for those learning from Lena in Godly Play. Pray that members of the House Groups will still share with one another where there are needs.
Sat	Pray for Ruth Beckett as she prepares for the arduous course towards Ordination. May she have all the wisdom and stamina she will need as well as the material things.
Sun	Pray for our worship at home or in church that we may give God all the glory he deserves. Pray for a greater sense of love, peace, and harmony among us.

Church Building Opening and Online Worship Update

We are delighted to be able to invite you back into the church building for prayer and services again – though it is complicated! And we will also be continuing as church online as at present for at least the next month or so.



Remember! Face coverings are sadly now mandatory for everyone coming to church. We've purchased a Perspex screen for preachers to stand behind but this will not arrive in time for Sunday.

The church building is opening again!

Please note we now have to wear a face covering to protect other people

Sunday mornings @11am Morning Worship service

Sadly, to keep social distance, numbers are limited, so while there is usually space, it's safest to phone to book in advance

01803 311488

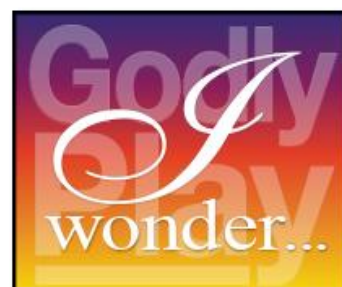
Please do not come into church if you are self-isolating, in the shielded group or looking after someone who is in that category

also open on Wednesdays 10am – 1230pm
for private prayer

Our online worship continues as before, so you can join in there too!

News

Watch, Wonder and Listen ... The fourth in our Old Testament series of Godly Play Lessons 'The Story of Abraham' is NOW available on www.thegodlyplayroom.co.uk or through St Matthias Church's website. All lessons last around 20 minutes. Lena has put together fantastic activity packs which support children to explore each of these stories further. Just email lenafearnley@googlemail.com and you will be sent one!



Questions about life? and about the Christian faith?

We hope to begin an **Alpha Course**
over the summer, face to face or online!

Alpha

Contact the Church Office if you'd like to find out more

admin@st-matthias-church.org

01803 214175

ALPHA

Anya Jones featuring St Matts Cats has released a new song JUST HOLD ON dedicated to all frontline and key workers. It is now available on iTunes and other stores: <https://ditto.fm/just-hold-on> All profits will go to NHS.



The video is out now on YouTube https://youtu.be/_OwYGxOo3Hg. Please help her fundraising campaign by sharing this and downloading the song. Thank you very much.

Beirut disaster support Church Mission Society, who are trusted mission partners of St Matthias, are assisting in the huge recovery work under way in Beirut. If you wish to give support, you may donate online, via the link below (scroll to the foot, and click on 'Give to CMS's work in Lebanon'). Alternatively, you can post a cheque, made out to 'Church Mission Society' enclosing a short note to specify the Beirut disaster, to: Church Mission Society, Watlington Road, Oxford, OX4 6BZ.

<https://churchmissionsociety.org/our-stories/lebanon-beyond-the-blast-a-call-to-prayer/>

Torquay Community Larder is still operating and in need of donations. Please contact Linda Townsend on 07790 640372 to make arrangements for collection. (Donations cannot be left in the church at the moment.) Thank you.

Stewards for church – would anyone like to be a steward on a Wednesday morning when the church is open for private prayer or on Sundays for the 11am service? We have a small team already but would love more to join. If so please contact Pere or Sylvia. Thank you.

☺ Thanks go to...

Those who have written the midweek addresses which are posted out to those not on the internet and those who are keeping in touch with people isolated at home.

What is happening with Holy Communion?

It has been good to begin to worship again in St. Matthias Church building at last. However, as you know, there remain limitations about how we go about that: wearing a face covering, not singing, and frequent sanitising of hands and surfaces.



We had hoped to recommence services of Holy Communion soon

too, but last week, St Matthias Church Council (the 'PCC') - in the light of the most recent guidance from the Church of England, based upon the Government's instructions - understandably felt that the even more cumbersome sanitising that would be needed for this meant that we should not begin Communion services for a further month or so. This will be a great disappointment to many I know.

However, our Holy Communion services will continue online – largely as per our 'pre-lockdown' pattern – on the 1st and 3rd Sundays, with an additional Book of Common Prayer Communion on 2nd Sundays.

It seems a good time to consider what is the value of taking part in one of these online Communion services when we cannot receive the bread and wine ourselves?

Whole libraries have probably been written about what it means to receive the sacraments of bread and wine in church – but theologians are in relatively new territory when it comes to online worship!

Some churches have revived some centuries old theology about what is called 'Spiritual communion' – reminding us that we can know a 'communion' with our Lord as we come afresh to him in prayer anyway – and that we do not need the bread and wine to be able to do that.¹ However, here at St. Matthias, we still believe there is real value about continuing to share Communion services online as we have been doing.

When we are together in church, sharing the 'one cup' and 'one bread' there are several parts to what we celebrate. Here are some of these:

We remember Jesus and his sacrifice on the cross for us – and God's love for the world, and we continue to be able to do this as we take part in the online worship. The familiar words of the service help us to do that too.

We share a fellowship meal - which the one cup and one bread symbolise when we are in the church building together. Clearly, when we take part online, we are not able to do that. However, some people still like to have something to eat and drink at home as they take part in the online worship, so that they are engaging with the fellowship of eating together.

Paul Barton and I warmly commend this practice to you - however, as Bishop Robert rightly points out, this is not the same as **receiving that bread and wine as a 'sacrament'** ("a visible sign of an invisible grace") which we can really only do as we receive the bread and wine as part of a service when we are physically gathered together in one place.

So, while in taking part with an online Communion service we cannot receive all of the same benefits as doing so together in church, there are still real benefits of doing so. May God bless us as we continue to seek to honour Jesus in all that we do.

John

Pages 5 – 8 of the latest Church of England guidance about Holy Communion have a brief discussion about these matters.

<https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2020-08/COVID-19%20Advice%20on%20the%20Administration%20of%20Holy%20Communion%20v5.0.pdf>

There is also a short paper about 'Spiritual Communion' that you can find here:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2020-03/Guidance%20on%20Spiritual%20Communion%20and%20Coronavirus.pdf>



To contact the church:

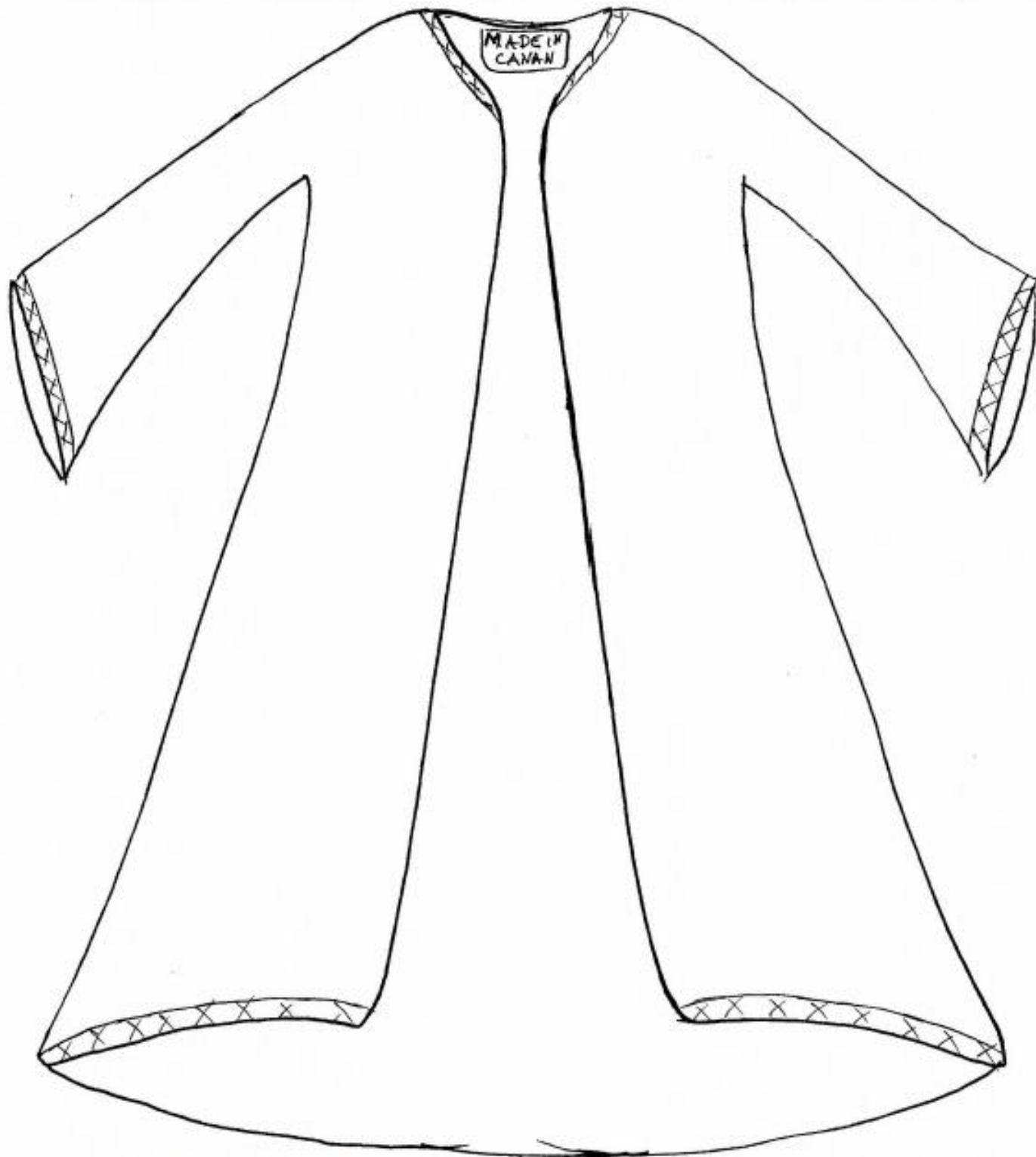
Office: 01803 214175 admin@st-matthias-church.org

(Pere is back at work part time answering emails and phone calls.)

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

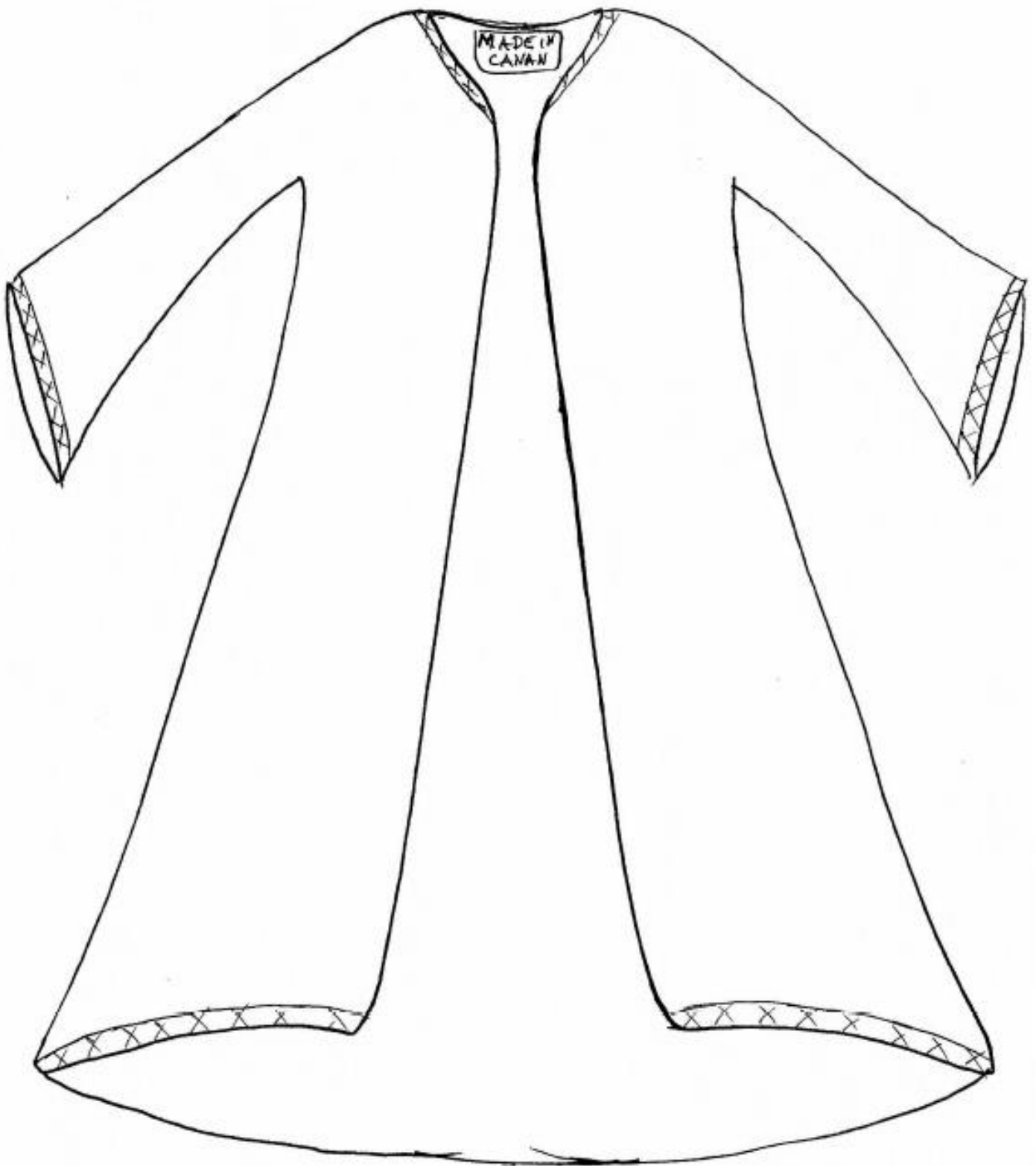
On a bad day...

God never left Joseph, even when his brothers stole his special coat from him!



Psalm 13 ¹I'm hurting, Lord—will you forget me forever?
How much longer, Lord? Will you look the other way when I'm in need?

...trust in GOD!



Romans 8 ²⁸ So we are convinced that every detail of our lives is continually woven together to fit into God's perfect plan of bringing good into our lives