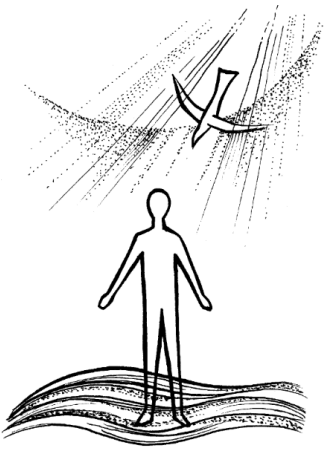


Baptism of Christ

10 January 2021

www.st-matthias-church.org



Welcome

You will see that we have felt it necessary to move all our services online this week, and depending on the Church Council meeting on Monday, for the next few months. This is following a series of consultations and advice, including a meeting of all clergy in the Diocese with the Archdeacons and Rev Prof Radford (until 2019, the Deputy Chief Medical Officer for England and a Team Vicar in the Diocese). However the church building will be open for private prayer for short periods on Wednesdays and Sundays. Some of the background to this decision are found in the 'note from the Rectory', emailed out earlier in the week, and copied below for those unable to access this.

Services online

available on the church YouTube channel

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

or

from specific links below in the notice sheet

or

via the church website - follow links from 'online services and worship resources' on home page

Sun 10 Jan	8am Holy Communion (BCP) <i>online</i>
	9-10am Church open for private prayer
	9.30am Ozone <i>online</i>
	10.30am Coffee <i>on zoom</i> https://us04web.zoom.us/j/78179904975?pwd=TGJzcDBpQU8rR2NEcnhsQmxlVzkyQT09 Meeting ID: 781 7990 4975 Passcode: Jo3v16
	11am Morning Worship <i>online</i> https://youtu.be/B2uXrDxVbkU
	3-4pm Church open for private prayer
	5.30pm Prayer Meeting <i>online</i> https://us04web.zoom.us/j/72879372402?pwd=S0UwTWFKQ3lTWc9jYXZaTXBaa2xSQ09 Meeting ID: 728 7937 2402 Passcode: HkeDe5

Readings: Acts 19:1-7 and Mark 1:1-12

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=acts+19%3A++1-7&version=NIVUK>

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Mark+1%3A1-12++&version=NIVUK>

Collect

Eternal Father,
who at the baptism of Jesus
revealed him to be your Son,
anointing him with the Holy Spirit:
grant to us, who are born again by water and the Spirit,
that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted children;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen

Next Week	
Wed 13 Jan	10-11am Church open for private prayer
	7-8pm Midweek Catch-Up <i>online (see below)</i>
Sun 17 Jan	9.30am Growzone <i>online</i>
	10.30am Coffee <i>on zoom</i> https://us04web.zoom.us/j/78179904975?pwd=TGJzcDBpQU8rR2NEcnhsQmxlVzkyQT09 Meeting ID: 781 7990 4975 Passcode: Jo3v16
	11am Holy Communion <i>online</i>

News

'**Lockdown 3 – a note from the Rectory**', was emailed out earlier this week, but is printed below if you were not able to access this.

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

The Midweek Catch Up group meet monthly on the second Wednesday of every month from 7-8pm. It's an opportunity to meet and chat to other church people online whether you're new to St Matthias/ the Torquay area, or a long time church member who would like to extend their social circle. Bring a glass of something. The next meeting will be Weds 13th January – see you then!

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3858108359?pwd=MW5vYTdMa29PUklwZjdvcGZBa1NYUT09>

Meeting ID: 385 810 8359 Passcode: Suzy

Saturday 23 Jan Prayer Walk @2.30pm – still going ahead but clarification on how it will operate within the covid guidelines to be confirmed.

Prayer meeting Sun 24 Jan 7-8.30pm Christians Together Prayer Event ... Living in Torbay we have many reasons to praise God. We're also aware of the many needs in our community and the importance of being united in our response to dealing with local issues. We are inviting key people who are involved on the frontlines of activity here to be our guests - Cllr Steve Darling, Torbay Council leader, and Alison Hernandez, Police and Crime Commissioner, and church leaders from across Torbay will be involved too. There will be opportunities to be led in prayer and to join in praying ourselves in Zoom break out rooms. Reserve the date for Torbay's first big Bay-wide online prayer event. Zoom link to follow.

NEW FREE ANTENATAL COURSE starting 2nd February 2021 – see below for details

Lockdown 3 – a note from the Rectory - a copy of the letter emailed out this week

Dear St. Matthias family

So, we're in 'lockdown 3' - which while clearly needed, still makes life very difficult.

The stresses surrounding the situation continue to assail us, so we continue to cry out to the Lord for His mercy and help.

While we pray, we also have to make wise decisions about the ways we can meet in person as a church family. The Bishop of London wrote this to guide us this Monday just after the Prime Minister's announcement of the national lockdown:

"The Government has chosen not to suspend public worship in England at this time....However, some may feel that it is currently better not to attend in person, and there will be parishes which decide to offer only digital services for the time-being. Clergy who have concerns, and others who are shielding, should take particular care and stay at home".

After consulting the Standing Committee of the PCC, the Staff team, and receiving medical advice, we have decided to suspend our 'public' in person worship services for the time being. The increased infectious nature of the new variant of covid-19, and the rapid local rise in cases increases the risk of infection significantly. Further, we feel we should be showing solidarity with everyone else in the community undergoing restrictions, and not carrying on as if nothing had changed.

While the PCC will review the situation at their meeting next Monday, it is clear that we are not alone in making this decision – other churches in Torbay and across Devon are doing likewise.

Instead, we shall continue to offer our 9.30am 'Zone' services online, and also stream the usual 11am services live from the church building. We are also going to open the church for private prayer on Sundays 9 - 10am and 3 - 4pm as well as Wednesdays 10 - 11am.

Yesterday's bible reading in Morning Prayer from Isaiah 62, where the prophet longs for the time when God's kingdom is fully here, symbolised by the restoration of Jerusalem, very clearly urges us to keep on praying:

You who call on the LORD,
give yourselves no rest,
and give him no rest till he establishes Jerusalem
and makes her the praise of the earth.

So do please keep praying for God's mercy on our world, and for one another in the church family, here and beyond. God bless John

**Thanks go to:
NHS 😊**

Suggestion for our Praise and Prayers this week

Mon Pray that we may all take Covid 19 seriously, and may do all we are asked to do seriously and responsibly.

Sun Praise God for all we were able to learn about being “church” in 2020. Praise God for the way people learned love for others and helped each other in real love despite the hard things happening to society.

Tues Praise God for the scientists who have found a vaccination against this pandemic. Pray that the vaccinations will begin to work quickly. Pray for all our leaders trying to sort this out.

Wed Pray for Mr Boris Johnson and all the Ministers of State and all involved in the leadership against this pandemic. Pray that they may all have wisdom and courage in their making of decisions for the good of the country.

Thurs At the beginning of this New Year let us each one commit ourselves afresh to God, and ask Him what He wants of us and whether there is anything new that He wants us to do in the Church.

Fri Pray for the Deanery and her witness in Torbay. May we learn more and more how to work and witness together.

Sat Remember before God all who are suffering in any way, whether in body soul or spirit, and whether through the pandemic or any other reason.

Sun Pray for and praise God for the Staff Team, Churchwardens and all who help in the Church both spiritually and practically.

To contact the Church:

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

Office: 01803 214175

admin@st-matthias-church.org

Rector: John Beckett

01803 293119

Asst Minister: Paul Barton

07807 636470



begin well

Starting Blocks For Family Life

NEW **FREE** ANTENATAL COURSE
IN TORQUAY
Starting 2nd February 2021
Dates: Tuesday 2nd, 9th, 23rd February,
2nd, 9th and 16th March 2021
Time: 7 - 8.30pm

Due to Covid this course will be delivered on zoom.

Book your free course NOW

Find us on face book: www.Beginwell.org.uk

Begin Well is a charity formed four year ago, which understands the importance of preparing families for the arrival of a new baby.

Run by : St Matthias Church, [Babbacombe Road](#),
[Wellswood](#), TQ1 1HW