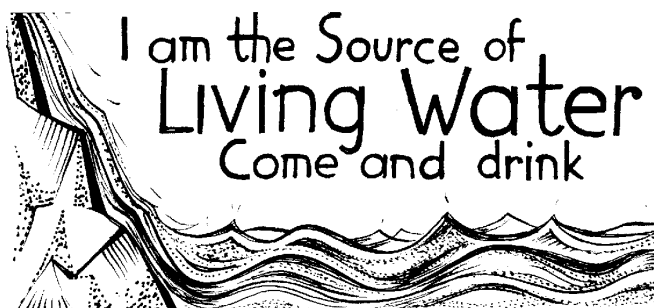


Sunday 12 March 2023

www.st-matthias-church.org



Welcome!

Join us either in church or online via our YouTube channel

<https://tinyurl.com/88s6x6fd> or via the church website www.st-matthias-church.org

- follow links from 'online services and worship resources' home page

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Sun 12 Mar | 8am Holy Communion (<i>Book of Common Prayer</i>) |
| | 10.30am Gather to Pray |
| | 11am United Family Service followed by coffee https://youtube.com/live/KptqWS7Fxi4?feature=share |

Thanks go to:

Our musicians
and singers



Collect God of all mercy,
your Son proclaimed good news to the poor,
release to the captives,
and freedom to the oppressed:
anoint us with your Holy Spirit
and set all your people free
to praise you in Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Church usually open for visitors/prayer Monday – Friday 12-2pm

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| Mon 13 Mar | 7.30pm Lent Course (week 3) in church (with coffee from 7pm) |
| Tues 14 Mar | 9-11.30am Toddlers in church |
| | 12-1.30pm Matt's Knits knit and natter in the Hall – all welcome |
| Wed 15 Mar | 9am Holy Communion |
| | 9.40am Ukrainian support group/coffee morning |
| | 10am Lent Course (week 3) in the lounge |
| | 12-5pm Warm Space in the church |
| Fri 17 Mar | 10am Mummy & Me in the church |
| | 2pm Funeral of John Hammond |
| | 6.30-8pm Youth Group Italian Night |
| Sun 19 Mar | 8am Holy Communion (<i>Book of Common Prayer</i>) |
| | 9.30am Explore Together |
| | 10.30am Gather to Pray |
| | 11am Holy Communion followed by coffee |

To contact the church: Office 01803 214175; admin@st-matthias-church.org

Rector: John Beckett 01803 293119 jandrbeckett@outlook.com;

Associate Minister: Paul Barton 07807 636470 revpaulbarton@gmail.com;

Please note that our services are often live-streamed

Readings for today

Exodus 17:1-7

The whole Israelite community set out from the Desert of Sin, travelling from place to place as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ² So they quarrelled with Moses and said, 'Give us water to drink.'

Moses replied, 'Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you put the Lord to the test?'

³ But the people were thirsty for water there, and they grumbled against Moses. They said, 'Why did you bring us up out of Egypt to make us and our children and livestock die of thirst?'

⁴ Then Moses cried out to the Lord, 'What am I to do with these people? They are almost ready to stone me.'

⁵ The Lord answered Moses, 'Go out in front of the people. Take with you some of the elders of Israel and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. ⁶ I will stand there before you by the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it for the people to drink.' So Moses did this in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷ And he called the place Massah and Meribah because the Israelites quarrelled and because they tested the Lord saying, 'Is the Lord among us or not?'

John 4: 5-42

⁵ So Jesus came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶ Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon.

⁷ When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, 'Will you give me a drink?' ⁸ (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.)

⁹ The Samaritan woman said to him, 'You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?' (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.)

¹⁰ Jesus answered her, 'If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water.'

¹¹ 'Sir,' the woman said, 'you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water?' ¹² Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?'

¹³ Jesus answered, 'Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴ but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.'

¹⁵ The woman said to him, 'Sir, give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water.'

¹⁶ He told her, 'Go, call your husband and come back.'

¹⁷ 'I have no husband,' she replied.

Jesus said to her, 'You are right when you say you have no husband. ¹⁸ The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true.'

¹⁹ 'Sir,' the woman said, 'I can see that you are a prophet. ²⁰ Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem.'

²¹ ‘Woman,’ Jesus replied, ‘believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²² You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³ Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshippers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshippers the Father seeks. ²⁴ God is spirit, and his worshippers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.’ ²⁵ The woman said, ‘I know that Messiah’ (called Christ) ‘is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us.’ ²⁶ Then Jesus declared, ‘I, the one speaking to you – I am he.’ ²⁷ Just then his disciples returned and were surprised to find him talking with a woman. But no one asked, ‘What do you want?’ or ‘Why are you talking with her?’ ²⁸ Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people, ²⁹ ‘Come, see a man who told me everything I’ve ever done. Could this be the Messiah?’ ³⁰ They came out of the town and made their way towards him...

...³⁹ Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, ‘He told me everything I’ve ever done.’ ⁴⁰ So when the Samaritans came to him, they urged him to stay with them, and he stayed two days. ⁴¹ And because of his words many more became believers. ⁴² They said to the woman, ‘We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Saviour of the world.’

News & Events

Coffee Box returns on Saturday morning 8th April and we'd love to give folks passing a good Easter welcome. We'll be serving hot drinks and pastries and chatting to passers-by. If you are able to help for a couple hours starting 9.30am please either let Pere know in the office or Andrew Stilliard on 07729 362802.



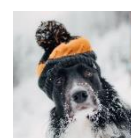
WHAT - NO COFFEE!

Sadly, there'll be no coffee after the 11am for some weeks in April unless we find some more people to serve on the team. Please speak to Pere in the Church Office if you can help – even every other month would be great. The coffee team start around 1015 and end about 1245. Thank you.

Nicci Maxwell – important news about Nikki and her future – please click here for more information [Nicci Maxwell - February Newsletter](#)

Girls Allowed - date for your diary – Thursday 20th April @ 7pm – Table Talk and a mystery speaker! Elaine, Andrea, Susie, Sue and Judi.

Warm space – is open every Wednesday from 12-5pm - everyone welcome! Come and have some lovely soup, hot drinks, chat...



WORKING PARTY – CHANGE TO DATE

WEDNESDAY 17 MAY (morning)

Calling all cleaners, gardeners, and anyone who just fancies helping to give the church and the grounds a spring clean and a tidy.

There'll be cake, coffee and good fun to be had while doing a brilliant job on our lovely church. More info to follow.



HOLY WEEK & EASTER SERVICES

4 April 3.15pm Messy Easter

6 April Maundy Thursday

7pm Holy Communion

7 April Good Friday

Explore Together at 10am

Last Hour at the Cross at 2pm

Easter Sunday

Holy Communion 8am

United Family Communion 11am

Prayers

Suggestions for our Praise and Prayers this week

Sun Pray that all members of the Church may be more conscious of being known as Christians and also to witness by word and deed.

Mon See the Lent challenge below and pray that many of us will try to follow it to the glory of God.

Tue Pray that the right person will apply for the vacancy to lead our young people's work so that they will be led to Jesus.

Wed Many countries are at war, are facing natural disasters, and have political tensions, and where women especially face persecution. Pray for peace, compassion and justice.

Thu There is less sea ice surrounding the Antarctic than at any time since measurements began in the late 1970s. Please pray for the global impact on the increase of the amount of water and sea levels.

Fri Give thanks for the hugely important UN High Seas Treaty just signed after 10 years of negotiation to place 30% of the seas into protected areas by 2030, to safeguard and recuperate marine nature. Please pray that this will happen.

Sat Pray for all in our fellowship who are ill, or have just had operations or been bereaved. Pray God will meet every part of their need and they will be healed.

Sun Thank God for women and girls, especially mothers on this special day. Pray for female missionaries, especially Nicci Maxwell, as they do so many responsible tasks.

THE LENT CHALLENGE *from our Eco Group*

- ✓ Calculate your personal carbon footprint – <https://footprint.wwf.org.uk> – and try to find ways of decreasing it.
- ✓ Try to car share whenever possible.
- ✓ Replace one item in your regular shop with something that is either Fair Trade or organic.
- ✓ Find out more about COP 28 and pray for meaningful outcomes.