





### Join us in church or online

[www.youtube.com/@stmatthiaschurchtorquay6827/streams](https://www.youtube.com/@stmatthiaschurchtorquay6827/streams)

**The church is usually open on Wednesdays from 12-2pm for visitors and prayer**

<b>Sun 14 Dec</b>	<b>8am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)</b>
	<b>9.30am Explore Together</b>
	<b>10.30am Gather to Pray</b>
	<b>11am Morning Worship</b> <i>followed by tea/coffee</i> <a href="https://tinyurl.com/2p9pinwf">https://tinyurl.com/2p9pinwf</a>
	<b>5.30pm Praying for the church</b>
<b>Mon 15 Dec</b>	<b>9-9.30am Morning Prayer on zoom – details below</b>
	<b>4.15pm Warberry Christmas Service</b>
<b>Tues 16 Dec</b>	<b>9-9.30am Morning Prayer on zoom – details below</b>
	<b>9-11.30am Toddlers</b> <i>last one before Christmas</i>
	<b>12-1.30pm St Matt's Knits</b> <i>last one before Christmas</i>
	<b>6pm Ilsham Christmas Service</b>
<b>Wed 17 Dec</b>	<b>9am Holy Communion</b>
	<b>12-2pm Welcome Space</b> <i>soup &amp; chat! Last one before Xmas</i>
	<b>4.30pm Warberry Christmas Service</b>
	<b>7.15-9pm St Matt's Gospel Singers - rehearsal</b>
<b>Thurs 18 Dec</b>	<b>1.15pm Warberry Christmas Service</b>
	<b>5.30pm Carols on the Piazza</b> <i>with mulled wine and mince pies</i>
<b>Fri 19 Dec</b>	<b>9-11.30am Mummy &amp; Me</b> <i>last one before Christmas</i>
	<b>1.30pm Pre-School Christmas Service</b>
	<b>6.30-8pm Youth Club</b> <i>Christmas Party!</i>
<b>Sun 21 Dec</b>	<b>8am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)</b>
	<b>9.30am Explore Together</b>
	<b>10.30am Gather to Pray</b>
	<b>11am Holy Communion</b> <i>followed by tea/coffee</i>
	<b>5.30pm Carol Service</b> <i>followed by mulled wine and mince pies</i>

### Collect:

God for whom we watch and wait, you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son: give us courage to speak the truth, to hunger for justice, and to suffer for the cause of right, with Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**



**Thanks go to:**

Everyone who helped make Claire's leaving tea such a success and to the Friends for organising the Christmas lunch

# Readings

## Isaiah 35:1-10

The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom. Like the crocus, <sup>2</sup>it will burst into bloom; it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy. The glory of Lebanon will be given to it, the splendour of Carmel and Sharon; they will see the glory of the Lord, the splendour of our God.

<sup>3</sup>Strengthen the feeble hands, steady the knees that give way;

<sup>4</sup>say to those with fearful hearts, 'Be strong, do not fear; your God will come, he will come with vengeance; with divine retribution he will come to save you.'

<sup>5</sup>Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped.

<sup>6</sup>Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy. Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams

in the desert.

<sup>7</sup>The burning sand will become a pool, the thirsty ground bubbling springs.

In the haunts where jackals once lay, grass and reeds and papyrus will grow.

<sup>8</sup>And a highway will be there; it will be called the Way of Holiness; it will be for those who walk on that Way.

The unclean will not journey on it; wicked fools will not go about on it.

<sup>9</sup>No lion will be there, nor any ravenous beast; they will not be found there.

But only the redeemed will walk there,

<sup>10</sup>and those the Lord has rescued will return. They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads.

Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away.

## Matthew 11:2-11

<sup>2</sup>When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, he sent his disciples <sup>3</sup>to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?'

<sup>4</sup>Jesus replied, 'Go back and report to John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup>the blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. <sup>6</sup>Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me.'

<sup>7</sup>As John's disciples were leaving, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swayed by the wind? <sup>8</sup>If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear fine clothes are in kings' palaces. <sup>9</sup>Then what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup>This is the one about whom it is written:

"I will send my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way before you."

<sup>11</sup>Truly I tell you, among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

## Dates for the diary

**Christmas at St Matthias** – see posters and flyers for dates of our Christmas services. If anyone can deliver any flyers to their neighbours and friends, that would be appreciated – thank you. (Please take some from church.)



## News



**Help required!** Would you like to help with the many activities and services taking place this Christmas? **Please sign up today** at the back of church.

We need welcomers at the services, people to serve mulled wine and mince pies at the carol services on 18<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> December and help with staging and chairs. Thank you.

**Christmas Cards** Please see the board at the back of church where there are cards to the whole church family (including news from John and Ruth). Please feel free to put up your cards here or use the trays at the back of church.



**School News:** We will be welcoming Warberry and Ilsham Academies to the church this week for their Christmas services.

**Pere is retiring!** We are very sorry to say that Pere feels it is time to retire from her post of Church Administrator and Centre Manager and will be leaving this job at the beginning of March. This means there will be a vacancy to fill. If this post is of interest to you, please speak to one of the churchwardens or Sylvia for more details.

**Thank you** – so much to everyone for your amazingly kind send off at the tea, the very generous gifts and the lovely card. It was wonderful to see so many of you on Sunday. But words can't express just how loved we all felt, and how touched we are by the gifts. Claire will look forward to wearing the beautiful stole at the licensing. We have now arrived in Okehampton, and are currently waiting for all our things to arrive! We wish you all a really blessed Christmas, and look forward to seeing some of you in Okehampton on 7<sup>th</sup> January. With our love, Claire, Al, Joanna and Andrew.

**Claire's licensing as Team Vicar at the Parish Church of All Saints in Okehampton EX20 1LE.** We are invited to attend Claire's licensing on 7<sup>th</sup> January at 7pm. Refreshments will follow the service. Please reply by 22<sup>nd</sup> December to [northmoorpa@gmail.com](mailto:northmoorpa@gmail.com) Car sharing is recommended.

**For Morning Prayer online**, we use the Church of England 'Daily Prayer' app and meet on ZOOM using this link: [tinyurl.com/2t56wex5](https://tinyurl.com/2t56wex5)

You are welcome to join us!

The words we use can be found here,

with an audio version: [tinyurl.com/2did3t7f](https://tinyurl.com/2did3t7f)



## Prayers for this week

*And he will be called ...Prince of Peace...Isaiah 9:6*

- Mon** There are school services at Saint Matts every day this week. Pray each day for all the practical issues and that the light of Christ will be present.
- Tues** Pray for our new Rector that God will reveal his plans to his chosen person and to the Appointment Committee.
- Wed** It's International Migrant Day tomorrow. Pray for those displaced and for governments to arrive at compassionate solutions to manage difficult situations.
- Thur** Pray for our outreach - Carols on the Piazza. For good weather and that visitors will be touched by the presence of God.
- Fri** Pray for the ongoing peace plans negotiations for Gaza and the Ukraine that God's will be done and conflicts will come to an end.
- Sat** On this busy last weekend before Christmas pray for those overwhelmed by poverty and also those agencies supporting them.
- Sun** Pray for the Carol service in the afternoon that those coming will find more than 'a sing along' and encounter God's presence.



### Christmas Services at St Matthias Church

Wed	10 Dec	12pm	Ukrainian Christmas Service	
Thurs	18 Dec	5.30pm	Carols on the Piazza <i>with mulled wine and mince pies</i>	
Sun	21 Dec	5.30pm	Carol Service <i>with mulled wine and mince pies</i>	
Mon	22 Dec	1-4pm	Christmas Crafternoon <i>all ages and abilities welcome</i>	
Christmas Eve		3pm	Crib Service <i>especially for younger children</i>	
		5pm	Christingle Service <i>especially for children &amp; families</i>	
		11pm	Midnight Holy Communion	
Christmas Day	10am		Family Christmas Communion	

[www.st-matthias-church.org](http://www.st-matthias-church.org)  
[admin@st-matthias-church.org](mailto:admin@st-matthias-church.org)

01803 214175  
Babbacombe Road, Torquay

Church Office: 01803 214175 [admin@st-matthias-church.org](mailto:admin@st-matthias-church.org)  
Rector: Vacancy – *please contact the Office for any enquiries*  
Associate Minister: Paul Barton 07807 636470 [revpaulbarton@gmail.com](mailto:revpaulbarton@gmail.com)  
Assistant Clergy: Dallas Ayling 07806 608220 [revdallasayling@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:revdallasayling@yahoo.co.uk)  
Youth & Children: 07832 738998 [helen.baker@st-matthias-church.org](mailto:helen.baker@st-matthias-church.org)