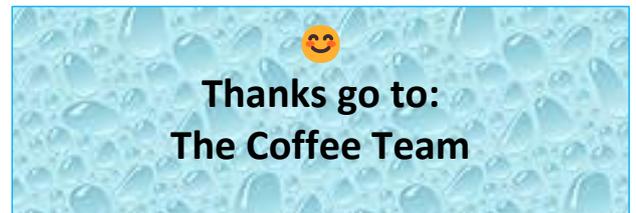


# Sunday 22 February 2026

## Welcome!

<b>Join us in church or online</b> <a href="http://www.youtube.com/@stmatthiaschurchtorquay6827/streams">www.youtube.com/@stmatthiaschurchtorquay6827/streams</a>	
<b>Sun 22 Feb</b> <i>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent</i> 	<b>8am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)</b>
	<b>9.30am Explore Together</b>
	<b>11am Morning Worship</b> <i>followed by tea/coffee</i> <a href="https://tinyurl.com/4zy5c4jc">https://tinyurl.com/4zy5c4jc</a>
	<b>5.30pm 'Praise @ 5.30pm'</b>
<b>Mon 23 Feb</b>	<b>9-9.30am Morning Prayer</b> <i>on zoom – details below</i>
<b>Tues 24 Feb</b>	<b>9-9.30am Morning Prayer</b> <i>on zoom – details below</i>
	<b>9-11.30am Toddlers</b>
	<b>12-1.30pm St Matt's Knits</b> – <i>knit and natter!</i>
	<b>7 for 7.30pm Lent Course</b> – <b>week one</b> – <b>in the Hall</b>
<b>Wed 25 Feb</b>	<b>9am Holy Communion</b>
	<b>10am Lent Course</b> – <b>week one repeated</b>
	<b>12-2pm Welcome Space</b> – <i>coffee, soup and chat! All welcome</i>
<b>Thurs 26 Feb</b>	<b>6.30pm Talk by Linda Townsend</b> <i>with coffee &amp; cake!</i> See note
<b>Fri 27 Feb</b>	<b>9-11.30am Mummy &amp; Me</b>
	<b>6.30-8pm Youth Club 'Pancake Extravaganza'</b>
<b>Sun 1 Mar</b> <i>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday  in Lent</i>	<b>8am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)</b>
	<b>9.30am Explore Together</b> <i>with breakfast from 9.15am</i>
	<b>11am Holy Communion</b> <i>followed by tea/coffee</i>

**Collect** Heavenly Father, your Son battled with the powers of darkness, and grew closer to you in the desert: help us to use these days to grow in wisdom and prayer that we may witness to your saving love in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**



**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/2djd3t7f](https://tinyurl.com/2djd3t7f)



## Readings

**Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7** <sup>15</sup>The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. <sup>16</sup>And the Lord God commanded the man, 'You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; <sup>17</sup>but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die.'

**3** Now the snake was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, 'Did God really say, "You must not eat from any tree in the garden"?' <sup>2</sup>The woman said to the snake, 'We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, <sup>3</sup>but God did say, "You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die."' <sup>4</sup>'You will not certainly die,' the snake said to the woman. <sup>5</sup>'For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.' <sup>6</sup>When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. <sup>7</sup>Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realised that they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

**Matthew 4:1-11** Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. <sup>2</sup>After fasting for forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. <sup>3</sup>The tempter came to him and said, 'If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.'

<sup>4</sup>Jesus answered, 'It is written: "Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God."'

<sup>5</sup>Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the highest point of the temple. <sup>6</sup>'If you are the Son of God,' he said, 'throw yourself down. For it is written: "He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone."'

<sup>7</sup>Jesus answered him, 'It is also written: "Do not put the Lord your God to the test."'

<sup>8</sup>Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. <sup>9</sup>'All this I will give you,' he said, 'if you will bow down and worship me.' <sup>10</sup>Jesus said to him, 'Away from me, Satan! For it is written: "Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only."'

<sup>11</sup>Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

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## News

**Giving and Gifts** Following recent teaching on giving and gifts you may want to pick up a gift aid form, Parish Giving Scheme form or handouts on identifying your Spiritual gifts and opportunities to serve, all available at the back of the Church.

**Pastoral Team** One area where we urgently need more help is the pastoral team, which helps us to offer care to the church community in time of need. If you are interested in finding out more there will be a meeting in church at 10.30am on Sunday 8th March.

## Dates for your diary

 **Church Cleaning Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March (10am – 1pm)**  
Please come along to give the church a 'spring clean'. There will be tea, coffee and biscuits. Come for as little or as long as you can. Sign up today! For more information please speak to Sheila Sherriff. Thank you.

**TODAY! Dine out Sundays** By popular request we will be back at the Central Conservative Club in Torquay, at 1.15pm on **Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> February**. For more information or to book please contact Gill 07709 727714.



**THIS WEEK! Lent Course: "How to be an overcomer"** Tuesday evenings (7 for 7.30pm until 9pm beginning with refreshments) and Wednesday mornings (10.00 – 11.30). Looking at the early life of King David led by Revd Andrew Green, Feb 24<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup>, Mar 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup>

**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> February** - Missions Action evening with Girls Allowed in the hall with coffee and desserts at 6.30pm, followed by Linda Townsend talking about her recent exciting mission trip. Please let Judi know if you're hoping to come so that we have enough dessert! [judithstannard@outlook.com](mailto:judithstannard@outlook.com) Not just for ladies this time, men are invited too!

**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> Feb @ 7.30pm** Jonathan Veira **'Not Dead Yet'** A musical celebration full of life, love and laughter. QR code for more information. Hope Church, Dawlish 01626 923365



**Wed 25<sup>th</sup> March @ 7pm at Upton Vale Church** – with special guest **Graham Kendrick** - an uplifting evening of worship and prayer for our nation. 7-9.30pm  
To book: visit Eventbrite (tickets are free): <https://tinyurl.com/4drfwhh8>



**Alpha is a space to unpack the basics of the Christian faith together.**

You can find out more here <https://alpha.org.uk/>

We plan to run an 8 week course after Easter –

please have a word with one of the clergy to find out more.





**Rising Lights** Gathering for five days in Torquay to hear God's word, to praise our risen Saviour, and to rest. With plenty for adults, teens, and kids. A major Christian conference is taking place in Torquay, **6-10 April**, and



everyone is welcome. With leading speakers there will be Bible study, talks, activities for all ages and separate provision for different age groups of children and young people. Organised by FIEC but for everyone, *Rising Lights* is a chance for us to gather as believers, to be refreshed, and to grow in our faith. There's too much for us to put here, but check out [the website](#) and this [video on YouTube](#) BOOKING for Children closes **23<sup>rd</sup> Feb**, and at the moment the 6-18 months and 8-9 years groups are **FULL**.  
[tinyurl.com/4zzvtwmc](https://tinyurl.com/4zzvtwmc)

## *Prayers for the week*

**Mon** Because He reigns, we can rest. Because He is present, we can hope. Because He is faithful, we can move through each day with confidence that His peace is both for us and within us. Wherever chaos tries to intrude today, remember that your life rests in the hands of the One who rules with peace, not pressure, peace that cannot be shaken.

**Tues** Great peace is not the absence of trouble, it is the presence of God's truth settling our souls. Thank you Lord.

**Wed** "The Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace " Numbers 6v26

**Thurs** "Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters" Hebrews 13v1  
Please Lord empower us to carry out this command.

**Fri** The Bible makes it clear : we need friends - to encourage, inspire, challenge, and love us. And your friends need you too!

**Sat** Pray for our services tomorrow, for all those taking part and that we may come to Church with open hearts and minds.

**Sun** " Lord you alone are my portion and my cup; you make my lot secure " Psalm 16v5

## **PCC POINTS OF PRAYER**

*The PCC held a meeting on Monday, 12 January and prayer is requested for:*

**Pray** for the many opportunities we have to share the love of Jesus with our community; for the amazing volunteers who sacrifice their time to put on the different events.

**Pray** for the financial situation of the church – that people will feel led by God to give generously, to enable us to continue to use the building for worship and to serve our community.

*The minutes of our previous PCC meeting dated 10 November 2025 can be found on the notice board in the Hall.*