



Notices for 22nd & 29th December

<p>Welcome! Join us in church or online www.youtube.com/@stmatthiaschurchtorquay6827/streams</p>	
<p>The church is open for prayer and for visitors on Wednesdays from 12—2pm</p>	
<p>Sun 22 Dec</p>	<p>8am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)</p>
	<p>9.30am Explore Together</p>
	<p>10.30am Gather to Pray</p>
	<p>11am Holy Communion <i>followed by tea/coffee</i> https://youtube.com/live/u_UYfC6e3bM?feature=share</p>
	<p>5.30pm Carol Service <i>followed by mulled wine and Christmas cake</i> https://youtube.com/live/ps78uu2cmnk?feature=share</p>
<p>Mon 23 Dec</p>	<p>9-9.30am Morning Prayer on zoom – details below</p>
	<p>12 noon Funeral of Jon Warr https://youtube.com/live/AxNVUsljEx0?feature=share</p>
<p>CHRISTMAS EVE</p>	<p>9-9.30am Morning Prayer on zoom – details below</p>
	<p>3pm Crib Service – especially for younger children & families</p>
	<p>5pm Christingle Service – especially for children & families</p>
	<p>11.00pm Midnight Holy Communion</p>
<p>CHRISTMAS DAY</p>	<p>HAPPY CHRISTMAS!</p>
	<p>10am Family Christmas Communion https://youtube.com/live/4b4Jtf82W7s?feature=share</p>
<p>Thurs 26 – Sat 28 December – Church and Centre Closed</p>	
<p>Sun 29 Dec</p>	<p>8am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)</p>
	<p>11am Family Holy Communion https://youtube.com/live/DkaWnSolHPU?feature=share</p>
<p>The Church and Centre will be closed until Friday 3rd January</p>	
<p>Sun 5 Jan</p>	<p>8am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)</p>
	<p>9.30am Explore Together <i>with breakfast!</i></p>
	<p>10.30am Gather to Pray</p>
	<p>11am Holy Communion <i>followed by tea/coffee</i></p>

Eternal God, as Mary waited for the birth of your Son, so we wait for his coming in glory; bring us through the birth pangs of this present age to see, with her, our great salvation in Jesus Christ our Lord **Amen**

Lord Jesus Christ, your birth at Bethlehem draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth: accept our heartfelt praise, as we worship you, our Saviour and our eternal God. **Amen**

Readings for 22nd December

Micah 5:2-5a

“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.”

³Therefore Israel will be abandoned until the time when she who is in labor bears a son, and the rest of his brothers return to join the Israelites.

⁴He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth. ⁵And he will be our peace when the Assyrians invade our land and march through our fortresses.

Luke 1:39-45; 46-55

³⁹ At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, ⁴⁰ where she entered Zechariah’s home and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. ⁴² In a loud voice she exclaimed: ‘Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear!’ ⁴³ But why am I so favoured, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴ As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfil his promises to her!

⁴⁶ And Mary said:

‘My soul glorifies the Lord

⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,

⁴⁸ for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant.

From now on all generations will call me blessed,

⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me – holy is his name.

⁵⁰ His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation.

⁵¹ He has performed mighty deeds with his arm;

he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.

⁵² He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble.

⁵³ He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful

⁵⁵ to Abraham and his descendants for ever, just as he promised our ancestors.’

For Morning Prayer online, we use the Church of England ‘Daily Prayer’ app and this zoom link <https://tinyurl.com/2t56wex5>

Thanks go to:



All service leaders

Readings for 29th December

Colossians 3: 12-17

Luke 2: 41-52

Dates for the diary

KITCHEN (in hall) OUT OF ACTION 6th – 19th JAN

New Year lunch! 19 January at 1.30pm at Babbacombe *Hotel* (not the Inn). £13.95 for a carvery with dessert (no other options). Please contact Gill B to book a place 07709727714.

News

Our Christmas collection this year will be for the Nazareth Bed Appeal and will be a **cash collection** at the Carol Service (22nd), Christingle and Midnight (24th). Thank you.



Urgent Bed Appeal

This Christmas we are supporting the work of the **Nazareth Trust**, who since 1861 have been Healing in the name of Jesus.



Situated in Jesus' hometown, as well as providing the only significant healthcare in the region to all people, regardless of race, religion, sex or politics, they are a beacon of peace, demonstrating God's unconditional love to all people. They urgently need to expand their safe areas and need to convert a secure storage area into a ward. You can visit their Paypal page with the QR Code or their website here, nazarethtrust.org. More information is on leaflets in the church or [here](#).

Funerals The funerals of **Jon Warr, Sylvia Gardener-Jones and Tessa Flatman** will be as follows:

Jon - at church on Monday 23rd Dec at 12 noon

Sylvia – at church on Monday 30th Dec at 2.30pm

Tessa - at the Crematorium on Thursday 9th January at 11.30am.



Emerging Generations Team Leader

We are currently recruiting for this post.

If you know of anyone who may be interested please see our website for details, click here <https://tinyurl.com/vvpsnb8j> or

scan the code.



After Christmas... why not explore life, faith and meaning?

We will be running an Alpha course in the New Year.

Watch this space for details or speak with one of the clergy.

Nicci Maxwell's latest newsletter – <https://tinyurl.com/3uxvx4te>

The Christmas Day reading from the amazing beginning of John's Gospel:

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was with God in the beginning. ³Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. ⁸He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

⁹The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognise him. ¹¹He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹²Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God – ¹³children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

¹⁴The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Prayers for the Christmas and New Year period

Mondays As we enjoy all the celebrations of Christmas and the New Year let's pray that we will keep, 'You Lord in the centre of our festivities.'

Tuesdays Pray today for all those for whom Christmas and the New Year will be a difficult and lonely time perhaps through illness, loneliness or bereavement.

Wednesdays As we rejoice in remembering Our Saviour's birthday and soon the start of a New Year, let's give Him praise for everything He has done and will do for us.

Thursdays When Barnabas found the spiritual life in the Antioch church encouraging, he 'encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts' (v 23). That's a great prayer we could pray for ourselves and our churches.

Fridays In these days of celebrations let's not forget the millions that are in war zones. Those who have lost homes, loved ones, their whole lives as they knew them before. Yes let's pray for Peace!

Saturdays Pray for our ministers and all who have served in the church in various ways during this busy period. Give them strength Lord and keep them well.

Sundays Pray for revival amongst our young people, that they manage to see the 'Christ in Christmas'.

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

Rector: John Beckett 01803 914164 jandrbeckett@outlook.com

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

Curate: Claire Reynolds 07858 313677 claire.reynolds.bmc@gmail.com