



Welcome!

Either in church or online via our YouTube channel

<https://tinyurl.com/88s6x6fd>

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

Sun 30 January	8am Holy Communion (<i>Book of Common Prayer</i>) in church
	11am Family Holy Communion and Healing Service in church and <i>livestreamed</i> https://youtu.be/6bcsPml_CqA Activity Sheet: Anna and Simeon

Our readings today are:

Hebrews 2: 14-18 <https://tinyurl.com/yckrr2br>

Luke 2: 21-40 <https://tinyurl.com/3nzsad4c>

Collect

Lord Jesus Christ,
light of the nations and glory of Israel:
make your home among us,
and present us pure and holy
to your heavenly Father,
your God, and our God, **Amen**

Thanks go to:

**All those
working to
relieve the
suffering of
others 😊**

Tues 1 Feb	9.00 -11.30am Toddlers in church
	12-1.30pm Matts Knits in the Hall
Wed 2 Feb	9am Holy Communion (<i>Common Worship</i>) in church
	10.30-11.30am Church open for private prayer
	7.15-9pm St Matts Gospel Singers practice in church
Thurs 3 Feb	10.30-11.30am Church open for private prayer
	7.30pm Begin Well (<i>ante-natal course</i> in church)
Fri 4 Feb	10-11.30am Mummy & Me in church
	6.30pm Youth Club 'The Loft' pebble painting in the Hall
Sun 6 Feb	8am Holy Communion (<i>Book of Common Prayer</i>) in church
	9.30am Breakfastzone in church
	11am Holy Communion in church and <i>livestreamed</i> 5.30pm Prayer Meeting on zoom

Covid – sorry, no changes...

While we are aware that the legal protective measures no longer apply, given that the Covid cases in Torbay are currently twice as high* as they were in the week before Christmas, it seems very unwise to abandon the measures we have been using up until now, for church services and in the Centre. Indeed, the latest Government advice supports this:

"You should continue to follow safer behaviours to protect yourself and others:

- *Get vaccinated and get your booster dose*
- *Wear a face covering in most indoor public places and on public transport*
- *Let fresh air in if you meet indoors. Meeting outdoors is safer."*

The updated Church of England guidance also reminds us that "Vaccination cannot be the sole means of containing the spread of the virus"...and that "Unfortunately, no vaccine is 100% effective and ...efficacy wanes with time. The impact of long-Covid is an ongoing concern..."

So, please persevere in following the steps we have been using to protect one another:

- Wear a face covering, and please try to do a "Lateral Flow Test" before coming to church.
- Continue to use the hand sanitizing stations.
- And as before, please don't come to church if you feel unwell with any flu or cold symptoms.

Thank you. *<https://www.torbay.gov.uk/health-and-wellbeing/public-health/coronavirus/coronavirus-reports/>



LIVING
IN LOVE
& FAITH

Diaries out please! LENT begins soon!

- **Ash Wednesday 2nd March** – *with an early evening Communion time tbc*
- **The Lent Course this year is 'Living in Love and Faith'**

A 5 week course on Monday evenings from 7th March, repeated on Wednesday mornings from 9th March. It intends to provide a safe space to listen to one another and to God to explore human identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage.

These are really important subjects, but ones we find hard to talk about, so the national Church of England has produced this course to help us do that. The Staff Team here ran the course themselves in November and warmly commend it to everyone. You can watch a 2 minute intro video by copying this link into your browser <https://tinyurl.com/y2s66r8x>

We'll share more details over the coming weeks, but for now, please put the five Mondays or Wednesdays in your diaries!

Ways to serve in the church

Weekday Lunchtimes From 7th February we are going to be opening up the church at lunchtimes to provide a quiet space for anyone wishing to pray, to light a candle or just to have some quiet time. Would anyone like to join a team of people happy to steward this from 12-2pm every weekday? You would be most welcome. Please speak to Pere in the office on 214175. (Please see the note below on safeguarding.)

Coffee makers We're sorry not to be able to provide coffee after the services at the moment but all being well, we hope to resume in mid February. In the light of this we are looking to expand the team of servers and if anyone would like to join please contact Pere in the office on 214175.

Platinum Jubilee weekend in June – please think and pray about how St Matthias can best serve the community for these celebrations – and in particular let us know if you would be able to be part of a planning group for this.



Minibus we are hoping to be able to start to offer lifts to church again when it is safe to do so...in order to do this we need to find a team of drivers. If you wish to find out more please contact Andrew Stilliard on 07729 362802. (Please see the note below on safeguarding.)

St Matthias is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults. In order to keep everyone safe we have a 'safer recruitment' procedure that we ask all volunteers to follow and all appointments are subject to acceptable pre-appointment checks.

News and Events

New service pattern from March

We'll let you know more soon, but in place of the 'Zone' services, we're launching a new informal stream of Sunday worship called 'Explore' at 9.30am on weeks 1 and 3 with children's groups, and then on the alternating weeks 2 and 4, an afternoon service at 4pm – either 'Explore @ 4' or 'Encounter', the youth led service. The 8am and 11am service times will not change.

Pastoral Care We have recently taken on the task of co-ordinating Pastoral Care in the parish. If you or someone you know has a Pastoral Care need please contact either Maureen Purdy 01803 299096 or Elaine Biden 01803 390222 in confidence. We can arrange phone calls, visits, help with shopping for example.

Begin Well ... our fourth Antenatal Course is starting this week on Thursday 3rd February at 7.30pm. We are hoping to be able to meet in Church but failing that, we will be on Zoom! Please contact Lena on 01803 295268 for further information or book via Begin Well Torquay Eventbrite.



The Friends of St Matthias still have some availability for the New Year meal on Tuesday 8th February at Amici Restaurant in Torwood Street. Please let us know as soon as possible if you are interested. You can obtain your menu choices sheet from Christine Tibbetts or phone 291033 or 07789 692321.

Mummy and Me.....is meeting every Friday in Church between 10-11.30am. It provides a place for new mums (with babies 0-1yr) to come together for support, postnatal education, fun, relaxation and to make new friends. Most weeks we have around 20 attending, but for last Friday's swaps session we hosted 29 mums. The swaps session was lots of fun! Mums brought in clothes, toys, nappies, bottles that were no longer needed and swapped them for free - what a fantastic way to save our planet... but even better - donations which didn't find a home went to the Riveria baby bank to help mums right across the Bay. I would like to thank Val and Jan for their help and for all the cake and coffee enjoyed. If you know of any new mums, do tell them about this group! Lena

Messy Church..... Tuesday 15th February, 3.15-5.30pm in the Church. Come along and play detective as we discover who did help in the Parable of The Good Samaritan. Full of indoor fun, crafts, worship and also supper is included for all who attend! Booking is essential and is already filling fast so do please call Lena on 295268 or email on stmattscw@st-matthias-church.org.

Men's Breakfast The next one will be on 5 March and the speaker will be Debbi Shotton from Rowcroft. Unfortunately the meeting in February has been cancelled as there weren't enough tickets sold to make it viable. For more information email: torbay.mens.breakfast@gmail.com

Readings for Today

Hebrews 2: 14-18

¹⁴ Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death – that is, the devil – ¹⁵ and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. ¹⁶ For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham's descendants. ¹⁷ For this reason he had to be made like them, fully human in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. ¹⁸ Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

Luke 2: 21-40

²¹ On the eighth day, when it was time to circumcise the child, he was named Jesus, the name the angel had given him before he was conceived.

²² When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³ (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord'), ²⁴ and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: 'a pair of doves or two young pigeons'.

²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. ²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. ²⁷ Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, ²⁸ Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

²⁹ 'Sovereign Lord, as you have promised,
you may now dismiss your servant in peace.

³⁰ For my eyes have seen your salvation,

³¹ which you have prepared in the sight of all nations:

³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and the glory of your people Israel.'

³³ The child's father and mother marvelled at what was said about him. ³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: 'This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, ³⁵ so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

³⁶ There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Penuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷ and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped night and day, fasting and praying. ³⁸ Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹ When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰ And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him.

Suggestions for our Praise and Prayer

Sun. At the end of the week of Prayer for Christian Unity let us pray that what we have prayed for may be evident in the Church worldwide, in England, in our Deanery and most of all in our own Church of St. Matthias. *Behold and see how they love one another!*

Mon. Please pray for the country and people of Ukraine. Please pray for the situation as it develops, for the Lord to intervene, for the civilians and all people caught up in any conflict, for Armed Forces of many countries potentially involved, for surrounding countries and for all seeking peace.

Tue. Another course of “Begin Well” is planned to start on 3rd Feb. Pray too for “Mummy and Me”; Open House and other meetings of children taking place. Pray they may be a way for children to know Jesus.

Wed. “Living in Love and Faith” is the upcoming Lent Course. It intends to provide a safe space to listen to one another and GOD. It has some hard topics but let us pray we will all decide to attend and learn together.

Thu. Praise God for all that the Friends of St. Matthias have done in raising money. Please pray for their work and their meal on the 23rd.

Fri. Please pray for all who are ill, who are waiting for medical procedures, all who have recently been bereaved, those who are near to passing that they may all know Jesus’ love.

Sat. Remember Nicci Maxwell in her work in Potter’s Village, with also her work in the nearby Government hospitals and her work with the marginalised Batwa tribe.

Sun. Praise God and pray for the leadership of the Church and pray that they have the Holy Spirit’s guidance and strength especially with Covid’s restraints.

To contact the Church:

Office:	Pere Snow	01803 214175	admin@st-matthias-church.org
Rector:	John Beckett	01803 293119	jandrbeckett@outlook.com
Associate Minister:	Paul Barton	07807 636470	revpaulbarton@gmail.com
Curate:	Pete Norris	07926 833056	pete@st-matthias-church.org

Compassion – thank you!

7/10

All at St Matts!

Thank you so much for
your kind gift of £1,000
in support of our mosquito
net appeal in BF -
It is truly life changing!
Every blessing,

Mike Robins (Compassion UK)
on behalf of the children
