



Sunday 6 March 2022

www.st-matthias-church.org

Welcome!

Today, the theme is Solitude

Join us 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' home page

Sun 6 March	8am Holy Communion (<i>Book of Common Prayer</i>) in church
	9.30am 'Explore' in church informal worship with children's group Activity sheet: jesus-tested-in-the-wilderness
	11am Holy Communion in church and livestreamed https://youtu.be/AKfwLj9VmSI
	5.30pm Ukraine – special prayer meeting in church

Our readings today are:

1 Kings 17: 1-16 <https://tinyurl.com/y2cyj37r>

Luke 4: 1-13 <https://tinyurl.com/d9bnzrp7>

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**

Thanks to:



Tony - our
treasurer

Ukraine There will be a special prayer meeting this Sunday in church at 5.30pm.



Christian Aid Ukraine Appeal

Christian Aid have launched an emergency appeal for donations to help refugees from Ukraine. Christian Aid work through local partner organisations, two of whom have already distributed 28 tonnes of food supplies and other lifesaving essentials to people on the

Ukrainian borders. You are invited to donate in support of this appeal, either (and preferably) via their website: <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/emergencies/ukraine-crisis-appeal> or by telephone: 020 7620 4444, or by sending a cheque made out to 'Christian Aid Ukraine Appeal' to their head office address: Christian Aid, 35-41 Lower Marsh, London SE1 7RL.

Covid measures?

The PCC reviewed the situation last Monday and recommend that we make no significant changes for now – but sincerely hope we can do so by Easter especially in the light of the advice from Dr Lincoln Sergeant, the director of public health in Torbay, who, 10 days ago, said this:

“We should not trivialise this disease or feel that somehow it has gone away. It is not just another cold, and the data do suggest that it does have a greater impact than normal seasonal flu...Cases in Torbay have begun to fall, and all of our data are pointing to the fact that this fall is genuine...However, despite the fact that rates are falling, they still remain very high...”

So, for now, please do continue to wear a mask if you can, and be aware of distance and ventilation still. However, where we are still sanitising hands on arrival to church, there is less value now in sanitising them again immediately before receiving bread and wine of communion.

We'll keep reviewing the situation. Thank you.

Monday – Friday 12-2pm Church open for visitors/prayer	
Mon 7 Mar	7.30pm Lent Course week 1 <i>in church</i>
Tues 8 Mar	9am Toddlers <i>in church</i>
	12-1.30pm Matts Knits <i>in church</i>
Wed 9 Mar	9am Holy Communion <i>in church</i>
	10am Lent Course week 1 <i>in church</i>
	7.30pm Alpha <i>on zoom</i>
Thur 10 Mar	7.30pm Begin Well <i>in church</i>
Fri 11 Mar	10-11.30am Mummy and Me <i>in church</i>
	6.30pm Youth Alpha <i>in the Hall</i>
Sun 13 Mar	8am Holy Communion <i>(Book of Common Prayer) in church</i>
	11am Morning Worship
	4pm 'Encounter' <i>a youth led gathering for all in church</i>
Mon 14 Mar	7.30pm Lent Course week 2 <i>in church</i>

Readings for Today

1 Kings 17: 1-16

Now Elijah the Tishbite, from Tishbe in Gilead, said to Ahab, 'As the LORD, the God of Israel, lives, whom I serve, there will be neither dew nor rain in the next few years except at my word.'

² Then the word of the LORD came to Elijah: ³ 'Leave here, turn eastward and hide in the Kerith Ravine, east of the Jordan. ⁴ You will drink from the brook, and I have instructed the ravens to supply you with food there.'

⁵ So he did what the LORD had told him. He went to the Kerith Ravine, east of the Jordan, and stayed there. ⁶ The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning and bread and meat in the evening, and he drank from the brook.

Elijah and the widow at Zarephath. ⁷ Some time later the brook dried up because there had been no rain in the land. ⁸ Then the word of the LORD came to him: ⁹ 'Go at once to Zarephath in the region of Sidon and stay there. I have instructed a widow there to supply you with food.' ¹⁰ So he went to Zarephath. When he came to the town gate, a widow was there gathering sticks. He called to her and asked, 'Would you bring me a little water in a jar so I may have a drink?' ¹¹ As she was going to get it, he called, 'And bring me, please, a piece of bread.'

¹² 'As surely as the LORD your God lives,' she replied, 'I don't have any bread – only a handful of flour in a jar and a little olive oil in a jug. I am gathering a few sticks to take home and make a meal for myself and my son, that we may eat it – and die.'

¹³ Elijah said to her, 'Don't be afraid. Go home and do as you have said. But first make a small loaf of bread for me from what you have and bring it to me, and then make something for yourself and your son. ¹⁴ For this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: "The jar of flour will not be used up and the jug of oil will not run dry until the day the LORD sends rain on the land.'"

¹⁵ She went away and did as Elijah had told her. So there was food every day for Elijah and for the woman and her family. ¹⁶ For the jar of flour was not used up and the jug of oil did not run dry, in keeping with the word of the LORD spoken by Elijah.

Luke 4: 1-13

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, ² where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and at the end of them he was hungry.

³ The devil said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread.' ⁴ Jesus answered, 'It is written: "Man shall not live on bread alone.'"

⁵ The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. ⁶ And he said to him, 'I will give you all their authority and splendour; it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. ⁷ If you worship me, it will all be yours.'

⁸ Jesus answered, 'It is written: "Worship the Lord your God and serve him only."' ⁹ The devil led him to Jerusalem and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. 'If you are the Son of God,' he said, 'throw yourself down from here. ¹⁰ For it is written:

"He will command his angels concerning you
to guard you carefully;

¹¹ they will lift you up in their hands,
so that you will not strike your foot against a stone."

¹² Jesus answered, 'It is said: "Do not put the Lord your God to the test."'

¹³ When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left him until an opportune time.

News and Events

Lent Lent is often a time when we think about giving up something but this year, in the light of challenges posed by COP26, maybe we could take up **one** of the following challenges and see if we could keep going for a year, rather than just for Lent?

- Turning down the central heating by 1 degree (if possible).
- Grow something new, either indoors or out, from seed eg herbs, tomatoes, cut-and-come-again salad.
- Change to Fair Trade plastic-free teabags or loose leaf tea (Clipper brand is easily available) or swap one product with plastic packaging for similar with paper wrapping or no packaging.
- Choose one item of fruit or veg and buy locally sourced or organic.

If you would like more information on the impact of plastic production on our environment you may like to read the following article:

<https://www.ciel.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Plastic-and-Climate-Executive-Summary-2019.pdf>

Great Fashion Fast! I am taking part in the Great Fashion Fast – a challenge to choose only 10 items of clothing from my wardrobe, including a coat, to wear during the whole of March (underwear and nightwear don't count!) I will be raising money for Tearfund and if you would like to sponsor me, you can do so via my Just Giving page - www.justgiving.com/judis-the-great-fashion-fast All

money will go towards supporting communities already severely affected by climate change. Many thanks, Judi S

LOVELIFE

LIVELENT



LIVING IN LOVE & FAITH Lent Course begins on Monday 7 March at

7.30pm – repeated Wednesdays at 10am.

acknowledge
PREJUDICE

speak into
SILENCE

address
IGNORANCE

cast out
FEAR

admit
HYPOCRISY

pay attention to
POWER

Sunday teaching on the ‘Spiritual Disciplines’ – you may like to use one of these books to accompany your learning this Lent: the classic *‘Celebration of Discipline’* by Richard Foster, or the more recent *‘The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry: How to stay emotionally healthy and spiritually alive in the chaos of the modern world’* by John Mark Comer.

Messy Church Tuesday 15th March ‘Stop. Danger. Go no further!’ Come and discover Jesus in the wilderness.... did Jesus give in to temptation? Full of indoor fun, crafts, worship and much more! Supper for **all** included! We are looking forward to seeing everyone - to book, please call Lena (01803 295268) or stmattscw@st-matthias-church.org

The Keswick in Devon Conference 7-11 March 2022, Sidmouth

Exploring Philippians and Jonah with Marcus Honeysett and Amy Orr Ewing
<https://keswickindevon.org.uk/>

Gift Aid Donations up to £30 in Blue Envelopes For those church members who continue to give via gift aided cash donations in blue envelopes in the collection plate, please note that there is no longer any need to put your name/address on the envelopes, or indeed to use an envelope, if the amount for each donation is £30 or less. This is because we are now claiming gift aid for all cash donations up to this amount via the government’s Gift Aid Small Donation Scheme (GASDS), which does not require any personal details to be submitted. We are now using this scheme for all cash donations, regardless of whether the donor is eligible to authorise the gift aid or not. Thank you,
Tony Barratt (Treasurer)

Sun. to Tues. “God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble...”

We pray in the Name of Jesus for peace and perspective to come upon President Putin in Russia and President Zelensky in Ukraine. Put a desire for peace in their hearts and a strategy for de-escalation in their minds and on their agendas. God says, “Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.” Psalm 46.

Wed. Please pray for the Russian soldiers, for all who are grieving in Ukraine, Russia and elsewhere.

Thur. As we have started the Lent course let us pray that we will all show respect and understanding and learn basic Biblical principles.

Fri. Pray for Her Majesty the Queen as our leader and as a family mother; for the Prime Minister, the Ministers of State, Members of Parliament, and all who rule over us that they may have God’s wisdom.

Sat. Pray please for our Church Leaders, Archbishops, Bishops, Clergy and our own clergy and Staff Team. Pray that they may know the Spirit’s guidance.

Sun. During Lent pray that we may all be prepared not only to give things up but to positively take on things for God and for others.



ALPHA starts...9 March @ 7.30pm

Have you got questions about life and faith?

We’re launching the next Alpha course on Zoom next Wednesday (9th March) at 7:30pm. The Alpha course is discussion based and ideal for anyone who wants to

explore questions about life and faith in an open and safe environment. It’s always great fun and it’s a great opportunity to get to know new people too.

We’ll be dropping some tasty ‘welcome packs’ which include all sorts of treats on the doorsteps of anyone who has signed up. If you’d like to sign up (and a welcome pack!), drop our Curate Pete an email at pete@st-matthias-church.org and we’ll send you the Zoom link.

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