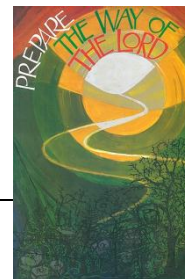


Sunday 7 December 2025



Welcome!



Join us in church or online

www.youtube.com/@stmatthiaschurchtorquay6827/streams

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

Sun 7 Dec	8am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
Claire's last Sunday at St Matthias 	9.30am Explore Together <i>with breakfast from 9.15am</i>
	10.30am Gather to Pray
	11am Holy Communion <i>followed by tea/coffee</i> https://tinyurl.com/2c9f5jw3 <i>Please note that as this service is livestreamed you may be seen on screen. If you do not wish to be filmed, please let a member of the Welcome Team know.</i>
	3.30-5pm Claire's farewell tea party
Mon 8 Dec	9-9.30am Morning Prayer <i>on zoom – details below</i>
	7.30pm Rock Choir Christmas Concert 
Tues 9 Dec	9-9.30am Morning Prayer <i>on zoom – details below</i>
	9-11.30am Toddlers
	12-1.30pm St Matt's Knits
Wed 10 Dec	9am Holy Communion
	12-2pm Welcome Space – <i>Join us for soup, coffee, chat!</i>
	12pm Ukrainian Christmas Service
	7.15-9pm St Matt's Gospel Singers - rehearsal 
Thurs 11 Dec	5-9pm Wellswood Christmas Fair <i>(in Ilsham Road)</i>
Fri 12 Dec	9-11.30am Mummy & Me
	6.30-8pm Youth Club <i>Crafts and Quiz</i>
Sat 13 Dec	7.30pm Big Noise Christmas Concert 
Sun 14 Dec	8am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
	9.30am Explore Together
	10.30am Gather to Pray
	11am Morning Worship <i>followed by tea/coffee</i>
	5.30pm Praying for the church

Collect:

Almighty God, purify our hearts and minds, that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again as judge and saviour we may be ready to receive him, who is our Lord and our God. **Amen**

Thanks go to:



Claire

You will be greatly missed

Readings

Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.
²The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him— the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the Lord—
³and he will delight in the fear of the Lord. He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears, ⁴but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked. ⁵Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash around his waist.
⁶The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them.
⁷The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox.
⁸The infant will play near the cobra's den, and the young child will put its hand into the viper's nest.
⁹They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.
¹⁰In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his resting place will be glorious.

Matthew 3:1-12

In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea ²and saying, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.' ³This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah:
'A voice of one calling in the wilderness,
"Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him."' ⁴John's clothes were made of camel's hair, and he had a leather belt round his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan. ⁶Confessing their sins, they were baptised by him in the River Jordan.
⁷But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptising, he said to them: 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. ⁹And do not think you can say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our father." I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. ¹⁰The axe has been laid to the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. ¹¹'I baptise you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹²His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire.'

Dates for the diary



Claire's last Sunday with us is **today!**

Do join Claire and Al to say thank you and good bye over tea in the Hall at 3.30-5pm. (Claire's licencing service in Okehampton will be on Wed 7th Jan at 7pm – further information to follow.)

Christmas at St Matthias – see posters and flyers for dates of our Christmas services.



News

Message of thanks from the Friends' Trustees

Over the past few weeks and months on behalf of the Friends Group, I have asked you to take on many extra tasks in support of the St Matthias Christmas Market and because you have all responded with such enthusiasm and willingness it has resulted in our raising a record amount of £2,488 to help our Church. Thank you and well done.

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 will need welcomers at the services, people to serve the mulled wine and mince pies at the carol services on 18th and 21st December and people to come along to the Wellswood Christmas Fair on Thursday 11th December – next week! Thank you.



Update on recruitment of new rector

The advert is now live on the Diocesan website, The Church Times and the CPAS website. The interview dates have been set for 2nd/3rd February 2026. Please continue to pray that God will be stirring the heart of his chosen person, for strength for Paul, Dallas and Claire as they carry extra burdens and for all of us, that God will help us to be strongly supportive of each other and outward looking so that we grow in our faith and as a Church in this period of waiting.

School News: Open the Book there are no assemblies this week but we are helping schools prepare for their christmas services.

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

You are welcome to join us!

The words we use can be found here,

with an audio version: tinyurl.com/2djd3t7f



Prayers for this week

- Mon** Pray for the Rock Choir and Big Noise Christmas Concerts being held this week - that the people who attend will witness the presence of God's peace in our beautiful building.
- Tues** Pray that the delicate balance of peace in the Israeli/Gaza conflict will continue and strengthen and that people can return to 'normal' life.
- Wed** Pray that families in conflict will find peace in this pressurised time of the year.
- Thur** Pray for all involved in the outreach into our community at the Wellswood Street Party that they would be covered by God's grace and peace.
- Fri** Pray for all the agencies helping those in need over the Christmas period: those in poverty, homeless, hungry and depressed.
- Sat** Pray for the peace talks for the Ukraine/Russian war that a solution that holds will be found.
- Sun** Pray that in this advent period, a busy time for Clergy and teams, that the Peace of God will fill them and restore them.

How to increase donations by regular giving, or make one-off gifts, either to support our Youth & Children's Lead fund or general church funds (or both!)

Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) donors:

- 1) Call **0333 002 1260** or log into your updated PGS online account.
- 2) Advise the new monthly amount and date it is to start.
- 3) Consider having monthly donations increased annually for inflation.
- 4) Advise a one-off payment, if applicable.

Direct bank standing orders or online bank transfers:

- 1) Bank details: PCC St Matthias Church, 40-52-40 (CAF Bank), 00017933.
- 2) Set up your new/updated standing order or online bank payment.

VERY IMPORTANT – FOR EITHER WAY OF GIVING

Please email treasurer@st-matthias-church.org cc trudy@tgbookkeeping.co.uk with the following:-

- 1) Your name.
- 2) Confirm taxpayer or not a taxpayer.
- 3) The amount of the payment and whether it is monthly or one-off.
- 4) If your payment is for both general church funds and for the Youth and Children's Lead fund, how much for each.
- 5) Let us know the date of the new payment.

Church Office: 01803 214175 admin@st-matthias-church.org
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Youth & Children: 07832 738998 helen.baker@st-matthias-church.org