



Sharing the Good News of Jesus



Autumn 2015

St Matthias Church, Torquay

The Parish of St. Matthias', St Mark and Holy Trinity, Torquay

Rector	Reverend John Beckett	
Assistant Clergy	Reverend Mike Blunsum	
	Reverend Brian Gerry	
	Reverend Paul Barton	
Readers	Mrs Norma Gerry	
	Mrs Ruth Beckett	
Churchwardens	Mrs Sylvia Barratt	
	Mr Phil Miles	
Organists	Mike Hackeson & Valerie Collison	
Youth Worker	Ruth Jones	
Pre-School Leader	Liz Sampson	01803 215068
Verger	To Be Appointed	
Church Administration		
	David Wilkinson	PCC Secretary
	Tony Barratt	Church Treasurer
Office Staff	Pere Snow	Church Administrator & Centre Manager
	pere.snow@st-matthias-church.org	
Address	St Matthias' Church Centre,	
	Babbacombe Road, Wellswood,	
	Torquay TQ1 1HW	
Telephone	01803 214175	
General Email	admin@st-matthias-church.org	
Website	www.st-matthias-church.org	



Still learning!

As many of you will know, my first proper job was as a junior doctor. Having completed my undergraduate training I became what was known then as a 'houseman'. Although I was qualified, and was referred to as 'Dr Barton', my authority was limited and I had to work through the next year of ongoing training under the authority of my consultant before I could be formally 'registered' with the General Medical Council.

My latest 'job', as curate, shares similarities. Having completed my training as an ordinand with South West Ministerial Training College, I was ordained last September as a 'deacon' in Exeter Cathedral. Whilst this meant that I could be referred to as 'Rev' Paul, my authority has been limited, and I have had to work through this last 12 months under the guidance of John. Last month Bishop Robert authorized my ordination to become a priest and on Saturday 26th of September I will be (or will *have been* if you are reading this in October!) 'priested' by the Bishop of Plymouth.

In much the same way that I have had to continue my studies in medicine up to the present time (and show evidence of my continuing development), so too will I continue my theological studies into the future.

I am very aware of my 'journey', from lying in my pram as a baby outside the church in London, via baptism, confirmation and marriage, all the way to the present time.

We are all on a journey of faith and we are all at different points on that journey, which will not be completed until the moment we die. How much we shape our route and how much we allow ourselves to drift is up to each one of us. It will be influenced by the people we meet, the conversations we have, the books we read and the television we watch. As Jesus was preparing himself and his disciples to go up to Jerusalem, to the trial and crucifixion he knew lay ahead, he continued to prepare them for the ongoing journey that they would continue after

his death, working to build God's kingdom through time and space, reaching down to the 21st century in Wellswood. Our journey links to theirs, and our role is to continue to work to bring his kingdom to those near to us.

God wants us to hear his voice, to choose to follow his path, to know his will, and allow all of this to shape our route. As a priest my tasks will include helping you on that journey through encouragement and teaching, through prayer and counsel.

Some have thought that this service on the 26th will signal my posting to pastures anew, but rest assured I am staying here at St Matthias for the next part of my journey and I very much am looking forward to sharing a part of your journey over the next few months and years.

Paul Barton

STOP PRESS:

- The Church Contact List will be available soon. £1 to cover costs.
- A copy of the magazine and the weekly church notices are available to download from the church website:
- www.st-matthias-church.org
- The Diocesan magazine can be downloaded from: www.exeter.anglican.org

Elevate

A Summer to Remember

by Hannah and Alice Rigg



For the first week in the Summer Holidays we went to Elevate. Elevate is a day camp based in a church in Torbay that lasts a week and is organised by the Christian youth group LiNX. During this week we did lots of different activities and games and went on trips. There were 75 teenagers aged twelve to sixteen from around Torbay and we had fun, made new friends and thought more about life alongside youth workers from churches across Torbay. On the first day we were put into different teams for the week. In our teams we had to earn as many points as possible over the week to try and win. We then went to 'Rock Solid' (where we played games and did activities to try and win points). We then had our workshops, which we had already chosen to sign up to. We did cooking and it was great and we got to eat what we had made. After lunch we did a team Treasure Trail around Torquay, it was really exciting and competitive. On Tuesday we went to the River Dart Country Park, where we swam in the lake and went on the low ropes and zip-wire. To finish off the day we had a barbeque and played 'Capture the flag' and football. Tuesday was a really great day to meet other people and have fun.

On Wednesday we spent the whole day at Woodlands, a theme park near Totnes. We had an amazing time on all the rides and played in the indoor play-area. We even got Ruth and another youth leader to go on the pirate ship! On Thursday we had a choice to either go to Quaywest, a swimming pool with water slides, or the cinema. We went to the cinema and it was really good. We saw 'Inside Out'. Some of my friends went to Quaywest and they said it was great!

On Friday we had our Big Choice. We could choose from; Battlefield Live, Combat Archery, Coasteering, Horse-riding or Dry Slope skiing. We did the Dry Slope skiing and although I was tired afterwards, I found it amazing. If you had never skied before or weren't a confident skier you went into a different group where you were taught to ski. At the start there were only three confident skiers who were allowed down the big ski slope or on the ski lift. By the end all of us had used the ski lift and gone down the big slope. After our big choice we went back to the church where we had the Grand Finale and Prom. We dressed up as people from films to earn ourselves more points so our team dressed up as James Bond characters. We had dominoes ice-cream and pizza for dinner! At the end the points were revealed and our team came third! The losing team leader was gunged and it was Ruth! Our team were all really happy and although we came third we all agreed it didn't matter because we had an amazing time. Elevate was really fun and we would definitely recommend it to anyone. If you are interested there are taster days throughout the year. You can look on the LiNX website to find out dates, www.linxyouth.org.uk, and also find where to sign up for Elevate.

Here is some of the feedback from one person who went to Elevate; "*Elevate was better than I could have ever expected, it mixed life lessons with enjoyment. I made a variety of new friends meanwhile I managed to recognize things about myself and the type of person I am! I would recommend to anyone, the staff and leaders were very friendly and I definitely want to do it again! Thank you very much for providing such an amazing opportunity.*"

New Wine 2015

"WOW"



A visit by Colin and Suzy Young

In August this year, we attended the second week of the New Wine festival - a gathering of about 11,000 like-minded believers. We had all come together to worship, learn, share and grow spiritually and for many to receive the holy spirit for the first time and for others to be refreshed.



The choice of venues and seminars far exceeded our expectations - you had a daily choice of over 18 different subjects in at least 8 separate venues. Each day started and ended in a powerful worship and praise time during which every speaker encouraged and motivated the audience to move closer to God and to live a more Christian life both personally and in outreach. The words amazing and WOW were often the only words you could use, it was so inspirational.

The accommodation is either camping or caravans, with each Church group being allocated a specific area. This enabled us, John and Ruth, Colin and Barbara, Elaine, Mya and Ena and us to form our own corral. We shared food, friendship and many laughs, yet we each had our own space if we needed a quiet time.



Would we recommend New Wine, YES! Would we go again, YES!



New Wine 2015

Another story.....

And here are a few pics of the Wilson family enjoying New Wine at the Bath and West Showground near Shepton Mallet. Along with the Becketts, they have been regular 'New Winners' for many years. The girls loved the fantastic children's programme – which are full of fun and faith building activities. And the teaching and worship for



the adults are very inspiring and challenging. But there's plenty of time for just chilling and getting to know one another as church family.

It's very much like Spring Harvest – just much cheaper! So if you enjoy camping or caravaning, and the opportunity to really grow in your faith, then look into coming to New Wine for

2016. And if the outdoor life is not your idea of fun at all – consider booking in to local B & Bs, or go to Spring Harvest instead!

Please speak to any of those who went this year if you'd like to know more, or have a look at www.new-wine.org/summer-16

We're most likely to try to go as a church group for week 2 – see below, but please check with John Beckett before you do, so that we can all try to camp near each other.

Week 1: Saturday 23 - Friday 29 July
Week 2: Sunday 31 July - Saturday 6 August





St Matthias' Church Pre School Update from Liz Sampson Pre School Leader

Pre School said a fond farewell to 26 children at the end of July as they begin their journey into full time education.

We celebrated the end of the academic year with a service in Church followed by a party at Pre School.

We welcome 12 new starters this term and look forward to getting to know them and their families.

Later on this term we will be thinking about Harvest and having a celebration.



St. Matthias' Pre-School 2015

Breakfastzone



Café church in the hall beginning at 9.15am with breakfast. A relaxed service from 9.30 until 10.10am with plenty of activities for children. Do join us on the first Sunday of the month:

4 October, 1 November, 6 December



Come and join us
for Messy Church
on:

Games, crafts, a
Bible story and
supper finishing at
about 5.45pm.

Tuesday 15 September
Tuesday 20 October
Tuesday 17 November
Tuesday 15 December
from 3.15pm

Confirmation Service 29 June 2015

An account by Lisa Tulloch

God's plan for me...

On Sunday 28th June, myself, Ruth Jones, Ben and Grace Vans-Colina, and Charlotte and Matthew Dickinson were confirmed by the Rt Revd Robert Atwell, Bishop of Exeter. During the service we were each anointed with oil - a biblical symbol of God's blessing and a marking of the cross was made on our forehead, whilst the Bishop prayed for us all. The Bishop asked each of us our reasons for choosing to be baptised.



So why did we choose to be confirmed, some may wonder?

Personally, I felt this public act of faith to God gave me the opportunity to be still and show God that I have finally found him. I wanted to demonstrate my deep love of Christ and express my eternal gratitude for the life I live today.

For many different reasons we will all remember with fond memories this day and feel thankful for the opportunity to show our close friends and family at St. Matthias our faith and love for Jesus.

I felt incredibly honoured to meet the Bishop once again, after attending the service for his ordination at Exeter Cathedral in the Summer. He spoke wonderfully on both occasions and was extremely warm and inviting when approached.

Thank you everyone at St. Matthias for making my first year here so special. I am so fortunate to have found my way and been given the 'keys to the Kingdom' and I don't ever want to go back.

Lisa Tulloch



The Building reordering - where have we got to?

As this magazine goes to press, the church planning authorities (the 'Diocesan Advisory Committee' or 'DAC') are meeting at St Matthias' to take a first look at some draft proposals for reordering the church.

We hope to have an initial reply from them about the *likelihood* of permission being granted by the end of October. But we also have to consult other interested parties, e.g. The Victorian Society and English Heritage! So, it is unlikely to be before Christmas that we can come back to the church family to share what is likely to be possible, let alone with Godly wisdom affordable! Having said that, the PCC met for an Away Day on 6th September, and fully and unanimously endorsed the proposed plans so far.

Key features of the proposals are to:

Redesign the West end of the church, to improve accessibility, a more welcoming entrance, a larger space at the back of the church and provide the storage we so badly need, and a small kitchenette.

Replace existing seating to improve comfort and layout of the church to allow wheelchairs/pushchairs better access, and allow the more informal services like Prayzone to work in the church as they do in the Hall. *(By the way, should Prayzone move into the church, we do not plan to stop the current Morning Praise service as some have feared! (though we may have to review the best times that these services start)).*

Upgrade audio-visual provision in the church – we know that the sound system is not right – but that is because of the equipment and not the fault of our faithful sound people!

Glass in Francis Chapel and be able to use that better as a prayer chapel. We'd love to find a way to **hold smaller services in the beautiful Chancel once again** but the layout and comfort of the choir stalls does not allow this at present.

We'll keep providing updates to progress on these plans. Please keep praying for the project (we're going to hold afternoon prayer meetings on every 2nd Sunday now). And finally, the PCC are very clear that we remember that the building is just a means to an end – we're here to **worship God**, to **make disciples**, and to work with the Lord to **transform communities** – our own church family here and beyond, so that they more resemble the shape of the Kingdom of God.

Yours in Christ, John

What's on this Autumn at St Matthias

Sunday 11 October

Harvest Lunch

The Annual Harvest Lunch will take place on **Sunday 11 October** after the morning service. This is a lovely opportunity for the church family to join together in fellowship. In order to ensure we cater for the correct numbers please sign the list on the notice board in the hall. The cost will be £6 per adult, £3 for under 14s and a family ticket for £15.

Saturday 21 November

Coach trip to Cardiff

On Saturday 21 November this is a great opportunity to get some Christmas shopping, enjoy lunch and explore this lovely city. The cost is £16 pp payable in advance but please indicate your intention to join us on the list in the hall. Please speak to any Social Core Group members for more details. This is a full day event which in the past has proved to be a great day out! Cheques or cash can be handed into the office (clearly marked Cardiff) or to Sue Gray.

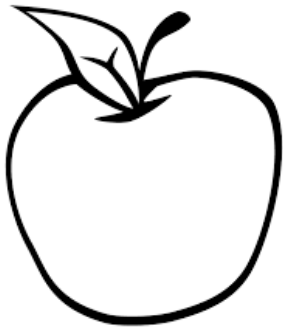
Saturday 31 October

Jollyween

A family party celebrating light from 5-7pm in the Hall. Free food and fun. *No fancy dress please.*

And at Christmas.....

Look out for details of services, including a carol service, Christingle service and more.



The Friends of St Matthias

BLACKBERRY & APPLE FAYRE

Saturday 3 October 2015

10.30am—2.30pm in the Centre

A variety of attractive stalls. Do come and get a bargain!

Cakes, books, jams and chutneys, toiletries, jewellery, good
bric-a-brac, competitions, coffees, lunches, blackberry and apple
pies. Why not make a pie for the competition?

For further details about this event or to find out how to join the
Friends, contact Rob Newman (524215).

YOUTH UPDATE



It's been a busy time since the last update. Back in June, four of the young people, Ben and Grace Vans-Colina and Matthew and Charlotte Dickinson, and Lisa Tulloch and I, were confirmed by Bishop Robert. It was a really special time, and great to see these four young people, who had worked through Youth Alpha/Confirmation classes with John and me, want to confirm their faith and proclaim it as their own. It's one of the joys and privileges that I have as youth worker is to be involved in young people finding God for themselves. Please pray for these young people, that the promises that they made will continue to be true, and for all of the young people who are on their own faith journeys. Lisa has written about this elsewhere in this magazine.

Schools broke up for the summer and the holidays started. All of the youth activities take a break over summer as a lot of people like to go away. It did give some of us the chance to go to Elevate, the annual youth activities week that is run by LiNX Christian Youth Trust. There were approximately 70 young people from across Torbay and beyond who came together at Upton Vale Baptist church for the first week of the summer holidays, including three of our young people. Please see Hannah and Alice Rigg's article about what went on.

It was an exciting week as you will read but from my point of view I was a team leader again and with a young leader we led 8 young people through a week of quizzes, silly activities, thought provoking talks and discussions and a wide range of workshops and activities, all the while trying to earn team points so that I wouldn't get gunged during the week! On the final day we had our big activity in the afternoon, being able to try new things such as going on the dry ski slope or horse riding. The evening, and week, ended with a movie themed party, with everyone invited to come in fancy dress, and eat lots of pizza, play more games and find out who the winning and losing teams were.

Having managed to escape gunging all week, it turned out that on the final night I wasn't so lucky! My team lost, sadly, and I had to take the punishment of being covered in gameshow gunge, cold and slimy! Here I am mid-gunge! I also have a video if anyone wants to see it!

I love being involved in Elevate as it is such a great opportunity to meet new people and have lots and lots of fun. I would highly recommend it to anyone who is in year 6 or above! If it sounds like your kind of thing, speak to Ruth or one of the young people who may be able to tell you more!

The youth activities are starting up again, full details on the website or on posters around church. TGIF youth home group restarts on Friday 18th September at 6pm. The youth club **has moved to Friday** and restarts on the 25th September at 6:30pm with a games night. The youth service is back on Sunday 20th September at 6pm, where we will be looking at practising your gifts.

Also coming up, the youth bank are having a fundraising sleepover where they will be giving up their phones and technology, and trying different challenges to experience some of the difficulties faced by members of the persecuted church. For more information and to get involved speak to Ruth or Tessa.

Please remember our young people in your prayers as they start this new academic year and all the challenges that it brings.

Ruth Jones

Youth Worker, St Matthias Church



PRAYZONE

Relaxed family service in the hall 10.30-11.30am on the fourth Sunday of the month followed by coffee.

Sunday 27 September at 10.30am

Sunday 25 October at 10.30am

Sunday 29 November at 10.30am

**You are invited to our evening Youth
Service, at 6pm**

The next dates are:

20th September 2015

18th October 2015

15th November 2015

20th December 2015

At:

**St Matthias Church,
Babbacombe Road,
Torquay,
TQ1 1HW**

**Come and join us to explore different aspects of the
Christian faith, as well as spending some time
worshipping God together. We'd love to see you
there!**



For more information contact: Ruth Jones,
ruth.stmatthias@gmail.com

ST MATTS YOUTH CLUB

Fridays, 6:30–8:00pm in Hall

at St Matthias Church, Babbacombe Road, TQ1 1HW

For Year 6—Year 9

£1 subs

25th Sept '15:

Games night

9th Oct '15: Wii games

23rd Oct '15:

Quiz evening

6th Nov '15: Cooking

20th Nov '15: Film night

4th Dec '15:

Christmas Crafts

18th Dec '15: Party

Come and join us as we meet together to hang out,
play games, have a go at a variety of different
activities and have fun!

For more information contact: Ruth Jones,
ruth.stmatthias@gmail.com



The Community comes to St Matthias

The Church Centre is well used by a whole variety of community groups and provides a lovely setting for exercise classes, management meetings, many interest groups,



venues for wedding receptions to name but a few. Continuing our series of articles from one of the regular church centre community groups, the Torbay branch of NADFAS have written about what they do.



Torbay Decorative and Fine Arts Society

If you are interested in...

Art of all kinds including Ancient, Art Deco, Art Nouveau, Impressionism, Watercolours, Landscapes, Portraits, Silverware, Sculpture, Furniture, Porcelain, Tapestry, Architecture, Textiles, Costume, Jewellery, Mosaics, Music ...

Then you will enjoy the Torbay Decorative and Fine Arts Society

We have just completed our first year using the facilities in the St Mathias Church Centre which we have found excellent. The projection system has worked extremely well and members have particularly enjoyed the opportunity for tea to be served after each meeting.

We meet on the second Thursday of the months October to June inclusive at 2.15pm and enjoy a varied and thought provoking programme of lectures given by nationally renowned experts in their fields. Leaflets are available at the Centre and we are offering a **free initial visit** as we are actively looking for new members.

The first lecture of this season is:

8th October - Susan Perrin: Japanese Costumes & Textiles with samples to be shown of Kimono.

You would be most welcome. Contact:

torbaydfas.org.uk or Tel: Torquay nos. 521715, 311648, or 293058

Men's Breakfast



If you would like to come along to hear a great speaker, enjoy a wonderful full English breakfast and enjoy great fellowship, then why not come along to one of the following meetings:

Sat 10 October at Kent's Cavern Café with Professor John
Wibberly

Sat 14 November at the Palace Hotel with Rev Mark Lord-
Lear

Sat 12 December at Kent's Cavern Café with Rev John
Beckett

All at 8.45am for a 9am start. £7 per head to include breakfast.

For more information or to attend, please let Charlie know by emailing him at c.allansen@btinternet.com.

We look forward to seeing you there!



Church Website

The new church website was launched in July and we wondered how you were finding it? Do you like it? Does anything need adding? If you have any feedback please email admin@st-matthias-church.org. We look forward to hearing from you.

From the Website Team

**If you have questions and
are looking for answers,
then why not make a *Start!***

Start!



Discovering Christianity
in six small-group sessions

Wondering what life is all about?

Wanting to find out more about the Christian faith?

Come along to the next 'Start!' course

at St. Matthias' Church

6 evenings in October and November beginning on

Monday 12 October

about an hour each (there's no charge)

For more information, please contact the Church Office

on 01803 214175 or see

www.st-matthias-church.org

