



Welcome!

*We are delighted to see you, especially if this is your first visit.
Please do join us for refreshments in the hall after the 10.30am service.*

Today

8am	Holy Communion (BCP)
10.30am	Prayzone <i>in the Hall</i>
10.30am	Morning Worship <i>in the church</i>
6pm	United Service to mark the World Week of Prayer <i>at Salvation Army, Market Street with guest speaker Rev Rich Webb from Upton Vale Baptist Church</i>

During the Week

Tues	9am Morning Prayer
	9.30-11.30am Open House parents and toddlers <i>in the Lounge</i>
	7.30pm St Matt's Cats <i>in the church</i>
Wed	9am Holy Communion followed by coffee <i>in the Lounge</i>
	7.45pm Alpha course <i>in the church</i>
Fri	10am Funeral of Richard Bridge
Sat	1pm Funeral of Kelly Housecroft

Sunday 31 January

8am	Holy Communion (BCP)
10.30am	Holy Communion with prayers for healing
12.15pm	Church Family Lunch <i>in the Hall</i>

**Church Family Lunch, Sunday 31 January
Food and fellowship!**



Please sign up at the back of church or on the hall noticeboard if you would like to attend. £6 adult, £3 under 14, £15 family ticket.

Readings

Acts 9: 1-22

Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest² and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem.³ As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him.⁴ He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?'⁵ 'Who are you, Lord?' Saul asked. 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,' he replied.⁶ 'Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.'⁷ The men travelling with Saul stood there speechless; they heard the sound but did not see anyone.⁸ Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So they led him by the hand into Damascus.⁹ For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything.¹⁰ In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, 'Ananias!' 'Yes, Lord,' he answered.¹¹ The Lord told him, 'Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying.¹² In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight.'

¹³ 'Lord,' Ananias answered, 'I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to your holy people in Jerusalem.¹⁴ And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name.'

¹⁵ But the Lord said to Ananias, 'Go! This man is my chosen instrument to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel.¹⁶ I will show him how much he must suffer for my name.'¹⁷ Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, 'Brother Saul, the Lord – Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here – has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit.'¹⁸ Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptised,¹⁹ and after taking some food, he regained his strength. Saul spent several days with the disciples in Damascus.²⁰ At once he began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God.²¹ All those who heard him were astonished and asked, 'Isn't he the man who caused havoc in Jerusalem among those who call on this name? And hasn't he come here to take them as prisoners to the chief priests?'²² Yet Saul grew more and more powerful and baffled the Jews living in Damascus by proving that Jesus is the Messiah.

Matthew 19: 27-30

²⁷ Peter answered him, 'We have left everything to follow you! What then will there be for us?' ²⁸ Jesus said to them, 'Truly I tell you, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. ²⁹ And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or fields for my sake will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life. ³⁰ But many who are first will be last, and many who are last will be first.

Collect

The Conversion of St Paul

Almighty God, who caused the light of the gospel to shine throughout the world through the preaching of your servant Saint Paul:
grant that we who celebrate his wonderful conversion may follow him in bearing witness to your truth;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

Suggestions for your prayers this week

- The Queen, her government and MPs
- Alpha attendees
- The homeless project
- Our youth worker
- The sick and housebound
- The bereaved
- Our service leaders

LENT

- Lent begins on Ash Wednesday on 10 February with Holy Communion at 9am and 6.30pm.
- The Lent Course on prayer begins on 18 February. Please see separate purple leaflet for details.
- Lent book 2016 – the recommended book this year is 'Dust and Glory' by David Runcorn containing daily bible readings and reflections. Available to buy in church from next week £8. Please put money in box on wall or in a blue envelope marked 'lent book'.

What's On & News

You will be sad to hear that Kelly Housecroft has recently passed away. Her funeral will be held at St Matthias Church on Saturday 30 January at 1pm. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family. Please also prayer for the family of Richard Bridge whose funeral is on Friday 29 January at 10am.

Tea towel rota Thank you. We have filled up the rota again! Please see your pigeon hole (or your email) or the list in the kitchen for the new rota.

Church cleaning We are looking for 3 people to join the cleaning team on a rota basis once every 6 weeks. Please speak to Jean Fricker or the office. Thank you.

Men's Breakfast The next breakfast will be on Saturday 13 February at the Kents Cavern Café. Contact Charlie to book c.allansen@btinternet.com. The speaker will be Jeff Hill.

Holidays Do you know of a family under stress who would benefit from a holiday but can't afford it? The Mothers' Union are able to offer holidays in the form of a 3 day break at Sandy Bay in Exmouth. If you or someone you know would like more information about this, please see Pere in the office by 22 February.

1 February @ 6.15am Early morning prayers will be said in the Hall preceded by tea/coffee and croissant. You are warmly invited to come along to join others from St Matthias and those from 'Jesus is Here South West'.

Home Groups Home groups meet around the parish at a variety of times, usually fortnightly, with styles to suit everyone. If you would like to join a group, please contact Norman & Lindsay Doidge, Oakyarde, 8 Bunting Close, Newton Abbot, Devon, TQ12 6BU, 01626 364333 or e-mail admin@st-matthias-church.org so that we can place you in the group that suits you best.

Contacting the Church

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