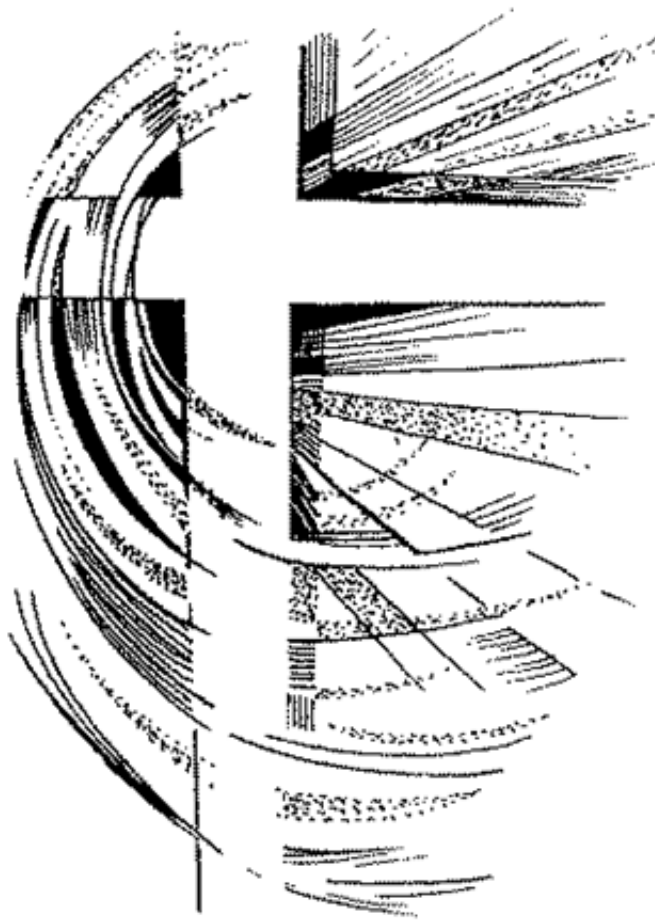




Sharing the Good News of Jesus



Spring 2016

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	



30 years

That's how old Jesus was when he began his teaching and healing ministry. After he was baptised he was immediately sent off into the desert by the Holy Spirit.

40 days

That's how long Jesus spent in the wilderness. He was alone: praying with the Father, meditating on scripture, preparing for the next stage of the work God had in store for him.

It was time for him to look back on life so far; to look ahead and see the next steps the Father needed him to take in order to share the good news of the kingdom of God more widely. We also know it was time when the devil tempted him - especially over his identity, twice beginning– “*if* you are the son of God...”

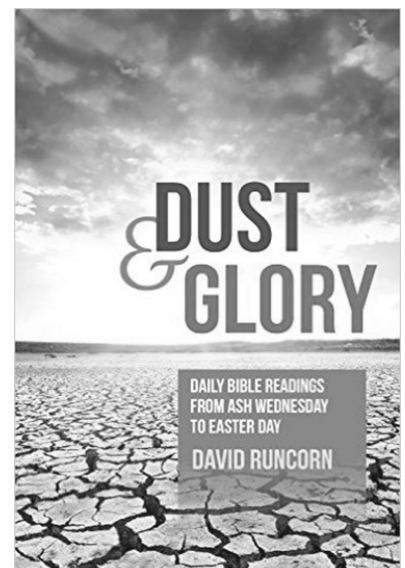
Lent has been a valuable time of preparation for Christians for centuries. A time to look back and to look ahead. A time to follow Jesus' example and practice the spiritual disciplines of prayer and solitude - and fasting – going without some of the modern comforts or foods which we have got so used to.

So I encourage you to do the same this Lent. Why not come to the Thursday evening **Lent course on Prayer?**

We have a variety of speakers to offer insights and practical ideas to help us pray in different ways. Each evening is 'stand alone' so come to as few or as many as you can. You can find more details elsewhere in this magazine or on a flyer at the back of church or on our website.

And, especially if you rarely pick up a Christian book to read, why not try this year's Lent book “**Dust and Glory**”? It is a book with short daily Bible readings from Ash Wednesday (10 February) to Easter Day with reflection each day by the brilliant and insightful author David Runcorn. It is available at the back of church for £8.

God bless you this Lent, John



LENT 2016

Ash Wednesday
10 February

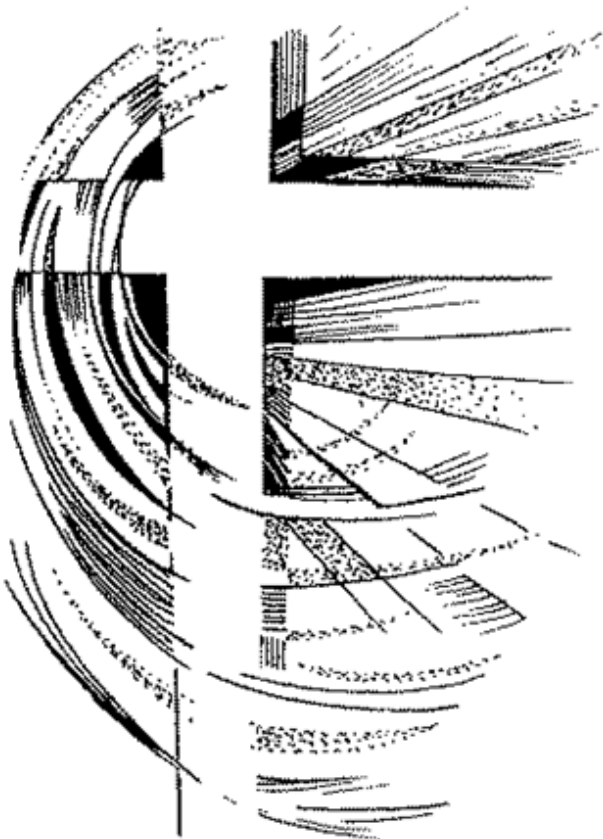
Holy Communion at
9am and 6.30pm

Lent Course on
Prayer

Begins on Thursday
18 February at
7.30pm – see next
page for details

Sunday 21 February 10.30am

Bishop Robert to
preach on prayer
'seeking the face of
God'



Lent 2016: Prayer – ‘finding the heart’s true home’

Lent Course

Thursday evenings 7.30pm – 9.15pm in the Larkin Hall

Beginning 18 February

Each evening covers a separate topic, so come to as few or many as you are able

Thursday 18th February

What is Prayer and its importance

An introduction to prayer, what it is and what is effective prayer. Looking at some approaches to prayer and aids in praying.

Speaker: Alan Poole, an author of books on prayer

Thursday 25th February

Hearing God speak

Speaker: Maureen Douglas from Exmouth

Thursday 3rd March

Alone with God

Speaker: Alison Jackson, an Anglican Solitary called to a life of prayer.

Thursday 10th March

“Deliver us from evil” ...a spiritual battle?

Speakers: Anthony and Sally Hindley

Thursday 17th March

Praying continually...prayer through the day

Speaker: John Beckett

Maundy Thursday

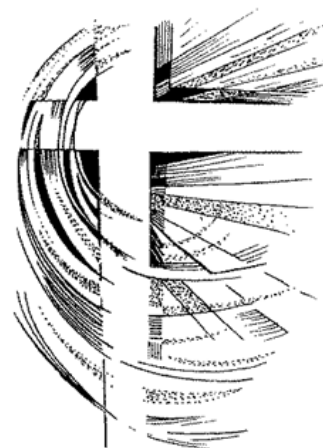
24th March

Holy Communion

(Gethsemane Vigil available afterwards)

with teaching about the Prayer Labyrinth

(available after the service and Good Friday & Sat)



Chat@St.Matts



Friendship, fun,
puzzles, games,
tea, cake.....
All welcome.
Come and join us!

First Thursday of month
2.30 to 4.30 pm

Next meeting on:
4 February
3 March

Chat@St.Matts

Some photos from our recent meeting



PRAYZONE

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

Sunday 28 February

Sunday 27 March

Sunday 24 April

Sunday 22 May

What is the PCC?

St Matthias' Parochial Church Council or PCC is elected at an Annual Church Meeting held each Spring - this year after morning worship on Sunday 24 April. It is the shared responsibility of the Rector and PCC to consult on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish. The PCC meet about six times a year and the minutes of those meetings, once approved, are available for consultation on the noticeboard in the Peter Larkin Hall. In every meeting we try to make sure that most of our business falls into one of three categories:

Worshipping God, Making Disciples and Transforming Communities

In recent meetings we have looked at:

- Re-ordering project – appointing an architect to help remodel the church for a growing congregation and those who will worship here in years to come
- Agreeing to the recommendations of the Missions Action Group in support of various charities in receipt of our church tithe
- Agreeing patterns of worship and approving newer forms of worship including **Messy Church** and **Breakfastzone**
- Making a commitment to the Living Wage and recognising our pension responsibilities
- Improving A/V provision, with the support of the Friends of St Matthias
- Considering recommendations from Deanery Synod for Mission Communities in the Bay and contributing to those discussions through PCC representation on Deanery Synod
- Preparing for a future curate and supporting the training of our Reader
- Planning for a night shelter for the homeless (in February)
- Our responsibilities for Safeguarding
- How to best accommodate Ilsham Academy pupils at lunchtime
- Reaching older members of our church and wider community
- Supporting the work of the trustees responsible for Trinity Memorial Hall
- Supporting our Youth Worker
- Supporting the Treasurer and agreeing our reserves policy
- Considering various recommendations from the Fabric Committee to keep the fabric of the church (the building and its contents) in good order

All of the above is underpinned by prayer.

Do consider standing for the PCC at the Annual Meeting in April; make sure that you are on the electoral roll. Do pray for the work of the PCC and its various committees and working groups. Thank you.

David Wilkinson

PCC Secretary

YOUTH UPDATE



Working together and being social !

We have some exciting events coming up which I wanted to take this chance to share here. The youth club, TGIF youth home group and both primary school lunch clubs have re-started this term. As part of our youth club programme, we are joining (will have joined when you read this) with the youth club at St Mary Mags church. This is going to be a great evening and a great opportunity to get to know some of the other young people in the Bay. It's also a great chance for us as a church group to connect in and share resources and ideas.

I approached the youth worker there with a vague idea to do something and from that we came up with the idea of having a quiz evening, and lots of fun! For me, this is an important step that has been encouraged by the Youth Work Management team and will hopefully foster chances to offer bigger activities and build friendship between our groups. With this in mind, there are also plans in the works for an egg-citing challenge with the young people at Mark Lord-Lear's church.

Another exciting opportunity for our young people will be the chance to go ice skating in Plymouth. This is open to young people who are in year 6 – 9 and will be on the **27th February**. By running it on a Saturday, we are hoping that some of the young people who may not be able to attend on the Friday night can come and join this chance to be social together and have what is sure to be lots of fun!

Julie and I run the youth club but would appreciate an extra pair of hands from someone who would like to get involved during the evening and help us with setting up and packing down for each youth club. I'm happy to chat further with anyone who may want to know more.

Thank you all for your continued support of my work and of all of the young people and children that walk through our doors. They are an important and valid part of our church community, and your support will really help them to see that and take hold of all that God wants for them.

Ruth Jones

Youth Worker, St Matthias Church

Stephen Yates - our new curate at St Matthias

I am delighted to be joining St Matthias in late summer/early autumn to serve my curacy.

We are currently living in Bristol where I have been studying at Trinity College for the last two years. I was born and brought up in Bolton, Lancashire and having met Victoria at university we moved to Paignton, Victoria's hometown, to start our married life. We have been married for 14 years and have three children Peter, 10, Paul, 9, and Abigail, 4. As a family we enjoy cycling and love being by the sea which is something we have missed whilst in Bristol.

In my previous life I taught chemistry, spending the majority of my career at Torquay Girls' Grammar School. Whilst I loved teaching God had other plans which have brought us to this point. Before starting our own family Victoria worked with younger children and now that Abigail is at school she is completing her MA at Trinity.

I was brought up in an Anglican church but after getting married we worshipped for 10 years in a Baptist church where I served on the leadership team. However, we felt that God was calling us to become more involved in the community where we



lived and so began worshipping at Paignton Parish Church. As a couple we believe that the church is called to be a beacon of God's kingdom, serving others within the community as we seek to make disciples of Jesus.

We are really excited that God has called us back to the Bay, it is a place that we know well and is dear to our hearts, it feels very much like we are coming home. We would value your prayers as we prepare to move and look forward to meeting you all soon.

Editor's note: Stephen's arrival doesn't mean that Paul Barton is leaving! Instead we will be blessed with two curates in training at St Matthias.



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

The Pre School had a new toy for Christmas! A tilt and touch screen!

The Early Years Tilt & Touch is a robust aluminum frame with a built-in touchscreen interactive monitor. It is great for individual, group and whole class sessions. There is lots we can do on it including numeracy, literacy, letter formation, music, art and much more. It is also a great tool for teaching the children to socialize, learn to take turns, work together, share and communicate. The children and staff are loving it and looking forward to what else it can do for us. Here are some pictures below:



The St Matthias Library

St Matthias Church is lucky to have its own library full of interesting books on faith, Christianity, theology, Christian biographies and more.

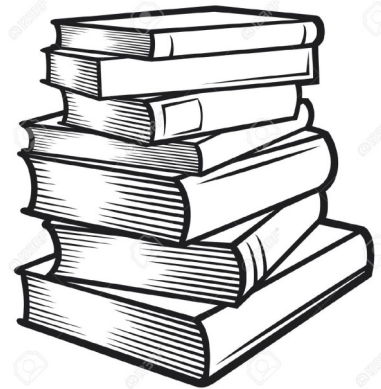
Have you read 'God on Mute' by Pete Greig, 'Listening to God' by Joyce Huggett or 'The Money Secret' by Rob Parsons? Well these are just some of the books which are available and there are many more.

Some of the books are kept on the bookshelves at the back of church and the remainder in the Rose Price room on the ground floor of the Centre.

If you would like to borrow a book, please just take it and put your name on the list of books borrowed which you will find in both places.

We have recently received a kind donation of books which are all pretty current and up to date.

Why not borrow a book and write a book review and send it in to the office? We will try to include it in a future edition of the magazine if we can.



Exploring Reader and Ordained Ministry—a day workshop

Saturday 27 February 2016

10am

St Luke's Church, Buckfastleigh, TQ11 0DA

For more information please see:

www.exeter.anglican.org/events

or contact

charlotte.vickers@exeter.anglican.org

Tel: 01392 294934



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:

Sunday 7 February, 6 March, 3 April, 1 May



Come and join us
for Messy Church
on:

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

Tuesday 23 February
Tuesday 15 March
Tuesday 19 April
Tuesday 17 May
from 3.15pm

Reordering update

30 years

That's how long ago it was when the St. Matthias Church family took the bold, forward looking and generous step of building the Church Centre and Larkin Hall. What an incredible blessing that has been to the church and community! It was also about 30 years between when the church was first



built and the existing chancel was created, and it was only 9 years after that that the entire church was extended to its present size. The re-development plans that we are now preparing are not about making life simpler or more comfortable for us now, but are a bold and forward looking step to make the church building suitable to meet the needs for worship of the church community, and use by the wider community for the next 30 years too.

40 days

So we are now in a valuable time of preparation for the next stage of the work God has in store for us. The great news is the first major step has just been agreed – the 'Friends of St Matthias' have agreed to pay for a new audiovisual system for the church (much of the existing system is over 30 years old!), using some of the very generous bequest given to us recently. We hope to have most of this up and running by late spring.

Unfortunately, the rest of the work is going to take rather more than 40 days! It will take many more months of refining the specific details. We are unlikely to get planning permission agreed before the end of 2016. We have to consult many agencies along the way.

At one level these all feel quite burdensome. But the challenges made by other groups are actually helping us to discern exactly what we believe we need. A specialist historian is to look at the way that the church furniture and building have evolved over time in relation to the local and church community since it was first built. The journey that we have been on as a church community with the church building is clearly linked to our identity – who we are as Jesus' family in this place. And even if we might prefer that the quality and beauty of the building do not shape that identity, in the public's eyes, they do. Even so, the quality of each of our inner lives with Jesus remains the key. So, this Lent, please use the 40 days well - to pray about those next steps for the next 30 years for us as a worshipping, serving and witnessing community in this place – and pray about your role in shaping that too.

The PCC has experienced a remarkable degree of unity over the plans so far, which gives us the confidence that we are going along the route that God has in store for us.

- Winter 2014/15** ▲ A PCC 'Building Group' met with 3 architects to find the right one to work with us. We're delighted so far with the work of Alex Coppock of Communion Designs. <http://communionarchitects.com/>
- June 2015** Provisional plans reviewed at a PCC Away Day.
- September 2015** A visit from the DAC (the Diocesan Advisory Committee for Care of Churches – the Church's 'planning permission' advisors) who gave informal advice about plans, including the need to employ a historian to assess the 'significance' of the items of furniture that we may seek to move about.
- November 2015** The PCC gained approval to temporarily remove a few pews to make more circulation space at the back of church. (This should go ahead in Feb 16.)
- December 2015** The PCC agreed to proceed with plans to replace ageing elements and upgrade other parts of the audiovisual system in the church – which the 'Friends of St. Matthias' have agreed to pay for from one of their large bequests. Also plans made to improve the audio in the Larkin Hall and to show and hear what is going on in the church on a small screen in the Hall and Lounge.
- January 2016** The Building Group and others from the PCC met the architect and historian, Jane Root, to brief her on the plans. ▼ Her report should be ready by Easter.
- May/June 2016** We hope to revise plans sufficiently in the light of advice as to what is possible, to be able to distribute them for comment to the DAC again, and also the Local Authority, Victorian Society, Historic England (previously English Heritage), and of course, the church family!
- Late Autumn 2016** ▼ We hope to be in a position to formally seek planning permission, which by then should have any contentious issues worked through.

John Beckett

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 13 February at the Kents Cavern Café with Jeff Hill

Sat 12 March at the Palace Hotel with Brian Gerry

Sat 9 April at the Kents Cavern Café - speaker tbc

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.



FUNCTION ROOMS
FOR HIRE

free Wi Fi

Are you in need of a function room or a room for a party?

Here at St Matthias Church, we have five rooms of various sizes which are suitable for all kinds of events for example, children's parties, meetings, quizzes, fund raising events, sewing groups, and keep fit classes to name just a few. Rooms are centrally heated and there are tables, chairs, a projector and kitchen facilities. We also have **free Wi Fi** in all rooms. Rates are competitive and can be found on our website:

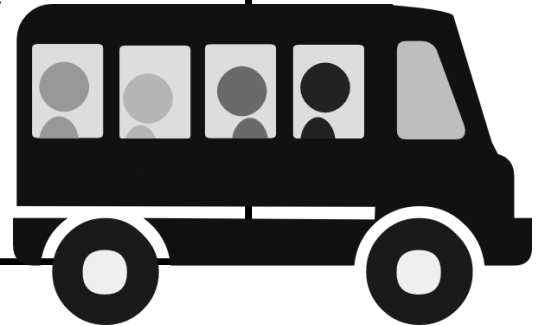
www.st-matthias-church.org

Please call the church office to check availability: 01 803 214175

We look forward to welcoming your group.

Mini Bus

St Matthias now has its own minibus for use by the church and by Pre-School so that we can provide transport for church services and other events. Please let the office know if you would like to make use of it or if you would like to become a driver.



For more information about this simple way to give regularly to the church, please see the leaflets at the back of church.

This scheme is now the preferred method of regular giving at St Matthias and has many advantages including an improved cash flow, more predictable income stream, and gift aid administration carried out on our behalf at no cost to us. If you have any queries please see Tony Barratt, Treasurer.

- A copy of this 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

ST MATTHIAS YOUTH CLUB

Fridays, 6:30–8:00pm in Hall

at St Matthias Church, Babbacombe Road, TQ1 1HW

For Year 6—Year 9

£1 subs

8th Jan '16: Let's go Bananas

22nd Jan '16: Can you...?

5th Feb '16: Quiz evening at St Mary Mags,

See article

Saturday 27th Feb '16: Ice Skating

In Plymouth – see article

11th March '16: Cooking

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



Talking Jesus

November saw the publication of the report Talking Jesus. The report is the fruit of professional research into how people become Christians. Facts are friends and, together with the earlier report From Anecdote to Evidence, it makes interesting reading. It is full of insights about where we can play to our strengths as well as where we need to address our weaknesses.

I wasn't surprised to learn that growing up in a Christian family was found to be the single most important influence in a person becoming a Christian. What interested me is what emerged as the second most important factor; namely, 'attending a church service other than a wedding or funeral'. The research reveals just how important raising the quality of our worship is. There are few things more important for our mission and renewing discipleship than getting our worship right.

I rejoice in new initiatives: café church, messy church and fresh expressions. They are all great. We need to push the envelope. These things are successfully reaching out to those on the fringe, but they don't let 'trad church' off the hook. What happens in our parish churches across Devon Sunday by Sunday is every bit as important. It has the potential to build or bury the Church.

And here is another thing I learned. From Anecdote to Evidence identifies one ingredient of growth as 'being intentional in the chosen style of worship'. The report says, 'The style of worship and where a church places itself in terms of its theological tradition appear to have no significant link with growth, so long as there is consistency and clarity, and the chosen style and tradition are wholeheartedly adopted'. Whatever our churchmanship, whether the style of worship is traditional or contemporary, we should give it our best energy. Services can easily be derailed by lack of confidence or poor preparation on the part of those leading them. On the other hand, when our worship is centred on Christ a quality of attention emerges in a congregation which is profound and we are transformed through encounter with the living God. Like a stone thrown into a pond which goes deep before its ripples disturb the surface, the grace of God is able to reach deep places within us and we are changed.

+Robert Exon

The Right Revd Robert Atwell, Bishop of Exeter

Holy Week and Easter

PALM SUNDAY

20 March



8am Holy Communion

10.30am Holy Communion

6pm Youth Service

GOOD FRIDAY

25 March



10.30am

All Age Service

A 45 minute reminder of the events of this solemn day for all ages with hot cross buns and coffee

12.30pm

Harbourside Service

2-3pm

'Last Hour at the Cross'

A reflective service with periods of silence

MAUNDY THURSDAY

24 March

7.30pm

Holy Communion

with Garden of Gethsemane Vigil
and Prayer Labyrinth

EASTER DAY

27 MARCH



8am

Holy Communion

10.30am

**Easter Celebration
with Holy Communion**

**Please come dressed in
white or gold!**