



www.st-matthias-church.org

01803 214175

Sunday 18 December 2016

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	Holy Communion (CW) <i>with a party for the children's groups</i>
6pm	Carols by Candlelight <i>followed by mulled wine and mince pies</i>
During the Week	
Mon	Carol singing in the residential homes
Tues	9am Morning Prayer
	9.30-11.30am 'Open House' parents and toddlers <i>in the Lounge</i>
	3.15pm Messy Church
Wed	9am Holy Communion <i>followed by coffee in the Lounge</i>
	Carol singing in the residential homes
Fri	2.30pm Christingle Workshop in the Hall – see separate notice
	(3pm rehearsal for Christingle service in church)
Saturday 24 December – Christmas Eve	
5pm	Family Christingle Service
11pm	Midnight Holy Communion
Sunday 25 December – Christmas Day!	
8am	Holy Communion (BCP)
10.30am	Family Christmas Communion <i>with carols around the Christmas Tree</i>

Collect

Eternal God, as Mary waited for the birth of your Son,
so we wait for his coming in glory;
bring us through the birth pangs of this present age
to see, with her, our great salvation
in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen



Christmas



- **Christingle Workshop.....**

Come and join us on Friday 23 December in St Matthias Hall, from 2.30pm to create some Christingles. All parts of the Christingle will be supplied, all we need are some workers to put them together.

Refreshments will be served and music to sing along to. So bring your parents, grandparents, friends and relatives. Ring me on this number to book your place at the workshop: 01803 296204 or sign the sheet at the back of the church. *Monica Rook*

- **Christmas Services** Dates and times of our Christmas services are on the website and on posters around the building.
- **Carol singing** in the residential homes on Mon 19 and/or Wed 21 Dec. See the posters for details and please sign up at the back of church.
- **Give a painting this Christmas to raise funds for the St Matthias Christmas collection.** Mike Burt has a number of his watercolours for sale. Phone 01803 328229 to arrange for an open house viewing and a cup of coffee. No obligation to buy....just browse and enjoy the coffee!

Thank you to everyone who helps look after the church in so many ways – cleaning, tidying, welcoming etc over this busy Christmas period as together we share the Good News with all who come through the door here.

Magazine new Christmas edition now available – pick up a copy today.

New sound system is now up and running and the existing team are looking for budding sound operators to join them. If you think this could be you, please see John Gingell or the clergy.

Are you a volunteer at the church? Then please do come to a ‘thank you’ get together in the Lounge on Friday 6 January at lunchtime, 12noon – 2pm. Hope you can make it. Pere

‘A Miracle in a Bowl’ Christmas Collection We are continuing our usual custom of giving away the cash collection at our Christmas eve and Christmas morning services this year. The charity we are supporting is Tearfund’s child feeding programme in Burundi. How many children could we feed?

Church Army Boxes Please return them to Anne Dunnage for opening as soon as possible. Thank you.

Thank you for giving We have donated the £500 remaining from our 'mission tithe' for 2016 (*the 10% of our regular giving which we set aside to support other Christian work*) to the **Yemen crisis appeal** via Christian Aid.

Winter Fuel Payments Some 'pensioners' have asked whether they could give these payments to people in greater need. We suggest that supporting the 'Miracle in a Bowl' Tearfund Christmas Appeal might be a good way of doing this? Thank you.

Cecil Johnston Copies of his Christmas letter are on the table at the back of church.

Wooden flower trugs The church flower team have been tidying and have 4 wooden trugs which they no longer need. Free to a good home! They will be at the back of the hall today.

Some topics for our prayers this week	
Sun	"O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord". Praise God for Jesus, whose birth we celebrate at his time. We pray especially for the Carols by Candlelight service tonight.
Mon	Praise God for the carol services taking place all over the world praying that they may become instruments of peace and joy.
Tues	Pray for the sick, the vulnerable, the lonely or bereaved right now.
Wed	Pray for peace and justice in our world and for the leaders of the nations remembering the Holy City of Jerusalem and all God's chosen people.
Thurs	Rejoice that there are so many organisations and people who spare time and money to make Christmas more real and happy for others less fortunate.
Fri	Think of all who are homeless or finding life difficult just now. All who have sad memories of what this time used to be.
Sat	Christmas Eve and the Christingle Service. The church will be packed and we pray that Jesus will be seen and that we become lights in our world. Pray too for the midnight service.
Sun	Christmas Day. Pray for our services and for those leading them. Pray for children especially that in their excitement they may remember the greatest gift of all – JESUS.

Readings

Isaiah 7: 10-16

¹⁰ Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, ¹¹ 'Ask the LORD your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights.'

¹² But Ahaz said, 'I will not ask; I will not put the LORD to the test.'

¹³ Then Isaiah said, 'Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of humans? Will you try the patience of my God also? ¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: the virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. ¹⁵ He will be eating curds and honey when he knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right, ¹⁶ for before the boy knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right, the land of the two kings you dread will be laid waste.

Matthew 1: 18-24

¹⁸ This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: his mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

²⁰ But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.'

²² All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³ 'The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel' (which means 'God with us').

²⁴ When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. ²⁵ But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

Contacting the Church www.st-matthias-church.org

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