



www.st-matthias-church.org

01803 214175

Sunday 25 December 2016

Christmas Day!

Welcome!

We are delighted to see you, especially if this is your first visit.

Christmas Day

8am	Holy Communion (BCP)
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10.30am	Family Christmas Communion <i>with carols around the Christmas Tree</i>
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During the Week

Church and centre closed Mon 26 Dec – Mon 2 Jan apart from dates below:

Wed 28th	9am Holy Communion
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Sunday 1 January – New Year's Day

8am	Holy Communion (BCP)
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9.30am	Breakfastzone <i>with breakfast at 9.15am</i>
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10.30am	Holy Communion (CW)
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During the Week

Mon 2nd	Church and centre closed
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Tues	9-11.30am Open House Parents and Toddlers <i>in the Lounge</i>
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	7.30pm St Matt's Cats
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	7.45pm Alpha <i>continues in the Lounge and Ark</i>
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Wed	9am Holy Communion <i>followed by coffee in the Lounge</i>
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Thurs	10.30-11.30am Prayer Meeting <i>in the Ark</i>
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	2.30pm Chat @ St Matts <i>in the Hall</i>
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Fri	12-2pm Party! <i>For volunteers in the Lounge</i>
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Sunday 8 January

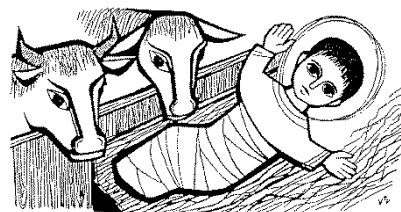
8am	Holy Communion (BCP)
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10.30am	All Age Worship
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5.30pm	Prayer Meeting <i>in the Hall with cup of tea at 5pm</i>
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Collect for Christmas Day

Lord Jesus Christ,
your birth at Bethlehem
draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth:
accept our heartfelt praise, as we worship you,
our Saviour and our eternal God. Amen



Readings for Christmas Day

John 1 1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning. ³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴ In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. ⁸ He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

⁹ The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognise him. ¹¹ He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹² Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God – ¹³ children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.



Collect for Sunday 1 January

God in Trinity,
eternal unity of perfect love:
gather the nations to be one family,
through the birth of Emmanuel,
our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen

Readings for 1 January 2017

Numbers 6: 22 - end

²² The LORD said to Moses, ²³ 'Tell Aaron and his sons, "This is how you are to bless the Israelites. Say to them:

²⁴ "'The LORD bless you
and keep you;

²⁵ the LORD make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you;

²⁶ the LORD turn his face towards you
and give you peace.'"

²⁷ 'So they will put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them.'

Luke 2: 15-21

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.'

¹⁶ So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told. ²¹ On the eighth day, when it was time to circumcise the child, he was named Jesus, the name the angel had given him before he was conceived.

Our Prayers this Christmastide

Christmas Day

Unto us is born the Saviour Christ our Lord

Praise for Jesus and His love for us. Pray for today's services that Jesus will be exalted. Pray for a restful time after the Christmas busyness for all the Staff.

Over the next two weeks please remember:-

*Our leaders in Church and State. Those who care for our welfare; doctors, nurses, carers, health visitors, those in the emergency services, the police, ambulance personnel, those who collect our rubbish. *Pray for all young people and all teachers. *Remember all who worship here. All who are finding life difficult, the sick and housebound or bereaved. *Pray for the peace of the world, especially the Middle East. Remember the USA as they prepare for the inauguration of their new President, Mr. Donald Trump. *Pray for ourselves that God will bless us and all our families.

O come let us adore Him, Christ our Lord

What's on and notices

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.

Are you a volunteer at the church? Then please do come to an Epiphany themed 'thank you' get together in the Lounge on Friday 6 January at lunchtime, 12noon – 2pm. Hope you can make it. There will be a prize for the best dressed king/camel etc!



'A Miracle in a Bowl' Christmas Collection We are continuing our usual custom of giving away the cash collection at our 10.30am Christmas morning service this year. The charity we are supporting is Tearfund's child feeding programme in Burundi. How many children could we feed?



"Even before the conflict Burundi was the third poorest country on earth. Now people are facing a rise in food prices, a lack of availability and little knowledge of nutrition. Christmas will come and pass – there will be a reason to celebrate, but nothing to celebrate with. As part of our Therapeutic Feeding Programme, Tearfund is working with local nutritionists, educating people to prepare affordable, nourishing meals like porridge."

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.

"Refurbishment Questionnaire

Thank you to over 120 people who completed this survey. We will be sharing the results early in the New Year, and intend to respond to the many helpful comments and some challenging questions following the next PCC meeting on January 23rd. Please keep praying about the project. Thank you. "

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

Church Family Lunch 29 January Do come and join the family for hot soup and a pud after the 10.30am service. £5 adults, £3 children, £12 family ticket. Please sign up on the noticeboard in the hall.