



www.st-matthias-church.org

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Sunday 29 January 2017

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	Family Communion
12pm	<i>Winter Night Shelter meeting in the Lounge</i>
12pm	I'm New Here meeting over coffee then Church Family Lunch

During the Week

Mon	6.30am Early morning prayers <i>in the Hall</i>
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 church</i>
Wed	9am Holy Communion <i>followed by coffee in the Lounge</i>
Thurs	10.30-11.30am Prayer Meeting <i>in the Ark</i>
	2.30pm Chat @ St Matts <i>in the Hall</i>

Sunday 5 February

8am	Holy Communion (BCP)
9.30am	Breakfastzone <i>in the Hall with b'fast at 9.15am</i>
10.30am	Holy Communion (CW)
3pm	<i>Last service at Ellacombe with Bishop Nick</i>

Collect

Lord God, your Son left the riches of heaven
and became poor for our sake:
when we prosper save us from pride,
when we are needy save us from despair,
that we may trust in you alone;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Readings

Matthew 6: 25-34

²⁵ 'Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? ²⁶ Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? ²⁷ Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?

²⁸ 'And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labour or spin. ²⁹ Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendour was dressed like one of these. ³⁰ If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you – you of little faith? ³¹ So do not worry, saying, "What shall we eat?" or "What shall we drink?" or "What shall we wear?" ³² For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. ³³ But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. ³⁴ Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

1 Kings 17: 1-24

A prophet named Elijah, from Tishbe in Gilead, said to King Ahab, "In the name of the LORD, the living God of Israel, whom I serve, I tell you that there will be no dew or rain for the next two or three years until I say so."

² Then the LORD said to Elijah, ³ "Leave this place and go east and hide yourself near Cherith Brook, east of the Jordan. ⁴ The brook will supply you with water to drink, and I have commanded ravens to bring you food there."

⁵ Elijah obeyed the LORD's command, and went and stayed by Cherith Brook. ⁶ He drank water from the brook, and ravens brought him bread and meat every morning and every evening. ⁷ After a while the brook dried up because of the lack of rain.

⁸ **Then the LORD said to Elijah,** ⁹ "Now go to the town of Zarephath, near Sidon, and stay there. I have commanded a widow who lives there to feed you." ¹⁰ So Elijah went to Zarephath, and as he came to the town gate, he saw a widow gathering firewood. "Please bring me a drink of water," he said to her. ¹¹ And as she was going to get it, he called out, "And please bring me some bread, too." ¹² She answered, "By the living LORD your God I swear that I don't have any bread. All I have is a handful of flour in a bowl and a bit of olive oil in a jar. I came here to gather some firewood to take back home and prepare what little I

have for my son and me. That will be our last meal, and then we will starve to death.”

¹³ “Don't worry,” Elijah said to her. “Go on and prepare your meal. But first make a small loaf from what you have and bring it to me, and then prepare the rest for you and your son. ¹⁴ For this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: ‘The bowl will not run out of flour or the jar run out of oil before the day that I, the LORD, send rain.’”

¹⁵ The widow went and did as Elijah had told her, and all of them had enough food for many days. ¹⁶ As the LORD had promised through Elijah, the bowl did not run out of flour nor did the jar run out of oil.

¹⁷ **Some time later the widow's son got sick;** he got worse and worse, and finally he died. ¹⁸ She said to Elijah, “Man of God, why did you do this to me? Did you come here to remind God of my sins and so cause my son's death?”

¹⁹ “Give the boy to me,” Elijah said. He took the boy from her arms, carried him upstairs to the room where he was staying, and laid him on the bed. ²⁰ Then he prayed aloud, “O LORD my God, why have you done such a terrible thing to this widow? She has been kind enough to take care of me, and now you kill her son!” ²¹ Then Elijah stretched himself out on the boy three times and prayed, “O LORD my God, restore this child to life!” ²² The LORD answered Elijah's prayer; the child started breathing again and revived.

²³ Elijah took the boy back downstairs to his mother and said to her, “Look, your son is alive!”

²⁴ She answered, “Now I know that you are a man of God and that the LORD really speaks through you!”

Closing Prayer

God, you heap your love upon us
like a mother providing for her family's needs,
embracing her child with tenderness.

Forgive us when, like spoilt children,
we treat your generosity as our right,
or hug it possessively to ourselves.

Give us enough trust to live secure in your love
and to share it freely with others
in open-handed confidence
that your grace will never run out. Amen.

What's on and notices

Monday 30 Jan @ 6.30am Breakfast prayers in the hall – offers to help John B with a breakfast welcome would be appreciated.

New sound system training on Tues 31 Jan for any budding sound operators! We plan to run several sessions through the day. If you think this could be you, please see John Gingell (294914) or the clergy.

Do you receive bread and wine at our communion services? If not have you thought about confirmation which is the usual 'gateway' to doing this. Bishop Nick is coming to take a communion service here on **18 June**. To find out more please speak to one of the clergy.

Men's Breakfast Sat 11 February @ Palace Hotel with speaker Robin Hart. See Charlie Allansen for more information....c.allansen@btinternet.com

Monday Buddy requiredwhat for, I hear you asking! Well, an opportunity has arisen to join the Open Church team who welcome visitors to the church each weekday morning and in particular we are looking for someone to join Jean Fricker on a Monday morning from 10-12.30pm each week. For more details please see Pere in the office.

The Friends of St Matthias will celebrate their 20th anniversary in May of this year. We have worked hard to meet our charitable objects: raising money for the maintenance and improvement of our church, church centre and grounds. That's half a million pounds raised so far, and more than 25 completed projects. And we have already funded the first phase of the next project; our new audio-visual system. Would you like to be involved, by becoming one of our trustees? In particular we would be pleased to hear from anyone who would be interested in the position of treasurer. You will need to be committed and enthusiastic, aged over 18 and on the church electoral roll.

If you would like to know more, then do get in touch with any of the Trustees. Our contact details are on the Friends' notice board and on the website.

Rob Newman Chairman

LiNX ELEVATE

31 July – 4 August

The annual Elevate activities week is back and running as above at Upton Vale Church. See Ruth Jones for more information. Flyers now available!

Growing on the journey

Looking at the 2016 figures, we find, thank God, that St Matthias is still growing in number! There are now 225 adults and over 50 children who come regularly – that's a net growth of about 5% from last year.



But with growth, comes the responsibility to ensure we pay for the clergy – here at St Matts and for the Diocesan advisors, and to help support less well-off churches in Devon. So, in addition to paying for the practical running costs of St Matts (which were £380 a year per adult 'member' last year), we are asked to contribute a further £440 to the staffing costs. In all, that's around £60 per month depending on whether or not it is gift aided. That's a lot of money we know and some are able to give more than others, and we are grateful for any contribution you can make. Last year, we had to dip into our reserves to cover these costs.

Please think and pray about whether God is calling you to give more. Let's be a people known for being generous like Jesus.

Please contact the treasurer Tony Barratt for more information. Email: tony@ab-consulting.org or tel: 07984001973.

Hannah in Senegal.....Hannah Snow has arrived in Kaolack in Senegal and is settling in well with her host family and getting used to the sun and heat – 37 degrees! So far she has managed to keep away from the mosquitoes and is well and happy. She doesn't speak too much French and they speak little English so that is proving challenging but she is apparently having some French lessons and is managing with sign language! (Thank you for your interest and prayers - Pere aka mum.)

For your prayers and praise this week

Sun	Pray that people may find health in our united service, when prayer and anointing with oil is offered for healing.
Mon	Thank God for Her Majesty the Queen and all her government, and pray for them as they lead our country in these difficult days.
Tues	Pray that those having training for the new sound system, may have understanding and sensitivity. May people be encouraged as they are more able to worship.
Wed	Think of all the homeless and hungry in our world, and all aid workers who help them.
Thurs	Remember all who have been bereaved in recent days. May they know the real presence of God in their lives.
Fri	Pray for John our Rector and the other clergy, and staff members in all they do for us as Church.
Sat	Remember before God all who will be coming for the "night shelter" in our Church, that they may feel welcomed.
Sun	Praise God for the witness of Ellacombe Church over the last decades. Pray that the last service may be inspired by God as it changes its use.

Winter Night Shelter

5 Feb – 12 Mar

St Matthias Church

Donations of warm clothing for men and women, new underwear, new socks etc requested. Please leave at back of church. Can anyone help with laundering of bedding between weeks please? See Cliff, Avril or Malcolm for more info. Thank you and thank you for donations so far received.

DIY SOS! Shelf putter-upper required!

We have 3 sets of shelves needing a home in some cupboards. Would anyone be able to put these up please? Tea and biscuits provided! Please see Pere 😊 Thank you.

Elijah was fed by ravens sent from God and then provided for the widow and her son...



God made her tiny bit of oil fill all the jars.
2 Kings 4:5



LENT

- **Ash Wednesday** 1 March Holy Communion at 7pm
- **Lent Course – John’s Gospel with David Harley:**
 - Tuesdays at 7.30pm:
 - 7, 14, 21, 28 March in the Hall
- **Prayer and Praise** in the Hall Tuesday 4 April at 7.30pm
- **Maundy Thursday** 13 April – Passover Supper

Contacting the Church

www.st-matthias-church.org

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