



Growing on the Journey



www.st-matthias-church.org

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Sunday 12 February 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	All Age Worship
5.30pm	Prayer Meeting <i>in the church</i>
6pm	Winter Night Shelter begins

During the Week

Tues	9am Morning Prayer
Wed	9am Holy Communion <i>followed by coffee in the Lounge</i>
	12-1.30pm Josiah Lunch <i>in the Hall</i>
	7.30pm St Matt's Cats <i>in the church</i>
Thurs	10.30-11.30am Prayer Meeting <i>in the Ark</i>

Sunday 19 February

8am	Holy Communion (BCP)
10.30am	Holy Communion (CW)
6pm	Youth Service
6pm	Winter Night Shelter

Collect

Eternal God,
 whose Son went among the crowds
 and brought healing with his touch:
 help us to show his love,
 in your church as we gather together,
 and by our lives as they are transformed
 into the image of Christ our Lord. Amen.

Readings

Isaiah 55: 6-12

⁸ 'For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways,' declares the LORD.

⁹ 'As the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

¹⁰ As the rain and the snow come down from heaven,
and do not return to it without watering the earth
and making it bud and flourish,
so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater,

¹¹ so is my word that goes out from my mouth:
it will not return to me empty,
but will accomplish what I desire
and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

¹² You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace;
the mountains and hills will burst into song before you,
and all the trees of the field will clap their hands.

Luke 8: 1-15

After this, Jesus travelled about from one town and village to another,
proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God...

⁴ While a large crowd was gathering and people were coming to Jesus from town after town, he told this parable: ⁵ 'A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path; it was trampled on, and the birds ate it up. ⁶ Some fell on rocky ground, and when it came up, the plants withered because they had no moisture. ⁷ Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up with it and choked the plants. ⁸ Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up and yielded a crop, a hundred times more than was sown.'

When he said this, he called out, 'Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear.'

⁹ His disciples asked him what this parable meant. ¹⁰ He said, 'The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of God has been given to you, but to others I speak in parables, so that,

“though seeing, they may not see; though hearing, they may not understand.”

¹¹ 'This is the meaning of the parable: the seed is the word of God. ¹² Those along the path are the ones who hear, and then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. ¹³ Those on the rocky ground are the ones who receive the word with joy when they hear it,

but they have no root. They believe for a while, but in the time of testing they fall away. ¹⁴ The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life's worries, riches and pleasures, and they do not mature. ¹⁵ But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop.

Bible verses used in today's All Age Service:

Psalm 1: 103; Col 2: 6-7; Psalm 42: 1, Psalm 63: 1; Psalm 27: 4: 2 Cor 3: 18; John 15: 1-2; 2 Cor 5: 17; I Cor 3: 7; Matt 28: 20; Phil 1: 6

For your prayers and praise this week	
Sun	Pray for the All Age Worship service and the prayer meeting and pray for all who will come for the Night Shelter.
Mon	Remember all the nations where there is unrest. Pray for their leaders.
Tues	Praise God for all our emergency services - praying for safety, courage and compassion.
Wed	Pray for all elderly and others at risk in these very cold days.
Thurs	Pray for Her Majesty the Queen, praise Prince Philip and all the Royal Family.
Fri	Praise God for all the young people who come to our Church. May they know God's hand on their lives. Remember Ruth our Youth Worker, that she may have strength and know God's guidance.
Sat	Praise the Lord for everyone who serves the church in any way. Many of the jobs done unseen and often unthanked. Pray for John and all the staff.
Sun	Pray for the services today - may we meet around the Lord's Table and know afresh the Lord's love as we worship in Spirit and in truth.

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

What's on and notices

Car park closed... on Tues, Wed, Thurs this week for the new half term Forest School being run by Liz (from Pre-School). Apologies for any inconvenience.

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 confirmation service here on **18 June**. To find out more please speak to one of the clergy.

Monday Buddy requiredto join the Open Church team who welcome visitors to the church each weekday morning. In particular we are looking for someone to join Jean on a Monday morning from 10-12.30pm each week. For more details please see Pere in the office.

Friends of Rowcroft "Soup & Pud" Event, Sat 18 Feb 12 - 2pm in the Hall, lovely homemade soup and puds, stalls and raffle. See Elaine or Sheila for tickets.

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 £435 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. God also knows that some are able to give more than others, and the biblical principle is that we give in proportion to our income – so we are grateful for any contribution you can make. Last year, we had to dip into our reserves to cover these costs, so 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.*



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