



#GOD with US



www.st-matthias-church.org

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**24 December 2017**

## Welcome!

*We are delighted to see you, especially if this is your first visit.  
Please do join us for refreshments after the 10.30am service today.*

### Christmas Eve

10.30am	Holy Communion (CW)
5pm	Family Christingle service <i>with Jesse Tree</i>
11pm	Midnight Holy Communion

### Christmas Day

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

***The church and centre will be closed from after the services today and will re-open on Sunday 31 December. The office will re-open on Tuesday 2 January.***

### Sunday 31 December

8am	Holy Communion (BCP)
10.30am	Family Communion

### Collect

Eternal God,  
in the stillness of the night  
you sent your almighty Word  
to pierce the world's darkness with the light of salvation:  
give to the earth the peace that we long for  
and fill our hearts with the joy of heaven  
through our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen

**Contacting the Church** [www.st-matthias-church.org](http://www.st-matthias-church.org) 01803 214175

**Rector:** John Beckett 01803 293119

**Curates:** Stephen Yates 01803 391435 Paul Barton: 07807 636470

## Readings

### John 1: 1-14

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

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

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

<sup>14</sup>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.

### Luke 2: 1-20

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world.<sup>2</sup> (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.)<sup>3</sup> And everyone went to their own town to register.

<sup>4</sup>So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David.<sup>5</sup> He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.<sup>6</sup> While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born,<sup>7</sup> and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

<sup>8</sup>And there were shepherds living out in the fields near by, keeping watch over their flocks at night.<sup>9</sup> An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.<sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.<sup>11</sup> Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.<sup>12</sup> This will be a sign to you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.'

<sup>13</sup> Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup> **‘Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests.’**

<sup>15</sup> 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.’

<sup>16</sup> So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup> When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, <sup>18</sup> and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. <sup>19</sup> But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

#### **Dates for your 2018 diary:**

- Sat 13 Jan Men’s Breakfast at Riviera International Centre
- Sun 14 Jan Tessa and Paul Barton talk about their trip to Nazareth
- 15 & 18 Jan Safeguarding Training
- Fri 26 Jan The Hiding Place at the Little Theatre
- Sun 28 Jan Social Events ‘Fair’
- Sun 11 Feb Special church meeting @ 11.30am to update about re-ordering project and proposed extra 9.30am service
- Tues 20 Feb Evening Lent Course begins
- Wed 21 Feb Morning Lent Course begins
- Sun 4 Mar ‘Opportunities to Serve’ Fair
- 19 & 20 May Renewal Weekend



**Tearfund Collection** Our cash collections at the Christingle and Midnight Holy Communion services on Christmas Eve are being given to this year’s Tearfund Christmas appeal – which is being match funded by the government. The Christmas Appeal is for people in need in the Central African Republic. (You can still donate after Christmas Eve but you will need to put your gifts in the blue envelopes in the pews and mark them Tearfund filling in the gift aid declaration if possible.)

**Grounded in faith...growing to serve** We had hoped to have heard news about our Faculty application by Christmas but we were rather frustrated to hear this week that the legal process for getting our re-ordering application to the Chancellor (who makes the final planning decision) has been delayed into the new year.

**Night Shelter Warm Clothing** If you have any spare warm clothes the night shelter will be very grateful. Please bring them in in the New Year when the church and centre re-opens (Sunday 31 December). The Shelter begins on 7 Jan. (Bedding not required thank you.)

**Situation Vacant** The Friends of St Matthias are seeking a Treasurer. Please speak to Rob Newman (chairman) for more information on 07971 186521.

**Bible Reading notes** – Suzy has received some payments but with no name attached! If you think that may be you please ring Suzy on 605512. Thank you. (If you haven't paid please ensure payment is marked with name.)

**Events Elsewhere** *Deanery Quiet Day on Sat 13 January Buckfast Methodist Chapel 10am – 3.30pm led by Christopher Fitcher. More details in the Hall.*

**For our prayers and praise this week**

Sun	<b>“O come let us adore Him Christ the King”</b> Pray for the <b>Christingle</b> Service that there may be many who come to worship. Pray for all clergy and lay readers as they take many services today and tomorrow. Pray too, for their families who may want more of their time.
Mon	<b>Christmas Day. “We saw His star in the East and have come to worship Him”.</b> Pray that in all our services there will be real worship as well as fun!
Tues	Pray for all who find this season difficult for whatever reason. Pray too, for the <b>Night Shelter</b> people who will soon be coming into the local churches. May they feel loved and welcomed and feel the love of Jesus.
Wed	Pray for all the <b>Staff</b> that they may relax physically and spiritually.
Thurs	Pray for the <b>Deanery Quiet Day</b> on 13th January. Pray that some of our church go and enjoy the silence and talks.
Fri	Pray for the <b>“Puzzling Questions”</b> course when we can ask any questions about life.
Sat	Pray for our troubled and divided world and wisdom for leaders. Praise God for so many who help in so many ways in the life of the Church.
Sun	Pray for the Church leaders, especially our <b>Archbishops, Bishops, Archdeacons, Rural Deans as well as John our Rector and other clergy.</b>