



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.*

Sunday 18 February

Generous God, generous people

Today we continue our teaching about Generosity. We've had a look at the generosity of God in providing for us in creation. Today we explore how God takes what we offer and uses it in amazing ways! We welcome Jill Stone from Christian Aid, one of the main charities we have given money to this year with our 'mission giving' as a church. It's great to hear how God uses our gifts across the world...

8am	Holy Communion (BCP)
10.30am	Holy Communion (CW) <i>with visiting speaker from Christian Aid</i>
5.30pm	Youth – led service

During the Week

Mon	6.30am Torbay early morning prayers <i>in the hall – all welcome</i>
	12.30pm Matt's Knits – <i>new social knitting group</i>
Tues	9am Morning Prayer
	9-11.30am 'Open House' parents and toddlers <i>in the Lounge</i>
	3.15pm Messy Church
	7.15pm Lent courses begin – <i>meet in the Hall</i>
Wed	9am Holy Communion <i>followed by coffee in the Lounge</i>
	10.30am Lent courses begin – <i>meet in the Lounge</i>
	12 noon Lent Lunch <i>in the Hall</i>
	7.30pm Puzzling Questions course continues <i>in the Lounge</i>
Fri	6.30pm Youth Club <i>in the Hall</i>

Sunday 25 February

8am	Holy Communion (BCP)
10.30am	Morning Worship
10.30am	Prayzone
5.30pm	Prayer Meeting

Collect

Heavenly Father,
your Son battled with the powers of darkness,
and grew closer to you in the desert:
help us to use these days to grow in wisdom and prayer
that we may witness to your saving love
in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Readings

2 Corinthians 9: 6-15

⁶Remember this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. ⁷Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. ⁹As it is written:

‘They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor;
their righteousness endures for ever.’

¹⁰Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. ¹¹You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. ¹²This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord’s people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. ¹³Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. ¹⁴And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. ¹⁵Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

Mark 6: 30-44

³⁰The apostles gathered round Jesus and reported to him all they had done and taught. ³¹Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, he said to them, ‘Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.’

³²So they went away by themselves in a boat to a solitary place. ³³But many who saw them leaving recognised them and ran on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them. ³⁴When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had

compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things.

³⁵ By this time it was late in the day, so his disciples came to him. 'This is a remote place,' they said, 'and it's already very late. ³⁶ Send the people away so that they can go to the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat.'

³⁷ But he answered, 'You give them something to eat.'

They said to him, 'That would take more than half a year's wages! Are we to go and spend that much on bread and give it to them to eat?'

³⁸ 'How many loaves do you have?' he asked. 'Go and see.'

When they found out, they said, 'Five – and two fish.'

³⁹ Then Jesus told them to make all the people sit down in groups on the green grass. ⁴⁰ So they sat down in groups of hundreds and fifties. ⁴¹ Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to his disciples to distribute to the people. He also divided the two fish among them all. ⁴² They all ate and were satisfied, ⁴³ and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces of bread and fish. ⁴⁴ The number of the men who had eaten was five thousand.

What's On & News

Torquay Community Larder donations requested - we particularly need cereal, long life milk, tinned veg, tinned fruit, instant coffee – thank you.

"Sleuth" ... the next Friends of St

Matthias' event at The Little Theatre on 17 March. Tickets on sale now £8.50 - proceeds to support the church.

Confirmation If you are interested in being confirmed please have a word with one of the clergy. There will a confirmation service here on 18 March as part of Bishop Sarah's visit.

Avril & Malcolm Ford would like to thank all our church family for all the prayers and support during Avril's recent illness. Avril is now recovering and is now a lot more mobile. She still has a long way to go but is hoping to be able to get back to church soon. Your love, prayers and gifts have given us both the strength and encouragement in what has been a difficult time for us both.

Ben Cowdry, our grandson, is running in the London Marathon for The Teenage Cancer Trust. Please see the notice in the Church Hall or ourselves, Jenny & Ian.

Fish & Chip & Film Night

Saturday 3rd March in the Hall at 7pm. Share a meal together and watch a film - "Their Finest".

Tickets must be bought in advance £7.50 each so that the food can be ordered in time. Soft drinks supplied. See Ruth Beckett today!

The funeral of Vassilia Hill, who used to worship here, will take place at St Matthias Church on 1 March at 12pm.

More dates for the diary at St Matthias:

Sun 4 Mar 'Opportunities to Serve' Fair

19 & 20 May Renewal Weekend

LENT 2018

- Lent lunches – every Wednesday 12-1.30pm (delicious cheese, bread, pickles etc – all profits to Christian Aid) ...bring a friend!
- Lent courses begin on Tues 20 @ 7.15pm and Wed 21 @10.30am – see below
- John Mark Comer will speak (on DVD) on 'Practising the Way of Jesus' looking at the spiritual disciplines eg fasting, prayer, solitude
- Pete Greig will help us to look at prayer (DVD)
- 'Generous God Generous People' - daily bible readings booklet - £1
- Maundy Thursday 29 March – evening Holy Communion service

For our prayers and praise this week

Sun	Praise God for the freedom we still have to meet and worship. Pray that this Lent may be a time to take stock of our lives and of drawing closer to God by giving up ways and attitudes which are not God's best.
Mon	Pray that the new ideas and times of services may be accepted as a way to help us grow. Pray for all who have recently joined our fellowship.
Tues	Pray for the Lent Courses beginning today. May we all attend them and find us being drawn closer to Jesus and His Ministry. Pray too for all who are leading the various evenings.
Wed	Pray for the Lent Lunch today (and every Wed) and for Sheila and John Hart who have the main responsibility. May people be generous to help others.
Thurs	Pray that as we heard last Sunday and will hear more we may really become " Caretakers of God's Creation ".
Fri	Praise the Lord for our Young People especially as they lead a service once a month and provide music on other occasions.
Sat	Pray for peace and justice in our world, especially in the Middle East and several countries in Africa.
Sun	Today, as we worship, let us pray for the Staff Team ; especially for John our Rector , and Pere our Church Administrator . Pray that we meet with our Mighty Creator God, and then go out to make Jesus known.