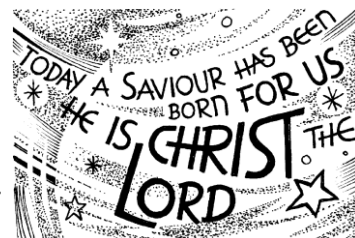



Sunday 21 December 2025

Welcome!



Notices for 21st & 28th December

Join us in church or online	
www.youtube.com/@stmatthiaschurchtorquay6827/streams	
Sun 21 Dec 	8am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
	9.30am Explore Together
	10.30am Gather to Pray
	11am Holy Communion <i>followed by tea/coffee</i> https://tinyurl.com/35t9bau3
	5.30pm Carol Service <i>followed by mulled wine and mince pies</i>
Mon 22 Dec	9-9.30am Morning Prayer <i>on zoom – details below</i>
	1-4pm Christmas Crafternoon <i>in the Hall – pop in any time</i>
Tues 23 Dec	9-9.30am Morning Prayer <i>on zoom – details below</i>
Christmas Eve	<i>Note there is no 9am Holy Communion today</i>
	3pm Crib Service <i>especially for younger children</i>
	5.30pm Christingle Service <i>especially for children & families</i>
	11pm Midnight Holy Communion
Christmas Day	HAPPY CHRISTMAS!
	10am Family Christmas Communion https://tinyurl.com/rvzxc4vs
Friday 26-Saturday 27 – Church & Centre Closed	
Sun 28 Dec	<i>Note there is no 8am Holy Communion today</i>
	9.30am Explore Together
	10.30am Gather to Pray
	11am Family Holy Communion <i>followed by tea/coffee</i>
The Church and Centre will be closed until Friday 2nd January	
Sun 4 January	8am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
	9.30am Explore Together <i>with breakfast from 9.15am</i>
	10.30am Gather to Prayer
	11am Holy Communion <i>followed by tea/coffee</i>

Collect for 21st December:

Eternal God, as Mary waited for the birth of your Son, so we wait for his coming in glory; bring us through the birth pangs of this present age to see, with her, our great salvation in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**



Thanks go to:

Everyone who is helping with the Christmas services, musicians, leaders, AV, refreshments etc!

Readings for 21st December

Isaiah 7:10-16

¹⁰ Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, ¹¹ 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights.'

¹² But Ahaz said, 'I will not ask; I will not put the Lord to the test.' ¹³ Then Isaiah said, 'Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of humans? Will you try the patience of my God also? ¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: the virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. ¹⁵ He will be eating curds and honey when he knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right, ¹⁶ for before the boy knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right, the land of the two kings you dread will be laid waste.'

Matthew 1:18-25

¹⁸ This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: his mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

²⁰ But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.'

²² All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³ 'The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel' (which means 'God with us').

²⁴ When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. ²⁵ But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

Readings for 28th December

Isaiah 63:7-9 and Matthew 2:13-23

Collect for 28th December:

God in Trinity,
eternal unity of perfect love:
gather the nations to be one family,
and draw us into your holy life
through the birth of Emmanuel,
our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen**

For Morning Prayer online, we use the Church of England 'Daily Prayer' app and meet on ZOOM using this link:

tinyurl.com/2t56wex5

You are welcome to join us!

The words we use can be found here,

with an audio version: tinyurl.com/2djd3t7f



News and Dates

Our Christmas collection this year will be for Christian Aid's Appeal to help families fleeing conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo.



It will be a **cash collection** at the Carol Service (21st), Christingle and Midnight Communion (24th) or you can pay direct using the link or QR code below. The DRC is a major humanitarian disaster that has received little attention in the media, despite over 27 million people being in urgent need of food. Donations will help Christian Aid provide nutrition and hygiene supplies for mothers to feed and protect their children. Thank you.

<https://tinyurl.com/2yza2258>



Christmas at St Matthias – see posters and flyers for dates of our Christmas services. If anyone can deliver any flyers to their neighbours and friends, that would be appreciated – thank you. (Please take some from church.)

Help required! We would really value your help with the remaining activities and services taking place this Christmas. **Please sign up today** at the back of church.

We need welcomers at the services and help with moving staging and chairs. Thank you.

CHRISTMAS CRAFTERNOON 22 December 1-4pm (pop in any time) A fun event of crafts for children and adults – origami, handmade gifts, card making and more! Suggested donation of £3 per person (£5 for 1 adult, 1 child). See you there!



Christmas Cards Please see the board at the back of church where there are cards to the whole church family (including news from John and Ruth). Please feel free to put up your cards here or use the trays at the back of church. And don't forget to pick up any for you too!

Claire's licensing as Team Vicar at the Parish Church of All Saints in Okehampton EX20 1LE. We are invited to attend Claire's licensing on 7th January at 7pm. Refreshments will follow the service. Please reply by 22nd December to northmoorpa@gmail.com Car sharing is recommended. **They would like to know numbers by today (21st) if possible to help with arrangements.**



After Christmas... why not explore life, faith and meaning?

We will be running an Alpha course in the New Year.

Watch this space for details or speak with one of the clergy.

Nicci Maxwell – to read the latest newsletter click on the link:

<https://tinyurl.com/yk9vhnk4>

*Prayers for the Christmas and New Year
period - see attached insert*



JOY



Christmas Services at St Matthias Church



Sun	21 Dec	5.30pm	Carol Service <i>with mulled wine and mince pies</i>
Mon	22 Dec	1-4pm	Christmas Crafternoon <i>all ages and abilities welcome</i>
Christmas Eve	3pm		Crib Service <i>especially for younger children</i>
		5pm	Christingle Service <i>especially for children & families</i>
		11pm	Midnight Holy Communion
Christmas Day	10am		Family Christmas Communion

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