

Sunday 30 November 2025

ADVENT SUNDAY

Welcome!



Join us in church or online

www.youtube.com/@stmatthiaschurchtorquay6827/streams

The church is usually open on Wednesdays from 12-2pm for visitors and prayer

Sun 30 Nov Advent Sunday 	8am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
	9.30am Explore Together
	10.30am Gather to Pray
	11am Holy Communion <i>with prayers for healing followed by tea/coffee</i> https://tinyurl.com/4afkxmv9 <i>Please note that as this service is livestreamed you may be seen on screen. If you do not wish to be filmed, please let a member of the Welcome Team know.</i>
Mon 1 Dec	9-9.30am Morning Prayer on zoom – details below
Tues 2 Dec	9-9.30am Morning Prayer on zoom – details below
	9-11.30am Toddlers
	12-1.30pm St Matt's Knits
Wed 3 Dec	9am Holy Communion
	12-2pm Welcome Space – Join us for soup, coffee, chat!
	7.15-9pm St Matt's Gospel Singers
Thurs 4 Dec	10am Funeral of Greta Schuster
Fri 5 Dec	9-11.30am Mummy & Me
	6.30-8pm Youth Club 'Blackout Night'
Sun 7 Dec	8am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
	9.30am Explore Together <i>with breakfast from 9.15am</i>
	10.30am Gather to Pray
	11am Holy Communion <i>followed by tea/coffee</i>

Collect:

Almighty God, as your kingdom dawns, turn us from the darkness of sin to the light of holiness, that we may be ready to meet you in our Lord and Saviour, 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



Thanks go to
The amazing Sylvia
(who does so much)



Readings

Isaiah 2:1-5

This is what Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem:

² In the last days the mountain of the Lord's temple will be established as the highest of the mountains; it will be exalted above the hills, and all nations will stream to it.

³ Many peoples will come and say,

‘Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the temple of the God of Jacob.

He will teach us his ways,
so that we may walk in his paths.’

The law will go out from Zion,
the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

⁴ He will judge between the nations
and will settle disputes for many peoples.

They will beat their swords into ploughshares
and their spears into pruning hooks.

Nation will not take up sword against nation,
nor will they train for war any more.

⁵ Come, descendants of Jacob,
let us walk in the light of the Lord.

Matthew 24:36-44

³⁶ ‘But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷ As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸ For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; ³⁹ and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰ Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left.

⁴² ‘Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. ⁴³ But understand this: if the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴ So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.

Dates for the diary

Claire's last Sunday with us will be **December 7th**. There will be a special opportunity to say good bye and thank you to Claire and Al over tea in the hall that afternoon, **3.30-5pm**.

If you would like to contribute to a leaving gift for Claire there will be a collecting tin at the back of the church/hall. Claire's licencing service in Okehampton is **Wednesday 7th January 2026 at 7pm** at All Saints Church, Okehampton, with refreshments afterwards. She would love to see as many of the St Matthias family there as possible and all are welcome. If you are planning to go and are driving the good news is there is a large car park attached to the church!

News



Help requested! Could anyone help to serve the mulled wine and mince pies at the 'Carols on the Piazza' on Thursday 18th and the Carol Service on Sunday 21st December. We will need 2 or 3 for each occasion. Please contact Pere in the office or sign up sheets will be available soon.

Update on recruitment of new rector The advert is now live on the Diocesan website, The Church Times and the CPAS website. The interview dates have been set for 2nd/3rd February 2026. Please continue to pray that God will be stirring the heart of his chosen person, for strength for Paul, Dallas and Claire as they carry extra burdens and for all of us, that God will help us to be strongly supportive of each other and outward looking so that we grow in our faith and as a Church in this period of waiting.

Bishop's Tree – at his visit last week, Bishop Mike very kindly gifted a tree to the church. The tree will be going on a bit of a tour to visit some of our children's groups. Then it will be planted in the church grounds – we will let you know more in due course when a suitable place for it has been identified. Our thanks go to Bishop Mike for this gift, and for a wonderful confirmation service last week.



Thank you to everyone who came to the Tearfund quiz. About £500 has been raised so far and donated for the crucial work of Tearfund around the world. There is still an opportunity to give here: <https://tinyurl.com/y74wk96u>

A very big thank you to everyone who helped make the Christmas Market so successful. The Friends' Christmas meal will be on Sunday 7th Dec at the Headland Hotel at 12.30 for 1pm. Booking forms (and menu) are available at the Friend's desk after this Sunday's service - a great fellowship get-together, I look forward to seeing you there! *Nick Hewlitt, Chairman*

School News: Open the Book This week the children will be hearing all about Mary's Song of Praise to God. Sue will be visiting Warberry and Ilsham Academies to share the Magnificat. Please pray that the message of Jesus' hope does not get lost in the busyness of preparing for Christmas.



Latest newsletter from Nicci Maxwell – click on this link: <https://tinyurl.com/56pn3bnh>

A local family wishes to move to Torquay and is looking for a **3 bedroom property** for rent. Please contact the office in the first instance if you can help. (*Family not known to us personally.*)



Torbay United Annual Carol Concert: A joyful community celebration to kick off the festive season, to be held on Saturday, 6th December from 3 - 5pm at Central Church. This is an occasion for all the family, and is supported by the Unleashed Theatre Company and Mummy & Me. Further details of this free event can be found at www.torbayunited.org.uk/events or speak to David Wilkinson.

CONCERTS THIS AUTUMN at ST MATTS

8 Dec @ 7.30pm Rock Choir

13 Dec @ 7.30pm Big Noise Christmas Concert

See posters around building or concert websites for more information



Prayers for this week

Mon	Pray for the Appointments Committee meeting to discern who will be our new Rector - that may they have great wisdom and spiritual insight.
Tue	Pray for the many people who use our church buildings - that they will perceive the Christ-centred heart of the church.
Wed	Pray for Christians to be protected from malicious “blasphemy” allegations and abductions in Pakistan, India and Bangladesh.
Thur	Pray for those in Ukraine and Moldova who will receive the 43 shoeboxes that we have sent.
Fri	Pray for those working towards peace in areas of conflict: Gaza, Ukraine & Sudan
Sat	Pray for all those involved in service industries at Christmas time - like retail, restaurants and entertainment - that they will know the “reason for the season”.
Sun	Pray that this farewell service for Claire Reynolds and her family, will be to them, a blessing from God.

How to increase donations by regular giving, or make one-off gifts, either to support our Youth & Children’s Lead fund or general church funds (or both!)

Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) donors:

- 1) Call **0333 002 1260** or log into your updated PGS online account.
- 2) Advise the new monthly amount and date it is to start.
- 3) Consider having monthly donations increased annually for inflation.
- 4) Advise a one-off payment, if applicable.

Direct bank standing orders or online bank transfers:

- 1) Bank details: PCC St Matthias Church, 40-52-40 (CAF Bank), 00017933.
- 2) Set up your new/updated standing order or online bank payment.

VERY IMPORTANT – FOR EITHER WAY OF GIVING

Please email treasurer@st-matthias-church.org cc trudy@tgbookkeeping.co.uk with the following:-

- 1) Your name.
- 2) Confirm taxpayer or not a taxpayer.
- 3) The amount of the payment and whether it is monthly or one-off.
- 4) If your payment is for both general church funds and for the Youth and Children’s Lead fund, how much for each.
- 5) Let us know the date of the new payment.

Church Office: 01803 214175 admin@st-matthias-church.org
Rector: Vacancy – *please contact the Office for any enquiries*
Associate Minister: Paul Barton 07807 636470 revpaulbarton@gmail.com
Curate: Claire Reynolds 07858 313677 claire.reynolds.bmc@gmail.com
Youth & Children: 07832 738998 helen.baker@st-matthias-church.org