



**St Matthias', St Mark and Holy Trinity Church  
Reports for the  
Annual Parochial Church Meeting  
14 May 2023**

You will find within this booklet reports from many of the 'activities' or ways we seek to serve God and His kingdom. We've listed them broadly under the umbrellas of each of the 'Action Groups' who help shape and lead what is going on at St Matthias. You can find more information about these groups in the main Annual Report.

## **Section 1: Social Action**

### **1. St Matthias Pre-School and Childcare Centre**

It is a real privilege to be involved in the Pre-School and currently there are 43 children attending – 10 of these are 2 year olds. We have 2 children who have special needs where the staff liaise regularly with other health and school professionals. The staff also teach English to children from Poland, India and one from Czech. Hana, a member of staff also teaches Czech words and some songs to all the children to broaden their understanding of different languages.



#### ***Family Services:***

It has been a joy to welcome families back in to the church, following covid, for the end of term services. The children love to sing their songs, Liz tells a Bible story, the clergy take part and the children leave with an appropriate present - nativity story book,

Easter egg with booklet telling the Easter story and at the end of the summer term, a Bible. Thanks to all those who donate to purchase these gifts and also to the Knitting group for the gifts they produce for each child.

A member of a small team attend each week to take part in a Bible Storytelling session in the church which the children enjoy as do the team!

### ***Education:***

Through the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) curriculum staff shape and develop all their activities and routines, thus ensuring that they offer the best developmentally appropriate play and learning opportunities for each and every child in their care. The children are active learners; children learn best through play and through providing the children with a wide range of activities and experiences at preschool. The wide range of educational opportunities offered are tailored to each child's abilities and provide experiences that enrich each child's personal, social, emotional, physical, intellectual, cognitive and creative abilities, all underpinned by the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS).

### ***Forest School:***

Our unique outdoor facilities/ forest school area facilitates the curiosity, motivation and desire to learn through hands on learning experience. The children can develop holistically becoming resilient, independent and creative learners who can problem solve and have a deeper understanding and relationship with the natural environment. It also supports them to manage risk appropriate to their age, make their own choices and initiate their own learning.



The Staff are supported by a ***Management Committee*** made up of Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Pre-School Manager, and a Parent Representative. We are grateful to all those involved but are looking for more to join this team with appropriate experience.

### ***Our Staff:***

We are blessed to have a great team running the Pre-School and a huge thanks go to every member of staff. Laura joined the team last October and we are so pleased to have her. We are indebted to their enthusiasm and commitment as well as their ability to bring fun to teaching as well as a caring, watchful eye on the development of each child. Ongoing training is a priority and several courses have been undertaken in the past year and qualifications gained.



Liz	Manager
Laura	Assistant Manager
Kate	Senior Practitioner
Alice	Practitioner
Hana	Practitioner
Amanda	Practitioner

Kate, Amanda, Hana, Laura, Alice and Liz

### ***Or as some staff were known in the World Book Week***

Princess Fiona, Queen of Hearts, Pooh Bear & Snow White!! 😂😂😂



Thank you for reading our report – we value your prayers both for the staff and all the children who are entrusted to our care. You are more than welcome to attend any of our end of term services in church and it would be lovely to see you. If you would like to help out in any way, please do have a word with Liz or any member of the Management Committee.

*Sylvia, Liz, Andrea, and Tony*  
(Pre-School Management Committee)



## **2. Warm Space**

### ***How did it come about?***

The Warm Welcome Campaign exists to support and champion the community response to the cost-of-living crisis during the winter of 2022/3. Working with partners of all kinds, they set up with the goal of equipping thousands of organisations to provide a warm welcome to everyone who might need it during the winter throughout the UK. The campaign was started by the ChurchWorks Commission (National Leaders of all the major Christian denominations chaired by the Bishop of Durham) working with a number of other key partners. Their aim was to have a conversation about the Church's role in the covid recovery.

Over 2,300 warm spaces were created in the Autumn of 2022 across England, many of these double as places where people can get financial advice, health and wellbeing and have access to free hot food and drinks. Over 150 were set up in Devon, with several around the Bay.

### ***Warm Space at St Matthias***

Torbay Council provided funding and having applied, St. Matthias was successful in obtaining a grant of £3500.00 (£2,300 of which went on heating costs). We opened the doors of the church to welcome people in in November 2022 and have continued each Wednesday from 12noon to 4pm to provide hot soup, drinks, a place to socialise, free clothing, referrals to food banks and financial help to those who were unable to meet their bills or who had a specific urgent need. We commenced with a small team of people who provided the catering and also who sat with those who came in to the church to chat and make them feel welcome.

Council funding ceased at the end of March but as contacts have been made over the months, we have decided to continue from 12noon – 3.30pm. Around 20 – 26 people have attended most weeks, some regularly and some occasionally, and it has been great to offer refreshments to the Ukrainian group following on from their English lesson in the church. The Lions Club have also helped with the catering and we are extremely grateful for their help. Many too in the church responded financially in giving part or all of their Winter Fuel money to help those who were in need – again, thank you!

### ***The future?***

Since the beginning of April we have changed the name to WELCOME SPACE as several people had said that they had missed the [Chat@St.Matts](#) sessions we

used to hold before covid – so anyone and everyone is welcome to join us on Wednesdays. The thought is that we would like to extend the use of the church further on Wednesdays where groups such as a Bereavement Support Group, Carers Group, a Book club, or other groups where there is a shared experience or interest could meet to help maintain a sense of hope and wellbeing and where better than in our beautiful church where the presence of God can be felt!

HOWEVER, we may not be able to continue – we have the resources, the facility, but we are very short of helpers! We only have 3 regular caterers together with the members of the Lions Club who cater once a month. We need 3 people each week! Please consider whether you could go on a rota. We also need 2/3 people who will be welcomers to chat to those who come in. We value your prayers. Thank you to all those who have been so faithful over the past few months – please consider joining us so we can continue!

*Sylvia, Susie & Mike, Sue*

### 3. The Church Centre

**The church centre** continues to be a popular space for our local community and is used by many groups for exercise, social groups, management meetings etc. We were pleased this year to welcome just under 10 new regular hirers to the centre including another weekly exercise class (we now have a class every day – why not give one a go?), a French Film Club, a menopause support group, dementia support group, and another local housing management association and others. Bookings are up and the centre is busy most days and it's lovely to see our community space being so well used. If you would like to see what is going on or to join a group please pick up a leaflet for further information.

**Open Church** Since re-opening after the pandemic we have tried to open the church on most weekdays from 12-2pm for visitors or for anyone just wanting a quiet space. We have a small team of stewards who help with this – thank you - but if anyone would like to join the team please get in touch.

**Office** The office is open weekdays from 9-12.30 and 2-4pm (but not on Thursday afternoons) and so if you have any queries please do not hesitate to get in touch - either pop in, drop me an email or give me a call. You will be very welcome.

*Pere Snow, Church Administrator/Centre Manager*

## Section 2: Schools, Children and Young People

2022 saw the SCYP ministry emerging from the Covid restrictions and throughout the course of the year grow again to something resembling the pre-pandemic era. Highlights include Mummy and Me going from strength to strength and the Youth Club showing very positive signs of recovery with children of no previous church background attending. These older children are having fun, making friendships which some don't find easy and they are hearing the gospel message. These are just two examples at the extremes of the age range. A leader from each part of the ministry has summarised their group's activities below:

### **1. Youth Group**

Firstly, a little background as it explains where we are now.

Linda Townsend and I initially started helping at Youth Club on Fridays in September 2021 when Pete Norris was running it. A lot of the previous members of the group had moved onto university so it was a question of trying to build up again especially post covid lockdowns. We had a few children whose families were members of St Matthias but also a lot of new faces mostly from Year 6 in Ilsham School. In the spring/summer of 2022 Laura Guihen took over from Pete and was appointed as our new Youth Leader.

However in September 2022, the post became available again and rather than let the whole thing collapse, I agreed to take on running the group with Linda Townsend as the second adult. Thankfully, Laura had left some planning notes which proved useful. It was quite a challenge but fortunately, Hannah Aske from Riviera Life Church came along after a few months to help which has made a huge difference.

The group has continued to grow, and we now have 19 children on the register with an average of about 14 attending each Friday. A lot of the growth is due to word of mouth. The original group from Ilsham School are now at Spires and have brought some of their friends along. Most of these children are not currently connected to St Matthias in any other way.

We organise a variety of activities each week (Italian night, messy games, scavenger hunt, pancake madness etc) and have been out on a few trips (bowling, crazy golf and meeting Riviera Life Youth Group). We almost always

have time for a short teaching session and have had some very positive responses. It was especially rewarding to see some of our newer children involved in the Christingle and Easter Day prayers.

This is exciting outreach work, demanding but very rewarding, and it has been a privilege to watch relationships grow. We are getting to know the parents and aim to invite them to a BBQ on Ilsham Green this summer. We work very well as a team and offer different things but would always welcome additional help!

***Ali Buckley***

## **2. Open House Toddler Group**

This year saw a big change as Judi Stannard, who had set up and run the toddler group for probably more years than she cares to admit, left us at the end of the summer term.

We continue to meet in the church building on Tuesday mornings 0900-1130 during term time. We were a small group at the start of the year but numbers are growing and it is lovely to be able to extend the area we use within the church, although it does involve a lot of chair moving!

The morning provides a safe environment for the children to play together and also provides a support and friendship group for mainly Mums and childminders, although we welcome Dads and Grandparents too.

The morning follows a simple routine where children are free to play on “ride ons” in one section of the church or with cars, bricks, trains or floor puzzles to name a few, in another area throughout the morning.

We have coffee and snack time at about 1015 unless we’re too busy chatting and run late, which is immediately followed by story time and often a simple craft activity.

The morning closes with a very popular singing and marching session.

***Elaine Biden, Diane Francis, Christine Sherriff, Clare Whittaker, Carolyn Payne***

## **3. Schools**

Our main contact this year has been with Ilsham and Warberry Primary Schools:

### **Religious Education Curriculum**

Godly Play run and organised by Lena Fearnley working with year R and Y1. Held in the church and well received by headteacher and staff.

Visits to the church from Ilsham pupils to learn about the Trinity and Holy Week. Rev John and Monica Rook led these sessions.

### **School Values**

Rev John and Monica Rook have been actively involved in helping Ilsham and Warberry explore and re designate their Christian Values. This has been an important piece of work to help the individual schools identify what they want their young people to carry with them throughout their lives.

### **Ethos Day**

Subject 'Light' held in Kents Cavern in January 2023. Pupils from Ilsham Warberry and Ellacombe explored the spiritual, scientific, practical and religious significance of light. Led by Rev John, Rev Paul, Monica Rook, Sue Davies and Jane Risness along with staff from the three schools and Kents Cavern Team.

### **Church Services and Nativity Play**

Both Ilsham and Warberry have regular end of term services to which parents, carers and friends are welcomed. These events are extremely well attended. During this academic year the Harvest Service for Ilsham was combined with the induction as Headteacher of Mr Jake Grinsill. Representation was made from Exeter Diocese Education Dept.

### **Assemblies**

We continue organising collective worship at Ilsham and Warberry once a week, using the Open the Book materials. A team of three, Rev John, Sue Davies and Monica Rook rotate on a three weekly basis to cover the two schools.

### **Governance of Torquay Learning Academy Partnership:**

Sue Davies is Chair, along with members Rev John and Jane Risness.

### **Monica Rook**

## **4. Children and Families' Report**

The year has been a busy one - all our regular activities, and more, have bounced back strongly from the pandemic and we are gradually seeing an increase in the families joining us on Sundays. It is particularly exciting to see a number of mums who have started with us through Begin Well and/or Mummy & Me, and are now progressing to Toddlers and bringing their families to Messy Church! Particular highlights of the year included:

**Begin Well** Three antenatal courses were held in 2022, two of these each being over 5 evenings, and the other being held through one day. In total we



welcomed 22 sets of parents-to-be (and a further 14 sets in early 2023), filling the gap for them as the NHS no longer provide such education for free.

**Mummy & Me** At the start of 2022 we were welcoming around 20 mums (and sometimes dads) and their babies each Friday morning into Church. The group is becoming ever more needed and popular and by December we were seeing those weekly numbers between 45 and 50! We are providing an increasing and varied programme of post-natal education, delivered by professionals, in a fun, friendly and relaxed atmosphere. A key objective through the Church offering this facility with a very warm welcome to all who attend, is to provide links - so far 12 babies have been baptised from the group (not all at St Matthias) and 4 families have become regular Sunday worshippers with us. Many more attended one of the Christmas services.

**Schools** Lena was teaching through godly play, RE to both Reception and Year 1 classes from Ilsham each week in Church, strongly supporting the Torbay Agreed Syllabus, through both stories and craft activities. The school have been very encouraging of these sessions which the children thoroughly enjoyed! For Warberries, their 50 Reception class children came to St Matthias for a Christmas Messy Church - for very many of the children this was their first experience of a church, and will have prepared them for their Christmas services a few days later.

**Messy Church** Through 2022 we held 8 MCs, but at both Easter and in June, to accommodate all who wished to come, there were 2 events! In total we hosted 313 children and 173 grown-ups. Each month we welcome new families alongside very many regulars. A highlight from the crafts was at Christmas with the nativity boxes which the children put together, being particularly treasured. We have a fantastic group of helpers without whom this event would not be possible.

Other events included a Jollyween party on Sunday 30th October, enjoyed by 44 children and 22 adults, with Dean Winters leading the entertainment alongside craft tables and food! Two mini first aid courses, supporting parents with valuable knowledge and skills, were both fully subscribed and being seen as particularly timely with delays in ambulance response times.

Church families together with Ilsham and Abbey schools' parents enabled us to send 170 packed shoe boxes to Moldova for Christmas. This was an increase of 35 on our previous record!

***Lena Fearnley***

## Section 3: Mission and Outreach Action Group

### 1. **Coffee Box, Through Faith Missions and Missions Action Group**

A new initiative in outreach - **Coffee Box** - was launched by the Missions and Outreach group in 2022. Held on the piazza, on one Saturday morning each month between April and September, its aim was to reach out to the local community with friendly conversation, the offer of prayer, and free refreshments. A team of enthusiastic helpers engaged with people as they passed by, and appreciative comments were made by those who chose to stop for a while, about the hospitality they received. Coffee Box has returned in 2023, and we are continuing to build relationships with people in a warm and relaxed way.

In September 2022, eight team members from '**Through Faith Missions**' came for a weekend visit, following on from their week-long mission to St Matthias the previous year. Along with some church members, they did door-to-door visiting and invited people to a Saturday evening service: 'A Time of Healing and Worship'. The team encouraged our church family to keep on reaching out to the local community; the warm space initiative which started soon afterwards is an example of this.

St Matthias is committed to donating annually 10% of its voluntary income to Christian charities, in accordance with the biblical principle of tithing. The **Missions Action Group** meets regularly to discuss which charities to recommend to the PCC for the Mission Tithe. In recent years, the amount available to tithe has been substantial; in 2022 it was £14,550. We have four broad areas of giving: Local Mission, World Mission, Poverty Relief, and Supporting Churches. A few years ago, we chose six charities as our main ones to support every year: Church Army, Church Mission Society, Church Pastoral Aid Society, Linx, Mission to Seafarers and Tearfund. In 2022, each of these received £1,500. Each year, the remaining tithe money is divided in varying proportions between a range of other charities. In 2022, these were: Bible Society, Christian Response to Eastern Europe, Compass Braille, Mercy Ships, Open Doors, Scripture Union, and WorldShare. In addition, a proportion of tithe money is kept until the end of each year for disaster support; in 2022 the main recipient of this was Tearfund's DEC emergency appeal, in response to unprecedented flooding in Pakistan. We thank God for the generosity of all who donate to St Matthias.

A warm thank you to all who help with Coffee Box, and also to the members of the Missions Action Group. If anyone would like to join either of these groups, please let me know.

***Joanna Wilkinson***

## **2. Girls Allowed**

Having started the year discussing what we might give up or take up for Lent, we celebrated after Easter with a cream tea at the Headland Hotel! As summer arrived we took advantage of the glorious weather to meet twice in members' gardens for coffee, cake and sharing of ideas for the future of the group, though sadly on the second occasion we said goodbye to Ruth, one of our founder members, before she moved on to her curacy at St Paul's Preston. It was a lovely opportunity to be able to thank her for her leadership, including some entertaining ideas for meetings!

It has been good to start having more regular meetings in person again and we have enjoyed having breakfast together, a Christmas craft afternoon and an evening sharing and sampling Christmas recipes.

At the end of the year another founder member of the group, Marjorie, also stepped down from the organising team, though happily she will still be able to join us, and we would like to thank her for all her ideas and her organisational skills – much appreciated!

We aim to get together monthly, with meetings on different days of the week and at varying times, to enable as many 'girls' as possible to join us for at least some of our meetings, whether they are part of a Sunday congregation or not. It is a great way of building friendships and encouraging each other in our faith. If you are interested in coming along please ask one of us.

***Sue Day, Andrea Crump, Elaine Biden, Susie Higgins and Judi Stannard***

## **3. St Matts Gospel Singers**

St Matts Gospel Singers, part of GGCC (Gospel Generation Community Choirs) had a great year building a new repertoire and strength in vocals. We continue to rehearse fortnightly on Wednesdays in the church. We enjoy singing traditional gospel songs and spirituals from our well-established repertoire as well as learning modern Christian and new gospel songs. We always look to improve and learn new vocal techniques and experiment with our voices and harmonies. This year, as well as taking part in some of the church services, we are planning to participate in singing events at St Matthias and with our

partners GGCC choirs in Bristol. New singers are welcome! Although we don't hold official auditions, we particularly welcome those with singing experience and/or musicality.

***Anya Jones***

#### **4. Matts Knits**

Knits is a social group set up 6 years ago, and continues to grow in number. We seek to bless others whilst we knit and natter over a cup of tea or coffee, providing a friendship group as well as supporting various projects. We meet on Tuesday lunchtime from 12:00-13:30 in the Church and welcome new members to join us at any time, to knit, crochet, sew or just natter!



We have had a busy year starting with knitting Easter crosses for the children at our Pre-school. Closely followed by our Easter stall raising funds to support the Ukranian community meeting in our church building weekly.

The summer term saw us with red hot knitting needles creating teddy bears for all the leavers at preschool.

Our ongoing project of knitting matinee jackets to send to Nicci Maxwell at Potters Village Uganda



continued throughout the autumn with three large parcels being sent out in time for Christmas.

Our final projects for the year were creating items for our stall at the Friends of St Matthias Christmas Market and candle tree decorations for all the children at preschool.

***Elaine Biden***



## **Section 4: Pastoral Care Action Group**

We have a small team who make visits and keep in touch with people who are unwell or unable to attend church. We also visit and take Holy Communion to several Nursing and Care Homes in the parish.

If you or someone you know has a Pastoral Care need please get in touch with one of us.

Sadly during 2022 we lost Avril Ford, Wendy Hastings, Ruth Roberts, Barbara McCann, Gillian Rose, Dot Andrews, Lilian Bosley, Simon Langley, Jenny Lane, Simon Robbins, John Hart, Robert Mann, Brenda Kesterton and Rob Day.

If anyone would like to know more about joining the pastoral care team, please speak to the clergy or either Maureen or myself. We know that many of you who are not on the team, do visit people in their own homes as friends especially members of your home groups, thank you.

***Elaine Biden and Maureen Purdy***

***Pastoral Care Coordinators***

## **Section 5: Maintenance Action Group**

The less urgent work arising from the previous year's Quinquennial report including repairs to downpipes and damaged stonework, was undertaken *and thus completed work arising from this report*. Fluorescent tube lighting in the hall corridors was replaced with movement activated LED strips. LED strips in the Pine room were installed.



Following some vandalism one of the toughened glass panels on the entrance ramp to the linkway had to be replaced and a CCTV camera covering the Piazza and linkway entrance was installed.

Several tiles on the Hall roof had to be replaced and repairs to failing gutter joints made. These were found because the way the roof drainage was made meant that any failure resulted in water running down inside the hall walls.

Pigeons entering the clock tower above the bell chamber had been occurring for a number of years and was now causing damage. The tower had to be scaffolded in order to remove the pigeons, their nests and droppings and the chambers to be cleaned. New resistant steel mesh was fitted to the openings.

***Paul Stannard***

***Chair of Maintenance action Group***

## **Section 6: Comms Action group**

The Communications Group is now into its third year, tasked with taking a look at the way St Matthias communicates with both its regular church goers and the wider community. Some of the aims of the group include the following:

- website – a longer term project reviewing and refreshing the website to ensure it is fit for purpose as it is a vital gateway for people regularly attending online services and those newer to the church. Capacity issues have delayed work on this project but we are hopeful of progress in 2023.
  - social media – promoting St Matthias via Facebook – we now have over 500 followers.  
<https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=St%20Matthias%20Church%20Torquay> and Instagram. A new insta account is now live and already attracting over 75 followers and growing.
- welcome booklet – producing content, updating and reviewing both online and printed edition for newcomers to the church
- noticeboards, centre publicity and material for press releases and other publicity/ communications

The group meets as required and comprises Suzy Wright, Sylvia Barratt, Julie Bouskill, Cecil Johnston, Jana Sebastien and Pere Snow with occasional input from others.

***Suzy Wright***



## **Section 7: Eco Action Group**

### **Climate and environmental awareness**

This has been our first full year of operation. It has had successes and frustrations, consistent with the climate awareness campaigns generally.

A year ago, the church committed to seeking bronze accreditation with A Rocha, a leading organisation setting out progressive standards for environmental awareness for church communities. It required a lot of work across the church, by many people. We are absolutely delighted to announce that in March 2023, embargoed for announcement until the annual church meeting, we received the bronze award. This is important for us as a church within our fellowship as testimony to what we are doing as Christians called to honour our planet and our surroundings. But is also very important for our Torbay community to show we are taking these issues very seriously, at a cost to ourselves in the work we are doing in receiving this award and by improving many aspects of the life of our church. More will be said at the meeting and subsequently at a church service. Huge thanks to many but especially Judi and Paul Stannard.

In November, we joined with hundreds of other churches around the country in the Tearfund Big Quiz, raising awareness and funds for the work of Tearfund in climate action, as well as having a very enjoyable evening together. Almost £700 was raised by the church, with in excess of £61,000 raised around the country. We anticipate repeating in the autumn of 2023.

We have met with a number of other organisations and individuals active in this work, including the diocesan representative who came to a meeting at our church in March. We have met with Torbay Climate Action Group and have promoted their carbon literacy course.

We actively considered holding a hustings meeting for the local elections, inviting politicians of each party to speak about their plans for environmental issues locally. Unfortunately this didn't happen. Initially there was a difficulty in response from some of the parties themselves and then to have a full engagement. With a general election likely in late 2024, we want to plan well ahead to engage with the likely parliamentary candidates to hear from them. We have been very conscious of wanting to work with churches around Torbay. There has been a real mixed response. We are certain this is of

considerable importance and will be balanced alongside our primary work within our church itself.

We seek continued involvement of anyone in the church interested in this work for the many different projects that we would like to take on.

**David Hodson**

## Section 8: Stepping Stones

In addition to our worship and teaching at church services, our Home groups remain a key part of the ways we grow as disciples and support one another. However, there are other ways we can learn more about our faith and how to grow on the journey: we've run two Alpha courses this year - one in person, and one in the evenings on zoom, both of which have worked well. We also ran the nationally produced 'Living in Love and Faith' course over Lent. Over 50 people attending at what was a most challenging topic, exploring human sexuality and marriage. The church continues to grapple with these issues, but the course enabled us to more honestly face them, and appreciate the depth of difficulty of the matters discussed.

### 1. Home/Study Group

home groups at  st matthias

Most of the Home Groups are now back and running and we are delighted that three new groups are also getting underway. It has been a testing time but the mutual support over the last few years has been of great benefit to many. Groups vary in the way they meet and what they study, but prayer and meeting together are core to them all. Thank you to all the group leaders for their effort and care. If you would like to join a group please pick up a leaflet in church and contact me by phone or e-mail.

**Norman and Lindsay Doidge**

14 Courtenay Gardens, Newton Abbot, Devon TQ12 1HS

01626 210427, mob 07968 375528, email: [norman.doidge@hotmail.com](mailto:norman.doidge@hotmail.com)

Group	Leader/Coordinators	Time	Venue
Woodend	Mike & Susie Higgins	Tue 7:30pm	Woodend Road
<u>Wellswood Avenue</u>	Paul & Judi Stannard	Tue 4:30pm	<u>Wellswood Avenue</u>
NEW ZOOM	Ester & Robert Luscombe	Tue 7:30pm	Zoom
The 2018 Group	Paul & Tessa Barton	Tue 7:30pm	Church Centre
NEW DAYTIME GROUP	Christine Sheriff & Sue Partridge	Wed 10:00am	Church Centre
NEW EVENING GROUP	Keith & Cherry Yelland, Paulina Robbins-van Rijn	Evening TBC	<u>Livermead</u>
<u>St Marychurch</u>	David & Joanna Wilkinson	Wed 7:30pm	<u>St Marychurch</u>
Watcombe Heights	Sue Day	Thu 11.00am	Watcombe Heights
Watcombe Park	Brian & Norma Gerry	Thu 4:30pm	Watcombe Park
Bankside	Monica Rook	Thu 7:30pm	<u>Lincombe Drive</u>

## Section 9: Services



### 1. Sound and Visual

A small but dedicated team supports worship, operating audio and video in church. We continue to livestream 11.00 services and are frequently asked to stream weddings and funerals. This is appreciated by families as it allows any who are unable to travel to the church to be part of these important occasions. Also our local schools make good use of the A/V provision when they celebrate major Christian festivals and end of term services in church.

The preparation of PowerPoints falls mainly on the clergy; could you help with this? Similarly could you support the small A/V team by helping out on an occasional but regular basis? Full training and support are offered. Finally, thank you to all who play a part in making our worship accessible.

***David and Joanna Wilkinson***

### 2. Church Flowers

This year normal service has resumed and we have been delighted to be able to arrange flowers on a more regular basis and celebrate the various events organised in church. In particular we were able to have wonderful displays for the



Jubilee weekend. We have discussed the church “Green” agenda and have moved to a bio-degradable oasis foam instead of the old oasis that was used traditionally in more formal arrangements.

We are a small but friendly group and would love any budding flower arrangers in the church to think about joining us. You would be warmly welcomed.

***Sue Newman***

## **Section 10: Prayer**

### **The Prayer Ministry Team**

The most visible aspect of the Prayer Team is the provision of “prayer ministry” after each Sunday morning service. This may be prayer for healing (physical, mental, spiritual. etc) or for some other need. Such prayer is an immense privilege and responsibility and it is right to do it well. For this reason, the team of about eight church members, has had some training and then we meet regularly to keep ourselves accountable and to pray for this ministry.

The team is entrusted with other aspects of the church prayer life. For example, there is a 10.30 prayer meeting every Sunday morning – do come if you can! Also, every few months we have a special focus on prayer and meet at 10.00 am – and we will do that this Pentecost Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup> May.

For many years one member of our team, Anthony Hindley, has written the Prayer Diary in the Notice sheet. He has done a great job and we thank him for his faithful service; but we are now going to have different people to do this for one month at a time.

If you would like to join the prayer team or help in any other way, do let us know!

***Andrew Green***

## **And a report from the Friends of St Matthias**



I'm pleased to report another busy and enjoyable year. Events arranged included organ and piano recitals (David Davies and Jane Wibberley and sons), our regular visit to the Little Theatre, and the traditional Christmas Market. Plans for the year ahead can be found on the Friends' pages of the St Matthias website.

Our primary role is the improvement and maintenance of the Church's buildings and grounds, and we were happy to be able to do this in a number of areas during the year. Apart from a number of minor repairs highlighted in the Quinquennial report, major projects funded included the repairs to and clearing of the clock tower, as well as the purchase of new fridge, freezer and cooker for the Church Centre kitchen. We paid for two new moveable notice boards for the Church and for replacement of the opening mechanism on the north door.

Supporting the Church's conservation agenda, the Friends funded the installation of new environmentally friendly lighting systems in the Church Centre, and are currently working with the maintenance group, looking at other steps aimed at reducing the Church's carbon footprint.

We are grateful to our members and supporters for making it all possible. New members are welcome - do speak to me if you would like to know more. And you can learn more about our plans for the coming year at the Friends' AGM which will be held after the morning service on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> June.

***Rob Newman***

***Chairman of the Friends***

