

Sunday 12th November

The Ten O'clock at St Matthew's

Remembrance Sunday

Preacher: Diane Bruckland

Coffee & croissants from 9.30am

10.55am at Cheltenham Minster

Expecting the Unexpected

Matthew 25: 1-13

Preacher: Andy Hall

1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18

6.30pm at St Matthew's

Masterclass

John 17: 1-19

Preacher: Sarah Griffiths

Sunday 19th November

The Ten O'clock at St Matthew's

Facing Suffering

1 Peter 4: 12-19

Preacher: Bradley Salisbury

11am at Cheltenham Minster

Matthew 25: 14-30

Preacher: Paul Chesworth

1 Thessalonians 5: 1-11

6.30pm at St Matthew's

Masterclass

John 17: 20-26

Preacher: Patrick Wheaton

The Third Sunday before Advent

God, our refuge and strength, bring near the day when wars shall cease and poverty and pain shall end, that earth may know the peace of heaven through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

This Week

Everyone is invited to join us for Daily Prayers in the Minster at **9am** and **12.30pm**. Minster opening times: **11-3pm** on weekdays and **11-6pm** on Friday with Minster Books from **2pm**, and on **Saturdays** from **10-2pm**.

Monday	10:00	Bright Lights Toddler Group - St Matthew's
13th November	12:15	Staff Meeting - St Matthew's
Tuesday	10:30	Barnabas Group - St Matthew's
14th November	10:30	Prayer for Street Pastors - St Matthew's
	13:00	Prayer Working Group - St Matthew's
	17:30	Slimming World - St Matthew's
Wednesday	12:30	Midweek Communion - Cheltenham Minster
15th November	13:30	Funeral of Derek Waters - Cheltenham Minster
	19:30	Youth Small Group - St Matthew's
	19:45	Leckhampton Small Group - St Matthew's
	20:30	Football Practice - Balcarras
Thursday	10:00	Bible Study with Creche - St Matthew's
16th November	10:30	CAMEO - St Matthew's
	19:15	Central Small Groups Meal - St Matthew's
	19:30	Minster Music Makers - St Matthew's
	19:30	Bellringer's Practice - Cheltenham Minster
	20:00	Prayer for Bible Society - 20 Arden Road
	20:00	Central Small Groups - St Matthew's
	20:00	"Life Explored" - St Matthew's
Friday	11:15	Friday Small Group - St Matthew's
17th November	19:00	Ignite - St Matthew's
	19:45	Music Group (all welcome) - St Matthew's
Saturday	10:30	St Matts FC v Cheltenham Pilgrims - Prestbury Playing Fields
18th November	19:00	Youth for Christ Quiz Night - St Matthew's

Receptionists Needed in the Church Office

We have an opportunity for a number of people to volunteer in the Church Office as we currently have some gaps in our receptionist rota.

This is a crucial role in the life of the church office: answering phone calls, greeting visitors and dealing with enquiries.

If you think you would be able to help on an occasional basis do please contact Andy Sawers on 01242 519520 or office@stmstm.org.uk - Andy is normally in the Church Office on Monday, Tuesday and Friday mornings.

Upcoming Events

Tuesday 14th November - Barnabas Group, **10.30am** at St Matthew's, starting with coffee and followed by a talk by Revd Canon Dr Tudor Griffiths entitled "The Joys of a Sabbatical".

Saturday 18th November - Youth For Christ Gloucestershire Quiz Night, **7pm**, St Matthew's. Teams of 6 or join one on the night. Adults £5, under 18s £3. Tickets from office@yfcgloucestershire.co.uk or 01242 524408.

Saturday 25th November - Christmas Crafternoon. Starting with a Bring & Share Lunch at **1pm**, crafts will start at **2pm**. Afternoon Tea at **4.30pm**. Sign up sheet on Welcome Table. Details from Lauren Worsley.

Saturday 9th December - 8th Annual Commissioning of Cheltenham Street Pastors, with an address by Bishop Rachel. **4pm** at Holy Apostles Church, followed by tea and cakes. All welcome.

Saturday 9th December - Wide Valley Singers Festive Concert in aid of the Samara's Aid Appeal. **7.30pm** at St Andrew's Churchdown. Tickets from 01452 712154 or admin@standrewschurchdown.org.uk

Saturday 16th December - Waitrose Carol Singing. **12 noon** at Waitrose.

Advent Course

This will be run twice each week - once in the evening and again in the afternoon. Tuesday evenings in St Matthews from **7.30pm** starting on **Tuesday 28th November**. Wednesday afternoons in The Minster from **3pm** starting on **Wednesday 29th November**. We will be journeying with the Magi on an Advent Course in the Celtic tradition. In the first session we will be orientating ourselves and preparing for the study. In the following three weeks we will look at what we value, prayer and healing. There will be a concluding session in the New Year to look back at what we have learnt and how it has affected our walk with Jesus. Please talk to Clare or Andy if you would like any further information.

Parish Mailing

Our Christmas Publicity has arrived, including the dates of all our Christmas events. You will find two enclosed—do keep one to remind you of upcoming events, and use the other to invite friends. The Parish Mailing will take place the week beginning **November 26th**.

Appointment of a New Rector

Firstly we want to thank all of you for your prayers for the appointment of a new Rector. The Selection Committee – Archdeacon Phil Andrew, Area Dean Nick Davies, Rachel Gibson and John Risdon from the Simeon's Trust, Robert and Guy – the St Luke's churchwardens and Charlotte and Paul, with written input from the Bishop – met on Monday 6th November to consider the applications.

We decided that we did not have a large enough field to go ahead with the interviews on 23 November. We will therefore be re-advertising early in 2018.

This is a disappointment but we are really keen to ensure that we get the right person, so we believe that waiting is the right thing to do. Please keep all of us in your prayers as we prepare for the next round and please do keep praying for the churches at this time of interregnum.

Paul will be away this weekend and for most of next week but is contactable by email (paulcollacott@supanet.com). Charlotte is also contactable by email (cajamie@aol.com) and should be around this weekend if you would like to talk about this.

Paul & Charlotte

What is your favourite Bible verse?

Thank you to those who have sent us your favourite verse. We will start to share some of them during our services. We are a quarter of the way towards our (notional) target of 100, which means that we would love it if many more could send us (by email to pellereau@btinternet.com or on paper to the pigeon-holes) your favourite verse, why it is special to you and, if appropriate, which version of the Bible you prefer.

Rod and Caroline Pellereau

Advent Reading - One True Light

Take time this Advent to wait in anticipation not just for the baby in the manger but also for the eternal Word, full of grace and truth, the cosmic Lord who won the right for us to be children of God. We are encouraging all congregations to read 'One True Light' by Tim Chester this Advent. A short reading and reflections for each day, with some ideas for prayer and application. Copies are for sale after each service, price of £4.

Christmas at Cheltenham Foodbank

Christmas gives us the opportunity to give a little bit extra to some local people in crisis. During December we include some additional items in the packs we give out. These include:

Christmas cakes/cake slices, Tinned Ham, Instant dessert packets, Fancy biscuits/shortbread, Stuffing mix, Gravy mix, Pickles, Hot Chocolate powder, Jars of paste or pate, Small fancy toiletries.

If you would like to be part of this, please let us have the items by the end of November.

Of course distribution of our regular packs continues, and we really do appreciate the generosity shown by so many of you. Currently we have adequate stocks of beans, soup and pasta, but other non-perishable food items as well as toiletries and household items are very welcome.

We can't use items that are homemade, out of date or in opened packets.

Thank you all again for your amazing and continuing generosity.

Heather & Paul Wagstaff 01242228481

Hamper Scamper 2017

Once again The Minster and St Matthew will be participating in this very worthwhile project to support needy individuals, couples and families with food hampers over the Christmas period. Support for this can be on an individual basis or through your small group. Further details will be given next week. Collection will begin from **Sunday 19th November**. Do please contact Stephen Ayland for further information.

Christmas Choir

We would again love to form a choir for the Carols by Candlelight Service at St Matthew's on **December 17th** and would like to invite anyone who would like to join us to come along. Rehearsals will be for an hour from **7.30pm** on Friday evenings in St Matthew's starting on **Friday 17th November**. (The final rehearsal on **15th December** will be in the Minster). You don't need any previous experience, bring your voice and we'll supply both music and training. If you'd like to talk before giving it a go, please contact Paul Collacott (01242 242245 or paulcollacott@supanet.com).



Money Matters

Issue 7

A quarter of Church of England services do not have a single child in the congregation. The average sized Anglican Church has only three children attending each week. Nationally there has been a decline of 13% in the number of adults attending on a Sunday over the last decade. The number of children attending has fallen by 22%. An increasing number of children have no knowledge of or access to the good news. Some might ask what we are doing about all this.

At STMSTM we have long been committed to work with children and young people, with less Christian input through the National Curriculum this is ever more important. We hope to bring up the children of our own congregation with an active faith but also recognise our responsibilities to children in our parish and within our town. To this end we have a part time Children's Minister (Jayne) and full time Youth Minister (Annie). Both are aided by a large group of helpers. Just over 13% of our annual costs are specifically allocated to this work.

At the Ten O'clock service there is a Creche for the very youngest, Sunday Club groups up to the 11 year olds, and Ignite for secondary school age young people. The October Holiday Club (held over three days) and Celebration service, the Awesome Roadshow Saturday spin-off, the Light Party, Craft Afternoons and the All-Age Summer Series have yet again proved excellent opportunities for encouraging our own children in their faith as well as bringing Jesus to their friends. These well supported regular events allow us to develop stronger relationships with St. Matt's children and are deliberately positioned in the yearly calendar so that we can deepen our links with friends we would otherwise only see occasionally. Through Holiday Club we reached 61 children & young people, of whom 38 have no church connections.

The Bright Lights Toddler Group continues to thrive providing support for young families but also the opportunity to share Jesus. This is done through the events at Christmas, Harvest and Mothering Sunday as well as through individual conversations. Increased numbers of Bright Lights' families came to Minster Merriment, the Nativity Service, the Crib Service and Harvest. Older children regularly come to Holiday Club (13 this year) and to Awesome Roadshows which is so exciting.

'Pre-school Praise' is held on a Thursday morning twice a month. Through twenty minutes of songs, Bible stories, prayer and craft we intend to encourage our youngest ones and their families to know Jesus and trust in him as their Saviour and friend. Our desire is that these babies and toddlers also take their place as full members of the church community and so we are actively creating links with the Ten O'clock and Sparklers Sunday Club Group. Our long-term aim is that those adults who do not yet know Jesus will want to find out about him for themselves and, either link in to the existing 'Thursday Morning Small Group with Crèche', or in to an explorer style group which could be held at the same time.

For young people in secondary school upwards, groups during the week become important for discipleship and building relationships. The Youth Small Group (for 14-18 year olds) meets every Wednesday to read the Bible, worship and pray together. Soul Survivor is a huge boost for the youth every year, especially for this older group, and in the small group they work out what it means to follow Jesus in their everyday lives, as well as the mountain-top moments like camp. This older group mainly come to the 6.30 service, and they serve by setting up once a month. Two of our young people are also now involved with organising Revive, a quarterly worship event run by youth for youth across Gloucestershire.

'Ignite Friday' (for 11-14 year olds) is the weekly youth club with different activities each week. Young people bring their friends, build relationships and have a great time together. There is a 'Movie Moment' each week (short film clip, truth about God and prayer) which introduces discussion about God, with the hope of leading young people into deeper conversations, and making a transition to church easier. 'Ignite Sunday' is the youth group during the Ten O'clock service, for all secondary aged young people, where they play games, go deeper into God's word and pray for each other, growing into confident disciples who can tell their friends about Jesus. 22 young people (of whom 13 aren't regular church members) came to 'The Grid', which ran for 3 days and one all-night as part of the Holiday Club. Some of the older young people also helped with Awesome.

Summer camps are a big part of the summer, with CPAS Ventures available for all ages of young people, serving opportunities for young people on CPAS Falcons, and Soul Survivor Christian festival for a great experience of worship, teaching, fun and camping together. These camps give the youth a real boost in faith as they meet with other young Christians and experience living in a Christian community for an intense week of teaching, worship and fun.

Outside the church walls, Annie mentors 4 girls at All Saints Academy, works with Youth for Christ Gloucestershire supporting Christian Unions at Bournside and Pittville schools, and partners with The Rock through mentoring and sessional work such as day retreats and teambuilding with school groups.

Many of our young people who grow up through our Childrens and Youth Ministry go on to Christian service in its many forms. This month Katie Smith moves to Oxford as a Children and Families worker, having spent a year as an intern with us and a year before that working in Uganda.

Many thanks to everyone who works tirelessly in support of the Children's and Youth Ministry whether it is leading a group, accepting a 'Messy challenge' at Holiday Club, making coffee, helping with transport, holding a baby in crèche, greeting a child with a smile, joining in with action songs, or whether it is praying for and encouraging us all in the work. To enable children and families to meet Jesus is to be a part of changing lives for eternity. It is one of the best things we will ever do!

Hopefully we can all see that we are playing some part as a church within the church itself and within the wider community but we cannot be complacent. For most of us this will be providing resources through our regular planned giving and our prayer support.

Ian Perry

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If you don't receive our regular weekly e-newsletter, do let the Church Office have your email address - office@stmstm.org.uk or 01242 519520.

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Deadline for inclusion in the following week's Notice Sheet is 9am on Tuesday