

Sunday 10th March

The Ten O'clock at St Matthew's *Please join us for breakfast before the service*

'Father, forgive them'

Luke 23:26-34

Preacher: Richard Coombs

11am at Cheltenham Minster

'Father, forgive them'

Luke 23:26-34

Preacher: Clare Dyson

6.30pm at St Matthew's

Sent on Mission

Matthew 10:1-20

Preacher: John Harvey

Sunday 17th March

The Ten O'clock at St Matthew's

'Today you will be with
me in Paradise'

Luke 23:35-43

Preacher: Richard Coombs

11am at Cheltenham Minster

'Today you will be with
me in Paradise'

Luke 23:35-43

Preacher: Diane Bruckland

6.30pm at St Matthew's

The Suffering Servant

Isaiah 52:13-15

Preacher: Patrick Wheaton

The First Sunday of Lent

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

This Week

Everyone is invited to join us for Daily Prayers in the Minster at **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
	14.30	Pastoral Visitors' Team Meeting - St. Matthew's
11th March	20.00	Church Prayer Meeting - St. Matthew's
Tuesday	10.00	U3A New Members' Meeting - St. Matthew's
12th March	10.30	Barnabas Group - St. Matthew's
	10.30	Prayer for Street Pastors - St. Matthew's
	12.30	Staff Bible study and meeting - Rectory
Wednesday	10.15	U3A Art Group - St. Matthew's
13th March	12.30	Midweek Communion - The Minster
	19:30	Youth Small Group (Yrs 10-13) Annie & Simon's
Thursday	09.30	Preschool Praise - St Matthew's
14th March	10.15	Bible Study with creche - St Matthew's
	10:30	CAMEO - St Matthew's
	19:15	Central Small Groups' Meal - St Matthew's
	19:30	Bell ringers' Practice - The Minster
	20:00	Central Small Groups - St Matthew's
	20.00	Christianity Explored - St Matthew's
Friday	19:00	Ignite (Yrs 7-9) - St Matthew's
15th March	19:45	Music group practice - St. Matthew's
		All singers and musicians welcome
	20:00	Friday Fun Club (Yrs 10-13) - St Matthew's
Sunday	14.30	Minster Singers Rehearsal - The Minster

Calling all men! We're hoping to start an activity-based men's get together, maybe running, a leisurely walk/ramble, golf, gaming etc. rounded off, of course, by a bacon sandwich and coffee (or beer?) at a local café/pub on a Saturday late-morning, frequency to be decided. The initial idea is each group would do their activity and then all meet for food and fellowship. So, if you'd be willing to organise a run, walk, or game of golf, or whatever else with like-minded men, please email your suggestions to me mikemilburn@btinternet.com I will do the coordination.

From Richard Making the most of Lent

Most people think of Lent (the forty days leading up to Easter) as a time of giving up things that are bad for us, such as cigarettes, cocktails and chocolates, to make us more holy. There are two problems with this approach. First, there is nothing in the Bible which says that we should give up certain foods or drinks to make us holy. In fact, Colossians 2:20-23 says the opposite - such self-imposed rules, 'lack any value in restraining sensual indulgence.' We might want to give up drinking and smoking because they are bad for us but it won't make us more holy! And secondly, there is a great danger of pride (which really is sinful) if we manage to last forty days without a drink or a fag. This is not to say that there isn't a good, Biblical reason for fasting, especially if it helps us to pray. So how can we make the most of Lent? I suggest that we take something on rather than giving something up. On Sunday we will be reviewing a short book called **'Spiritual Healthcheck'** and it will be on sale for just £1. It has 16 short chapters (only three pages each) covering different aspects of the Christian life, e.g. love, gratitude, godliness, prayer, creation, suffering, gifts. There is a short Bible reading, some very thought provoking comments and a prayer. It will help us to assess how we are doing in our Christian lives and excite us about how God wants us to grow and thrive as Christians. I hope this will be a much more positive approach to Lent. Let me know how you get on with it.

If you need to contact Richard for any reason, his e-mail address is richardcoombs@stmstm.org.uk and phone number, 01242 703154

Our next **Church Prayer Meeting** is tomorrow **Mon 11th March at 8pm** at St Matt's. Come and pray for our church and town. Everyone welcome.

Barnabas Group next meets **Tues 12th March** St Matthew's 10.30am, for a talk from The Revd Louise Brown entitled 'God and Sport'. For more info contact David & Margaret Towers 01242 693121 or email dg.towers@yahoo.co.uk

Parish Easter Mailing if you are able to help with this we will gather at St. Matthew's at 10.30 **this Saturday 16th March** and after prayer go out in 2/3s to deliver an Easter card to all people who live in our Parish with details of all our activities. We had a good time doing this at Christmas and then a number of us met afterwards for coffee. All ages welcome.

Upcoming Events

Sun 31st March Mothering Sunday All - Age Service St. Matt's 10.00am
and a **Service** for those who find this a difficult time The Minster 11.00am
Sun 7th April Church Annual Meeting 12.30 with Bring and Share Lunch
Sat 13th April Easter Activity Morning for Preschoolers St. Matt's 10.00
Sun 14th April Awesome Easter Craft Afternoon (Rec-Yr 6) St. Matt's 2.30
Thurs 18th April Maundy Thursday Communion Service The Minster 6pm
Church Family Meal with informal Communion St. Matt's 7.30pm
- details to follow

Sunday Parking for The Minster We hope soon to have access to the car park immediately behind the library for use on Sunday mornings. If you would like to use this, please contact Tony Neville at the Minster for details.

Gabrielle Fielder died at home on Feb 22nd. Many of you will remember Gabrielle and how she lived so admirably with many physical disabilities. While saddened she is no longer with us we can be glad she is now at peace and free from pain. There will be a service of remembrance and thanksgiving for Gabrielle's life on **Monday 25th March at 2pm** in **Cambray Baptist Church**. Family and close friends are invited to a service at the crematorium on the same day at 10.30am.

Church Electoral Roll A new roll is required this year. If you wish to be on this please fill in one of the yellow forms and either give to a Warden or place in the box in St. Matthew's Reception area by **17th March**. This is our formal membership list and allows you to vote at the Annual Meeting.

Easter Orchestra We are hoping to have a small orchestra or big band for 10.00 Easter Day 21st April. All comers welcome and no auditions!
If you play an instrument or would like to sing in the group then please contact Ian Perry 07774 726665, ian@irperry.co.uk

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