

Sunday 19th May

The Ten O'clock at St Matthew's

The Leadership Crisis 1 Samuel 1:1-20 Preacher: Gareth Griffith

11am at Cheltenham Minster

The Leadership Crisis 1 Samuel 1:1-20 Preacher: Clare Dyson

6.30pm at St Matthew's

A sting in the tale Matthew 25: 1-13 Preacher: Richard Coombs

Sunday 26th May

The Ten O'clock at St Matthew's

God's leader 1 Samuel 3:1-21 Preacher: Richard Coombs

11am at Cheltenham Minster

God's leader 1 Samuel 3:1-21 Preacher: Robert Sutton

6.30pm at St Matthew's

A sting in the tale Matthew 25: 14-30 Preacher: Patrick Wheaton

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Risen Christ, your wounds declare your love for the world and the wonder of your risen life: give us compassion and courage to risk ourselves for those we serve, to the glory of God the Father. 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
20th May	12.30	U3A Leaders' Meeting - St. Matthew's
	19.15	PCC Prayers - St. Matthew's
	19.45	PCC Meeting - St. Matthew's
Tuesday	12.30	Staff Bible Study and meeting - Rectory
21st May		
Wednesday	12.30	Midweek Communion - The Minster
22nd May	14.00	Prayer Working Group - St. Matthew's
	19.00	Prayer for Cheltenham - St. Matthew's
	19.30	Rusty Musicians - St. Matthew's
	19:30	Youth Small Group (Yrs 10-13) Annie & Simon's
Thursday	09.30	Preschool Praise - St. Matthew's
23rd May	10.15	Bible Study with creche - St Matthew's
	10:30	CAMEO - St Matthew's
	15.00	Prayer Ministry Team - St Matthew's
	19:30	Bell ringers' Practice - The Minster
	20.00	Parents' Cheese and Wine - St Matthew's
Friday	10.00	Friday Small Group - St Matthew's
24th May	19:00	Ignite (Yrs 7-9) - St Matthew's
	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
26th May		

Cheltenham Prayer for Schools Network Summer

Celebration Monday 20th May 7.45 St. Edward's Senior School.

Includes worship, thanksgiving testimonies, and prayer for our own schools as well as wider educational concerns, followed by puddings! Everyone welcome: school staff, parents and anyone with a heart for our schools.

From Richard

At the prayer meeting on Monday, we thought about how when Jesus ascended to heaven he poured out gifts on his church: '... He gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists and some to be pastors and teachers' (Ephesians 4:11). We thought about how these ministries are essential if we are to be 'passionate about Jesus' and grow in our discipleship, worship, mission and community life. We gave thanks and prayed for the great team of pastors and teachers that we have: Clare looking after the Minister and our pastoral care; Jayne leading our children's work; Annie, the young people and, from September, Simon pastoring and teaching our 18-30s.

We also talked and prayed about how we fund their ministry. For many years The Minster and St Matts have been blessed with large legacies that have subsidised ministry costs, but these funds are almost completely exhausted. So, from now on we are going to have to fund our pastors and teachers fully¹. To do that, we are going to have to increase our overall income by about 15% per year. We also need to raise a capital sum to refurbish the kitchen at St Matthew's which plays such an essential role in so many of our ministries. We are therefore planning three gift Sundays on June 16th, 23rd and 30th. I will be preaching at all three services on each Sunday to teach about Christian giving and to explain the church's financial needs much more fully than I can here. Please would you begin praying and thinking about how God is calling you respond to this need and that he would make us all generous givers who give sacrificially because Jesus gave so much to us and we are 'passionate about Jesus'.

1. The Rector is paid by the diocese via the parish share, a contribution that we make to the diocese which also funds poorer churches that cannot fully support their Rector/Vicar.

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

The **Lost Property** box in St. Matthew's is overflowing again. Please reclaim your items otherwise they will eventually go to the charity shop.

Upcoming Events

- Thurs 23rd May** Parents' Cheese and Wine Evening St Matt's 8 –9.30pm
Thurs 30th May Ascension Day Communion Service The Minster 7.30pm
Sun 2nd June Church Picnic Pittville Park 12.30pm
Sat 29th June Families, Youth/Children's Trip West Midlands Safari Park
Sat 13th July Summer Merriment The Minster 2.00 - 6.00pm

'Summer Merriment' Summer is coming and so we're planning a great church event for **Saturday 13th July** 2-6pm for outreach and fun and all things summery ... and calling it 'Summer Merriment'.

Think summer version of the wonderful Christmas Minster Merriment! There'll be a BBQ, steel drum band, football cage, bouncy castle, ice-cream van, strawberries and Pimms and a great Minster Singers' concert to round things off plus the invitation to come and hear more about Jesus. So put the date in your diaries and please let Annie or the office know if you can help. We need volunteers for all sorts of things e.g. setting up, welcoming, serving food, delivering leaflets, and clearing away.

Jazz Concert at the Minster sat 15th June at 11am-12noon by Cheltenham based 'Triple Sec Septet'. Traditional and contemporary jazz selections. Light refreshments afterwards. Retiring Collection.

New Series at 10.00 and 11.00 As we look at the lives of Samuel, Saul and David in 1 Samuel we will see Israel searching for someone who will lead them. That's a quest that we are all on, but we will only find our true leader if we see how those Old Testament leaders all point us to Jesus, the leader who will lead us through this life and into eternity.

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