



St Matthews Messenger

February 2012

OPEN TO GOD..... OPEN TO ALL.....

Well here we are 2012. A very Happy New Year to all .

First of all an apology that there was no January Magazine. In hindsight we should have made the December issue a double. Anyway, belatedly, New Year greetings.

Christmas at St Matthew's was truly delightful. Through Advent we were quiet and prayerful, then we had Messy Church week with children and adults gluing, glittering and cutting donkey's, angels, bells, and stars to decorate the church. Glitter will I fear still be in evidence for a long time to come. Don't children just love the stuff. Once the decorations were in place and people had arranged flowers, the church looked wonderful. An even greater wonder was that during the run up to Christmas over 600 children from the Parish visited the church.

Candlemass on the 2nd February sees the end of Epiphany season and we have a few weeks of Ordinary Time before we enter Lent!! First Sunday in Lent is the 26th February. Where, oh where is the year going . **Please listen or look out for notices about Lent courses in the Deanery and sign up for one if you are able.** Please, also try and come along to our Lent lunches on Saturdays throughout Lent . Cost is be £3.00 and the proceeds will go to the Bishop's Lent Appeal.

Parish CONTACTS:-

Parish Office: 01329 822487 office@stmatthewsbridgemaury.org.uk
this is the main contact for booking Baptisms, Wedding Banns etc.

Priests: Rev'd Sue West 07786 662716 & parish office
vicar@stmatthewsbridgemaury.org.uk

Reader: Corinne Pattinson 07590 257930
reader@stmatthewsbridgemaury.org.uk

Churchwardens: Pat Goater 01329 234156
Jeal Curtis 01329 480245
churchwarden@stmatthewsbridgemaury.org.uk

Hall Bookings: Pat Goater 01329 234156

Magazine: Rev'd Sue West contact at the Parish Office



Candlemass

The 2nd February is Candlemas Day. Its origins go back to ancient times when as a festival it marked the midpoint of winter, halfway between the shortest day and the spring equinox. In ancient times

It was said that the Christmas season lasted for forty days - until the 2nd of February.

How did 2nd February become known as Candlemas?

It was the day of the year when all the candles that were to be used in church during the coming year were brought into church and a blessing was said over them—so it was the

Festival Day (or mass) of the Candles.

Candles were, and still are an important source of light , especially when the electric fails!!

For Christians candles are a reminder of something far more important .

The light reminds us that Jesus came with His message of truth and love—

a guiding light to all who walk in darkness.

Planned Giving Envelopes—2012

If you do not already donate regularly under the Planned Giving Scheme and wish to help St Matthew's Church to continue to survive financially in the next year please consider a weekly donation (no matter how small) by 'planned giving' in a sealed and confidential envelope—and there's a bonus to the church too if you are a tax-payer. We can reclaim the tax you've already paid in contributions, through the Gift Aid scheme. In other words, your contributions will be worth 20% more than the cash you actually donate. SIMPLES!!

Please speak to either our treasurer George or the Churchwardens for more details.



“To live is to change, and to become perfect is to have changed a lot” John Henry Newman

What is Messy Church?

Messy Church is church for families who, for whatever reason, find it difficult to come to church on a Sunday. A typical session would include arts and crafts celebration and food. Messy Church may meet once a month at a time suitable to the local area.

Here at St Matthew's we try a similar approach, however, not meeting on a regular basis but holding Messy Church sessions At Easter and Christmas. The format they take are, four or five morning sessions of an hour and fifteen minutes. The children come accompanied by an adult and take part in various craft activities. There is a 'God slot' when they hear a story and learn a song. And they have a drink and a biscuit. The aim of the sessions is to encourage the children and adults to use their artistic skills to decorate the church for a special service i.e Easter and Christmas and by doing so feel as if they are part of St Matthew's worshipping community.

Watch for information on the next Messy Church event during Holy Week and if you feel able please come and help. We won't have glitter but there will be plenty of colouring, cutting, gluing and sticking to be done. Come and let your creative inner being loose!!!

Morning Prayer Mon-Sat 8:30am

a wonderful way to start the day with some time in bible reading and prayer, joining with the whole church of God offering the day and its work to God.

If you are on the move try

www.pray-as-you-go.org for daily prayer and meditations. Great for an iPod or MP3 player



An Obituary
as printed in the London Times—slightly adapted and abridged

Today we mourn the passing of a beloved old friend, COMMON SENSE, Who has been with us for many years. No one knows for sure how old CS was, since the birth records were long ago lost in bureaucratic red tape.

CS will be remembered as having cultivated such valuable lessons as:

- knowing when to come out of the rain
- Why the early bird gets the worm
- Life isn't always fair
- And maybe it was my fault.

CS lived by simple, sound financial policies (don't spend more than you earn) and reliable strategies (adults, not children, in charge).

CS's health began to deteriorate rapidly when well-intentioned but overbearing regulations were set in place. For example; teenagers suspended from school for using mouthwash after lunch.

CS lost ground when parents criticized and condemned teachers for disciplining unruly children.

CS's health declined even further when schools were required to get parental consent to administer sun tan lotion or and aspirin to a student.

CS lost the will to live as churches became businesses, and criminals received better treatment than their victims.

CS took a beating when you couldn't defend yourself from a burglar in your own home but the burglar could sue you for assault.

CS finally gave up the will to live when it was reported that a woman failed to realize that a steaming cup of coffee was HOT! She spilled a little on her lap , and was promptly awarded a huge settlement.

CS was preceded in death by, parents, Truth and Trust, partner Discretion, daughter Responsibility and son Reason.

CS is survived by 4 Step-brothers;

I know my rights, I want it now, Someone else is to blame and I'm a victim.

Not many attended the funeral because so few realized that CS was gone.

This item was submitted by Sally James—apologies to Sally for not getting into the magazine sooner

An Inclusive Church. St Matthews Church is a signed up member of the Inclusive Church Network across Briatin. Celebrating and including women, lesbian, gay and bisexual people and people from all racial backgrounds.

Jesus included—we include too!





Wanted

Volunteers who can offer an hour of their time to come in and help clean the church.

Are you are willing to become part of a team of
'Holy Dusters' ?

Would you be available during the following days and times?

Once a Fortnight	Once every four weeks	Once every six weeks
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On a Tuesday 10.30am —11.30am or Saturday 10.30am—11.30am
Please speak to Sue if you feel you can help.



Magazine distribution

We are now printing just 50 copies of the magazine each month. So that we get the widest possible distribution it would be very useful if people could take an extra magazine and give it to a neighbour or friend.



PRAYER REQUESTS: reminder send your prayer requests to the Parish office office@stmatthewsbridgemary.org.uk to have them included in the daily prayers at St Matthews. Please say if you want people included in the Sunday intercessions too.

Worship this month...



- 5th February** 8.30am BCP Holy Communion Septuagesima
10.00am Parish Eucharist 3rd Sunday before Lent
Followed by refreshments
- 7th February** 9.15am Holy Communion Requiem
Followed by refreshments
- 11th February** 8.30am—3.30pm Indian Orthodox Church
- 12th February** 8.30am BCP Holy Communion Sexagesima
10.00am Parish Eucharist 2nd Sunday before Lent
Followed by refreshments
- 14th February** 9.15am Holy Communion Our Lady of Walsingham
Followed by refreshments
- 19th February** 8.30am BCP Holy Communion Quinquagesima
10.00am Parish Eucharist Sunday next before Lent
Followed by refreshments
- 21st February** 9.15am Holy Communion Feria
- 22nd February** 7.00pm Imposition of Ashes
- 24th February 7.00pm Stations of the Cross
- 26th February** 8.30am BCP Holy Communion 1st Sunday of Lent
10.00am Parish Eucharist 1st Sunday of Lent
- 28th February** 9.15am Holy Communion at the Methodist Church

Lent Lunches



Don't forget the Lent Lunches to be held on the following Saturday's ;

Saturday 25th February
Saturday 3rd March
Saturday 17th March
Saturday 24th March
Saturday 31st March

Come and enjoy a warming bowl of soup and bread and good company. Cost £3.00



Ministry for Mission prayer

Lord God,
whose purpose is to make all things new in Jesus,
help us by your Holy Spirit to use the gifts you give us
to share your love, today and every day.
Amen.

Bishop Christopher's second DVD to the Diocese may be borrowed from St Matthews please see the list in the foyer for borrowing the DVD.

Social Events.....

Saturday 25th February 7.00pm Quiz Night with Bring and Share Supper
Cost £3.00

Saturday 17th March 8am-2pm Car Boot Sale £5.00 per vehicle. Tea & Coffee available.

Saturday 24th March 10.00-12noon
First 'Holy Dusters' Clean Bacon Butties for the Workers (see article in magazine for more info)

Sunday lunches: Sunday lunches resume this month with a pub lunch—venue to be decided.

ITEMS FOR THIS MAGAZINE

Items to be included in the next issue should reach the editor by Wednesday 15th February office@stmatthewsbridgemy.org.uk. If you can't email material make sure you give it to Sue the Sunday before.

DEANERY EVENTS

Forward planning for your diaries:

Saturday 31st March Deanery Quiet Morning at Rowner
9.30am—12 noon lead by Fr Martin Lane

See separate notices for Lent Courses

Please attend and represent St Matthews at these deanery events—ask for a lift or look out for lists in the foyer.



All shall be well,, and all shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well.

Julian of Norwich