St Matthew's Newsletter 29th November 2026

Message from the Vicar

Dear friends,

The Church of England teaches that there are three main sources of authority to help us understand our Christian faith: Scripture, Reason, and Tradition. To some, Tradition can be seen as an unhelpful distraction which takes our attention away from the Bible. However, as Anglo-Catholics we would emphasise that Tradition actually enriches our understanding of Scripture rather than detracting from it.

When we talk about Tradition in this context, we are not simply referring to particular church traditions such as the rituals and ceremonies of our worship, but to the living faith of the Church as it has been handed down from one generation of Christians to the next. This includes the teachings of the great saints and theologians, the decisions of the early Church Councils, the development of our creeds, doctrines, and liturgies, and even the compilation of the Bible itself.

Scripture and Tradition are not separate from one another – they belong together. For whilst Scripture is the inspired Word of God, it was the Church which preserved, translated, and compiled these texts into the anthology which we now recognise as the Bible. Likewise, we understand the Bible better when we learn how it has been interpreted throughout history. Tradition helps us to read Scripture more faithfully, and Scripture ensures that the Tradition of the Church remains rooted in the person of Jesus.

It is important to distinguish Tradition from 'traditionalism'. A respect for Tradition does not mean that the Church cannot develop and grow, that we must remain stuck in the past, or that we should ignore scientific insights. In the words of a famous saying, 'Tradition is not the worship of ashes, but the preservation of fire'. Here at St Matthew's, we seek to keep the fire of faith burning, so that we can hand this bright torch on to the next generation.

With my prayers,

Father George

This week's Services

Sunday 29th November - Advent Sunday–10 am Parish Mass and Sunday School. All are welcome to tea, coffee and biscuits in the

lounge after the service

This service will be conducted by the Revd Canon Douglas Machiridza

Monday

1:30 pm to 3:30 pm Bereavement & Friendship Group

Tuesday

7:30 pm Phone-in Service

Wednesday

4:30 pm: Group Evening Prayer

7 pm: Mass in the Chapel

Thursday

9:15am Morning Prayer

10 am Mass in the Chapel

Friday

9:15am Morning Prayer

10 am Mass in the Chapel

11 am. Coffee morning

Saturday 5th Decemeber

11 am. St. Matthew's Christmas Fair

Sunday 6th December – The Second Sunday of Advent

10am: Parish Mass and Sunday School, All are welcome to tea, coffee and biscuits in the lounge after the service

4.30pm: Blue Christmas Memorial Service (in partnership with Lilies Funeral Directors), remembering those we miss at Christmas

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Dates for your Diary

Friday Coffee Mornings

All are welcome for Coffee/Tea and Cake in The Lounge. Every Friday 11am – 1pm

Berevement and Friendship Group

If you've suffered a bereavement or are feeling isolated and lonely come and meet others who know how you are feeling. Every Monday, 1:30 to 3:30 pm in The Lounge.

Book Club.

The next meeting of the Book Club is on Wednesday 2nd December. The book for November is Needless Alley by Natalie Marlow. If you love reading and would like to join us over a cup of tea/coffee you are warmly invited to our next meeting.

Guest Preachers

We are delighted to be welcoming a series of guest preachers at our 10am Parish mass during the season of Autumn and Advent. For further details see notices in church or the Web Site.

From 25th October-6th December, Fr Sam Rigby will be serving a placement in the Diocese of Birmingham, working in several churches including St Matthew's. Fr Sam is currently Assistant Curate in the Wenlock Team Ministry in the Diocese of Hereford. He will be with us most Fridays, and will be preaching one Sunday during this time. We look forward to welcoming him here.

Saturday 5th December From 11am to 2pm, St. Matthews Christmas Fair.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Sunday 6th December – 4:30 pm Blue Christmas - A service of Remembrance.

Tuesday 15th December – 6:30 pm Carol singing in the Drakes Drum, with the Community Choir.

Sunday 20th December – 3 pm Carol Service, with Music from Great Barr Brass.

Christmas Eve

4 pm - Crib Service
11:30 pm – Midnight Mass

Christmas Day

10 am – All Age Mass

NOTICES

A reminder that we welcome contributions towards the cost of flowers, perhaps in memory of a loved one. Please place any donations in the pot on the table.

Contributions of food for the **FOODBANK** are always welcome. Please give as generously as you can and place any items in the basket by the door.

Our church relies on the generosity of visitors and worshippers. If you would like to contribute to the ministry and mission of St Matthew's but don't have any cash, there is a contactless card reader on the table by the front door.

Please put your request for prayers during the intercessions on the sheet on the table.

If you could offer a lift to someone to Church, please let us know.

We are buying a memorial stone to commemorate Fr Michael Westlake's time at St. Matthew's. Contribution towards the cost of this would be gratefully received

Scripture Readings for This Week

Sunday 29th November Advent Sunday

	Mark 13.24–end
Monday 30th Nov	Matthew 4.18–22
Tuesday 1st Dec	Luke 10.21–24
Wednesday 2nd Dec	Matthew 15.29–37
Thursday 3rd Dec	Matthew 7.21, 24–27
Friday 4th Dec	Matthew 9.27–31
Saturday 5th Dec	Matthew 9.35—10.1, 6–8

A Collect for Sunday 29th November

Almighty God,
as your kingdom dawns,
turn us from the darkness of sin to the light of holiness,
that we may be ready to meet you
in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

St. Matthew's Prayer List,

Please Pray for The Sick and Those in Need:

Please contact Margaret Cox if you would like to add anyone to our prayer list.

Sat: Barbara Linley, Andrew & Gail Walker, John Hope, Barbara Hayward
Mon: Fr Barry Smart, Revd Frank and Margaret Finch, Bali Dhugga, John Duncombe**,** Pam Millard
Tue: Jayne Middleton, Loretta Charles, Bernadette O'Sullivan, Lorna Wild, Barrie Greenwood, Rachel & Fay.
Wed: Shirley Woodley, Eileen Eveson, Jean Hayes, Irene Roberts
Thu: Dai & Lal Gravell, Shirley and Ray Hollins, Mark Hawkins Ann Edwards, Roger Furnell, Helen Haig
Fri: David & Anne Gadd, Barbara Dring, Sue & Tony Kyte, Henry Cole

ST MATTHEW'S
PERRY BEECHES