



Parish of St Matthew, Surbiton

In the Tolworth Hook & Surbiton Team Ministry

29th December 2024

First Sunday of Christmas

*Bible readings Colossians 3:12-17 (page 1184)
& Luke 2:41-52 (page 1029)*



10.00am Family Communion with a baptism

Hymns MP393, MP749, MP644, MP179

Our 10.45 service is live-streamed on our [YouTube Channel](#) so your image may be visible on the stream. By attending onsite you are presumed to have consented to our Location Warning Notice which can be found in church or on our website

Collect for First Sunday of Christmas

Almighty God, who wonderfully created us in your own image and yet more wonderfully restored us through your Son Jesus Christ: grant that, as he came to share in our humanity, so we may share the life of his divinity; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Give thanks for answered prayer and please pray for:

Bishop Christopher, Caroline and family, Carolyn, William and Nicholas, THiS Team Ministry. For St. Paul's as they search for a Vicar to fill their vacancy. For Diana Dowson in hospital with a fractured pelvis, Michelle Kapilan, Mary Carter, Julie Martin and her family, Noel & Niluma Tharumanayag request prayers for their dear friend "Amal Rodrigo" taken into ICU in Sri Lanka with a Kidney infection. For Dave Farris, Jackie and family. For Olivia Notwell who is being baptised today.

Diary for the Week – the notice sheet is also on the church website at www.stmatthewskt6.org

Monday	30th	9.00 am	Morning Prayer (said service) in Chapel see notice
Tuesday	31st	9.00 am	Morning Prayer (said service) in Chapel
Wednesday	1st		<u>New Year's Day</u>
		9.00 am	Morning Prayer (said service) in Chapel
Thursday	2nd	10.00am	Smarties Craft Group, 35 Queens Drive
		2.00pm	Wedding in Church
		6.30pm	Choir Practice: Sitzler Room
Friday	3rd	9.00 am	Morning Prayer (said service) in Chapel
Saturday	4th	9.00 am	Morning Prayer (said service) in Chapel
		10.00am	Church Garden Maintenance morning
Sunday	5th	9.00am	Holy Communion
		10.45am	Worship Together for all ages and stages

Weekday Services – There are now services of (said) Morning Prayer on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday at 9.00am, in the Chapel. Please come if you can.

Christian Basics - We will be running a Christian Basics course that will be at **7pm on four Mondays starting January 13th**. This course is suitable for anyone who is new to the Christian Faith and anyone who wants a brush up. It will include teaching on the history and structures of the Church of England, as well as basic doctrine. Adult and teen candidates for Baptism should plan to attend each session, either in person or on Zoom. Anyone else can drop in as you wish.

For Safeguarding Issues - contact Sue Fraser on 07510425619 or speak to someone in person, speak to her or any of our Wardens or Clergy.

KCAH- To donate please visit: <https://www.kcah.org.uk/can-you-help-us/donate-money/>

They would also like- Brand-new boxer shorts, M/L size Brand-new socks, Sleeping bags (new or good-as), Tracksuits M/L (mainly men's) Warm Jackets and coats (decent condition and clean) Some of the above for women

KCAH will aim to open the Winter Night Shelter from the 6th January 2025.

“We need volunteers to get involved to ensure we can provide the safe space for those that need it – [you can sign up here](#). If you are not in a position to sign up, please support us by sharing this ask far and wide. We are also recruiting additional paid staff, if you or someone you know would like to apply please see our website for more details. Running for 3 months, we will offer a place of sanctuary, safety and warmth for those who may otherwise have to rough sleep. This winter we are offering space for up to 30 people, twice as many as last year and a direct response to the demand. To enable this we have been fortunate to have support from the Local Authority and a local landlord of a currently disused space in the centre of Kingston. This past year we have seen a record number of new approaches to KCAH, of those that find themselves in a situation beyond their control and face homelessness or significant financial hardship. Sleeping rough and homelessness has become normalised and yet there is nothing normal about being homeless in a modern, wealthy society. Please help us to intervene in the local issue by sharing this email or signing up to volunteer. Thank you.

Thank you for supporting KCAH and thank you for hearing this message and ensuring many people in need will not be adversely impacted this winter”. Georgie

Kingston Foodbank- The box for food etc. donations each week is available at the BACK OF

CHURCH. See list of required items with box: They would also appreciate any money donations via their website: <https://kingston.foodbank.org.uk/> Thank you.

Reflection and Prayer- Want to talk to God but need some inspiration? There are plenty of resources in our Prayer Corner in the North Transept. Take some time between the two Sunday Services to look through the different prayer topics, the books (you may take the books home for further study, as well), and the prayer requests on the board (and add your own, if you like).

“Sing at St Matthew’s” - Directed by Jason Edge. ONCE-A-MONTH (no strings attached!) No commitment or subscription (come when you please) 120 minutes of pure singing joy! (And cake!) St Matthews Church.

Workshop dates: 9.45am to 12.15pm on: • Sat 18th Jan 2025, • Sat 15th Feb

Please help to spread the word! Tell your friends. The more, the merrier.

For more information and FAQ's, there is a flyer on the notice board at the back of church or contact Jason via email: jason.a.edge+sing@gmail.com

Lent - Lent is a good way off but we need you to be thinking about whether you could help out with a Lent Study group. We will be using Stephen Cottrell's book, Christ in the Wilderness, which looks at a painting by the English artist Stanley Spencer each week. We will need leaders/coordinators and hosts, although you could meet in one of the rooms at Church if not enough people feel able to invite people to their homes. The book is very thin and is discussion based. We encourage all existing housegroups to use it as well so that we can reference it in Worship. If you want to join a group we will sort out days and times later on. The new groups are intended for Lent, not for ever, so if you lead you are making, at most, a six session commitment. Let Caroline or a member of the Discipleship and Ministry team know if you can do this - you have plenty of time to pray about it!

SAVE THE DATE - **St Matthew’s 150th Anniversary Weekend on September 20th and 21st, 2025**, will be a VERY special occasion for our church family. So, mark your calendars now to make sure you can join in the celebrations! More details on the events planned throughout the year are coming soon.

Church Garden Our regular garden maintenance is on the **first Saturday of the month**. There is still plenty of major weeding to do - that's brambles, seedling trees, ivy on walls, ornamental grass and alkanet etc. Our next meeting is next **Saturday 4 January**. Do come to one or the other if you can, and keep St Matthew's looking planned and generally tidy! Sheena will definitely be there between 9.30am and 12 to open the garage for tools etc for the gardeners. Thank you all very much for your interest.



Eco Tips- Dim the lights but not the joy! LED Christmas lights help save energy and money, and candles can be paraffin free.

WhatsApp Prayer Group - There is now a WhatsApp group open to everyone. It reminds us of prayer requests from the Sunday services and any others that we hear about during the week. Please see me for further information or to pass on their mobile number or send a message (Sue O'Hagan) on 07907 184018. Thank you.

Fuel and Ignite Young People's Groups

Our young people's Groups are back 5pm - 6pm at St Matthews. We have switched our regular meeting slot to the LAST Sunday of each month. Ignite will have more of a discussion focus but both groups will continue with a mixture of games and faith teaching and reflection. In terms of ages: those in years 6,7 and 8 will come to Fuel and years 11,12 and 13 Ignite. Young people in years 9 and 10 can choose - they don't have to join the same group each time. If you know of a young person in years 6-13 who might like to join us please email: beckywhiting38@gmail.com

Week for Christian Unity

Unity and Solidarity with Palestinian Christians- what are they asking of us?

We warmly invite you to join us for a webinar during the Week for Christian Unity on **Tuesday 21 January 8-8-45pm online**. With guest speaker Charlotte Marshall, Director of Sabeel-Kairos, a Christian charity working for human rights, justice and equality for Palestinians, in solidarity with the Christian community in the Holy Land. RSVP to claire@ctslondon.org.uk.

Holocaust Memorial Day Commemoration 2025

Join Kingston Faith & Belief Forum and the community to commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day 2025 on **Sunday 26 January at Glenmore House Glenmore House, 6 The Crescent, Surbiton, Surrey KT6 4BN from 1.30 - 4pm**. Please join us in marking Holocaust Memorial Day 2025. This is an important inter faith and community event that provides an opportunity to learn the lessons of the past, honour the experiences of people affected by the Holocaust and genocide, and challenge ourselves to work for a safer and fairer future. 'For a better future' is the theme for Holocaust Memorial Day 2025 which marks the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi concentration camp complex, and the 30th anniversary of the genocide in Bosnia. Our Holocaust Memorial Day event will address sensitive and historical themes. Viewer discretion is advised as it may evoke strong emotions and reflections on atrocities of the past. **Refreshments will be served. Tickets are free but you must register attendance** [Book your free HMD tickets on Eventbrite](#) or contact Marina Payen on marina.payen@kingston.gov.uk Marina Payen (She/Her) Strategy & Partnerships Inclusion Lead, Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames`

Church Notices- If you have any notices for the next weekly sheet, please contact Jennie or Jeff Akerman on jakerman28@btinternet.com or 8399 2549 or mob. 07519 514194, **by Thursday please**.

Website: www.stmatthewskt6.org **email address:** admin@stmatthewskt6.org
Parish Office no. 020 8390 5121. Our Parish Administrator, Steve Blevins is working the usual hours Mon, Tues and Thurs 9am -1pm. (except Christmas and New Year) To speak to a member of the clergy, please contact Rev Caroline Kramer on teamrector@stmatthewskt6.org mbl: 07707 785721 or Rev. Carolyn Lucas on carolynlucas@gmail.com mbl. 07933 022516