

# Parish Magazine

£1



April/ May 2021

Chichester Road, Croydon

[www.stmatthew.org.uk](http://www.stmatthew.org.uk)

Registered Charity No: 1132508

## **Services at St Matthew's**

**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday**

**8.30 am Eucharist (Said)**

**All other Sundays**

**10.00 am Parish Eucharist**

**Tuesdays**

**9.00am Zoom Morning Prayer**

**Meeting ID: 970 706 9858**

**Passcode: stmatts**

**1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday**

**10.00 am Holy Communion (Said)**

**Please Note:**

**Until further notice the 10.00am Services will be via our  
You Tube Channel and our website**

**Baptisms, Weddings and Banns of Marriage**

**By arrangement with the Vicar**

***St Matthew's Vision***  
***'Sharing the Love of God'.***

## The Vicar Writes...

Dear Friend,

At first sight, it might seem like utter arrogance for someone to claim that they “know the Lord”. How can any earthbound creature truly know the God of the universe? The answer is because the God of the universe has chosen to make himself known. The whole story of the Bible, from creation to new creation could be summed up in just two



words: Love revealed. The love of God is revealed in the conversation with Adam and Eve in Eden; in the saving of Noah and his family; in the call of Abraham; in Moses and the saving of the people through the divided waters of the Red Sea. In fact wherever we turn in scripture, God is wanting to reveal himself as love. Even - or perhaps especially - when he appears to act in judgement. True love cannot overlook or ignore the reality of sin and disobedience. Love is never sentimental. When God judges - sometimes in what appears to us to be in a very brutal way - he does so in order to keep his people from becoming harmed by the consequences of their sin.

The supreme revelation of love is to be seen in the man Jesus of Nazareth, God's own Son, Emmanuel, God with us. Easter is all about the love of God dealing once and for all with the problem of our sin. When Jesus died on the cross he was willing to take the punishment we deserve. He accepted the righteous judgment of a holy God. Jesus paid the ultimate price so that we can be set free and completely forgiven. Love revealed in the brokenness of Christ's body, and in the shedding of his blood. Love that does not stand at a distance from us, but embraces our pain and suffering and in embracing it, offers hope and healing.

Love always seeks the beloved and in giving of itself longs for love to be returned. Every person is loved by God, who graciously invites us to enter into this love, and receive the gift of grace and mercy. These are not simply words we use at the start of our services, they carry with them the potential and the power to transform our lives. That potential and power is released when we recognise that Jesus died for us because he loves us and desires above all else for us to love him.

The highest expression of our love for God is worship. We should, indeed must, give God our praise, not just for an hour or so on Sundays but all day and every day. When we are able to gather together again in church from Easter Day onwards, then we will be able to express our worship of God in a way we have not been able to do, although very sadly this will not include being able to sing

out loud. Nevertheless praising our God together with his children, should make our hearts rejoice. We worship God who in Jesus Christ comes near to us, and indeed makes our hearts his home. So it is not arrogant to claim that we can know God - even if our knowledge is through a glass, darkly. Because of Jesus' death and rising again, we can enter into an eternal relationship with God, who has revealed himself to be love.

May this knowledge be yours, as together - maybe in person or maybe in our homes - we rejoice in wood, nails and a rolled-away stone.

Happy Easter!

With my love and prayers.

*Simon*

Easter at St Matthew's		
Palm Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> March	10am	Eucharist online
Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> March	8pm	Stations of the Cross on Zoom
Wednesday 31 <sup>st</sup> March	8pm	Music and meditation on Zoom
Maundy Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> April	10.00am	Eucharist online
Good Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April	2 to 3pm	The Last Hour - guided meditation on Zoom
Easter Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup> April	10am	Sung Eucharist in Church
To join our Zoom services please go to our website: <a href="http://stmatthew.org.uk">stmatthew.org.uk</a>		

### Easter Sunday Service in Church

As we can only accommodate 50 people safely. Tickets (free) will be via Eventbrite.

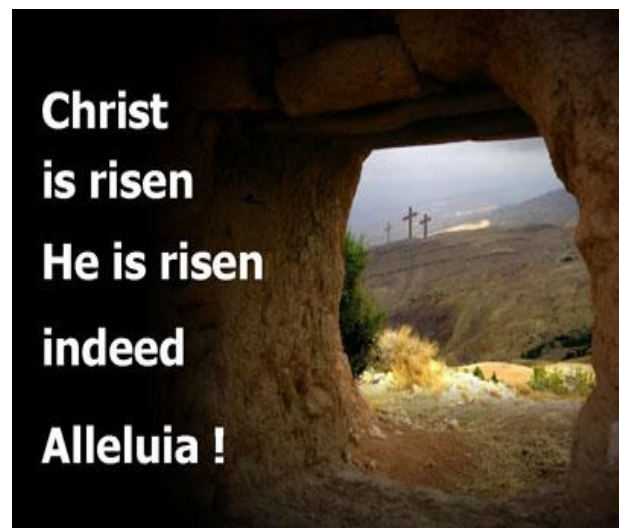
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/easter-sunday-service-4th-april-2021-tickets-147893219601>

## Reflection-The Resurrection Promise

**“The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into the hands of men. They will kill him and after three days he will rise.” (Mark 9 :31)**

Death surrounds us. It is on our TV's and in our newspapers. It has taken family members and friends. It will come to each of us. For all who are crushed by the reality of the Fall, Jesus gives this promise. There is a resurrection. Most religions have some concept of an afterlife, but a man being physically raised from the dead? No one ever made such a claim. Except Jesus. Even His disciples who had seen Him raise Lazarus, a widow's son, and a little girl, were dumfounded. They didn't know what to make of this prediction, because it was beyond the realm of possibility. People die and they are buried. Period.

But Jesus erased the period. His resurrection, far from being an exclusive privilege of the Son of God, means everything for us. It reversed the curse of death, that we brought upon ourselves at the Fall. It is the re-genesis-the beginning of a new creation. And we are invited to be part of it.

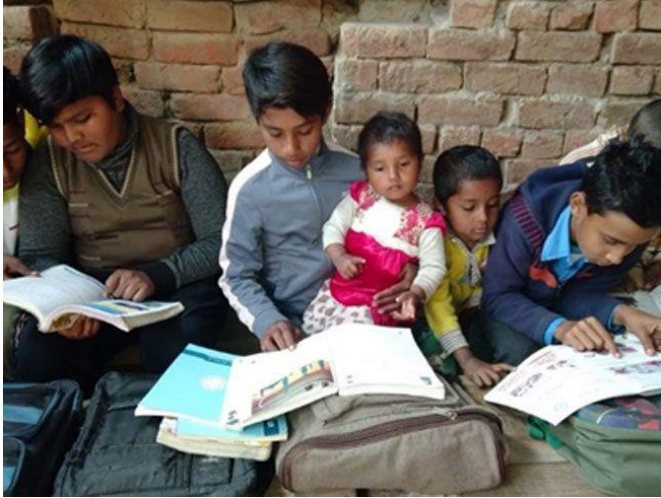


The promise of this resurrection is astounding. Every privilege of the risen Jesus, in all His glory, is offered to us to partake in. It is the reality of the eternal promises of God. In His resurrection, He intercedes for us at the right hand of God (Hebrews 7:25); He lives in us (John 14: 20). Not only is He exalted but we are fellow heirs of His inheritance (Romans 8:17) and we have eternal life (John 6:40). These are magnificent and astonishing truths. We could spend a lifetime- make that an eternity- letting them sink in. Today, meditate and marvel at the promise of the Resurrection.

(From 'The One Year at His feet devotional' by Chris Tiegreen)



## The Persecuted Church - how Barnabas Fund is helping



### Adult literacy classes for brick kiln workers in Pakistan

Adult literacy rates in Pakistan are among the lowest in the world, especially among women. Barnabas supports five adult literacy centres within Pakistan's brick-kiln communities to enable low-paid Christian workers and their families to break free from the cycle of illiteracy and poverty that has

trapped previous generations. The centres employ Christian teachers and together train 150-200 students a year using teaching materials based on the Bible. The ability to read and write strengthens learners' job prospects, improves families' quality of life and makes them less vulnerable to exploitation. It also enables them to read the Bible for themselves.

### Small loans enable marginalised Egyptian women to become self-sufficient.

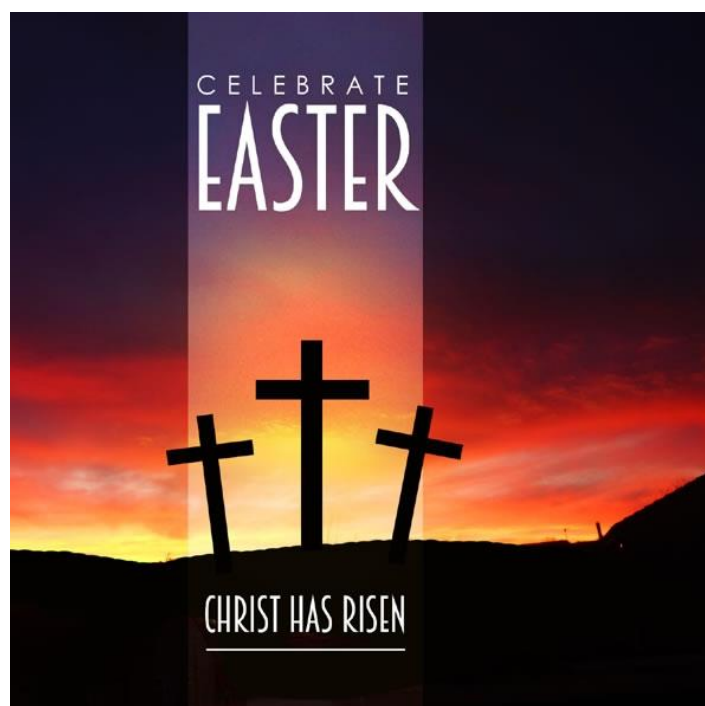
Women are especially vulnerable in Egypt, and even more so if they are a Christian and a widow, left without the provision and protection of a husband. Barnabas is helping poor and marginalised Christian widows and female-headed households in Upper Egypt to become self-sufficient and financially independent by providing them with a microloan to set up their



own small businesses. 'Ruth' is a 61-year old widow. Her son is too sick to work so cannot support his mother. She struggled to survive on a small pension until getting a small microloan from Barnabas, which she used to set up a small poultry business. Despite losing all her flock to bird flu at one point, the enterprise is now very successful.

**“What does Easter mean to you?” I put that question to some members of the Thursday morning home group; here are their replies.**

- “For me Easter is a time when many emotions are experienced in a short space of time. Grief, when reflecting on the rejection, suffering and agony endured by Jesus on His way to the cross. Joy, when thinking of His triumphant resurrection, conquering death for all people. Thanks and Praise, that through His ultimate sacrifice and love for us all we have the promise of sins forgiven and Life Eternal.”
- “May the music and hymns of Easter day echo through all our lives so that the things for which Christ died and rose might be established. Deliver us from this terrible pandemic, war and crimes and from racial discrimination.”
- To me, Easter represents a new beginning. The suffering and death of Christ are a sign of His unending love for us and his resurrection is an assurance of life everlasting if we are willing to accept his love and live our lives as God commands. In this part of the world, Easter comes at the end of Winter with a promise of warmth and long light-filled days to lift our spirits.
- Jesus walks beside me through the challenges and pleasures of life as an encourager and a reminder of how God loves us all.



## **Bible themed verses- Perseverance**

He gives power to the weak, and to those who have no might He increases strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall, but those who wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

**(Isaiah 40: 29-31)**

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets before you.

**(Matthew 5:10-12)**

No temptation has overtaken you except as is common to man; but God is faithful and will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape so that you may be able to bear it.

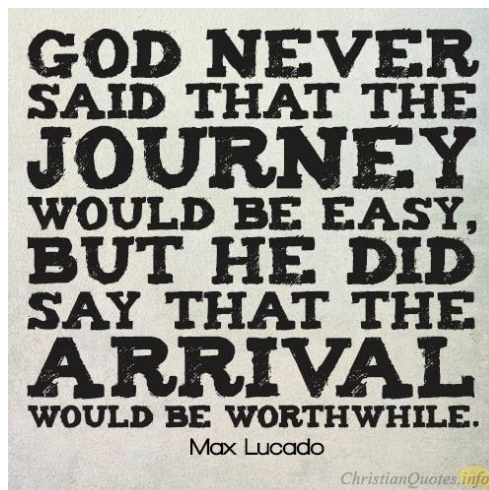
**(1 Corinthians 10:13)**

For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory.

**(2 Corinthians 4:17)**

Therefore, do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God you may receive the promise.

**(Hebrews 10: 35-36)**





## Prayers

Tuesday 23 March is designated a National Day of Reflection and Prayer.

The nation is invited to pause for one minute at midday on the anniversary of the first lockdown. This is the prayer written by the Very Revd Andrew Nunn, Dean of Southwark

Christ yesterday and today, the beginning and the end,  
Alpha and Omega, all time belongs to him, and all ages.

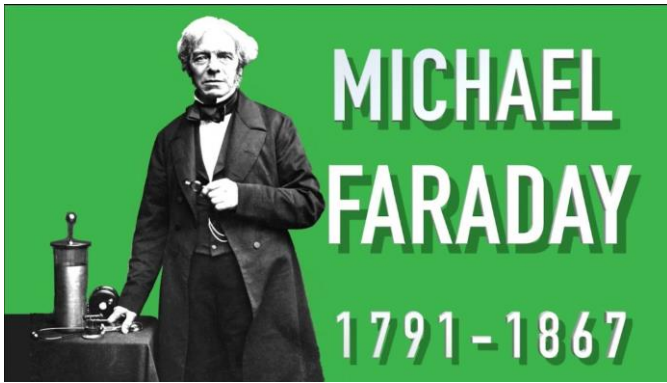
God of all that has been, that is, that is to come  
as we reflect on the year that has past,  
those we have lost,  
those we have missed,  
the contact not made,  
the hopes dashed,  
new things discovered,  
new opportunities seized,  
new love embraced,  
we thank you that you have been with us  
and brought us to this day.  
Stay with us  
as we step into your future  
with faith and hope and love  
and in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

### A prayer from Sri Lanka

Even as the water falls on dry tea leaves  
and brings out their flavour,  
so may your Spirit fall on us and renew us  
so that we may bring refreshment and joy to others.  
Amen.



## Heroes of the faith: Michael Faraday



The extraordinary life of Michael Faraday, perhaps the greatest scientist of the nineteenth century, reads like one of Charles Dickens' novels.

Faraday was born in 1791 into an impoverished family in what is now

Southwark, London. His father was a blacksmith and Faraday's education was basic. The family, however, was supported by their church; throughout his life Faraday kept up his involvement with his church and gave a clear testimony to a personal relationship with Christ.

At the age of 11, poverty forced Faraday into work. He began running errands for George Riebau, a French bookbinder, who, recognising Faraday's potential, took him on as an apprentice. Faraday began to read and Riebau wisely directed him towards useful books. He soon became fascinated by science. The bookbinder encouraged Faraday, gave him space to conduct his own experiments and eventually enabled him to hear lectures by the world-famous chemist Humphry Davy.

Inspired by Davy's talks, Faraday wrote to the chemist and soon became his assistant at the Royal Institution, a body that specialised in applied science. Davy found the young man remarkably useful and took him on an eighteen-month tour of Europe, visiting many of the great scientists of the time. On his return to England, Faraday continued to help Davy but increasingly began to do his own experiments in chemistry and, later, physics. Faraday turned out to be a superb experimental scientist. He was imaginative and methodical and tried to test for himself every scientific claim he came across. He was a hard worker and rapidly published his discoveries, writing nearly 500 papers in his long career.

Step by step Faraday rose to the very highest levels of international science. He became the director of the Royal Institution, was awarded a doctorate by Oxford University and made a fellow of the prestigious Royal Society-indeed he was twice invited to become its president but refused because he wanted to continue his laboratory work. Despite his honours, Faraday remained humble, lived on a modest salary and refused a knighthood, preferring to be 'plain Mr Faraday'. He did, however, accept an apartment at Hampton Court given to him by the monarch, along with a small pension.

Faraday worked hard – possibly too hard because eventually his health failed – but he was sustained by two things. The first was his marriage in 1821 to Sarah Barnard with whom he had a long and happy, if childless, partnership. The second was his deep Christian commitment and his church involvement: he was not only a faithful church member, elder and preacher, but also regularly involved in visiting the poor and sick.

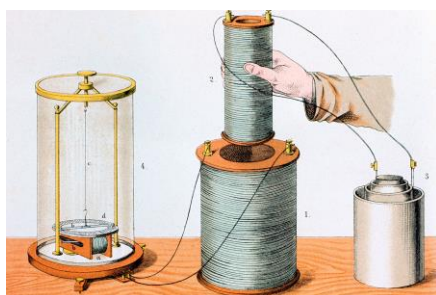
Faraday's achievement is even more remarkable when we consider that the odds were stacked against him. He remained something of an outsider in society; he was lower class and had almost no formal education. However, he was accepted not just because of his brilliance as a scientist but because of the way his gentle, humble manner won him friends.

Faraday was committed to *seeking truth*. A particular Christian emphasis in Faraday's thinking was the way that he saw the natural world as something created and governed by a God who had given rules which human beings could, and should, follow. Inspired by a vision that everything in nature was ultimately connected, he peered forward into the future, anticipating ideas that were to be developed by Einstein, who had a portrait of Faraday in his office to inspire him.

Faraday was committed to *serving truth*. There was no gap between what he believed and what he did. In his role as the nation's 'chief scientist' Faraday served society: investigating mine explosions, working on better lighthouse lamps, preventing the corrosion of ships and raising issues about industrial and water pollution. Faraday didn't just do good, he also resisted evil, refusing to develop chemical weapons for use in the Crimean War.

Faraday was committed to *sharing truth*. Scientists can be notoriously bad at communication but Faraday, doubtless remembering his own experience, was different and always anxious to publicise what was being done. He himself was a good communicator and full of enthusiasm. He arranged accessible public lectures, including some for children, a tradition continued today as the Royal Institution Christmas Lectures. Michael Faraday's life is full of towering achievements. To do all that he did, against the odds, and maintain his Christian witness is astonishing.

(From J John and Philo Trust- with permission)



# The Truth of Creation

‘In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.’  
(Genesis 1:1)

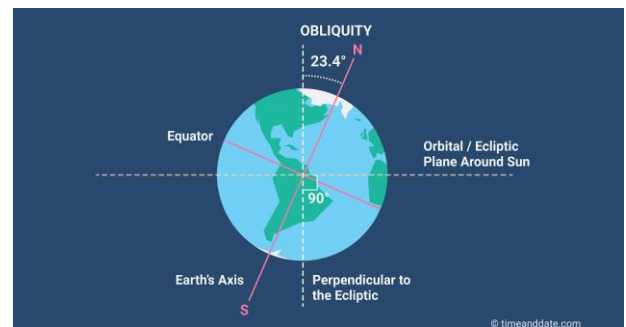
A growing number of educators and scientists around the world believe the Bible account of creation and are pointing us back to the truth of the words above. Sir Fred Hoyle, professor of astronomy at Cambridge University, once said: ‘The chance that higher life forms might have emerged through evolution



is comparable to the chance that a tornado sweeping through a junkyard might assemble a 747 from the materials therein. ‘He continues: ‘The likelihood of the formation of life from inanimate matter is 1 out of 1,040,000. Even evolutionist Stephen Hawking, one of the most respected scientists since Albert Einstein, acknowledged: ‘The

universe and the laws of physics seem to have been specifically designed for us. If any one of about 40 physical qualities had more than slightly different values, life as we know it could not exist; either atoms would not be stable, or they wouldn’t combine into molecules, or the stars wouldn’t form the heavier elements, or the universe would collapse before life could develop.”

Did you know that if the earth was 10% larger or 10% smaller, life as we know it wouldn’t be possible? Or that we’re just the right distance from the sun so that we receive the right amount of heat and light? If we were any farther away we’d freeze, and if we were any closer we wouldn’t be able to survive. Consider the amazing tilt of the axis of the earth. None of the other planets are tilted like



ours at 23 degrees. This angle allows the sun’s rays to touch every part of the earth’s surface over the course of a year, as the earth circles the sun. If there was no tilt to the axis, the poles would accumulate enormous masses of ice, and the centre of the earth would become so hot we couldn’t stand it. Like an excited parent designing a room for the arrival of their new-born child, God made this earth specifically for us.

(From UCB ‘Word’- with permission)

## **Memories of my time at St Matthew's by Melanie Hayward**

My husband Peter and I moved to Bardsley Close in March 1996 and initially I only went to St Matthew's for midnight mass at Christmas and the Easter Day Service. I only started attending St Matthew's regularly after I reached a low time in my life, with stress at work and needed someone to turn to. We always received the parish magazine through the door and in desperation I called on the new vicar Rev. Penny Brown who said she would be around that afternoon. I had studied theology at St Andrew's university with many fellow students entering the Church of Scotland Ministry, male and female when women were not ordained in the Church of England so I found it very empowering and refreshing to see Penny and her curate Rosie leading worship and behind the altar blessing the sacrament after a sermon beginning with a comment about a supermarket shopping trolley I could relate too!!

I remember the warm welcome I received especially from Pam and Alan Hollands and Basil and Lois Baker and the SPA'S Glenice Clarke and Sue Stern. I really enjoyed the Lent Group at the Hollands home run by Rosie discussing the film "Hotel Chocolate" which I continue to watch each Easter and reflect upon. During my more active years in St Matthews I sat on the PCC, prepared soup and cheese lunches for the Bishops Lent Appeal with Steve and Caroline Tucker, and Saturday morning coffee mornings with Carolyn Tweed, explored my own vocation at Southwark Cathedral with Richard Hinder and saw him go on to be ordained as a priest. I helped as a Server and Reader at St Matthew's and also helped Judith Spencer Gregson run Brownies for a couple of years with Leslie Mead. Over the years I attended many church social events including harvest suppers and church quizzes and was always impressed by the hard work of the social committee!

For me as a mental health nurse working in the community specialising in dementia care I was always impressed with the pastoral care offered to and by the congregation for each other and the community. I found the chance "to be still and be" during a Sunday Service with a chance to give thanks and reflect essential to my inner wellbeing and I found many of the sermons thought provoking and life enhancing. I also enjoyed singing, listening to the choir and seeing the picture slides to illustrate the hymns when technology came along! The sense of belonging to a community, travelling life's path together is also really important to me, sharing the sign of Peace with people of great diversity and strangers I may never meet again and sharing in communion with the worldwide church. I will never forget the contrast between the sombre Good Friday Service, placing our nails at the foot of the Cross and then returning on



Easter Sunday to transform the Cross with flowers as a memorable sign of the Glorious Resurrection!

Both Penny and Simon have been very supportive of my spiritual journey and Penny led the funeral for Peter's father and was a great support to him and his family and Simon did the same for his mother and my father Tony. What so impressed me was despite my husband not being a church goer and not sure what he believes in they always welcomed him and showed love and care which I think is a great example of Christian love and the way we should all act towards our neighbours. When my father entered a Nursing Home, with a diagnosis of dementia, outside the parish in Sanderstead, Simon willingly came to celebrate communion with him every month or so with me and often Mary too which Dad and I really appreciated and I will never forget. There are so many more memories I could share and people in the congregation who have impacted on my life positively that I have failed to mention (including good



friends Nick and Maureen Sareen and Paul Parmenter) but my heart is filled with gratitude to you all as I bid farewell to start a new life in East Devon.

We moved to Budleigh Salterton in January 2021 and have settled well and found the ever-changing light in the sky and on the sea waves very uplifting and awe inspiring. Nature is on our doorstep as we are only a 15-minute walk from the sea and the river Otter with all its bird life. I keep thinking I see glimpses of heaven and feel very close to God the Creator. The hope is such a move will be good for both our physical fitness with coastal walks and bike rides as well as our mental and spiritual wellbeing. Due to the Covid pandemic and not yet having had our vaccines I have yet to visit the local Anglican Church of St Peter's which is open for worship but plan to go there soon and will now hopefully have more time to play a more active role in this new church community as I have retired early from Nursing and only plan to return to part time work in the Autumn.

THANK YOU and FAREWELL  
Sending you all God's Blessings  
Much Love and Best Wishes  
Melanie Hayward

## The myth and mystery of Christianity by Barney Powell



I've often wondered what it would mean to follow Christ when he said, "Go on your way. Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals...when you call at a house, let your greeting be: 'Peace!' You'd likely be shown the door as an itinerant hippy, but this is exactly what the Basque, Ignatius Loyola, did when he resolved to live as

Christ had bidden his disciples to do. With his close student friends in Paris he founded the Jesuit Order in 1540. With the Pope's blessing, his fellow Jesuit, Francisco Xavier, went East with the Gospel to Borneo and Japan, but died within sight of China in 1552. It was left to his successors – Portuguese, Spanish and Italian Catholic missionaries – to complete his mission. The Japanese they found in total subjection to their Emperor, their lives a state of permanent immiseration. The fathers were able not only to convert many people to belief in Christ, but also to subvert the authority of the state, which was to hasten

their departure. The sainted Italian father, Matteo Ricci, was able to stay rather longer in China because he learnt the language, cultivated the elite and corrected inaccuracies in their astronomy and calendar. Beyond that he didn't gain much traction, probably because he started at the top not the bottom.



Today it is the Mormons, mendicant monks and earnest men in suits and clerical collars who give missionary work a dubious name. Their dress announces their arrival for them. They come trailing clouds of righteousness, seeking alms for salvation and oblivion. The mission that Christ bade his followers to begin was a lonely road of hardship and rejection, but also one of total enlightenment. Those Jesuits who chanced their arm four hundred years ago opened up the individual mind to its own consciousness and to a practical spirituality. They gave simple people to understand that they had a soul and a Lord who loved them above their temporal masters. It is clear now that this



command of Christ's was 'crueller than truth' because it called for an unquestioning trust in him to hold them up when they went again to walk upon the water as they took the Gospel to the ends of the earth.

But the Jesuits had forerunners to beat a path into China for them. Nestorian Christians from Persia and Central Asia had come into the country along the Silk Road as early as the year 635. A stele memorial in Xian attests to 'the propagation of the Luminous Religion of the West' there. The verse inscription reads: -

When the pure bright Illustrious Religion  
Was introduced to our Tang dynasty,  
The Scriptures were translated, and churches built,  
And the vessel set in motion for the living and the dead;  
Every kind of blessing was then obtained,  
And all the kingdoms enjoyed a state of peace.

The luminosity of the light that was lit in the minds of the Chinese then and the power of the implanted word of God live on beyond this mythic memorial into the mystery and enigma of a modern China where Man is yet his own secret metaphor.

"Easter Greetings from the mainly retired Girl Guiders in Central Croydon Trefoil Guild; 80% of us are from St Matthew's. We decorated real eggs and brought them to our Zoom meeting where we made a cross from paper." Thanks to Judith Spencer-Gregson for this piece and to Ellen Mitchell who combined all the photos.



## Quotes

You make a life out of what you have, not what you are missing.(Anon)

The best measure of a spiritual life is not its ecstasies but its obedience.  
(Oswald Chambers)

I have a great need for Christ. I have a great Christ for my need.  
(C H Spurgeon)

Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God.  
(Corrie ten Boom)

Love and humility are the highest attainments in the school of Christ.  
(John Newton)

Do you attract attention toward or away from God? (Anon)

To realise God's presence is the one sovereign remedy against temptation.  
(Francois Fenelon)

Jesus Christ is God's everything for man's total needs. (R Halverson)

The cross of Christ is the most revolutionary thing ever to appear among men  
and women. (A W Tozer)

Jesus does not give recipes that show the way to God. He Himself is the way.  
(Karl Barth)

Christ is my Saviour. He is my life. He is everything to me in heaven and earth.  
(Sadhu Sundar Singh)

Jesus' life began in a borrowed stable and ended in a borrowed tomb.  
(Alfred Plummer)

That to which your heart clings is your god. (Martin Luther)

God has called us to shine. (D L Moody)

The best protection against Satan's lies is to know God's truth. (Anon)

Use your gifts faithfully, and they shall be enlarged.( Matthew Arnold)

## Easter Art



**'Noli Me Tangere'** - Titian



**Mary Magdalen at the empty tomb**  
- Girolamo Savoldo



**'Peter and John Running to the Tomb'** - Eugene Burnand



**'Supper at Emmaus'** - Caravaggio



## Famous church architects: Sir Christopher Wren

**Sir Christopher Wren** PRS FRS (1632-1723) was one of the most highly acclaimed English architects in history, as well as an anatomist, astronomer, geometer, and mathematician-physicist. He was accorded responsibility for rebuilding 52 churches in the City of London after the Great Fire in 1666, including what is regarded as his masterpiece, St Paul's Cathedral, on Ludgate Hill, completed in 1710.



The principal creative responsibility for a number of the churches is now more commonly attributed to others in his office, especially Nicholas Hawksmoor. Other notable buildings by Wren include the Royal Hospital Chelsea, Royal Naval College, Greenwich, and the south front of Hampton Court Palace. The Wren Building, the main building at the College of William and Mary, Virginia, has been attributed to Wren. Educated in Latin and Aristotelian physics at the University of Oxford, Wren was a founder of the Royal Society (president 1680–1682), and his scientific

work was highly regarded by Isaac Newton and Blaise Pascal.



Wren was born in East Knoyle in Wiltshire, the only surviving son of Christopher Wren the Elder (1589–1658) and Mary Cox, the only child of the Wiltshire squire Robert Cox from Fonthill Bishop. Christopher Sr. was at that time the rector of East Knoyle and later Dean of Windsor. It was while they were

living at East Knoyle that all their children were born; Mary, Catherine and Susan were all born by 1628 but then several children were born who died within a few weeks of their birth. Their son Christopher was born in 1632 then, two years later, another daughter named Elizabeth was born. Mary must have died shortly after the birth of Elizabeth, although there does not appear to be any surviving record of the date. Through Mary Cox, however, the family became well off financially for, as the only heir, she had inherited her father's estate.

As a child Wren "seem'd consumptive." Although a sickly child, he would survive into robust old age. He was first taught at home by a private tutor and his father. After his father's royal appointment as Dean of Windsor in March

1635, his family spent part of each year there, but little is known about Wren's life at Windsor. He spent his first eight years at East Knoyle and was educated by the Rev. William Shepherd, a local clergyman.

Receiving his M.A. in 1653, Wren was elected a fellow of All Souls' College in the same year and began an active period of research and experiment in Oxford. His days as a fellow of All Souls ended when Wren was appointed Professor of Astronomy at Gresham College, London in 1657. He was provided with a set of rooms and a stipend and was required to give weekly lectures in both Latin and English to all who wished to attend; admission was free. Wren took up this new work with enthusiasm. He continued to meet the men with whom he had frequent discussions in Oxford. They attended his London lectures and in 1660, initiated formal weekly meetings. It was from these meetings that the Royal Society, England's premier scientific body, was to develop. He undoubtedly played a major role in the early life of what would become



the Royal Society; his great breadth of expertise in so many different subjects helping in the exchange of ideas between the various scientists.

It was probably around 1665 that Wren was drawn into redesigning a battered St Paul's Cathedral. Making a trip to Paris in that year, Wren studied the architecture, which had reached a climax of creativity, and perused the drawings of Bernini, the great Italian sculptor and architect, who himself was visiting Paris at the time. Returning from Paris, he made his first design for St Paul's. A week later, however, the Great Fire destroyed two-thirds of the city. Wren submitted his plans for rebuilding the city to King Charles II, although they were never adopted. With his appointment as King's Surveyor of Works in 1669, he had a presence in the general process of rebuilding the city but was not directly involved with the rebuilding of houses or companies' halls. Wren was personally responsible for the rebuilding of 51 churches; however, it is not necessarily true to say that each of them represented his own fully developed design.

Wren was laid to rest on 5 March 1723. His remains were placed in the south-east corner of the crypt of St Paul's. The plain stone plaque was written by Wren's eldest son and heir, Christopher Wren, Jr. The inscription, which is also inscribed in a circle of black marble on the main floor beneath the centre of the dome, reads: “Here in its foundations lies the architect of this church and city, Christopher Wren, who lived beyond ninety years, not for his own profit. Reader, if you seek his monument – look around you.”

## Church Roof- Progress report

To date, £106,893.99 has been raised towards our target of nearly £500,000 to replace St Matthew's roof covering. Some of this has been made up of legacies, but we cannot count on further beneficence; nor are we able to organize fund raising events because of Covid restrictions. We thus need more contributions from our congregation and other users of the building and to appeal to sources outside the community for grants and donations.

The National Lottery will not consider our application under the current criteria, so we are looking to potential funding sources recommended by the Diocesan Advisory Committee. The most likely to meet our request would grant up to £100,000. Together with our own funds, this would give us over 30% of the total cost, qualifying us for church trust assistance. A condition of this grant would be the requirement to publicize it via local papers, website, parish magazine, posters in church etc. This in turn would enable us to apply for a National Church Trust 'Cornerstone Grant' of 50% matched funding of the total cost. If you look on Google Earth, you will see the full extent of the roof which needs to be insulated under building regulations on the outside because of its web-ply construction.

A layer of plywood will be added to strengthen the whole surface and protect it from rot due to water damage and leakage before final covering. The gutters will need to be cladded and the spire covered. Our consultants estimate that insulation will save us £2,000 p. a. on heating and the possible installation of solar panels (an investment recouped in 15 years) would mean a 70% reduction in electricity costs. This is all subject to approval by the PCC, the DAC and the Croydon Planning Department. As you can see from the above process, we are still a long way short of our target, but we have plotted a clear way forward and now count on further contributions from all of us as 'stakeholders' to bring us a step closer to receiving the help we need.

I hope this may spur some more giving. (Roof fund committee)







This charity is a global movement of people, churches and local organisations. You may be interested in some background history, so I have selected a few 'decades' since its inception indicating the range of activities in various parts of the world. The ground - breaking work began in 1945, when it was founded by British and Irish churches to help refugees following the Second World War. For more than 75 years, they have provided humanitarian relief and long-term development and support for poor communities worldwide, while highlighting suffering, tackling injustice and championing people's rights.

**"1960's.** We made a difference in crises affecting Nigeria/ Biafra, Kenya and India. We created the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) so that development agencies were seen to work together in times of humanitarian crisis. We addressed racism and poverty in the United States as well as advising Martin Luther King while he was in the UK."

**"1980's.** We fed hungry people during the Ethiopian famine and those experiencing drought in Mozambique. We led a mass lobby of parliament to call for more official development aid. We created the Southern African Coalition to demand an end to apartheid."

**"1990's:** We linked work in 50 poor countries to campaigns on developing world debt, fair trade and the policies of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. We challenged the stigma and discrimination experienced by people living with HIV in sub- Saharan Africa".

**"2000's:** We campaigned to make poverty history during a war against terror. We reached more than 500,000 people with food, shelter and healthcare after the Asian Tsunami."



## Can you empathise with this!?

I have been to many places in my life but never been in **Cahoots**. Apparently, you can't go alone. You have to be in Cahoots with someone. I've also never been in Cognito. I hear no one recognises you there. I have, however, been in **Sane**. They don't have an airport; you have to be driven there. I have made several trips there, thanks to my friends and family. I live close so it's a short drive. I would like to go to



**Conclusions**, but you have to jump, and I'm not too much on physical activity anymore. I have also been in **Doubt**. That is a sad place to go and I try not to visit there too often. I've been in **Flexible**, but only when it was very important to stand firm. Sometimes I'm in **Capable**, and I go there more often as I'm getting older. One of my favourite places to be is in **Suspense**! It really gets the adrenaline flowing and pumps up the old heart! At my age I need all the stimuli I can get! And sometimes I think I am in **Vincible** but life shows me that I am not. People keep telling me that I am in **Denial** but I'm positive that I've never been there before! I have been in **Deep** - many times; the older I get the easier it is to get there. So far, I haven't been in **Continent**, but my travel agent says it is on the list.

Some years ago, there was a Mensa Convention in San Francisco. Mensa is a National Organization for people who have an IQ of 140 or higher. Several of The Mensa members went out for lunch at a local cafe. When they sat down, one of them discovered that The Salt Shaker contained pepper and the Pepper Shaker was full of salt. How could they swap the contents of the two bottles without spilling any & using only the implements at hand? Clearly this was a job for Mensa minds. The group debated the problem, presented ideas & finally came up with a brilliant solution involving a napkin, a straw and an empty saucer. They called the waitress over, ready to dazzle her with their solution. "Miss", they said, "We couldn't help but notice that the pepper shaker contains salt and the salt shaker - ". But before they could finish, the waitress interrupted, "Oh! Sorry about that". She leaned over the table, unscrewed the caps of both bottles and switched them.

There was dead silence at the Mensa table



## The Parish Church of St Matthew, Croydon

<b>Church Address</b>	Chichester Road Croydon CR0 5NQ	8681 3147
<b>Parish Office Email Address</b>	churchadmin@stmatthew.org.uk	
<b>Website</b>	www.stmatthew.org.uk	
<b>Parish Administrator</b>	Penny Goswell	8681 3147
<b>Hall Bookings</b>	Contact Parish Administrator	
<b>Vicar</b>	Revd Simon Foster revsimon@stmatthew.org.uk	8688 5055
<b>Assistant Priest</b>	Revd Linda Fox linda.stmatthews@gmail.com	07736708828
<b>Readers</b>	Paul Parmenter Alison Radford	8689 5874
<b>Director of Music &amp; Choir</b>	Michael Strange	
<b>Southwark Pastoral Auxiliary</b>	Carolyn Tweed	
<b>Churchwardens</b>	Stephen Collingwood Rohini Abhayaratne	8686 2815
<b>PCC Secretary</b>	David Williams	8768 3599
<b>Treasurer &amp; Gift Aid Recorder</b>	Terry Mitchell	
<b>Sacristan</b>	Gillian Bridger	
<b>Assistant Sacristan</b>	Jerry Savage	
<b>Electoral Roll Officer</b>	David Williams	
<b>Magazine Editor</b>	Steve Tucker stephen.tucker123@btinternet.com	8681 6872
<b>Parish Committees and Organisations</b>		
<b>Young Church (Sunday 10am)</b>	Judith Spencer-Gregson	8688 6640
<b>Fundraising Team</b>	Jane Passfield	
<b>Fellowship Team</b>	Vacant	
<b>Communications Team</b>	Revd Simon Foster	
<b>Fabric Team</b>	Stephen Collingwood	
<b>Finance Team</b>	Richard Tweed	
<b>Pastoral Team</b>	Revd Simon Foster	
<b>Circle Dance</b>	Sally Ditzel	07568338204