

Parish Magazine

£1



October / November 2021

Chichester Road, Croydon

www.stmatthew.org.uk

Registered Charity No: 1132508

Services at St Matthew's

Sunday Morning Services

1st 3rd 4th and 5th Sundays
8.30 am Eucharist (Said)
10.00 am Parish Eucharist with Choir and Children's Groups
followed by tea and coffee in the foyer

2nd Sunday

8.30 am Eucharist (Said)
10.00am All Age Service

Morning Prayer

Monday and Wednesday at 9.00 am in the Lady Chapel

Morning Prayer via Zoom

Tuesday at 9.00 am
Meeting ID: 970 706 9858
Pass Code: stmatts

Wednesday

10.00 am Holy Communion (Said)

Private Prayer

The church will be open for Private Prayer
Every Tuesday 9.00 am to 12 noon

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,

As I write this towards the end of September, it's hard to imagine that the next issue of this magazine will see us into the beginning of 2022! This will be a very special year for St Matthew's as we will be celebrating 50 years that the church has been here in Park Hill, or Park Hill Village as it was known back then. Covid permitting, we are planning various special events to celebrate this milestone in the life of



our church. Please make a note of the dates which you will find in this issue, and come and celebrate with us!

During the months of October and November, we will be remembering our loved ones who have died, as well as those killed in conflicts past and present. We do so in the confidence of those who believe in the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. Believing that Jesus rose and is alive with us now, does not remove grief from our hearts. The pain of losing a loved one is just as acute, however our grief is also accompanied by hope. Hope does not soften or mitigate grief but it sets our grief and indeed the whole of our lives in the context of eternity. We put our hope in the glory that is yet to come, when we too shall share, with all those who have died, in the resurrection life of Christ.

We face huge challenges - replacing the roof of the church being among the greatest! But perhaps *the* greatest of all the challenges we face is not to give up hope. In the face of the continuing pandemic, the threat to our existence from global warming or the fear of crime, as God's precious children it is the hope of glory in our hearts that can help us to keep on keeping on.

Our hope is kept burning on the fuel of our faith and trust in the goodness and the power of God. This good and almighty God wants nothing more than for us to walk with him each moment of our lives, being filled with his loving Spirit. Faith, hope and love are the greatest of the virtues that are ours in Christ. Faith is a decision not to base our lives solely on what we can see, hear, touch, taste or smell. Faith invites us to experience the invisible and eternal realm of the Spirit. Our five senses enable us to live fully in the natural world. The Spirit enables us to taste and see that the Lord is good. May we, in this season of shortening days and lengthening nights, of falling leaves and cool breezes, of misty mornings and damp earth, see beyond and behind the colours of autumn

to the One who sits upon the throne, high and exalted, in unimaginable glory, sustaining the universe - galaxies, stars and planets - as well as our individual, minuscule yet significant lives. Nothing, not even the fall of a sparrow, escapes God's attention. He sees you completely, knows you fully and loves you perfectly. It is love, as Paul reminds us, that is the greatest virtue; God's love for us and our love for him. Love is at the centre of the universe and the centre of our lives, and so all things are possible.

With my love and prayers.

Simon



Service of Thanksgiving to Commemorate the Faithful Departed

31st October 2021 - 4pm
at St Matthew's

Light a candle to
remember your loved
one

Followed by light
refreshments



50th Anniversary Celebrations - Save the Dates!

The current list of events for the first half of 2022 is: -

Date & Time	Event details
1 st January 10.30	Parish Boundary Walk, followed by a soup and a roll lunch at church.
2 nd January 10.00	Communion service conducted by Bishop Jonathan who will then plant a commemorative tree. Bring and Share lunch. Make this first Sunday of 2022 SPECIAL.
22 nd January 7.00pm	Burns Night celebration with a piper and a meal of Haggis with neaps and tatties.
5 th March 7.30pm	A Gilbert and Sullivan evening with Utopians Unlimited.
23 rd April 7.30pm	Classical concert with Caroline Jaya-ratnam, Stephen Bryant and Mark Sheridan, of the BBC Symphony Orchestra.
May	An opportunity to look at the Church Records
5 th June 12noon	Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations – a street party in Chichester Road - subject to the Council's approval!
11 th /12 th June	Flower Festival – theme “All things bright and beautiful”
12 th June	Bishop Nick Baines will lead our services followed by a BBQ lunch

To keep up to date please see our website <http://stmatthew.org.uk/>.

Do send your email address to treasurer@stmatthew.org.uk to receive a weekly email with details of the church services and the community activities.



Harvest Festival

All Age Service

10th October

10am

Supporting Practical Action.

Please bring non-perishable food for
Nightwatch.

All Welcome



**Practical
ACTION**

www.practicalaction.org

Parish Church of St Matthew
Chichester Road, Croydon, CR0 5NQ

Utopians Unlimited Present a Concert of Songs by GILBERT & SULLIVAN

Saturday 13th November 2021

7.30pm

St Matthew's
Church

Tickets £7
available from
the church

office between 9 and 12 noon

Monday to Friday.



Please bring the correct cash, a cheque (made payable to "St. Matthew's PCC") or you can pay by card. If you are unable to get to the office on those mornings please contact Penny on 020 8681 3147 or email churchadmin@stmatthew.org.uk.

Reflection- Fit for Following

Another said, I will follow you, Lord; but first let me go back and say goodbye to my family.” Jesus replied, “No one who puts his hand to the plough and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God.”

(Luke 9: 61-62)

The request from Jesus’ would- be follower doesn’t seem out of line. Everyone, when setting out on an adventure, says goodbye to their family. We seldom go anywhere of significant distance without letting someone else know. So why does Jesus have a problem with this request from a potential disciple?

Jesus does not want us looking back. The issue isn’t a casual goodbye. The issue is where the heart is focused. Jesus’ call is always immediate and thorough. The timing of His call is never an accident. When He calls it is the appropriate time to turn our hearts solely toward Him.

The illustration of someone putting a hand to the plough and looking back is powerful. It is the ancient-world equivalent of saying, “Whoever tries to drive while looking out of the rear window is not fit for the road.” Jesus isn’t saying that His disciple isn’t worthy. No one is- that’s a given. He is saying that His disciple will not do well in a kingdom that requires unrivalled allegiance to the King as a condition for citizenship. Our path toward Jesus must be straight and



unhindered. Those who look behind do not make straight paths.

What hinders your service in the kingdom? Is anything drawing your attention in another direction than Jesus? If so, it must be dealt with. We often let the preoccupations of life- relationships, careers, possessions, interests- distract our gaze. But we serve a jealous God (Exodus 34:14) who is intent on winning our hearts. Jesus welcomes any disciple who fixes his or her gaze on Him and is prepared to follow wholeheartedly. But our world is filled with distractions. Let your eyes fall on Jesus alone.

(From 'At His feet' devotional by Chris Tiegreen- with permission)

The Persecuted Church – for our prayers.

Christians are increasing in Algeria

The number of Algerian converts to Christianity is increasing significantly. Some bravely declare their faith in Christ; others keep it secret for fear of persecution. The growth of Christians has come despite the Algerian authorities banning proselytization under the threat of prosecution which has led to many Christian believers being arrested, imprisoned or deported outside the country. As the number of Algerian Christians increases, so too do the churches. Some of these have obtained a licence from the Algerian state, while others are undeclared for fear of closure, depending on where they are located. Algerian Christians take their faith seriously and are devoted despite many pressures and threats.

Most of the churches meet in homes because the authorities do not allow them to build their own church buildings. Algeria is approaching this issue with the logic of an entrenched state because the constitution stipulates that Islam is the state religion, and many Algerians actively support the strict enforcement of the law against



‘hidden proselytizing campaigns.’ A Muslim can leave Islam and convert to Christianity and the authorities will not punish him, but he will be subject to follow up if it is proven that he tried to undermine the faith of another Muslim.

It is not possible to estimate the number Christians in Algeria because there are no official statistics. However, the church is growing as it did in the early years of Christianity before the Islamic invasion of North Africa. Incidentally, churches in Algeria meet on Saturdays because Sunday is a working day in the Islamic country. Despite certain limitations these Christians are not concerned with the abundance of numbers but with building their spiritual and moral character and studying the Word of God despite a shortage of Bible commentaries and other helpful material.

Myanmar Army continue campaign against ethnic- minority Christians.



The entire population of Taal village in Chin State was forced to flee after soldiers ransacked homes, killed animals and destroyed valuables during a series of raids in the largely Christian region. During these raids the Tatmadaw (Myanmar military) soldiers occupied a church in Taal, near the town of Falam, throwing away Bibles and hymn books as well as leaving the building full of rubbish. In Chat village, near the town of Mindat, the

soldiers attacked two churches, destroying Bibles and damaging equipment including an energy generator. On 20th July about 90 soldiers entered Taal, stealing or destroying valuables in 21 of the village's 36 houses. The soldiers also threw residents' possessions, including Christian books, out of window and onto floors. Taal's population of about 160 people fled into the surrounding forest and hills, returning later once the troops had left. In a second raid which began on 9th August, about 150 troops ransacked the remaining houses in Taal, beating two men ages 22 and 43, destroying more property and killing livestock.

Ongoing attacks: Nigerian Christians need your help

"The number of orphans and widows continues to grow" said a Nigerian church leader writing to Barnabas Fund after Fulani militants attacked dozens of villages in Kaduna and Plateau states, leaving 1300 Christian households displaced – approximately 11,000 individuals. Their homes were damaged and destroyed, and 150 Christian brothers and sisters were injured during the attacks. Of these, 17 were seriously injured and need professional medical assistance for gunshot and machete wounds but cannot afford it. Many of the displaced households are sheltering in the classrooms. "I feel so helpless and deeply depressed looking at these families sleeping on bare floor in a classroom with month-old babies in the cold and rain. I could do so little," said a church leader caring for these displaced Christians. in Nigeria's Northern and Middle Belt states continue to targeted with violence like this and it's escalating. "It's a coordinated attack on the Christians," so said one of the surviving residents who wondered why there is a deafening silence from the international community.

Bible themed verses – Confidence

Confidence: the feeling or belief that one can have faith in or rely on someone or something.

Synonyms: trust · belief · faith · credence · conviction · reliance

The fruit of that righteousness will be peace; its effect will be quietness and confidence forever. (Isaiah 32:17)

But blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in Him. (Jeremiah 17:7)

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels, nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8: 38-39)

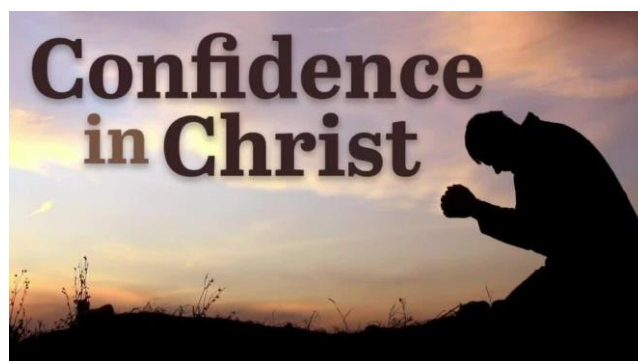
In Him and through faith in Him we may approach God with freedom and confidence. (Ephesians 3:12)

That is why I am suffering as I am. Yet this is no cause for shame, because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day. (2 Timothy 1: 12)

Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. (Hebrews 4:16)

This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgement; in this world we are like Jesus. (1 John 4:17)

This is the confidence we have in approaching God; that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. (1 John 5:14)



Prayers

In your struggles

May the Lord walk at your side in your struggles;
May he share His comfort in your pain;
May He hold your hand in your tears;
May He speak to your heart through the strain;
May he never leave you, now or in eternity;
May He show you His love again and again. Amen

A prayer about the anxious times in which we live

God of eternity,
hold in your hands our fragile nation.
In these days of anxiety, be our peace;
in these days of ill-health, be our protection,
in these days of shortage, be our security;
in these days of division, be our harmony.
Lift us out of our present difficulties, we pray,
and make of us a nation that will do justice,
love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, our God.
In the name of your Son Jesus,
born among us, our hope of glory. Amen.

A prayer for vulnerable children

O God who is our safety and our refuge,
we confess that we live in a world,
that has allowed so many children
to experience their growing years as a burden instead of a joy,
and to bear the weight of the wickedness of adults.
In your mercy, forgive us and change us.
Prosper the work, we pray, of all who serve
children who are vulnerable,
so that they may seek and find the path to life
and have days that are filled with joy. Amen



Albrecht Durer's 'Praying Hands'

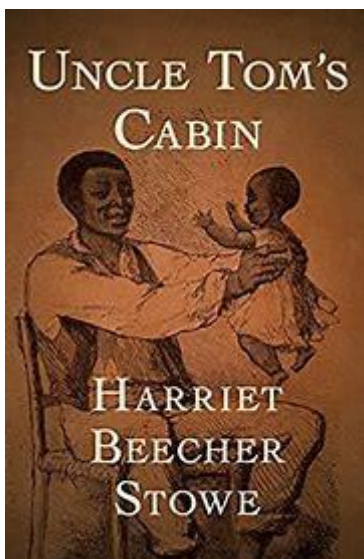
Heroes of the Faith: Harriet Beecher Stowe

In the nineteenth century Harriet Beecher Stowe was the most important woman in the United States. It is reported that during the American Civil War, when she was introduced to President Lincoln he said, 'So this is the little woman who gave us this great war.'



Harriet was born in New England into the Beecher family, a distinguished American dynasty. Her father was a famed Christian preacher and Harriet grew up in a godly family that promoted progressive social causes, such as the abolition of slavery and the education of women. Harriet, intelligent and well educated, underwent a conversion experience in her teens that was to affect who she was for the rest of her life.

When Harriet was twenty-one the family moved to Cincinnati, Ohio where she became a teacher. Although Ohio banned the holding of slaves, it bordered Kentucky where slavery was legal, and in Cincinnati Harriet encountered many escaped slaves. Harriet's objections to slavery deepened when visiting Kentucky she saw families being broken up and sold at slave auctions. Her loathing of slavery was supported by her faith: after all, if a slave was a child of God, what right did anyone have to buy or sell them.



Harriet became friends with Calvin Stowe, a professor of theology. After his wife died, Calvin married Harriet in 1836 and they had a long marriage with seven children. Moving back with her husband to New England, the Stowes were involved in the Underground Railway, the network of individuals that helped slaves flee to safety. As they housed fugitives, Harriet listened to their sad stories. In 1851 she was asked to write for an abolitionist newspaper. Following the pattern established by authors like Dickens, she started a novel in weekly instalments. It was a great success, running to

forty instalments, and was published as a book. *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, as it was titled, is an involving novel that deals openly with the horrors of slavery. It ends with Uncle Tom, a noble and humble Christian slave, being beaten to death by his master because he refuses to reveal the location of two escapees. With his

final words, Tom offers forgiveness and utters an appeal for conversion. The passionate and emotional storyline of *Uncle Tom's Cabin* had an extraordinary impact on people and appealed powerfully against slavery. The first blockbuster novel, it broke publishing records, selling a million copies in the States before the Civil War. It was a global success with well over a million copies sold in Britain alone.

Understandably, many African-Americans were troubled by the way that Uncle Tom lets himself be beaten to death by a white man. Yet the book did have an astonishing impact. Did it cause the American Civil War? Probably not, but it did make slavery morally indefensible and may have helped the abolitionist Abraham Lincoln become president. Nevertheless, it did play its part in the war. Britain, with its enormous cotton industry, was tempted to support the South – an action that would probably have changed the course of the war – but the enormous success of Harriet's book made that politically unacceptable.

What can we learn from Harriet Beecher Stowe?

First, Harriet was a woman who was *ready*. It's been said that 'fortune favours the prepared mind'. A similar but overlooked phenomenon occurs in the Christian life: prepared people find that God gives them things to do. Harriet, deep-rooted in the Christian faith, Bible knowledge and committed to social action, was certainly prepared. All that was needed was the trigger of that request to write against slavery. Are we making it a priority to prepare ourselves for God to use us?

Second, Harriet *reacted*. One of the troubling features of slavery is how so many people conveniently managed to overlook it as a moral issue. Harriet not only saw what slavery entailed but her offended conscience demanded that she took action. We live at a time when there are plenty of overlooked outrages and we need more Christians with Harriet's enthusiasm to notice them and react wisely.

Third, Harriet *responded*. Her gift was storytelling and that's what she did. The horror of slavery might seem to have demanded more, but what she was able to do turned out to be remarkably effective. What gifts do we have that can be used to make a difference? Let's use them!

Finally, I see how God brought *results*. As with the boy with the five barley loaves and two small fish in John's account of the feeding of the five thousand, God delights in making much out of little. God achieved much through Harriet Beecher Stowe. He can use us too.

(By Canon J John, Philo Trust- with permission)

A challenge

If I could speak all the languages of earth and of angels, but didn't love others, I would only be a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.

1 Corinthians 13:1

I will never forget Sheila. She was in her early 70's when I first met her and every Friday evening, without fail, she helped out with her church's youth club. The church was on a rough estate and the evenings were full of action. The young people were rarely appreciative and sometimes



violent. The language they used was normally rude and often deeply offensive. I could go on but I am clearly not describing a relaxing evening, to put it mildly. And yet, Friday after Friday, Sheila would go on and support the youth club with the hope that it might be a blessing to the young people and possibly lead them closer to finding faith in Jesus. I only know one word to describe that kind of commitment- love. Sheila truly loved these young people, and nothing would stop her seeking to help them.

I've started with a personal example because we all know how to speak and sing about love, but the real test is whether we can turn our words into action. In this amazing chapter on love, Paul draws the picture of the person who seems to have collected every spiritual gift. He is not just a great preacher but the best ever. His knowledge has no limits and his prophetic gift is so great that he can unpick every mystery that he faces. On top of all that he has faith which can move mountains around. And his commitment to his faith is so complete that he doesn't think twice as offering himself as a martyr. But Paul adds that even if all of these things are true of you, if you have no love then you are lost. **Your life is just a lot of hot air. The only conclusion that you can draw from this is that love needs to take the first place in our loves. Our God of love longs for us to reflect His love to the world.** (By Dr Micha Jazz- with permission)

God wants to use you to turn the world upside down in a good way. He wants you to run and win. Build on what He's doing in your life. Walk according to His Word.
(Anon)

Quotes

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

Love is the root; obedience is the fruit. (Matthew Henry)

Joy is the experience of knowing you are unconditionally loved.
(Henri Nouwen)

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)

All men desire peace, but very few desire the things that make for peace.
(Thomas a Kempis)

The centre of God's will is our only safety. (Betsie ten Boom)

Faith is extending an empty hand to God to receive His gift of grace.
(A W Pink)

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

A man's god is that for which he lives. (Dr M L-Jones)

The cross is not the terrible end to an otherwise god-fearing and happy life, but
it meets us at the beginning of our communion with Christ.
(Dietrich Bonhoeffer)

There will never be beings unloved by God, since God is absolute love.
(Hans Urs von Balthasar)

Seven whole days, not one in seven, I will praise thee.
(George Herbert)

Pray that none will be offended if I seek to make the Christian religion an inn
where all are received joyously rather than a cottage where some few friends of
the family are to be received. (Richard Hooker)

Real trust in God is above circumstances and appearances.
(George Muller)

Return Journey by Barney Powell

Travelling to Wales from London in the '50s and '60s was an expedition - whether by train or car – calling for lively conversation and a keen I-Spy lookout for the Puddles of Gloucester and the Severn Bore. Today a coach will take you there seamlessly and swiftly along the M4 through occasional drifts of not-quite-halting traffic into Monmouthshire. This journey induces such a soothing



somnolence that you may even miss the mighty Severn Bridge crossing which separates the Land of My Fathers from the predatory English hordes in a way far more effective than ever did Offa's Dyke along the Welsh Marches.

The priest-poet, R. S. Thomas, claimed that the Welsh were 'an impotent people/sick with inbreeding/worrying the carcass of an old song'. He also praised the fire-bombing of English holiday homes: 'What is one death against the death of the whole Welsh nation?' The fellow clearly protested too much, as all my father had to do to escape the Depression of the 1930s was to join that column of immortals – which included Richard Burton, Dylan Thomas and Nye Bevan – to ascend the ramp at Paddington Station and play for Wales as intrepid aviators in the skies above or as spell-binding orators and actors on the world stage beneath.

The sea off Porthcawl is not wine-dark, more slate-grey and slightly menacing, as if it might be bringing in over the horizon a fresh invasion of Vikings or French to lay waste to the land. A splendid, curving esplanade snakes around the sea-wall defences, while at one end a replica Coney Island funfair rumbles with a joyous, rip-snorting vulgarity and at the other lies in rude contrast a row of richly pretentious sea-side villas. The Seabank Hotel stands on its promontory like a jolly '30s postcard brought to life. The sea air here braces better than any old Skegness or Scarborough.

Inland lies the glory of Wales, which is its gardens: The National Botanic Gardens at Llanartne is twice the size of Kew, a former estate, founded on fortunes derived from trading in



nutmeg. Landscaped into a gently sloping hillside with meandering runnels of water, it boasts a domed glasshouse like the Eden Project as its centrepiece with a necklace of six lakes and garlands of exotic flora from around the world. Aberglasney House at nearby Llangathen shows a stunning mix of formal and 'wild' gardens and a cloister built into its seventeenth-century rampart walls. Derelict rooms in the central courtyard are transformed into an atrium for subtropical plants like orchids and palms – it's like entering the Sumatran jungle.



Dyffryn Gardens and Edwardian mansion are a coal-mining baron's more modern creation with lawns groomed for archery, walled herb gardens and an arboretum. What would normally be precious plots of alstromeria and delphinia lie barren, upstaged by riotous beds of poppy and sweet pea. The only thing missing is a haha to stop local cattle straying in to interrupt afternoon tea. St Fagans Castle (and National

Folk Museum) is a Jacobean mansion near Cardiff full of historic relics and grounds with old farmsteads, cottages, shops and a chapel relocated from all over Wales. There is even a working woollen mill making blankets and shawls. The weaver is tending the looms after months of lockdown and using a small vacuum cleaner to remove what we imagine is dust from bales of wool. 'No, no', he says, 'It's moths!' What was that line about 'worrying the carcass of an old song'?



Autumn scenes



Paintings by Fred E. Church, Alfred Glendening, Thomas Whittredge, Rene Chretien and Van Gogh.

Famous church architects: George Dance the Younger (Last in the series)

Georg Dance the Younger, was born 1 April 1741 at the family home in Chiswell Street, London and educated at St Paul's School.

Dance spent the six years between 1759 and 1765 studying architecture and draughtsmanship in Rome. Aged 17, he set off on his **Grand Tour**, sailing from Gravesend, Kent in December 1758. After a short stay in Florence, where he was joined by



his brother Nathaniel, who was already studying painting in Italy, he and his brother set off for Rome, arriving in early May 1759. By the early 1760s the brothers were living at 77 Strada Felice. At Rome, Dance was acquainted with the architect, James Adam, who was staying nearby at the Casa Guarini, Robert Mylne (they remained lifelong friends), Abbot Peter Grant and Giovanni Battista Piranesi. As a student of the Accademia di San Luca, Dance measured and drew several buildings in Rome, including the three remaining columns of the Temple of Castor and Pollux, the Arch of Constantine and the dome of St. Peter's Basilica, showing much promise as a draughtsman. Much of his later work was inspired by Piranesi. In late 1759 Dance received his first commission – to design two chimneypieces for Sir Robert Mainwaring.



On his return from the Grand Tour, George (the younger) joined his father's office. His earliest London project was the rebuilding of **All Hallows-on-the-Wall** Church. He was one of five architects asked to submit designs, and his design was chosen on 8 May 1765. Work on the building starting in June 1765, at a cost of £2,941, and the building was consecrated on 8 September 1767.



In 1768, when he was only 27, George succeeded as Architect and Surveyor to the Corporation of London on his father's death. His first major public works were the rebuilding of Newgate Prison in 1770 and building the front of the Guildhall, London. Other London works of his include the **rebuilding of the Church of St Bartholomew the Less (1793)**, a former chapel within the precincts of Barts Hospital. Many of Dance's buildings have been demolished, including the Royal College of Surgeons, the Shakespeare Gallery in Pall Mall, the library at Lansdowne House, the Common Council Chamber and Chamberlain's Court at the Guildhall, Ashburnham Place, and Stratton Park. Dance retired from practice in 1815 and died ten years later.



St. Matthew's, Park Hill – a community challenge

The entire roof of St. Matthew's is in urgent need of repair if the building is to remain standing. Consultants have advised that the worn aluminium covering must be replaced with a new insulated one, which will be safer, longer-lasting and more environmentally efficient.

Since St. Matthew's was built 50 years ago, it has become much more than just a church. It serves as an essential hub for a great number of local community activities and, as such, is part of the critical infrastructure of the area.

A small group is driving forward the project to save the roof and to ensure that St. Matthew's continues to serve the community well into the future. Our clear



goal is to raise the funds needed to complete the project, at least £500,000. So far, we have raised a substantial sum of over £160,000. We have also reached a target of £2,500 in pledges for The BIG Give Christmas appeal which will be held at the beginning of December and the pledges

will be used to match-fund donations. As part of our appeal, we actively seek external funding, but we cannot raise more funding ourselves alone. By careful tracking of our progress, we have managed to alert several charities and other donors to our predicament and expect to obtain further amounts over the coming year from church trusts and foundations. But we also look to count on the extraordinary support and contributions not only from church members but also from our local community in order to reach our goal.

WHY are we looking to you for assistance in reaching our goal?

There is a real risk that St, Matthew's will not survive, if we fail.

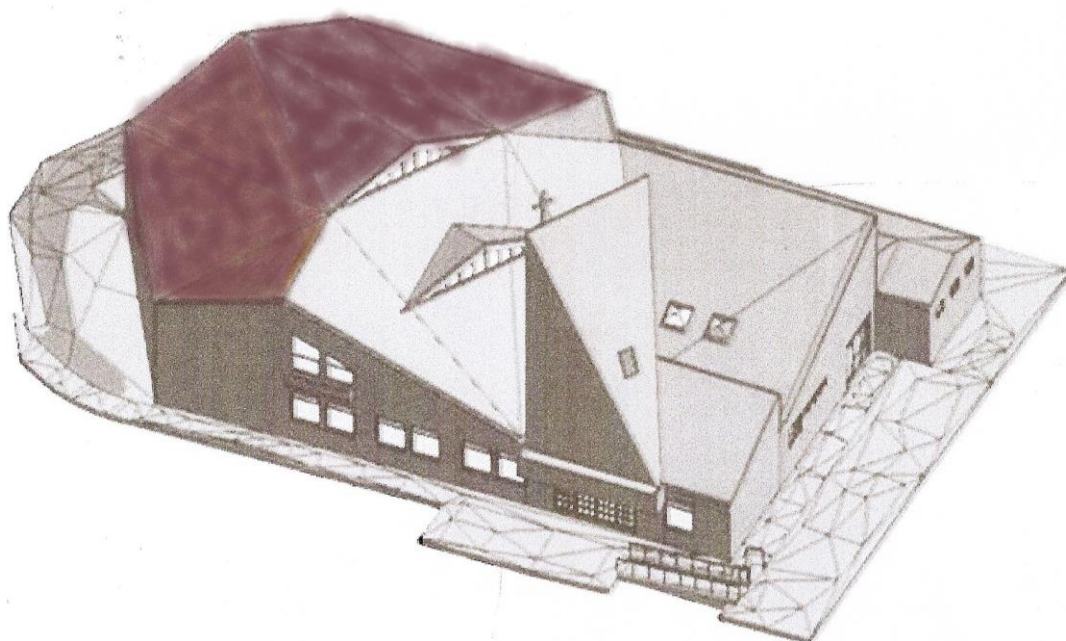
Park Hill is one of the most blessed areas in 'leafy Surrey' in terms of location and amenities. It is a clean, safe and pleasant place to live and lies within 20 minutes of Central London and 10 minutes from the open countryside by train and car. Gatwick airport and Brighton lie within 30 and 60 minutes respectively from East Croydon. We enjoy good schools, easy walking access to two

delightful parks, Lloyds and Park Hill, an extensive allotment and a thriving sports club at Sandilands. We even have a local convenience store right opposite the church. But the beating heart of the local community is St. Matthew's.

In a multi-faith and multi-cultural community like ours people naturally seek a means of social cohesion in their lives. This feeling is based on collective purposes and the existence of a community centre for people to meet their spiritual and recreational needs. During lockdown we have all missed human interaction, which has helped us realise just how significant this is for us all. This St. Matthew's has provided abundantly and must be enabled to continue to provide for everyone's benefit.

This is how we'll unlock the music in local people's hearts and minds, by building bonds of trust and friendship through collaboration in our joint endeavour to safeguard our future together.

(The Roof Fund Committee)



Before travelling in Oz tourism advice

before Covid-19

These were posted on an Australian tourism website, and the answers are the actual responses by the website officials.

Q: Does it ever get windy in Australia? I have never seen it rain on TV; how do the plants grow? (UK).

A: We import all plants fully grown, and then just sit around watching them die.

Q: Will I be able to see kangaroos in the street? (USA)

A: Depends how much you've been drinking.

Q: I want to walk from Perth to Sydney- can I follow the railroad tracks?

A: Sure, it's only three thousand miles. Take lots of water.

Q: Are there any ATM's (cash machines) in Australia? Can you send me a list of them in Brisbane, Cairns, Townsville and Hervey Bay? (UK)

A: What did your last slave die of?

Q: Can you give me some information about hippo racing in Australia?

A: Af- ri- ca is the big triangle shaped continent south of Europe. Aust-ra-lia is that big island in the middle of the Pacific.

Q: which direction is north in Australia? (USA)

A: Face south, and then turn 180 degrees. Contact us when you get here, and we'll send the rest of the directions.

Q: Can I bring cutlery into Australia? (UK)

A: Why? Just use your fingers like we do.

Q: Can you send me the Vienna Boys' Choir schedule? (USA)

A: Aus- tri- a is that quaint little country bordering Ger- man- y, which is...oh forget it. Sure, the Vienna Boys' Choir plays every Tuesday night in Kings Cross, straight after the hippo races.

The Parish Church of St Matthew, Croydon

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