

St Matthias & St George Parish Church.
A member of “Christ the King” team ministry
Sunday 2nd January 2022, Second Sunday after Christmas

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. John 1 v 14

Fr Glenn Reading – Team Vicar
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Covid safety measures: Due to the current Covid ‘Omicron’ mutation, we strongly encourage the use of face coverings in church, and also maintain social distancing as precautions. These precautions will also be applied at funerals & baptisms. The congregation will be able to sing with face coverings in place.

Today’s Service is at 4pm

Weekday services this week are at:

10am, Tuesday 4th January, Traditional Language

Eucharist service at SS Matthias & George

10 am, Thursday 6th January Mass at St. Peter’s, Crabbs Cross.

4 pm Sunday 9th January Common Holy Communion

Please note - additional online services.

- Accompany Fr Glenn as he streams Sunday Evening Prayer at 6.30 pm on our Facebook page.
- Mthr Victoria offers Compline on Thursdays, at **9pm**. Just press ctrl+ and click on the following link <https://www.facebook.com/victoria.barlow.750>

We pray for those who are sick: Rosie, Alex, Jean, Margaret Emms, Marion, Alexei, Dora, Margaret Savage, Carol, Carla, Carole, Tim, Jon & Naomi, Gill Colin, Steven, Christopher,

We pray for the souls of **Margaret Andrew** and **Brian Richards** recently departed, and hold their children and grandchildren in our prayers at this difficult time.

Foodbanks: *There is a box at the rear of the church in which food and toiletry gifts can be placed which will go to Redditch Homestart.*

Stamps: *Pam Emery is collecting stamps for The Alex, League of Friends. Please put any you may have in the box at the back of the church or in an envelope through Pam’s letterbox.*

Please give notices for inclusion in next week’s Spotlight to Richard Porteous by next Thursday on 01527 542620 or at richardporteous@yahoo.co.uk

The monthly pattern of services at SS Matthias & George is as follows.

1st Sunday 4pm, Common Holy Communion

2nd Sunday 4pm, Common Holy Communion

3rd Sunday 10.30am, Common Holy Communion

4th Sunday 4pm, Informal Holy Communion

Chutney! If you would like to buy any of Ann Robinson’s jams and chutneys which she has recently made, then please see Ann after morning service or ring her on 01527 893214. All proceeds will go to church funds.

New Year Homily: 2021 was one of the most anticipated years of all time. 2020 brought us a global pandemic, a racial reckoning, a divisive U.S. presidential campaign, and a slew of devastating natural disasters. For many, 2020 was a year they wanted to see in their car rear mirror—as if ending the year would bring an end to the challenges we faced. It was commonly said, “2021 is going to be better because it can’t be any worse than 2020!” Despite social distancing requirements, we brought in 2021 with hope and gusto. We craved a new beginning—the opportunity for a better tomorrow. Now that we are saying “goodbye” to 2021, we have to admit that 2021 solved only some of our problems. Furthermore, several 2020 challenges are still with us as we head into 2022!

Scientifically speaking, there is no magic in the coming of a new year. Most people understand that New Year’s Day celebrates another successful trip of the earth around the sun and not some mystical “reset button” on our lives. We intellectually understand that we will have the same problems on January 1 as we did on December 31. Yet, every year we make resolutions, celebrate, and hope for a brighter day. It is as if the hope of a new beginning is irresistible.

Perhaps we are wired to crave a new beginning. It could be because we want an unpleasant situation to end. Maybe we are in a rut, and we desire a break in the monotony. Or it could be that we carry pain or shame, and we want freedom from that emotional burden. Whatever the reason, there is something inside us that is attracted to the thought of a fresh start. It may be that deep down all humans subconsciously know that our lives, our world, need to be remade. We need to be made new. We need a new beginning.

Let’s hope and pray that an increasing number of people will find that new beginning in Jesus Christ. *Borrowed from the website ‘Equipper’.*

