

St Matthias & St George Parish Church.
A member of "Christ the King" team ministry
Sunday 9th January 2022, First Sunday after the Epiphany

.....and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." Luke 3 v 22

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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 11th January, Traditional Language

Eucharist service at SS Matthias & George

10 am, Thursday 13th Mass at St. Peter's, Crabbs Cross.

4 pm Sunday 16th 10.30 am Common Holy Communion (please note time)

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, Arthur Hind

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.

Margaret's funeral will take place at 11.30am on Tuesday February 1st, here in church, with her committal at 12.30pm at Redditch Crematorium.

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.*

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.

Flowers. If the church seems a little bare today it's because the wonderful flower baskets and window sill displays have disappeared. The beautifully decorated tree, in its central position (so much better), has been put away for another year. All that's left is to thank Rhonda, Brenda and Ann Pine for all their work in making our church look its beautiful best.

Refugees: As we continue to watch images of refugees struggling ashore in a number of different countries, crossing the Sahara Desert or living in squalid freezing tented camps, forced out of their homes by war, famine or perhaps from the impact of global heating, we perhaps overlook the brief reference in Matthew chapter 2 that Jesus was himself a refugee for 11 years. There are nearly 80 million "displaced people" around the world today, and according to the United Nations, more than half of all the world's refugees are children. That's astonishing and appalling.

It is in the Bible that we read about the responsibility of Christians to not stand idly by while people suffer around the world. It is there too that we are encouraged to be creative, and to use our gifts and imaginations while engaging in the work of the church - and more importantly Jesus.

Perhaps we need to engage more in discussing how we can undertake some action to accompany the words. Let's hope and pray that 2022 is a year when the refugee 'crisis' reaches its zenith and starts to decline; let's hope and pray that we can play our part, however small, in making life a little more acceptable, whether to Afghan refugees here in Redditch, desperate people in Calais or the millions living in tented camps.

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

