

## Next Sunday's Readings:

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Isaiah 40: 1-11

Mark 1: 1-8

## Notices:

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**Coffee morning rota:** there is a new rota at the back of church. If you are able to help by baking, washing up or serving, please do sign up.

**Social Committee** would like donations of mince pies and red wine for the Carol Service by the **10<sup>th</sup> December**.

**Carol singing:** We are singing with Churches Together at the sheltered housing schemes in December. The dates and times are as follows:

❖ **Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December - Victoria Court at 6pm**

❖ **Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December - Glenmay Court at 6pm**

❖ **Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December - Lostock Court at 6:30pm**

Please come along and sing with us.

**In Loving Memory Christmas Tree:** The Church will be open 10 am to 12 noon Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> December for you to remember loved ones departed and to hang a bauble on the tree in memory of your loved ones.

**Collection for Children's Society:** The Children's Society is the Church of England's charity which works with vulnerable children. There are Children's Society 'candle' collection boxes at the back of church. Please take one and bring it back with your donation by 17<sup>th</sup> December.

**Craft Group:** would like contributions of bottle green or sparkly white wool, if you can help please see Isobel.

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# Welcome to St Matthew's Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2017 First Sunday of Advent

## Today's Hymns:

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175 God of Mercy

470 The advent of our King

315 Lord of our life

83 Christ is the world

307 Lo he comes with clouds

## This week's services and events:

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### Today:

8am Holy Communion

10am Parish Eucharist

6:30pm Advent Sunday evening worship

### Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December:

9:45am Ecumenical Prayers at All Saints

### Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December:

10am Midweek service

### Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December:

9am Morning Prayers

### Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December:

10:30am Coffee morning in Choir Vestry

### Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December:

#### Second Sunday of Advent

8am Holy Communion

10am Parish Eucharist

3:00pm Christingle service

(note earlier time)

## For prayer:

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- David and Amy Roche working with CMS in the Lebanon
- Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe - illegally held in Iran

## Today's Collect:

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Almighty God,  
as your kingdom dawns,  
turn us from the darkness of sin to the light of holiness,  
that we may be ready to meet you  
in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

## Today's Readings:

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### Isaiah 64: 1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence <sup>2</sup>as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! <sup>3</sup>When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. <sup>4</sup>From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. <sup>5</sup>You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. <sup>6</sup>We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. <sup>7</sup>There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. <sup>8</sup>Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. <sup>9</sup>Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

### Mark 13: 24-end

<sup>24</sup>He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; <sup>25</sup>but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. <sup>26</sup>So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. <sup>27</sup>And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?' <sup>28</sup>He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?'

<sup>29</sup>But he replied, 'No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. <sup>30</sup>Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'" <sup>31</sup>He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; <sup>32</sup>it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches." <sup>33</sup>He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened." <sup>34</sup>Jesus told the crowds all these things in parables; without a parable he told them nothing. <sup>35</sup>This was to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet: "I will open my mouth to speak in parables; I will proclaim what has been hidden from the foundation of the world." <sup>36</sup>Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." <sup>37</sup>He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; <sup>38</sup>the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, <sup>39</sup>and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. <sup>40</sup>Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. <sup>41</sup>The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, <sup>42</sup>and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. <sup>43</sup>Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!

## Post Communion Prayer:

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O Lord our God,  
make us watchful and keep us faithful  
as we await the coming of your Son our Lord;  
that, when he shall appear,  
he may not find us sleeping in sin  
but active in his service  
and joyful in his praise  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Dates for your diary:**



On Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December at **3pm**  
**Christingle Service** - Please can you bring  
a gift for the **Trafford Domestic Abuse Service.**  
**(please note the new earlier time)**

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 3:30pm  
**Carol Service**

**Christmas Services:**

**Christmas Eve:**

8am **Holy Communion**

10am **Parish Eucharist**

3pm **Carols round the Crib**

8:30pm **Midnight at Bethlehem**

**Christmas Day:**

8am **Holy Communion**

10am **Parish Eucharist**

