

*Welcome to St Matthew's
Sunday 31st December 2017
The First Sunday of Christmas*

Today's Hymns:

- 109 Ding, dong, merrily on high
253 It came upon the midnight clear
412 Peace is flowing like a river
496 The Virgin Mary had a baby boy
283 Joy to the world

This week's services and events:

Today:

- 8am Holy Communion
10am All Age Eucharist

Wednesday 3rd January 2018:

- 10am Midweek Eucharist
1pm Funeral of David Stone

Thursday 4th January:

- 7:30pm Standing Committee meeting
in Hall

Friday 5th January:

- 9am Morning Prayer

Saturday 6th January:

- 10:30am Coffee morning in Choir Vestry

Sunday 7th January -

The Epiphany of our Lord:

- 8am Holy Communion
10am Parish Eucharist

For prayer:

- David and Amy Roche working with CMS in the Lebanon
- Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe - illegally held in Iran
- For all refugees
- All who use our food banks

Today's Collect:

God in Trinity,
eternal unity of perfect love:
gather the nations to be one family,
and draw us into your holy life
through the birth of Emmanuel,
our Lord Jesus Christ.

Today's Reading:

Luke 2: 15-21

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. ²¹After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

Post Communion Prayer:

Heavenly Father,
whose blessed Son shared at Nazareth the life of an earthly home:
help your Church to live as one family,
united in love and obedience,
and bring us all at last to our home in heaven;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Next Sunday's Readings:

Isaiah 60: 1-6

Matthew 2: 1-12

Notices:

Thank you to everyone who has made our Christmas here so special - those who have decorated the Church so beautifully, those who have provided refreshments and those who have helped out in so many ways for our services.

Women's Breakfast 2018 - We next intend to meet on **Saturday 27th January 2018** so make a bright lights notice on/in your calendar, diary etc.

This "Breakfast" will be a Full English Breakfast, held at Robin Hood Pub Stretford, at the usual time 8:30am. At the revised cost of **£5 per person**. As we come to 2018 may we hope that you will share this news among your friends, neighbours and family.

If the women of this community get to know each other, can love ourselves and all around us, it is but a short step to a truly wonderful, caring, happy and vibrant community. With the Lord's help all is possible – all we have to do is ask! All mighty rivers start with a trickle!

Please do spread the word. Love Bea.

P.S. Available is a little write up of our interpretation of a **Women's Breakfast**, if you would like one just ask, you may find it useful in encouraging others to join with us.

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