

CONTENTS

December/January

Light up a Life Service	3
Cinderella Pantomine	
December 2010 Diary	4
January 2011 Diary	5
More Tea Vicar?	
The Asian Congregation	6
Forward Planning	7
Reports:	
Christmas Fayre	8
Home Group Listing	
Missionary News	
Paul & Lesley Evans	9
Mission Partners	10
Church Organisations	12

Future Briefing Notes will be published as and when suitable contributions become available. Send reports/contributions to the editor please

Light Up A Life

Service of Remembrance

To remember your loved ones at Christmas,
and help support your new local hospice

7pm on Monday 6th December at St Matthews Church,

The service will include candles being lit and choral music.
And all are welcome to attend our Service of Remembrance

All the dedications received will be entered into our
Light Up a Life Book of Remembrance,
and also receive a card of acknowledgement and a star for you
to hang on the remembrance tree at St Matthews Church, or in
St Paul's The Crossing Day Chapel from the 7th December,
or you may like to take it home and place it on your own tree.

To request a donation form please ring
Walsall Hospice on 01922 423578

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The Pantomime

“Cinderella” at St Matthew’s

Enjoy Cinderella with your family and friends,
And give support to our own St Matthew’s

4.00 and 7.30pm on Friday 3rd December in Church,

Performances are being given by a professional company,
Tickets are £5-00 and are available from the Centre Manager

To obtain your tickets please ring
Adrian on 01922 626039 or 07954138350

DECEMBER DIARY

- 01 Wed 7.30pm Healing Course, part 5, at the Church Centre
- 02 Thu 7.30pm Alpha Course continues at the Wheatsheaf
7.00pm Deanery Synod event "Advent Reflections"
-members of all Churches in the Deanery are invited
- 03 Fri 4.00 & 7.00pm Pantomime "Cinderella" details page 3
- 05 Sun** 10.00am All-age Gift Day Service, with Baptisms
3.00pm Co-op Memorial Service in Church
6.30pm Church Hill Praise with Holy Communion
- 06 Mon 7.00pm "Light up a Life Service", See details page 3
- 07 Tue 7.30pm Young Leaders Meeting, at the Rectory
- 11 Sat 6.30pm "Urban Spirit" Blue Coat School, entry £3.50
and includes pizza ! For school year 7s up to students
Speaker G Calver, National Director, Youth for Christ.
- 12 Sun** Normal Sunday Services
- 14 Tue 7.30pm Queen Mary's Carol Service at St Matthew's
8.00pm Ladies Group at the Church Centre
- 15 Wed 7.00pm Mayfield School Carol Service, St Matthew's
- 16 Thu 10.30am Blue Coat Junior's Carol Service in Church
7.30pm Men's Fellowship Christmas Dinner, The Vine
- 17 Fri 10.30am Blue Coat Infant's Carol Service in Church
1.00pm Town Centre Ministry Carols at St Paul's
Last day of term at the Blue Coat Schools
- 19 Sun** 6.30pm St Matthew's Carol Service, in Church
- 20 Mon 7.00pm Church Hill Praise Christmas Dine, Longhorn
- 24 Fri 5.00pm Children's Crib Service, St Matthew's Church
11.15pm Midnight Mass in St Matthew's Church
- 25 Sat Christmas Day
8.00am H/C on either Sat 25 or Sun 26, to be decided
10.00am Family Worship, H/C, no children's church
- 26 Sun** 10.00am Family Worship, H/C, no children's church
There will be no Church Hill Praise on this Sunday
- 27 Mon Church and Church Office closed until Friday 31st
- 31 Fri 11.30pm Watch Night Service in Church

JANUARY DIARY 2011

02 Sun Normal Sunday Services

04 Tue First day of spring term at the Blue Coat Schools

09 Sun Normal Sunday Services

11 Tue 7.15pm (for 7.30 start) DCC meeting in the Centre

12 Wed 11.00am Pastoral Care Group in the Church Centre

15 Sat 11.00am "More Tea Vicar?" -Surgery Hour in Church

16 Sun Normal Sunday Services

Sister Dora's anniversary

18 Tue 7.30pm Prayer Meeting in St Matthew's Church

20 Thu 7.30pm Start of Confirmation Course at the Rectory

26 Wed 7.00pm "More Tea Vicar?" -Surgery Hour in Centre

MORE TEA VICAR ?

I want to experiment with having some surgery hours at which I will be available for anyone who wants to come and see me. This could be members of the church or the community at large, people with gripes and with encouragement, people who want me to pray with them or to receive some other pastoral help, and of course enquiries about baptisms and weddings.

I've decided to call it *More Tea Vicar*, or MTV for short, because it sounds a lot less painful than "surgery". There will be one every couple of weeks, either on Saturday in church at 11.00am or on a Wednesday evening in the Centre at 7.00pm.

Here are the dates from January to Easter:-

January	Sat 15, 11.00am -Church;	Wed 26, 7.00pm -Centre
February	Sat 05, 11.00am -Church;	-
March	-	Wed 02, 7.00pm -Centre
March	Sat 12, 11.00am -Church;	Wed 23, 7.00pm -Centre
April	Sat 02, 11.00am -Church;	Wed 13, 7.00pm -Centre

Please come and see me! Yours in Christ, Colin.

THE ASIAN CONGREGATION

With the very best wishes for Christmas and the New Year
from the St Matthew's Asian Congregation.
We pray that your Christmas and New Year will be richly
blessed with Peace, Love and Joy.

Please note the following services and programmes for your
participation and prayer:

24 Hours Prayer Chains

God answers every "Knee Mail"

Join our 24 hours December prayer chain:

At 9am on Saturday 17th to 9am on Sunday 18th.

And our First Prayer Chain in 2011

At 9am on Saturday 29th January, to 9am on Sunday 30th.

Advanced Christian Education

A Sanvi Masihi Taleemi Group meets on the last Friday of every
month. The teaching and sharing is based on typical day to day
question being asked by non Christians (especially the Punjabi
and Urdu Speakers) to those Christians present.

December 31th at 16 Bescot Drive

January 28th at 192 Pargeter Street

Ambur Radio Broadcast

Tune to FM 103.6 for Urdu, Punjab Christian broadcasts from
8am to 10am on every Sunday.

Asian Congregation Service Times

Sunday Services with Holy Communion are held at 3.00pm in
St Matthew's Church Centre

And our Christmas Service will at 12.30am in the Church Centre

You can also visit our Asian Web Site:
stmatgthewsasianchurch.co.uk



FORWARD PLANNING

February

- 05 Sat 11.00am "More Tea Vicar?" -Surgery Hour in Church
 13 Sun 8.00am Cluster Pulpit swap - the Rev Gennie Evans
 10.00am Cluster Pulpit swap - the Rev Gennie Evans
 15 Tue 7.30pm Prayer Meeting in St Matthew's Church
 16 Wed 7.15pm (7.30 for start) DCC meeting in the Centre
 18 Fri Blue Coat Schools half term break, return on Mon 28

March

- 02 Wed 7.00pm "More Tea Vicar?" -Surgery Hour in Centre
 09 Wed **Ash Wednesday**
 12 noon Lent lunches and lectures start at St Paul's
 7.30pm Imposition of ashes service in Church
 12 Sat 11.00am "More Tea Vicar?" -Surgery Hour in Church
 17 Thu 7.15pm (for 7.30 start) DCC meeting in the Centre
 22 Tue 7.30pm Prayer Meeting in St Matthew's Church
 23 Wed 7.00pm "More Tea Vicar?" -Surgery Hour in Centre
 26 Sat Street Pastors' Commissioning service in Church

April

- 02 Sat 11.00am "More Tea Vicar?" -Surgery Hour in Church
 03 Sun **Mothering Sunday**
 10 Sun 10.00am Holy Communion service in Church
 followed by The Church A.G.M.
 12 Tue 7.30pm Prayer Meeting in St Matthew's Church
 13 Wed 7.00pm "More Tea Vicar?" -Surgery Hour in Centre
 17 Sun **Palm Sunday**
 19 Tue Church group leave for Spring Harvest
 21 Thu 7.30pm Maundy Thursday communion Church
 22 Fri **Good Friday**
 Procession of Witness through the Town Centre
 Noon to 3.00pm, "At the Foot of the Cross"
 Devotion Service in St Matthew's Church
 24 Sun **Easter Sunday**

CHRISTMAS FAYRE

On Saturday 13th November, we held the Christmas Fayre
There were stalls selling hand made goods, home made cakes,
gifts and toiletries, plants and books.

And there was a bottle tombola and a raffle.

A bouncy castle and face paintings gave children a lot of fun.

At lunch time, home made soup was enjoyed by stallholders
and visitors alike.

But the main aim was fundraising, and this was very successful,
the day bringing a nett total of £912.39.

The money is to be dispersed, £250 to Adrian Perk's fundraising
for Birmingham Children's Hospital, £250 to St Matthew's
Centre funds, and £412.39 to the Church Building fund for use
on the re-ordering project.

A huge thank you to all those who worked so hard to make the
day such a success, both behind the stalls and those who spent
so freely. Many, many thanks, Joan Nock



HOME GROUP MEETINGS

Monday Mornings

Betty Callahan, Ann Walton 745543/ 625718

Monday Evenings

Marian Masters 623828

Chris Watkinson 620630

Tuesday Evenings

18-30 group Chris & Amy Lane 615890

Wednesday Evenings

Anne Tolley, Enid Pryce-Jones 0121 3587135/ 723719

Rita Chilton, Darryl Abraham 623944/ 07904248737

Judith Ridgway 0121 3606152

Thursday Evenings

Graham Hird 620813



MISSIONARY NEWS

Paul and Lesley Evans

There are presently only two RAF flights a week from RAF Brize Norton to the Falklands - both on Fridays. We arrived one day late because our No.1 flight aircraft had technical problems. Hence, the No.2 flight left first on Friday. We left at 1.00am on Saturday instead of 5.00am Friday. I know it seems confusing, but we were kept well informed as to progress; On the hour, every hour through the night from 1.00am to 8.00am. And very loudly through the speaker on the wall of our RAF hotel room.

However, the extra day was welcome because we were able to visit Witney Village and do so much vital shopping that we ran out of time before leaving for home. But we were able to wind down after the manic activities before leaving.

On Sunday morning we attended the Remembrance Sunday Service, parade and wreath laying rituals. The weather was glorious and the natural harbour of Stanley provided an impressive backdrop to the events - together with a dolphin and seal swimming past and flying uplands geese. We were roped in immediately for the monthly live radio broadcast Sunday evening service from the Tabernacle. Paul preached a gospel message on Christ's words 'Do this in remembrance of me' or 'Remember me'.

From Monday the weather changed to strong winds and cold - walking was difficult but exhilarating.

Paul is leading the weekly Bible studies for the Tabernacle. They will be topical studies on 5 Aspects of the Christian Life: Testimony, Temptation, Trials, Tribulation and Triumph. How's that for alliteration! We have also commenced assisting the pastoral visiting and socializing. The Falklanders' hospitality is quite something - especially when you see the cost of the food here. £1 per banana, £1 a tin of beans, £1.50 a tin of tuna, £2.25 for half a cabbage. Thank goodness the mutton is reasonable!

Pray for us - this is a tough ministry situation. Paul and Lesley

MISSION PARTNERS

What is being done with Mission Giving? The Church Council have reviewed past giving, and laid out the principles that have been resolved, for future donations on your behalf.

We remain committed to giving six per cent of St Matthew's regular donated income to mission work. The Mission Giving Committee have now been disbanded so that decisions about giving to missions can be taken by the Church Council and can be publicised and owned by all.

Rather than giving small sums to many organisations, we prefer to give larger sums to make better contributions, though it will be to fewer missions. It was decided on four missions as being an appropriate number to achieve that objective. This should enable us to build up stronger links with each of the missions.

It is also intended to feature one of our missions in the church programme every quarter, so that in every calendar year each mission gets special emphasis, perhaps by inviting a speaker, or by distributing information, or devoting extra prayer time to them. This will enable most members of St Matthew's to know who our missionaries are and have clear ideas how they are being supported. Each missionary has a designated contact person in our church to promote the link with them.

We decided to have three of the four missions as ongoing commitments for the foreseeable future and the fourth to vary from year to year. Each Mission is being sent £1,500 this year as their share of our 2010 mission giving.

The four missions/missionaries we decided to support are:

Barnabas Fund:

This organisation works with persecuted Christian minorities all over the world, wherever believers are harassed or oppressed. £1,500 was sent them and they had a special emphasis in the first quarter of 2010. The Barnabas Fund is this year's chosen annual variable mission. More info at: www.barnabasfund.org. The link person is Michael Hazzard.

Paul and Lesley Evans:

Paul and Lesley have lived in Walsall and Lesley has taught in Blue Coat School. When not overseas on mission work, they live in the Wirral. In Zimbabwe, Paul teaches at the Harare Theological Seminary, preparing Christian leaders of tomorrow who will play a key role in that devastated country's future. Paul also preaches in Malawi and recently made an eventful mission tour of the Falkland Islands. Paul and Lesley last came to St Matthew's in May 2010.

The link person is Joan Nock.

Christ for All in Andra Pradesh:

This is a truly awe-inspiring work of God founded when Brother Azariah went on a railway journey, left the train where his ticket ran out and started preaching the Gospel. More and more people were saved and healed, and the work has gone on to include building schools, orphanages, accommodation for the blind, lame and elderly, as well as several churches. Gifts from St Matthew's have led to, among other things, providing water supplies and building one of the churches. Although Brother Azariah died earlier in 2010 in a traffic accident, the work continues under the leadership of his successor John Mark.

The link person is Keith Masters.

Alison Giblett / CMS:

St Matthew's has had a link with the Church Missionary Society for some years and the South American Mission Society which is now amalgamated with CMS. We currently support Alison, a CMS mission partner who is seconded to work with ISAAC, the International Substance Abuse and Addiction Coalition. Alison is based in the Ukraine where she works with people addicted to drugs and alcohol. She uses a model pioneered by Jackie Pullinger in the forbidden city of Hong Kong involving radical Christian love and discipleship. Alison came to speak at St Matthew's in autumn 2009 and sends us regular newsletters.

The link person is Colin Gibson.

Further missionary news and information may be found on the St Matthew's web site and in later issues of Briefing Notes.

ST. MATTHEW'S ORGANISATIONS

And organisation links.

01922 tel nos, unless otherwise stated

Baptism Preparation	Revd Liz Chamberlain	443362
Bereavement Contact	Michael Hazzard	453685
Bible Reading Fellowship	Michael Hazzard	453685
Bible Reading Notes	Paul Grainger	636932
Briefing Notes Editor	Clifford Porter	625141
Catering Committee	Liz Blewitt	626039
Carers & Toddlers	Rosemary Roberts	620144
Child Protection Officer	Fiona Russell	613724
Children's Church	Liz Burley	07725 981956
Christian Aid	Martin Barker	634413
Church Centre	Adrian Perks	626039
Church Office	Maureen Yardley	626039
Church Organist	Pat Marriott	616273
Church Hill Praise	Amy & Chris Lane	615890
Confirmation Preparation	Revd. Colin Gibson	624012
Craft Group	Joan Nock	639890
Creche	Rosemary Roberts	620144
Electoral Roll	Michael Hazzard	453685
Gift Aid Secretary	Margaret Rawe	612900
Guide Leader	Janet Kempson	01889 270846
Home & Cell Groups	Revd. Colin Gibson	624012
Ladies' Group	Maureen Grainger	636032
Men's Group	Royston Benfield	638379
Marriage Preparation	John & Diane Edlin	636520
Master of Bell Ringers	John Edlin	636520
Prayer Chain	Revd Liz Chamberlain	443362
Prayer Guide	Marian Masters	623828
Server's Guild	John Westwood	626890
Web Site Master	John Edlin	636520
Worship Leader	Ray Chamberlain	443362
Gateway Club	Mrs Wendy Barker	634413
'The Vine'	Manager Kevin Davis	621951
The Glebe Centre	Centre for Homeless	625687
Small Street Centre	Free Internet Access	700950