

Pray Together. Stay Together

Sunday 21st May

10:45am at St Matthew's

Messy Mission

Acts 19: 11-10

Preacher: Rod Pellereau

11am at Cheltenham Minster

An Unknown God

Acts 17: 22-31

Preacher: Diane Bruckland

John 14: 15-21

6.30pm at St Matthew's

New Ways of Seeing
- Power I

John 12: 37-50

Preacher: Patrick Wheaton

Sunday 28th May

10:45am at St Matthew's

Dangerous Mission

Acts 19: 21-41

Preacher: Paul Chesworth

11am at Cheltenham Minster

Acts 1: 6-14

Preacher: Andy Hall

John 17: 1-11

6.30pm at St Matthew's

New Ways of Seeing
- Power II

John 13: 1-17

Preacher: Simon Phillips

The Sixth Sunday of Easter

Risen Christ, by the lakeside you renewed your call to the disciples: help your Church to obey your command and draw the nations to the fire of your love, to the glory of God the Father.

This Week

Everyone is invited to join us for Daily Prayers. These are held in the Minster, Monday to Friday - at **9am** and Lunchtime Prayers for our town from **12:30-12:45pm**.

Monday	10:00	Bright Lights Toddler Group - St Matthew's
22nd May	12:15	Staff Bible Study & Prayers - St Matthew's
Tuesday	17:30	Slimming World - St Matthew's
23rd May	19:30	Mahabba Prayer Group - St Matthew's
Wednesday	12:30	Midweek Communion - Cheltenham Minster
24th May	18:30	Football Practice - Swindon Village Playing Field
	19:00	Prayer for Cheltenham - St Matthew's
	19:15	Youth Small Group - Annie & Simon's
	20:00	Leckhampton Small Group - St Matthew's
Thursday	09:30	Pre-School Praise - St Matthew's
25th May	10:00	Women's Bible Study (with crèche) - St Matt's
	10:30	CAMEO - St Matthew's
	19:15	Central Small Groups Meal - St Matthew's
	19:30	Ascension Day Service - Cheltenham Minster
	20:00	Central Small Groups - St Matthew's
Friday	10:00	Friday Small Group - St Matthew's
26th May	19:00	Ignite - St Matthew's
	19:45	Music Group (all welcome) - St Matthew's

Thy Kingdom Come: Join the global wave of prayer.

This year, between Ascension Day and Pentecost, the Archbishop of Canterbury is encouraging every Christian community to join together and pray that their friends and neighbours come to know Jesus Christ. This a great vision and hope. Follow this link for more information: www.thykingdomcome.global
There will be prayer stations in both churches from next **Thursday 25th May** – Ascension day. Do please visit, use them and be inspired to pray.

Bicycle Stands

We are pleased to say that the bicycle stands are now available for use (through the gate in the car park). If you would like to know the combination on the lock do please ask a member of staff.

Upcoming Events

Thursday 25th May - Mahabba event at Salem Baptist Church, **9.30am-3.30pm**.

Thursday 25th May - Ascension Day Service at the Minster **7.30– 8.30pm**.

Wednesday 31st May - Hustings - Quiz the candidates. **7.30pm** at St Philip & St James Church - For more info email: info@pipandjims.org.uk

Saturday 3rd June – Concert at St Luke’s, **8pm**. Pamoja Gospel Choir and Christian folk band Stanhope Contact: Marion Burke (07837 267392).

Tuesday 13th June - The Cathedral Lecture. Alister McGrath on "God, Science, and Faith: Richard Dawkins v. C.S. Lewis on the Meaning of Life." **6pm** at Francis Close Hall Chapel, GL50 4AZ, refreshments from **5pm**.

Saturday 24th June - Charity 5-a-side football tournament for 14-18s across Cheltenham & Gloucester. £5 per player, drinks, hotdogs and guest speaker. **12-3pm** at All Saints Academy. Contact Annie.

Sunday 9th July - Service of Blessing for the new Minster Bells. **11am** at Cheltenham Minster.

Timetable for appointment of the new Rector

Earlier this week, we received information from the Simeon Trustees, who are the patrons for the appointment of the Rector of Cheltenham, that they and the Diocese would like to proceed quickly with the appointment. Technically, the vacancy does not start until after the end of Tudor’s sabbatical, that is, in September, but the patrons and the Diocese would like to be able to have all the processes in place for interviews on **23 November**. Bishop Rachel, who will be chairing the process already has this date in her diary. We have to develop a Profile with St Luke’s to accompany the advertisement and we shall be able to start the process to create that after the pre-vacancy meeting for the two PCCs (ours and St Luke’s) which will be on **30 May**.

The churchwardens have had an initial meeting with the Archdeacon and the patrons to go through the process and everything is starting to swing into action. We will continue to keep you informed about the process as soon as we have information. We should like to encourage everyone to pray about all of this. Clare Dyson and Stephen Ayland will be planning more opportunities for us to pray together about the appointment in the coming weeks.

The Ten o'clock service

Only 3 weeks until "The Ten O'Clock" starts on **11th June** and everyone is welcome to come for a coffee and croissant breakfast at **9.15am**.



A couple of weeks ago, we invited members of the congregation to talk to us about their views on the change of the morning service time at St Matthew's. We are grateful to the people who came to talk to us and ask questions. There are some of you who will find the change of time particularly difficult and we will very much regret it if you feel you have to go somewhere else. We have tried to offer as much help as possible (such as transport) but the new time will still remain an impossibility for some.

There are some of you who don't find the new time helpful to them but are prepared to give it a try, for which we thank you. However, by far the greatest number of comments came from people who are worried about the fact that we will lose those times when the Minster and St Matthew's congregations come together over coffee. For some, this means that we would lose the sense of different worshipping congregations as part of one fellowship. Since we believe that we need to make this change in order to meet the needs of the future, we also need to find new opportunities when we can be together and learn from each other. The recent party we held for Tudor and Anna was one such opportunity. Another opportunity will come in September with our...

..."Away" Day at Home

Please keep the weekend of 23-24 September free if you can. On **Saturday 23rd September**, we are going to run an "Away" Day at Home, using both church buildings. We have speakers lined up – Norman and Yvonne Warren, David's parents – and there will be activities for all ages. On the Sunday we will hold our annual One Service, slightly later than normal, but it fits in well with "Away" Day plans. More details will follow in a couple of weeks' time.

Paul Collacott & Charlotte Jamieson

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Rector: Interregnum Associate Vicar: Rev Patrick Wheaton
Pastoral Minister: Clare Dyson - clared@stmstm.org.uk