



# PEW'S NEWS

Church of St Matthew, Croydon

[www.stmatthew.org.uk](http://www.stmatthew.org.uk)

## Services

Sundays at 8.30am - said service of Holy Communion  
Sundays at 10am service of Holy Communion with singing led by the choir (live-streamed and on YouTube). Mid-week Communion Service on Wednesdays at 10.00am.

## Young Church

Sundays at 10am except the 2nd Sunday of each month which is an Altogether Now Service.

## Morning Prayer

Morning Prayer on Mondays & Wednesdays at 9am in the Lady Chapel. Zoom Morning Prayer - Tuesdays at 9am. Log in details: 524 546 0709 Password: stmatts

## Toddler Group

Thursdays 8.30 to 10.30am

## Renew 121

Mondays 2-4pm

## Coffee Mornings

2nd & 4th Sats. 10.30 to 12

## Gallery Group

Wednesdays 11am - 12pm

## Prayer Focus



I am overwhelmed with joy for this gift," said an elderly Christian woman in Myanmar. She was among 350 families of believers given Barnabas-funded rice, chickpeas and cooking oil after their villages in a Christian-majority region were burned down by the military. Many of the families are now living in makeshift shacks in a forest. Others are living with relatives or friends or sheltering in church buildings. Ask the Father of Compassion to have mercy on vulnerable civilians in Myanmar, especially our beleaguered brothers and sisters (2 Corinthians 1: 3-4). Ask for an end to the conflict.

## This week we are praying for the residents of:

Spindlewood Gardens / St Arvan's Close /  
St Clairs Road / Wren Court

## Readings for 29th December - First Sunday of Christmas

1 Samuel 2.18-20, 26 / Colossians 3.12-17 /  
Luke 2.41-52

## Diary Dates

### Women of the Nativity

Reflection & Prayer after the 10am service until Candlemas

### Parish Walk

4th January at 10.30am

### Cleaning St Matthew's

4th January at 9.30am

Please note:

No Morning Prayers:

30th December

1st January

No Wednesday Eucharist:

1st December

No Zoom prayers:

31st December

## Follow Us



## Support Us



Dear St Matthew's family

This year I bought myself a Christmas jumper. On it are the words, (in the shape of a Christmas tree)

“Jesus is the reason for the season”.

I'd encourage us all to hold fast to this especially when all around us the pressure for a 'perfect' Christmas can feel relentless and overwhelming.

It's right and good that we do celebrate, of course it is. But we must remember that the first Christmas was pretty simple, it's ok if ours is too. Even without all the trappings, what we must remember is that what we celebrate is the most amazing, most wonderful, most awe inspiring event. When God became a human being in the personhood of Jesus. And that event changed the world. And it changes us too if we allow ourselves to remember that Jesus is the reason for the season.

I hope and pray that you all you have a peaceful and blessed time this Christmas. I hope it's a season filled with celebration joy and wonder. And if it's not, if it's a really tough season for you, please remember that you are loved, God's gift to the world was Jesus over 2,000 years ago and is still the gift to us today.

May we hold fast to the certainty of God's presence with us in all things, because the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us and that this is the reason for the season.

Rev Ruth

## Contact Us

**Vicar** - The Revd Ruth Chapman - email [revruthchapman@gmail.com](mailto:revruthchapman@gmail.com) (not available on Fridays)

**Asst Priest** - The Revd Linda Fox on 07736 708828 or email [linda.stmatthews@gmail.com](mailto:linda.stmatthews@gmail.com)

**The Parish Office** - Contact Penny on 020 8681 3147 or email [stmatthewcroydon@gmail.com](mailto:stmatthewcroydon@gmail.com) Mon-Fri 9am to 12pm.