



St Matthew's Church

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Fifth Sunday of Easter

Sunday 28th April 2024

Welcome to St Matthew's, which is part of the Wimbledon Team Ministry in the Diocese of Southwark, Church of England. Our services today are:

8.00am Said Mass & 9.30am Sung Mass

Opening Voluntary

Prelude in D - Johann Christian Kittel (1732 – 1809); Trio on Chorale "Allein Gott in der Höh sei Ehr" (Glory to God alone in the heavens) - Andreas Armsdorff (1670 - 1699)

Processional Hymn

NEH119 The strife is o'er (tune NEH107)

The Collect

Almighty God,
who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ
have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life:
grant that, as by your grace going before us
you put into our minds good desires,
so by your continual help
we may bring them to good effect;
through Jesus Christ our risen Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

First Reading
Acts 8.26-end

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Get up and go towards the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.' (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go over to this chariot and join it.' So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?' He replied, 'How can I, unless someone guides me?' And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: 'Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.' The eunuch asked Philip, 'About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?' Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, 'Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?' He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Responsorial Psalm
Psalm 22.25-end

R. All the ends of the earth shall turn to you, O Lord

From you comes my praise in the great congregation:
I will perform my vows in the sight of those that fear you.
The poor shall eat and be satisfied:
those who seek the Lord shall praise him,
their hearts shall live forever. **R.**

All the ends of the earth shall turn to the Lord;
and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.
For the kingdom is the Lord's:
and he is ruler over the nations. **R.**

How can those who sleep in the earth bow down in worship,
or those who go down to the dust kneel before him?
He has saved my life for himself;
my descendants shall serve him;
this shall be told of the Lord for generations.
They shall come and make known
his salvation to a people yet unborn,
declaring that he the Lord has done it. **R.**

Second Reading

1 John 4.7-end

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Saviour of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgement, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, 'I love God', and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Gospel Acclamation

Make your home in me as I make mine in you:
whoever remains in me bears fruit in plenty.

The Gospel

John 15.1-8

'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

Offertory Hymn

NEH296 Lord, enthroned in heavenly splendour

Communion Antiphon

I am the vine and you are the branches, says the Lord:
he who lives in me and I in him will bear much fruit. Alleluia.

Communion Motet

Most glorious Lord of life - Sir William Harris (1883 - 1937)

Most glorious Lord of life, that on this day
didst make thy triumph over death and sin,
and having harrowed hell, didst bring away
captivity thence captive, us to win:

This joyous day, dear Lord, with joy begin,
and grant that we for whom thou diddest die,
being with thy dear blood clean washed from sin,
may live for ever in felicity:

And that thy love we weighing worthily,
may likewise love thee for the same again;
and for thy sake, that all like dear didst buy,
with love may one another entertain;

So let us love, dear Love, like as we ought;
love is the lesson which the Lord us taught.

Edmund Spencer (1552 - 1599)

Communion Hymn

NEH118 The Lord is risen indeed!

Post Communion Prayer

Eternal God,
whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life:
grant us to walk in his way,
to rejoice in his truth,
and to share his risen life;
who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.
Amen.

Final Hymn

NEH437 Praise the Lord! Ye heavens adore him

Closing Voluntary

Toccatà and fugue in D minor BWV 565 - J S Bach (1685 - 1750)

News and Notices

Many **THANKS** to Matt Smith for preaching for us this morning. Look out for details shortly of the preaching workshop/event Martin Kohler and Fr Alastair are planning.

Coming up this week: **SOULSCAPE** on Thursday 2nd May, 8pm (chants from 7.30pm); and **ALL AGE MASS WITH BAPTISM** on Sunday 5th May, 9.30am.

Our **ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING** is coming up on 12th May, immediately after the 0930 service. This is a chance to review the past year in church, and appoint those who help to lead the church: Churchwardens, Deanery Synod Reps, and District Church Council (leadership team) members. If you are interested in standing for any of these positions, please speak to Fr Alastair or the current wardens (Jane and William).

We will also be opening up the **ELECTORAL ROLL** before the Annual Church Meeting. If you are not currently on the Electoral Roll (essentially our list of 'members') and would like to be, please speak to Fr Alastair or our Electoral Roll Officer (Marcia Woods).

Hot on the heels of the ACM is our **MAY FAIR** on 18th May.

- Please sign up for providing raffle prizes and helping on stalls at the sheets at the back of the church.
- Please also continue bringing in things for us to sell: old books, bric-a-brac, new gifts and toys, bottles, and old china (for smashing!).
- We still need people to **HELP SECURE RAFFLE PRIZES** from local Wimbledon and Raynes Park businesses. For many years Jan Bailey did this, but she has now moved away.

Bookings are already open for our next **MESSY CHURCH** on Sunday 30th June. Details here: <https://www.stmatthewswimbledon.org/messychurch>

Dates for your diary:

- Thursday 9th May @8pm, Team Ascension Day Service, St Matthew's
- Sunday 12th May @11pm, Annual Church Meeting
- Saturday 18th May, May Fair
- Sunday 30th June @3pm, Messy Church, St Matthew's School



Please email news items by 9am
Wednesday each week to
sam@parishofwimbledon.org.uk

PARISH NEWS

TEAM PRAYERS Thursday 2 May at St Mary's

Tennis Championships Parking

This is now available to book via the website stmaryswimbledon.org/tennis-parking.

PCC Treasurer Needed

Our team of churches needs a treasurer. You would be a trustee of the Charity. The day to day bookkeeping and other routine tasks are going to be outsourced to an accountancy team. We need the Treasurer to oversee the work of the accountancy firm, the finances of the Parish, to advise the PCC on the financial implications of their decisions and help with long term financial planning and investments. You would be a member of the PCC and Standing Committee which meets eleven times a year. For more details of what is involved please speak to me. Mandy

Discussions about the future of the Parish of Wimbledon

The PCC met with the Archdeacon of Lambeth to explore the possibility of the parish becoming a group of parishes, with each of the churches becoming an individual parish. At the end of the meeting we thought that we should share this idea with the wider community so we can think together about whether this is the right thing to do. The Rector has written a paper on the subject to introduce it and the main issues around it. You can find this on St Mary's and the Parish website. The DCC and PCC will be discussing the issue again at their next meetings and we would like to know what you think. Please speak to your DCC members. This will be a slow process which we will take our time over, but we think it is worth further consideration. A paper can be read here: <https://www.stmaryswimbledon.org/parish-of-wimbledon>

SERVICES IN THE TEAM WEEK

	Morning Prayer	Evening Prayer	Eucharist
Monday	St Mary's 8.45am St Matthew's 9.00am		
Tuesday	St Mary's 8.45am St Matthew's 9.00am	St Mary's 5pm St Matthew's 5pm	
Wednesday	St Mary's 8.45am	St Mary's 5pm St Matthew's 5pm	St Matthew's 10am St Mary's 12noon St Mark's 1pm
Thursday	St Mary's 8.45am St Matthew's 9.00am	St Matthew's 5pm	
Friday	St Mary's 8.45am St Matthew's 9.00am	St Matthew's 5pm St Mary's 5pm	
Saturday	St Mary's 12noon		

Services and Events during the Week

St Matthew's Church is open for private prayer at the following times:

Mon-Fri: 9am-5pm; **Sat:** Closed

Please feel free to come in, say a prayer, and light a candle. The clergy will be saying morning/evening prayer in church at the following times.

Week Services

Monday

9.00am Morning Prayer
5.00pm Evening Prayer

Tuesday

9.00am Morning Prayer
5.00pm Evening Prayer

Wednesday

10.00am Said Mass (Lady Chapel)
5.00pm Evening Prayer

Thursday

9.00am Morning Prayer
2.00pm Team Prayers at St Mary's
8.00pm Soulscape

Friday

9.00am Morning Prayer
5.00pm Evening Prayer

Next Sunday

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Readings: Acts 10.44-end; 1 John 5.1-6, John, 15.9-17

8.00am Said Mas

9.30am All Age Mass with Baptism

Want to make a donation towards the work of the church? You can do so here. Thank you!

