

# St. Luke's & St. John's

## Praising God in Devon

Dearest friends,

I want to start the new year by thanking you all. What an amazing Advent and Christmas we have shared.

At moments I felt as if my little feet would never touch the ground! We offered so many carol services and visits for schools - including new schools who have never visited our churches before.

We welcomed new people and old people and people who simply wondered why the bells were ringing, or why the lights were on, or why they could hear singing escaping through our windows.

In short, we were a shining beacon of Jesus incarnation in the world and people were attracted to that love!

So many of you pulled together and worked so hard. I am reticent to name people individually, but I cannot express how lucky I feel to be part of these two amazing parishes and to see how you made things happen - sometimes with almost no (or none at all!) planning or direction.

There was at times a sense of chaos. But you looked for the Grace of the Holy Spirit and

you made things happen. THAT is what being a church community is all about. Keeping a keen eye on the Grace of the Holy Spirit and racing as quickly as you can to make it known in the world.

2025 is going to be the year of the family for both of our parishes. I want to build on the amazing Live Nativity at St. Luke's and the Christingle at St. John's - the amazing work of the Junior Church Team at St. Luke's and the desire to work more closely with St. Catherine's in Heathfield.

With the arrival of the nursery at St. Luke's and the open door at St. Catherine's School we have some amazing opportunities to welcome new families into our community and lives. We have an opportunity to baptise and make Jesus known and be at the heart of every family who comes across us.

Rather than these things being planned behind the closed doors of PCC or Social Committees - I want all of us to be able to have a voice, all of us to share our ideas, all of us to be part of what this could

mean in practice - so please, please, please(!) find time to come to the planning meeting THIS THURSDAY at 7pm at Wickham Hall in Bovey. Lifts are available if needed, just ask me.

In love, and with every best wish for the year ahead,

Fr. Matthew

## Notices

### Spring Term (and Easter) Planning Meeting

As we look ahead to Easter there'll be another open planning meeting (as we did for Christmas) THIS THURSDAY. This is for *everyone at both parishes* to come along and share your ideas on what you think we should be doing - both in terms of social activities as well as our services. We'll be meeting at Wickham Hall at 7pm on the 9<sup>th</sup> January.

### The Bible Course

Our course this term is 'The Bible Course' and will run on Thursday evenings in Wickham Hall at 7pm for 8 weeks starting 23<sup>rd</sup> January. The final session (13<sup>th</sup> March) will be taught by the Bishop of Exeter, The Rt. Rev'd Dr. Mike Harrison.

## Today

### Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> January

#### The Epiphany of The Lord

9:15am - Sung Mass, St. John's

11am - Sung Mass, St. Luke's

*Divine Office Psalter Week 2, C(I), Christmas 2*

#### January

8<sup>th</sup> - St. Luke's PCC

9<sup>th</sup> - Spring (& Easter) term planning meeting [all] 7pm WH

12<sup>th</sup> - St. Luke's Parish Lunch

16<sup>th</sup> - St. John's PCC, 5pm

Susanna Crow YWAM talk, 7pm [SJ]

23<sup>rd</sup> - The Bible Course (every Thursday), 7pm WH

25<sup>th</sup> - Jesus, This Is Your Life & Burns Night Supper [SJ]

#### February

12<sup>th</sup> - St. Luke's PCC

Why is this space empty you may ask.... well it's because we've not yet met to discuss what we'd like to do across Spring and into Easter. EVERYONE has a chance to put ideas forward or to talk about the things they love at the planning meeting to be held at Wickham Hall **THIS THURSDAY at 7pm**. This is for **BOTH** parishes and is a great opportunity for us to plan our mission together.



#### Father Matthew Cashmore

[father@slsj.co.uk](mailto:father@slsj.co.uk)

07555 924862

#### Churchwardens

[SJ] Mark Richards (01626) 830063

[SL] Mr Robert (Bob) Julian 07487 653854

[SL] Mr Michael (Mick) Regan (01626) 366559

#### Associate Clergy

Fr Christopher Robins, Fr Robin Eastoe SSC

Fr Alan White and Deacon David Rogers

Licensed Lay Minister: Mr Graham Whittle

(01626) 212339

## The week ahead:

### Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January

Monday after Epiphany Sunday

[prayers offered at home, Fr. Matthew's rest day]

*Prayer focus: Our Clergy*

### Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January

Tuesday after Epiphany Sunday

9:30am - Morning Prayer [SJ]

10am - Said Mass [SJ]

*Prayer focus: The Parish of St. Luke's*

### Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January

Wednesday after Epiphany Sunday

10am - Said Mass [SL]

7pm - St. Luke's PCC

*Prayer focus: All Children*

### Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> January

Thursday after Epiphany Sunday

10am - Said Mass [SJ]

7pm - Spring & Easter Planning Meeting

at Wickham Hall for both churches.

*Prayer focus: The Mission of St. Luke's and St. John's*

### Friday 10<sup>th</sup> January

Friday after Epiphany Sunday

10am - Said Mass [SL]

*Prayer focus: The Parish of St. John's*

### Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> January

Saturday after Epiphany Sunday

[prayers offered at home]

*Prayer focus: All Families*

### Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> January

#### The Baptism of The Lord

9:15am - Sung Mass, St. John's

11am - Sung Mass, St. Luke's

*Divine Office Psalter Week 1, C(I), Epiphany 1*

## Please pray for:

Lydia, Mary, Viv and Linda, Rosemary, Diana, Phil and Jean, Alan, Sophie, Bill, Marilyn, Roy, Anne-Marie, Simon, Liz, Melville and Jean, David, Hannah, Kathryn, Jenny, Dan.

## Pray for the souls of:

Geoff Wills, John Alfred Pease, Bettery Wilbourne and all those listed in the Lady Chapel of St. Luke's.