

St Matthews

A Christmas card from St Matthew's Church, Oxford

Happy CHRISTMAS

FROM US ALL AT
ST MATTHEW'S, OXFORD



Here are the dates and times of our Christmas Services and other events at St Matthew's. All are welcome!

**Dec. 8th 5 pm.
Sunday**

Carol singing. We start at St Matthew's and go on to Pegasus Grange for 5.45pm. Mulled wine and mince pies at the end!

**Dec. 14th 4 pm
Saturday**

**"Christmas Cracker"
A celebration in drama (see back page)**

**Dec. 22nd 6 pm
Sunday**

Carol Service at St Matthew's Church

**Dec. 24th 3 pm
Tuesday**

**Christmas Eve Crib Service followed by
Christmas Party for children**

**Dec 25th 10.30 am
Wednesday**

Christmas Day Celebration

Also, at St Luke's church

**Dec 15th 4 pm
Sunday**

Carol Service



This picture, and the one on the front page were drawn by younger members of St Matthew's church.



Welcome to our December St Mattheus, from our Vicar, Jenni Williams:

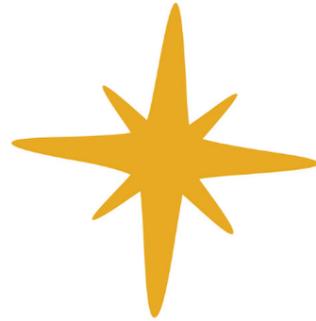
At this time of year, you hear songs with the word "Immanuel" in them a LOT. But for Christians, this is what Christmas is about. "Immanuel" simply means "God is with us". Not above us, safely away from the action, watching in a detached way. But with us. In all of it: the good and the bad, the suffering and the joy, sharing in it all.

Christmas is about God born as a human being. Born as a refugee, from complicated family circumstances, in poverty and homelessness. Taking all that on, living among us: this is the ultimate expression of God's love and care for us all. That's what Christmas is: knowing that no matter where you find yourself, God is in it with you. If you would like to experience celebrating God-with-us this Christmas, we'd love to welcome you to church this Christmas.

May the love and the joy, and the grace and the peace, of Christmas be with you all.



DISCOVER



ADVENT TRAIL

From 1st-24th December, there will be 12 Advent Trail posters along Marlborough Road.

Can you find them all?

Each poster has a question. Do you know the answers?

For a free Christmas prize, bring your answers to St Matthew's church on 24th December between 2:30-3pm.

Our Christmas Crib service and party is at 3pm, if you'd like to join us for that too.



Children must complete the trail with their own adult. Adults, once you have completed the trail, please let us know how many children require prize packs via the QR code.



Christmas choir

Calling all singers!

Come and join us to swell the merry band of singers at our church Christmas Carol Service.

It's on **Sunday 22nd December at 18:00.**

Rehearsals will be held in the church on Wednesday evenings, 4th, 11th, and 18th December, at 8 pm, with a final rehearsal on Sunday 22nd at 3.30 pm.

No audition is necessary!

Please let Jeremy (jandhskertchly@hotmail.co.uk) know if you'd like to take part, even if you can't attend every rehearsal.



Also...

We'll be carol singing outside on Sunday 8th December from 5 pm. We start at St Matthew's and go on to Pegasus Grange for 5.45pm.

Mulled wine and mince pies at the end!

Do come and join us; it's always such fun. The more, the merrier. No previous experience required! Just a smile on your face.

**Would you like to book our hall for your Christmas party?
Please contact us at: office@stmatthewsoxford.org.uk**

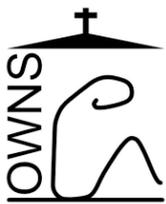


**Are you struggling with your money?
Christians Against Poverty can always help.**

We have a debt centre, here in Oxford, which runs in conjunction with the national charity, Christians Against Poverty. If you, or anyone you know, are struggling with money problems, then give us a call.

(We can't pay your bills off for you, but we help you to negotiate with your creditors and find a way to balance your income with your costs.)

**Call for free help and advice.
0800 328 0006 or 07918 599255**



Oxford Winter Night Shelter

St Matthew's expects to be hosting guests of the Oxford Winter Night Shelter again this winter in the Parish Centre. From New Year until the end of March there are 7 churches across the city where overnight accommodation is available every night to people who would otherwise be sleeping outside.

At St Matthew's we are pleased to welcome up to 10 people on Sunday nights. We ensure they can have some food on arrival, a warm bed for the night and a simple breakfast in the morning.

If you would like to volunteer to help at any of the venues, please go to www.ownsoxford.org.uk

And did you know that Oxford Community Church...

... offers a free Christmas lunch to people on their own on Christmas Day. If you would like to contribute to this lovely ministry, you can donate to help towards the cost.

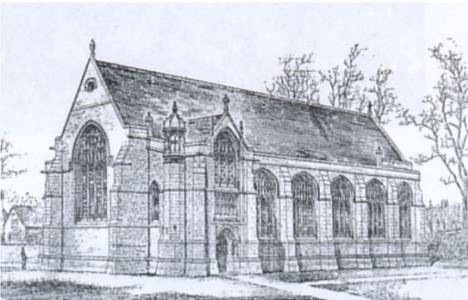
Go to: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/oxford-christmas-lunch-2024>

**Maybe you sometimes feel lonely, especially at Christmas?
Loneliness affects millions of people across the UK.**

**If it's you, or someone you know, when you need more than just a chat, you can call Archway on
01865 790552.**

The Archway Foundation is a registered charity providing support to alleviate the hurt and distress, and the impact on mental and physical health, which can be caused by loneliness and social isolation.

**If you're feeling a teeny bit lively, there is a Christmas Knees-Up!
Saturday 7th December 7-11pm in aid of Archway.
Pop along to the Village Hall, Sunningwell, Abingdon, OX13 6RD.
Tickets cost £15, please contact Bobbie on 07771 924177**



Church Information

St Matthew's Church
Marlborough Road, Oxford, OX1 4LW
01865 798587
office@stmatthewsoxford.org.uk
www.stmatthewsoxford.org.uk

Sunday services	10.30 am and 6.00 pm	
Mondays	8.15 pm.	Meditation meeting
Tuesdays	9.00 am:	English language chat (for ladies)
	6.45 pm:	Prayer meeting
Thursdays	11.00 am:	Holy Communion
	11.30 am:	Community hot drinks
	12.00 noon	Community lunch

SOMATA Productions are proud to present their
brand new, sparkling Christmas Family Show



CHRISTMAS cracker

14 **AT 4 PM**
DEC for festive refreshments,
show from 4.30pm to 5.30pm

FREE

no booking required. Donations to
St Matthew's 'Refresh Appeal'.

St Matthew's Church,
63, Marlborough Rd, Oxford OX1 4LW

More info: Email Carolyn on: clloydavies@msn.com