

# St Matthews

The newsletter of St Matthew's Church, Oxford

March 2025



**Come and join us at St Matthew's.  
See inside for what's coming up.**





**St Matthew's has been officially recognised as a Single Friendly Church.**

**What does that mean?**

- We know that our Parish is made up of a diversity of households and we look to welcome everyone.
- We recognise that it can be hard for anyone to find community, but that there can also be particular challenges to this when you are single.
- St Matthew's church sought to become part of the Single Friendly Church network to demonstrate that we have thought through these challenges and are working to address them as part of our aim to make St Matthew's a joyful, welcoming community for everyone.

Contact Laura at [pioneerworker@stmatthewsoxford.org.uk](mailto:pioneerworker@stmatthewsoxford.org.uk) for more information on how we've approached this at our church. We'd love to discuss this with you and we very much hope to welcome you here at St Matthew's soon.

To find out more about Single Friendly Church, visit [www.singlefriendlychurch.com](http://www.singlefriendlychurch.com).

## Cinema nights at St Matthew's

we really hope you're enjoying them, not only the films, but also the chats and the company



### Save the date!

The next time we will be showing a film and inviting you to it will be:

**Friday 21st March**

Doors open at 7.00 pm for a 7.30 pm start

I'm sorry, but we are still deciding which film it will be, so you can either:

- email Laura, who will be happy to let you know in due course

[pioneerworker@stmatthewsoxford.gov.uk](mailto:pioneerworker@stmatthewsoxford.gov.uk)

or

- come anyway, and have a nice surprise!

**Parliament is currently considering a Bill on Assisted Dying.**

**During the Sunday mornings of Lent (from 9<sup>th</sup> March onwards), at St Matthew's we will be considering life from numerous angles and hearing from experts in a number of fields. See below. All are welcome.**

**LIVING LIFE TO THE FULL @ St Matthew's Church (OX1 4LW)**  
*moving towards developing a theology of life*

Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> March at 10.30am

**Amazing Life** (perspectives from Dr Victoria Bradley, Clinical Lead, Sobell House Hospice)

Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> March at 10.30 am

**The Holiness of Death** (whilst living life to the full); Dr Charlie Bond

Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> March at 10.30 am

**A good death, and how to talk about it;** Revd Canon Dr Joanna Collicutt

Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> March at 10.30 am

**Mothering Sunday**

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April at 10.30 am

**Living Life to the full when living with a disability;** Revd Katie Tupling (Oxford Diocese Disability Advisor)

Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> April at 10.30 am

**Palm Sunday** (in the light of the Assisted Dying debate and Living Life to the full)

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> April at 10.30 am

**Easter Sunday**

Post Easter: We will be exploring further how the Bible talks about life, death, and afterwards, moving towards developing a theology of living life to the full.

**As part of the RETUNE festival, St Matthew's is delighted to host:**

**A Celebration of the Coleridge-Taylors**

Oxford University Chorus and Players | Louis Benneyworth & Hattie Twigger-Ross, conductors

Overture to Hiawatha, *Samuel Coleridge-Taylor*

Wyndore, *Avril Coleridge-Taylor*

Sussex Landscape, *Avril Coleridge-Taylor*

Hiawatha's Wedding Feast, *Samuel Coleridge-Taylor*

In the centrepiece event of RETUNE 2025 on International Women's Day, we celebrate the musical world of the Coleridge-Taylor family. Avril, and her father Samuel (whose centenary we mark through our concert), were hugely significant voices in the British music tradition of the 20th century, with both contributing a hoard of orchestral, choral, and chamber music. A fascination with Longfellow's epic poem 'The Song of Hiawatha' underpins our musical narrative (indeed, Samuel Coleridge-Taylor named his son Hiawatha). In fact, a festival existed during the late 1890s that was devoted to the sharing of Samuel's cantata 'Hiawatha's Wedding Feast', and so it feels fitting that this work is at the heart of this centrepiece concert.

**Saturday 8th March 2025 @ 7:30pm**

**St Matthew's Church, 63 Marlborough Road, OX1 4LW**

**Tickets: £6.50 students | £13.50 general**



Find out more about RETUNE:



## Our Parish Centre

**How do you think we can make the Parish Centre carbon footprint lower?**

**How can we make the Parish Centre facilities better for you?**

### Refresh

As previously announced here we have started work to decide how to reduce the carbon footprint of our church and hall.

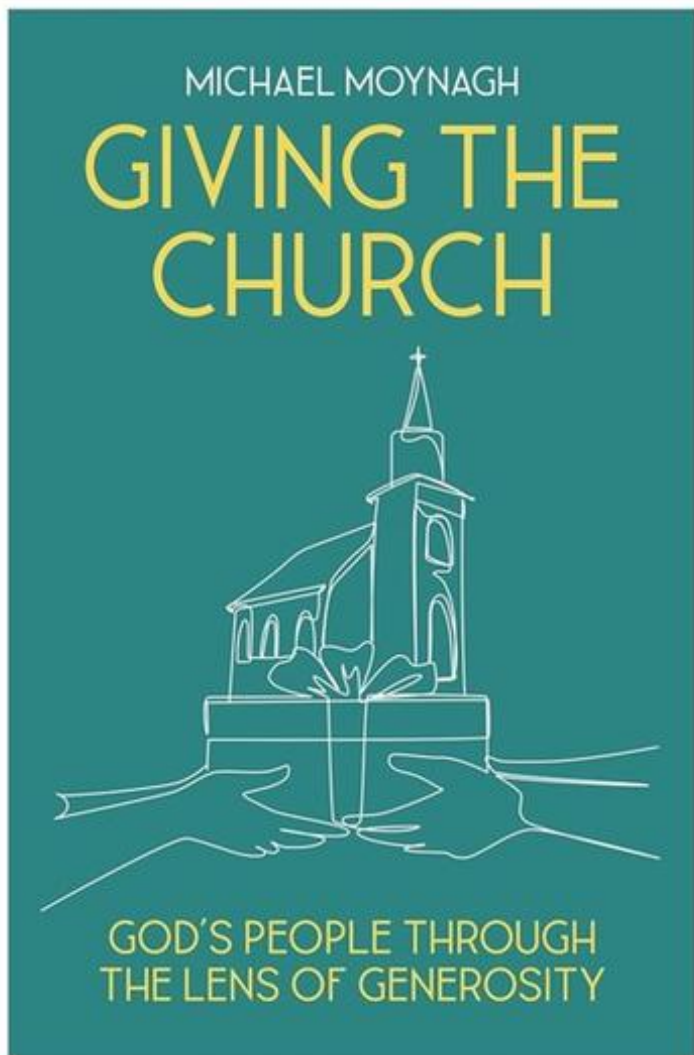
We are calling this...

**the Refresh Project.**

We are currently engaging with architects and business experts in this field, and they are well into their studies.

There will be an opportunity to share the ideas coming out of their studies. The likely time-scale for this is probably in May (this year!) when we plan to have a public meeting.





**Our own Michael Moynagh has written two new books which are to be launched this month. Come and see:**

**"Through the Looking Glass of Generosity" -**

**Alison Milbank & Mike Moynagh**

**BOOKS LAUNCH**

**Monday 10 March 2025**

**5:15 pm**

**Wycliffe Hall**

**52-54 Banbury Road**

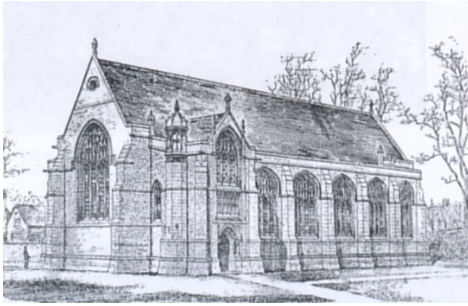
**OX2 6PW**

**About *The Church as Gift***

When Alice stepped through the looking glass, she entered a completely different world. This little book invites you to pass through a theological looking glass and totally re-imagine the church. What would it be like if we saw the church as a gift from God to others to benefit the world? And what does healthy giving look like? Easy to read, the book explores the very nature of generosity. How you give may never be the same again!

**"A punchy, intriguing and thought-provoking challenge to be radically generous as a church. Mike not only calls us to learn how to give, but also provides a very fresh look at the need to receive."**

(Lucy Moore, Head of the Growing Faith Foundation, founder of Messy Church.)



## Church Information

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

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

## Who's Who at St Matthew's

<b>Vicar:</b>	<b>Jenni Williams</b>
<b>Associate Vicar</b>	<b>Jon Williams</b>
<b>Associate Minister</b>	<b>Mike Rayner</b>
<b>Curate:</b>	<b>Rob Rogers</b>
<b>Administrator:</b>	<b>Katharine Crouch</b>
<b>Church Warden:</b>	<b>Peter Buchan-Symons</b>
<b>Church Warden:</b>	<b>Jane Jones</b>
<b>Parish Safeguarding Officer:</b>	<b>Nicky Rayner</b>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	<b>David Crouch</b>
<b>Stewardship:</b>	<b>Carolyn Lloyd-Davies</b>
<b>Pioneer Mission Worker:</b>	<b>Laura Evans</b>

**St Matthnews** is the newsletter of St Matthew's Church, Oxford.

**If you have any comments to make about this issue, we love to get feed-back.  
If you have items you would like to include in the next issue, please send them to me.  
(Our vicar, Jenni, reserves the right to decide whether or not we can accept matters for publication.)**

**My contact details are:     John Price                     john@pricejd.com**

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