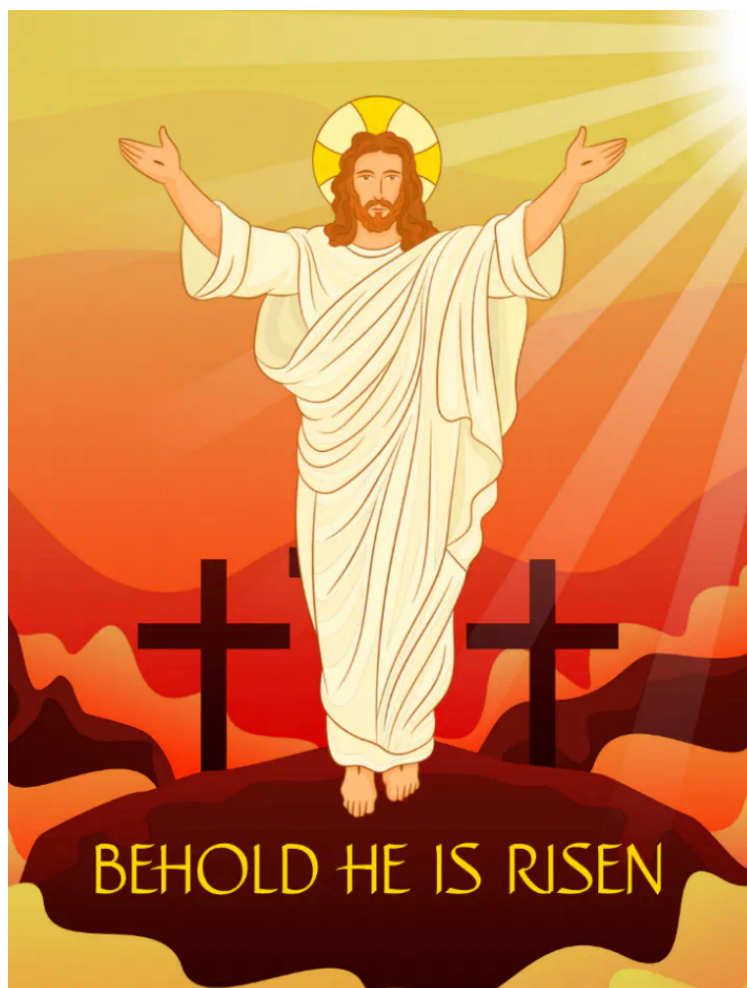


# St Matthnews

**The newsletter of St Matthew's Church, Oxford**

**April 2025**

**This year Easter Sunday falls on April 20th.  
We would love to invite you to come and join us at church to  
celebrate and thank God for all He did for us.  
See page 2 for the details of all our Easter services and other  
activities.**



# Easter at St Matthew's, and you're invited!

Monday 14<sup>th</sup>      Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup>      Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> April  
at 7.00 pm each day

**Towards the Cross:** a quiet service to reflect

Maundy Thursday      17<sup>th</sup> April

7.00 pm      **Garden of Gethsemane**

A meditative reflection

Good Friday 18<sup>th</sup> April

10.00 am      **Messy Easter**

Songs, stories and crafts to tell the story of Easter.

11am      **Drop-in** for hot cross buns and coffee

12 noon      **An Hour at the Cross**

Music, art and prayers for Good Friday

Easter Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> April

10.30am      **Easter celebration**

All ages welcome, followed by an Easter Egg hunt

## **Easter Reflection**

A few weeks ago I was watching The Apprentice - a reality TV show which some of you may know. It involves 2 teams of budding entrepreneurs being set tasks each week, with one person on the losing team being 'fired' from the programme.

This particular week, the task was to create and market an Easter egg - and I have to say, whilst one team managed to produce an impressive looking egg, the other - well the less said about that the better! But what struck me, was that neither team was able to verbalise what Easter is about, its unique selling point, so to speak, although various ideas were bandied around. The 'easter bunny' seemed to be the favourite!

And I found myself sadly reflecting what had been missed. We all (maybe!) love the chocolate, the opportunity to spend extended time with loved ones to rest, relax, and have some fun times together. But the heart of Easter is a story of hope, of love, of being offered a fresh start, of perhaps beginning to make sense of the often confusing world and anxious times we live in. By his death on the cross and subsequent return to life, which Christians celebrate at Easter, Jesus opens up for each one of us the pathway to God.

What we discover isn't condemnation, but One who loves us infinitely more than we can imagine. One who accompanies, holds and treasures us as we navigate our way through the ups and downs of life. It may never make good television, but this Easter, and every Easter, the invitation is always to begin again with God, and in doing so, to find renewed hope both within ourselves, and within our world.

Our vicar, Revd. Dr. Jenni Williams, would love to see you at any of our Easter services. The times and dates are on the opposite page.

Revd. Janet Taft





**24.05.2025**

# CELLIDH



**AT ST MATTHEW'S CHURCH**

**ADDRESS: 63 MARLBOROUGH ROAD, OX1 4LW**

**DOORS: 6PM FOR 6:30PM START**

**FINISH: 9PM**

**DRINKS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE**

**NIBBLES AVAILABLE**

**TICKETS: £15 ADULTS | £7.50 KIDS**

**BOOK: VIA QR CODE OR EMAIL**

**PIONEERWORKER@STMATTHEWSOXFORD.ORG.UK**



# REFLECTION space

Where do we long to see change?

BUSINESS

TECH & MEDIA

HEALTHCARE

ENVIRONMENT

POLITICS

On Saturday 19th April, St Matthew's church will be open for reflection on the question:

***"Where do we long to see change?"***

There will be a focus on the 5 areas above with space for prayer and relaxed activities for personal reflection.

We hope everyone will feel welcome.

Please contact Laura at  
[pioneerworker@stmatthewsoxford.org.uk](mailto:pioneerworker@stmatthewsoxford.org.uk) with any questions.

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

**When:** Saturday 19th April, 2-4:30pm

**Cost:** Free



**Due to the long hours of daylight, we're hitting pause on our film nights for now...**

If you've joined us at our recent screenings, we really hope that you enjoyed coming along. We've had a great time! It's been lovely to get to meet some of you too.

We'll be putting on other events during the Spring/Summer months but the plan is for the film nights to return in the Autumn. We'd love to hear what you'd like to see.

**Please email suggestions to Laura at**  
[pioneerworker@stmatthewsoxford.org.uk](mailto:pioneerworker@stmatthewsoxford.org.uk).

### **Prayer Changes Things**

God cares about us in every detail and at St Matthew's we believe that God can change things.

If YOU have a prayer request, why not let us know? You can pop it (anonymously, if you like) into the church mailbox which is on the wall to the left of the glass church doors.

Our Tuesday evening prayer group will pray for you.

### **Do you sometimes feel lonely? We can help.**

**If you do, or you know someone who does, 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.**

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

**Call for free confidential help and advice.**

**0800 328 0006 or 07918 599255**

## **Can anyone help this lady, please?**

**A lady from Littlemore would be very grateful for a lift to and from our Community Lunch at St Matthew's every Thursday.**

**She doesn't have a car and would find it very difficult to get to Marlborough Road especially as she has mobility problems.**

**Pick up around about 11:30 am; drop off about 1:30 pm.**

**If you think you might help, or for further information, please contact:**

**Amy Symons on [symons.amy@gmail.com](mailto:symons.amy@gmail.com)**

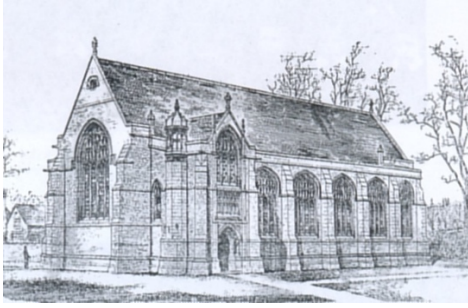
## **REFRESH**

**... and finally, for this month, just to update everyone how we're progressing with our Refresh project to update our heating.**

**The evaluation continues.**

**Our architect has provided us with some design options, and the building services engineers have recently carried out an air tightness test of the building to help the choice of heating system.**

**More to follow.**



## Church Information

**St Matthew's Church**  
**Marlborough Road, Oxford, OX1 4LW**  
**01865 798587**  
[office@stmatthewsoxford.org.uk](mailto:office@stmatthewsoxford.org.uk)  
[www.stmatthewsoxford.org.uk](http://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](mailto:john@pricejd.com)

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