

InforMatt

December 2019



Welcome to **InforMatt**, the monthly news-sheet for St. Matthew's, Surbiton. If you would like to know more about upcoming events and church activities, please visit our website – www.stmatthewskt6.org or visit us on Sunday mornings at 9.15 or 11am .

'There is a time for everything

and a season for every activity under the sun' is part of a Bible reading from Ecclesiastes chapter 3 which seems increasingly popular at funerals. At its most basic it reminds us that there is a time to live and a time to die but also times for opposing opportunities throughout our life - for tearing down and building up, for embracing and refraining from embracing, for weeping and laughing, for speaking and for being silent. We live our lives within these contrasting times and need to navigate our own path of mental well-being through them.

As I write this I don't think I can quite come to terms with how quickly Christmas is approaching. Even the prospect of Advent is quite untimely . . . Surely it's way too early! Advent should be a time of anticipation but what happens when events seem to come so thick and fast that we barely have time to take things in in the present, let alone be awaiting them! Time's like that, isn't it. Ten minutes spent doing some not very pleasurable activity whether that's the gym, the laundry or the tax return as against an hour spent watching a favourite TV programme or talking to a friend . . . How time plays tricks on us.

This tension within our experience of time is captured in the two Greek words for time - 'chronos' and 'Kairos'. 'Chronos' relates more to the quantity of time - when we look at our watches and can't believe it is that time already or when we look at our calendars . . . and can't believe it is Christmas around the corner! Perhaps we might view this sort of time as time which carries us along in a flowing river - we are borne along by it, perhaps against our will. Chronos time can make us stressed and tense.

By contrast, kairos time is more about the quality of time. Kairos time is when we are so deeply engrossed in something or fully enjoying something that time seems almost to stand still. Kairos is likened to swimming in a quiet lake which refreshes us.

Put like that, our different experiences of time seem more explicable. It's the difference between a minute and a moment. So perhaps the question for us this Advent is not only how are we going to be spending our time but what sort of time it is!

The Psalmist gave us good advice in assessing how we might spend our time on earth when he wrote:

*Teach us to number our days aright,
That we might gain a heart of wisdom. Psalm 90.12*

Such wisdom will be the wisdom of God which will lead us into holding a more balanced perspective in life. Reflecting the thinking in Ecclesiastes, our days, our time and the wisdom we gain through them will help us to meet whatever befalls us . . . 'a time to mourn and a time to dance, . . . a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them'.

If that's not enough to think about this Advent then there's always the fridge magnet which says '**How you spend your time is more important than how you spend your money.**' That's an interesting aphorism to take with us into Advent, especially when both may be in short supply.

So now, there is just enough space left for me to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and blessings into the New Year, when the time is right. Like sending cards to Australia weeks in advance it all seems rather premature but we know that our Saviour will come once again to a stable far away and we shall come to worship, Amen.

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The Rev'd Helen Hancock teamrector@stmatthewskt6.org and 020 8390 3829.

St Matthew's along with St George's and St Paul's is part of the Tolworth Hook & Surbiton Team Ministry ('THiS Team')

December

1 Sunday		First Sunday of Advent
	9.15 am	Holy Communion Service
	11.00 am	11 o'clock Service - the Posada starts its journey.
	4.00 pm	Starlight Service for residents and families of RS&G in church
2 Mon	9.45 am	Brunch Bunch
	8.00 pm	Inspire House Group
3 Tues	7.30 pm	Kingston and Surbiton Election Hustings - Surbiton Hill Methodist Church
	8.00 pm	Ruby House Group
4 Wed	8.00 pm	Beta House Group
5 Thurs	10.00 am	SMArties Embroidery Group
	7.00 pm	Choir practice
	8.00 pm	Delta House Group
	8.00 pm	Sigma House Group
6 Fri	10.00 am	St Matthew's Mum's Group meeting - Creche
	12.30 pm	Soup Lunch - in Church - everyone welcome!
	6.00 pm	Surbiton Rotary Christmas Collection - volunteers needed please.
8 Sunday		Second Sunday of Advent
	9.15 am	Holy Communion Service
	11.00 am	11 o'clock Service
	5.00 pm	Fuel Youth Group meeting - North Room
9 Mon	9.45 am	Brunch Bunch
	8.00 pm	Inspire House Group
	1.30 pm	School Christmas Performance
	7.00 pm	School Christmas Performance
	8.00 pm	Inspire House Group
10 Tues	11.00 am	Christmas Service for the residents of Milverton Care Home
	1.30 pm	School Christmas Performance
	2.30 pm	Christmas Service for the residents of Rosclare Care Home
	7.00 pm	School Christmas Performance
11 Wed	1.30 pm	School Christmas Performance
	7.00 pm	School Christmas Performance
	8.00 pm	Beta House Group
12 Thurs		Polling in Church All Day
	10.15 am	Project Team meeting
	7.00 pm	Choir practice in the Vicarage
	8.00 pm	Delta House Group
	8.00 pm	Sigma House Group
13 Fri	10.00 am	School Christmas Performance
14 Sat	9.30 am	Preparing for Christmas - Nativity play rehearsal and Church decorating
	4.00 pm	All invited to the Vicarage for mulled wine and mince pies - until 6pm
15 Sunday		Third Sunday of Advent
	9.15 am	Holy Communion Service
	11.00 am	11 o'clock Service with Nativity Play
16 Mon	9.45 am	Brunch Bunch
	10.30 am	Christmas Service for the residents of Bourne House
	8.00 pm	Inspire House Group
	6.30 pm	Community Carols at the cornerHOUSE
17 Tues	2.30 pm	Holy Communion for the residents of The Royal Star and Garter Home
	6.00 pm	EBRRA Carols on the Green on the corner of Ellerton and Ditton Roads
18 Wed	2.00 pm	Chance to Chat - in church, all welcome
	8.00 pm	Beta House Group
19 Thurs	9.30 am	School Christmas Service
	10.00 am	SMArties Embroidery Group
	11.00 am	Christmas Service for the residents of Southborough Nursing Home

	1.30 pm	St Matthew's Mum's Group meeting - Creche
	6.00 pm	EBRRA Carols on the Green - reserve day in case it is wet on the 17th
	7.00 pm	Choir practice
	8.00 pm	Delta House Group
	8.00 pm	Sigma House Group
20 Fri	11.00 am	Southborough School Carol Service

22 Sunday

Fourth Sunday of Advent

9.15 am	No Service
10.30 am	All Age Communion Service with Christingle making
6.15 for 6.30pm	Carols by Candlelight - bring a torch for easier reading by candlelight

24 Tues

CHRISTMAS EVE

12.00 pm	Holy Communion for the residents of The Royal Star and Garter Home
3.30 pm	Christingle Service - supporting the work of the Children's Society
11.15 pm	Midnight Communion

25 Wed

CHRISTMAS DAY

9.00 am	Holy Communion - a quiet formal spoken service.
10.30 am	All Age Celebration Service

29 Sunday

First Sunday after Christmas

10.30 am	Joint Service of Holy Communion
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January

5 Sunday

Epiphany

9.15 am	Holy Communion Service
11.00 am	11 o'clock Service

Future dates for your diary

Jan Sat 18

4.00 pm	The welcome return of Tom Bell - An fun afternoon of Laurel and Hardy films with live organ accompaniment
6.30 pm	Exciting new event - Childrens' Pyjama Party !! An evening of fun and games for all, followed by a never-done-before sleep-over in church for older children. Full details to follow

**You are invited
to the Vicarage
(20A Kingdowne Rd)**



SATURDAY 18 JANUARY

SILENT MOVIE AFTERNOON

Live organ
accompaniment
by Tom Bell

4.30pm

Refreshments
and retiring
collection



No tickets required! Bring your friends!