

ONE MILLION VOICES OF HOPE

Open Doors, a charity which supports persecuted Christians, has organised a petition needing a million signatures! They are calling on our government and the United Nations to ensure that Christians in Iraq and Syria, should have: 1. The right to equal citizenship 2. Dignified living conditions and 3. A prominent role in reconciling and rebuilding society.

The petition will be presented to the new Secretary General of the United Nations in June. He or she is the one person who has oversight over all issues raised. It will have a huge impact if we can get this on their agenda at the beginning of their term of office. PLEASE SIGN THE PETITION on the table in the welcome area.

SERVING AT ST MATTHEWS

If you are not yet using your gifts at St Matthew's, why not make 2017 the year to start to do so? Please speak with William or Sue to find out how!

ANYONE?



We hope that you have enjoyed being with us today. If you want to know more, please fill in a 'Join In' card, or contact William Rogers (vicar) 07879 084321 / william@stmf.org.uk, Katherine Miller (katherine@stmf.org.uk) or Sue Pierson (020 7731 6544).



St Matthew's Church
Serving our community

www.stmf.org.uk
admin@stmf.org.uk

8th January 2017

Welcome to Our Morning Service

As a Church family please use these prayer points as part of our daily prayer life.

- Let's pray that we are a Church that seeks Jesus in all things.
- Please pray for Mica Lawrence and her new baby boy, Zion (see notice).
- Please pray that 2017 will be a year in which we reach more people in this parish with the Good News of the Lord Jesus.
- Please pray for the family and friends of Jill Saward who died this week; Jill embodied Christian forgiveness (see note).
- Please pray for us as we begin our study in the book of Romans; pray that we would submit to the authority of the Lord Jesus.
- Please pray for our children and youth as they return to school; pray especially for those who have exams – that they would know that their identity is in the Lord Jesus.
- Please pray for Hannah and George who are being baptised today. Pray that they would continue to know more of God's love and will for them.
- Please pray that those guests who came to St Matthew's during Advent would want to know more about the Lord Jesus.
- Please pray for the family and friends of Peter Benfield; his funeral will be on Monday 16th at 12.30 in St Matthew's.
- Please pray for Messy Church this week; pray that regular members would invite their school friends.
- Please pray for our Home Groups as they meet again after the Christmas break; pray that we would all want to be part of a group studying the bible together.

THIS WEEK

Today

10.00am Morning Service with Tim preaching on
Romans 1: 1-17

Monday

9.00am Women's Prayer Meeting *in church*
9.45am Women's Bible Study *in church*
7.30pm PCC

Wednesday

3.30pm Messy Church

Thursday

2.30pm Home group at Lila's House (*3a Hamble Street*)
8.00pm Home group at Sue's House
(*48 Peterborough Road*)

Saturday

10.00am Women's Bible Study

Sunday

10.00am Holy Communion Service with William
preaching on Romans 1: 18-32

CHURCH WEEKEND AWAY 27th – 29th October

Thank you to all of those who have booked to come on our Church weekend in October. We have over 80 people confirmed! There is a letter for each family coming at the back of church. Please take yours TODAY! If anyone has any questions or concerns, please speak with William. If you haven't booked and want to come, please let William know – there are a few rooms left but none are reserved and so we will need to let the venue know as soon as possible.

E-MAIL ADDRESSES

We are **still** populating a new Church Database so that we can re-launch 'know and pray' (as well as some new stuff!). Could EVERYONE please e-mail Sharon (admin@stmf.org.uk) so that we know we have the right e-mail address. It would also help us if in the e-mail, you could confirm your mobile telephone number as well! **To date, very few have responded!**

JILL SAWARD

You may have heard on the news about the death of Jill Saward, who had a stroke, aged 51. Her father, Michael, was vicar of St Matthew's in the 1970's. They moved to Ealing in 1978 where some of the family were attacked in the vicarage and Jill was raped. It was a dreadful experience for all of them. But Jill gave up her right to anonymity as a victim to speak publicly about what she had been through and to campaign on behalf of all victims of rape. The fact that her death was a major item on the national news, showed how much her work was valued.

MICA LAWRENCE AND BABY ZION!

Please hold Mica and her new baby boy in your prayers. He was born very prematurely at just 24 weeks and 2 days. He weighed 625 grams. He is in intensive care in an incubator and is being cared for round the clock. Please pray that he would continue to strengthen. Pray too for Mica and all the family at this difficult time.

HOMEGROUPS AT ST MATTHEW'S

Sue leads 2 groups on Thursdays, one at Lila's at 2.30pm and one at 8pm at 48 Peterborough Road. The afternoon group is bursting at the seams which is a great problem to have! But the evening group would love some new members. We are starting again on Thursday and going to look at Romans together as we will be studying this letter together on Sundays. 'Romans may be the most important letter you will ever read', is the opening line in the study book we will be following. William Tyndale, who translated the Bible into English in 1534, wrote, "The more it is studied, the easier it is; the more it is chewed, the pleasanter it is'. Will you join us to 'chew' it together? See Sue today or phone her on 020 7731 6544 for more details.

We will also be starting a new group on a Wednesday evening. This group will be hosted by Sophie and Andy Rubie and Katherine and Andy Miller. Please speak with any of the hosts or William if you want to know more.

Our Saturday morning bible study groups continue to run; again, please speak with William if you want to know more.

And finally (!), the women's bible study on a Monday morning starts again this week. If you want to know more, please speak with Sophie Rubie or Sharon Rogers.